

II TIMOTHY 3:16 - 4:5

BE *thoroughly* EQUIPPED

The Herald

District Conference Issue

VOL 61 | ISSUE 2 | MAY 2017

JULY 28-29, 2017

Message from the Moderator

Pastor Patrick Bailey, North Bend CoB

“Be Thoroughly Equipped” 2 Timothy 3:16-4:5. As His church we are called to be equipped, and solid in our faith. We are called to be prepared to give an answer. 1 Peter 3:15 “But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.” The statistics of how many people raised in the church turn from their faith after they go off to college or leave home is truly heartbreaking. We are in a battle, and the enemy is attacking in many ways. He is a liar, deceiver, and schemer. People start believing a lie here, and a partial truth there, and they are quickly headed down a slippery slope. So one of the things I believe the Lord has laid on my heart is to help people know what they believe and why they believe it. The facts and truths, the apologetics behind it. We are called to have faith, to believe, and He has given an incredible

amount of evidence to support it. From how we know the Bible is the inspired Word of God, truth when in context, to how we know Jesus is exactly who He says He is. The historical, archeological, prophetic evidence is truly amazing, and powerful. Some of what I hope comes out of this time together at conference is a deeper more passionate love for our Lord, and His Word. And a passion to study, to take time and put in effort to learn and grow in Him, so that we are better equipped as His church, His people.

May all glory, honor, and praise go to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Pastor Patrick Bailey



Patrick Bailey,
Moderator

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District Conference Schedule of Events

Friday, July 28

- 12:00pm Exhibit & Peace Auction Set-up Begins
(Entry Hall and Hallway)
- 1:00pm Registration Begins (Entry Hall)
- 1:00-4:30pm Pre-Conference Workshop: Addiction
Kyle Kerschner, LPCC-S NCC LICDC-CS
- 5:00pm Dinner (Fellowship Hall)
- 6:30-7:15pm Performing Arts Camp / Patrick Bailey, Moderator
Opening Message (Sanctuary)
- 7:45pm Worship, Josh McDowell, Speaker (Sanctuary)
- 9:30pm Ice Cream Social (Fellowship Hall)

Saturday, July 29

- 8:00am Business Session (Fellowship Hall)
Children's Activities: K-5th Grade (Classroom C)
Childcare (Nursery & Toddler Room)
- 11:30am Lunch (Fellowship Hall)
- 12:30pm Insight Sessions:
Effectively Board – Loyce Borgmann, Brethren Benefit Trust
Hosting International Students – Kerri Archer, Pleasant View Church of the Brethren
Addiction: Youth Concerns – Kyle Kerschner, LPCC-S NCC LICDC-CS
- 1:40pm Business Session Resumes (Fellowship Hall)
- 3:40pm Insight Sessions:
Addiction: Working with Community – Kyle Kerschner, LPCC-S NCC LICDC-CS
Inspiration Hills Update – Shannon Kahler, Camp Director
Ministries to Refugees – Kara Ulmer, World Relief Akron
- 5:00pm Dinner (Fellowship Hall)
District Board Reorganization (Room E)
- 6:30pm Worship, Josh McDowell, Speaker (Sanctuary)
Installation of New Officers

About the Moderator...

Patrick Bailey is the Pastor of North Bend Church of the Brethren, and has now been there 15 ½ years. God has done amazing things, one of which is He blessed the Congregation and expanded it to 2 Church Sites back in 2007. Patrick serves at both sites (Danville and Butler). He is married to Joanna and they will celebrate 20 years this June. Patrick and Joanna have been blessed with 4 wonderful children, Isaiah (19), Isaac (17), Hannah (14), and Josiah (12). Patrick also coaches Middle School Football and Wrestling and has enjoyed coaching for 20 years now. He enjoys supporting his children in their many activities, spending time with his wife, and working out.

