

Northern Ohio District
Conference 20/20:



Focusing on Jesus' Vision
of His Church and for His Church
Matthew 16:18 & Matthew 28:18-20

The Herald

NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN—MAY 2020

Message from the Moderator

District Conference 2020—August 14th & 15th
Akron Springfield Church of the Brethren



Brad Kelley, Moderator

Plan now to attend your upcoming Northern Ohio Church of the Brethren District Conference on Friday and Saturday, August 14th & 15th at Akron Springfield CoB. Our theme this year is: **District Conference 2020: "Focusing on Jesus' Vision of His Church and for His Church"** based on **Matthew 16:18 & 28:18-20**. This theme is very timely due to our denomination's current pursuit of a compelling vision. The theme will keep us focused and centered on Jesus' biblical & authoritative Vision concerning His Church.

District Conference is a great time to get caught up with old friends and to make some new ones. District Conference is for all ages. There will be something good in store for all... adults, youth, and children! A block of rooms has been reserved at Comfort Inn & Suites of Hartville. Please call 330-587-4347 to make reservations. Conference registration is available by mail or online at www.nohcob.org/register. Our special guests joining our 2020 Moderator Brad Kelley and the Northern Ohio District of Churches this year at District Conference will be Rev. Tom Zuercher as our Saturday Afternoon Challenge Speaker and as one of two of our Pre-Conference Workshop Presenters. Also participating in this year's Vision Conference will be Church Historian, Rev. Jeff Bach. He will be one of two of our Pre-Conference & Conference Insight Session Presenters, along

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with providing our "Non-Delegate" Insight Session during our Business Meeting Hour. Also we are blessed to have join us Mr. Ed Shannon of BBT (Brethren Benefit Trust) who will be one of our Saturday Afternoon Insight Session Presenters. He will be speaking on the topic of "Faith & Finances". And this year we'll have a special treat, with the presence of beloved entertainer Jim Boedicker, as he provides music and laughter during our Friday Night Ice Cream Social.—Brad Kelley, Moderator

Friday Schedule

11:00 a.m.	Exhibit & Peace Auction Set-up Begins
12:00 a.m.	Registration Begins
1:00 – 4:30 p.m.	Pre-Conference Workshops
5:00 p.m.	Dinner
6:30 p.m.	Opening Worship
8:00 p.m.	Ice Cream Social sponsored by East Chippewa CoB

Saturday Schedule

7:30 a.m.	Prayer Walk
8:30 – 11:45 a.m.	Business Session (in Fellowship Hall)
10:15 – 11:45 a.m.	Non-Delegate Session
12:00 p.m.	Lunch (in Fellowship Hall)
1:15 – 2:15 p.m.	Insight Sessions
	Do the Crime, Do the Time: Brethren Imprisoned for Baptism, Presented by Jeff Bach
	Brethren Benefit Trust: Faith and Finances, Presented by Ed Shannon
	Inspiration Hills: Connections, Presented by Shannon Kahler
2:30 – 3:45 p.m.	Business Session (in Fellowship Hall)
4:00 p.m.	Worship Service and Installation of Moderator (in Sanctuary)
5:30 p.m.	Closing Dinner
6:30 p.m.	Conference Concludes

Childcare (toddlers and preschoolers) will be available during the Pre-Conference Workshops, Worship Services, Business Sessions and Insight Sessions, located in the Childcare area. Our Children's Program Coordinator is Nikki Hornish, from Akron Springfield Church of the Brethren.

Children's Activities (K-5th grade) will be available during the Pre-Conference Workshops, Business Sessions and Insight Sessions provided by Akron Springfield CoB childcare staff.

