

Church of the Brethren  
Southern Ohio & Kentucky District  
District Board Meeting

**Date: May 18, 2024    Location: BRC in Greenville**

Facilitator: **Todd Reish**    Recorder: Susan Liller

Attendees			
Attend ✓	Name (voting members)	Attend	Name (non-voting attendees)
✓	Todd Reish – Chair (2) 2024		Tracy Knechel Sturgis (Moderator) ex-officio
	Laura Brown Sellers(2)2024		Tom Menke (Moderator-elect) ex-officio
✓	Sarah Friedrich (2) 2024	✓	Becky Maurer (Standing committee) ex-officio (2) 2024
	- (1) 2024 (rpimnt.for Staci)	✓	Susan Liller (clerk) ex-officio (1) 2025
	Fred Circle (1) 2024	✓	Stuart Beisner (Treasurer) ex-officio
✓	Mike Yingst (2) 2025	✓	Nick Beam, Interim DE (staff) ex-officio
✓	Phil Dell (1) 2025	✓	Mary Boone, Dir.Dist.Com. (staff) ex-officio
✓	Mindy Tipton (1)2025	✓	Carrie Drees, Dir.Camping/Retreat Ministry (staff) ex-officio
	Amy Hager (1) 2025		John Warner, BRC Administrator
	Mike Meade (1) 2025	✓	Gary Crim, District Attorney
✓	Sie Brock (2) 2026		
	Dottie Woodard (2) 2026	✓ (zoom)	
✓	Jon Keller (1) 2026	✓	Jon & Stuart left at lunchtime
	Rick Polhamus (1) 2026	Absent	
	J. Trent Smith (1) 2026		
✓	Ty Pyles (Past-moderator)		

### Agenda

10:00 Gathering/Devotions/District Prayer Concerns

10:15 Approval of

- Minutes – March meeting
- Agenda – May meeting

10:20 Staff Reports

- Nick Beam
- Carrie Drees
- Mary Boone
- Stuart Beisner

11:00 Old Business

- Visioning Committee Update
- CBC – Guidelines for Congregational Representation
- District History Book
- Trinity CoB update

11:30 New Business/Letter from Brookville CoB

Noon Lunch

1:00 District Conference Reports

- Gifts Discernment – Ty
- Conference - Tracey

1:30 Commission reports

- Ministry Commission - Sie
- Missional Renewal - Dottie
- Shared Ministries – Mindy
- Resources Development – Sarah
- Communication Team – Amy

