

The Herald

Northern Ohio District Church of the Brethren

Hottle Church Gifts

Having extra money offers new opportunities that may have had to be put on the back burner. The Hottle Fund gifts have opened new doors for some of our district churches. The Richland congregation expressed deep gratitude for the gifts. They are currently seeking God’s leading in how to use the money for His work.

Brook Park Community Church is using the gifts for general maintenance and repairs to their facilities, including new paint and carpet in their nursery. Similarly, Eden applied the money toward needed repairs to their buildings. They were able to install new long-lasting steel roofs to the church, parsonage, and picnic pavilion. All three buildings look great! Woodworth is also considering maintenance/repair options. They are considering replacing carpet that is very worn or replacing the church sign when their road is widened.

Outreach to children is a priority for the East Nimishillen and Akron Springfield congregations. East Nimishillen’s annual Apple Dumpling Fest and Craft Show will offer area children an introduction to Christ and the true meaning of Christmas. The funds given to Akron Springfield went to support their “Back to School Blast” program which provides book bags for local elementary students as well as the scholarship fund which allows kids to attend camp at Inspiration Hills.

For a small congregation like Marion, the Hottle Fund gifts has allowed this congregation to participate in more outreach into their community. They are able to offer a free community brunch each month, create school kits for the local domestic violence and homeless shelters, provide personal kits for a food pantry and blankets for the homeless community dinner, and make consistent donations to the Heifer project. They have also been able to make repairs to the sidewalks and parking lot of the church.

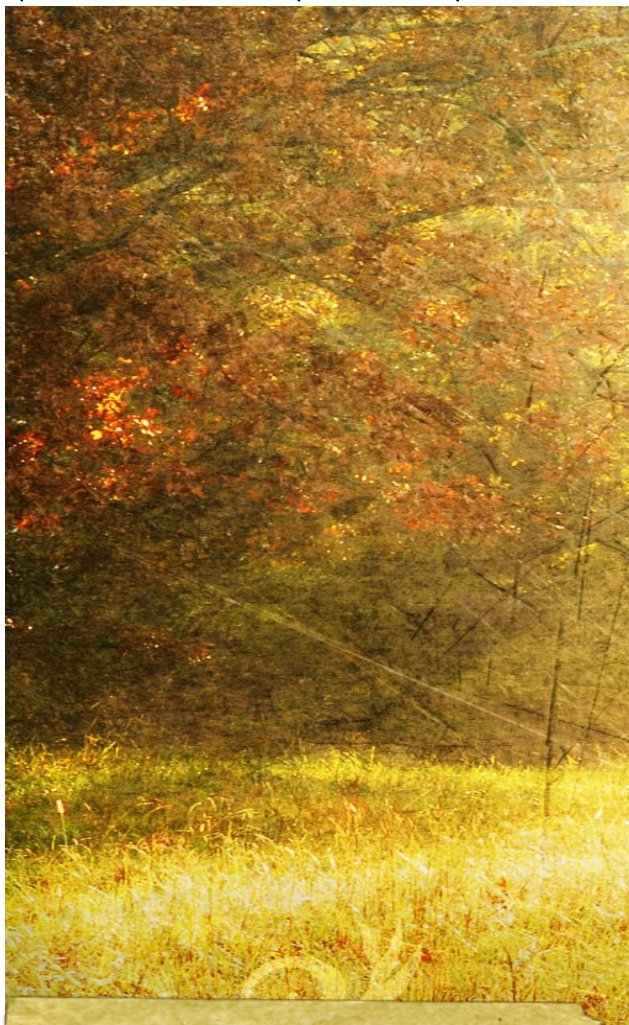
“Ten local acts of kindness” is the goal of New Philadelphia First Church for the money received in August. They are currently working with T4C to identify families in need in the area. The first gift used to help Boniface Abanga, a friend of the congregation from Kenya, purchase a new microscope. With increasing incidents of cholera, a working microscope is essential to identifying the “bugs” causing the illness and ensure proper treatment. The remainder of the money was gifted to the mission in India that New Philadelphia supports.

The reach of the Hottle Fund gifts is being felt near and far. It is exciting to see the fruit our congregations are bearing!

