

Pastor's Memo

January 2016

Northern Ohio District Church of the Brethren

District Men's Fellowship

The District Fellowship Commission is asking that each church in the District select one male to attend a meeting at the District office in Ashland on January 30th at 10:00 a.m. for the purpose of reviving a District Men's Fellowship organization.

Rick Horst from East Chippewa will be leading the meeting and a brunch will be provided. This is an important first step in the process. Please prayerfully consider promoting this event.

Hebrews 10:23-25 New International Version (NIV)
23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. 24 And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, 25 not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Please contact Julie Watson at julie@nohcob.com and/or Rick Horst at rhurst5534@ssnet.com with your RSVP. You may also register online at <http://members.nohcob.org/events/details/men-s-fellowship-meeting-77>.

Mark Your Calendar

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| 1.23 | Youth Leadership Workshop
District Office, Ashland, OH |
| 1.30 | Men's Fellowship Meeting
District Office, Ashland, OH |
| 2.5 | Congregational Coaching
Sponsored by Northern Ohio
District Congregational Commission
District Office, Ashland, OH |
| 2.6 | Vital Ministry Journey Training
Sponsored by Northern Ohio
District Congregational Commission
Mohican CoB, West Salem, OH |
| 2.9 | Executive Committee Meeting,
District Office, Ashland, OH |
| 2.14-16 | Clergy Spouse Retreat
Holiday Inn French Quarter
Perrysburg, OH |

New Standard Mileage Rates Now Available; Business Rate and Medical/Moving Lower in 2016

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2016, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car, van, pickup or panel truck will be:

54 cents per mile for business miles driven, down from 57.5 cents in 2015

19 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes, down from 23 cents in 2015

14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations (no change)

District Prayer Calendar

January 17—January 23

Bristolville CoB (Pastor Fred Keener) and Brook Park Community CoB (Pastor Dan Johnson)

January 24—January 30

Center CoB (Interim David Hall) and Chippewa CoB (Pastoral Vacancy)

January 31—February 6

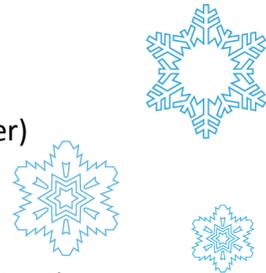
County Line CoB (Pastor Tom Dearth) and Defiance CoB (Pastor Eugene Yenser)

February 7—February 13

Dupont CoB (Pastoral Vacancy) and East Chippewa CoB (Pastor Brad Kelley)

February 14—February 20

East Nimishillen CoB (Interim Matthew Reed) and Eden CoB (Interim Wayne Scott)



Pastoral Placement

Adrian – **David Morton** serving as interim.

Akron Springfield – Search Committee in negotiation with a candidate. **Tom Michaels** serving as interim.

Kris Hawk resigned as pastor of visitation effective February 6, 2016.

Ashland First – **Tina Hunt** installed as pastor December 20, 2015.

Bethel – Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

Center – **David Hall** called as interim effective January 3, 2016.

Chippewa – Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

Dupont – **Brad Colley** resigned as pastor effective January 7, 2016. Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

East Nimishillen – Congregational profile completed. **Matthew Reed** serving as interim.

Eden – **Wayne Scott** called as interim effective November 22, 2015.

Lake Breeze – **James Washington** serving as interim.

Lick Creek – Search Committee reviewing pastoral profiles. **Dr. Nancy Berkheiser** serving as interim.

Maple Grove – **John Ballinger** called as interim effective February 14, 2016. Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

Marion First – **Rick Hicks** serving as interim.

Owl Creek – **Charles Barnhill** serving as interim.

Richland – **Jim Frado** installed as pastor December 27, 2015.

Ross – **Keith Stoller** serving as interim.

Sugar Creek West – Search Committee conducting pastoral interviews. **Dr. Byron Hawbecker** serving as interim.

Swan Creek – Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

Woodworth – **Mitch Funkhouser** serving as interim.

Check us out on Facebook or the district website nohcob.org for more information about Northern Ohio District Ministries. Click on the icons to the right or use your tablet/smart phone to connect to our website via the QR Code.