2:00 Choosing another date for Mud Lick CoB

Adjourned

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Item	Discussion
1)	Todd welcomed us to BRC and offered a prayer from Thomas Merton. My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going . . . Sharing of District concerns were lifted up.
2)	<b>APPROVALS</b> a) Minutes of May meeting Jon moved, Sie seconded, acceptance of two sets of meeting minutes (3/2/24 & 3/11/24). Motion passed. b) Agenda Sarah moved, Phil seconded, acceptance of Agenda for today's meeting. Motion passed.
3)	<b>STAFF REPORTS</b>
3 a)	Nick Beam - Interim District Executive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Sale of Prices creek did not go through. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The buyer found another property to buy.</li> <li>○ Insurance is paid up until June by the church</li> <li>○ We will need to get someone to mow yard and periodically check on building</li> <li>○ We will need to get a realtor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Do we want the same realtor we used in the past?</li> <li>▪ Gary thinks we may want a different realtor.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Todd suggested the board give Nick the power to get realtor and someone for upkeep &amp; keep up on insurance.</li> <li>○ We will be selling it at a reduced price of about \$25,000 due to septic tank issue.</li> <li>○ Sarah will call her cousin (landscaping company) who lives close to the property to see if they want to check in on the building.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• West Alex – Nick has deed and will arrange to deliver it to West Alex in exchange for the check. The funds will go to East Dayton Fellowship for their Community Development Director position as agreed to at January Board meeting.</li> <li>• Trinity Sidney sold their building (which remains a church). The Trinity Sidney congregation is now worshipping at the Dorothy Love center in Sidney.</li> <li>• Bellefontaine CoB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Gary – They were moved into the Southern Ohio District back when NE Ohio &amp; NW Ohio districts combined</li> <li>○ Karen visited recently – not many Brethren there but there are people worshipping there, so investigation needs to be done.</li> <li>○ Title search shows Gary's distant relatives on the Deed</li> <li>○ The District Board formed a Committee to research the Bellefontaine CoB issue <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The committee includes Nick, Gary, Sarah</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Rusty Curling is ending his interim time at Trotwood COB on May 25, 2024. Mark Lancaster will move from Pastor at Good Shepherd CoB to Trotwood CoB beginning June 17, with his 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday being June 23, 2024. Nick is working on a possibility to fill the position at Good Shepherd CoB.</li> <li>• This Tuesday, May 21, 2024 is the District's Annual Conference briefing via Zoom at 7pm</li> <li>• Our admin assistant, Mary, needs a new cell phone. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Can we release money for a new phone</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ She is looking into adding the district number to Mary's personal number</li> <li>○ Todd suggested Mary to go to a corporate Verizon store to work on transferring the phone number.</li> </ul>
3 b)	<p>Carrie Drees – Director of Camping &amp; Retreat Ministry</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carrie's written report submitted online and attached.</li> <li>• Adult/Child camp had no registration so it will be cancelled.</li> <li>• Attendance compared to previous years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Some new kids, some not returning for the creative arts, but this is the first time there is splitting of junior high and senior high</li> <li>○ Adult/child camp was also cancelled last year</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Todd reminded us that camping is not what it used to be <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ For all camps</li> <li>○ Ohioans in general are getting older</li> <li>○ Ty is thankful 1 young person (rare at West Milton) is going for first time</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3 c)	<p>Mary Boone – Director of Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mary's written report was submitted online and is attached. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ District conference registration will be open by end of June</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3 d)	<p>Stuart Beisner – Treasurer (937-417-0513)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stuart's written report was submitted online and is attached.</li> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> page question: why negative balances Answer: transfers from endowments are made later in the year</li> <li>• Revenue is up from last year.</li> <li>• If Stuart moves to different software, he wants to know how many years of information he should keep. The consensus of the board members was 5 years of information.</li> <li>• Stuart asked if it is okay to move the district Credit Card to a different bank (from First Financial to Chase) to get better information from the bank and better rewards. There was board consensus to allow Stuart to make this change.</li> </ul> <p>Discussion led by Todd:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We need a second (backup) signer on the account. Do we want the Board chair, or chair of Resource Development? Discussion followed. The Board decided the chair of Resource Development should be the second/backup signer.</li> </ul> <p>Mike Yingst moved, and Mindy seconded, to authorize the Resource Development chair to be the 2<sup>nd</sup> signer on all financial accounts of the Southern Ohio/Ky District COB. Motion passed.</p> <p>Gary suggested changing the State Agent to be the clerk with a resolution/vote from the Board.</p>
3e	<p>Mindy moved, Mike Yingst seconded, acceptance of staff reports Motion passed.</p>
3f	<p>Letter from Brookville COB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Todd distributed a letter from Brookville COB asking to be in discussion with us (the board)</li> <li>• Board members discussed the letter</li> <li>• Todd asked – how do we respond?</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Does the whole board listen to them?</li> <li>○ Do we ask them how they would like us to listen? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Todd will ask Mike Trott this question about how do they want us to listen?</li> <li>▪ Consensus was, yes, to have Todd ask Mike Trott this question</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3g	<p>CBC congregation – not for action at this time, but for a future meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A congregation has sent a CBC ordained member to SOK District Conference</li> <li>• Gary – Someone who is ordained in another denomination is not allowed to be a full member of the church and therefore cannot be a representative to Dist. Conf.</li> <li>• Question: do we need a policy limiting participation in the District by those who have a conflict of interest (e.g. CBC membership)</li> <li>• How would we enforce this?</li> <li>• Do we have an issue or do we have an individual who is an irritant?</li> <li>• Congregations send delegates – do we address congregations</li> <li>• Will addressing this publicly irritate congregations and incline them to leave</li> </ul> <p>Consensus: Todd will draft a statement on involvement of those with a conflict of interest, by combining two statements from guidelines of other COB districts.</p> <p>Suggested two statements to combine:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) “Do you freely and loyally affirm your devotion to the Church of Jesus Christ, and specifically to the Church of the Brethren, who calls you to this ministry? And do you promise to live in harmony with its principles, ordinances and doctrines, being at all times subject to its discipline and government?”</li> </ol> <p>Adding after that</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2) “Affiliation with a body pursuing division with the Church of the Brethren violates the foregoing vows.”</li> </ol> <p>Todd will work on combining these 2 and bring to July board mtg.</p>
3h	<p>History book:</p> <p>Need to get a list of those who paid and decide if we reimburse them or do something else.</p> <p>Paying Dean – is this continuing? Per Stuart, there have been no invoices from Dean in 2024.</p> <p>We will wait to get a list of those who paid for history book.</p>
3i	<p>Nick received a call from Piqua COB. They need a new roof and asked if the District could help. They asked for a \$3,000 congregational grant which isn’t exactly for ministry.</p> <p>CODE colleagues say they often designate some funds for improvements/facility maintenance. Perhaps District could allocate some funds for similar grants with the same parameters as the other grants.</p> <p>Nick will contact Piqua to see what the total cost is and if they have the rest of the funds available.</p>
4)	<b>COMMISSION REPORTS</b>
4 a)	<p>Gifts Discernment – Ty Pyles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ty asked if anyone had names for Gift Discernment for next year’s slate?</li> <li>• They have a Standing committee nomination</li> <li>• They have 1 nomination for District Board.</li> <li>• Several other names were given to Ty for the team to contact.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Slots needed: Standing committee, moderator-elect, 5 people for District Board, 2 people for Program &amp; Arrangement team</li> <li>• Ty needs names.</li> <li>• Gifts Discernment team will meet on May 30</li> <li>• Question for next meeting – Do we need 16 people on the board?</li> <li>• Todd said he will get Ty 5 names for the board.</li> </ul>
4 b)	Ministry Commission – Sie Brock <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2025 is time for 5 yr credentialing period</li> <li>• 2025 is ethics course and will be Oct 12<sup>th</sup> 2024 at BRC 10-3 brick room</li> <li>• Another ethics course maybe in March of 2025</li> </ul>
4 c)	Missional Renewal – Dottie Woodard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not present</li> </ul>
4 d)	Shared Ministries – Mindy Tipton <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The team met Apr 15</li> <li>• There are 2 BDM sites</li> <li>• Young adults activities – a District email was sent out in late April advertising these events</li> </ul>
4 e)	Resource Development – Sarah Friedrich <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Team is meeting monthly</li> <li>• Troy COB, Eric Schmidt, Everesole COB, Painter Creek COB = all Grant recipients so far</li> <li>• We have plenty of funds for congregation &amp; individual grants</li> <li>• We are working with Mary for mailing a future fundraising letter</li> </ul>
4 f)	Communication – Amy Hager <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not present</li> </ul>
4 g)	District Conference – Tracy Knechel Sturgis (had to leave prior to giving her report) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A written Program and Arrangements report is attached</li> <li>• Mary gave the following update</li> </ul> Prog & arr & Dist conf <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 pre-conf mtgs in 2024 – next one at Cricket Hollar June 15, then July 14 at Salem COB</li> <li>• On Earth Peace will lead Educ. Friday – conflict resolution (cost of \$3000)</li> <li>• Manual cost of \$25 per Friday attender is being donated</li> <li>• Meals – will be catered</li> <li>• Pricing is per day or full-conf: \$35</li> <li>• Question: Where to get \$3000 for OEP?               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Possibly ministry continuing educ fund (balance of 14,000+)</li> <li>▪ Todd will send out email for approval.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
4 h)	Cannot approve commission reports – no longer have a quorum
	When to go to Mud lick/Flat creek – how about sept 7 But would we have a quorum go that far? Maybe appoint a committee of the board to go visit Flat creek/Mud lick instead of board meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This seems to be the best option</li> </ul>
	Next meeting = Saturday July 13, 2024, at Stonelick COB
	Adjournment = 1:58pm

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Item	Decisions
1	May minutes and today's agenda approved.
3a	The District Board formed a Committee to research the Bellefontaine CoB issue The committee includes Nick, Gary, Sarah
3d-1	If Stuart moves to different software, he wants to know how many years of information he should keep. The consensus of the board members was 5 years of information.
3d-2	Stuart asked if it is okay to move the district Credit Card to a different bank (from First Financial to Chase) to get better information from the bank and better rewards. There was board consensus to allow Stuart to make this change.
3d-3	Mike Yingst moved, and Mindy seconded, to authorize the Resource Development chair to be the 2nd signer on all financial accounts of the Southern Ohio/Ky District COB. Motion passed.
3e	Mindy moved, Mike Yingst seconded, acceptance of staff reports. Motion passed.
3f	Board consensus was for Todd Reish to ask Mike Trott of Brookville COB how Brookville would like the District Board to respond to the letter Brookville COB sent to the District Board.
3g	Consensus: Todd will draft a statement on involvement of those with a conflict of interest, by combining two statements from guidelines of other COB districts, bringing the combination to the July Board mtg.

