

Pastor's *memo*

NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT CHURCH
OF THE BRETHREN—SEPTEMBER 2018

Immediate Need for Volunteers in Puerto Rico

BDM has been working with the Puerto Rico district and its Recovery Committee to plan for long-term recovery on the island. Many people have indicated an interest in working in Puerto Rico and we are happy to share that we are now ready to start scheduling volunteers. Volunteers will be



Members of Puerto Rico District
distribute food to people
affected by the hurricanes

scheduled in small groups of 5-7 volunteers, beginning September 1 through the middle of December (excluding the week of Thanksgiving). We are hoping that most volunteers will stay at least two weeks (10 working days). The project will initially be based in Castañer but may move to another area once the work is completed there. Anyone who is interested in volunteering in Puerto Rico, after considering the living and working conditions, should contact me (sfranken@brethren.org or 410-635-8731) with the dates they would be available. **No one should buy an airline tickets until they are notified to do so.**

Request for Nominations for Denominational Office 2019

You can help shape the future of the church! Each member of the Church of the Brethren is invited to recommend possible nominees for the 2019 Annual Conference Ballot. As you pray about this, who comes to mind? Whom will the Lord prompt you to nominate?

There are two ways to submit nominations:

- (1) **Online** via the “**2019 Nominations**” link at the www.brethren.org/ac website. That is very helpful to us. ***You must provide the email address*** of the person you are nominating in order to submit the nomination online. We will send email to your nominees to invite them to submit their information online. We cannot consider those who do not respond. Please follow up with the persons you nominate to make sure they have received our email and contact us if they did not.
- (2) If you cannot submit online you may use the **Elected Office Nomination Form** and have your nominee fill out the **Nominee Information Form—2019** to send it in via postal mail. Note that **persons being nominated must sign the form**. We must have their permission to consider them as possible nominees.

All nominations should be submitted to the Annual Conference Office via the online process or via postal mail to 1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120 ... **by December 1, 2018**. The earlier, the better. Thank you for your help!

Fall Area Clergy Meetings

As I have travelled the District, one of the things I have heard from clergy is the desire to have more opportunities for fellowship with each other...providing and receiving support, encouragement, and inspiration. One of the things I have felt is a deep calling to pray together...for our churches, our communities, our district, our denomination, and our world.

These two things have guided the planning of our Fall Area Clergy Meetings (see schedule). There will be a short time set aside to hear about what is going on in the district/denomination and provide feedback. But the bulk of our time will be praying together and spending time in fellowship with each other.

I hope that this time will allow pastors new to ministry and new to our District to develop connections, and to establish deeper relationships among those who already know each other. And we need to be in prayer together – the strength, focus, power, and transformation that is needed will not come from within ourselves!

Buckeye Brethren Institute Upcoming Class—Beginning October 20th. Old Testament Survey. Instructor: Tina Hunt

Meeting dates: October 20th, November 3rd,
November 17th, 2018; 9:30am to 3:30pm

This class is available to those interested in the ministry and to licensed ministers moving towards ordination. Ordained and Commissioned clergy can also take this class for CEU's (1.5 CEU's for attendance at all three Saturday sessions) at a cost of \$25.00. Visit our webpage nohcob.org/BBi to register or for more information.

Articles for The Herald, Fall Issue Due October 15—Stories to Share

The Northern Ohio District Office will soon begin drafting the Fall Issue of The Herald. If you have an article you would like to contribute to The Herald, November 2018 Fall Issue, please send it to the District Office no later than October 15, 2018. Please keep your article between 150-200 words and provide a couple of pictures (digital preferably) to accompany the article if you like. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the District Office 419-281-3058 or email julie@nohcob.org. Thank you!

This is not a CEU event, but those that attended last year's Fall Area Clergy meetings in this same format affirmed that the opportunity to pray and fellowship together provided a reward even richer than CEU credits!

Please plan on sharing in one of these times. Renewal, rest, refreshment, and revival can come as we wait upon the Lord together. Praying for you all in the love of Christ, Kris Hawk.

Date	Time	Location
Mon. 10/22	6:30 – 8:30	(Western Area)
Tues. 10/23	9:30 – 11:30	(Western Area)
Wed. 10/24	9:30 – 11:30	(Eastern Area)
	6:30 – 8:30	(Eastern Area)
Thurs. 10/25	9:30 – 11:30	(Central Area)
	6:30 – 8:30	(Central Area)

2018 License Renewals, Approval for Employment

2018 License Renewals and Approval for Employment forms have been sent out via email to Licensed Ministers and Church Board Chairs. Please be sure to fill out your forms and return to the District Office no later than October 31, 2018. The form is available this year in a PDF-fillable format. Completion of this form requires the input of both the Licensed Minister and the Church Board so consider adding it to the agenda for your next board meeting. The Ministerial Commission will be reviewing renewals and presenting them to the District Board the beginning of November. Thank you!

2019 Clergy-Spouse Retreat Save this date!

Our District Clergy-Spouse retreat will be held February 17th-19th at the Days Inn and Suites at 4742 Brecksville Road, Richfield, OH 44286 (Akron area). This is a time for relationship-building, renewal, learning, and rest. A new location promises that the food and facilities will be great, but the fellowship is even greater! Single and married clergy and their spouses are encouraged to attend. More information to follow.

Pastoral Placement

Congregations actively in the search process:

Akron Springfield (full-time) – Search Committee being formed. **George O'Reilly** serving as interim.

Brook Park (3/4-time) – Search Committee interviewing. **Tom Michaels** serving as interim.

Maple Grove (full-time) – Search Committee interviewing. **John Ballinger** serving as interim.

Pleasant View (part-time) – Search Committee interviewing. **Dr. Byron Hawbecker** serving as interim.