Mark Your Calendar

- 5/7-13 Disaster Ministry Service Trip, Columbia, South Carolina
- 5/13 Ethics Committee Training, District Office
- 5/20 District Board Meeting, East Chippewa CoB, Orrville, OH
- 6/7-8 Listening Session with David Steele:
Good Shepherd Home, Fostoria, OH (6/7) 2pm-3:30pm
Ashland First CoB, Ashland, OH (6/7) 7pm-8:30pm
Akron Springfield, Akron, OH (6/8) 7pm-8:30pm
- 6/11 Delegate Briefing, Ashland Dickey CoB, Ashland, OH
- 6/28-7/2 Annual Conference, Grand Rapids, MI
- 7/28-29 District Conference, Hartville CoB, Hartville, OH

Guest Speaker, Josh D. McDowell

As a young man, Josh McDowell considered himself an agnostic. He truly believed that Christianity was worthless. However, when challenged to intellectually examine the claims of Christianity, Josh discovered compelling, overwhelming evidence for the reliability of the Christian faith. After trusting in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, Josh's life changed dramatically as he experienced the power of God's love.

After his conversion, his plans for law school turned instead to plans to tell a doubting world about the truth of Jesus Christ. After studying at Kellogg College, Josh completed his college degree at Wheaton College and then attended Talbot Theological Seminary, where he graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Master of Divinity degree.

In 1961 Josh joined the staff of Campus Crusade for Christ International. Not long after, he started the Josh McDowell Ministry to reach young people worldwide with the truth and love of Jesus.

Well known as an articulate speaker, Josh has addressed more than 25,000,000 people, giving over 27,000 talks in 125 countries.

As he traveled to other countries, Josh quickly realized that where people were sick, homeless, and hungry, words were not enough. In 1991 Josh founded Operation Carelift to meet the physical and spiritual needs he discovered in orphanages, hospitals, schools, and prisons in the countries of the former Soviet Union. Since that time, Operation Carelift has delivered humanitarian aid (food, clothing, and medical supplies) worth more than \$46,000,000. That is the equivalent of 278 forty-ton containers. Nearly one million children have received school supplies, food items, hygiene items, and toys from the volunteers that travelled twice a year to share God's love with them.

Josh has received two significant honors from the Russian people because of these efforts. He is the only non-Russian to receive an honorary doctor of pediatrics degree from the Russian Academy of Medicine—in recognition of his work among the children of Russia. Also, Josh is the only foreigner to become a member of the prestigious Russian Club of Scientists.

Operation Carelift, which has grown into one of the largest humanitarian aid organizations based in the United States, is now a part of Global Aid Network (GAIN USA).

In the United States, Josh and his team have created many cutting-edge live events to help young people stand strong and firm in their faith in the face of a rapidly-changing culture. These have often developed into full-blown campaigns, such as:

Six Hours with Josh
Why Wait?
Counter the Culture
Right From Wrong
True Foundations

Since 1960, Josh has authored or co-authored 147 books in over 100 languages including:

More Than a Carpenter – over 27 million copies distributed

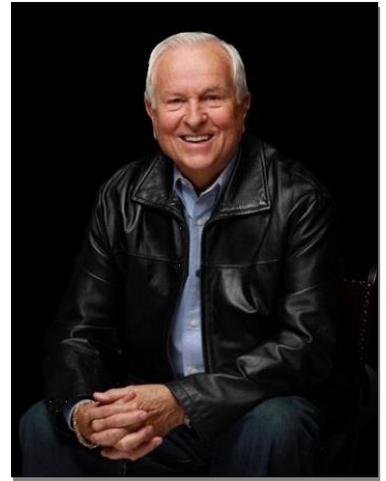
New Evidence That Demands a Verdict – named one the twentieth century's top 40 books and one of the thirteen most influential books of the last 50 years on Christian thought by *World Magazine*.

In addition to many other awards, Josh has been nominated 36 times for the Gold Medallion Award and has received that award on four occasions.

In spite of all the honors and awards he has received, Josh will tell anyone that his greatest joys and pleasures come from his family. He and his wife Dottie have been married 45 years. They have four children and ten grandchildren.

Josh McDowell Ministry is a division of Cru (the U.S. division of Campus Crusade for Christ International).

(Updated 7/15/16)



District Conference Insight Sessions

Saturday, July 29, 12:30 pm

Effectively Board – Loyce Borgmann, Brethren Benefit Trust

Is your church board doing what it should be doing? Are your church board meetings effective? This session will talk about the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of church boards, and will offer you eight items that you can take back to your congregation related to board functionality.