Follow-up Actions				
Item	Action	Due mm/dd/yyyy	Status	Owner
1	Bellefontaine team to meet (Nick, Gary, Sarah)			Nick
2	Todd to talk to Brookville, asking Mike Trott how Brookville would like the District Board to respond	July Board mtg		Todd
3	Todd to draft stmt on conflict of interest combining 2 statements from other district examples	July Board mtg		Todd
4	Add Resource Development Chair as 2 <sup>nd</sup> signer to all District Financial accounts			Stuart
5	Contact Piqua COB to see what the total cost is estimated for a new roof and if they have the rest of the funds available if the District gave a grant of \$3,000.			Nick
6	Todd said he will get Ty (Gifts Discernment) 5 names for the board.			Todd
7	Todd will send out email for approval of using the Ministry Continuing Educ fund for the OEP Cont.Ed. on Friday of 2024 District conference. Cost = \$3,000.			Todd
8	Get list of those who have paid for the District History book			?

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Parking Lot					
No.	Item	Requester	Disposition	Comments	Date
1					
2					
3					

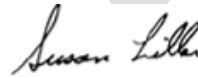
Next Meetings:

Saturday July 13, 2024 Stonelick COB

Saturday September 7, 2024 Lower Miami COB

Saturday November 9, 2024 – Board Retreat - BRC

Respectfully Submitted, Susan Liller, clerk



DRAFT

**CoB Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Meeting**  
**AGENDA**  
**May 18, 2024**  
**Brethren Retirement Community**

10:00 Gathering/Devotions/District Prayer Concerns

10:15 Approval of  
Minutes - March meeting  
Agenda - May meeting

10:20 Staff Reports  
Nick Beam  
Carrie Drees  
Mary Boone  
Stuart Beisner

11:00 Old Business  
Visioning Committee Update  
CBC - Guidelines for Congregational Representation  
District History Book  
Trinity CoB update

11:30 New Business/Letter from Brookville CoB

Noon Lunch

1:00 District Conference reports  
Gifts Discernment - Ty  
Conference - Tracey

1:30 Commision Reports  
Ministry Commision - Sie  
Missional Renewal - Dottie  
Shared Ministries - Mindy  
Resource Development - Sarah  
Communication Team - Amy

2:00 Choosing another date for Mud Lick CoB  
Adjourned



## Camping and Retreat Board Report May 2024

Registrations have been coming in slowly but surely. Current numbers for each camp are as follows of registrations in hand:

Adult/Child 0

Sewing and Crafting Day camp 14

Junior Discovery 3

Junior Creative Arts 11

Senior Creative Arts 9

Quilting 8

I know of several more for the junior and senior creative arts that are on their way. There are many who came to camp last year or to winter blast that I haven't heard from.

Just a reminder that on July 14 will be the district picnic. Dennis and Tammy Delk will be serving pizza and ice cream and Nick Beam will be offering a vespers service. The picnic will be held at Salem CoB.

Back in April we had the Mini Retreat for Women. 21 women attended with a few canceling at the last minute. It seemed to fill a need for these women.

In March we held the district Game Day. 30 people attended and played numerous board games. Everyone had a lot of fun. It is worth a repeat. We may schedule another game day for in the fall.

The Camping and Retreat committee has developed a mission statement and has had a logo for Camp Sugarwood created. Our missions statement is:

Camp Sugarwood provides a safe place for all: a place to be enlivened by God's creation, to be rooted in Christ's love, to grow in community, and to branch out in faith.



## Director of Communications Report

May 18, 2024

As always, I would like to express my appreciation to all of you and my gratitude to God for the opportunity to serve the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Church of the Brethren. I see this ministry as one of my greatest blessings.

—The spring, 2024 issue of “Together” magazine was mailed April 9. We have a meeting coming up on May 21 to begin work on the fall issue. At this point, the theme is yet to be determined.

—District Conference planning continues with our Program and Arrangements Commission to plan our 2024 District Conference. Registration will be open by the end of June.

—I continue to work with the Communications Commission to look at ways to improve communication within the district. Some exciting things are happening as we work to improve and update our communication strategy.

1. Video production is moving forward. David Sullenbarger has been in contact with several of our congregations and filming has begun.

2. The second video will be a wrap up of the 3 pre-conference meetings. These 3 meetings are designed to build upon each other. Since we are aware that the attendance of each of these meetings will be different, we felt it would be helpful to produce a video which can be shared at each of the meetings to build upon what happened at the preceding meeting or meetings. Dave has produced a video of the first meeting and plans to attend our June 15 meeting to add the second of the 3 meetings to it.

3. Our second project is looking at the expansion of our social media. However, we have pushed the pause button on this as our chair, Amy Hager, has been dealing with her husband Chris's injury.

—As I state in almost every report, much of what I do is repetitive and routine, such as the usual tasks of collecting mail, processing deposits, monthly newsletter and bulletin inserts, etc.

I remain so very grateful for the opportunity to serve Southern Ohio and Kentucky District and look forward to new opportunities to be used by God in this ministry!!!!

