

The Herald

Northern Ohio District Church of the Brethren

November 2018

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Healthy Congregations Workshop

April 12-13, 2019 at Maple Grove CoB

Friday: 6:30pm-9:00pm/Saturday: 9:00am-4:30pm

As churches seek to bring others into God's kingdom, it is essential that we live together in ways that are different than the ways of the world. The Healthy Congregations Workshop gives pastors, church leaders, and all congregation members practical skills that bring health to a congregation so that others can be drawn to the light of Christ.

Leadership will be provided by Richard Blackburn, Executive Director of Lombard Mennonite Peace Center in Lombard, IL. Richard is a trainer and mediator, with broad experience in serving as a consultant to conflicted churches.

This workshop will help you learn how you as a leader can influence the health of your congregation—how to detect and avoid unhealthy patterns of living together in community; learn how to keep anxiety from becoming infectious; gain confidence in responding to challenges and opportunities; learn how to put limits on invasive behavior, manage reactivity, and overcome sabotage; discover how leaders can function as the congregation's immune system; learn to focus on strengths, resources, options, and the future. These skills can make a difference not only in the church but also in our families, our workplaces, and our communities.

Registration fee is \$25 per person (includes manual and lunch), or \$35 for a couple (sharing one manual; two lunches). Preregistration deadline is April 2nd, after which the registration fee increases to \$35 per person or \$45 per couple. For every 4 registrations from one congregation, the 5th one is free. Register by mail with the form provided to congregations or online at www.nohcob.org/healthy.

Mark Your Calendar

11/3—BBI: Old Testament Survey, District Office, Ashland, OH

11/7—Western Area Pastors Lunch, The Barn Restaurant, Archbold, OH

11/8—Nominating Committee Meeting, Via Zoom/District Office, Ashland, OH

11/10—District Board Meeting, Center CoB, Louisville, OH

11/13—Eastern Area Pastors Lunch, Front Porch Café, Hartville, OH

11/14—Central Area Clergy Breakfast, Tim Hortons, Ashland, OH

11/17—BBI: Old Testament Survey, District Office, Ashland, OH

11/22-23—District Office Closed for Thanksgiving

12/1—Shalom Team Training, District Office, Ashland, OH

2019 Clergy-Spouse Retreat

Our District Clergy-Spouse retreat will be held February 17th-19th at the Days Inn and Suites at 4742 Brecksville Road, Richfield, OH 44286 (Akron area). Please consider sending your pastor for this time of relationship-building, renewal, learning, and rest. A new location promises that the food and facilities will be great, but the fellowship is even greater! Single and married clergy and their spouses are encouraged to attend. Register online: www.nohcob.org/retreat

Pastoral Placement

Congregations actively in the search process:

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

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

Maple Grove (full-time) – In negotiations. **John Ballinger** serving as interim.

Pleasant View (part-time) – **James Washington** called as pastor and will begin January 1st. **Dr. Byron Hawbecker** serving as interim.

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

Elm Street – **Doug Price** completed his ministry on October 28th. Church leadership arranging pulpit supply.

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

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

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

Congregational Commission Resources

Article by Chris Snyder, Secretary
Congregational Commission

The Northern Ohio Church of the Brethren District Board is made of four commissions. Those commissions are the Congregational Commission, the Stewardship and Finance Commission, the Connections Commission and the Ministerial Commission. As a newly elected member of the Congregational Commission, I have learned more about the District Board, its duties, and more importantly, this commission of which I now serve. It is my hope that by sharing about the Congregational Commission, you, the reader will gain more knowledge as I have.

The Congregational Commission of the Northern Ohio District is one of four commissions that make up the Northern Ohio District Board. The Congregational Commission seeks ways to advance the fulfillment of the Great Commission within the District. Through personal and congregational evangelism, the Commission takes on the responsibilities of encouraging and assisting in new church plants; encouraging and assisting church vitality and revitalization; offering guidance in mergers; assisting with disorganization of churches when necessary; and overseeing financial resources to assist district church revitalization and church plants. In addition to these responsibilities, the Commission helps with the district church prayer calendar, overseeing the Church Extension Fund, organizing Conflict Transformation Seminars and overseeing and recommending Hottle Memorial grants.

