

The Herald

District Conference



of His Church and for His Church

Matthew 16:18 & Matthew 28:18-20

Akron Springfield CoB

August 14th, 2021

NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

MAY 2021 | DISTRICT CONFERENCE ISSUE

Message from the Moderator

District Conference 2021— Saturday, August 14th Akron Springfield Church of the Brethren

The 2021 Northern Ohio Church of the Brethren District Conference will be held on Saturday, August 14th at Akron Springfield CoB. Due to Covid19 and the need to plan in advance, the District Central Committee with the favor of the Akron-Springfield Church has decided to make the 2021 Conference with a few essential exceptions, a "Delegates Only" Conference.

However, the full 2021 District Conference will be live-streamed at no cost. The church delegates participating will meet in-person on location at the Akron Springfield CoB. Social distancing and masks will be in place for the day's activities. Each church delegate must register and pay in advance the District Conference Fee of \$40 (which will include all of the cost for meals, materials, special supplies, and speaker fees).

Due to the need of "postponing/canceling" of last Summer's District Conference due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, we have kept for our theme this year's 2021 District Conference the same. Our theme is **"Focusing on Jesus' Vision of His Church and for His Church" based on Matthew 16:18 & 28:18-20**. This theme will still prove to be very timely due to our denomination's current focus on "a compelling vision." The theme will keep us centered on Jesus' biblical & authoritative Vision for His Church

Our District's very-own, retired Minister, **Rev. Tom Zuercher** will be our special keynote speaker in the Afternoon Worship Service. Our 2021 Moderator, **Pastor Brad Kelley** will share in the Opening Worship Service.

Note: Due to the scaling back of the normal District Conference format from a "two day" to a "one day" Conference, there will be no Pre-Conference Workshops offered. Our originally planned Pre-Conference Presenters Tom Zuercher and Jeff Bach have graciously agreed to present their originally planned pre-conference sessions as a Pastor's Workshop. Tom's presentation will be in the Spring and Jeff's will be in the Fall. Both Workshops are CEU opportunities.

Article provided by Brad Kelley, Moderator

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District Conference Schedule, Saturday

8:00am-9:00am	Registration
9:00am-10:00am	Opening Worship
10:15am-12:15pm	Business Session
12:15pm-1:15pm	Lunch
1:15pm-2:20pm	Business Session
2:30pm-3:30pm	Closing Worship
3:30pm-3:40pm	Consecration of 2022 Moderator
3:40pm	Conference Adjourns



Brad Kelley, Moderator

(Donuts & coffee available in the morning. Drinks & snacks available all day.)

District Conference Officers & Central Committee Members

Moderator, Brad Kelley, East Chippewa CoB
Moderator-Elect, Brian Layman, Ashland First CoB
Past Moderator, Doug Price, Elm Street CoB
Clerk, Nancy Jacobsen, Mount Pleasant CoB
Michael Huffaker, Sugar Creek West CoB
Fern Dews, East Nimishillen CoB
Christine Harkless, Elm Street CoB

Message from Central Committee:

Our 2021 Northern Ohio District Conference will be held as a one-day, delegate only event at the Akron Springfield Church of the Brethren on August 14th. This will allow for social distancing as part of the COVID-19 precautions that will be in place for those that gather. The worship services and business sessions will be live streamed so that non-delegates can participate in this day. More details to follow.

District Conference Business Items

The District Conference business agenda is fairly full this year. In addition to calling leadership through the ballot and approving a 2022 budget, a revised constitution will come before the delegates. This revision does not appreciably differ from the current content, but cleans up the format making it easier to reference. There are also two motions coming related to the Hottle Memorial Fund, the generous gift that has provided assistance to our churches, camp, and district ministries.

Motions regarding Hottle draw

1. The District Board recommends that beginning in 2022, the yearly draw from the Hottle Memorial Fund be decreased from 12% to 9% (taken in quarterly installments), distributed as follows: 3% District Operating Expenses, 3% Inspiration Hills Operating Expenses, 3% Church/Fellowship Grants.
2. The District Board recommends to the District Conference that the unused funds from the church/fellowship portion of the Hottle Grant distribution remain in the Hottle Memorial Fund at the end of each year.