Hosting International Students – Kerri Archer, Pleasant View CoB

I was a stranger, and you took me in... “How a Brethren shared the Gospel with a Buddhist” - Ideas on how families can share Jesus with international exchange students. Families interested in hosting are encouraged to attend, as well as past and present host families.

Addiction: Youth Concerns – Kyle Kerschner, LPCC-S NCC LICDC-CS

This insight session is for youth and advisors only. Kyle will focus on prevention, signs to watch for in yourself and others, what to do if you have friends in trouble with addictions, or if you are struggling, and where does God come into all of this.

Saturday, July 29, 3:40 pm

Addiction: Working with Community – Kyle Kerschner, LPCC-S NCC LICDC-CS

Addiction doesn't happen in isolation – and it affects the whole community. Kyle Kerschner will look at how people can help: programs that work, thinking outside the box while looking at people as individuals and not forcing a round peg into a square hole. We will look at what traditionally has worked, the impact God has on addictions, and at helping families, friends, caregivers, and pastors deal with people they care about who are addicted.

(0.1 CEU's available for clergy)

Inspiration Hills Update – Shannon Kahler, Camp Director

Come and find out what's been happening at the Northern Ohio District's Camp, Inspiration Hills!

Ministries to Refugees – Kara Ulmer, Office Director, World Relief Akron

Every second of every day children are orphaned by disease, women are widowed by conflict, families are devastated by natural disasters and refugees are relocated to new countries. These are the heartbreaking stories of the vulnerable. We believe God has equipped the church the most diverse social network on the planet to be at the center of these stories, leveraging time, and resources to join the vulnerable in their time of need.

Pre-Conference Workshop

Friday, July 28, 2017 from 1:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Open to all 0.3 Clergy CEU's available

Addiction:

Spiritual, social and psychological dimensions

This training will lay a clear foundation for what addiction is, the different types of addictions (chemical versus behavioral). Addictions effect the church is so many ways and are rampant within the church. It is important we see the signs as well as knowing how to help.

Seminar Objectives

- Gaining a deeper understanding of the dynamics of addiction
- Identifying the signs of addiction
- Addictions effect on the “family of God”
- Equipping Pastors/Caregivers for their role in the prevention and treatment of addiction
- Congregational programming to help healthy families remain healthy and assist families facing addiction
- Support for the family and loved ones of the addicted person

Presenter: Kyle Kerschner, LPCC-S NCC LICDC-CS

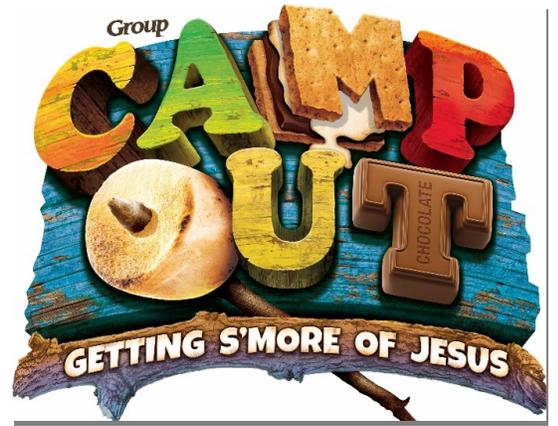


Kyle is a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor, a Licensed Independent Chemical Dependency Counselor - Clinical Supervisor, and a National Certified Counselor with Sojourners Counseling Services, LLC located in Mount Vernon, Ohio.

“Foundationally, emotional healing is God's work...The Holy Spirit is The Counselor sent to guide, therefore as a counselor I rely on the Spirit to guide and move us forward in a direction of healing.” Kyle Kerschner

KIDS' AT DISTRICT CONFERENCE!... THIS IS "FUR" YOU!

At Camp Out Adventure, kids will trek through an outdoor adventure – minus the bug spray and lack of sleep! Kids will experience Camp Out Music, Wilderness Games, Bible Exploration and a Scavenger Hunt! They'll kindle friendships and discover that Jesus is the Light of the World! Open to all kids ages Kindergarten through 5th Grade



Register NOW!

