

July 1, 2020



Greetings Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As Pandemic Living continues, I am writing to inform you of an opportunity for you and for our community: a congregational survey. Starting in 2018, Salem Church of the Brethren engaged on a journey of intentional conversation discern what our vision will be going forward. This work is not work that should be done quickly, but thoroughly. This survey is the next step as we draw closer to understanding our part in bring God's kingdom to our time. The survey will be used to help mold and shape the future of Salem Church of the Brethren. The future can

be scary and exciting. You are being invited to participate in this survey by the 2020 Salem Church of the Brethren Church Board.

The survey comes to us from the Missional Renewal Team for the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District's collaborative work with Jonathan Shively of ArtistryLeads. Attached to this letter is a Frequently Asked Questions sheet to answer potential questions. The estimated time to complete the survey is 30 minutes. In 30 minutes you can help inform the work of Salem going forward in a way that is highly useful. The Board for Salem Church of the Brethren decided to use this survey after asking Dave Shetler for ways to possibly reorganize and restructure the way the board operates.

Dave presented to the board in February 2020 the option of engaging in this survey and stressed the importance of having data available to help guide the work we were seeking. As he spoke it became clear that the work of the board and the ongoing conversations about our vision going forward would greatly benefit from this survey.

Here are some of the ways that this survey information is likely to be used to form the work of the Salem Church of the Brethren:

- Inform the vision work that has been done to determine goals and timetables for focused effort
- Inform exploration for faith development opportunities and ways to support Salem's place of welcome.
- Inform and assist the governance of the church (i.e. Board) to assure that we are structured in an effective manner
- Identify areas of excitement and strength within our community
- Identify areas of development and potential growth

- Name areas of witness and outreach for our participation
- Inform projects and work that will be done to our physical property

That partial list reflects some of the important work and conversations that are ongoing within our community. That list also reflects the importance of your thoughts and opinions to aid and provide wisdom for our community as we develop and grow the kingdom of God here and now. The invitation extended to you comes from prayer and trust in your willingness to engage in sharing your thoughts, joys, anxiety and wisdom.

You can access the link to answer the questions online at our webpage www.salemcob.org. If you would like the survey to come in paper form, please contact Carrie and she will have it mailed to you. The survey is available from July 1, 2020 to July 31, 2020. Answers are anonymous and if you do submit a paper copy, the answers will be submitted and then the paper will be destroyed. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Lee as soon as possible.

Thank you for continuing on this journey with us Sisters and Brothers in Christ

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lee D. Saylor", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Pastor Lee D. Saylor