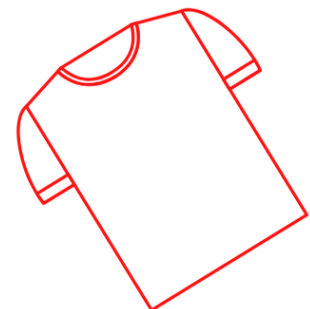
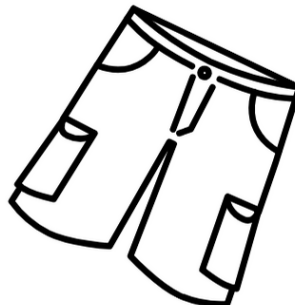
LOCAL MISSIONS OFFERING

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
2021 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.

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.

Delegate

**2021 District Conference Registration Form
Northern Ohio District Conference
August 14, 2021**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference will be a one-day event for Delegates only this year.

All registration forms must be received by July 26, 2021. There will be no on-site registration this year so the conference can plan for social distancing and other pandemic safety measures. **Mask wearing by all in attendance will be expected.**

Send Registration Forms & checks to: Northern Ohio District, 1107 E. Main Street, Ashland, OH 44805, or you may register and pay on-line from the District Website: www.nohcob.org/register.

All delegates must complete this registration form (in print or on-line). Every 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. Both forms are due by July 26, 2021

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE

Congregation Name _____

Delegate's Name _____

Address _____
Street City State Zip Code

Phone Number (_____) _____ E-mail _____

Is this your first conference? Yes No

Conference Cost: \$40.00 per Delegate (this includes registration [which covers conference costs including printing, speakers, & some special facility needs due to COVID-19], a grab & go lunch, & snacks)

There are 3 meal options. Check the one you prefer: Meal 1 Chicken salad croissant - pasta salad cup - a piece of fruit - and a cookie
 Meal 2 6" Italian sub sandwich - potato salad cup - a piece of fruit - and a brownie
 Meal 3 Garden salad - macaroni salad cup - a piece of fruit - and a cookie
 Special Diet: [note need: _____]

Total Cost of \$40.00

Payment must be enclosed. Please make checks payable to "Northern Ohio District".

The conference will begin Saturday morning with Registration (picking up Delegate materials) and end with afternoon worship.

Saturday Schedule:

8:00 – 9:00 Registration
(Donuts & coffee available in the morning. Drinks & snacks available all day.)
9:00 – 10:00 Opening worship
10:15 – 12:15 Business session
12:15 – 1:15 Lunch
1:15 – 2:20 Business
2:30 – 3:30 Closing worship
3:30 – 3:40 Consecration of 2022 Moderator
3:40 Conference Adjourns

District Conference

Focusing on **Jesus' Vision**



of His Church and for His Church

Matthew 16:18 & Matthew 28:18-20

Akron Springfield CoB
August 14th, 2021

Saturday Morning Worship

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

Guest Speaker: Rev. Brad Kelley



**Rev. Brad Kelley,
Ordained Minister**

Pastor Brad will address the first part of this year's 2021 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 celebrated 30 years of pastoral ministry in January of 2020. He and Sharon, his wife of over 34 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. 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).

Special Offerings & Local Missions Offering

Our special offerings this year will be Brethren Disaster Ministries-Puerto Rico Relief, District Conference Expenses 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 3. Thank you!

Saturday Afternoon Worship

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

Guest Speaker: Rev. Tom Zuercher



**Rev. Tom Zuercher,
Ordained Minister**

Pastor Tom will preach on the second part of our 2021 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 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.

Conference Lodging Information

A block of rooms are reserved for August 13-14 at the Comfort Inn Suites which is located at 953 Edison Street NE, Hartsville, Ohio 44632. Their local phone number is 330-587-4347. Please reference the Northern Ohio District Conference when making reservations. Thank you!

The hotel is located 9.2 miles from the Akron Springfield Church of the Brethren.

Group Rates are:

King Suite (1 King Bed, No Smoking) \$99.00

Queen Suite (2 Queen Beds, No Smoking) \$99.00

Pastoral Placement

Congregations actively in the search process:

Bristolville – Profile completed. Church leadership arranging pulpit supply.

Lakewood – Congregational call vote May 16th. **Gene Wyse** serving as interim.

Painesville – Search Committee initial meeting 4/28. **John Ballinger** serving as transitional pastor.

Congregations that have completed the search process:

Ashland First – **Brian Layman** installed as Pastor April 18th.

Jonah's People – **Bob Simonsick** installed as Pastor March 31st.

