

Illinois & Wisconsin District  
of the  
Church of the Brethren  
*District Minister: Jim Yaussy Albright*  
March 2005 Vol 2 Issue 2



**District Office**  
1S071 Luther Ave.  
Lombard, IL 60148-4163  
Phone: 630-261-0951  
Fax: 630-261-0956  
Beth Burnette Admin Asst.

---

---

### HELP NEEDED!!!

Your help is needed. There is a need for leadership to plan for the Junior High District Conference Retreat. The last several years there has been a retreat for Junior High age young people during District Conference. However, as of yet, no one has stepped forward and accepted the call to be in that role for this year. If you do not feel called to lead a retreat, perhaps you would be willing to plan activities for this age group during business sessions on Saturday. If you feel called to a leadership position for these young people for either a retreat setting or for the business session times or have questions concerning this, please contact Pat Rittle, District Moderator, at prittle5@sbcglobal.net. Thank you for your prayerful consideration on behalf of the Junior High age young people in our District. Help these young people to have the opportunity to share together at District Conference under your willing and able leadership. Without you, the Junior High young people may have NO activity at District

~~Conference. HELP!!~~

---

---

### FROM YOUR DISTRICT DEACONS:

(The District Deacons were created by the new District Leadership Team and introduced at the District Conference in Dixon. Their mission is to assist the District Minister and be an available, local resource for congregations in the Illinois/Wisconsin District.) ed.

The District Deacons have recently been working with several congregations, and are excited by the positive responses they have received. They have assisted congregations with issues around pastoral transition, and in conversations about leadership development and congregational health. **Please remember the District Deacons are a resource for your congregation.** Please continue to pray for our District Deacons, and for God to call out persons to be District Deacons. To contact the District Deacons you can call **Rev. Bob Smith 309-693-7065 or Allegra Hess 630-231-8846**

---

---

### Query Study Team Begin's Work

The Query Study Team met on Saturday, December 18th in Peoria. This Team was appointed by District Conference to study the Query on Homosexuality, which was brought by ten different Churches in our District. The team is Clareen Dunn, Kevin Kessler, Rick Koch, Ed Garrison and Esther Frey. Also attending was District Minister, Jim Yaussy-Albright. Moderator, Pat Rittle, couldn't attend but will serve on the team. Kevin Kessler was called to serve as Chair.

This first meeting consisted of discussions centered around the following:

1. Determining our Focus or what exactly is our Call? We decided our focus was to study the three main points of the Query and ask whether the 1983 paper and other Annual Conference statements already answer the several concerns of the query.
2. Talking about and sharing resources we need to read and determining who we need to contact.
3. Assigning a variety of tasks and required reading material for us all to consider.
4. Establishing a Timeline for our work to be accomplished. The next meeting of the Team will be a Conference Call on February 10th.

Rick Koch - Scribe

---

---

### Leadership Team February Update

*"The purpose of the Illinois/Wisconsin District of the Church of the Brethren is to support the growth and development of the member churches."*

The Leadership Team met at the Peoria Church of the Brethren on Saturday, February 5, 2005. Dana McNeil, Pastor of the Peoria congregation led opening devotions and shared the joys of his congregation. Here is a brief update from our meeting. If you have further questions, please contact your liaison or give me a call. Thank you for your support as we continue to do the work of Jesus Christ in this district.

Christy J. Waltersdorff, chair

## ACTION ITEMS:

We approved a very positive treasurer's report which included an end of the year report for 2004. This report reflected generous giving by congregations and individuals. Thank you to all who have supported the district financially in the past year. The Leadership Team is committed to "living within our giving."

## DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1- District Executive, Jim Yaussy Albright, shared an update on the current insurance crisis in the Brethren Medical Plan. An Insurance study committee will be called to assist the district in making decisions about insurance issues.

2- We will have three focus areas for our ministry in the coming year. The areas and related ministry teams include:

a- Financial: Funding team, Insurance team

b- Growth and Renewal: District Covenant team, Revitalization team

c- Communication/Community Building: District Directory, Newsletter and Website, Youth team, Disaster Response team, Peace team

The Leadership Team will be responsible for the following ministry areas: Ministerial Leadership Development team, District Deacons, Ethics team, Shalom team, and the Query study committee.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, March 12 at the Decatur Church of the Brethren.

**New Church Development Board (NCDB)** 2005 is starting out to be a very busy year for the NCDB. The board has met three times already in 2005. Goals have been set for the Board as well as for the Apostle (Jim Yaussy Albright). Workshops have been developed and are ready to be taken to congregations. The Board is looking for the best method of getting the word out. Here is a short list of the workshops developed for use in congregations: Servant-Evangelism; Personal Evangelism Training; Learning to "Grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ" - 2 Peter 3:18; Planting Brethren Churches; What does God want for your church? Percept Tools; The Power of Coaching; Church Planting (our vision); Reaching

the Next Generation. There are conversations with Church Planters and discussion on how God is leading the Board and our District to move forward with the Word of Christ in Illinois and Wisconsin.

The NCDB is off to an exciting year, and I am only the Moderator-Elect setting in as an ex-officio. I think we have much to watch for as the Lord leads the NCDB to grow the love of Jesus in our District and for our District.

Leonard W. Matheny, Moderator-Elect

---

## Naperville Church of the Brethren 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration



The Naperville Church of the Brethren cordially invites you to share in our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. God has truly blessed and led us as a congregation. Please join us in celebrating these blessings.

The date for our celebration will be the weekend just before Annual Conference - Friday, July 1<sup>st</sup> through Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2005.

If you need further information feel free to contact us in any of the following ways:

Phone: 630 355-7171

Fax: 630 355-9520

E-mail: [napervillecob@yahoo.com](mailto:napervillecob@yahoo.com)

We eagerly look forward for you to share with us in the momentous event in the life of our congregation.



---

## 219th Church of the Brethren Annual Conference July 2 through 6, 2005

---

Editors: Gil Crosby at [crosbygm@juno.com](mailto:crosbygm@juno.com) and Leonard Matheny at [mathelw@mindspring.com](mailto:mathelw@mindspring.com)