

District Conference Wrap Up

NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN—October 2024

Thank you Hartville!

It was a great joy to have all the congregations come together at Hartville Church of the Brethren for our Northern Ohio District Conference.

The Hartville Church of the Brethren made this a meaningful event. Their gift of hospitality was evident from the time we entered the doors. Many volunteers came together and provided us all the opportunity to be able to enjoy conference. While we cannot thank every single person to make this conference happen we do want to mention a few who did put in countless hours. Jocelyn Siakula and Tim Schafer served as Hartville's on-site coordinators, making sure everything was covered on-site.

Chris Snyder and Jocelyn Siakula coordinated, planned, cooked and served all the meals.

Tim Schafer served as the sound and media technician who provided all the audiovisual set-up in multiple areas of the church.

Jay Snyder coordinated set-up/clean up.

Jeremy Zellers (Freeburg) was the children's program coordinator who got ready all the childcare and children's activities as was assisted by his son, Gabe, and Andrew & Lauren Wenger (Akron Springfield).

We appreciate Jessi Adams (Ashland Dickey) who planned a full agenda for the junior high /youth. Only two youth registered and they ended up serving in different roles at conference (one as a delegate for her church!).

Pam Chase (Sugar Creek West) stepped in at the last minute to play the piano for worship and during the business sessions and we cannot thank her enough for this wonderful gift.

Each of these individuals had a team working with them to make it all happen. What would we do without all of our wonderful volunteers? We are grateful for all of their hard work and to the Central Committee who puts in countless hours behind the scenes that we do not all see.

Thank you Hartville!!!



Moderator Tina Hunt

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2025 Northern Ohio

District Conference

August 8-9

Mike Conner, Moderator

2024-2025 District Board

Chair – Terry Baldwin, Lick Creek

Vice Chair – Mark Pollock, Brook Park

Secretary – Agnes Hayhurst, Reading

Congregational Commission:

Chair – Beverly Wengerd, Paradise

Vice Chair – **Mark Pollock, Brook Park***

Secretary – **Scott Brinkman, Sugar Creek West ***

Member – **David Bassett, Pleasant View***

Connections Commission:

Chair – Jocelyn Siakula, Hartville

Vice Chair – Crystal Zellers, Freeburg

Secretary – Sam Luginbill, Dupont

Member – **Jane Matz, Ashland Dickey***

Ministerial Commission

Chair – Mike Huffaker, East Chippewa

Vice Chair – Bill Holsopple, Lick Creek

Secretary – **Candie Orr, Woodworth***

Member – Steve Keib, Maple Grove

Stewardship and Finance:

Chair – David Hobbs, New Philadelphia

Vice Chair – Todd Clemens, Poplar Ridge

Secretary – **Bruce Morckel, Akron Springfield***

Member – Charlene Kuhn, Richland

Ex Officio Members (without vote):

Kris Hawk, District Executive Minister

Laura Huffaker, District Administrative Secretary

Linda Fry, District Peace/Conciliation Advocate

Andrew Kaufman, Interim Camp Executive Director

Lisa Snyder, District Treasurer, Ashland First

Cindy McNaull, District Financial Secretary, Ashland Dickey

Dawn Baldwin, Standing Committee, Lick Creek *

Mike Conner, Moderator, Painesville

District Conference Elections

Moderator Elect

Cindy Peel, Akron Springfield*

District Standing Committee Delegate

Dawn Baldwin, Lick Creek*

District Board Western Area

David Bassett, Pleasant View*

Scott Brinkman, Sugar Creek West*

District Board Central Area

Jane Matz, Ashland Dickey*

Mark Pollock, Brook Park*

District Board Eastern Area

Bruce Morckel, Akron Springfield*

Candie Orr, Woodworth*

Nominating Committee, Central Area

Lynda Kysor, Maple Grove*

Nominating Committee, Eastern Area

Clara Jean Knepp, Akron Springfield*

District Conference Central Committee

Michelle Brumbaugh, Eden*

District Conference Clerk

Ashley Harris, Freeburg*

Camp Administration Committee

Denise Layman, Ashland First*

Ernie Imhoff, Ashland Dickey*

Diane Russell, Poplar Ridge*

Conference Statistics

Attendance:

Registrations– 141

Delegates– 55

Congregations represented– 32

Friday Worship– 81

Saturday Worship-82

Insight Sessions (6 sessions with total attendance of --109

Pre-Conference Workshop-48

Offerings:

Friday-\$455.00 (for conference expenses)

Saturday-\$589.81 (BDM)

Total- \$1,044.81

Peace Auction- \$1,243.40

Lake Township Fish and Love Our Community-\$305.00+canned goods, baby wipes, and feminine hygiene products. Also, 22 sets of twin sheets were taken to Love Our Community.

