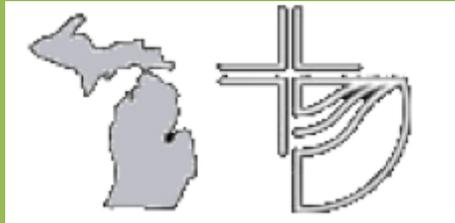


# The Brethren Bugle

Michigan District Church of the Brethren Monthly Newsletter



September 2016

## Contact Us:

Email Emily at:

[brethrenbugle@gmail.com](mailto:brethrenbugle@gmail.com)

Follow us on Twitter:

[@michigancob](https://twitter.com/michigancob)

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Michigan District Church of the Brethren

Important Links:

[www.michigancob.org](http://www.michigancob.org)

[www.brethren.org](http://www.brethren.org)

# Letter from the Editor

Hello Michigan!

I hope this Bugle reaches you well. If there are others in your church who are interested in receiving this newsletter, please send me their information and they will be added to the mailing list.

We recently concluded our 2016 District Conference at the New Haven Church of the Brethren, please remember to fill out the Conference Evaluation by September 10. The evaluation can be found in your e-mails from me and on the Michigan District Facebook page. These evaluations help the Program & Arrangements team **tremendously**. We value your feedback and hope you will take a few minutes to share your thoughts. Below you will find the affirmed 2016 slate from District Conference:

**District Conference Moderator- Elect-** Elaine Foster, Onekama

**District Conference Writing Clerk (2019)-** Emily Woodruff, The Church in Drive

**District Conference Program & Arrangements Committee Member-** Denise Rossman (1 year term), New Haven, Cindy Tarte (1 year term)

**Gifts Discernment & Call Committee Member (2019)-**

**Gifts Discernment & Call Committee Member Partial Term (2018)-** Chris Hamilton (Hope), need two more filled by the leadership team

**Leadership Team Secretary (2019)-** Jen Lemmer

**Church Development & Renewal Team Leader (2019)-** Owen Tosh, The Church In Drive

**Finance/ Resource/ Property Team Leader partial term (2018)-** Dan Rossman (New Haven)

**MEEB Member (2022)-** Dawne Vowler, Living Peace Church, (2022)

**MEEB Member partial term (2020)-** Frances Townsend, Onekama (2020)

Bob Schnepf is looking for volunteers for Brethren Disaster Ministries in Detroit, please e-mail him at [cschnepf@hotmail.com](mailto:cschnepf@hotmail.com) for more information if you can work any of these dates!

Sept 11-17 Currently have 2 volunteers

Sept 18-24 Currently have 4 volunteers

Nov 6-12 Need Half a group.

Please check out the letters and flyers below, as they are filled with ways for **you and your church** to connect with others in our district. The very last bit of the Brethren Bugle has our District's 2016 calendar laid out. If you have additional events that you would like featured here, please do not hesitate to e-mail me your even information and I will gladly share this in our newsletters!

As promised, following this letter there will be your "Report Card" that Nate mentioned at District Conference. These forms are extremely important to the District office and it is very helpful to us if you turn your forms in on time (or early)! Please review and ensure that your church is meeting their requirements thus far.

Finally, please join me in celebration of Hewyt Westfall's dedicatioins at both Lost and Found and Common Spirit Churches!

-Emily Woodruff

Shaded boxes indicates that form has not been turned in.

<u>Church</u>	<u>2015 Statistical Reports (3/15/2016)</u>	<u>Form A (5/15/16)</u>	<u>Annual Conf. Delgate (6/1/16)</u>	<u>Dist. Conf. Delegate Fee (7/1/16)</u>	<u>Congregational Outreach Forms (12/01/16)</u>	<u>2017 Pastor Renewal Agreements (12/01/16)</u>	<u>Form B (12/31/16)</u>	<u>District Financial Support (12/31/16)</u>
Beaverton	x	x		x				x
Common Spirit	x	x	x	x				x
Crystal	x	x						x
Drayton Plains	x	x	x	x				
Flint	x	x		x				
Hope		x	x	x				x
Lakeview	x	x		x				x
Lansing	x		x	x				
Living Peace Church		x	x	x				
Lost & Found	x	x	N/A	N/A				
Marilla				x				x
Midland	x	x		x				x
Muskegon	x	x		x				x
New Haven	x			x				x
Onekama	x	x	x	x				x
Shalom	x							
Skyridge	x	x	x	x		x		
Sugar Ridge				x				x
The Church in Drive	x	x	x	x				x
Woodgrove	x	x		x				x
Zion			x	x				x



## District Conference Logo 2017



Artists and authors have much in common. Authors start with a thought in their mind, writes that thought out in long hand, expands the thought, rewrites the thought, and edits until the thought is ready for publication. Today, many authors use computers instead of long hand. Artists are very much like authors. In the artist's mind, the thought changes to a picture, but goes through the same process.

