

Who Does What? *The Boundaries of Board and Staff*

Virlina District Board, OMC, and NCDC Retreat, January 6, 2018 at Camp Bethel

Galatians 5:22-23: But the **fruit of the Spirit** is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

John 15:5-8: "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, **that you bear much fruit**, showing yourselves to be my disciples."

Best Practices of "Bear much fruit"

1. God wants us to do our best, to seek excellence, to be ambassadors for Christ.
2. Stay informed. Because no money could mean no mission. (Total transparency.)
3. God designs, creates and chooses for purpose. Each Board member and Staff member is important to this mission.
4. Stay connected to Jesus and each other.

VIRLINA DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

"God saw everything that He had made, and, indeed, it was very good." (Genesis 1:31 NRSV)

God is the active creator of all things. God speaks and the world is formed. God acts and the human family is created in God's image. God calls all persons into the family of God.

Through Jesus Christ, God speaks, acts and calls into being a new community; a community of love, compassion, justice and peace. Christians are those people who accept that call and strive to follow the one whose name they bear.

We, the Virlina District of the Church of the Brethren, accept God's call. By the power of the Holy Spirit we seek to be faithful to the Gospel in word and deed. Drawing upon our Pietist and Anabaptist traditions, we affirm that faith cannot be constrained by simple statements and creeds. Therefore, we hold the New Testament to be our rule of faith and practice.

"...be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God - what is good and acceptable and perfect." (Romans 12:2 NRSV)

That which God creates, God also redeems. Therefore the mission of the Virlina District is to:

- be faithful caretakers of this wondrous gift through outdoor ministries
- promote renewal through education, spiritual growth and worship.

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." (1 Peter 2:9 NRSV)

Through baptism, each Christian is called to be in ministry. Therefore the mission of the Virlina District is to:

- equip and strengthen local congregations;
- join with congregations in calling and training persons for set-apart ministry;
- identify and develop human and material resources for the work of the District.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to obey everything that I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20a NRSV)

"...truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." (Matthew 25:40 NRSV)

As those who continue the work of Jesus, the mission of the Virlina District is to:

- encourage congregations to call new disciples;
- establish fellowships that share the vision of the Church of the Brethren;
- create and support compassion, justice, peace and love.

OURS IS A GREAT CALLING. MAY GOD BLESS OUR EFFORTS IN MISSION AND MINISTRY. AMEN.

CAMP BETHEL MISSION:

Together: with God, each other, and all creation.

Camp Bethel is the outdoor ministry of the Virginia District Church of the Brethren that exists to foster and build relationships with God, with each other, and with all of God's creation, TOGETHER. We live this ministry through our summer camps, our services, and availability of our facilities to people of all denominations and backgrounds.

- Continue to live out our Brethren heritage.
- Provide intentional places apart to connect with God.
- Nurture faith and discipleship.
- Develop Christian spiritual leaders.
- Collaborate with District churches and CoB ministries.
- Teach Creation care and appreciation.
- Extend genuine Christian hospitality and community.
- Equip campers and guests to do love and justice.

When we live TOGETHER in intentional community, (even for only one week), we gain person-to-person skills to benefit our homes, schools, churches, communities, nation, and world.

"Thy Kingdom come... on Earth..."

BOARD = Support the mission. STAFF = Enact the mission

Responsibilities of the BOARD & COMMITTEES

1. **Support the mission.** Do we take the mission to heart? Are we passionate about the mission? Do we KNOW the mission?
2. Approve policies that ensure resources and strategic planning. Do policies and plans support the mission?
3. Enhance public standing in order to advance the mission. We are ambassadors.
4. Support the staff and work to improve Board function. **Focus on mission, not minutia.**

Responsibilities of the STAFF

1. **Enact the mission.** Are we passionate about the mission? Do we COMMUNICATE the mission?
2. Implement policies that ensure resources and strategic planning. Do policies and plans support the mission?
3. Run the operation, manage staff. Staff handles the minutia within the mission.
4. Be a resource for Board work and keep board informed. Full transparency of the big picture.

"Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me." John 15:4