

October, 2025
Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Newsletter
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More information on Disaster Ministry and Camp Sugarwood including complete schedules, registration forms, etc can be found on the district website: www.sodcob.org.

Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Conference

"Embracing our Imperfections"

The Southern Ohio/Kentucky District met together at the Oakland Church of the Brethren September 26 & 27 for district conference. We would like to thank them for their warm hospitality as they welcomed the us to their campus. 57 Delegates represented 20 congregations at this year's conference. We had a total of 98 attendees. Delegates affirmed the slate presented by the Gifts Discernment Commission along with two nominees who were added from the floor. Affirmed are: Dean Garrett as Moderator-Elect, John Leininger and Bettina Balmer on Program and Arrangements Commission, and Amy Hager, Phil Dell, Mike Meade, and Mindy Tipton (all incumbents) on the District Board. The District Clerk position remains open.

Delegates also accepted the new purpose statement presented by the board:

"The SOH/KY District exists as a diverse community of Jesus' followers, sharing the transformative love of God as congregations live out the Good News of Jesus as discerned through Scripture and the Holy Spirit.

Our congregations and the board do this by:

- Resourcing – what do the congregations, pastors, and the board need?
- Equipping – who needs to be equipped based on revealed resourcing needs?
- Supporting – how can mutual support empower everyone to thrive?"

They also spent significant time charting a plan of action which will implement this purpose statement in the district's future.

In addition, delegates accepted our 2026 Budget and approved a revision to our "Code of Regulations" which will reduce the number of board members from 15 members and the previous year's moderator to 11 members and the previous year's moderator. This reduction will take place over a two year time period by not replacing members whose term is over.

The 2026 conference will be held on September 25 & 26 at the Pleasant Hill Church of the Brethren. The Moderator is Linda Brandon Eubank and the theme is "The Least of These".



Trotwood Church of the Brethren Celebrates 125 Years of Ministry

On Saturday, October 18th, you are invited to the Trotwood Church of the Brethren's 125th Anniversary Celebration! A special program will be held at 5:30 in the church sanctuary. As we look back over the church's history, there will be several former pastors in attendance who will be sharing memories. Singing and a special skit will also be part of the program which will then be followed by a time for fellowship.

Sunday worship, at 10:45 on October 19th will be a continuation of our 125th Anniversary Celebration. All are welcome to attend! The Trotwood Church of the Brethren is located at 208 East Main Street, Trotwood, Ohio 45426 and is handicap accessible with an elevator near the back entrance. For questions, please contact our church office at 937-837-6604 or office@trotwoodcob.com.

Pittsburg Church hosts "Biblical Exploration"

Mel Menker will be leading a weekend conference on "Biblical Exploration" at Pittsburg Church of the Brethren on October 10th and 11th. The cost is \$35. CEUs will be available for an additional \$10. The opening session begins at 3:00 pm on Friday. for more info go to www.pittsburgcob.org

Brethren Disaster Ministry Updates

Volunteers Needed Oct. 12-18 in TN – A new short-term site is open for eight weeks in Johnson County, TN for Hurricane Helene recovery. We've signed up for a full crew and have four open slots. Housing will be at the First Christian Church in Mountain City, TN. To join a crew call/text Helen Wolf at 937-902-3475 or SouthernOhioBDM@gmail.com.

Rebuilding in KY Nov. 9-15 – Flood recovery continues in KY, as we partner with HOMES, Inc. Houses are being built in Chestnut Ridge, a higher ground property in Knott County. There are four openings on this trip. Contact Helen Wolf to sign up.

Cleanup Bucket Assembly – On Thurs., Oct. 23 at 6:30 PM will be the assembly of cleanup buckets for Church World Service. It will be held at Bullen Ultrasonics, 1301 Miller Williams Rd., Eaton. Workers are needed to fill the 500+ buckets with cleaning supplies. Plan to attend!

Sewing Bee/CWS Prep – Come to the Sewing Bee/CWS Prep at Greenville COB on Saturday, Oct. 25 at 9:00 AM. School bags are already cut out, so sewers just need to bring their sewing machine. Non-sewers will prep items for school kits, hygiene kits, and cleanup buckets for Church World Service (CWS). All are invited to bring a sack lunch. This will be our final Sewing Bee in 2025.

Fall Bazaar – New for BDM! Happy Corner COB has invited us to partner with them for their Fall Bazaar. It's on Sat., Nov. 8, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. We are helping with the Cookie Room. Donations of three dozen cookies per kind, cakes, pies, candies, etc. are needed. Just bring them to the church kitchen on Fri., Nov. 7 from 9:00 - 4:00. Plan to donate homemade baked goods and attend! Proceeds from the event are being donated to S. Ohio/KY BDM.

Save the Date!

Appreciation Dinner, Sat., Nov. 22 at 6:00 PM, Troy Church of the Brethren

Camp Sugarwood Updates

Camp Ambassadors Meeting Camp Ambassadors meeting will be held at Salem CoB on October 5 from 3:00-4:30. Camp Ambassadors come to find out what Camping and Retreat events are happening this Fall and Winter. In addition to event information, we will have a time of devotion, play a game, have snacks, fellowship, and perhaps sing a song or two. For those unable to attend, please be on the lookout for a camp packet in your church mailbox.

Registration is Open Fall Sewing and Crafting Day Retreat: October 20-22 at Oakland Women's Retreat: October 31-November 1 at Bergamo Retreat Center Fall Family Gathering: November 14-16 at Cricket Holler Fall Family Gathering Worship Service: November 16 at Cricket Holler 10am (no registration needed) Elementary Winter Blast: January 9-10 at Cricket Holler Jr and Sr High Winter Blast: January 16-17 at Cricket Holler Winter Sewing and Crafting Day Retreat: February 5-7 at Happy Corner Information for these events can be found at sodcob.org or from your camp ambassador after October 5.

Worship at Camp Sugarwood Everyone is invited to join in worship at Camp Sugarwood Fall Family Gathering on Sunday, November 16 at 10am at Cricket Holler Schiewetz Leadership Training Center, 6444 Frederick Pike, Dayton, OH 45414. Pastor Lee Saylor will be delivering the message on Isaiah 43:19-21 "Behold, I am doing a new thing!" No registration is needed. Come as you are!



Prayer Needs . . .

A very important way we can be supportive of each other is to lift each other up in prayer. 2025 Prayer List for Congregations can be found on the district website.

- Nick Beam--Interim District Executive -- health concerns

-Larry Lutz--dealing with a lot of pain. Having trouble getting around

-For the people who have lost homes and barns due to recent hurricanes and flooding and fires.

-For the violence and war in the Middle East. May the God of peace prevail and lead those on both sides to ending the conflict.

-For the people in Ukraine living in fear and for the families who have lost loved ones and for those who have been displaced because of the invasion.

-For the victims and their families recovering from the never-ending cycle of gun violence.

- May we remember those congregations in pastoral transition -

New Carlisle--Tara Hornbacker, Interim. **Prince of Peace**--John Sgro, Interim.

Donnells Creek-- open position

Pleasant Hill--

Eversole-- Brent Driver, Interim

Circleville--Open position

Good Shepherd--Dennis Delk, Interim

- There are many issues and situations continuing to face us as we minister in our respective locations, including those who are serving in interim situations and others who are in discernment regarding placement or are considering a move. There are others facing health issues, please keep these situations in prayer.

Please [contact Nick](#) if you know of prayer situations of which we should be aware. May we lift each other in prayer as we work to continue the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, together.