New Philadelphia – **David Hobbs** installed as Pastor April 25th.

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

Akron Eastwood – **Cindy Peel** serving as interim.

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

Updated 4/28/2021

District Events Calendar

- 5.8 Spring Youth Day
- 5.10 Youth Game Night
- 5.11 Eastern Area Pastors Luncheon
- 5.12 Central Area Pastors Breakfast
- 5.15 District Board Meeting
- 5.15 Young Adult Bonfire
- 5.18 Central Committee Meeting
- 5.22 BBI Class: Pastoral Care
- 5.28-31 National Young Adult Conference
- 6.2 Western Area Pastors Luncheon

District Prayer Calendar

May

Churches/Pastors

County Line, Chris Ewing

Defiance, Gene Yenser

Dupont, Steve Heilshorn

East Chippewa, Brad Kelley

District Leadership

Ministerial Commission - Paul Bartholomew, Chair

Other Districts

Missouri/Arkansas, Southeastern

National Leadership

Bill Scheurer, OEP

Church of the Brethren in Spain

June

Churches/Pastors

East Nimishillen, James Lee

Eden, Wayne Scott

Elm Street, James Washington

Faith in Action, Jim Gorrell

District Leadership

Connections Commission – Billi Janet Burkey, Chair

Other Districts

Idaho, Northern Plains

National Leadership

Nevin Dulabaum, BBT

Church of the Brethren in Uganda

Visit www.nohcob.org/prayer for a complete copy of our 2021 District Prayer Calendar.

Inspiration Hills—Immediate Position Available

Inspiration Hills Camp is seeking an interim Facility Manager to begin work immediately. This individual should have experience in commercial facility management, HVAC, and regulated water systems and waste water treatment plants. Position could transition to a full time, year round employment for a qualified candidate. Click below to see the complete position description, qualifications, and application.

<http://www.inspirationhillscamp.org/camp/uncategorized/employment-opportunity/>

Center Church of the Brethren

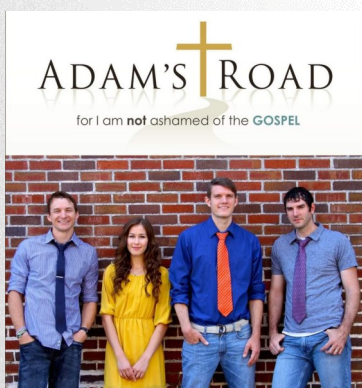
Article provided by Laura Kell, Center CoB

Greetings in Christ from Center Church! We at Center have nothing but praise to give to God for this past year. Despite the serious circumstances of our world, God has blessed us by forcing our church to be stripped of our comforts and distractions and focus truly on Him and our mission.

Through this we have accomplished much: weekly community prayer nights, expanded bible study, children's church ministry, internet/live streaming capabilities, drive thru community meals, neighborhood outreach, community garden, blessings box, summer lunch program, new windows at the church, and the beginning of a new prayer/meditation garden.

Most importantly we have invested more time in his word, in corporate prayer, and serving each other as the body of Christ.

We do have an upcoming ministry event on Thursday July 15th presented by the Adam's Road Ministry that we would love to share with you. They are a Christian, non-profit ministry dedicated to sharing the Gospel of Jesus



Christ through song and testimony. We have hosted this amazing group before and hope you can join us, please look for more information to come.

We pray that you have sought and found God's peace, grace, and truth during this season. Psalm 34

Northern Ohio District Office Thank you!

Special thanks to Kim Morckel (Akron Springfield) for providing the spot of beauty at the District Office. Kim has donated the supplies and her time to maintaining this flower box for several years now, and we are so grateful!



Youth & Young Adult Update

The Youth and Young Adults have started to meet in-person again as we can safely get together outside while following safety precautions. We are continuing to have some events online, but it is so good to see each other after a year of being virtual!

If you're interested in attending any events, please contact Interim District Youth Coordinator, Jenny Imhoff at jenny@nohcob.org or (330) 234-8991. We hope you'll join us soon!

Upcoming Events:

District Youth Game Night – Every Monday online

We're continuing to have our weekly virtual game night and devotions. Jr High meets at 7-8p and Sr High meets at 8:15-9:15p. Contact Jenny Imhoff for the Zoom links.

Spring Youth Day – May 8, 1:30-7:30p at Inspiration Hills

Jr High and Sr High youth are invited for a fun filled day at camp with plenty of games, friends, worship, a service project, and a campfire.