Respectfully,  
Mary Boone,  
Director of Communications,  
Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Church of the Brethren

**Southern Ohio District Church of the Brethren**  
**Treasurer's Report**  
**3/31/2024 Financial Statements**

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- P. 3: Overall District Income Statement Compared to Prior Year
- P. 4: General Fund Statement of Income Compared to Prior Year & Budget
- P. 5: Camping & Retreat Ministries Statement of Income Compared to Prior Year & Budget
- P. 6: Change in Fund/Equity Accounts
- P. 7: Giving by Churches (District General Fund)

**Fund Summaries for District General Fund & Camping & Retreat Ministries Fund:**

General Fund Balance at 1/1/23	56
General Fund - Net Income (Loss) for period	(22,467)
Transfers from Endow-WA-Nature Conservancy Fund (net of transfers to Empowering Funds)	-
Transfers from Reserve/WA-Developed Area Fund	-
C/Y Allocation of Congr. Sep. Payments	-
<b>General Fund Balance at 3/31/24</b>	<b>(22,410)</b>
Camping & Retreat Ministries Fund Balance at 12/31/23	241
CRM Net Income / (Loss) for period:	(14,110)
C/Y Allocation of Congr. Sep. Payments	-
Transfers from Reserve/WA-Developed Area Fund	-
<b>Camping &amp; Retreat Ministries Fund Balance at 3/31/23</b>	<b>(13,868)</b>

Treasurers Notes:

*Stuart Beisner*

Stuart Beisner, Treasurer

**Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Church of the Brethren**  
**Balance Sheet Compared to Prior Year (consolidated)**  
**March 31, 2024 and 2023**

	<u>3/31/2024</u>	<u>3/31/2023</u>
1 <b>ASSETS</b>		
2 Current Assets		
3     Checking-First FB	2,329	19,634
4     Checking-Farmers	14,920	215,658
5     Money Market - First FB	290,445	53,124
6     Cash-Web Works	-	-
7 <u>Accounts Receivable</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>38</u>
8     Total Current Assets	307,732	288,454
9		
10 Other Assets		
11     BDM Vans	127,924	127,924
12     Bear Creek Property	-	250,000
13     Mack Memorial Property	-	-
14 <u>Brethren Foundation Investments</u>	<u>1,974,771</u>	<u>1,732,387</u>
15     Total Other Assets	2,102,696	2,110,311
16		
17 <b>Total Assets</b>	<b>2,410,428</b>	<b>2,398,765</b>
18		
19		
20 <b>LIABILITIES &amp; MEMBERSHIP EQUITY</b>		
21 Current Liabilities		
22     Credit Card Payable	88	752
23 <u>Payroll Tax Liabilities</u>	<u>1,828</u>	<u>2,301</u>
24     Total Current Liabilities	1,916	3,053
25		
26 Membership Equity		
27     Operating Funds		
28         General Fund	(22,410)	(32,474)
29 <u>Camping &amp; Retreat Ministries</u>	<u>(13,868)</u>	<u>(13,680)</u>
30         Total Spending Funds	(36,279)	(46,154)
31		
32     Board Designated Funds <sup>1</sup>	519,806	400,058
33     Donor Designated Funds <sup>2</sup>	172,005	171,880
34     Restricted Funds <sup>3</sup>	1,625,055	1,492,004
35 <u>Equity in Property</u>	<u>127,924</u>	<u>377,924</u>
36     Total Membership Equity	2,408,511	2,395,712
37		
38 <b>Total Liabilities and Membership Equity</b>	<b>2,410,428</b>	<b>2,398,765</b>

**Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Church of the Brethren**  
**Comparative Balance Sheet Footnotes**

	<u>3/31/2024</u>	<u>3/31/2023</u>
<sup>1</sup> <b>Board Designated Funds:</b> Funds that may be utilized at the Board's discretion.		
Board Operating Reserve Fund	350,810	266,936
Reserve/WA-Developed Area Funds	53,347	35,301
Congregation Separation Fund	-	26,495
NYC Assistance Fund	101,571	70,037
Empowering Congregations Grant Fund	-	(4,500)
Empowering Leadership Grant Fund	-	-
Empowering Emerging Ministries	14,693	10,184
Bear Creek Fund	(616)	(4,395)
Mack Memorial Fund	-	-
<b>Total Board Designated Funds</b>	<u><b>519,806</b></u>	<u><b>400,058</b></u>
<sup>2</sup> <b>Donor Designated Funds:</b> Funds that are restricted to purposes as specified by the donor.		
Brethren Disaster Ministries	41,076	50,749
Southern Ohio History Fund	121,940	108,345
New Church Development Fund	4,762	4,762
Women's Retreat Fund	1,676	3,857
Men's Retreat Fund	1,696	3,311
Pass-through Donations	856	856
<b>Total Donor Designated Funds</b>	<u><b>172,005</b></u>	<u><b>171,880</b></u>
<sup>3</sup> <b>Restricted Funds:</b> Funds that are restricted to purposes and amounts as directed by district conference.		
Ministry Cont.Educ. Quasi-Endow	14,062	12,336
Hartle Endowment	15,196	13,963
S.Ohio District Endowment	40,358	37,054
Endow-WA-Nature Conservancy Fund	1,555,438	1,428,651
<b>Total Restricted Funds</b>	<u><b>1,625,055</b></u>	<u><b>1,492,004</b></u>

**Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Church of the Brethren**  
**Income Statement Compared to Prior Year (consolidated)**  
**For the Period Ended**

	<u>3/31/2024</u>	<u>3/31/2023</u>
<b>1 REVENUE</b>		
2 Church Self Allocations	17,990	14,513
3 Donations		
4 Individual Donations	7,871	1,830
5 Donations from Businesses	-	156
6 Total Donations	7,871	1,986
7		
8 District Conference Income	-	-
9 Camping Registrations	4,279	550
10 Women's Retreat	-	-
11 Men's Retreat	329	-
12 Special Events & Misc		2,184
13 Other Income		
14 Bear Creek Income		600
15 Mack Memorial Income		-
16 Pass Through Donations	-	-
17 Total Other Income	-	600
18		
19 Investment Income		
20 Interest & Dividends	12,278	9,689
21		
22 <b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>42,747</b>	<b>29,522</b>
23		
24		
25 <b>EXPENSE</b>		
26 Payroll		
27 Salaries & Benefits	38,295	38,958
28 Payroll Taxes	823	1,616
29 Total Payroll	39,118	40,574
30		
31 Office & Administrative Expenses	10,971	7,025
32 District Ministry	3,799	10,136
33 Outreach	4,357	14,545
34 Camping & Retreat Ministries	7,080	2,428
35 Ministry Continuing Education		-
36 Women's Retreat Expenses	3,170	-
37 Men's Retreat Expenses	1,884	-
38 Investment Fees	2,639	2,462
39 Bear Creek Expenses	616	2,690
40 Mack Memorial Expenses		2,433
41 Pass-Through Expenses	-	-
42		
43 <b>Total Expense</b>	<b>73,634</b>	<b>82,293</b>
44		
45 <b>Income/(Deficit) from Operations</b>	<b>(30,887)</b>	<b>(52,771)</b>
46		
47 Unrealized Income/Expense		
48 Market Fluctuation	91,392	35,748
49		
50 <b>Net Income/(Deficit)</b>	<b>60,505</b>	<b>(17,023)</b>