The artist, Herbert Eveland, has been a friend for many years. We met at Manchester College, now University. Herbert taught Art for 40 years and still remains very active in Artists circles. Herbert also created my logo in 2002 when I was Moderator. The finished logo you see here went through many edits, right up to the time he presented it to me. Herbert was wanting to change some lines and letters, however, I was satisfied and said it was finished.

As Herbert and I worked together, changing lines, symbols, and moving forms around, it became evident, there could be a different meaning and interruption by whomever studied the drawing. Here are some things I see. I would be interested in what your eyes see. Let me know.

Love your neighbor starts with both your heart and your mind. We read this several places in the Bible. The two peaks of buildings—are they houses next to each other? Or are they Houses of Worship? One has a Cross, Christianity, the other the Star of David, Judaism. Whichever they are, they are *Neighbors*, embracing each other. We must never forget that Jesus was a Jew, male, but not white middle class status. The symbols could change to represent other groups of people, religious or secular.

Take a look at the upper hand. The thumb is not complete. We should look at others who have any kind of deformity, small or large, and see them through the eyes of Jesus, and love them “as is”. If you look carefully, you will notice the “R” is different. Even though we humans may be very close to being the same, we are individuals; children of God, and each one of us is unique, but different. If we dwell on our “sameness” and not on our “differences”, we can find much to love about each other. Each of us is working towards the same goal; serving God. Reaching out to the stranger, the people on the margins, the people that society, and sometimes even the church, tosses aside, we can become more like Jesus, recusing the “souls” of the people who are our neighbors.

If you set aside time each day for study and prayer, look at these two Scriptures. Leviticus 19:18 Deuteronomy 6:4-6 Read them from different translations. If you do not set aside time each day, try doing it once a week. You will find your faith grows when you spend time with God. Look for another article in the next Michigan Bugle.

Prayers and Strength for the journey.  
2017

*Dan McRoberts, District Moderator*

## Common Spirit-

1. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will **be measured to you.**" Luke 6:38

I like the visual from this verse. Giving a good measure can shake you around and make your cup run over. At Common Spirit, giving our time and talent is just what we do. Over the last year, we've had several major volunteering projects.

The Nigerian Crisis Fund has been close to our hearts. When Zander Willoughby was talking to someone in the denomination, he said, "Giving money and praying are both good things but I'd like to do something more for Nigeria." He said he wouldn't make any plans for the next summer in case he would be needed. June 14, 2016 found Zander flying to Abuja, Nigeria. Over the next 6 weeks he visited people, he traveled, he made connections, he took pictures and he walked side by side with our Nigerian brothers and sisters.

Scot Miller has been giving his time and talent in Flint. He is working with the Flint Church of the Brethren folks to distribute water and to offer his skills as a social worker and worker for justice and peace. His blog, updated regularly can be found at <http://gospeloftheabsurd.wixsite.com/baptizedbyflint>

Jackie Suderman volunteers as an Art Studio/Gallery volunteer at Heartside Gallery, a program of Heartside Ministries. <http://heartside.org/programs/the-arts/> Neighbors at Heartside Gallery have the opportunity to create many different kinds of art and to earn a large portion of the selling price of their art pieces. Jackie says, "Healing comes through art. Volunteers encourage artists to share their stories through painting, drawing, wood working, fiber arts, etc. Heartside is a safe space to explore and find meaning." Jackie is a licensed professional counselor and enjoys building relationships with the neighbors in this non-clinical setting. She is amazed at the work the artists do and their willingness share their courage and raw feelings with the world. Jackie has shared opportunities to buy art pieces with others at Common Spirit.

Volunteering with refugees as a group by being a co-sponsoring church with Bethany Christian Services has been a wonderful opportunity for the entire congregation. Zoe Willoughby says, "Speaking the same language isn't a necessity for friendship." Our Congolese friends, Denise and her children, have very quickly become like family to many at Common Spirit. From donating toys, clothing, furniture and kitchen items to reading stories with the children to driving the family to appointments, there is a way for each person to serve. People from all over the Michigan District joined us in preparing a home for our new friends. A new family got involved in Common Spirit through this project. Helping others brings people together. Denise has expressed on numerous occasions her gratitude for this group of Mamas who love her so.

