SOUTHWESTERN OHIO DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
District Advisory Board Meeting
September 1, 2026 – 7:00 PM

Chairman: Daryl Blank
Members: Ministers –Terry Blosser, Kyle Lanham, Alex Mahaffey, Adam Profitt, Shelia Slone, Tom Zile;
Laypersons – Michael Graves, Karen Helton *(via Zoom)*, Gary Johnson, Paul Lail *(via Zoom)*, Carol Neeld, Jill Peddenpohl
District Treasurer – Lee Van Houten; District Secretary – Dave Crofford
HGCRC – Mark Lingle / NDI – Kalyn Vogelmann / NMI - Pam Caroll / NYI – Teresa Bowden
Guest: Nick McDowell

MINUTES (Respectfully submitted by Jill Peddenpohl DAB Recording Secretary)
Pastor Daryl opened them meeting at 6:58 p.m.

1. Introductions: *Pastor Daryl shared fortune cookies and then had each member introduce themselves.*

2. Devotions & Prayer: Nick McDowell *(Each DAB meeting a different Pastor from the district will be invited to come share a devotional.)*

Pastor Nick shared from Matthew 14 cautioning about the danger of playing is safe. Peter got out of the boat to "walk on water" to be where Jesus was. The safest place to is being where Jesus is. If we are not careful, we can play it too safe and miss what God wants. Take Spirit-led risks and not be controlled by fear. We have to trust him and get out of the boat.

[Pastor Nick left the meeting after Alex Mahaffey prayed for him.]

3. Orientation:

Handouts were provided that guided Pastor Daryl's orientation discussion:

- *Committee Discussion:*
  - *Three committees had been started in the past that may need to gain renewed traction: Growth of Existing Locations / International Support / Diversity Assistance*
  - *Grant committee – is made up of Alex Mahaffey, Gary Johnson & Carol Neeld …*
- *Two corrections on "District Boards" page:*
  - *Mr. JC Slone should be listed as part of Properties Board*
  - *Pam Carroll should have "- By Office" behind her name under District Camp Board*
- *Pastor Daryl stressed the following:*
  - *Confidentiality*
  - *Timely attendance*
  - *Prayerful preparation*
  - *District participation*
- *Camp Meeting is scheduled for July 14 -18. He is still working to secure a speaker.*

- *Other sheets in Orientation package:*
  - *Higher Ground Map*
  - *USA/Canada District map*
  - *Ohio county map with the 12 counties part of the SWO district hi-lighted.*
  - *SWO District Church map (Correction shared that it is Xenia Kinsey (not Kensey))*
- *Contact information for counselors was provided for pastors struggling. Becky Brown, President of New Life Ministries is another resource in this area.*
- *The District Christmas Banquet is 12/7. The district pays for the DAB lay members.*
- *Pulpit Supply List was provided.*
- *Responsibilities of the DAB handout provided.*
- *The District Survey indicated that the next DS should have the following Traits/Skills on which Pastor Daryl will provide updates on in the future meetings:*
  - *Leadership Development*
  - *Pastoral Assessment & Placement*
  - *Effective Communication*
  - *Vision Casting*
  - *Church Renewal and Revitalization*
- *Information was shared regarding the role of the DS, and he went on to share that he spent 6 hours with Eddie Estep and participated in two DS trainings.*

[HGCRC – Mark Lingle / NDI – Kalyn Vogelmann / NMI - Pam Caroll / NYI – Teresa Bowden left the meeting prior to DAB specific business.]

4. Reports:

A. Recording Secretary – Jill Peddenpohl

1. April Minutes 4/28/26
2. June Zoom Minutes 6/15/26
3. July Minutes 7/13/26
4. 6/23 Email Vote to approve the appointment of Meredith Moser to be Pastor of Evangelical Church. Motion Passed Unanimously

MOTION: Alex Mahaffey made the motion to receive the April 28, 2026, June 15, 2026, Zoom, and July 13, 2026, Meeting Minutes and 6/23/2026 E-mail vote. Seconded by Gary Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

B. District Treasurer – Lee Van Houten

1. Treasurer's Reports

Lee took us a detailed journey through the financials.

MOTION: Tom Zile made the motion to receive the Treasurer's report. Seconded by Adam Profitt. Motion passed unanimously.

C. District Secretary – David Crofford

1. Credentials/Transfers.

MOTION: Jill Peddenpohl made the motion to approve secretaries report that included:

- ***Transfer into SWO Zac Caddy OE from the Michigan District***
- ***Transfer into SWO Daniel Trimbach LM from the NW Ohio District***
- ***Restore the Elders Credentials to Thomas Gurschick which were filed-without prejudice.***

Seconded by Terry Blosser. Motion passed unanimously.

Dave Crofford also reported that the response has been that the electronic balloting went well overall. He went on to acknowledge that there is an awareness that more registration stations are needed.

D. Higher Ground Conference and Retreat Center:

1. Finance Report

Mark Lingle shared that the new entrance is complete, and that the camp is doing well financially even though August was without income. They are booked all of 2027 and into 2028.