Article submitted by Staci Williams, Poplar Ridge CoB

Table of Contents

- Hottle Church Gifts.....1
- Mark Your Calendar2
- Pastoral Placement.....2
- Fall Area Clergy Meetings2
- Welcome New Pastors.....3-4
- Youth Save the Dates.....5
- New Youth Coordinator.....5
- Thank You from Carl & Roxane Hill, Nigerian Crisis Fund6
- Clergy Spouse Retreat.....6
- District Board and Transition Team—Thank You6
- Creating New Growth and Opportunities7
- SISTERS’ Thank You7
- Jonah’s People Update8
- District Prayer Calendar8
- Lakewood CoB.....9
- Adrian CoB9
- Inspiration Hills.....10
- Reading CoB10
- 2017 District Conference10
- Leah J in Concert10
- Hottle Family Feedback11
- Hottle Fund Changes.....11
- Akron Eastwood Holiday Boutique12



as we gather.

Mark Your Calendar

November 1-5—Fall Area Clergy Meetings, Locations listed on bottom right of page.

November 12—District Board Meeting, Reading CoB, Homeworth, OH

November 18-19—Jr. High Fall Rally, Mt. Pleasant CoB, North Canton, OH

December 3-4—Sr. High Winter Fest, Inspiration Hills, Burbank, OH

February 14—Executive Committee Meeting, District Office, Ashland, OH

February 19-21—Clergy Spouse Retreat, Holiday Inn French Quarter, Perrysburg, OH

March 5-7—New Pastors Retreat, Camp Mack, Milford, IN

Pastoral Placement

Congregations actively in the search process:

Bethel – Congregational profile completed. Congregation arranging pulpit supply.

Brook Park – **Tom Michaels** to begin as interim. Search Committee being formed.

Dupont – Searching for youth pastor. Profile complete.

Lakewood – Interviewing candidates. **Gene Wyse** serving as interim.

Pleasant View – **Dr. Byron Hawbecker** begins serving as interim November 6th. Search Committee formed.

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

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.

Eden – **Wayne Scott** serving as interim.

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

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

Paradise – **Terry Vaught** serving as interim.

Fall Area Clergy Meetings

Elm Street: 11/1, 9:30am-11:30am

Lick Creek: 11/1, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Painesville: 11/2, 9:30am-11:30am

Water Street: 11/2, 6:30pm-8:30pm

Black River: 11/3, 9:30am-11:30am

Richland: 11/3, 6:30pm-8:30pm

District Office: 11/5, 9:30am-11:30 am

our community

Welcome New Pastors

Charles Barnhill
Owl Creek CoB

Charles Barnhill was installed as Pastor at Owl Creek Church of the Brethren on August 28th. He and his wife, Lettie have been part of this congregation for almost 9 years, with Charles serving in a pastoral role for most of this time. Charles is ordained in the Grace Brethren denomination, and is now Commissioned in the Church of the Brethren to serve as pastor at Owl Creek. Charles and Lettie have been married 57 years and have three children, 15 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.



Alan Brumbaugh
Akron Springfield CoB

Alan Brumbaugh began serving as pastor at Akron Springfield Church of the Brethren April 3rd. He and his wife Sally moved here from Pennsylvania, where Alan served as Pastor at Yellow Creek Church of the Brethren in Hopewell, PA. They have two adult children.



Bill Eley
Chippewa CoB

Bill Eley was called as Pastor of the Chippewa Church of the Brethren and a service of consecration/installation was held on October 16th. Ordained in the Vineyard Church, Bill has now been Commissioned to serve in the Church of the Brethren. He and his wife Joy have been married for 38 years. Bill also works as a substitute teacher and he loves to hunt. Joy works as the Office Manager in a dentistry office. They have two children and five grandchildren.



Rick Hicks
Marion CoB

Rick Hicks was installed as Pastor of the Marion Church of the Brethren on September 25th. Rick has been part of this congregation for 6 years, serving in an interim pastoral role during this time. Rick is now Commissioned to serve in the Marion Church of the Brethren. He and his wife, Nancy came to Christ in what he calls a "Saul to Paul conversion experience" in 1998 and have been followers and believers since then. Rick is bi-vocational and works full time as a contractor sales rep. Nancy works part time at a senior's villa. (Church Board Chair Bev Young presents a gift of appreciation to Rick Hicks)



our community

Welcome New Pastors (cont'd)

Bill Holsopple

Lick Creek CoB

Bill Holsopple was installed as Pastor at Lick Creek Church of the Brethren on September 18th. Bill is bi-vocational, and works as a press operator at a local manufacturing company. His wife, Beth is an elementary school teacher in the area. They have three children, Hannah (and son-in-law Todd), and twins Rebekah and Daniel.