Congregations that have completed the search process:

Ashland Dickey – **Jeff Messner** called as pastor and will begin October 1st.

Congregations that have not yet begun the Search Process or have chosen not to seek at this time:

Elm Street – **Doug Price** has resigned as pastor as of October 28th.

Lake Breeze – **Stephen McLaughlin** serving as interim.

Lakewood – **Gene Wyse** serving as interim and beginning the credentialing process.

Zion Hill – **Jason Harsh** has resigned as pastor as of October 31st.



Mark Your Calendar

September 15 – Inspiration Hills Fall Festival & Chicken BBQ, Inspiration Hills, Burbank, OH

September 17 – Central Committee Meeting, District Office, Ashland, OH

September 21-22 – District Board Orientation & Meeting, Inspiration Hills, Burbank, OH

September 22 – BBI—Introduction to Worship, District Office, Ashland, OH

September 30-October 2 – New Pastors Retreat, Camp Mack, Milford, IN

October 3 – Western Area Pastor's Lunch, The Barn, Archbold, OH

October 7-13 – BDM Trip, Lumberton, NC & Marion, SC

October 10 – Central Area Clergy Breakfast, Tim Horton's, Ashland, OH

October 13-14 – Compelling Vision Conversations, See Page Four for locations and times.

October 20 – BBI—Old Testament Survey, District Office, Ashland, OH

October 23 – Executive Committee Meeting, District Office, Ashland, OH

October 22-25 – Fall Area Clergy Meetings, See Page Two for times and areas

October 27 – SISTERS Fall Retreat, Inspiration Hills, Burbank, OH

District Prayer Calendar

September 9—September 15

Faith In Action CoB (Pastor Jim Gorrell) and Freeburg CoB (Pastor Mike Zellers)

September 16—September 22

Hartville CoB (Pastor Anthony DiMarco) and Jonah's People Fellowship (Pastor Barry A. Belknap)

September 23—September 29

Lake Breeze CoB (Interim Stephen McLaughlin) and Lakewood CoB (Interim Gene Wyse)

September 30—October 6

Lick Creek CoB (Pastor Bill Holsopple) and Mansfield First (Pastor Vaughn Loose)

October 7—October 13

Maple Grove CoB (Interim John Ballinger) and Marion (Pastor Rick Hicks)

District conversations begin as part of Compelling Vision process

As summer gives way to fall, the process launched at the 2018 Annual Conference to help the denomination discern God's call and develop a compelling vision to guide us into the future is moving into a new phase. Shaped by the conversations that took place at Annual Conference, the Compelling Vision Process Team has designed a two-hour event to engage members in deeper conversation around God's call for us as a church.

These conversation events have already taken place in the Southern Plains and Michigan districts, and the Process Team is working with district executives to schedule additional events in multiple locations across the denomination. The next scheduled conversations will take place at the Missouri/Arkansas District conference at the Windemere Conference Center in Roach, Mo., the weekend of Sept. 14-15; at Mount Morris Church of the Brethren in the Illinois/Wisconsin District on Sept. 16 (with two additional events to follow in the district in October); and four locations throughout Southern Pennsylvania District the weekend of Sept. 29-30. Districts will be publicizing all scheduled events as plans are finalized.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to participate in an event. In preparation, please: pray for the church and the Spirit's guidance as we move through this process; visit the Compelling Vision website, and read about the Compelling Vision process (especially if you were not at Annual Conference and are unfamiliar with it); reflect on scriptures that inform our ministry and life together as the body of Christ; and bring a Bible and, if possible, a smart phone, tablet, or laptop to the event. **Rhonda Pittman Gingrich, Chair, Compelling Vision Process Team**

Northern Ohio District Compelling Vision conversations scheduled October 13-14

At District Conference, Kayla Alphonse from the Compelling Vision Process Team gave a short introduction to the Compelling Vision process. Four sessions have been scheduled in Northern Ohio to continue this process. Rhonda Pittman Gingrich, Chair of the Compelling vision Process Team will facilitate each of these sessions. We will start precisely at the times listed below. Plan on coming 30 minutes before start time for fellowship and light refreshments. Please share these dates and times with your congregation and encourage all to participate in one of these conversation events.

Poplar Ridge Church of the Brethren: Saturday, October 13, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Sugar Creek West Church of the Brethren: Saturday, October 13, 3 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Maple Grove Church of the Brethren: Sunday, October 14, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

Akron Eastwood Church of the Brethren: Sunday, October 14, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.

SiSTERS Fall Retreat
Inspiration Hills Camp, October 27th
"The Touch of the Master's Hand"
Nurturing the Gifts & Talents God Gives Us
I Corinthians 12:4
Speaker: Carol Kuryn



Our weekend retreat will include time to get to know each other better: by sharing stories, blogs or poetry you've written, through music, or photos. What to bring? Bible, A photo of yourself, (bedding if staying overnight). Maybe craft projects that you have done, stories/blog you have written, music, etc for the sharing time. Carol Kuryn is married to Brian (49 years), with a daughter Teresa married to Bart Kohler and grandson John married to Katie. She was licensed to ministry in 2005. Currently Visitation Minister at East Nimishillen Church of the Brethren, Worship Leader, Sunday School teacher, enrolled in BBI (Brethren Buckeye Institute), and on District Nominating Committee. Previous work experiences in Banking, Hospice Social Worker, Legal Guardian, and Interim Pastor

Cost for day is \$20 per person which includes lunch, building usage, and craft supplies. We will be in Cherry Lodge for programs. If you would like stay overnight Friday, there is an additional \$25 cost. To register call 330-418-1148 or email sistersnorthernohio@gmail.com or on line at www.nohcob.org.