

Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren

Minute Book



44th Annual District Conference
October 12-14, 2007

Hosted by:

La Verne Church of the Brethren
2425 "E" Street, La Verne, CA 91750-4994
909-593-4620 fax / (909) 593-1364 voice
www.LaVerneCoB.org

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**Minutes of the
Forty-Fourth Annual District Conference
Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren**

October 12-14, 2007

La Verne Church of the Brethren, La Verne, CA

The Pacific Southwest District supports the life, growth, and witness of Church of the Brethren congregations within its boundaries for the building up of the body of Christ, through nurturing its congregations toward healing and wholeness, consciously lifting up joys and sharing in pains of its members and congregations, building inter-congregational and denominational relationships, within the faithful witness of Scripture, recognizing that the statements of Annual Conference reflect the consensus of our larger community of faith.

(Some Scriptures that undergird and direct the above thinking are: Ephesians 4:11-16; Galatians 6:1-10; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; 1 Corinthians 12; Romans 12, Matthew 5-7; Luke 15; and John 15.) Mission Statement from District Conference, 1996

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order with prayer.

II. Announcements, Appointments, and Introductions of Special Guests: Timekeeper: Mariza Naylor; Parliamentarian: Eric Bishop; Head teller: Larry Woodruff; Translators: Alfredo and Carrie Cesar; Committee for Review of 2007 Minutes: Everett Deidiker; Emily Bosley; Karen Wolff.

III. Quorum

There are 25 churches represented and 70 delegates present; a quorum was declared to be present.

IV. Delegate Dedication: The delegates were dedicated. (Page 7 of the business book.)

V. Opening Prayer: John Price offered prayer.

VI. Approval of 2006 Minutes

Karen Walters, Richard Downhour, and Annette Martin have reviewed the minutes of the 2006 Pacific Southwest District Conference and verified that the minutes are correct. ***The Minutes were approved by consensus.***

VII. The Brethren Youth Heritage Team

Kelsey Boardman, Edward Cesar, Sheree Frison, and Marion Frison of the Brethren Youth Heritage Team presented a skit.

VIII. Agency Reports

A. University of La Verne and Hillcrest Reports

Julia Wheeler (University of La Verne) gave a brief report. Charles Cable (Hillcrest Retirement Community) gave a brief report.

B. General Board, BBT, and Bethany Reports

Steve Mason (Brethren Benefit Trust) and Lowell Flory (Bethany Theological Seminary) reported on national denominational agencies and directed us to read reports in the business book (pages 52 - 64) and presented a PowerPoint presentation on the five agencies: Association of Brethren Caregivers, Bethany Theological Seminary, Brethren Benefit Trust, General Board, and On Earth Peace. James Brunk spoke briefly about his experience at Bethany Theological Seminary.

1 **IX. Reports from Pacific Southwest District**

2 **A. District Board Report**

3 Board Chair Jim Davis gave a report from the Pacific Southwest District Board and directed us
4 to pages [36](#) - [45](#) of the business book for written reports.

6 **B. District Executive Minister's Report**

7 1. Bryan Boyer gave a report on his last four and a half years as District Executive Minister
8 and gave highlights of some of the recent activities (page [29](#) of the business book).

9 2. **Center for Brethren Studies Report**

10 Doris Dunham gave a report of Center for Brethren Studies (CBS) and the Credo
11 program. She directed us to page [31](#) of the business book for a full report.

13 **C. Approval of Reports**

14 **Sharon Sparks / Gilbert Romero moved and seconded to approve the Agency, District,
15 General Brotherhood Board, BBT, and Bethany, District Board, and District Executive
16 Minister reports. *Passed.***

18 **D. District Conference Program Committee Report**

19 1. Sara Haldeman-Scarr reported on the activities of the District Conference Program
20 Committee and directed us to read page [33](#) of the business book for a full report. Annual
21 Conference 2009 will be held June 27-July 1, 2009, at the Town and Country Center in
22 San Diego. District Conference 2008 will be held November 7-9, 2008, in Fresno.

23 2. **Willard Olwin / Janet Hart moved and seconded to accept the Program Committee
24 Report. *Passed.***

26 **X. Auditor's Report**

27 Larry Woodruff distributed auditor's reports on request.

29 **XI. Closing of the Panorama City Church of the Brethren**

30 **The District Board recommends approval for the Panorama City Church of the Brethren to be
31 closed. The property has been sold and the assets were turned over to the PSWD. *Passed,
32 unanimously.* John Price offered prayer over the closing of the Panorama City Church.**

34 **XII. Presentation of Proposed Unity Statement**

35 A. Jim Davis presented the proposed Unity Statement (page [16](#) of the business book).

36 B. **The District Board recommends approval of the Unity Statement. *Passed, unanimously.***

38 **XIII. Budget for 2008**

39 A. Bill Johnson spoke about the proposed budget for 2008 (beginning on page [12](#) of the business
40 book) and explained the investments and grant requests.

41 B. **The District Board recommends approval of the 2008 Budget. *Passed, unanimously.***

43 **XIV. Election of Officers**

44 A. The ballot is on page [8](#) of the business book. The Standing Committee Delegate, Roma Jo
45 Thompson, is moving out of the district and a question was raised as to how she should be
46 replaced. Joe Vecchio answered that Lucile Leard is the alternate and will take Roma Jo's place.
47 The district board can appoint another alternate.

48 B. **Willard Olwin / Barbara Ober moved and seconded to accept the slate of board officers.
49 *Passed.***

50 1. Moderator Elect, Jim Martinez (Modesto)

51 2. Policy Board: SoCA-West, Cady Laycock (Southbay)

3. Policy Board: SoCA-East, Mercedes Zapata (Príncipe de Paz)
4. Policy Board: At large, Juanita Lapp (La Verne)
5. Policy Board: At large, Erin McCourt, Fellowship in Christ, Fremont)
6. Policy Board: At large, Don Fancher, (South Bay)
7. Policy Board: At large, James Brunk (The Well, Tucson)
8. Policy Board: Youth/YAdult, Vivian Vecchio (Glendora)
9. Policy Board: Youth/YAdult, Edward Cesar (Papago Buttes)
10. Policy Board: Youth/YAdult, Jennette Lovelace (Pomona Fellowship)
11. Program Committee, Sara Haldeman-Scarr (San Diego)
12. Nominating Committee, Donna Stanford (Waterford)
13. Nominee to Hillcrest Board, Mary Kay Ogden (La Verne)
14. Nominee to Camp La Verne Board, Chris Hartzell (Bakersfield)

XV. Recognition of Bryan Boyer as District Executive Minister

Mary Kay Ogden recognized Bryan Boyer for his hard work as DE for the last four years and seven months. Bryan received a standing ovation from the conference attendees for his hard work.

XVI. Presentation of Revised Constitution and By-laws

- A. Paul Lovelace presented the recommendation from the board concerning the revision of the constitution and by-laws (page [17](#), [28](#), Exhibit F of the business book) regarding the structure of the District Board. A period of time was allowed for questions.
- B. **The District Board recommends approval of the revision of the constitution regarding the restructure of the board. *Passed.*** (One no vote)

XVII. Report From the Moderator

Mary Kay Ogden gave a short report and expressed thanks for those who worked hard over the last year.

XVIII. Passing of the Gavel

The moderator's gavel was passed from Mary Kay Ogden to John Price.

XIX. Report from the Moderator-Elect

John Price presented a gift to Mary Kay Ogden. John spoke briefly about the 300 year anniversary of the Church of the Brethren and presented the logo for the 2008 District Conference: "From... To..."

XX. Motion to Adjourn

Willard Olwin / Norma Sexton moved and seconded to adjourn the District Conference. *Passed.*

The 2007 Pacific Southwest District Conference was adjourned at 5:03 pm.

Minutes recorded by Laura Miller, Clerk

In January 2008, the proof copy of the minutes was examined by the committee: Everett Deidiker; Emily Bosley; Karen Wolff.

Conference Theme & Logo

“Alone Together With the Spirit of God”

“... you will always have someone with you.

This friend is the Spirit of Truth.” John 14:15-17

As we begin the 300 year anniversary celebration of the founding of the Church of the Brethren, we are on the road alone together with the Spirit of God. “Come walk with us and join in the song”! We have this time to

- ! Celebrate and reflect on our history founded on faith and works
- ! Act on our vision for the future as we seek to follow the path Jesus showed us
- ! Live in the presence of this hour, knowing the Spirit of God is with us and is even in us

At this conference we have the opportunity to adopt a unity statement that says we recognize The Spirit of God has sometimes called us to different ministries and understandings, but we continue to have much more in common than not. The Unity statement invites us back to work together in the ministries Brethren do best: Demonstrating the Love God has shown us through Jesus Christ our Lord. Out of our understanding of that Love, Heifer Project was born, Brethren Volunteer Service, Children’s Disaster Child Care, Hospitals and clinics, Brethren Theological Seminary, ABC, On Earth Peace, standing for Peace and Justice, Offering food, clothing, and companionship to those in need. We seek to understand through discernment. Judgment closes the conversation, discernment invites dialogue. We are not afraid of disagreement, but to allow dissension to divide us serves to slow our ministries, not advance them. Elbows are strong and push us away from one another. Arms clasped together unite us in friendship, faith, and common purpose. Let’s continue talking about our differences, but let’s clasp hands and recommit to work together.

Come walk with us and join in the song!

Mary Kay Ogden, Moderator 2007

marykay.ogden@verizon.net

About the Logo Design

The design was created by Eric M. Davis, an artist, graphic designer and aesthetic engineer. Eric designed the *Centered in Jesus* logo for the 2006 PSWD conference, so 2007 marks his second logo design, *Alone Together with the Spirit of God*. He enjoys the challenges in designing logos, graphic design, public art, or paintings and fine art. He and his family are members of the La Verne Church of the Brethren. Eric is the youngest son of Dorothy (Brandt) and J. Rodney Davis. Eric participates in the Sunday School Rotation Workshop, teaching art to the children of our congregation. Examples of his art can be seen at his web site www.ericmdavis.com

Davis has been strongly influenced by the native landscape of Southern California, bringing an eye for composition to his art that captures its natural scenes and reflects its complexity. He dynamically presents the garden, the home and other colorful vignettes. Not only limited to floral paintings, Davis’ talent covers a broad range of subjects from still life to portraiture.

Davis’ interest in art began at an early age where he had the ability to recognize the intricate beauty and detail found in simple plants, flowers and other elements in nature. He has since refined his skill in applying this complexity to his work, which is expressed in his colorful bold prints. Over the years, Davis has become a seasoned artist, experimenting with many different media. His training includes oil, acrylic and watercolor painting, graphic design, printmaking and photography.

Davis’ art has been on the pages of ARTnews. His prints and originals have recently been used for set decoration by the entertainment industry. The list includes TV shows *Will & Grace*, *Without a Trace* and the movie *Legally Blonde II*, *Red*, *White and Blonde*. Most notably, NBC’s *Mister Sterling* featured his painting of an Indian chief in the script. Davis received a degree in fine art from Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado, and studied at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) in Providence, Rhode Island. He currently lives in La Verne, California, with his wife, Juliet, daughter Riley, and son Brandt.



Delegates' Dedication Litany

October 13, 2007

Moderator: Sisters and Brothers in Christ, you have been called by your congregations to serve as delegates at this 44th District Conference of the Pacific Southwest District. Do you accept the call?

Delegates: We accept the responsibility placed on us by our congregations.