Michael Huffaker

Sugar Creek West CoB

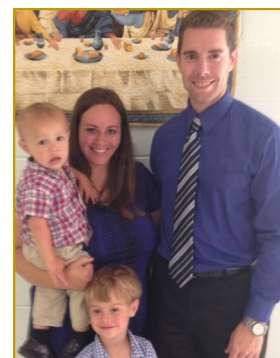
Michael Huffaker was installed as Pastor at Sugar Creek West Church of the Brethren on June 26th. He and his wife Laura moved here from Kansas, where Mike served as pastor at the Osage Church of the Brethren. They have four children, Ashley, Lauren, Kamryn and Jarred.



Mark Kell

Center CoB

Mark Kell was installed as Pastor at Center Church of the Brethren July 10th. Mark teaches science in Lake Schools in Hartville, Ohio. He and his wife Laura have two sons – Benjamin and Jonathan – and a third child due in February.



Dick Neuwirth

Swan Creek CoB

Dick Neuwirth was called as Pastor at Swan Creek and installed on May 22. Dick has a long history with the Swan Creek congregation, serving there as Pastor before being called to serve several years as Interim for Poplar Ridge. He also has an active ministry at Brookview Health Care. Dick and his wife, Veronica are both retired teachers with over 30 years of experience and are members of the Civil Air Patrol. They have been married for 48 years and have one son and four grandchildren.



Dan Wust

Dupont CoB

Daniel Wust was installed as Pastor at the Dupont Church of the Brethren on September 11th. Ordained in the United Brethren denomination, Dan has now been Commissioned to serve in the Church of the Brethren. He and his wife, Petie served as missionaries in Honduras for 11 years before returning to Indiana. Petie has a gift for ministry to preschool. They have three children, Andrew (married to Missy), Sarah, and Isaac.



District youth



Power House 2016 Regional Youth Conference November 12-13

A group from Northern Ohio District will be attending. Contact Esther Harsh for more information.

Save the Date Sr. High Winter Fest December 3-4 at Camp Inspiration Hills

"Dig Deeper. Go Further."

- Open to All 9th-12th Graders
- Pre-Register Online: nohcob.org/resources/youth-news
- Call, Text, or E-Mail Esther Harsh, District Youth Coordinator, esther@nohcob.org—330.880.7161
- Deadline: November 25, 2016
- Weekend Price: \$30 (\$20 before November 11)
- One Day Only: \$20 (\$15 before November 11)

Save the Date Jr. High Fall Rally November 18-19 at Mt. Pleasant Church

"Be the Christians In Action"

- Open to All 6th-8th Graders
- Pre-Register Online: nohcob.org/resources/youth-news
- Deadline: November 11, 2016
- Starts at 7:00 p.m. on Friday and ends at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday
- EVENT IS FREE!

Esther Harsh called as District Youth Coordinator

About Esther Harsh: Esther is a graduate of Malone University (2005) with specific training in Youth Ministry, and she brings a wealth of experience to the task. She served as a missionary in Ukraine for over six years, teaching life skills to orphans and orphanage graduates through personal relationships. Esther's experience also includes working as the Educational Director for the Boys and Girls club of Massillon.

Esther brings strong relational and administrative gifts to this role. She also brings a depth of faith and a gift for communicating that faith – and instilling a desire to grow in discipleship and ministry.

She and her husband, Jason (Pastor of the Zion Hill Church of the Brethren) have two teen-age daughters, Kristina and Olya from Ukraine that became part of their family two years ago.

Esther began her ministry August 29th. She will be working part-time. Esther will be in the office on Mondays with additional office time as needed. Esther can be reached by email esther@nohcob.org or by phone 330-880-7161.

Thank you from
Carl & Roxane Hill,
Co-Directors Nigerian
Crisis Response

Greetings Northern Ohio District,

We want to extend our appreciation to you and the entire District for your recent contribution to the Nigeria Crisis Fund. What a blessing will be felt by our brothers and sisters because of your generosity! We believe that because the hearts of the people here with the involvement in Nigerian relief God is moving throughout the denomination. What an awesome time to be involved with Church of the Brethren. Our prayer is that through the generous outpouring of love we are being revived spiritually!

Thank you all, in Jesus' name. With love and appreciation,
Carl & Roxane Hill

(\$10,000 donation from the sale of the Skillings property was donated by the District Board to the Nigerian Crisis Fund)

as we gather

2017 Clergy-Spouse Retreat

February 19-21
Holiday Inn French Quarter
Perrysburg, Ohio

Attention clergy you are invited to attend the 2017 Clergy-Spouse Retreat February 19-21 at the Holiday Inn French Quarter in Perrysburg, Ohio. This is an opportunity to take time for renewal and enjoy fellowship with other clergy members in the Northern Ohio District. If finances are a problem for you or your congregation for this event, please contact the District Office to apply for a scholarship through the Ministerial Commission. We hope to see you there!



