

Southern Ohio/Kentucky District Church of the Brethren

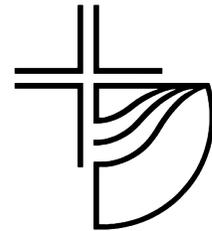
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Church of the Brethren

May 13, 2020

Sisters and Brothers,

Many of us hoped for an immediate return to “normal” following the CoVid-19 pandemic; however, it has become clear that our churches will need to return to in-person gatherings in stages, with care, and not right away.

Your District Board urges you, sisters and brothers, to resist the temptation to begin in-person gatherings at this time.

Instead, use this time to consider and pray over the gathering practices your congregation will implement when we can begin gathering again. Take your time, move with intention and purpose. As people of faith, we are compelled to love our neighbor. In such a time as this, that love has been lived out through physical distancing, wearing masks, hand washing, figuring out online platforms, and more. In the coming weeks as we together consider how to resume gathering in person, what does loving our neighbor look like?

Out of a deep care for one another we strongly advise our churches to continue to love one another from afar until the Board can re-evaluate the situation at the end of May.

For your consideration, the following are documents the Board has found helpful in offering this guidance:

Wisconsin Council of Churches Statement

(<https://www.wichurches.org/2020/04/23/returning-to-church/>)

Ohio Citizens for Community Values

(<https://www.ccv.org/2020/04/27/citizens-for-community-values-releases-phased-approach-guidelines-for-churches-resuming-public-worship-services/>)

As one board member shared in our recent meeting, “if we are going to err, let’s err on the side of being too caring.” We are with you, sisters and brothers.

In the love and care of Christ,

Jennifer K Scarr, Board Chair

Todd Reish, Board Vice Chair

On behalf of your District Board