



## **Camp Eder Welcomes Bryan Smith as Executive Director**

On February 13, 2017 Bryan Smith began his tenure as Camp Eder's Executive Director. This was the culmination of a rigorous search process that was made necessary by Executive Director Alan Patterson's sudden passing last April.

The Lord has blessed us with His providential care in many ways. The camp staff, board members, and many volunteers pulled together in amazing ways to carry forward the ministries of the camp. We were abundantly blessed to have the capable and Godly leadership of Ann Cornell who agreed to serve as our interim director. We cannot thank Ann enough for her incredible job!

The search committee appointed by the Camp Eder board was made up of the following persons: Melinda Carlson, Stan Goodwin, Georgia Markey, Arlene Martin, Kim Miles, Ted Schmittel, Bill Waugh, and Leon Yoder. The committee worked diligently for nearly nine months. During that time the executive director job description was updated, the search process was refined, the position was advertised nationwide, and 26 applications were received. Search committee members spent many hours as individuals and as a group prayerfully reviewing the resumes and prioritizing them based on our perceptions of each candidate's spiritual maturity, work experience, character traits, leadership abilities, and how all that matched with our expectations for the executive director position. During December and January, the committee conducted phone interviews with the most promising candidates and then conducted "face to face" interviews with the top candidates from that process. Bryan Smith became a very clear choice for the search committee and on Jan 23, 2017 he accepted the unanimous invitation of the full Camp Eder board to serve as the Executive Director.

We give the Lord praise for His guidance in the search process and ask His blessings on Bryan Smith as he provides leadership for Camp Eder. I am pleased to let Bryan introduce himself and his family to you.

Blessings,  
Leon Yoder  
Camp Eder Board Chair

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Bryan grew up in northeastern Ohio as the son of a camp director, working out the details of God's call on his life to continue the impact of outdoor ministry. His claim to fame is his wonderful family of seven: his best friend & wife, Kelli and five amazing kids. Bryan has lived and served in leadership over 30 years in camps, nonprofits and businesses, in Ohio, Georgia, South Carolina and Pennsylvania. His passion is seeing camps refocus their attention on changed lives through outdoor ministry, fundraising and building community with an Anabaptist perspective. He loves biology, farming & permaculture, beekeeping, rabbits, reading and nomads. Bryan joined Camp Eder as executive director to be prayer warrior, team supporter, impact-maker and story teller.