On behalf of the District Board and Transition Team; I would like to say a special thank you to those who participated in the recent Listening Sessions. We had some very good discussions, had great fellowship, and formed some new friendships.

What's the next step in the search process for a new District Executive?

The information from the listening sessions and surveys will be gathered and reviewed by the transition team. We will begin filling out the search profile to send to the Brotherhood office. This job description, 'resume' is similar to one the churches use when seeking a pastor.

At the November meeting the District Board will approve the team for the actual search committee. This will include some from the transition team plus a variety of others from around the district. The search committee will finalize the profile and then begin the process of reviewing District Executive candidates.

Please keep in prayer the District Board, committee members, and staff as we continue to do the work of the District in this interim time as we continue to do the God's work in Northern Ohio and beyond.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Tom Zuercher (board chair 419-281-7951) or me.

Blessings
Billi Janet Burkey
Transition Team Chair
330-418-1148
billijanet@aol.com

CREATING NEW GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITIES IN NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT

The Congregational Commission was formed to serve the churches of the district. One of the duties of this commission is to offer guidance to our churches and church plants. When churches are looking to transform and revitalize their ministries, we are there to assist and provide guidance. If a church feels a calling to start a new ministry, we can help provide financial resources through Hottle Grants.

In 2008, the Hottle Memorial Fund was established with Brethren Foundation for the benefit of the congregations of the Northern Ohio District. The Northern Ohio District Board chose to use one portion of the fund to support district resources and another portion of the fund to award grants to congregations that wish to establish new projects and ministries in their communities.

The Congregational Commission of the Northern Ohio District Board invites congregations to submit grant proposals for the commission's consideration. The maximum grant that can be awarded is \$5,000.00. For consideration, paperwork should be submitted four weeks prior to a regularly scheduled District Board meeting. The guidelines for the

Hottle Growth Grant are available on the Northern Ohio District website <http://www.nohcob.org/resources/other-resources> or contact the District Office.

Members of the Congregational Commission will meet with your church's leadership team and discuss the goals, benefits, expenses and timeline for any proposed projects. Please keep in mind that at least 10% of the cost of each project must be funded by the church. The grant application form must be completed with as much detail as you can and provide accurate figures and planned dates for each step. Measurable goals will help you determine if your project is on its way to success.

Submit the application to the District Office at least four weeks prior to the next District Board meeting, the dates of these meetings can be found on the District website. If you can't make that date for your application, let the Congregational Commission know and we may be able to work with you.

Determine who the main point of contact will be for the project. We won't be intruding on your project, but we want to be there to help and encourage and to connect you with any extra resources or expertise you may need along the way. When

blessings come, it's great to share the news. You might read about your progress in the next issue of the Herald, with your permission of course.

Plan on sending a representative to the District Board meeting. We will have reviewed the application in the preceding weeks and a commission member may have even called to ask questions. That is never the same as sitting down and talking to someone. We want to be just as excited about your project as you are.

The 2016 Congregational Commission members are Brian Layman, Hartville COB; Fred Brinkman, Sugar Creek West COB; Sherry Reese Vaught, Maple Grove COB; and Barbara Wilch, Lakewood COB. If any churches in our District need any more information or guidance, please contact any of the members of this commission. The Congregational Commission will meet or confer with your churches as you address ideas to establish new projects and ministries in your communities.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Wilch, Congregational Commission 2016

"Thank you to the New Philadelphia Church and Lisa Troyer for an awesome day at SISTERS' (Woman's Ministry) Retreat on Oct. 15."



Jonah's People update

On October 2nd Jonah's People moved back into a totally remodeled chapel thanks to the generosity of Good Shepherd Home. Here are some of the changes that were made:

- The space was enlarged by about 40%. The seating capacity increases from 60 to 100, with ample space for wheel chairs.
- Most of the walls and some of the ceiling are cherry wood, giving the room a very beautiful and worshipful look.
- A new digital sound system with video, which creates the possibility for streamed music and video.
- A new programmable digital LED lighting system which produces a better quality light at a less expensive cost.
- A new whisper quiet high efficiency heat and cooling system.
- Reupholstered pews and new chairs.
- An additional stained glass window to compliment the original windows.
- Ample storage cupboards.