Greetings, Brothers and Sisters, from the Central Committee of the Northern Ohio District,

We understand that in this period of concern over COVID-19 your schedules and plans are unsettled not knowing what the coming months will bring for sure. We recognize our responsibility to give extra attention to health concerns and any risks involved in holding a conference. As the time for our conference approaches, we will be listening closely to the guidance provided by the State of Ohio, CDC, and others as we weigh the various options that we will have available to us. It's our prayer that we can confidently choose to hold our conference unchanged and as we have in recent years. But if that needs to change, we will let you know by June 1st so you have plenty of time to adjust your own schedules appropriately.

The District Conference Central Committee

Non-Delegate Session

20/20 Vision: Brethren and Christ's Vision for the Church, Presented by Jeff Bach

10:15 – 11:45 a.m.

In this session we will check our spiritual vision for the Church in 2020 to find out if we're seeing 20/20. Using the conference theme scriptures of the Great Commission (Mt. 28:16-20) and Mt. 16:18 to explore how various groups in the Brethren movement have understood Christ's vision of what the Church can be, and what Christ's programmatic vision for the Church can be. Come join the conversation about how Brethren throughout their history have understood and applied these and other scriptures for a faithful Church.

Special Offerings & Local Missions Offering

Our special offerings this year will be Brethren Disaster Ministries-Puerto Rico Relief (Saturday's offering), District Conference Expenses (Friday's offering) and our Local Missions Offering will be Kid's Closet a ministry of Akron Springfield Church of the Brethren serving children K-12 in local schools surrounding the Akron area. There is a flyer providing a list of ways you can give on page 7.

Ice Cream Social Friday Evening following Worship



Jim Boedicker, Entertainer

Immediately after Friday's Worship Service, our annual District Ice Cream Social will be filled with music and laughter as Guitarist/Musician and humorous Jim Boedicker

(a conference favorite from the past) will be sharing in interactive song and story. You will not want to miss this wonderful time of fellowship and fun. When you join Jim for this entertaining and informal social, you will be sure to have a smile on your face and a song in your heart before leaving that night!

Insight Sessions

DO THE CRIME, DO THE TIME: BRETHREN IMPRISONED FOR BAPTISM

PRESENTED BY JEFF BACH



Six Brethren men served prison time at hard labor from 1717 to 1720 for receiving adult baptism. During this time one of them wrote over 100 hymns that went into the first Brethren hymnal. They all prayed for their captors and the fellow prisoners who mistreated them. How did they stay so firm and joyful in their faith? During this illustrated lecture we will ask how seriously we take our faith today, and how meaningful is baptism? The presentation will include reflections on the suffering of Brethren in Nigeria.

BRETHREN BENEFIT TRUST:

FAITH AND FINANCES

PRESENTED BY ED SHANNON



This workshop will look at how the way we spend our money aligns with our faith values. We will touch on the Biblical concept of stewardship and how we apply that to our spending and saving habits.

INSPIRATION HILLS: CONNECTIONS

PRESENTED BY SHANNON KAHLER



We know that our camp holds summer camp for kids of all ages, but did you know that Inspiration Hills Camp partners with hundreds of other likeminded ministries who use the camp for leadership development, faith formation, and reconnecting with God? This insight session will connect you with some of our partners in ministry and perhaps widen your understanding of what happens at camp during the school year. There will be time for Q&A as well as some camp snacks!

Pre-Conference Workshops

Friday August 14th, 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm

We are providing two insightful Pre-Conference Workshops. Anyone is welcome to attend and participate in one or both workshops. Each one is worth .15 CEUs, for our ministers needing CEUs, for a total of .3 CEUs possible.

Our first 1 1/2 hour workshop presenter will be our very own respected Brother, **Rev. Tom Zuercher**. Tom will be seeking to speak to fellow-ministry comrades, by sharing helpful reflections, insights and wisdom in what he has learned over more than four decades of faithful ministry. This workshop is meant to have an interactive component to it, so that fellow-pastors can ask Tom

questions and/or for ministerial advice. His workshop is titled "Things I've learned, mistakes I've made, advice I'm willing to give." Fellow pastors and ministers will greatly benefit from this special workshop on Friday afternoon, starting at 1 pm.