Annual Conference 2016 Registration Reminder

From the Annual Conference Office

There will be a change starting this coming year for congregations registering delegates for Annual Conference. Both delegate and non-delegate registrations will open on the same day, Wednesday, February 17, 2016. There will be no "early" delegate registration beginning in January as in the past. Anyone with questions can contact the Conference Office at annualconference@brethren.org or by calling 800-323-8039, ext. 365.



Welcome New Interim District Executive, Kris Hawk

It is with great pleasure I am able to inform you that Kris Hawk has agreed to be the Interim Northern Ohio District Executive. Kris will begin her work with us on Monday, February 15 and will be with us for at least a year. She has agreed to be flexible with her ending time, depending on our ability to fill the district executive position. Kris comes to us from the Akron Springfield congregation, where she has served as Pastor of Visitation for 12 years. God's hand was clearly in this process, because Kris and the congregation were preparing for a change in leadership before Kris received this district call.

Kris is known to many of you. She has served on district board several times and has been district board chair during that service. She has been Moderator and served on the district nominating committee. She currently serves on the district ethics committee and the Conference Central Committee. Kris has been involved with the district youth for many years, bringing youth to rallies, serving on the FaithQuest Team, and providing leadership as needed. Kris is also an RN who, before accepting the call to ministry, worked as Home Care administrator for Barberton Hospital and as Vice President of Medicare Operations for a local home care company. In addition to administrative roles, she has also spent many years working directly with patients, most recently as a hospice nurse. Kris and her husband Duane have been married 37 years and have 3 adult children and 6 grandchildren. Duane works the family farm and is fleet manager for Summit County.

One thing she has made clear is that she wants to begin visiting congregations on Sunday mornings and worshipping with Brothers and Sisters in the district. Kris plans on visiting every congregation in our district to get to know us better. If you have a specific Sunday that you would like Kris to visit your congregation, please contact the district office.

More information will be forthcoming from the office about this situation as it is available. The office will remain open and you are welcome to call. We want you to feel sure that the business of our district will continue through this time of change.

Happy New Year!

Sherry Vaught
for the Executive Committee of the District Board



VITAL MINISTRIES JOURNEY



What makes a vital congregation?

Characteristics of congregations committed to fully living as God's blessing in community:

1. Vital ministries are centrally related to God's love and blessing. Each local congregation is part of the Body of Christ and called to live and act as a sign and instrument of God's kingdom (1 Cor. 3.6).
2. Vital congregations demonstrate an *extraordinary sense of spiritual vitality and discipleship*. These churches emphasize the study and teaching of Scripture, prayer, visionary leadership, inspirational worship, a willingness to take risks, generous hearts, and respect for all people and their differences.
3. Vital congregations are *creatively intentional* in outreach to new people and in reaching beyond the church's walls to missions and ministry throughout the world.
4. Vital congregations have a passionate and clear sense of identity. *These churches know who they are, what they believe, what they value, where they are going, and how they will get there.*
5. Vital churches are *flexible*. They realize they do not have all the answers, so they ask probing and challenging questions.
6. Vital churches lead with their strengths while they:
 - Acknowledge their weaknesses.
 - Live out the vision God has given them.
 - View other congregations as partners in God's broader mission.

The Northern Ohio District is inviting the district churches to join together on a journey. On February 6th there is an opportunity to gather with other churches to explore the vitality of our own congregations. There have been encouraging witnesses and stories coming from other Church of the Brethren Districts who have begun this journey. The Northern Ohio District is partnering with the Church of the Brethren Congregational Life Commission to bring this empowering journey to the area churches. Many of you participated in the pre workshop at District Conference with Stan Dueck who brought us just a peek of what this journey is about. Please plan to attend the workshop that begins a journey that empowers congregations to live into a dynamic vision and abundant mission sharing God's blessing with its community.



Event Location & Information:

Saturday, February 6, 2016, Mohican Church of the Brethren, 7759 North Elyria Road, West Salem, OH 44287, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. with a light meal.

Saturday includes the following agenda:

- Worship
- Introduction to VMJ
- Breakout groups
- Questions
- District information
- Closing



During the session on Saturday, representatives receive a "hands on" introduction to the small group material.

