

Pastor's *memo*

NORTHERN OHIO DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN | JANUARY 2025

2025 Clergy-Spouse Retreat

February 16-18, Quality Inn
Richfield, Ohio 44286

Please plan on joining us for time of relation-building, renewal, learning and rest. The food, like always, and facilities will be great and having time to reconnect with everyone will be even greater!! Single and married clergy and their spouses are encouraged to attend. The retreat begins with registration at 4 pm on Sunday, February 16th and finishes with lunch together on Tuesday.

You may register online at nohcob.org/clergy-spouse-retreat-2025.

Please register by January 31, 2025.

Costs are \$325.00.Couple (3 days/2nights, plus 6 meals); \$250.00/Single (3 days/2 nights, plus 6 meals); \$40.00/Single One Day Registration (Monday Lunch, Dinner and Sessions). Single clergy who may want to share a room a the couple rate, please indicate your request under "comments". Confidential financial scholarships are available by contacting Kris Hawk at krishawk@nohcob.org or 330-612-2086.



David Shumate

served as District Executive Minister for almost 30 years in the Virgina District of the Church of the Brethren and is currently the Annual Conference Secretary. He brings a wealth of experiences, wisdom, and stories that will bring hope, renewal, and joy.

In This Issue

Clergy-Spouse Retreat	1
BBI Class	2
Clergy Tax Seminar	2
Pastoral Placement	3
Mark Your Calendar	3
District Prayer Calendar	3
Training Opportunities	4
Ethics Training	4

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE MILEAGE RATE FOR 2025

Beginning on January 1, 2025, the standard mileage rates for the business use of a vehicle will be 70 cents per mile driven. This is up 3 cents from the 2024 RS rate. The rate for miles driven for charitable work remains at 14 cents per mile.

Buckeye Brethren Institute

Upcoming Classes

Theology

Instructor: Tina Hunt

Meeting dates: February 28, March 14 and 28; 9:30am to 3:30pm

What we believe about God impacts all aspects of faith walk. Tina Hunt leads this class that will help us:

A. Be able to identify four areas of current theological debate, place them in an historical context and identify appropriate ways of addressing the issues.

B. Be able to identify four major Christian theologians, place them in an historical context and identify the contributions they have made to an understanding of the church's faith.

C. Be able to identify the major theological streams of his/her congregation and articulate how beliefs and faith are formed in the

congregation.

D. Be able to define the relationship between theology and practice and the relationship to a particular life issue.

E. Be able to articulate a "theological confession of faith" that expresses the student's basic convictions regarding the Christian message.

This class is available to those interested in the ministry and to licensed ministers moving towards ordination. Ordained and Commissioned clergy can also take this class for CEU's (1.5 CEU's for attendance at all three Friday sessions) at a cost of \$25.00. And anyone can take this class for personal enrichment.

Visit our webpage nohcob.org/BBI to register or for more information.

Clergy Tax Seminar 2025

Saturday, February 1, 2025

11:00am – 4:00pm (EST)

Students, clergy, and anyone who deals with clergy finances are invited to participate in this online Zoom seminar.

- Learn how to prepare clergy taxes correctly and legally.
- Comply with regulations while maximizing tax deductions.
- Earn 0.3 CEUs - for the first 2 sessions only



Deb Oskin-Instructor

Schedule:

- 11:00am - 12:30pm EST (0.15 CEUs): **Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Clergy Taxation, part 1.** Topics covered: IRS's definitions of ministers (ministerial "status") and of ministerial work (ministerial "services"), as well as the three kinds of income ministers receive, the two kinds of taxes ministers pay, and the various ways ministers can pay those taxes during the tax year.
- 1:00pm - 2:30pm EST (0.15 CEUs): **Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Clergy Taxation, part 2.** Topics covered: Housing exclusion, parsonages and parsonage adjustments, and self-employment taxes, as well as ways to reduce total taxes.

3:00pm - 4:00pm EST: **Completing the Clergy Tax Return.** Rev. Zeke Zacharias, pastor at Litlold Church, has a typical clergy tax return to complete. We will walk through it with him.

Registration and Cost Registration is \$40 per person (generally nonrefundable to keep fees and overhead low). Prompt registration is advised - registration deadline is January 24, 2025.

To register, go to: <https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/brethren-academy-course-listings/>

Pastoral Placement

Congregations actively in the search process:

Akron First– *Rebecca Ebie* is providing pulpit supply.

Center – Search Committee has completed the profile.

Jonah's People – *Mark Self* serving as interim pastor.

Sugar Creek West – *Ministry Team* providing pulpit supply.