Since Jonah's People started food drives in February, we have donated 552 food items, 579 personal care items, and \$535. We are partners with High Street Methodist Church in this outreach ministry.

I heard an old man speak once, someone who had been sober for fifty years, a very prominent doctor. He said that he'd finally figured out a few years ago that his profound sense of control, in the world and over his life, is another addiction and a total illusion. He said that when he sees little kids sitting in the back seat of cars, in those car seats that have steering wheels, with grim expressions of concentration on their faces, clearly convinced that their efforts are causing the car to do whatever it is doing, he thinks of himself and his relationship with God: God who drives along silently, gently amused, in the real driver's seat. **Anne Lamott**

District Prayer Calendar

October 23—October 29

Ross CoB (Pastor Keith Stoller) and Silver Creek CoB (Pastor Terry Baldwin)

October 30—November 5

Sugar Creek West (Pastor Michael Huffaker) and Sugarcreek East (Pastor Dick Marshall)

November 6—November 12

Swan Creek CoB (Pastor Dick Neuwirth) and Water Street CoB (Pastor Denny Fox)

November 13—November 19

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

November 20—November 26

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



our community

Lakewood Church of the Brethren Star Knitter

A group of ladies from the Lakewood Church of the Brethren meets weekly to knit, laugh and learn. They named themselves Lord's Laughing Ladies. There are nine who knit together every Tuesday. Along with personal knitting, they knit chemo caps and prayer shawls for others, and have a fun time doing it.

The biggest news from the Lord's Laughing Ladies is that one of their members, Cher Johnson, won Best of Show in both the Wood County Fair and the Pemberville Fair. Cher has never entered any needlework competition, and was really surprised to learn she won top prize in both fairs. Her knitted sweater is both stylish and practical. She was also awarded a Blue Ribbon for a knitted cowl she entered.

Lord's Laughing Ladies demonstrates that learning, giving and having fun can be valuable time spent together. Lakewood Church of the Brethren is located at 27009 Lemoyne Road, Millbury, OH. Lakewood also has a quilting group that meets every Tuesday. New members are always welcome.

Article submitted by Barbara Wilch, Lakewood CoB



Cher Johnson, Lakewood CoB

Adrian Church of the Brethren Guest Member from Nigeria

Rachael Dibal arrived in the United States, Adrian MI, to be exact for the first time August 2015. Her reason for coming to Adrian from Nigeria was to attend the 9 month concentrated Montessori Teacher Training Program through Siena Heights University in Adrian, MI.

We actually met Rachael for the first time, when she attended First Church of the Brethren in Adrian on February 14, 2016. She then began attending every other Sunday when she wasn't in school.

We became fast friends. While getting to know her, we found out that she attended First Church of the Brethren in Borno State, Nigeria.

Rachel began her journey back to Nigeria on June 26th. She received her Montessori Training, and had her certificate to take back with her. She was excited to see family and friends back home. Her fiancé Jonathan was awaiting her return home as well. Their wedding date was scheduled for July 30, 2016. They have distant future plans to start a school in their local village. It would be based on the Montessori program.

Although it was bittersweet leaving new friends in Adrian, we know God is directing her future plans.

Article submitted by Margie Kintner, Adrian CoB



Margie Kintner & Rachael Dibal, Adrian Church of the Brethren, 2016

A tithe of a tithe!

At District Conference, the delegate body voted to give 10% of the \$2 million gift received from the Dwight Hottle estate to the churches and Inspiration Hills. The Camp Administration Committee made the decision to take 10% of the amount they received to set up a Camper Scholarship Fund to ensure that no one wanting to attend camp is ever turned away because of financial need. The \$15,000 fund is now established and available. It is hoped that as it is used, it will be replenished by donations from those who consider this ministry a priority, allowing the fund to continue to meet this need within our district.

District Conference 2017
2017 District Conference
July 28-29
Hartville Church of the Brethren
Pastor Patrick Bailey, Moderator
Theme: Be Thoroughly Equipped
2 Timothy 3:16-4:5

Reading Church Pays Off Their Mortgage

As Christians, we are called to share in each other's sorrows and joys. In his letter to the Romans, Paul tells us to "rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn" (Romans 12:15, NIV). Today we can rejoice with the members of Reading Church of the Brethren. Due to a generous gift from the Hoffer family, the congregation was able to pay off the mortgage on the church. The congregation celebrated this momentous occasion with a special service to burn the mortgage on August 27, 2016. Larry Bradley, pastor of Reading, shared that the congregation is extremely grateful for the generosity of the Hoffer family. Let us rejoice with our brothers and sisters!