Many of you were at District Conference when Brian Archer stood up and witnessed about when he was a pastor at a very small church in the Northern Plains, with a small elderly congregation that went on this journey with the district. His testimony was very powerful of how God moved with this congregation through this Journey. Below is an explanation of the Vital Ministries Journey from an actual participant.

Testimonial from Brian Archer, Licensed Minister, Pleasant View Church of the Brethren:

In 2011, The Northern Plains District of the Church of the Brethren launched an initiative called the "Sending of the Seventy" as a ministry tool to help congregations reconnect with themselves and with sister congregations within the district. In 2012, at the conclusion of this endeavor, the District hosted Brother Stan Dueck to speak about the Vital Ministries Journey. The District then invited the congregations of the Northern Plains to participate. Several congregations participated. What was revealed was a passion for "Doing the work of Jesus" The congregation that I served as Pastor felt tired and worn out. However, they found that they were still contributing to the Ministry of Jesus, just not in a way they envisioned. The Vital Ministry Journey enables congregations to take a closer look at how they "do Church". Some congregations found that they were doing what was called of them, while others found that a shift in priorities was needed. What all of the congregations that participated found was a new feeling of connectedness within the District, the Denomination and the Church at Large.



SISTERS' RETREAT

Friday and Saturday, April 29 and 30, 2016

Beulah Beach, Vermilion

Speaker: Bonni Brockway



Join us for a time of retreat including great fellowship, devotions, singing, crafts, and quiet time with our Lord. All at the beautiful Beulah Beach Lodge on the shores of Lake Erie. Cost will be \$70 per person which includes Friday pizza; Saturday breakfast, lunch, and supper; and overnight stay with bedding and towels provided.

Northern Ohio District Church of the Brethren
Women's Ministry

Ministry to Women and for Women

www.nohcob.org

sistersnorthernohio@gmail.com



Youth Leadership Workshop

On January 23rd we will be holding a Youth Leadership Workshop at the District Office from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm. For the first portion of the morning Pastor Nate Bebout will talk about practical ministry tools. We will then spend the rest of our time discussing our individual ministries. The desire is to connect across our congregations and to talk about what is going well, what is working, where we could use advice, and where we could use prayer. Light breakfast and lunch will be provided. Please join us for a morning of fellowship! To register online, click or go to <http://members.nohcob.org/events/details/youth-leadership-workshop-64>. For questions contact Spencer Dolezal, District Youth Coordinator, Cell: (440) 554-4657 Email: spencer@nohcob.org.

Clergy Spouse Retreat

February 14-16, 2016, Holiday Inn
French Quarter, Perrysburg, OH
Guest Speakers:
Pete and Janice Kaltenbaugh

Plan on joining us for the upcoming Clergy-Spouse Retreat February 14-16, 2016 at the Holiday Inn French Quarter, Perrysburg, OH. Our guest speakers will be Pete & Janice Kaltenbaugh. Pete has been in ministry since being licensed in 1966 in the Western Pennsylvania District of the Church of the Brethren. He attended and graduated from Bethany Theological Seminary and has served as pastor in 4 Church of the Brethren congregations (Hartville, Northern Ohio for 20 years) and an American Baptist/Community Church and a House Church in Turkey while serving in the Armed services. He and Janice have been married for almost 46 years and have two grown children and four grandchildren. Janice has been the Executive Director of Camp Harmony for almost ten years; following over twenty-five years in teaching (18 years, Lake Local schools, Hartville, Ohio.)

Both are involved in many ministries locally and district wide. They continue to live each day in service to Jesus Christ their Lord and Savior. They enjoy each and every day that is presented to them and have been best friends even longer than they have been married.

They look forward to the Retreat in Ohio, to renew former friendships and make new friends. Please remember this is going to be a learning experience, but we will have lots of fun as well. Pete and Janice enjoy every day that God gives them. Come along for the adventure. See You There.

Cost: \$325.00 per couple, \$250.00 per single, and \$130.00 per single one day registration
To register online click or go to: <http://members.nohcob.org/events/details/clergy-spouse-retreat-75>