MOTION: Alex Mahaffey made the motion to receive the Higher Ground report. Seconded by Terry Blosser. Motion passed unanimously.

E. Reports of New Start/District Supported Ministries – *no update.*

5. Pastoral Changes / Reviews

A. In Process**:**

1. Brookville
2. Eaton
3. Evangelical
4. Victory

B. Installations:

1. Terry Kid – Waynesville – April 26, 2026
2. Thomas Gurschick – Brookville, June 14, 2026
3. Brian Powell – Springdale, August 30, 2026

C. Reviews:

1. Tammy Stone – West Union, May 4, 2026
2. Nelson Escobar – Bethesda, May 17, 2026
3. Jessie Aaron – Cedarville, May 19, 2026
4. Gary Zornes – Felicity, May 24, 2026
5. Adam Profitt – Middletown 1st, June 14, 2026
6. William Bockhorst – New Richmond, June 19, 2026
7. Dave Oursler – New Lockland, June 28, 2026

8. Ross Norris – Amelia, June 30, 2026
9. Gustave Ujeneza – August 9, 2026
10. Steve Queen – Harrison, June 26, 2026

6. Information & Action Items:

A. Fairfax & Mount Carmel –
Background: Fairfax and Mt. Carmel merged, prior to the merger Pastor Bob had a conversation with Steve Merritt that the proceeds from the sale of Mt. Carmel property would be divided between the church and the district. Had Mt. Carmel been closed all proceeds would have come to the district. Now that the building has sold for $364K, the church is requesting all the proceeds from the sale. Proceeds from a building sale cannot be used for operating costs. The church has about 20 attenders and has not paid budgets, One thought is to have them pay back 4-5 years of unpaid budgets/tithe to the district. Pastor Daryl plans to invite Pastor Steve to come to speak to the DAB at the next meeting.

B. Storage Room
Pastor Daryl shared that they are cleaning out the storage room and wondering what could be disposed of. Tom Zile recommended keeping financial for 7 years and using discretion on other items.

C. Grant Proposals
Two grant proposals were received one from Cedarville for the Hope House and the second from Tri County to offset costs for a Youth Pastor, each for $5K.

MOTION: Alex Mahaffey made the motion to approve the two grants to Cedarville and Tri-County. Seconded by Terry Blosser. (not voted on)
AMENDED MOTION: Michael Graves amended the motion to approve the grant to Tri-County and gather more information on the Cedarville request. Seconded by Tom Zile. Motion passed unanimously.

D. **Naming Camp Entrance** –
Pastor Daryl shared that a suggestion was received a naming the new camp entrance after Chuck and Brenda Hail. Shared for information and no action taken.

E. **Chaplaincy Director** *(Update supersedes the 7/13 meeting)*
MOTION: Kyle Lanham made the motion to approve Mark Cravens as Chaplaincy Director for the 2026-2027 Church Year. Seconded by Adam Profitt. Motion passed unanimously.

F. Emeritus Status – Bob Mahaffey
MOTION: Jill Peddenpohl made the motion to approve status of Emeritus for Bob Mahaffey. Seconded by Sheila Slone. Motion passed unanimously.

G. Tracy Blank
Pastor Daryl shared the Tracy will be working at the District Office 2 days a week as his personal assistant.

H. Per diem General Assembly 2027

MOTION: Alex Mahaffey made the motion that the district follow recommendations from the General Church for the per diem and lodging for Convention and General Assembly delegates. Seconded by Tom Zile. Motion passed unanimously.

The Detailed information below was provided by Terry Blosser:

Per Diem

As a guideline, the U.S. General Services Administration provides the following 2026 per diem rates for Kansas City, Missouri:

a. *Meals and Incidentals: $80 per day (Breakfast-$20/ Lunch-$22/ Dinner-$33/ Incidentals-$5)*

b. *First and Last Day of Travel: $60*

Lodging and Parking

For a listing of hotels and rates: Click Here (prices range from $169 to $215 per night - before taxes and fees)

Number of Days to Budget

General Assembly-only delegates will need to stay eight (8) nights.
Convention-only delegates will need to stay four (4) nights.
Delegates to the General Assembly and one convention will need to stay nine (9) nights.

I. District Office Remodel

The request was made to invest $20K in updating the District Office with fresh paint ($5K) and new carpet ($15K). It has been 25 years since the office has been updated. Paul mentioned that with the increase to 4% for the district allocation there is the potential of a $50K surplus to budget.

MOTION: Tom Zile made the motion to remodel the office up to $20K that will be recorded against budget line 6024-00 repairs and maintenance. Seconded by Kyle Lanham. Motion passed unanimously.

J. Amelia Parsonage

The Amelia parsonage has a mold issue and damage to the foundation. It would cost $18K to tear it down. This will be referred to the Properties Committee.