Article submitted by Staci Williams, Poplar Ridge CoB

Leah J in concert at Akron Eastwood Church of the Brethren Friday, November 18, 7:00 p.m.

Leah J Hileman will be performing a concert at Eastwood Church of the Brethren in Akron, Ohio on Friday, November 18 at 7pm.

Leah is the author of nearly 300 original contemporary Christian songs and has been performing music professionally since 1993, both throughout the United States and around the world. World travels include New Zealand, Australia, Scotland, Canada, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic.



She was born in Johnstown, PA. She attended Harding University and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Music (piano), and went on to study at Ashland Theological Seminary in Church Music and Spiritual Formation, completing a ministry certificate through Bethany Theological Seminary's Training In Ministry program. She is an ordained minister in the Church of the Brethren, and currently serves as Minister of Music at Harrisburg First Church of the Brethren where she directs Christus Choir (traditional), Grace Notes Gospel Choir, and the First Church Praise Team and Band.

Worship
 Opportunity

Hottle Family Feedback

When the delegates at District Conference were discussing and making decisions about the use of the Hottle Memorial Fund money for ministries, few realized a member of the Hottle family was seated with them. Karen Fuller, a great-niece of Dwight Hottle, was serving as delegate from the Akron First Church of the Brethren.

Dwight Hottle had a great love for the Akron First church. Two of his sisters, Anna Snyder and Vania (Fuller) Routh were long-time members (Anna died in 2003, Vania in June of this year), and this connected him both to the church and to the Northern Ohio District. Dwight's other sister Mada Routh was a longtime member of the Black River Church of the Brethren. Vania's granddaughters, Karen, Bethany, and Kerrie Fuller (known as "the Triplets") grew up in the church, active in District Youth events and at the camp. Dwight's nephews Ken Fuller, Dave Fuller and niece Jan Lorkowski are members of Akron First. Mr. Hottle's niece, Bonnie Carder, still attends there also. Dwight's nephew Jerry Fuller and family are active members in the Eastwood Church of the Brethren. Nephew Joe Routh is an Ordained Minister in our District.

We received this feedback from the Hottle family after District Conference:

"We think Uncle Dwight would be pleased with the decisions made at District Conference to use the money that he had donated. For some of us camp played an important role in our faith and Uncle Dwight appreciated that. Using the money to help the District provide services to the churches, freeing up funds for the camp program, and making funds available through grants to local congregations are areas of ministry that we think our uncle would approve. As a family, we feel good about the decisions that were made. Thank you to the District Board and all those involved in making this change in the use of the funds."

On behalf of the District, it is hard to even put into words our appreciation for this gift of \$2 million dollars that was received. May God bless the ministries for which it will be used and may we be faithful as we work together for Christ's kingdom.

Hottle Fund Changes

District Conference Delegates approve changes to Hottle Memorial Fund Disbursement

History:

A gift of \$2 million was given to the District from the estate of Dwight Hottle. We received \$1,500,000 in 2007 and \$500,000 in 2009

Originally, 4% was drawn from the fund annually. This was increased to 5% in 2014. 80% of draw each year has gone to District Budget and 20% to Church Grants.

The following recommendations were approved by the District Conference Delegates after extensive discussion. (These were brought by the Hottle Fund Committee after being approved by the District Board at their May meeting.)

Recommendations approved:

1. To give a tithe on the original amount of money received (\$200,000). \$152,000 to Inspiration Hills; \$48,000 to be divided among the Northern Ohio Churches/Fellowships (\$1,000 each). These would be unrestricted funds for the camp, congregations, and fellowships to use as needed. (Passed with 84% of the vote)
2. Beginning in 2017, Change the yearly draw to up to 12% (taken quarterly): up to 4% District Operating Expenses; up to 4% Inspiration Hills Operating Expenses; 4% Church/Fellowship Grants with the unused grant amount distributed equally to the churches/fellowship. (Passed with 76% of the vote)

A check was mailed to each church for \$1000 early in August. (This was in addition to the \$1000 each church received in June after the board approved the disbursement of unused grant money from 2012-2015.)





EASTWOOD CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
HOLIDAY CRAFTS & MORE
December 3, 2016, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

581 Darrow Road, Akron, OH 44305

Crafts, food, baked goods and more! Table rental \$15.00 per 8 ft. with 2 chairs
For information please contact Peggy S. Tobias 330-351-0400
church office 330-784-2420 - email ewdcob@att.net



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