Moderator: Will you recognize and celebrate the rich history of our denomination?

Delegates: We will honor the heritage of our founders.

Moderator: Will you thoughtfully consider the decisions put before you?

Delegates: We will seek the leading of the Spirit.

Moderator: Will you treat each other with love, respect, and openness?

Delegates: We will strive in our thoughts, words and deeds to treat each other with compassion, kindness humility and patience.

Moderator: You have promised to honor our history, thoughtfully and prayerfully consider the decisions to be made, and to treat one another with respect, so let us all pledge together —

All: As we leave this place and return to our congregations, we will share information on what has happened here. We will be positive and affirm the decisions made. We will support the District in our actions and in our prayers, knowing that the Spirit of God is with us and is even in us. Amen.



Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren

2007 – 2008 Ballot

Candidates are listed alphabetically by last name.

Moderator-Elect

Vote for 1 Two year term

	Jim Martinez, Modesto - NC

Nominating Committee

Vote for 1 Three year term

	Donna Stanford, Waterford - NC

Program Committee, District Conference

Vote for 1 Three year term

	Sara Haldeman-Scarr, San Diego / Pomona Fellowship - SE (incumbent)

Brethren Hillcrest Homes Board Nominees

Vote for 2 Three year term

	Mary Kay Ogden, La Verne - SE (incumbent)

District Board of Administration

So. CA East Representative

Vote for 1 Three year term

	Mercedes Zapata, Príncipe de Paz (incumbent)

So. CA West Representative

Vote for 1 Three year term

	Cady Laycook, South Bay (incumbent)

District Board of Administration

Youth & Young Adult Representative

Vote for 3 One year term

	Edward Cesar, Papago Buttes - AZ
	Jennette Lovelace, Pomona Fellowship - SE
	Vivian Vecchio, Glendora - SE (incumbent)

District Board of Administration

At-Large Representative

Vote for 4 Three year term

	James Brunk, The Well (Tucson) - AZ
	Don Fancher, South Bay - SE
	Juanita Lapp, La Verne - SE (incumbent)
	Erin McCourt, Fellowship in Christ - NC

University of La Verne Trustee Nominees

At this time, ULV is asking churches and district executives to forward names directly to the ULV Nominating Committee for consideration. Six positions (17%) continue to be reserved for CoB representatives.

Camp La Verne Trustee Nominees

	Chris Hartzell, Bakersfield - CC

Incumbent=Nominee is finishing an elected term to the same position.

Unexpired Term=Nominee was appointed to finish the term of a vacant position.

Pacific Southwest District - Church of the Brethren Background Information for the 2007 - 2008 Ballot

Candidates are listed by office, alphabetically by last name.

Descriptions of each office are condensed from the PSWD Constitution: www.pswdcob.org/forms

Moderator-Elect (vote for 1): The two year term begins immediately. In addition to being an officer of District Conference, the Moderator-Elect serves on the District Board of Administration.

Jim Martinez: Age 57

Congregation: Modesto Church of the Brethren

Vocation: Elementary School Principal for the last 25 years, (been in education since 1973)

Church Experience: * Local Congregation-Stewardship Chair, Social Committee, Taught various Sunday School classes, Personnel committee, Deacon, SERRV organization. * PSWD: Board appointed Search committee for the District Executive. * Church of the Brethren National: Review and Evaluation Committee

Vision Statement: My focus would be to approach this position being clear, concise and objective in dealing with all tasks knowing that I am doing God's work. My priority would be to be timely and supportive with the idea of helping to improve or continue the high quality of work of our District. I will do my best to use my talents and experience

in this position to better our larger church community and to be mindful that I need to be aware of God's presence and influence in my work. It will be important to represent and listen to all church member's concerns as it relates to this position. I will do my best to incorporate the issues and concerns of our PSWD and those of our Annual conference to keep our District current and represented. I just completed my term on the Review and Evaluation committee. Our committee's job was to get input from members of the church at large as well as specific committees and boards. This experience has made me more aware of the importance and the need for all individuals to be allowed a voice and a need for a listening ear. Members of our congregation want to be a part of the bigger picture.

Nominating Committee (vote for 1): The three year term begins immediately. Members may not serve successive terms. Nominating Committee presents to the District Conference a ballot for each vacancy.

Donna Stanford

Congregation: Waterford CoB

Vocation: Registered Nurse, Director of Nursing at Casa de Modesto.

Church Experience: Husband has been an ordained minister for 44 years. Husband was ordained in June 1963. Prior to that we were in BVS for 2 years, December 1958. I have been a youth Sunday School Teacher, Young Adult Bible

teacher, Adult Sunday School Teacher. Served on various committees. Served on Church Development Committee for Western Plains District. Lately, I'm on the Worship Commission for Waterford Church of the Brethren, also serve as church pianist.

Vision Statement: That the church would continue outreach programs that spread the gospel, and remain true to the New Testament.

Program Committee, District Conference (vote for 1): The three year term begins immediately. The Committee is responsible for planning the District Conference program, obtaining leadership, and making all necessary arrangements for the conference, in cooperation with on-site representatives.

Sara Haldeman-Scarr Age: old enough to enjoy what I am doing. (incumbent)

Congregation: San Diego

Vocation: Pastor

Church Experience: I have served my churches in Illinois, Pennsylvania, California. I have served in camping and ministries at Camp Swatara and Camp

Alexander Mack. I served on the staff of the Center for Anabaptist Ministries as a consultant for Church planting and Church Revitalization. I am currently pastor at the San Diego First Church.

Vision Statement: My vision for the district is to be united in Christ celebrating the beauty of our diversity. I see a District Conference that provides

a place to be about the business of Christ. A place where we can exchange ideas, learn new ideas, share in Bible study, celebrate ministry and mission

and celebrate the gifts of each and every Body of Christ. The more celebration and fellowship the better.

Camp La Verne Trustee Nominees (vote for 1): The three year term begins in accordance with the policy of Camp La Verne.

Chris Hartzell: Age 30

Congregation: Bakersfield Church of the Brethren

Vocation: Ad Ribbon Operator, Computer Technician

Church Experience: Member, sound/electronics technician, and youth team member at the Bakersfield Community Church of the Brethren,

Have served as camp cook, counselor, maintenance, nurse and webmaster for Camp La Verne for several years.

Vision Statement: To spread the good news through camp, church and community.

Brethren Hillcrest Homes Board of Directors Nominees (vote for 2): The three year term begins in accordance with the policy of Hillcrest.

Mary Kay Ogden: Age 60 (*incumbent*)

Congregation: La Verne Church of the Brethren

Vocation: Retired K-12 Public School Administrator.

Church Experience: * PSWD: Moderator-Elect and Moderator 2006-2007, Personnel Committee Member 2007, Restructuring Committee Member 2007. * Local Church: Assistant Moderator 2005-

2007, Peace Camp Tent Mom 2007, Sunday School Teacher 2004-2005.

Vision Statement: To build community by strengthening relationships within families, churches, the denomination and through our work with others around the world based on God's love for everyone.

PSWD Board of Administration: The term begins immediately. The purpose of the Board is to manage and administer the religious and business activities of the District, as authorized by the District Conference.

PSWD Board of Administration: Southern California East Section Representative Vote for 1

Mercedes Zapata (*incumbent*)

Congregation: Príncipe de Paz in Santa Ana

Vocation: Pastor, teacher, counselor.

Church Experience: 17 years as a Missionary in Ecuador SA, Administrative Pastor and Sr. Pastor.

Vision Statement: Obey Jesus' commands by becoming a true worshiper, in Spirit and in Truth, and lead others to do the same.

PSWD Board of Administration: Southern California West Section Representative Vote for 1

Cady Laycook Age: 49 (*incumbent*)

Congregation: South Bay CoB

Vocation: Ordained minister, mother, case manager for agency serving developmentally disabled individuals.

Church Experience: Current member of PSWD Board of Administration, pastor, church board member, worship leader, Sunday school teacher, member & chair of ministry and outreach commission, deacon, deacon chair, member of Christian education commission, member of camp board, member of district health and care giving committee, coordinator of Buddy System at Annual Conference,

coordinator of information at Annual Conference, Annual Conference delegate.

Vision Statement: Personal- To live and grow more into the likeness and image of Jesus and to let his light of love shine through me in deeds of kindness, words of truth and works of justice and healing.

PSWD- That we (as a district) may continue to risk and step out in faith and be supportive of and expect accountability from our congregational communities to nurture renewal, to aid in bringing forth new life in Christ and to discover new possibilities, new ways of being God's people in the 21st century.

PSWD Board of Administration: At-Large Representative Vote for 4 (three year term)

James Brunk Age: 46
Congregation: The Well of Tucson
Vocation: Church Planter/Pastor
Church Experience: Pastor of Union City CoB (1998-2001) & Bradford CoB (2001-2006)
Vision Statement: I see our district in particular reaching out to join God in God's work of reconciling all of creation to its original intent. I would like to be part of the process of those who help our district discover the tremendous work that God still has for us to accomplish. Good things are in store as we continue to seek God.

Don Fancher Age: 73
Congregation: South Bay
Vocation: Management Supervisor, LOMCO (affordable housing for seniors and disabled persons)
Church Experience: Pastor; Denominational staff; Missionary (seminary teacher, Jakarta, Indonesia); District Board; District Moderator; Annual Conference Standing Committee
Vision Statement: The Brethren offer a unique stance within the family of Christian bodies. The Brethren recognize the importance of tradition and history

and at the same time seek to be open to the new things God is doing in God's world. The Brethren combine a call to deep personal relationship with God and also a call to participate in the struggle for justice and peace. The Brethren combine the effort to express faith in God in relevant language and song and at the same time to respect the varied traditions the members bring.

Juanita Lapp (*incumbent*)
Congregation: La Verne CoB
Vocation: Retired
Church Experience: Choir, handbells, violin, cooking, church clerk
Vision Statement: That the district and the churches can work together to form a strong District in the diversity of our various churches.

Erin McCourt Age: 23
Congregation: Fremont CoB
Vocation: Domestic Violence Counselor
Church Experience: Board Member; Young Adult Leadership Team
Vision Statement: God is Love

PSWD Board of Administration: Youth & Young Adult Representative Vote for 3 (one year term)

Edward Cesar: Age: 16
Congregation: Papago Buttes Church of the Brethren
Vocation: To help others become better people.
Church Experience: When I was young my parents would travel a lot all over Mexico because they worked for Heifer International therefore I couldn't go to church as often as I do now, but due to the nature of my parents work through heifer project I still developed a strong connection with God.
Vision Statement: When I get out of high school in two years I want to go BVSing for a year to help people in any way I can.

Jennette Lovelace: Age 22
Congregation: Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren
Vocation: Disneyland entertainment

Church Experience: Music and worship commission, church choir.
Vision Statement: To help bring the church and its values to the younger generations.

Vivian Vecchio: Age 20 (*incumbent*)
Congregation: Glendora Church of the Brethren
Vocation: Full time student at Citrus College, work part time at Hillcrest Dinning Room.
Church Experience: Member of Glendora CoB Witness Commission, Camp Counselor for two summers at Peaceful Pines, raised in the Church of the Brethren.
Vision Statement: I envision the PSWD Board as support to unite the congregations, and to further understand who we are as Brethren people.