For Management Purposes Only

**Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Church of the Brethren**  
**General Fund**  
**Statement of Income and Expenses Compared to Prior Year and Budget**  
**For the 3 Months Ended March 31st**

	2024	2023	YTD Budget	Difference	2024 Annual Budget
<b>REVENUE</b>					
Church Self Allocations	12,320	8,148	13,750	(1,430)	55,000
Individual Donations	6,325	1,425	6,250	75	25,000
Donations from Businesses	-	-	-	-	-
	18,645	9,573	20,000	(1,355)	80,000
District Conference Income	-	-	1,625	(1,625)	6,500
Misc. Income	-	-	-	-	-
Interest	759	10	-	759	-
	759	10	-	759	-
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>19,404</b>	<b>9,583</b>	<b>21,625</b>	<b>(2,221)</b>	<b>86,500</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>					
Salaries & Benefits	28,920	27,566	28,972	(52)	115,888
Payroll Taxes	241	230	911	(670)	3,642
	29,160	27,796	29,883	(722)	119,530
Office & Administrative Exp <sup>1</sup>	9,446	6,206	6,325	3,121	25,300
District & Annual Conference Expense	2,955	2,713	2,500	455	10,000
District Support <sup>2</sup>	309	5,423	2,829	(2,520)	11,315
Outreach - Communications Development	-	-	3,750	(3,750)	15,000
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>41,870</b>	<b>42,138</b>	<b>45,286</b>	<b>(3,416)</b>	<b>181,145</b>
<b>Operating Surplus/(Loss)</b>	<b>(22,467)</b>	<b>(32,555)</b>	<b>(23,661)</b>	<b>1,195</b>	<b>(94,645)</b>
<b>ADDITIONAL FUNDING</b>					
C/Y Allocation of Congr Separation Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Allocation From Endowments <sup>4</sup>	-	-	5,225	(5,225)	20,900
Transfer from Board Operating Reserve Fund	-	-	18,450	(18,450)	73,800
Transfer from WA Developed Area Fund	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	23,675	(23,675)	94,700
<b>Net Increase/(Decrease) in Fund</b>	<b>(22,467)</b>	<b>(32,555)</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>(22,480)</b>	<b>55</b>
Beginning Fund Balance	56	81			
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>(22,410)</b>	<b>(32,474)</b>			

<sup>1</sup> Staff travel expenses, insurance, telephone/IT, postage, board retreat and fundraising materials.

<sup>2</sup> OneCallNow, Council of District Execs, Brethren Heritage Center, TRIM/EFSM Program, Ohio Council of Churches and District Deacons.

<sup>4</sup> Annual allocation of income and growth based on calculation approved by past district conferences.



**Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Church of the Brethren**  
**Camping & Retreat Ministries**  
**Statement of Income and Expenses Compared to Prior Year and Budget**  
**For the 3 Months Ended March 31st**

	2024	2023	YTD Budget	Difference	2024 Annual Budget
<b>REVENUE</b>					
Church Self Allocations	-	735	2,000	(2,000)	8,000
Individual Donations	33	75	250	(217)	1,000
	33	810	2,250	(2,217)	9,000
Camper Registrations	4,279	550	2,500	1,779	10,000
Golf Outing <sup>1</sup>	(2)	-	750	(752)	3,000
Misc. Income	-	184	1,750	(1,750)	7,000
	4,277	734	5,000	(723)	20,000
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>4,310</b>	<b>1,544</b>	<b>7,250</b>	<b>(2,940)</b>	<b>29,000</b>
<b>EXPENSE</b>					
Salaries & Benefits	9,375	10,878	10,216	(841)	40,863
Payroll Taxes	582	1,385	113	469	452
	9,958	12,263	10,329	(371)	41,315
Office & Administrative Exp <sup>2</sup>	1,382	595	663	719	2,650
Direct Camp Expenses	7,080	2,428	3,700	3,380	14,800
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>18,420</b>	<b>15,286</b>	<b>14,691</b>	<b>3,729</b>	<b>58,765</b>
<b>Operating Surplus/(Loss)</b>	<b>(14,110)</b>	<b>(13,742)</b>	<b>(7,441)</b>	<b>(6,668)</b>	<b>(29,765)</b>
<b>ADDITIONAL FUNDING</b>					
C/Y Allocation of Congr Separation Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Allocation From Endowments <sup>4</sup>	-	-	3,660	(3,660)	14,640
Transfer from Board Operating Reserve Fund	-	-	4,875	(4,875)	19,500
Transfer from WA Developed Area Fund	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	8,535	(8,535)	34,140
<b>Net Increase/(Decrease) in Fund</b>	<b>(14,110)</b>	<b>(13,742)</b>	<b>1,094</b>	<b>(15,203)</b>	<b>4,375</b>
Beginning Fund Balance	241	62			
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>(13,868)</b>	<b>(13,680)</b>			

<sup>1</sup> Annual Golf Outing is a joint event between CRM & BDM with each receiving half of net profits from the event.

<sup>2</sup> Staff travel expenses, insurance, telephone/IT and postage.