After 42 years of church work, Tom Zuercher retired from full-time ministry in 2018. In the Northern Ohio District, he served as pastor for three congregations: Danville North Bend, Mt. Pleasant, and Ashland Dickey, and was District Executive for twelve years. In addition to pastoral work, Tom has served as a teacher, spiritual speaker, retreat leader, consultant,

throughout their history have understood and applied these and other scriptures for a faithful Church."

Jeff Bach is director of the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College and teaches in the Department of Religious Studies. He taught courses related to Brethren heritage for thirteen years at Bethany Theological Seminary in Richmond, Indiana. He earned his Ph.D. in religion from Duke University in 1997, concentrating on the history of Anabaptist and Pietist groups. He is the author of *Voices of the Turtledoves: The Sacred World of Ephrata* (Penn

At 2:45 pm, our second 1 1/2 hour workshop will begin. The presenter will be **Rev. Jeff Bach**. His workshop is titled "**20/20 Vision: Brethren and Christ's Vision for the Church.**" During this workshop, Jeff says, "we will check our spiritual vision for the Church in 2020 to find out if we're seeing 20/20. Using the conference theme scriptures of the Great Commission (Mt. 28:16-20) and Mt. 16:18 to explore how various groups in the Brethren movement have understood Christ's vision of what the Church can be, and what Christ's programmatic vision for the Church can be. Come join the conversation about how Brethren

Rev. Tom Zuercher, CoB
Ordained Minister



and author. He and Susan live in rural Ashland County and are always delighted to spend time with their children and grandchildren. In retirement, Tom has enjoyed traveling, making presentations on philately (stamp collecting), and O-gauge model trains.

Dr. Jeff Bach, CoB
Historian/Professor



State Press, 2003). Among his recent articles are "The Ephrata Community in the Atlantic World" in *Protestant Communalism in the Trans-Atlantic World, 1650-1850* (2016) and a chapter on Jacob Boehme in *Protestants and Mysticism in Reformation Europe* (2019). He is an ordained minister in the Church of the Brethren. He is married to Ann Mason Bach and they have two adult daughters.

Friday Worship Message: Focusing on Jesus' Vision of His Church (Matthew 16:18)

Guest Speaker: Rev. Brad Kelley

Pastor Brad will address the first part of this year's 2020 Conference Theme in his message "**Focusing on Jesus' Vision of His Church**" from **Matthew 16:18**. The message will focus on Jesus' promise to build His Church and that His Church will prevail and be triumphantly completed in the end!

Pastor Brad currently shepherds the East Chippewa CoB congregation near Orrville, OH. He has been Pastor of East Chip since June of 2011. He is thoroughly thankful and knows he is blessed for being able to pastor at East Chip. Brad is celebrating 30 years of pastoral ministry in January of 2020. He and Sharon, his wife of over 33 years, have three grown children and live in the West Salem area.

Brad accepted the call to be our "2020 District Moderator" during the 2018 District Conference.



**Rev. Brad Kelley,
Moderator**

He has been in this type of District role 20 years earlier in his previous pastorate in the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches. Recently, he has become one of our teachers in the District's Brethren Buckeye Institute.

He taught the Fall 2019 BBI course on "Evangelism." For nearly the last 2 and half decades, He has provided quarterly preaching for the evangelistic chapel services at Akron Ohio's homeless shelter, the Haven of Rest.

Brad received formal higher education training from Grace College (Bachelors with a double major in both Biblical Studies and Speech Communications), Ashland Theological Seminary and Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary (Masters of Divinity and some Doctor of Ministry course work).

Saturday Worship Message: Focusing on Jesus' Vision for His Church (Matthew 28:18-20)

Guest Speaker: Rev. Tom Zuercher

Pastor Tom will preach on the second part of our 2020 Conference Theme. His message is titled "**Focusing on Jesus' Vision for His Church**" based on **Matthew 28:18-20**. Tom will passionately bring home to us the true "Vision/Mission" that Jesus has for His Church!