2/11/11 5:40 pm

2008 Budget, PSWD CoB Proposal for District Conference 10/13/2007		2007 Budget	2008 Budget
Line			
1	I. Estimated Receipts:		
2	A. Individuals	8,000	3,000
3	B. Churches	95,000	50,000
4	C. Groups/organizations	6,000	1,000
5	D. CDC: Church Development Committee Fund Donations	1,5000	0
6	1. CDC Investment Interest	600	0
7	E. District Conference Receipts	15,000	15,000
8	F. Investment Earnings: Interest, Dividends, Notes, Receivables		
9	1. Investment Interest Earnings	526,000	600,000
10	2. Circle of Peace CoB: Interest & Principal	13,843	14,000
11	3. Papago Buttes CoB: Interest & Principal	27,055	27,000
12	4. Other Property Interest Income		
13	H. Property Income		
14	1. Santa Ana Income	10,380	9,600
15	2. Other Property Income		
16	J. CBS: Center for Brethren Studies		
17	K. Misc. Income		
18	I. Total Anticipated Receipts	703,378	719,600
19			
20	II. Estimated Disbursements:		
21	A. Ministry Support Grants		
22	1. ULV Campus Ministry	4,000	5,000
23	2. Participation Grants: Dist Conf., Workshops . . .	1,500	1,500
24	3. Companion Grants Matching Fund	600,000	
25	a. New Church Development		294,687
26	b. Pastoral Grants		257,000
27	c. Companion Grants		322,500
28	d. Matching Grants		185,000
29	4. Ecumenical Councils (<i>PSWD has reps to 3 councils, \$200 each</i>)	600	600
30	5. Exceptional Needs (<i>Executive Committee / DEM discretion</i>)	10,000	15,000
31	A. Total Ministry Support Grants	616,100	1,081,287
32	B. Total Nominating Committee: Travel, Mailing, Phone . . .	400	400
33	C. Annual Conference Expense		
34	1. Assessments	1,397	1,397
35	2. Standing Committee Delegate	2,000	2,000
36	3. District Conference Moderator to Annual Conference	1,000	1,500
37	C. Total Annual Conference Expense	4,397	4,897
38	D. District Conference Program Committee		
39	1. Expenses	13,000	14,000
40	2. PSWD Moderator Travel	2,000	2,000
41	3. Committee Expense & Travel	2,000	4,000
42	4. Query Committee	1,500	1,500
43	D. Total District Conf. Prog. Comm. Exp.	18,500	21,500
44	E. Board of Administration		
45	1. Board Travel	12,000	6,900
46	2. Board Expenses	5,000	25,500
47	3. Publications: New Life, Pastors Memo, . . .	8,000	5,000
48	4. Shalom Team	3,000	3,000
49	5. Work Group Expenses	750	5,000
50	6. Ministerial Ethics Committee	1,000	1,000
51	7. Together: Conversations on Being the Church	0	0
52	E. Total Board of Administration Exp.	29,750	46,400
53	F. Operations		
54	1. Salaries		
55	a. Exec. Minister (<i>w/housing</i>)	71,799	74,312
56	b. Admin. Assist. (<i>w/housing</i>)	42,886	44,173
57	c. Director of Revitalization (Youth, Young Adults, Families)	39,589	40,000
58	d. CBS: Center for Brethren Studies Director	15,000	15,405

PSWD Budget for 2008

Exhibit B

4/8/2008 1:09pm

Line	2008 Budget, PSWD CoB Proposal for District Conference 10/13/2007		2007 Budget	2008 Budget
59	e. Financial Manager/Bookkeeper		22,991	23,612
60	f. Secretary		24,180	24,905
61	g. Missions Director		41,680	43,764
62	2. Benefits			
63	a. Executive Minister			
64	(1) Pension 11%		7,898	8,174
65	(2) Group Insurance		9,000	11,000
66	b. Administrative Assistant			
67	(1) Pension 11%		4,717	4,859
68	(2) Group Insurance		9,000	9,000
69	c. Director of Revitalization (Youth, Young Adults, Families)			
70	(1) Pension 11%		4,355	4,400
71	(2) Group Insurance		6,000	11,000
72	d. S.Security: Center for Brethren Studies Director	7.65%	1,148	1,178
73	e. S.Security: Financial Manager/Bookkeeper	7.65%	1,759	1,806
74	f. Secretary			
75	(1) S.Security	7.65%	1,850	1,905
76	(2) Pension 11%		2,660	2,740
77	(3) Group Insurance		5,497	11,000
78	g. Missions Director	7.65%	3,189	3,348
79	(1) S.Security			
80	(2) Pension 11%			4,814
81	(3) Group Insurance		9,000	11,000
82	3. Other			
83	a. Retired Church Workers Fund 1% (of salaries with pension)		1,543	2,022
84	b. Worker's Compensation Insurance		4,500	1,700
85	c. Legal/Professional Fees		3,000	3,000
86	d. Dist. Exec. Min.: Travel & Expenses		10,000	10,000
87	e. Dist. Exec. Min.: Professional Growth		2,000	2,000
88	f. Missions Director: Travel & Expenses		5,200	8,000
89	f. Missions Director: Professional Growth		0	1,500
90	f. Missions Director: Remote office (cf: PSWD Office Expense, above)		0	1,000
91	g. Staff Travel & Prof. Growth Fund		1,500	3,000
92	h. Director of Revitalization (Youth, Young Adults, Families) Travel		8,000	8,000
93	i. CODE: Council of District Exec		900	900
94	j. Support Staff Travel, etc.		300	300
95	4. PSWD Office Expense			
96	a. Equipment & Maintenance		500	1,800
97	b. Office Space		19,200	27,000
98	c. Supplies and Printing		5,000	2,000
99	d. Copy Machine Maintenance		3,000	3,150
100	e. Postage & Mailing		4,000	5,850
101	f. Telephone		2,500	3,000
102	g. Computers		1,600	1,600
103	h. Audit Fees		7,500	7,500
104	i. Liability Insurance		4,000	5,000
105	j. Other Expenses & Bank Charges		500	500
106	k. Utilities		2,000	3,300
107	F. Total Operations		410,939	454,518
108	G. Commissions			
109	1. Ministry Commission Expense			
110	a. Leadership Training / Support		10,000	8,000
111	b. Pastors and Spouses Retreat		10,000	3,000
112	c. Pastors and Spouses Retreat Transportation		3,000	4,000
113	d. NACC: Nurturing & Credentialing Comm.		2,500	2,000
114	e. NACC: Testing		2,000	2,000
115	f. TRIM: Training In Ministry		3,150	3,000
116	g. TRIM: Formation Group		1,500	1,000

PSWD Budget for 2008

Exhibit B

Line	2008 Budget, PSWD CoB Proposal for District Conference 10/13/2007	2007 Budget	2008 Budget
117	h. Bethany Student Tuition Grant/Loans	2,000	2,000
118	i. Bethany: District Share of student costs (8.5%)	1,000	1,500
119	j. Non-Budget Events (in/out)		
120	k. Commission Expenses	200	200
121	Total Ministry Commission Expense	35,350	26,700
122	2. Leadership Commission Expense		
123	a. CBS: Center for Brethren Studies – Program (cf: PSWD Office Expense)	8,000	8,000
124	b. CBS: Center for Brethren Studies – Scholarships	6,000	15,000
125	c. Continuing Education	3,000	0
126	d. Youth Ministries	3,000	5,000
127	e. Young Adult Ministries	4,500	5,000
128	f. Adult Leadership Scholarships	5,000	5,000
129	g. Non-Budget Events (in/out)		
130	h. Commission Expenses	60	60
131	Total Leadership Commission Expense	29,560	38,060
132	3. Church Life Commission Expense		
133	a. Disaster Response	8,000	8,000
134	b. Health & Caregiving Committee	1,500	1,000
135	c. Congregational Peace Network Co-Coordination	3,000	1,000
136	d. Peace & Justice Center (Imperial Heights)	12,000	12,000
137	e. Church Life Programs	2,500	2,000
138	f. Spring Worship Event: Expense	9,500	5,000
139	g. Spring Worship Event: Income	(1,000)	(5,000)
140	h. Non-Budget Events (in/out)		
141	i. Commission Expenses	300	300
142	Total Church Life Commission Expense	35,800	24,300
143	4. Mission & Church Planting Commission Expense		
144	a. Mission Enrichment New Church Dev. Exp. (moved to Grants, above)	40,000	10,000
145	b. New Church Start-ups (moved to Grants, above)	60,000	0
146	c. Scholarships / Training	36,000	10,000
147	d. Resource Materials	2,000	5,000
148	e. Non-Budget Events (in/out)		
149	f. Commission Expenses	3,000	100
150	Total Church Planting & Mission Commission Expense	141,000	25,100
151	5. Stewards Commission Expense		
152	a. Insurance & Incorporation Fund	1,000	1,000
153	b. Advertising Assistance for Congregations	110,000	55,000
154	c. Web Site Development for congregations	0	20,000
155	d. Office Relocation Exploration / Move ??	50,000	
156	e. Commission Expenses	3,000	3,000
157	Total Stewards Commission Expense	114,000	129,000
158	G. Total Commissions Expenses	355,710	243,160
159	H. Property Expenses: insurance, legal fees, repairs . . .		
160	1. Santa Ana Property Expenses	8,000	9,000
161	2. Central Evangelical Property Expenses		
162	3. Chico Property Expenses		
163	4. Paradise Property Expenses		
164	5. Other		
165	H. Total Property Expense	8,000	9,000
166	II. Total Actual+Anticipated Disbursements	1,443,796	1,861,162
167	I. Total Actual+Anticipated Receipts	703,378	719,600
168	Difference between Receipts & Disbursements	(740,418)	(1,141,562)

Minutes of April 14, 2007, at Príncipe de Paz CoB, Santa Ana Page 2 of 8

VII. C. 2. A lengthy discussion was held regarding the Unity Statement and the wording.
M/S Bill Johnson/Vera Mae Gephart to accept the Unity Statement as presented and to present it to District Conference. Passed. (See page [16](#))

Minutes of August 25, 2007, at La Verne Church of the Brethren Page 2 of 21

VI. **Budget Report:** Bill Johnson (See pages [12](#))
 A. Bill spoke about the Budget for 2008 and answered questions.
 B. **Stewards recommend the adoption of the 2008 proposed budget. Approved.**

Minutes of August 25, 2007, at La Verne Church of the Brethren Page 1 of 21

VII **Board Restructure:** Paul Lovelace (See pages [17](#), [28](#))
 A. **There is a recommendation from the Executive Committee to approve the board restructure as corrected to recommend to the District Conference. Passed.**

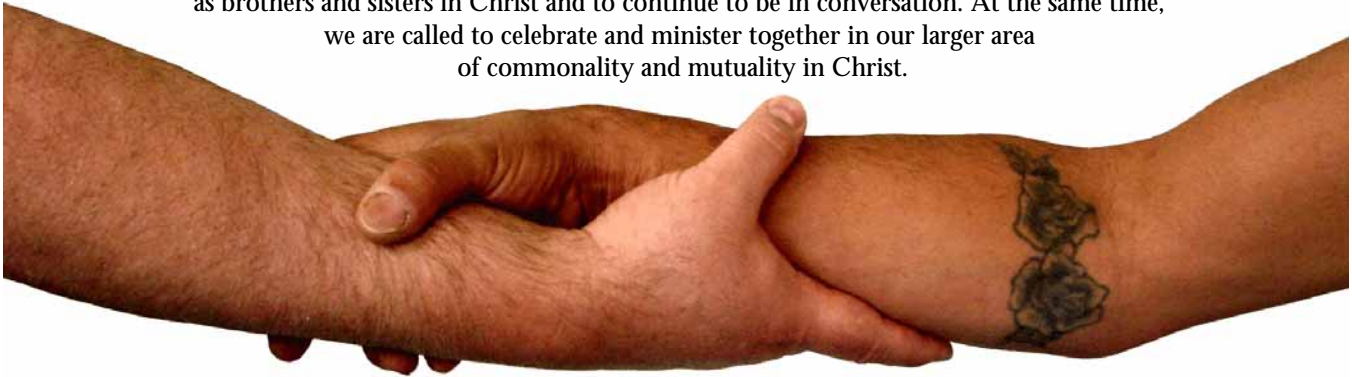
Financial Statements and Audits of the Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren.