Key Verse:
Jesus said, "I am the light of the world."
John 8:12

Childcare will be provided for Preschoolers during Business & Worship Friday & Saturday

Attention All District Youth in Grades 6-12

All District Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to attend District Conference for youth specific activities for the weekend. Youth will be doing a variety fun activities in the community over the weekend. The event starts with pizza in the park on Friday and includes swimming, sports and games, discussion time with Josh



McDowell, and an insight session on Addiction just for youth. On Friday, Sr. High youth will be housed at Kris Hawk's, Interim District Executive, house



under the supervision of the cabinet and advisors. Jr. High youth will stay with their parents or with arranged housing by their church or youth leaders. Registration and meals for youth are free, but an online registration is still required. Contact Esther, District Youth Coordinator, at esther@nohcob.org or 330.880.7161 with any concerns or questions.



Adult/ Youth/Jr. High Registration Form

July 28 – 29, 2017 Northern Ohio District Conference

YOU MUST REGISTER BY JULY 21 IF YOU WANT TO ORDER MEALS

Send Registration Forms and checks to: **Ginny Herbert 1185 Pearce Dr., Mansfield, Ohio 44906**
419-709-9083 (Make checks to "Northern Ohio District")
 Send Authorization Forms without payment to: **Jeanene Pifer 3546 Denise Dr., Toledo, O. 43614 419-344-4006**

[You may now also register on-line](http://www.nohcob.org) & print conference materials from the District Website: www.nohcob.org.

Adult **Are you a Delegate? Yes** **No**
Youth (9th-12th) **Jr. High** (6th-8th)

Youth and Jr. High do not pay a registration fee. Youth and Jr. High meals will be provided through the youth program. If they are under 12 years of age, please use the child registration form.

Congregation Name: _____
 Your Name M/F _____
 Address (Street) _____
 (City, State, zip code) _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail _____
 Is this your first conference? Yes No
 Do you want a Conference Book? Yes No

Delegate Fee \$25.00 (\$35 on site) **\$25.00**

Non-Delegate Adult Fee \$25.00 (\$35 on-site) **\$25.00**

Please **circle** the meals you wish to order.

Individual meals	Lunch	Dinner	3- Meal pkg.
Friday		\$11.00	
Saturday	\$7.00	\$11.00	\$29.00
		TOTAL	

Do you have any special dietary needs? _____

Are you attending the Pre-conference event? Yes
 Do you wish to receive CEU's ? Yes **(\$10)** _____

Are you attending the Ice Cream Social Friday after worship? (The cost is included in registration fees.)
 Yes No

Please add together your **Registration fee, CEU fee and Meal Costs:**

Total Cost: _____

Adult **Are you a Delegate? Yes** **No**
Youth (9th-12th) **Jr. High** (6th-8th)

Youth and Jr. High do not pay a registration fee. Youth and Jr. High meals will be provided through the youth program. If they are under 12 years of age, please use the child registration form.

Congregation Name: _____
 Your Name M/F _____
 Address (Street) _____
 (City, State, zip code) _____

Phone Number _____ E-mail _____
 Is this your first conference? Yes No
 Do you want a Conference Book? Yes No

Delegate Fee \$25.00 (\$35 on site) **\$25.00**

Non-Delegate Adult Fee \$25.00 (\$35 on-site) **\$25.00**

Please **circle** the meals you wish to order.

Individual meals	Lunch	Dinner	3-Meal pkg.
Friday		\$11.00	
Saturday	\$7.00	\$11.00	\$29.00
		TOTAL	

Do you have any special dietary needs? _____

Are you attending the Pre-conference event? Yes
 Do you wish to receive CEU's ? Yes **(\$10)** _____

Are you attending the Ice Cream Social Friday after worship? (The cost is included in registration fees.)
 Yes No

Please add together your **Registration fee, CEU fee and Meal Costs:**

Total Cost: _____

Child Under 12 Under Registration Form

July 28 – 29, 2017 Northern Ohio District Conference

YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER BY JULY 21 IF YOU WANT TO ORDER MEALS.

IF YOU ARE REGISTERING ADULTS, SEE PAGE ONE

Make checks out to "Northern Ohio District"

Send registration forms to: Ginny Herbert, 1185 Pearce Dr. Mansfield, Ohio 44906. Phone (419) 709-9083

Child 1

Congregation Name: _____

Child's Name M/F Age/Grade

Address (Street, City, State) _____

Parent's Name _____

Parent's Phone Number _____

Is this your child's first conference? Yes

Parent's contact information at conference _____

Who will pick up children from their activities? _____

Children under 12 do not pay registration fees.