After 42 years of church work, Tom Zuercher retired from full-time ministry in 2018. In the Northern Ohio District, he served as pastor for three congregations: Danville North Bend, Mt. Pleasant, and Ashland Dickey, and was District Executive for twelve years. In addition to pastoral



**Rev. Tom Zuercher,
Ordained Minister**

work, Tom has served as a teacher, spiritual speaker, retreat leader, consultant, and author. He and Susan live in rural Ashland County and are always delighted to spend time with their children and grandchildren. In retirement,

Tom has enjoyed traveling, making presentations on philately (stamp collecting), and O-gauge model trains.

Coming at District Conference!

The Silent Auction For The Peace Endowment Fund Support District Peace Education Efforts!



The Peace Task Team organizes an auction each year to raise money for the District Peace Endowment Fund. This fund supports peace education efforts in the District. This is the 32nd year we have had a Peace Auction.

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!

→ handmade items and goodies (handcrafted items, artist's work, homemade food) to bring 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, August 14 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 5 p.m. Friday to 6:15 p.m. Saturday.
- The person with the highest bid on an item at 6:15 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!

Junior and Senior High Activities

OPEN TO ALL 6TH - 12TH GRADERS

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

HOUSING AND MEALS PROVIDED

August 14 - 15, 2020



**CONTACT ESTHER
DISTRICT YOUTH COORDINATOR
EMAIL: ESTHER@NOHCOB.ORG
CALL OR TEXT: 330.880.7161**





LOCAL MISSIONS OFFERING

SUPPORTING KID'S CLOSET

Kid's Closet is a ministry of Akron Springfield COB that serves the children in grades K-6 in the area's elementary schools. Many of these children are from low socioeconomic households. Kid's Closet is primarily a clothing distribution ministry, but they also include household items and food when possible. Conference can support this ministry by donating financially or by donating the following items:



- **Children's socks: S, M, L, XL (new).**
- **Children's underwear: S, M, L, XL (new).**
- **Children's clothing - items suitable for school: sizes 5 to 16 (new/gently used).**
- **Children's coats and jackets: sizes 5 to 16 (new/gently used).**
- **Children's shoes (new/gently used).**



Northern Ohio District Church of the Brethren
2020 DISTRICT CONFERENCE DELEGATE AUTHORIZATION FORM

Mail the form to: Northern Ohio District, 1107 East Main Street, Ashland, Ohio 44805

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, Board Chair 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.

Adult Registration Form

August 14-15, 2020 Northern Ohio District Conference
YOU MUST REGISTER BY JULY 28 IF YOU WANT TO ORDER MEALS

Send Registration Forms and checks to:
Northern Ohio District, 1107 E. Main Street, Ashland, OH 44805

All delegates must also complete this form. Each congregation must provide a delegate authorization form signed by the church's pastor, moderator, board chair, or clerk. This is verification that the delegate has been chosen by the congregation to represent them at conference.

You may now also register on-line & print conference materials from the District Website:
www.nohcob.org.

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Are you a Delegate? Yes No

Congregation Name _____

Your Name _____

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

Registration Fee: \$25.00 pre-registration (\$35.00 on site) **Registration Fee:** \$ 25.00

Choose your meal options:

Friday Dinner \$11.00 Saturday Breakfast \$5.00 Saturday Lunch \$8.00 Saturday Dinner \$11.00 All meals \$35.00

Special dietary needs? _____ **Total Meals:** \$ _____

Are you attending the Pre-conference Part A from 1:00 – 2:30 pm?..... Yes No
(Tom Zuercher on "Things I've learned, mistakes I've made, advice I'm willing to give.")

Are you attending the Pre-conference Part B from 2:45 – 4:30 pm? Yes No
(Jeff Bach on "'20/20 Vision: Brethren and Christ's Vision for the Church.")