Copies of the “Financial Statements, Audits, and Reviews” are available for viewing the District Office in La Verne, CA by calling 909-392-4049.

A symbol of Unity in Diversity

A positive picture of our unity as Brethren in the PSWD was offered by one of our pastors and our district moderator. Picture interlocking arms. The large area of overlap is our commonality and things upon which we can agree and work together. The smaller areas where the arms do not overlap at the right and left, including the elbows, are where our different opinions and positions lie. The unity statement does not call us to drop our separately held ministries or opinions and embrace the opinions and ministries of others of which we disagree. Instead, it calls upon us all to respect others

as brothers and sisters in Christ and to continue to be in conversation. At the same time,
we are called to celebrate and minister together in our larger area
of commonality and mutuality in Christ.



Minutes of April 14, 2007, at Príncipe de Paz CoB, Santa Ana

Page 2 of 8

- VII. C. 2. A lengthy discussion was held regarding the Unity Statement and the wording.
M/S Bill Johnson/Vera Mae Gephart to accept the Unity Statement as presented and to present it to District Conference. Passed.

Unity Statement

On this 300th anniversary of the founding of the Church of the Brethren, we remember the words of Jesus:

“Let me give you a new command: Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples - when they see the love you have for each other.” (John 13: 34,35; *The Message*)

Recognizing we are a living peace church, and that God is constantly revealing, we commit to humble ourselves, and to engage in the tension of community necessary for new birth.

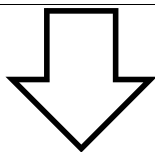
Not focusing on our differences, but in the spirit of love and acceptance, we choose to focus on Christ.

We purpose to remain open, as we listen to one another and to the Holy Spirit, working in love to mutually support and encourage our various ministries.

This interpretive chart will help you read through the actual **Constitution and By-Laws** on the following pages. This interpretive chart is not part of the **Constitution and By-Laws**.

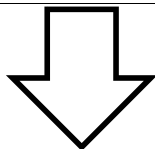
District Conference

- ! Elects the 20 voting members of the Policy Board
- ! Approves the budget



Policy Board

- ! Defines the District Vision by seeking the Holy Spirit through Fellowship, Worship and Prayer
- ! 20 voting members include Moderator, Moderator-Elect, and Clerk
- ! 3 non-voting members: *Executive Minister, Treasurer, Standing Committee delegate*
- ! The 6 voting members of Executive Board come from the 20 elected members
- ! Meets at least 3 times each year
- ! Organizes itself and the Executive Board
- ! Chooses the chairs for Ministry & Stewards Commissions



Executive Board

- ! Implements the District Vision, meeting as often as needed
- ! Is the legal agent of the District
- ! 6 Policy Board voting members: Chair & Vice-Chair, Ministry & Stewards Chairs, Moderator & Moderator-Elect
- ! 1 non-voting member: *Executive Minister*
- ! Creates, organizes and dissolves Task Groups
- ! All Commissions and Task Groups report to the Executive Board



Ministry Commission

Stewards Commission



Multiple Task Groups

- ! Ministry and Stewards Commissions are reorganized every year
- ! Task Groups can be short term or long term
- ! Task Groups can be any size
- ! The task can be large or small, local or district wide
- ! There can be as many Task groups as needed

Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren

Constitution and By-Laws

Specific changes to the Constitution and By-laws

Portions to be removed: ~~are in strike-out type~~

Portions to be added: **are in bold-italic-double underlined**

Bullets "!" have been replaced with outline elements, i.e. 1.2.3... or, a.b.c...

Changes on pages: [19](#), [21](#), [22](#), [23](#), [24](#), [25](#), [26](#), [27](#)

Adopted October 13, 1990

Pages 13 and 14 Revised October 7, 1995

Page 12 Revised October 12, 1996

Pages 8 and 9 Revised October 9, 1999

Page 6 Revised October 14, 2000

Page 6-7 Revised October 6, 2001

Pages 4-13 Revised October 30, 2004

Pages 5 and 7 Revised October 8, 2005

(Quorum & Standing Committee Alternate)

**Pacific Southwest District
of the Church of the Brethren**

P.O. Box 219
La Verne, CA 91750-0219
(909) 392-4049 voice
(909) 392-4056 FAX

Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren

Constitution

Adopted October 13, 1990

2/11/11 printing

Mission Statement

We, the members of the Church of the Brethren in the Pacific Southwest District, in order to promote the work and mission of Jesus Christ through the Church of the Brethren, to enhance the worship of God and the witness of our denomination to the saving grace and love of God, and to glorify God through the Church, do establish this Constitution for the Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren.

I. Name and Boundaries

The name of this corporation is "Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren" (hereinafter "the District"). From 1964 to 1990 the corporation was named Pacific Southwest Conference, which was created from a consolidation in 1964 of the two corporations titled Northern California District of the Church of the Brethren and the District of Southern California and Arizona.

Pacific Southwest District embraces all of the congregations of the Church of the Brethren in Arizona and California and any additional area which may be properly designated by the District Conference and approved by the Standing Committee of Annual Conference.

II. Incorporation

Pacific Southwest District is incorporated under and pursuant to the Religious Corporation Act of the State of California and is not formed for any financial profit. The principal place of business of this corporation is in La Verne, California, Los Angeles County, or such other place as the District Board of Administration (~~hereinafter "the Board"~~ comprised of the Policy Board and the Executive Board) may determine. The affairs of the corporation are managed by the District Board of Administration. The Board chair, vice-chair and District Executive Minister serving as secretary of the corporation are the legal officers of the corporation. All legal documents shall be signed by two of the officers.

III. Purpose

The purpose of the Pacific Southwest District is to coordinate and promote the religious and business activities of the Church of the Brethren in the District and of other religious organizations as they relate to the activities of the Church of the Brethren in the District consistent with the polity of the Church of the Brethren as established by Annual Conference.

IV. Member Churches

All Church of the Brethren congregations which are recognized by the District as organized churches are member churches of the District.

V. Property and Assets

The title to all District property will be held in trust by the Pacific Southwest District Board of Administration (~~hereinafter "the Board"~~) for the teaching and dissemination of the gospel of Jesus Christ, according to the beliefs, practices, and doctrines of the Church of the Brethren, as set forth by Annual Conference.

VI. Organizational Structure

- A. **District Conference**, which meets annually, is the final authority of the District on policy, program, and procedure. The delegate body is composed of representatives of each member church.
- B. **District Board of Administration**. The ~~Board~~ District Board of Administration, comprised of the Policy Board and the Executive Board, envisions, manages and administers the work of the District as authorized by District Conference and employs executive personnel to implement the work of the ~~Board~~ District Board of Administration.

VII. Related Institutions

The District may enter into relationship with separately organized and incorporated Church of the Brethren institutions such as camps, homes for the aging, colleges, and other institutions of interest to the District. In each instance there shall be mutual agreement between the District and the institution as to the nature of the relationship.

VIII. Fiscal and Organizational Year

The organizational year is from the close of one annual District Conference through the close of the next annual District Conference. The fiscal year is January 1 through December 31.

IX. Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by a majority vote of the delegates present at a District Conference. Proposed amendments must be distributed to the delegates at least two weeks before the delegate body convenes for business.

Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren

By-Laws

Adopted October 13, 1990, rev. 10/7/95, 10/12/96, 10/9/99, 10/14/00, 10/6/01, 10/30/04, 10/8/05 2/11/11 printing

I. Geographical Sections

The Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren (hereinafter "the District") is divided into geographical sections. The determination of the sections and any changes in the designated sections is made by the District Board of Administration (hereinafter "the Board" comprised of the Policy Board and the Executive Board).

Each section functions as a smaller, more compact unit of the District for the purpose of enhancing fellowship, inspiration, leadership recruitment and training, and promotion of District and General Board programs.

II. District Conference

- A. **Purpose.** District Conference is a mass meeting to which delegates and other interested persons from the member congregations come in business sessions and for purposes of worship, education and fellowship. The District Conference projects the program of the District as it relates to the General Board and other denominational agencies. It approves new programs and the budget. Through its delegates, it interprets and promotes the decisions of the District Conference to the local congregations.
- B. **Delegate Body.** All members of churches in the District have the privilege of moving and discussing the business of District Conference; however, only the official delegates have the right to vote. Any member of a Church of the Brethren congregation in the District may serve as a delegate. Congregational representatives are selected by their congregations.
- C. **Representation.** Each congregation having a membership of two hundred or less may have four delegates; two congregational representatives, one pastor, and the church board chair. Congregations having more than two hundred members may have an additional congregational representative for each two hundred members or fraction thereof.
- D. **Tenure.** The term of office for a congregational representative is two years. Delegates' duties begin when they are seated at District Conference. Terms of delegates from a congregation should be staggered so that a church does not elect all new congregational representatives in any year.
- E. **Officers and Duties.** Officers of the District Conference are the Moderator, the Moderator-elect, and the Clerk. The Board chair and the District Executive Minister(s) are ex-officio.

1. The Moderator

- a. **Qualifications.** The moderator must be a member of a Church of the Brethren congregation within the District for at least one year prior to election, may not serve concurrently as an elected member on the Policy Board, and must have demonstrated leadership ability.
- b. **Election and Tenure.** The moderator is normally elevated from the position of moderator-elect and takes office immediately following the District Conference at which s/he served as moderator-elect or in the case of a vacancy in the office. S/he serves for a one-year term and then becomes ineligible for reelection as moderator-elect for four years. Should the office of moderator become vacant, the moderator-elect succeeds to the office for the remainder of the term.
- c. **Duties.** The moderator prepares the agenda for District Conference, in cooperation with the officers of District Conference; becomes familiar with parliamentary procedure; presides at the business sessions of the District Conference; appoints tellers and timekeeper; serves on all District committees and on the Policy Board and the Executive Board as an ex-officio member, with the exception of The Shalom Team; studies the needs and program of the District and makes reports and recommendations to the Board District Board of Administration; may deliver a moderator's address at the annual District Conference; and is an ex-officio member (without vote) on the Board of Directors of Brethren Hillcrest Homes.

2. The Moderator-elect

- a. **Qualifications.** The same qualifications are required of the moderator-elect as for the moderator.
- b. **Tenure.** The moderator-elect serves for one year and then assumes the office of moderator. If the moderator-elect serves as moderator during the entire District Conference, s/he is presumed to have served as

moderator and would not continue during the next year. At that District Conference a moderator and a moderator-elect would be elected.