Young Adult Bonfire – May 15, 6p in Smithville

The Young Adult Bonfire is open to anyone 18-39, including 2021 HS grads! We'll be getting together for friends, fellowship, food, and a devotion. RSVP to Jenny Imhoff for the address.

National Young Adult Conference – May 28-31 online

Visit brethren.org/vya/yac/ to signup for NYAC! This year's conference will have virtual sessions for fellowship, service projects, worship and Bible studies focusing on the theme *Unfolding Grace* and 2 Corinthians 4:16-18.

Youth Ministry Survey

We could use your help! We'd like your feedback about youth activities at your churches and in the district. Youth, advisors, parents, and pastors can take a quick survey to let us know your thoughts and ideas to help us plan for future events. The survey will be open through the end of May, so please checkout the links below and tell us what you think!

Survey for Youth (grades 6-12): <https://forms.gle/LPAGpaSnHeTr7LVy6>

Survey for Adults: <https://forms.gle/oKKYaL49nSAp54HS8>

Article provided by Jenny Imhoff, Interim District Youth Coordinator



Welcome Pastors

Paul Bozman called to Reading Church of the Brethren

Paul Bozman was called as Pastor to the Reading Church of the Brethren and began his ministry there on March 28th.

Paul earned his Master of Divinity in 2011 from Ashland Theological Seminary. Since that time, he has pastored at the Center and Akron Eastwood churches in our district. Paul also serves as the District's Director of Ministry Education and coordinates the Buckeye Brethren Institute (the Northern Ohio District ministerial training program). Paul is starting work on a Doctor of Ministry in Church Leadership at Chapman Seminary this year.

Paul's wife, Lynne, is an elementary art teacher for Louisville City Schools. Together, they are the parents of Mackenzie, who is a senior at Lake High School and will be attending Malone University in the fall.



Pastor Paul Bozman, Reading CoB

David Hobbs ordained and called to New Philadelphia Church of the Brethren

On Sunday, April 25th, Dave was called as pastor and an ordination/installation service was held as part of the morning's worship service.

Dave was licensed to ministry at the Eden Church of the Brethren in 2015, serving in multiple leadership roles there. He began serving at New Philadelphia after the death of his mentor, Pastor Max Canfield, in 2019, first by filling pulpit and then as Interim Pastor. During this time, he completed his educational requirements for ordination through the Northern Ohio District ministerial training program (BBI).

Dave is bi-vocational, working full-time for the Canton Repository. He and his wife Sheila have 2 grown children and 3 grandchildren.



Pastor David & Sheila Hobbs, New Philadelphia CoB

Brian Layman called to Ashland First Church of the Brethren

Brian Layman was installed as pastor of the Ashland First Church of the Brethren on April 18th.

Brian was licensed in the Hartville Church of the Brethren, serving in multiple leadership roles within the congregation. He most recently served as Interim Pastor at Reading, completing that ministry in March. Brian is close to completing all the coursework for the three-year Buckeye Brethren Institute ordination training program and is currently the moderator-elect for the Northern Ohio District Conference.

Brian is self-employed as an independent contractor with expertise in engineering and technology. His wife, Denise, is employed as a Family Engagement Coordinator. Brian and wife Denise have four children, two in college and two who will be graduating from high school.



Pastor Brian & Denise Layman, Ashland First CoB

Welcome Pastors

Kathryn (Katie) Polzin Ordained at the Poplar Ridge Church of the Brethren

It was a joyous celebration as an ordination service was held for Kathryn (Katie) Polzin at the Poplar Ridge Church of the Brethren on April 11.

Katie was licensed to the ministry there in April, 2017. She completed a Clinical Pastoral Education program at Covenant Health Care in Saginaw, knowing that her calling is in chaplaincy. Katie graduated from Bethany Theological Seminary in May of 2020 with an MDiv. Katie is currently serving as an on-call chaplain at Mercy-Defiance hospital.

Katie's husband, Ben, is Pastor at Poplar Ridge. She and Ben, have an 11-month old son.