The Hottle Memorial Fund was established in 2008 with Brethren Foundation for the benefit of the congregations within the Northern Ohio District.

The Northern Ohio District Conference authorized in 2016 the use of a 4% yearly draw to award grants to congregations for use in establishing new projects and ministries or impacting outreach in their communities. The maximum grant that can be awarded is \$5,000. Guidelines and applications can be found on the Northern Ohio District website at www.nohcob.org. During the last year many congregations have benefitted from this resource. Most recently the Black River Church of the Brethren requested and was approved for a grant to assist in the purchase of audio/visual equipment to enhance their worship service. The equipment will also benefit their youth program, choir, and music ministry. Many other congregations have requested grants over the years for assistance in building handicap ramps, a disability lift, building a bicycle ministry, purchasing digital hymnals, adding a childcare approved van for the childcare outreach, assisting in funding a marriage enrichment retreat, and many other programs.

My home church, the Hartville Church of the Brethren, has benefitted greatly by the Hottle Memorial Fund. We were able to purchase a van for our childcare center, Loving Heart Christian Childcare, with funds from the Hottle Memorial Fund. State guidelines have changed dramatically over the years and our van was no longer within those guidelines. Through fundraising and money from the Hottle Fund we were able to purchase a fully compliant vehicle. I urge you to look into the Hottle Grant application process should your own churches have a need. The Congregational Commission team is available to assist and answer questions regarding this process.

Eden CoB

Hottle Church Grant

We at Eden Church wish to thank you for the grant to replace our church ramp and make it ADA compliant. We have completed the project and are enclosing an accounting of the funds as well as pictures of the final product.

We could not have financed this project without your assistance and the extra funds from our congregation.

Thank you, again for providing this service to us.

Sincerely,

Jill Aldridge, Board Chair, Eden Church of the Brethren



Painesville CoB

Hottle Church Grant

The Painesville Church of the Brethren, its members, and the Church Board, thank you for your approval of our grant proposal request from 2017. As you may recall, our proposal included the purchase and installation of an AV system in the sanctuary to be used during worship services, as well as a computer and software to run the worship service additions. Though the project took much longer to complete than we ourselves desired, the final piece of the projected was completed this September.

Although this was a change from our standard worship and met with some concern in the congregation, other members expressed many positive comments and feedback.

Once again, we thank the Hottle fund, the committee, and the District for your generosity and cooperation in this endeavor.

In Christian Love,

Dennis Anderson, A/V Committee, Painesville CoB

Reading CoB

Annual Hottle Grant Disbursement

Reading CoB sent a note of "Thanks" to the District Board for the 2017 annual Hottle Grant Fund church disbursement of \$858. Their church board designated the funds to be used to purchase food and supplies for two annual community dinners earlier this Spring 2018. The dinners are free to the community and anyone in need of a hot meal.

Akron Eastwood CoB

Annual Hottle Grant Disbursement

On behalf of the Eastwood Church of the Brethren I want to thank the District Board for the gift we received from the Hottle Fund. We have put this money in a fund to buy a new electronic church sign.

Thank you, Gary Griffith
Church Board Vice-Chair

Audrey's Outreach

Hottle Church Grant

Food, Clothing, Meals

The Directors and Volunteers from Audrey's Outreach would like to provide a heartfelt thank you for the grant of \$5k this year for free food distribution. As a certified 501C3 organization, and roots via the Brook Park Community Church of the Brethren, the program provides free food in association with the Greater Cleveland Food Bank, as well as free clothing and meals.



The Northern Ohio District CoB grant enabled Audrey's Outreach to purchase three months of food for distribution to approximately 5000 people. The organization has more than 55 volunteers with seven Directors. The average age of our volunteers is more than 65 years young! In the month of September, we purchased 26,379 lbs. of food from the Greater Cleveland food bank. In addition, weekly donations from Marcs, Target, Aldi's and several local bakeries, added countless thousands of lbs. of food for distribution to those in need.

Audrey's Outreach has no source of continuous income. Contributions from grants, local institutions, and patrons provide funds for the organization. We exist simple because of God's grace. For more information about Audrey's Outreach please go to www.audreysoutreach.org.