- c. **Duties.** The moderator-elect performs all the duties of the moderator when the moderator is unable to serve; may assist at the moderator's request in presiding over a portion of the business session; contacts local leaders and congregations in the interest of the District program; represents the moderator on inter-church agencies and serves as an ex-officio member of the ~~Board~~ Policy Board and the Executive ~~Committee~~ Board; and serves as a member of the District Conference Program Committee and will convene its first meeting.

3. The Clerk

- a. **Qualifications.** The Clerk must be a member of the Church of the Brethren within the District at least one year prior to election.
- b. **Election and Tenure.** The Clerk is elected for a three-year term and may serve two consecutive terms. The term begins immediately following the District Conference at which s/he is elected.
- c. **Duties.** The Clerk serves on the Nominating Committee; records the minutes of the District Conference, and in cooperation with the District Executive Minister(s) prepares the minutes for publication and distribution to the local congregations; forwards to the Annual Conference secretary any queries passed to Annual Conference by the District Conference; assists in the interpretation of the minutes of the District Conference; serves as an ex-officio member of the Policy Board and its ~~Executive Committee~~; and records the minutes of the Policy Board of Administration and Executive Committee. The Clerk may be requested by the Executive Board to attend its meetings as the recorder.

F. **Time and Place.** District Conference is held annually in October or November as determined by the ~~Board~~ District Board of Administration.

The location of the meeting is determined by the District Conference, alternating in the northern and southern areas of the District when possible.

All sessions of the District Conference are open to those present, except when the delegate body convenes in closed session. Special meetings may be called at the discretion of the District Conference officers in consultation with the ~~Board~~ District Board of Administration.

G. **Rules of Order.** The moderator conducts the business according to Robert's Rules of Order, which will be the standard for any point not covered in the Constitution and By-Laws.

Nominations from the floor must have the prior consent of the nominee.

Length and number of speeches allowed are determined by the District Conference officers.

The election of officers is by ballot with a plurality vote, except the moderator-elect and the standing committee delegate(s), who are elected by a majority vote.

H. **Quorum.** A quorum consists of fifty percent of the total elected delegates representing fifty percent of the churches of the District. The condition of a quorum are met if at least fifty percent of the churches of the District are represented and at least fifty percent of the delegates of those churches are represented.

I. **District Conference Committees.**

- 1. **Nominating Committee.** The Nominating Committee consists of six members: district moderator, clerk, chair of the Board, and three members elected by the District Conference. An elected member serves for three years and may not serve successive terms. Terms are staggered so that one member is elected each year. The Moderator convenes the first meeting, at which the committee elects its chair. Members who serve by virtue of office serve for the duration of the office they fill.

Nominating Committee presents to the District Conference a ballot for each vacancy within the following positions:

- a. Moderator-Elect (two-year term)
- b. Board of Administration members (three-year term)
- c. Nominating Committee members (three-year term)
- d. District Conference Program Committee members (three-year term)
- e. Clerk (three-year term)
- f. Standing Committee Delegate(s) (three-year term or as directed by Annual Conference)
- g. Brethren Hillcrest Homes Board of Directors nominees (three-year term)

h. University of La Verne Board of Trustees nominees (three-year term)

Permission must be obtained before a nominee's name may be placed on the ballot. Information regarding the qualifications of nominees is provided to the delegates before the vote. Information pertinent to each office, such as length of term and number of persons to be elected is included on the ballot.

2. District Conference Program Committee. The District Conference Program Committee consists of five members: Moderator, Moderator-elect, and three persons elected by the District Conference. The Moderator-elect convenes the first meeting. The committee chooses its own Chair. An elected member serves for three years and may serve two successive terms. Terms are staggered so that one member is elected each year. The Board Chair; the President of Pacific Southwest Women, or her representative; and the District Youth Coordinator, in years when this or a similar position is filled, serve ex-officio. The committee is responsible for planning the conference program, obtaining leadership, and making all necessary arrangements for the conference, in cooperation with on-site representatives.

- J. Standing committee Delegate(s).** Delegate(s) are elected by; the District Conference to represent the district on the Annual Conference Standing Committee. The directives of Annual Conference as described in "*Manual of Organization and Polity 2001*" pages 15-17 are followed to determine their eligibility, the number allowed, and the length of their term.
1. **Eligibility:** Any member of the Church of the Brethren may serve the district on Standing Committee if that member has been in the district for one year, fulfills the qualifications as set forth by; Annual Conference, and is not a member of the General Board or its program staff or an executive/minister or associate executive/minister of the district. In choosing Standing Committee delegates, districts should give consideration to members of the district board and other people who are actively involved in the district program – including both ministers and lay people.
 2. **Qualifications:** (a) Consecrated Christian living in home, church and community. (b) Faithful service in local church and district. (c) Loyalty to the ideals and the program of the Church of the Brethren. (d) A working knowledge and understanding of the Church of the Brethren and its program of ministries. (e) Ability to exercise mature judgment in the solution of denominational problems.
 3. **Membership:** Members of Standing Committee shall be elected by; their respective districts to serve a term of three years and are eligible for re-election to one additional term of three years following a full or partial term of service on Standing Committee. After such service, former members will be ineligible to serve for a period of four years. Upon transfer to another district, Standing Committee members who have not served a term for three Conferences will be replaced by the district they were originally chosen to represent. To them as well as their successors the ineligibility rule will apply.
When an alternate Standing Committee delegate takes the place of a regular delegate, the alternate shall continue to serve the remainder of the term in order to provide continuity. The alternate(s) will be elected.
 4. **Responsibilities:** The Standing Committee has nominating, legislative, judicial, and envisioning responsibilities. The PSWD Standing Committee delegate is expected to interpret the decisions and recommendations of Annual Conference to the District Conference in a written report. Standing Committee delegate(s) serve as ex-officio member(s) of the Policy Board ~~District Board of Administration and its Executive Committee~~ without vote.
- K. Committees Appointed by the District Conference.** The District Conference may constitute or authorize continuing or short-term committees as necessary to assist with the ongoing work of the District. When the specific assignment of a committee is achieved, the committee will be dismissed.

III. Board of Administration

- A. Purpose.** The purpose of the ~~Board~~ District Board of Administration is to manage and administer the religious and business activities of the District as authorized by the District Conference. The District Board of Administration is comprised of the Policy Board and the Executive Board. The Executive Board is the legal agent of the District and is empowered to act on behalf of the District *ad interim* except for those actions specifically reserved for the District Conference or the Policy Board as set forth in the Constitution and By-Laws.
- B. Membership.** The Policy Board consists of seventeen (17) regular members (3 year terms) and up to (3) youth / young adult members (1 year terms) elected by the District Conference with one regular member from each section and the remaining members at-large. Board members elected as sectional representatives need to reside in the section they represent. The Moderator, Moderator-elect and Clerk serve as ex-officio members with vote. The Executive Minister(s), Treasurer and Standing Committee delegate(s) serve as ex-officio members without vote. General Board member(s) residing within the District are invited to attend Policy Board meetings.
- C. Qualifications.** A Policy Board member must be a member of a Church of the Brethren congregation within the district for at least one year prior to election and must have demonstrated leadership ability. Youth members must be at least 15 years old and less than 24 years old as of December 31 of the year elected.

- D. Tenure.** The term of service is three years. Filling an unexpired term does not constitute a full term. A member is entitled to serve two consecutive full terms. The term of service for youth / young adult members is one year with a maximum of 3 consecutive full terms.
- E. Attendance.** It is expected that Policy Board members will maintain attendance at Policy Board meetings. If a member misses three consecutive meetings, the Executive Board should consider declaring the position vacant and appointing a replacement to fill the vacancy.
- F. Organization.** The Policy Board is organized annually, under the direction of the incoming Moderator, following election by the District Conference. The Policy Board selects from its elected members a chair, vice chair and the chairs of ~~all~~ the Stewards and Ministry commissions. ~~All~~ Some members of the Policy Board, excluding the Moderator, Clerk and the Board Chair, are assigned to commissions. The Executive Minister(s), Board Chair and Moderator are ex-officio members of all commissions. The Treasurer meets with the Stewards Commission.
- 1. The Chair.** The chair performs all duties ordinarily pertaining to the office and other duties that may be assigned by the Policy Board and these By-Laws and serves on the Nominating Committee and as ex-officio member on all committees of the Board and the District Conference Program Committee.
 - 2. The Vice Chair.** The Vice Chair performs all duties and has all authority of the Chair when the Chair is absent and performs other duties as may be assigned by the Policy Board or Executive Board. The vice-chair may serve on a commission but not as a commission chair.
 - 3. The Treasurer.** • The Treasurer accounts for all District funds received and disburses same as authorized by the Executive Board;
 - a. Makes written reports available to meetings of the Board;
 - b. Makes written reports available to meetings of the Policy Board and the Executive Board;
 - c. Serves as Chief Financial Officer of the corporation.
 - 4. The Recording Secretary.** The Clerk functions as Recording Secretary, records all Policy Board and Executive Committee proceedings and may act as recorder for Executive Board meetings. The clerk also performs other duties as may be assigned by the Executive Board.
 - 5. The Policy Board meets at least 3 times per year;**
 - a. At District Conference to organize and elect officers,
 - b. In retreat to define the "vision" for the year, and
 - c. Once to review the "vision" and to review the actions of the Executive Board.

(Most of the next 36 strike-out lines have been added to the Executive Board duties.)

G. Duties of the Policy Board.

- ~~• The board fulfills the directives of the District Conference and makes an annual report to the Conference;~~
- ~~• assigns, defines and interprets responsibilities of the commissions;~~
- ~~• creates and dissolves commissions, except those specifically named in the By-Laws, when the direction of the District deems it valuable;~~
- ~~• decides number of members on each commission depending on size of work load;~~
- ~~• projects long-range planning, sets goals, and initiates new program in harmony with decisions of the District Conference;~~
- ~~• promotes and administers the total church program in the District;~~
- ~~• defines the number of and geographical boundaries of the sections of the District;~~
- ~~• acts on recommendations from the Executive Committee regarding employment of District Executive Minister(s) and other staff;~~
- ~~• fills vacancies in elective district offices occurring between District Conferences and fills such other vacancies not provided for otherwise;~~
- ~~• has custody of and manages all District capital funds, endowments and annuities, or arranges for such custody and management;~~
- ~~• holds title to District properties;~~
- ~~• negotiates the purchase and sale of property and the borrowing and lending of money on behalf of the District;~~
- ~~• allocates and defines authority with respect to the establishment of bank accounts and the signing of checks;~~
- ~~• prepares the District budget for presentation to the District Conference;~~
- ~~• provides for an annual audit to be done by a public accounting firm and submits the audit to District Conference;~~
- ~~• arranges for bonding of persons handling large sums of money, in an amount set by the Board;~~
- ~~• receives, considers and responds to concerns brought by individuals or church groups;~~
- ~~• brings queries and other business items to the District Conference and processes queries from local churches for District Conference action;~~
- ~~• acts on recommendations from the Ministry Commission regarding nominees for ordination;~~
- ~~• acts on recommendations regarding new church plants;~~

- appoints committees and makes appointments;
- annually appoints a Treasurer from outside its membership; and
- affirms commission appointments.

1. The Policy Board shall maintain unity within the district and establish an overall vision for the district by fellowshiping, worshipping, praying, sharing and discerning together God's will for the PSWD.
2. Review the actions of the Executive Board to ensure they comply with the directives of District Conference and the vision developed by the Policy Board.
3. Have the sole authority for employment of the District Executive Minister(s). Changes to the employment status of the District Executive Minister(s) require a 2/3 quorum of the voting members of the Policy Board.
4. Be a source of leadership for Task Groups / Commissions established by the Executive Board.