Chaplain Katie Polzin,
Poplar Ridge CoB

Bob Simonsick called to Jonah's People Fellowship

Bob Simonsick has been serving as the Chaplain at the Good Shepherd Home since last September. He moved here with his wife, Patti, from Alabama in the Southeastern District of the Church of the Brethren. At the March Steering Committee meeting for Jonah's People Fellowship, Bob was unanimously called as Pastor. He will serve 1/2 time as Pastor of the Jonah's People Fellowship and 1/2 time as Chaplain of Good Shepherd Home. Bob was consecrated as pastor at the close of the meeting.

Patti has a home-based business, Prairie Girl Graphics. Bob and Patti have three grown children and are awaiting the arrival of their first grandson at end of May.



Pastor Bob Simonsick, Jonah's People Fellowship

Online conversation will listen and learn from Brethren leaders of Asian-American Heritage

The Church of the Brethren Office of Ministry sponsored a virtual conversation titled "Listening and Learning from Brethren Leaders of Asian-American Heritage" through Zoom on May 5th. The conversation focused on the current concern for the safety, needs, and valuing of Asian-American and Pacific Islander members of American society in light of recent instances of violence directed toward them. The speakers were (*pictured from left to right*) Wendy McFadden, publisher of Brethren Press and Communications; Madalyn Metzger, Vice President of Marketing at Everence Financial, and Lin Reish, Associate Research Analyst at Healthline Media. This webinar will be posted soon on the CoB's Webcasts and Webinars page:

<https://www.brethren.org/webcasts/>

Article information and pictures taken from Brethren Press Newsline



Wendy McFadden

Madalyn Metzger

Lin Reish

ANNUAL CONFERENCE – JUNE 30 to JULY 4

Registration for both delegates and non-delegates for the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference is currently underway. The delegate registration fee is \$305 per delegate. Registration will stay open through the end of conference. The delegate registration fee is \$305 per delegate. Non-delegate registration fee is \$99 and provides access to the business sessions, insight sessions, networking groups, concerts, Bible studies and more.

All five worship services will be available free of charge to all registered and non-registered persons.

Registration will stay open through the end of conference. For more details visit the Annual Conference website at www.brethren.org/ac in the Annual Conference newsletter at <https://www.brethren.org/ac2021/wp-content/uploads/sites/20/2021/02/AC-Newsletter-2021.pdf>

Unique to this year's ONLINE Annual Conference, each **delegate must have their own personal email address, a computer or tablet, as well as adequate wi-fi service in order to participate in conference.** If your congregation or your delegates need help with internet access, please contact the District Office. We have several churches that have offered to serve as "internet hubs", providing wi-fi for those that need that assistance.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE OPENING WORSHIP AND CONCERT

The opening worship service for Annual Conference will begin at 8 p.m. EST on June 30 and will feature Annual Conference Moderator Paul Munday as the speaker. After the worship service, there will be a concert by **Fernando Ortega**, a Gospel Music Association Dove Award and Billboard Latin Music Award winning artist, starting at 9:15 p.m. EST.

CHURCH PLANTING AND RENEWAL WORKSHOP MAY 13-15, 2021

"The Reward of Risk" is a virtual NEW AND RENEW EVENT sponsored by Discipleship Ministries of the Church of the Brethren. This online event will provide a space to explore new forms of mission, church planting, church renewal and shaping community. This year, the keynote speakers will be Christiana Rice and José Humphreys. Scholarships are available for the full cost of the event. Please contact the District Office at julie@nohcob.org and we will register you. More information on the event is found at <https://www.brethren.org/discipleshipmin/newandrenew/>

Moderator's Town Hall, Wednesday, May 19th

WHAT WILL
BE THE "NEW
NORMAL"?

ANTICIPATING A
POST-PANDEMIC WORLD

We are excited to announce the next Moderator's Town Hall on Wednesday, May 19, 2021, at 7:00 PM EDT. The topic will be "What Will Be the 'New Normal'? Anticipating a Post-Pandemic World." Mark DeVries and Dr. Kathryn Jacobsen will serve as resource persons.

The Town Hall will explore what the future might hold in light of the COVID-19 crisis and the possible shape of a "new normal." Topics will include: the current state of the pandemic, when and how churches can safely resume in-person activity, the importance of hybrid (in-person plus online) approaches to ministry to ensure accessibility for all, navigating ongoing tensions and headlines related to the pandemic, facing into the loss and grief of the COVID-19 crisis, how to support both parishioners and pastors, the future trajectory of the pandemic, and how best to equip ourselves for tomorrow.

To register for the Town Hall, please access the blue button below or use the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/ModTownHallMay2021>