Do you wish to receive CEU's?..... Yes No

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

Youth Advisor Registration Form

August 14-15, 2020 Northern Ohio District Conference

YOU MUST REGISTER BY JULY 28 IF YOU WANT MEALS

Send Registration Forms to: Northern Ohio District, 1107 E. Main Street, Ashland, OH 44805

You may also register on-line & print conference materials from the District Website: www.nohcob.org.

Congregation Name _____

Your Name _____

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

Registration Fee: \$25.00 pre-registration (\$35.00 on site) Registration Fee: \$ <u>25.00</u>
--

Meals: Advisors will eat meals with the youth. Meals will be provided for Advisors at no charge.

Special dietary needs? _____ Total Meals: \$ <u>0.00</u>

*Lodging: Youth Advisors will lodge at Duane and Kris Hawk's

(bring your own bedding and towels)

Total Lodging: \$ <u>0.00</u>

Are you attending the Pre-conference event? Yes No

Do you wish to receive CEU's? Yes No

Total Registration Fee, Meal, & Lodging Costs

(Make checks to "Northern Ohio District")

Total Cost: \$ 25.00

*Youth Advisors are expected to stay overnight at Hawk's on Friday and participate in all youth conference activities.

In addition to this Conference Registration form, you will receive a link to complete a background check if you have not done so in the past year.

Jr. High and Sr. High Youth Registration Form

August 14-15, 2020 Northern Ohio District Conference

Send Registration Forms to: Northern Ohio District, 1107 E. Main Street, Ashland, OH 44805

Youth attend District Conference at no charge

You may also register on-line & print conference materials from the District Website: www.nohcob.org.

Senior High (9th-12th)

Junior High (6th-8th)

Congregation Name

Your

Name _____

Address _____

Street

City

State

Zip Code

Phone Number (____) _____ **E-mail** _____

Is this your first conference? Yes No

Are you a delegate? Yes No

Registration Fee: No charge for youth.

Registration Fee: \$ 0.00

Meals: Meals will be provided for youth at no charge.

Special dietary needs? _____ **Total Meals:** \$ 0.00

***Lodging:** Youth will stay at Duane and Kris Hawk's home

(bring your own bedding and towels)

Total Lodging: \$ 0.00

Total Cost: \$ 0.00

How will you be coming to District Conference?

With my Family

With my Youth Leader

Driving Myself

If you need help with transportation call Esther at 330-880-7161

*Youth are expected to stay overnight at Hawk's on Friday and participate in all youth activities.

Child Under 12 Registration Form

August 14-15, 2020 Northern Ohio District Conference

YOU MUST PRE-REGISTER BY JULY 28 IF YOU WANT TO ORDER MEALS.

IF YOU ARE REGISTERING ADULTS, USE ADULT FORM

Send registration forms to: Northern Ohio District, 1107 E. Main Street, Ashland, OH 44805

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 No

Parents' contact information at conference

Who will pick up children from their activities?

(Children attend District Conference at no charge.)

Child Under 12 Individual Meals

<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Dinner	<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Lunch
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Breakfast	<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Dinner

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 Pre-Conference, worship on Friday and Saturday, and Saturday business sessions and insight sessions. Please indicate below if/when your child will be in Child Care.

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Conference	<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Business Sessions
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Worship	<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Insight Sessions
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Worship	

Grade School Children: Children's activities are provided for children in grades K through 5 during the Saturday business sessions and insight 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:

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 No

Parents' contact information at conference

Who will pick up children from their activities?

(Children attend District Conference at no charge.)

Child Under 12 Individual Meals

<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Dinner	<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Lunch
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Breakfast	<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Dinner

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 Pre-Conference, worship on Friday and Saturday, and Saturday business sessions and insight sessions. Please indicate below if your child will be in Child Care.