H. **Executive ~~Committee~~ Board.** The Executive ~~Committee~~ Board is composed of the Board Chair, Vice-Chair, ~~and the chair of each commission, Ministry Commission Chair and Stewards Commission Chair.~~ Officers are Chair and Vice-Chair. The Moderator and Moderator-elect ~~and clerk~~ serve as ex-officio members with vote. The District Executive Minister(s), ~~Treasurer and Standing Committee delegate(s)~~ serve as ex-officio member(s) without vote.

1. The Executive Board is the legal agent of the District and is empowered to act on behalf of the District ad interim except for those actions specifically reserved for the District Conference or the Policy Board as set forth in the Constitution and By-Laws.
2. The Executive Committee Board reviews the Executive Minister(s) on at least an annual basis and establishes annual salary and benefits of the Executive Minister(s);
3. Recommends employment and termination of the Executive Minister(s) subject to approval of the Policy Board and in consultation with the Director of District Ministries; and reviews executive staff employment contracts;
4. Fills, with the confirmation of the Board, any vacancy which may occur in the Policy Board, District Conference officers or other elected offices when provisions for fulfilling such a vacancy are not specifically stated.
5. Fulfills the directives of the District Conference and makes an annual report to the Conference;
6. Assigns, defines and interprets responsibilities of the commissions;
7. Decides the number of members on each commission depending on size of work load;
8. Creates and dissolves Task Groups when the direction of the District makes it valuable;
9. Projects long-range planning, sets goals, and initiates new program in harmony with decisions of the District Conference and the vision of the Policy Board
10. Promotes and administers the total church program in the District;
11. Defines the number of and geographical boundaries of the sections of the District;
12. Acts regarding employment of district staff
13. Has custody of and manages all District capital funds, endowments and annuities, or arranges for such custody and management;
14. Holds title to District properties;
15. Negotiates the purchase and sale of property and the borrowing and lending of money on behalf of the District;
16. Allocates and defines authority with respect to the establishment of bank accounts and the signing of checks;
17. Prepares the District budget for presentation to the District Conference;
18. Provides for an annual audit to be done by a public accounting firm and submits the audit to District Conference;
19. Arranges for bonding of persons handling large sums of money, in an amount set by the Executive Board;
20. Receives, considers and responds to concerns brought by individuals or church groups;
21. Brings queries and other business items to the District Conference and processes queries from local churches for District Conference action;
22. Acts on recommendations from the Ministry Commission regarding nominees for ordination;
23. Acts regarding new church plants;
24. Appoints committees and makes appointments;
25. Annually appoints a Treasurer from outside its membership;
26. Affirms commission appointments.

I. Commissions.

1. Each commission selects from its elected members a vice chair and secretary;
2. Maintains and reviews annually a list of specific responsibilities as outlined in the By-Laws or assigned by the Executive Board;
3. Establishes job descriptions for positions accountable to the commission;
4. Prepares an annual budget request and submits it to the Stewards Commission;
5. Reports activities, needs and special opportunities to the Executive Board;

6. Recommends for Executive Board approval persons and committees to perform specific responsibilities related to the commission; and
 7. Works cooperatively with the other commissions, Task Groups and staff to promote the programs of the church.
- 8. Ministry Commission.**
- a. The Ministry Commission gives counsel and guidance to all ministerial matters in the District;
 - b. Counsels and assists churches and individuals in extending and receiving calls to the ministry, becoming equipped and trained for ministry, and licensing and ordaining ministers;
 - c. Annually reviews the status of licensed and ordained ministers and lay speakers in the District and makes recommendations to the Executive Board regarding any change in status;
 - d. Seeks ways to strengthen the relationships and understanding between congregations and pastors;
 - e. Encourages and assists pastors in their professional and personal growth.
 - f. Along with the local congregation, the Ministry Commission in behalf of the Board, has the authority for licensing persons to the ministry and for overseeing their nurture in the process of preparing for ordination.
 - g. The Ministry Commission reviews all applications for ordination to the ministry and makes recommendations to the Executive Board. The Commission shall proceed with ordination when the Executive Board and local congregation vote approval.
- 9. Stewards Commission.**
- a. The Stewards Commission aids and challenges the churches and other District groups to be faithful stewards of God-given resources;
 - b. Promotes programs of general stewardship education and enlistment;
 - c. Encourages support for the general work of the board, ~~and~~ commissions, and Task Groups and for specific projects;
 - d. Supervises the financial interests of the district;
 - e. Safeguards and utilizes the property, assets and equipment of the District; and
 - f. Recommends the annual budget.
- 10. ~~Other Commissions as defined by the Board of Administration.~~ Task Groups as defined by the Executive Board**
- a. Task Groups are responsible to strengthen and revitalize congregations in part by:
 - (1) Supporting spiritual formation
 - (2) Enhancing worship
 - (3) Providing opportunities for training lay persons
 - (4) Counseling and coordinating age and interest groups
 - (5) Working cooperatively with related organizations on matters of religious program and leadership
 - (6) Encouraging fellowship opportunities among the churches
 - ~~† appointing liaison persons from the Board to local congregations~~
 - (7) Encouraging congregations to act on social concerns and support missions at home and abroad.
 - b. Task Groups provide opportunities for training lay church leaders and workers;
 - (1) Promote the camping programs;
 - (2) Oversee the Center for Brethren studies, encouraging ongoing education for lay persons, persons working towards licensing or ordination and continuing education for ministers; and
 - (3) Help congregations to identify, call out and train new leaders.
 - c. Task Groups provide the necessary resources (prayer, training, and oversight) to encourage and equip congregations and leaders to respond to the harvest God is giving them by launching new missions, congregations and ministries. Always keeping Matthew 9:35 - 10:2 in mind, oversee the following areas:
 - (1) The training, coaching, and accountability for church planters.
 - (2) The encouragement of ~~emerging churches~~ projects and fellowships and their leaders until the time ~~when~~ they become ~~members~~ congregations in the PSW District.
 - (3) The encouragement of congregations, fellowships and projects in their efforts to reach out to their communities seeking to offer God's love in ways that bring them into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.
 - (4) The calling out, training, educating and otherwise developing leaders who can reach across boundaries in the form of a servant sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.
 - (5) The education, training, and networking for congregational mission projects recognizing mission is a necessary act of discipleship.
 - (6) Recommend Church Planters to the ~~District~~ Executive Board for approval.
- J. Quorum.** The Executive Board may do business when two-thirds of its ~~elected~~ voting members are present at a called meeting or vote via email or phone as part of a virtual meeting.

K. Board Committees.

1. **The Shalom Team.** As described in the 2002 Annual Conference paper
 2. **Historical Committee.** The Historical Committee consists of three members. The committee is concerned with all matters of historic interest to the District and collects, preserves, writes and, as authorized, publishes such materials.
 3. **Other Committees.** Other committees may be appointed to assist with the work of the District. When the assignment is completed, the committee is dismissed.
- L. Group Fellowships.** The activities of subsidiary or fellowship groups (such as women's fellowship group, men's fellowship group, deacons' group, pastors' group, etc.) are subject to the coordination and concern of the District and accountable to the Board. Each fellowship group may elect the officers necessary for its activities and hold meetings as necessary to care for the business of the fellowship. Fellowship events should be coordinated with the District calendar.

IV. District Personnel**A. District Executive Minister.**

1. The District Board of Administration employs a District Executive Minister (or District Executive Ministers), who is the Chief Executive Officer, to manage the business of the District. The District Executive Minister is a member of the Church of the Brethren and qualified by training, experience and personal dedication to Christ and the church to guide, counsel, and encourage District and local church workers in the development of vital and well-balanced church programs.
2. The District Executive Minister serves as secretary of the corporation and is custodian of all official papers of the District and is an ex-officio member without vote of the Policy Board, Executive Board and its committees and the committees of the District.
3. The District Executive Minister gives guidance and assistance for pastoral placement in the District.

B. Other Staff. The District Executive Minister is responsible for the employment, review and termination of other staff.

V. General Provisions

- A. Endorsement of Documents and Contracts.** Any note, contract or instrument in writing entered into between the corporation and any other person, when signed by the legal officers of the corporation, shall be valid and binding on the corporation in the absence of actual knowledge on the part of the other person that the signing officers had no authority to execute it. Unless authorized by the ~~board~~ Executive Board, no other officer or agent or employee shall have any authority to bind the corporation by any contract or to pledge its credit or to render it liable for any purpose or amount.
- B. Representation of Shares of Other Corporation.** The District Executive Minister or any other officer or officers designated by the Executive Board are each authorized to vote or represent on behalf of the corporation all rights incident to any and all shares of any other corporation standing in the name of the corporation. The authority may be exercised by proxy or power of attorney executed by that officer.
- C. Indemnification.** The District will reimburse and indemnify each officer and salaried employee for and against all amounts paid and all costs and expenses, including attorney's fees, imposed in connection with any claim or proceeding, (or in connection with any appeal,) asserted because of his or her having been an officer or salaried employee of the District; provided that the District shall not reimburse or indemnify any officer or employee with respect to any matters to which he or she shall be adjudged to be liable because of misconduct in the performance of his or her duties. Upon settlement, the District shall reimburse and indemnify any officer or employee, but only if it is determined by a disinterested majority of the Executive Board or by a disinterested person or group to whom the question may be referred by the Executive Board that the person was not guilty of misconduct in the performance of his or her duties in relation to the matter or that the person was acting in good faith within what s/he reasonably believed to be the scope of his or her employment or authority and for a purpose which s/he reasonably believed to be in the best interest of the District.
- D. Property:** All real property of the District and its constituent congregations and agencies shall not be sold or otherwise fiscally encumbered without the prior approval of the ~~District Board of Administration~~ Executive Board, and that the proceeds of any sale of real property shall be held in trust and reserved for the acquisition of other real or improved property except with the prior approval of the ~~District~~ Executive Board.

VI. Relationships With Other Organizations

The District favors membership in, or relationship with, other organizations which further the purposes of the District. Such other organizations as Brethren Hillcrest Homes, Camp La Verne, and University of La Verne are separate corporate entities under the control of governing boards which are free of direct ownership and control by the District, and which are solely responsible for their actions and dealings.

A. Brethren Hillcrest Homes. The District Conference may elect nominees for the Brethren Hillcrest Homes Board of Directors in accordance with the policy of Hillcrest.

B. Camp La Verne. The District Conference may elect nominees for the Camp La Verne Board of Directors in accordance with the policy of Camp La Verne.

C. University of La Verne. The District Conference may elect nominees for the Board of Trustees of the University of La Verne in accordance with the policy of the University of La Verne.

VII. Amendments

These By-Laws may be amended by a majority vote of the delegates present at a District Conference. Proposed amendments must be distributed at least two weeks before the Conference convenes for business.

Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren

Executive Minister's Report

In 2005, it was reported that the PSWD lost the highest percentage of members of any district in the Church of the Brethren. I did not argue with those figures because any of us could look in most of our churches, with just a few exceptions, and see both an aging and declining population. In 2006, the PSWD seemingly turned things around and became the district with the largest percentage increase in the denomination. What are we to make of this "turn around?"

Not much, I would think. I remember when I first took the position of Executive Minister and met with a businessman whom I highly respect and love. Some of you may have heard that when I met with him and told him of our church plants and planning, he said something like: "So, you have thirty 'stores' in your district, they are sorely underutilized and many can barely afford to stay open without financial help, and you want to build *more* of them?"