**Southern Ohio District Church of the Brethren**  
**Change in Fund/Equity Accounts**  
**Year Ended March 31, 2024**

	Fund/Equity Account	Balance 12/31/2023	Donations from Churches	Donations from Individuals	Camp Income	Other Income	Interest & Dividends	Market Fluctuations	Transfers	Admin. Fees	Other Expenses	Balance 3/31/2024
1	<b>General Fund</b>											
2	30100 - General Fund	56	12,320	6,325			759				(41,870)	(22,411)
3	38100 - Camp & Retreat Commission Fund	241		33	4,279	(2)					(18,420)	(13,868)
4	<b>Board Designated Funds</b>											
5	31510 - Board Operating Reserve Fund	350,810										350,810
6	31601 - Reserves/WA-Dev.Area Funds	45,882					858	6,804		(196)		53,347
7	31650 - Congr Separation Pmt Fund 2019-2023	-										-
8	31701 - Natl Youth Conf Assistance Fund	101,571										101,571
9	34100 - Empowering Congregations Fund	-										-
10	34200 - Empowering Leadership Fund	-										-
11	34300 - Empowering Emerging Ministries Fund	14,693										14,693
12	31515 - Bear Creek Fund	-				-					(616)	(616)
13	31520 - Mack Memorial Fund	-										-
14	<b>Donor Designated Funds</b>											
15	32100 - Brethren Disaster-non-designated	22,294	5,670	1,345					(2,000)		(519)	26,790
16	32120 - Brethren Disaster-Bucket kits	7,816									(2,000)	5,816
17	32125 - Brethren Disaster-Other kits	-										-
18	32140 - Brethren Disaster-Local Response	2,520									-	2,520
19	32150 - Brethren Disaster-Van	453							2,000		(1,981)	472
20	32152 - Brethren Disaster-Van Replacement Fund	2,411		168								2,579
21	32153 - BDM - Van Replacement Invest Fund	2,752					16	135		(4)		2,899
22	32200 - Southern Ohio History Fund	116,174					724	5,743		(166)	(535)	121,940
23	32400 - New Church Development	4,762										4,762
24	38401 - Women's Retreat Fund	4,845									(3,170)	1,675
25	38450 - Men's Retreat Fund	3,250			329						(1,884)	1,696
26	<b>Restricted Funds</b>											
27	33110 - Ministry Cont.Educ. Quasi-Endow	13,348					82	651		(19)		14,062
28	33210 - Hartle Endowment	14,388					93	737		(21)		15,196
29	33220 - S.OH District Endowment	38,214					246	1,955		(56)		40,359
30	33230 - Endow-WA-Nature Conservancy Fund	1,472,747					9,500	75,367		(2,176)		1,555,438
31	<b>38103 Equity in Land &amp; Buildings</b>	-										-
32	<b>38201 Equity in Vans</b>	127,924										127,924
33	<b>39900 Pass-through Donations</b>	856										856
34	<b>Total Funds (Equity)</b>	\$ 2,348,007	\$ 17,990	\$ 7,871	\$ 4,608	\$ (2)	\$ 12,278	\$ 91,392	\$ -	\$ (2,639)	\$ (70,995)	2,408,510

**Southern Ohio District Church of the Brethren** (District General Fund only)  
**Giving by Church Compared to Prior Year**  
**For the 3 Months Ended March 31, 2024**

	Jan - Mar 2024	Jan - Mar 2023	Difference from Prior Year
1 Beaver Creek Church of the Brethren			-
2 Beech Grove Church of the Brethren			-
3 Bellefontaine Church of the Brethren			-
4 Brookville Church of the Brethren		360	(360)
5 Cedar Grove Church of the Brethren			-
6 Charleston Church of the Brethren			-
7 Cincinnati Church of the Brethren			-
8 Circleville Church of the Brethren			-
9 Constance Church of the Brethren			-
10 Covington Church of the Brethren	500	500	-
11 Donnels Creek Church of the Brethren			-
12 East Dayton Church of the Brethren			-
13 Emmanuel Church of the Brethren	115	300	(185)
14 Eversole Church of the Brethren			-
15 Flat Creek/Mud Lick Church of the Brethren	400		400
16 Good Shepherd Church of the Brethren			-
17 Gratis Church of the Brethren			-
18 Greenville Church of the Brethren			-
19 Happy Corner Church of the Brethren	8,000		8,000
20 Harris Creek Church of the Brethren			-
21 Living Peace Church of the Brethren			-
22 Lower Miami Church of the Brethren			-
23 Ludlow Falls Church of the Brethren	250		
24 New Carlisle Church of the Brethren			-
25 Oakland Church of the Brethren	1,514	2,043	(529)
26 Olivet Church of the Brethren			-
27 Painter Creek Church of the Brethren			-
28 Piqua Church of the Brethren			-
29 Pittsburg Church of the Brethren			-
30 Pleasant Hill Church of the Brethren		3,700	(3,700)
31 Potsdam Church of the Brethren			-
32 Prices Creek Church of the Brethren			-
33 Prince of Peace Church of the Brethren			-
34 Rock House Church of the Brethren			-
35 Salem Church of the Brethren			-
36 Sidney-Trinity Church of the Brethren			-
37 Stonelick Church of the Brethren			-
38 Stony Creek Church of the Brethren			-
39 Strait Creek Church of the Brethren			-
40 Trotwood Church of the Brethren	1,541	1,245	296
41 Troy Church of the Brethren			-
42 Union City Church of the Brethren			-
43 West Alexandria Church of the Brethren			-
44 West Charleston Church of the Brethren			-
45 West Milton Church of the Brethren			-
46 White Cottage Church of the Brethren			-
TOTAL	12,320	8,148	4,172

# Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Church of the Brethren

## 2023 District Budget vs Actual YTD 3/31/23

	Actual YTD	Approved 2024 Budget	Budget YTD	Over/(Under) Budget
<b>1 REVENUE</b>				
<b>2 Church self-allocations</b>				
3     General Fund	8,148	55,000	13,750	(5,602)
4     Camping & Retreat	735	8,000	2,000	(1,265)
5     BDM	5,630	16,000	4,000	1,630
6     New Church Development	-	-	-	-
7 <b>Total Church Self Allocations</b>	14,513	79,000	19,750	(5,237)
<b>9 Donations from Individuals</b>				
10    General Fund	1,425	25,000	6,250	(4,825)
11    Camping & Retreat	75	1,000	250	(175)
12    BDM	330	20,000	5,000	(4,670)
13    Empowering Congregations	-	-	-	-
14    Empowering Emerging Ministries	-	-	-	-
15 <b>Total Individual Donations</b>	1,830	46,000	11,500	(9,670)
<b>16 Donations from Businesses</b>				
17    General Fund	-	-	-	-
18    BDM	156	500	125	31
19 <b>Total Donations from Businesses</b>	156	500	125	31
21 <b>Total Donations</b>	1,986	46,500	11,625	(9,639)
23 <b>Camping Registrations</b>	550	10,000	2,500	(1,950)
24 <b>District Conference Income</b>	-	6,500	1,625	(1,625)
<b>25 Other Income</b>				
26    Women' Retreat	-	4,000	1,000	(1,000)
27    Men's Retreat	-	1,500	375	(375)
28    Special Events & Misc	2,184	10,000	2,500	(316)
29    Mack Memorial Revenue	-	-	-	-
30    Bear Creek Rental Income	600	-	-	600
31 <b>Total Other Income</b>	2,784	15,500	3,875	(1,091)
33 <b>Interest &amp; Dividend Income</b>	9,689	32,000	8,000	1,689
35 <b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	29,522	189,500	47,375	
<b>38 EXPENSE</b>				
<b>39 Payroll Expenses</b>				
40    Salaries & Benefits				
41      General Fund	27,566	115,888	28,972	(1,406)
42      Camping & Retreat	10,878	40,863	10,216	662
43      District Ministry - History Book Editor	515	2,500	625	(110)
44 <b>Total Salaries &amp; Benefits</b>	38,959	159,251	39,813	(854)
45    Payroll Taxes				
46      General Fund	230	3,642	911	(681)
47      Camping & Retreat	1,385	452	113	1,272
48 <b>Total Payroll Taxes</b>	1,615	4,094	1,024	592
50 <b>Total Payroll Expenses</b>	40,574	163,345	40,836	(262)

# Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Church of the Brethren

## 2023 District Budget vs Actual YTD 3/31/23

	Actual YTD	Approved 2024 Budget	Budget YTD	Over/(Under) Budget
<b>Office &amp; Administrative Expenses</b>				
General Fund	6,206	25,300	6,325	(119)
Camping & Retreat	595	2,650	663	(68)
BDM	224	6,000	1,500	(1,276)
<b>Total Office &amp; Administrative Expenses</b>	<b>7,025</b>	<b>33,950</b>	<b>8,488</b>	<b>(1,463)</b>
<b>District Ministry</b>	<b>10,136</b>	<b>21,315</b>	<b>5,329</b>	<b>4,807</b>
<b>Outreach</b>				
BDM	10,045	50,000	12,500	(2,455)
Communication Development		15,000		
National Youth Conference Grants	-	500	125	(125)
Empowering Ministries Grants	-	10,980	2,745	(2,745)
Empowering Congregations Grants	4,500	18,300	4,575	(75)
Empowering Leadership Grants	-	10,980	2,745	(2,745)
<b>Total Outreach</b>	<b>14,545</b>	<b>105,760</b>	<b>26,440</b>	<b>(11,895)</b>
<b>Camping &amp; Retreat Expenses</b>	<b>2,428</b>	<b>14,800</b>	<b>3,700</b>	<b>(1,272)</b>
<b>Women's Retreat Expenses</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>(1,000)</b>
<b>Men's Retreat Expenses</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>(375)</b>
<b>Bear Creek Expenses</b>	<b>2,690</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,690</b>
<b>Mack Memorial Expenses</b>	<b>2,433</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,433</b>
<b>Investment Fees</b>	<b>2,462</b>	<b>6,000</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>962</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>82,293</b>	<b>350,670</b>	<b>87,668</b>	<b>(5,375)</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FROM CURRENT OPERATIONS</b>	<b>(52,771)</b>	<b>(161,170)</b>	<b>(40,293)</b>	<b>(12,479)</b>
Unrealized Income/Expense				
Market Fluctuation	35,748	-	-	35,748
<b>Transfers from Endowments</b>				
District & Hartle Endowments (General Fund)	-	2,600	650	(650)
Nature Conservancy Fund				
General Fund	-	18,300	4,575	(4,575)
Camping & Retreat	-	14,640		
Outreach (Empowering Grants)	-	40,260	10,065	(10,065)
<b>Total Nature Conservancy Fund</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>73,200</b>	<b>18,300</b>	<b>(18,300)</b>
<b>Total Transfers from Endowments</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>75,800</b>	<b>18,950</b>	<b>(18,950)</b>
<b>Additional Funding</b>				
Congregation Separation Fund (final year 2023)				
General Fund	-	-	-	-
Camping & Retreat	-	-	-	-
<b>Total Congregation Separation Fund</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Board Discretionary Fund				
General Fund	-	73,800	18,450	(18,450)
Camping & Retreat	-	19,500	4,875	(4,875)
<b>Total Board Discretionary Fund</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>93,300</b>	<b>23,325</b>	<b>(23,325)</b>
<b>Total Transfer of Other Funds</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>93,300</b>	<b>23,325</b>	<b>(23,325)</b>

Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Church of the Brethren  
2023 District Budget vs Actual YTD 3/31/23

	Actual YTD	Approved 2024 Budget	Budget YTD	Over/(Under) Budget
100 TOTAL SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(17,023)	7,930	1,983	(19,006)

## Program and Arrangements Report

May 18, 2024

The first of 3 planned pre-conference meetings was held at East Dayton Fellowship on Ash Wednesday. The next will be held on June 15 at Cricket Holler. The theme of this gathering is Breath from Jesus. Morning Watch will begin at 8:30am followed by breakfast sweets and beverages. Would anyone be willing to pick up doughnuts or cinnamon rolls?

The final pre-conference event will be July 14<sup>th</sup> at Salem Church of the Brethren. Theme is Breath from the Sustainer.

### District Conference Update:

Friday CEU session led by On Earth Peace on the subject of conflict resolution. Cost for their leadership is \$3000 with additional cost for travel and lodging. There is an additional cost of \$25 per participant for a manual. The \$25 additional charge to participants for materials is being covered by a generous donation from Oakland Church of the Brethren in memory of Louise Blickenstaff.

Food will be catered. Friday lunch will be catered by Panera Bread. Friday evening will be a buffet meal provided by MCL Cafeteria. Saturday will be a box lunch provided by Dorothy Lane Market.

Registration fees this year:

Worship only—no registration needed and no fee

Friday only \$35 includes CEU training, lunch, and dinner

Saturday only \$25 includes lunch and delegate packet

Entire conference \$50 includes 3 meals CEU training and delegate packet



# Social Media Guidelines and Considerations

## Preface

At the start of 2023, the typical U.S. working-age internet user spent more than 2 ½ hours per day on social media.<sup>1</sup> Senior citizens spent an average of 47 minutes per day, with 75% using Facebook.<sup>2</sup> Social media in some ways resembles the Agora or marketplace of Paul's time, a gathering point to conduct business and foster democracy, watch performers, and listen to famous philosophers. A Paul-like case could be made for spending daily time on social media:

*"While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was deeply distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he argued in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons and also in the marketplace [Agora] every day with those who happened to be there."*  
(Acts 17:16-17)

On the other hand, multiple studies identify increased risk of depression, anxiety, loneliness, self-harm, or suicidal thoughts correlating to heavy social media use.<sup>3</sup> In addition, up to 10% of the U.S. population are addicted to social media, using it excessively or compulsively.<sup>4</sup>

## Purpose

Given the time required and potential downsides, a first, essential, step is to determine the purpose of using social media. Vague ideas like "Someone thinks we ought to be on social media" do not help determine platforms or strategy.