Child Under 12 Individual Meals (Circle)

Individual meals	Lunch	Dinner	3-meal package
Friday		\$6.00	
Saturday	\$4.00	\$6.00	\$16.00
		Total →	

There is an Ice Cream Social Saturday after worship. The cost is included in registration fees.

Will your child attend? Yes No

Preschool Children: Child care is provided during worship on Friday and Saturday & during Saturday business sessions. Register children who will be in Child Care.

Will your child be in Child Care during Worship or Business Sessions? Yes No **Check When Below**

Friday Worship	Saturday Business	Saturday Worship
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Grade School Children: Children's activities are provided for children in grades 1 through 6 during the Saturday business sessions. Register children who will participate in Children's Activities. Will your child attend Children's Activities on Saturday? Yes No

Does your child have any special needs, food allergies, etc? Yes No Explain: _____

Parent or Guardian's Signature: _____

Please add your child's Cost: _____

Total Costs: \$ _____

Child 2

Congregation Name: _____

Child's Name M/F Age/Grade

Address (Street, City, State) _____

Parent's Name _____

Parent's Phone Number _____

Is this your child's first conference? Yes

Parent's contact information at conference _____

Who will pick up children from their activities? _____

Children under 12 do not pay registration fees.

Child Under 12 Individual Meals (Circle)

Individual meals	Lunch	Dinner	3-meal package
Friday		\$6.00	
Saturday	\$4.00	\$6.00	\$16.00
		Total →	

There is an Ice Cream Social Saturday after worship. The cost is included in registration fees.

Will your child attend? Yes No

Preschool Children: Child care is provided during worship on Friday and Saturday & during Saturday business sessions. Register children who will be in Child Care.

Will your child be in Child Care during Worship or Business Sessions? Yes No **Check When Below**

Friday Worship	Saturday Business	Saturday Worship
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Grade School Children: Children's activities are provided for children in grades 1 through 6 during the Saturday business sessions. Register children who will participate in Children's Activities. Will your child attend Children's Activities on Saturday? Yes No

Does your child have any special needs, food allergies, etc? Yes No Explain: _____

Parent or Guardian's Signature: _____

Please add your child's Cost: _____

Total Costs: \$ _____

Northern Ohio District Church of the Brethren
2017 DISTRICT CONFERENCE DELEGATE AUTHORIZATION FORM

Mail the form to:

Jeanene Pifer
3546 Denise Dr.
Toledo, Ohio 43614

Please do not include any payments with this form.

All payments should be sent with the Registration Form along with any choices for meals.

CONGREGATION NAME: _____

Delegate 1

Name

Complete Mailing Address

Phone Number:

E-mail Address:

Delegate 2

Name

Complete Mailing Address

Phone Number:

E-mail Address:

Delegate 3

Name

Complete Mailing Address

Phone Number:

E-mail Address:

Delegates Authorized by: (Pastor, Clerk, or Moderator)

Sign below, name and title

Number of Delegates: District Polity says: "There shall be two (2) for each member church or fellowship with 200 or fewer members. Larger churches shall have one (1) delegate for each additional 100 members or fraction thereof. One delegate should be a church board member. No elected delegate shall serve more than two years in succession, except in those congregations where the average weekly worship attendance is (35) or less.

Coming At District Conference!

A Silent Auction for the Peace Endowment Fund to Support Peace Education Efforts in the District

The Peace Task Team organized the auction to raise money for the District Peace Endowment Fund. This fund supports peace education efforts in the District.

As one of the Historic Peace Churches, we are committed to teaching Christ's message of peace – peace within ourselves as we make our peace with Jesus; peace within our families, our congregations, and with our friends; peace in our communities; and peace in the world with our friends and those we may call enemy. The Peace Endowment Fund was established in 1982 to support efforts in the District to teach the things that make for peace!



We Need YOU!

- ➔to bring handmade items and goodies (handcrafted items, artist's work, homemade food) for the auction!
- ➔to come prepared to bid on the donated items in the auction!