"Hmm," I said. I have thought about that brother's keen sense of discernment and I wonder if we are just using our finances to prop up what will inevitably end while neglecting what God may see fit to prosper. I think of our Lord and am mindful that his band of followers had a simple coin purse to support their ministries and the treasure he offered to the ailing and "lost" was something other than money. I think we need to ask the question, "Are we using our district's funds to survive in order to keep our 'clubs' going, or are we using it to further God's purposes?" My hope is the latter. It will take all of us working selflessly together to discern God's best for our resources and our local ministries. While I am not convinced that we have moved to that position as a district, we are clearly called to that vision of preparation, perseverance, risk, and service to others- not just survival. (Please read all of Matt 25).

This year, we joyfully bring in three new church plants to our district: de Cristo Sion (Pomona), Jesucristo es la Verdad (Ontario), and La Voz de Dios en Su Hogar (LA). These plants join our current plants: Kern River (Bakersfield), Lord of Love (Victorville), The Well (Tucson), and our newly recognized fellowship, Latino Community Brethren (Fresno). Carrie Cesar, Joe Vecchio, and the rest of the staff have been working overtime to make these new starts and transitions as seamless as possible. It is clear that we are learning as we take these inter-cultural and "post-modern" steps.

Some of the transition issues we face have to do with language and we are blessed to have our new bi-lingual secretary in the office, Brenda Pérez, join our other bi-lingual member. Other issues have to do with how different generations do church, such as supporting the next generation at The Well in non-traditional ministries in Jesus' name. I encourage you all to get to know these new people in our midst, pray for one another, and make our bonds more than just "church business," or adding numbers to our statistics. True success will not only be measured by

numbers, but by each new group's ministries and by their fellowship and connectedness to the Brethren and the wider Church in a more than surface manner.

There are also many revitalization programs in the district. We continue to support ministries at New Harvest (Lindsay), Bella Vista, Circle of Peace, Community Brethren, Imperial Heights, Live Oak, Pomona Fellowship, Principe De Paz, San Diego First, South Bay, and Tucson. Some of these churches are in Carrie's portfolio and a few of them are my responsibility. Our desire is that these ministries discern God's call for them and step out in faith during the two to three years that the district lends financial support. Last year, you pledged over \$400,000 for church planting and revitalization, which is a tremendous investment on your part. Carl and Carrie Beckwith work hard to assure that accounts are appropriately opened and proper procedures followed to protect your assets.

Leadership is the third leg of our district ministry triad, that of 1) training and equipping leaders, 2) planting new churches, and 3) revitalizing old congregations. The board supported Doris Dunham's new training program, CREDO, which will allow us some flexibility in training and ordaining new leaders. This new program, along with our partnership with the Bethany Academy, will allow us to raise up leaders in our midst, a "mission critical" issue if we are to continue as a functioning district.

There have been several special milestones in ministerial leadership this year in the PSWD. Marty Sondermann was licensed to the Christian ministry at New Harvest on March 11th. Dawna Welch was licensed March 18th in La Verne. Paul Lovelace was licensed on March 25th at Pomona Fellowship. Phillip Heidt was licensed April 22nd in South Bay. Mike Martin was ordained June 3rd at Papago Buttes, and Mary Fleming's ordination was recognized by the Church of the Brethren at Prince of Peace in Sacramento on May 20th. In August, we said good-bye to Dena Gilbert, who has been our District Youth and Young Adult Coordinator for the past ten years. At the same time, we welcome three new Companion Grant staff members, Mike Solerno at Pomona Fellowship and Richard and Becky Zapata at Principe de Paz.

In addition to the above transitions, we also recognize the passing of several of our leaders to the Church Victorious, W. Russell Burriss, Leland Emrick, Joseph Jennings, and Vernard Eller. We give thanks for these men and for the service they gave in Christ's name. As you pray for these pastor's families, be mindful of extending love and support to our ongoing pastoral and ministerial leaders.

As I close, I make the observation to you that we are the "biggest little" district in the denomination. We are few in number and widely dispersed geographically. Yet we have a whole lot going on. I will name just a couple items from this year. We held a great clergy/spouse event near Pacific Palisades in February and the northern pastoral cluster is planning a pastor/spouse event for 2008 in the redwoods.

Executive Minister's Report, and office staff reports: continued

We held the Spring Event on evangelism with Jim Henderson at Imperial Heights in April and I did a follow up workshop at Papago Buttes in June. On the business front, the executive committee approved job descriptions for staff, office policies, and background checks. We will also be presenting a new board structure to the conference and plan

for follow up training at the board retreat in January. Thank you for your support and trust as we continue to travel through new territory together in Christ.

Bryan Boyer

Recognition of Ministers' Ordination Anniversaries

70 Years

W. Donald Clague

60 Years

N. Dwight Enberg

50 Years

Ralph E. Click

40 Years

John H. Gingrich, Jr.

Karl A. Pohlhaus

30 Years

Jonathan C. Hunter

25 Years

Olga Serrano

Representing 315 years
of service.

Deceased Ministers

W. Russell Burriss (3/17/07)

Vernard M. Eller (6/18/07)

Leland B. Emrick (11/28/06)

Joseph R. Jennings (11/4/06)

Coordinator of Youth & Young Adult Ministries Report

Dena Gilbert (*district staff position*)

The office has been a busy place this year: our mission for ministry with Youth and Young Adults has had us calling out leaders, growing young Christians in faith and character, honing skills for ministry service, and engaging with young people in learning, service and spiritual growth. Many youth and their adult advisors have been involved in local, district and national ministries, sharing their gifts, building relationships, and growing in Christ. I have enjoyed the opportunity to work and worship with many of you, and have been blessed to see our mutual ministries grow!

God's call to Ministry with youth can be as challenging as it is rewarding. Ours is no small mission: to bring people to new life in Christ and to equip the saints for ministry. This means that we get the opportunity to challenge each one to grow in their understanding of Jesus as Lord, to live into their God-given gifts, and to claim the call to love and serve. Young people are seeking meaning in the midst of confusion, and purpose for their lives. How do we inspire youth to new life in Christ in today's ever-changing cultural climate? By being joyful followers of Jesus' example, and living in the light of God's redeeming love, in the world as

we find it. We must listen carefully, to God, to youth, to each other, and support one another in our efforts to "grow in love, into the likeness of Christ" (*Eph:4:15*).

On a District level, we do this by working with youth and advisors to train up leaders, grow local youth programs, and engage people in ministry service. We see young people as integral to the life of the church, and we strive to support them in their spiritual development, understanding of faith, and in service to God's world. We study, talk, learn and worship, and we put our hands and hearts to the practices of the faith, commissioned to love and to serve as followers of Jesus. We attend to simple practices, like learning to pray together, taking time to be alone with God and the Word, reaching out to serve our neighbor's need, and staying in creative conversation with one another.

To this end, the District has **supported several ministry programs this year**, including: Outdoor Ministries in Winter and Summer, Training Events in Leadership, Evangelism and Brethren Heritage, Christian Citizenship Seminar, Young Adult Friends & Fellowship Camp, Annual Conference, Young Adult Conference, service ministries and Work Camps, and District Conference.

Executive Minister's Report, and office staff reports: continued

These events are **currently on the calendar for the year ahead**: Youth Advisor's Retreat, Nov. 10-12, 2007; Young Adult Faith Learning Tour to Thailand and Burma, Nov. 24 - Dec. 10, 2007; Western Regional Young Adult Conference, Dec. 28 - 30, 2007, Winter Youth Camp, Feb. 16 - 18, 2008, PSWD Peace Retreat in March, National Christian Citizenship Seminar in April, and Western Regional Youth Conference in July.

Please check our website: www.pswdcob.org for more information! On the site you'll find great stuff, like photos from recent activities, a calendar of events, publicity flyers and registration forms for upcoming programs, and important links to sites for our district camps, National Youth & Young Adult programs, Brethren Colleges and Brethren Volunteer Service. There's information about district and national events for Young Adults and other items of interest like Ministry Summer Service, Young Adult Conference, national and district work camps and fellowship events.

The district office has several **resources available** to

assist leaders in developing engaging ministry programs. These include curricular resources for Christian education, recreation activities, fund-raising ideas, worship aides, resources for team building and leadership development, insurance considerations and training materials for leaders, service project possibilities, and web and video resources of various kinds. We also publish a quarterly newsletter for youth and their advisors called **Youth News**, and a bi-monthly e-newsletter for Young Adults called **SoulCircle**. **Scholarship help** to attend events or be involved in other ministry opportunities is always available through our office.

Thank you for faithfully continuing the work of Jesus,
peacefully, simply, together.

May God continue to bless you in service!

Dena Gilbert, Coordinator of Youth & Young Adult Ministries

Center for Brethren Studies Director Report

Doris Dunham (*district staff position*)

CBS is excited to be co-sponsoring the presence of Susan Jeffers as the Bible Study resource person for this year's district conference. Susan is well-known to TRIM (Training in Ministry) students, as one of their regular instructors. We welcome Susan to the Pacific Southwest District and are happy to have her share her biblical knowledge with us.

In the fall of 2006 we sponsored a class on three weekends at the La Verne church on Enhancing Worship. Leadership was provided by Nancy Faus-Mullen, Tom Mullen, John and Sherrie Eby, and Shawn Kirchner. Topics included worship service preparation, preaching, drama, puppetry, signing, and music in worship. During a long weekend in March, our district hosted a Brethren Academy class at the Bakersfield church on Church of the Brethren Polity and Practices, taught by Warren Eshbach. We are looking forward to hosting another Brethren Academy class in the spring of 2008, with exciting denominational leadership. Look for specific information to come. This course will be open to all.

Most of the current efforts in the Center for Brethren Studies (CBS) are being directed toward the specifics of

development of an academy program authorized by our district board in April for the training of ministerial and lay leadership. The program, CREDO (Christian Religious Education for Disciples and Ordinands), is designed to be a three-year training program which will take a person from licensing to ordination for term of service in our district and will also train lay leadership for our congregations. One exciting aspect of the program is our intent to offer CREDO in English, Spanish, and other languages as needed. We are currently in the process of translating all forms, documents, and course materials into Spanish and are considering translating these documents into Korean as well.

The CBS director continues to provide information to pastors, ministry students, and interested lay persons on training and course opportunities as they are available. You are invited to check the CBS link on the PSWD website or contact the Director of CBS for more information, to make suggestions, or to get information for scheduled classes.

Doris Hopwood Dunham
Director, Center for Brethren Studies
cbs@pswdcob.org

Missions Director Report

Carrie Cesar (*district staff position*)

Work this first year focused on providing structures and processes needed for systems of support and lines of accountability, in other words a means of guidance,

encouragement and direction needed for three areas of ministry:

–*Hispanic Ministry*

Executive Minister's Report, and office staff reports: continued

–Companion Staff and Church Revitalization –New Church Development

Accomplishments to date in –Hispanic Ministry

Organized 3 meetings for the PSWD Hispanic Association of the CoB who are in the initial stages of formation; have named their group, (Asociación Hispana del distrito Pacifico Suroeste de la Iglesia de los Brethren) chose leaders and are presently working on a Mission and Vision statement. In attendance at last meeting there were 17 leaders from 6 district churches; 3 church projects, one church fellowship and 2 existing congregations.