Ex-Officio on Board, continued

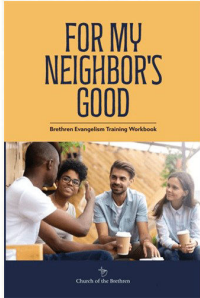
Cindy Peel, Moderator-Elect, Akron Springfield*

Ashley Harris, District Conference Clerk, Freeburg

Linda Smith, Camp Administration Committee Chair, East Chippewa

***Denotes newly elected at District Conference**

District Conference Worship and Activities



To start the conference weekend Nate Polzin, the Executive Director of Discipleship and Leadership Formation for the Church of the Brethren, led the Pre-Conference Workshop “For My Neighbor’s Good” with a focus on a 5 week study on relational evangelism for the Brethren.

The Conference itself officially began with a meal on Friday evening., followed by opening worship. Moderator Tina Hunt introduced the conference theme “Know the Truth, Tells the Stories” with a powerful message from Psalm 78.7. Pam Chase (Sugar Creek West) provided piano accompaniment throughout the weekend,

Saturday business opened with music and a devotion led by the Moderator. Saturday evening worship was lead by Nate Polzin, based on scripture from Romans 12-3-21. We also had special music provided by Rick Harvey.

The Hartville Church of the Brethren praise band led in worship. The service concluded with the consecration of the 2025 officers : Mike Conner, Moderator and Cindy Peel, Moderator–elect.

There were lots of opportunities for fellowship during this conference. We had insight sessions Friday evening and Saturday afternoon. The Peace Auction, as always, was a big hit with conference goers. And we cannot forget the ice cream social. We Brethren love our ice cream!! The ice cream was provided by Eder Financial this year. We want to give a big thanks to them. With the wonderful weather outside and a great atmosphere inside it was a wonderful opportunity for all of us to gather for conversation and laughter in between events.



Installation of Mike Conner as Moderator, Cindy Peel as Moderator elect.



Business Session

It was a full day for the delegates during the business session on Saturday. In addition to the business items there were reports from the board, commissions, treasurer, camp and national representatives. The delegates

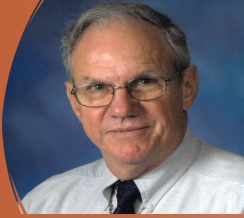
1. Voted on the ballot presented by the Nominating Committee. (The ballot results are on page 2.)
2. Approved the 2025 District Budget of \$195,682, an increase of \$449 over the 2024 budget.
3. Approved the 2025 Inspiration Hills budget of \$368,675. While still a deficit budget, it is much closer to being balanced than in previous years.
4. Approved the motions to finalize the withdrawal from the denomination of the North Bend (Danville) and East Nimishillen congregations.
5. The Dupont Query “Questioning the LGBTQ+ proliferation in our society and its non-scriptural support and acceptance by the church” failed after much discussion. 44% voted yes. Of those voting no, most voted that they would like to see more work done on the query and brought back to the board.



Celebrating Ministerial Service

While each year of ministry is something to be celebrated, in the Northern Ohio District we take time at District Conference to publicly celebrate the completion of the first year of ordination, the 5th year, then every 5 years after that. We also recognize annually those who been ordained more than 50 years. Those recognized this year:

- **Don Earlenbaugh, 56 years**



- **Paul Myers, 58 years**



- **Delbert Kettering, 67 years**



- **Carl Cawood, 69 years**



- **Clyde Fry, 69 years (In Memory)**



Jeff Messner (Ashland Dickey-5 years)

Steve Simmons (Woodworth-5 years)

Paul Bozman (Reading-10 years)

Robert Simonsick (East Chippewa-10 years)

James Gorrell (Faith In Action– 25 years)

Doug Price (Elm Street-30 years)

Celebrating Buckeye Brethren Institute (BBI) Graduates

In addition to recognizing years of ordained ministry, we were able to celebrate three of our pastors who completed all the requirements of the Buckeye Brethren Institute ministerial training program. Completion of BBI, a Brethren, Academy Certified, training program, meets the education requirements for ordination in the Church of the Brethren. Congratulations to Wayne, Moses and Todd!



Pictured from right: Paul Bozman, Ministry Education Director (Reading), Wayne Kissell (Mansfield First), Moses Siakula (Hartville), Todd Clemens (Poplar Ridge).