Donate by:

- Bringing your donated items to the Exhibit Area Friday, July 28 by 5 p.m.
- Giving us an estimate of their value
- Noting what a minimum starting bid should be

How to Bid:

- The Silent Auction runs from 5 p.m. Friday to 6:30 p.m. Saturday.
- The person with the highest bid on an item at 6:30 p.m. Saturday takes the item home in return for their contribution to the Peace Endowment Fund!
- All items should be picked up on Saturday evening.

We appreciate all those who support peace education efforts by donating items or by bidding in the auction!

Ice Cream Social

Sponsored by Mount Pleasant Church of the Brethren

Friday Evening, July 28, 2017 at 9:30pm

Mount Pleasant Church of the Brethren will be sponsoring the Ice Cream Social during District Conference, at Hartville Church of the Brethren, on Friday evening, July 28, 2017 at 9:30pm. It is always an enjoyable time of fellowship. We are looking forward to seeing all of you at District Conference.



General Secretary David Steele Holding Listening Sessions in Northern Ohio June 7th and 8th



David Steele, the new General Secretary of the Church of the Brethren, is holding listening sessions around the denomination. This is a way for David to listen closely to people within the church. It's a good opportunity for you to meet our new General Secretary. Three listening sessions will be held in the Northern Ohio District. The first will be in the Western area on Wednesday, June 7th from 2-3:30pm at Good Shepherd Home. The second listening session will be held in the Central area on Wednesday, June 7th from 7-8:30pm. The third will be held in Eastern area on Thursday, June 8th from 7-8:30pm.

Annual Conference Delegate Briefing June 11th

Mark your calendar for the upcoming Annual Conference Delegate Briefing and Reception. This important meeting will be held from 3-5:00pm at Ashland Dickey Church of the Brethren on June 11, 2017. Annual Conference Moderator Carol Scheppard will present information regarding business items for this year's conference. This will be a time for sharing general information about being a delegate as well as meeting other delegates from across our district. We encourage delegates and all members of district congregations to attend. Moderator Scheppard will also be preaching at 10:30am at Ashland First Church of the Brethren and you are welcome to attend. If you have any questions before then, please feel free to contact the District Office (419-281-3058), or one of your Standing Committee Representatives, Ben Polzin (419-770-9347) or Kathy Ballinger (419-606-0859) Until then, "Risk Hope!"



Pastoral Placement

Congregations actively in the search process:

Bethel – Congregational profile completed. Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

Brook Park – **Tom Michaels** serving as interim. Search Committee completing profile.

Eden – **Wayne Scott** serving as interim. Search Committee completing profile.

Pleasant View – **Dr. Byron Hawbecker** serving as interim. Search Committee interviewing.

Congregations that have not yet begun the search process or have chosen not to seek at this time:

East Nimishillen – **Matthew Reed** serving as interim. Congregational profile complete, but not actively seeking at this time.

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

Lakewood – **Gene Wyse** serving as interim. Not actively seeking at this time.

Maple Grove – **John Ballinger** serving as interim until 2/2018.

Woodworth – **John Polanski** serving as interim and beginning the credentialing process.

District Prayer Calendar

April 30—May 6

Woodworth CoB (Interim John Polanski) and Zion Hill CoB (Pastor Jason Harsh)

May 7—May 13

Adrian CoB (Pastor David Morton) and Akron Eastwood CoB (Pastor Paul Bozman)

May 14—May 20

Akron First CoB (Pastor Tobin Crenshaw) and Akron Springfield CoB (Pastor Alan Brumbaugh)

May 21—May 27

Ashland Dickey CoB (Pastor Tom Zuercher) and Ashland First CoB (Pastor Tina Hunt)



Search Committee Update

The District Executive Search Committee is currently interviewing candidates. We are planning to announce the new DE at District Conference. Updates will continue to be posted in the upcoming Pastor's Memos and District Bulletin handouts. Thank you!

Area Clergy Meetings

We live in a world saturated with racism – much of it below the surface of our awareness. Our Spring Area Clergy Meeting sought to bring a new perspective and to learn what our churches can bring to race relations within our communities.