-Joanna Willoughby



Skyridge-

We place great importance on the support of our neighbors, human and non-human.

This support is not limited to physical and financial needs but includes needs for respect and justice. We have a history of standing with those discriminated against be it based on race, gender, or sexual orientation.

Our greatest efforts these last few years have been focused on the support of a young lady from Nigeria who lost the support of her family during her studies while so far away. Just yesterday we gathered in support and celebration of her progress thus far. Many were involved in this fundraising party in an effort to help her with legal fees needed to obtain her immigration status.

In the care of our grounds and building we strive to live simply and to live sustainably so that others may simply live. Several years ago we converted a neglected water detention area into a rain garden of plants native to Michigan. This supports local wildlife and provides a small bit toward a wildlife corridor for migrating birds and butterflies. Local residents are welcome to relax in our gardens, to play basketball just outside our backdoor, to rest on the bench out front while waiting for the city bus and soon to borrow books from a Free Little Library to be installed along Skyridge St. this fall.

In the past our building has served as an overflow shelter for homeless families. Currently we share our building one evening each week through-out the year with a support group that meets here, one afternoon each month with another spiritual growth group that meets here, **and one evening each week during the school year we host a Kalamazoo Public School's** literacy program where we help serve a meal & clean up.

Many in our congregation have service vocations; teaching others, advising others, counseling others, taking care of others. They also volunteer in areas of individual interests or concerns. The focus may be on youth / or homelessness / or peace / or hunger / or poverty / or literacy / or environmental/or equality – often some combination of these! Each is encouraged to contribute where they feel called.

We have individuals locally involved with or associated with:

Next Door / Open Door (shelter)

Ministry with Community (poverty)

Loaves and Fishes (hunger)

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Blood Drives (health)

Confections with Convictions (disadvantaged youth)

Faith Alliance (interfaith & discrimination)

Peace Pizzazz (interfaith, peace & children)

Peace House (peace & children)

Kalamazoo Non-violent Opponents to War (peace)

Gay Pride (respect)

Catholic Family Charities (poverty & holidays)

Supportive Communities Network & Brethren Mennonite Council (LGBTQ issues)

Michigan District, Church of the Brethren & Camp Brethren Heights (church family)

CoB Denomination, On Earth Peace & Church World Service (national & global)

Skyridge Church  
Outreach Committee Co-Chairs  
Karen Tomlonson & Cathy Metzler



## DISCIPLESHIP TEAM NOTES

**Deadline fast approaching! September 10 9 a.m.-Noon**  
***Congregational ethics: Patterns of healthy communities***

We need several district members to participate in this training to then pass along to individual church leadership and congregations. Cost is only \$10 dollars and if needed can be covered by the Discipleship Team. This is an online course that can be enjoyed in your P.J.'s from the comfort of your couch! CEU is also given for this course.

Please let Nate P. or Randy Short if you will be taking the course. Below is the link to register.

<https://www.mcpherson.edu/ventures/registration/>

**Sept. 10  
Ethics course**

**Don't forget to  
sign up for BDM  
mailers**

**September 21  
International day  
of Peace.**

**Pray for BDM  
project in Detroit**

**Sept. 30 – Oct. 1  
Childcare training  
for BDM at  
Skyridge COB**

### DISCIPLESHIP TEAM

Chair: Randy Short

livingpeacepastor@yahoo

**WE NEED CONTACTS FOR  
EACH CONGREGATION!!**



Dear Church of the Brethren Districts,

Our denomination showed amazing compassion and support for Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) in the immediate aftermath of the violence of Boko Haram. Now that EYN families and their neighbors have started the long journey of recovery and return of self sufficiency, we continue to walk with them and our support is still needed.

Nigeria workcamps, aimed at restoring some of the nearly 70 percent of church buildings lost during the crisis, are one way to offer this support. Workcamps will help to rebuild churches and repair church facilities, and will also be an opportunity to worship and pray in fellowship with the Nigerian Brethren and to encourage people as they recover.

Would you please share information about these workcamps with as many people as possible in your district?

We are hoping to create excitement about the camps in order to encourage our members to either travel to Nigeria to participate, or to support the camps through donations to the Church Rebuilding Fund (<http://www.brethren.org/nigeriacrisis/church-rebuilding.html>).