7. DS Updates:

A. *Text threads have been created for DAB and DAC.*
B. *Tracy is collecting contact information for Pastor's wives.*
C. *Christmas Banquet, December 7th, all are encouraged to come.*
D. *Attended a Church Planting Assessment meeting.*
E. *Had several meetings with various committees.*
F. *Visited Mt Vernon.*
G. *Weekly Staff meetings every Wednesday (Daryl, Dave, Bob & Rhonda)*
H. *New District Facebook page*
I. *Higher Ground Flooding*

J. Credentials retreat could be a time to promote church planting.

K. General Assembly will be June 25-July 2 – Delegates will receive information about making hotel accommodations before it goes public.

L. District Assembly and Conventions (NMI and NDI)

There is still a discussion regarding the best timing for NMI and NDI conventions. One suggestion is to have NMI on Saturday at a location of their choosing and NDI at a different time (possibly November) with potential additional training opportunities.

MOTION: Terry Blosser made the motion to set the location for District Assembly in 2027 as Be Hope/Beavercreek with the following proposed schedule and dates:

- ***Sunday, July 11th: Evening Ordination Service***
- ***Monday, July 12th: District Assembly***

Seconded by Tom Zile. Motion passed unanimously.

M. Informational – Countryside's school was wanting to use Solid Rock Church for the interim and Monroe City Council said no. Solid Rock took legal action, and Countryside was named as one of the plaintiffs.

N. For consideration – If funding were available, he would like to hire a media person for the district that would be available to go to any of our churches, camp meeting, Christmas banquet to assist with media and media projects.

O. Fundraising and Grant writing – if there is someone good with Grant writing there is an opportunity to get a Lilly Grant and that grant money could go toward training.

P. He would like to establish a District Leadership and Mission Fund account to be used for equipping, training and mentoring pastors and look for ways to raise funds for the account.

Q. Other updates and ideas:

1) *Researching places for Pastors and Spouses retreat. Considering Amish Country.*
2) *Considering having a Pastor's Camp – 1 or 2 nights with fun and training.*
3) *Wants to establish Zone Leaders*
4) *International Ministries – Ensure we have translation at any district event.*
5) *Suggestion – to have a SWO Hispanic Day*

8. Finance Committee Proposals:
Higher Ground Entrance – Note Receivable:

Information provided in a separate handout from the Finance Chairperson typed for support of the motion:

Current Situation:

1) *Balance of Prior Note Receivable to Higher ground as of 8/1 is $80,602.85 at 5.5% interest.*
2) *The district has paid invoices of $128,530.34 on 7/10/26 and $128,530.34 on 8/5/26 towards the new entrance, for a total of $257,060.68. The first invoice was paid out of account 1016-03 New Start Account (Wesleyan), the second invoice was paid out of account 1017-03 New Start Endowment (Nazarene).*
3) *Remaining invoice outstanding for completion of work is expected to be around $120,000 and Mark Lingle indicates that Higher Ground can pay this invoice out of their own funds.*

Proposal:

1) *Combine existing note of $80,602.85 with new payments of $257,060.68 into a new note, with a total balance of $337,663.53.*
2) *As Higher Ground needs to keep monthly payments around $3,500, reduce the note interest to 4.5% (what we currently receive from WIF).*
3) *With a 10-year term, monthly payment will be set at $3,499.49, starting in September.*

MOTION: Terry Blosser made the motion to combine existing and new Higher Ground note balances, reducing interest rate to 4.5% with 10-year term, first payment due in September 2026. Seconded by Adam Profitt. Motion passed unanimously.

Lee shared that as of 8/31/26 the balance of the existing note was $79,167.90 and that 4.25% is the current rate of return on WIF.

There was discussion around the $30K to Higher Ground that was not put into the budget this year because of the pending loan.

[Pastor Daryl Blank and Pastor Dave Crofford]

MOTION: Terry Blosser made the motion to change the budget for the DS salary to the updated salary amount. Seconded by Karen Helton. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Terry Blosser made the motion to declare annual amount of DS Housing Allowance (in account 4214-00) to be set at $40,000. Seconded by Alex Mahaffey. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Terry Blosser made the motion to set DS Retirement 403(b) (in account 4316-00) at $30,000 starting in January 2027. Seconded by Gary Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Terry Blosser made the motion to add to the budget the compensation for the DS Emeritus position at $15,000 Housing Allowance per year. Seconded by Kyle Lanham. Motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Terry Blosser made the motion to increase Office Secretary salary budget account 4103-00 by $800 and add new accounts 4108-00 at $6,300 and 4112-00 at $10,600 to break out secretary and personal assistant compensation. Seconded by Gary Johnson. Motion passed unanimously.

Kyle Lanham closed us in prayer at 10:16 p.m.

Pastor Daryl discussed moving meetings to Saturday. It was determined to keep the November and January meetings on the original date but continue to have further discussion.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

DATE:	TIME:	**OR**	SATURDAY:	TIME:
11/10/26 Keep	7:00 PM		11/14/26	9:00 AM
01/05/27 Keep	7:00 PM		01/09/27	9:00 AM
03/09/27	7:00 PM		03/06/27	9:00 AM
05/04/27	7:00 PM		05/08/27	9:00 AM
07/12/27	Conclusion of Assembly			
09/14/27	7:00 PM		09/18/27	9:00 AM
11/02/27	7:00 PM		11/06/27	9:00 AM