- **What do you want to accomplish?**

Sample answers:

Increase awareness in the local community about our activities.

Provide a place for members to share prayer needs and support each other.

- **Who do you hope to reach?**

Church members or a wider group? Which age group?

## Practicalities

Once your purpose and ideal participants are clear, determine which social media tool will best serve.

*Examples: When a group needs more privacy, you might create a Facebook group that is closed to the public. Of course, everyone should be aware that nothing online is completely confidential. By contrast, someone can set up a feed on your website from a Facebook page, which will update your site without anyone having to log in or learn a second system.*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://datareportal.com/reports/digital-2023-deep-dive-time-spent-on-social-media>

<sup>2</sup> <https://nypost.com/2023/08/31/most-seniors-spend-this-many-hours-a-year-on-social-media-poll/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.helpguide.org/articles/mental-health/social-media-and-mental-health.htm>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.addictioncenter.com/drugs/social-media-addiction/>



## Essential practices

1. Make sure that at least three people have administrative access to the site (e.g., usernames and passwords) so that access is not lost if someone moves or becomes too busy.
2. Insist on strong passwords. If you use something like “brethren1,” your site is extremely likely to be hacked.
3. Set up guidelines and monitoring strategies before starting.

## Privacy, content, and copyright

Carefully consider what information can be posted. For instance, listing birthdays or anniversaries with first and last names may reveal information used as passwords or PIN numbers. Consider what kinds of prayer requests would be appropriate to post with what information (this may vary depending on the platform chosen and how public it is). Decide whether it will be permitted to tag people (or the equivalent).

Together determine what kind of content you prefer. For instance, the Church of the Brethren discourages the use of memes, which are often designed to elicit strong emotions.

Copyright still applies online. Users should only post text or images that are in the public domain (and this is not as common as is sometimes thought), that they have specific permission to post, or that are their own. It is fine to “share” posts since that maintains attribution.

## Child protection

Best practices include not posting photos that show children’s faces and not including last names or other identifying information.

Avoid one-on-one social media interactions with children or youth; make sure at least three people are involved in any conversation. Make sure there is a record of what has been said. For instance, texts are saved, whereas at the time of writing, Snapchat disappears after a short time.

## Issues for pastors

Can you be a private person on social media, or are you always a representative of the church?

Is it okay to have separate public and private accounts, or does that just create “insiders” and “outsiders”?

Do you have to “friend” everyone in the congregation?

What topics, viewpoints, or wording do you need to avoid? Who has the power to influence this?

What happens if one of your comments causes controversy, misunderstanding, or hurt?

The answers to these questions may depend on your congregation, district, and personal preferences. Privacy, confidentiality, and child protection guidelines must be followed at all times. Correction should be graciously received.

A word to the indignant: You may see a social media post from another pastor or church leader that upsets you. If you are not in a real-life relationship with the person, walk away and pray. If necessary,

hide posts from the person, stop following them, or unfriend them. The Biblical basis for this includes Matthew 7:1-5, Galatians 6:1-5, and James 5, among other passages.

*“Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged” ...  
“confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The  
prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.” (James 5: 9 and 16)*

The right people to challenge and restore someone in error are the people in an ongoing relationship with that person; note that James talks about confessing sins and praying *for each other*. “The Accuser” throughout the Bible is not Jesus. Is that who we should imitate?

## Monitoring

Social media must be monitored so that:

- People are not harmed.
- The “social” aspect happens. Commenters appreciate being recognized and welcomed, getting answers, or receiving support.
- Inappropriate posts or comments are removed or hidden.

The number of moderators needed depends on the frequency, quantity, and content of posts.

Procedures for unwanted content should be determined up front: will the person be notified that their post has been hidden or deleted? Will the offending post be left with comments as a learning tool for others? What factors would influence this?

## Unsolicited content

Posts may receive generic and repeated comments from an unknown person expressing a desire to friend the poster; these can be deleted or hidden.

Not every profile on a social media site is an actual person. Fake profiles can be recognized by checking their “about” information, friends, and posts. If they are not in your location and have no obvious connection, you may wish to block them.

Be aware of scams: at the time of writing, one consists of messages telling you that you are out of compliance and must go to a website to enter your information. Beware of entities asking you to provide information (other than when setting up the social media account). Check the profile of the message sender; this should help you figure out whether the message is legitimate or not. Doing a search for something like “[social media site name] message about authentication” may also help.

## Appendix A: Church of the Brethren Facebook guidelines

*The Church of the Brethren observed a substantial decrease in problematic Facebook comments and posts after creating and publicizing these guidelines. They may be reproduced or altered by local congregations, preferably with a citation such as “Adapted from Church of the Brethren guidelines”.*

We are sharing guidelines for the Church of the Brethren Facebook page:

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect” (Romans 12:2).

We would like to see this Facebook page transformed into something new that does not conform to the world’s social media practices. We invite you to consider this page as “holy ground,” a place that contributes to our worship and praise of God, where followers of Jesus Christ connect to learn, discuss, support each other, and pray.

These guidelines help explain what that means:

1. Whenever you come to this page, first join with us in prayer and praise—especially before commenting. Just as our churches may welcome guests and visitors into prayer and praise as they enter the sanctuary, we invite you to praise God and pray with us for love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23).
2. Consider being on this page like being in a sacred space and speak together with love and care as you would do in person with your own family of faith.
3. We would like this page to become known for a spirit of gentleness. When you encounter someone on this page who appears to you to be mistaken in their views, remember Galatians 6:1: “My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness.”
4. Just as it is unpleasant when one person takes over the conversation in the church fellowship hall, it is off-putting here. Please limit your comments to one or two per post so that others may join in the conversation too.
5. When prayer is requested, just as you would during a time of sharing during worship, we ask you to pray with us. Arguing in response to a prayer request belittles the need and demonstrates a lack of love and concern.
6. We encourage you to reflect and prayerfully search the scriptures, then use your own words to comment. We discourage copying and pasting posts or memes; many of these contain untruths or exaggerations and were created to provoke rather than to encourage and help the body of Christ grow in faith.
7. We understand that our members have many different points of view and we expect loving discussion of our differences. Comments that do not abide by these guidelines may be hidden. Commenters who persist in ignoring these guidelines may be blocked.

Remember Jesus’ conversation with the lawyer in Luke 10:26-28: Jesus said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.”

[#anotherwayofliving](#) [#churchofthebrethren](#) [#betransformed](#)