In His Service,

The Directors and Volunteers from Audrey's Outreach



Brethren Disaster Ministry Trip

A group from Northern Ohio District Disaster Ministry traveled October 7-13 to Lumberton, NC and Marion, SC. They were joined by groups from Southern Ohio and Southern Pennsylvania for work on communities affected by Hurricane Matthew and Florence. During the trip Hurricane Michael passed over with additional rain, but they were able to continue their work safely. The following is a letter from the BDM Rebuild staff:

“On behalf of our partner agencies, the clients we serve and BDM Rebuild staff we would like to thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to come and serve as the hands and feet of Christ in the Lumberton, NC and Marion Co, SC communities that were affected by Hurricane Matthew, and now, Hurricane Florence. We can not do this without you - THANK YOU!

We also would like to thank you for your flexibility in dealing with the changes brought about by Hurricane Michael. We appreciate your willingness to help wherever needed!

Blessings,
Your Lumberton, NC Leadership Team”
"Serve one another in love" Galatians 5:13



Home damaged by Hurricane Matthew to be torn down and rebuilt in Mullen, SC (across the street from job site pictured to the right).



October 2018 BDM Group from Northern Ohio
Top Left to Right: Bob Patalano (Ashland Dickey), Doug Imhoff (East Chippewa), Tom Lavy (Hartville). Bottom Left to Right: Ralph Basinger (Mennonite-Martins), Doug Hohenberger (Lick Creek), Jim Lavy (Hartville), Dave Yehl (St. Agnes-Catholic)



October 2018 BDM Team Welcome Dinner—Northern Ohio, Southern Ohio and Southern Pennsylvania



Mullen, SC Job Site October 2018

Welcome New Pastors and Ordained Ministers!



David & Lynn Wyant, Bethel

David Wyant was ordained in the Church of the Brethren and installed as Pastor for the Bethel congregation Sunday, June 24th. Steve Simmons, chair of the District Ministerial Commission officiated at the service. Dave received his Master of Divinity from Moody Theological Seminary, Chicago, Ill. Currently he is pursuing a PhD in Old Testament Studies from Piedmont International, Winston Salem, N.C. Previously he served as interim pastor at Zion Hill Church of the Brethren and has been serving in a volunteer capacity since 2008 at Rescue Mission of the Mahoning Valley where he continues to hold a weekly service for the homeless shelter clients. A full-time commercial airline pilot with United Express in Cleveland, Dave resides in Austintown, with his wife, Lynn.



Jim & Michelle Lee, East Nimishillen

Jim Lee has been commissioned in the Church of the Brethren and called as Pastor for the East Nimishillen congregation beginning his role on July 1st. Jim received his Master and Doctorate of Theology degrees from Andersonville Seminary. Jim has been a church planter and has served in pastoral roles in several denominations, previously serving as pastor at Center CoB. Jim is bi-vocational, assisting individuals with disabilities to obtain employment in their area of interest and providing job coaching. Jim is also a singer and musician and loves spending time with family. His wife Michelle runs the snack shop at Alliance Hospital. They have two adult children and three grandchildren.



Cliff & Janet Heath, Akron Eastwood

Cliff Heath was ordained in the Church of the Brethren and installed as Associate Pastor of Youth and Young Adults for the Akron Eastwood congregation on Sunday, July 29th. Cliff has been serving in that role since October of 2017 and recently completed the credentialing process for ordination in the CoB. Cliff completed his training at the Ohio School of Ministry and had been ordained in the Assemblies of God working in youth ministries for many years. Cliff and his wife, Janet, have two sons Darren and Nathan.

Welcome New Pastors and Ordained Ministers!

Chris Ewing was installed as Senior Pastor for the County Line congregation on Sunday, August 5th. Chris has been on the pastoral staff at County Line since May 2013 when he began serving as Associate Pastor/Youth Pastor. He was ordained in the Church of the Brethren in 2015. Chris served as interim pastor beginning in March of this year and was called by the congregation to become Senior Pastor in July. Chris received a BA in Religious Studies from Regent University and a Master of Arts in Biblical Interpretation from Regent University School of Divinity. He and his wife, Anna, have three children, Kynzie, Jax, and Declan.



