

## PURPOSE AND STRUCTURE OF THE BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE

### PURPOSE

To guide the District during the 2018 calendar year to explore re-covenanting options for congregations in light of the continuing same gender marriage division. This could extend into 2019 depending on the findings and needs. (Reference District Executive Minister John Jantzi's Pastoral Letter released in August 2017.)

### TASKS

1. To continue to facilitate gatherings, worship and Bible study on the theme "Jesus the Solid Rock" introduced at Shenandoah Conference 2017 as a way of focusing on our common identity in Christ. The full video of the conference will be available for distribution and development.
2. In the Spirit of Christ, develop a process for leave-taking if it is discerned that which divides is an insurmountable obstacle to continue under the same governing body.

### STRUCTURE

1. The District Leadership Team will call 10 persons who exhibit the following character and gifts:
  - a. People of deep and abiding faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior
  - b. Gifted in helping assist the District in renewal and restoration of our life together
  - c. Ability to work as part of a team
  - d. Rooted in concern and compassion for the District as a body
  - e. Understanding of Church of the Brethren history and theology
  - f. Skilled in organizational development and process
  - g. Skilled in envisioning alternatives and possibilities
2. The Committee will be divided into two sub-committees.
  - a. Team One: This team will focus on process, fiduciary concerns and structural options.
  - b. Team Two: This team will focus on relationship-building, worship events and our oneness in Christ.
3. Meetings will be held monthly.
  - a. The entire team will meet on odd months.
  - b. The sub-teams will meet on even months.
  - c. An orientation meeting will be held January/February 2018
4. The Blue Ribbon committee will keep the District Leadership Team apprised of progress and process. The Blue Ribbon Committee is a recommending body, not a decision-making body. Final actions and recommendations lie with the District Leadership Team.

### 5. COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jon Prater, <i>Chair</i> (No Vote)	Mt. Zion/Linville
Jonathan Brush	Lebanon
Heather Driver	Bridgewater
Hobert Harvey	Bethel-Mayland
Terry Jewell	Knights Chapel
LaDawn Knicely	Beaver Creek
David Miller	Montezuma
Carter Myers	Mill Creek
Nate Rittenhouse	New Hope
Karen Shiflet	Mt. Bethel

### EX-OFFICIO

John Jantzi	District Executive Minister, Shenandoah District
David Shumate	District Executive Minister, Virlina District
Phil Stone, Jr.	Attorney

### CONSULTING AS NEEDED

Marty Barlow	Experienced in conflict transformation
Larry Glick	Former Associate District Executive
Mark Flory Steury	Former pastor and Southern Ohio District Executive