James and Sandra Washington presented “Finding Creative Ways to Work at Race Relations”, teaching us how racism looks, how to handle racism in a positive manner, how to dismantle racism, and what it means to claim an anti-racist identity. James and Sandra brought a wealth of personal experience that added depth and richness to the presentation. Forty-eight attended the seven workshops that were held across our district. Please see James' article on this topic, "A Remnant Remains", in the April Issue of the Messenger.



James and Sandra Washington are co-founders of “**TIME-OUT** “ Ministries (Today's Interaction May Encourage Our Unity Tomorrow), a faith-built program to develop relationships and goals to grow in the Lord. You may contact them through the District Office if you would like more information or would like them to speak at your church.

Katie Polzin, Licensed to the Ministry

Katherine (Katie) Polzin was licensed to ministry Sunday, April 23 at Poplar Ridge Church of the Brethren. Katie is attending Bethany Seminary and feels a call to become a chaplain. Her heart is especially drawn toward children and youth that are struggling in their lives. Katie will work with a mentor, a cohort group, and her congregation as she explores this call to ministry. Katie is married to Ben Polzin (Pastor at Poplar Ridge).



Men's Fellowship – Seeking Leadership

The District Fellowship Commission is looking for someone to take the lead on getting the District Men's Fellowship started again. Three men have volunteered who are willing to be part of a planning group, but cannot take the lead position. So many have benefited from this group in the past through the service and fellowship opportunities it provides. It is our hope that this experience can be made available again to the men in the Northern Ohio District.

Please contact a member of the Fellowship Commission (Brenda Ebner, Tina Hunt, Gaylee Hughes, Billi Janet Burkey) or the District Office at 419-281-3058 if you are interested in serving in this way. We are hoping there is someone out there who has a calling to do this.

Annual Conference

ARE YOU A DR, NURSE PRACTITIONER, RN, LPN, OR EMT?

The First Aid Office at Annual Conference in Grand Rapids is looking for DR.'s, RN's, LPN's and EMT's who would be willing to volunteer a few hours during Annual Conference this summer. Dr. Rosalie McBride of Northern Indiana District is coordinating the First Aid Office this summer in Grand Rapids and would be glad to hear from willing volunteers! Please contact her at: rosalie.l.mcbride@gmail.com



Akron/Canton Area Congregations Combine For Lenten Services

Each spring, the Akron/Canton area Church of the Brethren congregations gather together each Sunday evening during the Lenten season for a time of worship and fellowship. This year, these services began March 5 with the first Sunday of Lent and continued for the next five Sundays. The final week consisted of a festival of choirs, which took place at Eden Church of the Brethren on April 2. The congregations that participate in these services each year are the following; Akron Eastwood, Akron First, Akron Springfield, Center, Eden, East Nimishillen, Freeburg, Hartville, Mount Pleasant, and Water Street.



Photo displays the combined choir singing during the festival of choirs at Eden CoB

The theme for this year centered upon God's Promises through the Cross and was inspired from Max Lucado's book, *He Chose the Nails*. Each Sunday featured an inspiring message that served as a great reminder of what Jesus did for all of us through His death and resurrection.

In addition to gathering together for worship, these services also serve another purpose that benefits the Northern Ohio District. 100% of the offerings that were collected during the Lenten services are given to the district to support the Student Ministers Fund, which helps our district's licensed ministers pay for their education for ordination. This year, the total amount collected during these services was \$1,722.75.

District Conference Offerings:

Friday Evening – District Conference Expenses

Saturday Evening – Nigerian Crisis Fund

Your gift to the Nigeria Crisis Fund will support a comprehensive emergency response and recovery program assisting Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) and other Nigerians made homeless and suffering from the attacks of Boko Haram. Since 2014 the response has provided temporary shelters, emergency food and household supplies, clean water and sanitation and trauma healing programs. Your gift today will help families on their journey home by providing home repair kits, seeds and tools for agriculture, livelihood programs and continued trauma healing programming.

Inspiration Hills

Annual Hog Roast & Open House

Saturday
May 27th, 2017
Noon-4

Join us for the
Annual Hog Roast & Open House
Saturday May 27th, 2017!

The day will include great food, family games, camp tours, awesome fellowship, and a chance to meet the summer staff. Some of the activities planned for kids of all ages include Fishing, Archery, and a camp wide Scavenger Hunt for all. The day will begin at noon and end by 4 pm.