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Conference	<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Business Sessions
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday Worship	<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Insight Sessions
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Worship	

Grade School Children: Children's activities are provided for children in grades K through 5 during the Saturday business sessions and insight 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:

Concerns around coronavirus (COVID19) – considerations in these unusual times:

Worship Services. These are frustrating times! We can often endure much when we have an end date to the struggle. And as we have missed physically gathering, we long to know the exact date that we can resume worship services in our church buildings. While some changes for the State of Ohio were announced on April 27th, the stay-at-home order and the 10-person limit on gatherings is still in effect. So much remains unchanged for congregations through at least the month of May. Still no specific end-date known, but it seems wise to continue to plan for virtual worship services, Bible studies, and fellowship times through May. One blessing is that this allows time to make plans for your congregation to gather safely and responsibly when we gather again in person. Resources have been sent to your Pastors and Church Board Chairs to help this planning to begin.

Changes in the District Schedule.

- District Staff is working primarily from home. Julie Watson, Administrative Secretary and Kris Hawk are in the office each week – but not on the same days. Messages are checked several times a day, but the best way to reach someone quickly is to call Kris' on her cell phone at 330-612-2086.
- All district level meetings will be held by Zoom through May including District Board (May 9), BBI (our ministerial training program) classes, Central Committee, Nominating Committee, Commission meetings.
- The SiSters Spring Retreat is cancelled. A fall retreat is planned to be held at Inspiration Hills.
- Annual Conference delegate briefing/meet the Moderator has been postponed until June 7th.
- Inspiration Hills Camp Administration Committee has revised the summer camp schedule to begin later in June. They will be deciding by May 15 if the season can go forward.
- BBI (our ministerial training program) is holding classes via Zoom.
- The young adult learning trip to Ukraine has been postponed until May 2021.
- Each week an updated list of on-line worship opportunities within our district is available on our website. Contact the District Office if you would like a list emailed to you.

An important reminder: even though we are not meeting in the usual ways in our churches, expenses have not stopped. Your church needs your continued financial support to pay the bills for the building - and to provide salary and benefits for your pastor and staff. And quite honestly, we all need the blessing of giving in this time. Giving is a reminder that God has provided us with more than enough and moves us to live in a spirit of gratitude!

COVID-19 Resources

New Denomination COVID-19 Resource Page: <https://covid19.brethren.org/>

Financial Resources:

District 0% Interest Loans are available from the district to help congregations pay their expenses. This is intended to cover the gap between ongoing expenses and a drop in offerings while worship services are suspended and until giving recovers when services resume. Our intention is to provide up to 3 months of operating expenses on a month-to-month basis, so that church treasurer's will not need to worry about where the money will come from to pay the pastor and the bills. Repayment plans will be negotiated with congregations when it is time to begin repayment and we will work with each congregation's need. Please contact the District Office for an application.

Church Worker's Assistance Plan. If you are an employee of a Church of the Brethren congregation or church camp and are being adversely impacted financially by the coronavirus, Brethren Benefit Trust may be able to help through their Church Worker's Assistance Plan. Contact them at 847-622-3391 or pension@cobbt.org.

Blessings,
Kris

Pastoral Placement

Congregations actively in the search process:

Zion Hill – Candidate chosen, and congregational call vote being scheduled.
Scott McPeck serving as interim.

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

Lake Breeze – **Stephen McLaughlin** serving as interim and beginning the credentialing process.

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

Mansfield First – **Tom Michaels** serving as transitional pastor.

New Philadelphia – **David Hobbs** serving as interim.

Painesville – **John Ballinger** serving as transitional pastor.

Reading – **Larry Bradley** has resigned as pastor effective July 26, 2020. Search Committee being formed.

Ordination/Commissioning Renewal Year

In the Church of the Brethren, every five years ministry credentials are reviewed and renewed. This process includes all ordained and commissioned clergy. Clergy are required to complete CEU's, attend Ministerial Ethics Training, and undergo a background check.