Congregations that have not begun the search process of have chosen not to seek at this time:

Bristolville– *Ed Agler* serving as interim.

Brook Park– *Ryan Lopez* serving as interim pastor.

Dupont – *Solomon Okang* serving as preacher.

Eden – *Tom Michaels* serving as transitional pastor.

Freeburg – *Ed Wartluft* serving as preacher.

Owl Creek – *David Searcy* serving as interim pastor.

Silver Creek— pulpit supply.

District Prayer Calendar

January

Churches/Pastors

Swan Creek, congregation leading

Woodworth, Steve Simmons

Adrian, David Morton

District Leadership

District Disaster Ministries

Other Districts

West Marva, Western Pennsylvania

National Leadership

Brethren Disaster Ministries Staff

February

Churches/Pastors

Akron Eastwood, Andrew Wenger

Akron First, Pulpit Supply

Akron Springfield, Andrew Wenger



Mark Your Calendar

January 15– Central Committee Meeting at District Office at 6:00 pm.

January 21– Northern Area Pastor's Gathering at 10:00 am.

January 24– BBI Class, Evangelism at District Office at 9:30 am.

February 4– Executive Committee Meeting at District Office at 5:00 pm.

February 7– BBI Class, Evangelism at District Office at 9:30 am.

February 13– Central Area Clergy Breakfast at District Office at 9:00 am.

February 13– Eastern Area Pastor's Gathering at the Front Porch Café, Hartville at 12:00 pm.

February 16-18– Clergy Spouse Retreat, Quality Inn, Richfield, Ohio.

February 28– BBI Class, Theology at District Office at 9:30 am.

District Office Hours

Regular office hours are Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

District Administrative Assistant, Laura Huffaker can be reached during those hours at 419-281-3058 or by email at laura@nohcob.org.

District Executive, Kris Hawk takes Monday as her day off. She can be reached at 330-612-2086 or by email at krishawk@nohcob.org

Kris Hawk will be attending the winter meetings of the Council of District Executives and Intra Agency Forum meetings in Florida from January 24 through the 30th. She will still be checking emails and messages during that time.

District Leadership

District Board, Terry Baldwin, Chair

Other Districts

Atlantic Northeast, MidAtlantic

National Leadership

David Steele, CoB General Secretary

Training Opportunities

Ministering Across Cultures: Building Bridges Through Intercultural Competence

Instructor: Darla Kay Deardorff

March 17-19, 2025

Onsite at Bethany Theological Seminary

Course Fee \$300

Registration Deadline: February 10, 2025



Within our local communities, we can often find those from "every tribe and tongue," which means we are called to serve those who increasingly reflect a wide range of backgrounds and experiences. How can local churches welcome different people, moving toward achieving the multicultural vision found in Revelation 7:9 of those from every tribe and tongue worshipping God together? This short course explores what it means to be interculturally competent today. It equips pastors and leaders with the skills, knowledge, and insights needed to engage with and minister to our diverse neighbors.

These courses are available to: TRIM/EFSM students- fulfills: 1 BHTS unit, those seeking Continuing Education Units (2.0 CEU). Anyone seeking personal and spiritual enrichment. Essentially, these courses are open to ALL!

Register for this course at <https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/>.

Effective Leadership for Times Such as These

Instructor: Randy Yoder

April 4 & 5, and May 2 & 3

Zoom Intensive – 2 weekends

Course Fee: \$300

Registration Deadline: March 4, 2025

This course will focus on transformational and servant leadership. When the Body of Christ is struggling for effective life and mission in a world needing Good News, it calls for creative thinking that is outside the box of the usual. Change is difficult for any system and requires special insights and skills to prepare an organization for another way of living and practicing mission. The leader must be transformed as well as the church system.

This course is available to: TRIM/EFSM students- fulfills: 1 MS Unit, those seeking Continuing Education Units (2.0 CEU) • Anyone seeking personal and spiritual enrichment Essentially, this course is open to ALL!



Changing Mindsets for Ministry

FEB. 22,
2025

10 a.m.-12 p.m. EST via zoom
Sponsored by the Midwest
region of the Church of the
Brethren.

See the attached flyer for
more information

Ministerial Ethics Training March 29th from 10 am—4 pm at the Northern Ohio District Office

All Ordained and Commission clergy must attend the Advance Ethics training for the renewal of credentials. For those that were unable to attend the Ethics Training sessions in October, we will hold a make-up workshop on Saturday, March 29th at the District Office, 1107 East Main Street in Ashland. Lunch will be provided. You can register on line at nohcob.org/ethics_march29 or email krishawk@nohcob.org.