Chris & Anna Ewing , County Line

Steve Simmons was ordained in the Church of the Brethren for the Bethel congregation Thursday, October 4th. Dave Wyant, Pastor of Bethel officiated the service. Steve has been a licensed minister since April 28, 2002, serving in a variety of leadership roles at Bethel Church of the Brethren. He has served on various district camp committees, currently serves as the chair of the District Ministerial Commission and provides pulpit supply for many of our congregations. Steve works as a maintenance supervisor for Courtyard-Marriott in Canfield, Ohio. He is a retired carpenter, and enjoys spending time with his wife, Pamela, who is a Trustee for Beaver Township. Together they enjoy watching old movies (or any movies), going to the gym, and traveling on vacation. They have two grown children. Their daughter, Cassandra, is a paramedic, school psychologist and dispatcher for Beaver Township, and their son, Nathaniel, is a GIS technician for Kissimmee Utility Authority in Florida.



Steve & Pamela Simmons, Bethel

Jeff Messner was ordained in the Church of the Brethren and installed as Pastor for the Ashland Dickey congregation Sunday, October 7th. Jeff received his Master of Divinity and Pastoral Counseling from Ashland Theological Seminary and Emerge Counseling Ministries. Jeff has been ordained with the North American Lutheran Church for several years and served as pastor for Lutheran, Disciples of Christ and Non-Denominational congregations. Jeff and his wife, Cindy, have three grown children and two grandchildren. Jessica Coffman is their oldest daughter. She & her husband Zach live in Pittsburgh with their 2-year old daughter Mary Jane. Their son Jordan Messner is their middle child. He lives in Seattle with his wife, Emma. And their youngest, Jillian Kitts lives in Ashland with her husband Alex and their 2-year old, Elliot.



Jeff & Cindy Messner, Ashland Dickey

District Youth Events

Northern Ohio District invites youth to attend the Senior High Leadership Series:

“Lead Now. Learn How.”
January 12-13 and March 23-24
at Inspiration Hills, Burbank
Ohio. The cost is \$25/session.
Please contact Esther Harsh,
Youth Coordinator at 330-880-
7161 or esther@nohcob.org
for more information. Visit our
youth web page to register
online and for additional
events happening throughout
the year at [www.nohcob.org/
youth](http://www.nohcob.org/youth).

District Office Holiday & Staff Hours

The District Office will be closed November 22-23 for Thanksgiving and December 24th through January 1st for Christmas and New Year's.

District Executive, Kris Hawk takes Monday as her day off. She can be reached at 330-612-2086 or krishawk@nohcob.org. Kris will be on vacation November 16th through November 24th.

Administrative Secretary, Julie Watson is in the office Monday through Friday, 9 am—3 pm. She can be reached at 419-281-3058 or julie@nohcob.org.

Youth Coordinator, Esther Harsh is in the office on Mondays. She can be reached at 330-880-7161 or esther@nohcob.org.

Thank you!

District Prayer Calendar

October 28—November 3

Owl Creek CoB (Pastor Charles Barnhill) and Painesville CoB (Pastors John & Sondra Bocchieri)

November 4—November 10

Paradise CoB (Pastor Terry Vaught) and Pleasant View CoB (Interim Dr. Byron Hawbecker)

November 11—November 17

Poplar Ridge CoB (Pastor Ben Polzin) and Reading CoB (Pastor Larry Bradley)

November 18—November 24

Richland CoB (Pastor Jim Frado) and Ross CoB (Keith Stoller, Preacher)

November 25—December 1

Silver Creek CoB (Pastor Terry Baldwin) and Sugar Creek West CoB (Pastor Mike Huffaker)

Compelling Vision Conversations

On the weekend of October 13th and 14th, 5 sessions were held throughout the district that focused on the Compelling Vision that the Church of the Brethren seeks as we move forward in Jesus name.

Thirty-three of our 47 congregations were represented by the 156 that attended. Thank you to all who participated, the churches that sent members and friends to these conversations, and to Chris Douglas (Compelling Vision team member and Director of Annual Conference) for facilitating these sessions for us.

Special appreciation also to Poplar Ridge, Sugar Creek West, Camp Inspiration Hills, Maple Grove, and Akron Eastwood for hosting these sessions.

Please continue to surround this process in prayer.

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