As part of this process, each congregation is asked to complete a "Congregational Support Form" to affirm ongoing support for the minister. The form is due by March 30, 2020. It will be sent to each Church Board Chair or you can access it at www.nohcob.org/renewal.



Welcome New Pastor!

*Chibuzo Petty, Pastor
Brook Park Community
Church of the Brethren*

Chibuzo Shayne Petty was licensed and installed as

Pastor at the Brook Park Community Church of the Brethren. Chibuzo began ministry at age 17, serving in children's ministries at a large multi-staff church. He was a campus minister through InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. He graduated with a BA in theater and religion from Wright State University in 2013.

Chibuzo was previously licensed to the ministry in the Southern Ohio District, serving in pastoral roles in the Eaton, Potsdam and Richmond congregations. He graduated from Bethany Theological Seminary in 2018. He relocated to the Toledo area where he served as Lead Family Advocate for the nonprofit agency Campaign for Migrant Worker Justice.

Chibuzo married Chelsea Nimmo on January 25, 2020 and has one daughter, Diana Grace, who is four and full of energy! Chelsea is a Speech-Language Pathologist currently working in a Michigan school system.

The installation/licensing service took place via Zoom with the Brook Park Church Board in attendance. As soon as gathering together for worship again becomes an option, there will be a time of celebration with the entire congregation - complete with a carry-in dinner.

Mark Your Calendar

- | | |
|---------|--|
| 5.2 | BBI History of Christianity, Zoom Video |
| 5.9 | District Board Meeting, Via Zoom |
| 5.16 | BBI History of Christianity, Via Zoom |
| 5.25 | Office Closed—Memorial Day |
| 5.30 | Church Treasurer Workshop, Ashland First CoB, Ashland, OH |
| 6.7 | Meet the Moderator/Delegate Briefing, Maple Grove CoB, Ashland, OH |
| 7.1 | Ethics Training at Annual Conference, Grand Rapids, MI |
| 7.1-5 | Annual Conference, Grand Rapids, MI |
| 8.14-15 | District Conference, Akron Springfield CoB, Akron, OH |

District Prayer Calendar

May

Our Churches

County Line, Pastor Chris Ewing
Defiance, Pastor Gene Yenser
Dupont, Pastor Steve Heilshorn
East Chippewa, Pastor Brad Kelley

District Leadership

Stewardship & Finance Commission

Sister Districts

Missouri/Arkansas, Southeastern

Denominational Leadership

Bill Scheurer, OEP

June

Our Churches

East Nimishillen, Pastor Jim Lee
Eden, Pastor Wayne Scott
Elm Street, Pastor James Washington
Faith in Action, Pastor Jim Gorrell

District Leadership

Connections Commission

Sister Districts

Idaho, Northern Plains

Denominational Leadership

Nevin Dulabaum, BBT

July

Our Churches

Freeburg, Pastor Mike Zellers
Hartville, Pastor Anthony DiMarco
Jonah's People, Pastor Barry Belknap
Lake Breeze, Pastor Stephen McLaughlin

District Leadership

Congregational Commission

Sister Districts

Southern Plains, Western Plains

Denominational Leadership

Annual Conference July 1-5

Visit our website www.nohcob.org/prayer for the complete prayer calendar for 2020.

Eden Church Hottle Grant

In 2017 Eden Church received a grant from the Hottle Funds. We truly appreciate these funds and have used them in the following manner:

- Security Cameras and Webcam which also provide the opportunity for our shut ins to see the Worship Service and any special services we hold. With the Webcam we record the Worship Service and special services which are transferred to DVD for shut ins.
- Routers and WIFI equipment which have increased our ability to connect with the internet throughout the church.
- Retractable Screen, Projector and Computer for the Sanctuary to enhance the Worship Service and allow for viewing of movies, training sessions, etc.
- Wood headers to match existing baptismal header to hide the retractable screen when not in use.
- Portable PA System so that any services in the Fellowship Hall or the outdoor Pavilion can be heard by all attending.
- Television in the Nursery so the Services can be viewed or movies for the kids.

