

District Conference Program Committee Report

Committee Members:

John E. Price, Moderator, Chair
Sara Haldeman-Scarr, Moderator-Elect
Linda Hart (Pomona Fellowship)
Peggy Redman (Pomona Fellowship)
Deb Merrifield-Carothers (Circle of Peace)
Robert Aguirre (Cornerstone, Reedley)
Kirsten Storne-Piazza (Live Oak)

Ex-Officio Members of the Committee:

Board Chair: Marye Martinez
District Executive Minister: Russ Matteson
District Youth Advisor: Dawna Welch

On-Site Coordinator:

Karleen Daniels (Modesto)

We, here in the PSWD, are very fortunate in the dedication and quality of the people who volunteer to lead our district as Board Members and Committee Members. It has been my pleasure to work with the Program Committee in Planning the 53rd District Conference for the Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren this past year.

The committee began their work last year as they looked forward to this year's conference. We began this year's work by coming together at the Modesto Church of the Brethren, the site of conference for 2016. Those of us living and serving in Northern California appreciate it when District Conference comes north. It has been especially nice for me as District Moderator to have the location so close to home. We viewed the Church plant to see how we would use the space available for Conference. We set the schedule for the weekend. We secured leadership for the Worship Services and Insight Sessions. John E. Price will bring us to Worship Friday evening around the theme of Family. A team from Program Committee will lead the Saturday Evening Worship Service. Carol Scheppard, Annual Conference Moderator, will be our speaker for the Sunday Morning Worship Service. As a part of the Friday Night Worship Service we will be dedicating gifts of support for our Service Project for the 2016 District Conference. That Service

Project is "Family Promise of Greater Modesto" an organization to help homeless families stay safe as they rebuild their lives.

This year's Program Committee also took a look at the District Conference format, considering if it would be a good idea to meet only one day to conduct business. We asked for input from the Policy Board. The general consensus was that we need the three day schedule to have time to come together for gathering, worship, business, and information. It was decided to leave it as it is for the time being.

It is our hope that as we come together as "The Family of God" we will be encouraged, inspired and informed as to how we can enhance our local congregations to better serve each other and our communities.

Come, relax and enjoy the "Family" as we gather to Glorify God and serve our brothers and sisters in obedience to the "Good News" of God in and through Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior.

John E. Price

Program Committee Chair