The attached flyer provides details, including costs, of the workcamps. The first workcamp is scheduled for November 4-21, 2016. The first two workcamps in 2017 are set for January 11-30 and February 17-March 6. Additional workcamps are being scheduled for 2017. Additional information can be found at <http://www.brethren.org/nigeriacrisis/action.html> or by contacting Kendra Harbeck at 847-429-4388 or [kharbeck@brethren.org](mailto:kharbeck@brethren.org). Since we were unable to get this flyer to you before your recent district conference, we would appreciate it if you could disseminate it in other ways within your district. Your District Disaster Coordinators are also being asked to share this information.

As we celebrate our connection with our Nigerian brothers and sisters and walk with them on their journey, we proclaim "zumunci a kafa taka - fellowship is in the feet!" Let it be so!

Blessings,  
Sharon

Sharon Billings Franzén  
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410-635-8731; 800-451-4407 ext.3  
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# Crisis in Nigeria



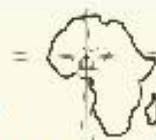
## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Join in support of our Nigerian Brethren on their Long Journey Home: Nigeria Workcamps are being formed to help rebuild churches, repair church facilities, to worship and pray in fellowship with the Nigerian Brethren and to encourage people as they recover. Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) families and their neighbors have started the long journey of recovery and return of self sufficiency. Join in helping communities and churches rebuild in Nigeria.



## NIGERIAN WORKCAMP

### WORK, WORSHIP & FELLOWSHIP



A Joint Church of the Brethren & EYN (Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) Project

#### Workcamp Dates:

- November 4th—21st, 2016
- January 11th -30th, 2017
- February 17th—March 6th, 2017
- Additional workcamps in 2017 are being planned

#### Workcamp Activities:

- Majority of work will focus on rebuilding churches
- May also assist with relief activities or distributions
- Worship and fellowship with Nigerian Brethren
- Life-changing cultural experience

**Workcamp Registration:** Registration forms and additional information can be found at:

- <http://www.brethren.org/nigeriacrisis/action.html>
- Call 847-429-4388 or email Kendra Harbeck at [kharbeck@brethren.org](mailto:kharbeck@brethren.org)
- Forms: Registration, Release/Covenant, Nigerian Visa Application, Questions and Answers

#### Important Dates:

- 90 days before workcamp: Registration, visa application and \$600 deposit due
- 60 days before workcamp: Balance of costs due (approx. \$2,000)—you will be notified of exact total.
- 90-60 days before travel meet with your doctor or a travel clinic about immunizations or medications

#### Workcamp Cost Estimate: \$2,600

- \$1,250 (approximate) - Air Transportation
- \$200 - Nigerian Visa
- \$650 - Housing, food and travel in Nigeria
- \$500 - Project materials for construction
- Expenses not included: vaccinations

**Seek Support:** Interested workcampers are encourage to seek support and prayers from their faith community for the workcamp

## SUPPORT CHURCH REBUILDING GRANTS

The Nigeria Church Rebuilding fund needs your support to provide a \$5,000 grant for each Church EYN rebuilds. Send your Support: Church of the Brethren Nigeria Church Rebuilding, 1451 Dundee Ave, Elgin IL 60120



[www.brethren.org/nigeriacrisis](http://www.brethren.org/nigeriacrisis) • [kharbeck@brethren.org](mailto:kharbeck@brethren.org) • 847-429-4388



## January

9-Program & Arrangements Meeting  
10-12 Pastor Retreat  
15-18 Senior High Rally  
24-28 CODE Meeting  
30- New Church Development & Renewal Team Meeting

## February

6-Camp Brethren Heights Inc meeting  
13-District Leadership Team Meeting

## March

19- Program & Arrangements Meeting  
31- April 2 Bethany Board Meeting

## April

2-4 CODE Meeting  
9- Meet the Moderator  
15-16 Young Adult Theological Forum

## May

7- Ministry Team Meeting  
19-21 Church Planting Conference  
27-30 Wolf Camp at CBH (family)

## June

29-July 3 Annual Conference  
16-18 Owl Camp at CBH (intergenerational)  
23-26 Red Tail Hawk Camp at CBH  
(Grades 10-12)  
26-2 Survivor Camp @ CBH (Ages 12-14)

## July

10-12 Otter Camp (grades 1-3)  
10-13 Archer Camp (ages 10-14)  
17-23 Beaver Camp (grades 4-6)  
24-30 Bobcat Camp (grades 7-9)  
31-6 Daddirri Camp (ages 15-18)

## August

19-20 District Conference

## October

28-30 Bethany Board Meeting



If you have an event or update you'd like listed in the Brethren Bugle, please email Emily at [\*\*brethrenbugle@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:brethrenbugle@gmail.com) with the information.