These improvements have made a huge difference in our options for worship. Without the updated camera in the sanctuary, we would not have been able to put our services on YouTube for all to see during the pandemic.

Thank you, again, for the use of these funds.

Sincerely,

Jill Aldridge

Board Chair, Eden Church of the Brethren

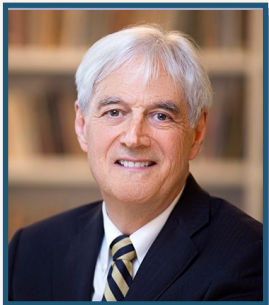
2020 Annual Conference



2020 Annual Conference Registration

Annual Conference will be held this year in Grand Rapids,

Michigan at the DeVos Convention Center from July 1-5. Delegate and Non-Delegate Registration opened on Monday, March 2, 2020. Visit www.brethren.org/ac for more information about this year's conference theme "God's Adventurous Future", schedule of events and registration.



Meet the Moderator, Paul Munday Annual Conference Delegate Briefing

June 7, 2020, 3:00 – 5:00 pm, Maple Grove CoB, Ashland, Ohio

Mark your calendars for Sunday, June 7th from 3:00 – 5:00 pm. Paul Munday, Annual Conference Moderator, will hold our Annual Conference Delegate Briefing at Maple Grove Church of the Brethren. This session is for Annual Conference delegates, pastors, and all who would like to know more of what will be happening at Annual Conference this year in Grand Rapids, Michigan on July 1st-5th. Come hear of the Compelling Vision process, the fellowship and learning opportunities, and Paul's vision for this Conference. Brother Paul will also be preaching at Maple Grove during the 10:30 am Sunday morning worship, and you are welcome to attend.

Paul Munday is a minister, consultant, and writer, with over 43 years of service for Christ and Christ's cause. Paul provided leadership for our Pre-Conference workshop and spoke during Saturday's worship at the Northern Ohio District Conference in 2019. Visit www.nohcob.org/ac for a delegate video link (scroll to the bottom of the page).

Missions Update



Mission News and Updates

In an effort to help churches keep up to date we will be sharing Church of the Brethren key mission updates. As workcamps/meetings have been cancelled or postponed

during the current COVID-19 situation... ministry does still go on.

In speaking with a couple nursing homes/assisted living facilities they are in **continued need for face masks**. I know that many of you have already been diligently working on them. If you would like to share, please contact the nursing facilities in your area or contact the Good Shepherd Home in Fostoria 419-937-1801 or West Vie Healthy Living in Wooster 330-264-8640.

From **Brethren Disaster Ministries**. The disaster relief trips have all been postponed during this time of COVID-19. BDM has shared some very useful information on the web site for individuals and congregations. <http://www.brethren.org/bdm/covid-19.html>

In recent weeks the **Church of the Brethren's Emergency Disaster Fund** (EDF) has disbursed several grants, directed by the Brethren Disaster Ministries staff. The largest are helping to continue hurricane recovery work in Puerto Rico (\$150,000), the Carolinas (\$40,500), and the Bahamas (\$25,000). Grants for COVID-19 response are going to Honduras (two grants for \$20,000 and \$4,000), the Democratic Republic of Congo (\$15,000), and South Sudan (\$4,000). For more information about the EDF and to donate to this relief work go to www.brethren.org/edf.

Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) has been working with its project partners and volunteers around the world to encourage caution and safety during this COVID-19 crisis. Its mid-year retreat for domestic volunteers that was scheduled for March 23-27 has been cancelled and, instead, volunteers will gather virtually for a day of retreat activities and reflecting. Please continue to keep the BVSers and the Church of the Brethren Staff and volunteers in your prayers.

Serving Together,

Billi Janet Burkey, N. Ohio Missions Advocate