- ! Collecting data and information on existing District Churches involvement with mission projects in México, interviewed 6 churches about their plans/goals to continue in their ministries there. See this as an item that the Hispanic Association can help to coordinate in the future because of their knowledge and interest.
- ! Raised awareness of need for District to improve translation and interpretation for training events, written information and district correspondence including; Web site, formal documents and key books and manuals for equal access to information and church development. Working with Joe to recommend a process for identifying needed translations and who will translate them.
- ! Worked with Doris and Bryan on creating “CREDO”; a training program that could meet the needs of Hispanic leaders serving in churches but seeking their ordination or to further their religious training locally.

Plans for –Hispanic Ministry

- ! Help the Hispanic Association to grow, develop their organization and communicate their needs and actions.
- ! Make sure language will not be a barrier for Hispanics who seek participation and preparation in the PSWD.

Accomplishments to date in –Companion Staff and Church Revitalization

In supervising the companion grants for the three year period since approval, evaluation is based on job description and the set of goals found in the original application. We can then judge how close their church is to reaching their goal with the staff person in place and what chance there is for achieving self sufficiency in providing for that staff.

- ! Developed an evaluation system and format based on set goals presented to Board
- ! Held initial interviews with each grant recipient and pastor
- ! The PSWD Emerging Church Organization (ECO) group was formed and named, met and agreed to meet again before District Conference. Purpose of group is to share ideas and encourage ministry that comes from the Emerging Church ideology and educate district in this growing movement that will provide for church growth and relevance.

Plans for –Companion Staff and Church Revitalization

- ! Hold a group session this quarter with recipients to receive quarterly reports and do evaluations.
- ! Organize another meeting with ECO to take place right before district conference and invite more people.

Accomplishments to date in –New Church Development

In supervising New Church Development grants or church planter's, we have a 3 year goal of reaching congregation status, so we can expect that in each year there is significant action towards their goal to show ability to reach that desired status.

- ! Lead and Organized 4 meetings with Church planters, one every 60 days.
- ! Began work developing training sessions based on the New Church Development Handbook by Shumate.
- ! Worked with Carl, Bryan and Joe to develop the process for church plants to receive and use grant funding.

Plans for –New Church Development

- ! Finish developing processes for: grant application, screening, initial interview, site visits, application interview, ministry plans, presentation of ministry plan/grant proposal to board, receiving grant funds, etc.
- ! Creating a structure and guidelines for our PSWD New Church Network consisting of Missions Director orchestrating selection and training for New Church Coaches who will be leading prospective church planters through a process of grant application and interviews, preparation of Ministry plan, presentation of their New Church grant proposal to the Board.
- ! Designing a 2 year training program in cooperation with CBS Director for planters approved by the Board so that they will be guided through the process of: Project, Fellowship to Congregation status.

Carrie Cesar

Missions Director

MissionsDirector@pswdcob.org

District Conference Program Committee Report

<p style="text-align: center;">Committee Members:</p> <p>Chair Sara Haldeman-Scarr (San Diego) Member Russ Matteson (Modesto) Member Cathy Iacueli (Circle of Peace) Moderator Mary Kay Ogden (La Verne) Moderator-Elect John Price (Empire)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Ex-Officio Members of the Committee:</p> <p>Board Chair Jim Davis District Executive Minister Bryan Boyer Women's Fellowship Chair Lillian Hopson Youth & Young Adult Ministries Coordinator Dena Gilbert</p>
<p>On-Site Coordinator: Michael Wolfson</p>	

As we begin our report, we want to express our thanks to the Papago Buttes Church of the Brethren and to their planning committee in particular for hosting the 2006 District Conference. The hospitality they shared with all who attended was wonderful, and all enjoyed the opportunity to see and worship in their new building. Many thanks!

The Program Committee continues to be hard at work in planning for each year's conference, and continuing our work at strengthening the focus and vision for District Conference as we move into the future. Before providing additional detail on our work this year, we want to remind delegates of the vision statement that the Program Committee adopted in 2006 which continues to guide our work on your behalf:

Program Committee seeks to make District Conference into an event that more fully reflects the full call that District Conference be a place for business, worship, education, and fellowship. We envision District Conference being an event that equips attendees to return to their congregations with both renewed vision and skills for ministry.

In evaluating the 2006 Conference we should share a few items. Costs for the year exceeded income to conference by about \$5,000. Of that, \$2,100 was a one time expense for the purchase of language translation equipment for the use of District Conference, as well as at any other District events. Registrations were also lower than at California based conferences and that impacts the revenue from registrations and meal events. We continue to look at cost issues and how we as a committee may reduce these going into the future. A major area of

expense is in printing and mailing, and we intend to explore using available technology to help reduce these expenses in the future. The Program Committee continue to work at these and other items, while trying to move towards fulfilling the vision for conference that was stated above.

We are excited to welcome Ken Medema and Annual Conference Moderator Jim Beckwith to the 2007 District Conference hosted at the La Verne Church of the Brethren. The presence of Ken Medema is an additional step towards making District Conference an event that will inspire and equip our congregations and individuals to return to their churches inspired for ministry. We will also incorporate the District celebration of our 300th anniversary as a denomination into District Conference. The La Verne On-Site Coordinator, Michael Wolfson, has been hard at work helping her congregation to be ready to welcome and host us. We look forward to being in La Verne this October 12-14 for a time of business, worship, education, and fellowship.

As we look to the future, we are planning for a keynote speaker to be with us at the 2008 District Conference who will inspire us in ministry and provide for practical training that we can take back to our churches to strengthen our local ministries. The Community Brethren Church in Fresno has offered to host us for District Conference November 7-9, 2008.

As we move into the future we are also considering non-congregation based sites for the conference. We encourage all attendees to complete the evaluation forms which help us to improve the quality of conference and look for additional opportunities to make this event one that is most helpful to our congregations.

Nominating Committee Report

*As of 7/9/2007,
No report submitted.*

The Committee consists of six members,
Three are elected:
Marlin Heckman, Chair
Berkley Davis
Bernice Pence

Three serve through their office:
Moderator, Mary Kay Ogden
Clerk, Laura Miller
Board Chair, Jim Davis

Standing Committee Delegate Report

If you haven't been to a Church of the Brethren Annual Conference, you would have a treat if you could attend. We have wonderful music, inspiring Worship services and lots of insight sessions for learning about the different agencies within the denomination.

This year we have been challenged by New Business that makes us sit up and listen. The issues we faced were queries on: Child Abuse Prevention, Annual Conference Schedule, Reverse Membership Trend, Update on Annual Conference Polity and a Recommendation Regarding Christian Churches Together.

The Unfinished Business has been carried over from last year or earlier. They are: Doing Church Business, Becoming a Multi-Ethnic Church, Brethren Medical Plan Resolution, and a report from the Review and Evaluation Committee with a new mandate.

Over the next several issues of New Life, I will be writing a request to you and your congregation to look into and discuss several topics that need some serious

work. Our Pacific Southwest District has some challenges to work on, too.

The Standing Committee has the job of going through all the business and makes the recommendation to the Delegates as to how to handle the query. Then each Standing Committee is required to go to the business meetings of Conference and participate again in voting on the recommendation we brought originally. Standing Committee has hours of discussion and debate before we are ready to make a recommendation to the Conference delegates. And then there is another opportunity for discussion and debate from the floor of Conference before the vote is taken.

Watch for the next several issues of New Life and my challenge to you and your congregation.

Roma Jo Thompson,
PSWD Standing Committee Representative

General Board Member Representing PSWD

Angela Lahman Yoder

I am pleased to present to you some of the work of the General Board in this written report, though you may also access more highlights of the General Board's ministries over the past year, through the illustrated report available at district conference.. Having approved a new vision statement at the October 2006 meeting, the General Board set forth to "love, lead, and challenge the Church of the Brethren to proclaim and live the work of Jesus so the world may be transformed."

Here are some highlights of the year as examples of ways we live out our core values to be Christ-like.

Witnesses/Evangelists/ Globally Focused

Brad Bohrer is directing the **Sudan Initiative** project where a new, "old" model of mission support is being utilized by connecting congregations to specific missionaries. An implementation team comprised of *Phil and Louie Rieman* and *Enten Eller* was sent to Sudan following Annual Conference 2007. Also, two teams were confirmed for the first two years of service: *Jim and Pam Hardenbrook*, and the *Messick family*.

At our March 2007 meeting, we were blessed to hear from some involved in **Global Missions**. *Marcos and Suely Inhauser*, directors of the Brazil ministry and *Ludovic St. Fleur* of the Haiti mission led in worship and brought greetings and prayer requests from their respective missions.

Also, Annual Conference Moderator, *Belita Mitchell* shared about her connection with the EYN congregations and leadership during a trip to Nigeria in early 2007. I was able to attend the first worship of the Cross-Cultural Ministries Consultation held in April 2007 and encourage all to attend in the future.

Servants of the Spirit /

Unpretentious /

Community-minded

Brethren Disaster Ministries, formerly Emergency Response, continued relief efforts in areas affected by Hurricane Katrina. The executive committee of the board was able to travel in February 2007 to witness the ongoing need for this kind of service and witness. Also, monies from the Emergency Disaster Fund were allocated to projects here in the US and around the globe.

The Witness/ Washington Office continued its presence in Washington, bringing forward such issues as continued relationship building in Vietnam, support for a pastoral letter on immigration, a paper on the use of depleted uranium in war.

Guided/Able to Discern

The new Sunday school curriculum, *Gather 'Round*, is thriving on orders from other denominations beyond the Church of the Brethren and the Mennonite church. All congregations are encouraged to use this resource as we teach our children about God's kingdom through Jesus Christ. The Office of Ministry is working on revisions to the Ethics in Ministry paper, and hosted a Consultation on Ministry event at the Elgin general offices in May 2007.

In March 2007, spurred by the executive committee's initial thoughts about celebrating the 300th Anniversary of the Church of the Brethren in a big way, the board met in executive session to discern how best to proceed. From this meeting, the board and staff agreed to voluntarily participate in the Covenant of Prayer. We invite you as well to be in prayer daily for the ministries of the church, as well as "meet" weekly with prayer partners through phone or email.

Stewards

The Brethren Service Center Ministry Options Exploration committee worked fervently to determine how ministry and mission could be strengthened at this property in New Windsor, MD and will bring a final recommendation to the board in October 2007.

Led in a process the board calls "New Wineskins," the board continually review the current ministries and vision together with staff about new opportunities in ministry. Our budgets have remained intact the last few years, with no cuts needed, but they have not been increased either.

One of the most poignant lessons I've learned from serving on the General Board for 5 years is just how we can take this vital organization for granted. Many of the larger church's projects are carried out by staff people who work under market with limited budgets, but the Spirit of God is alive within their work. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve, and although my term is complete, I am eager to stay active in support of the General Board with my time and money. I implore you to also join the covenant of prayer or submit ideas for 300 dreams in this coming year. Also to stay well informed, subscribe to *Messenger* magazine and to our free on-line newsletter called *Newsline*. Remember to visit the Church of the Brethren website, found at www.brethren.org

Thanks!

Angie Lahman Yoder
LahmanYoder@cox.net

List of Board of Administration Members

x = serving unexpired term ! # = serving second term

Chair: 2009 Jim Davis (Community Brethren/Fresno)

Vice-Chair: #2007 Paul Lovelace (Pomona Fellowship)

Church Life Commission:

#2007 Milton Ewert, chair (Modesto)
 2009 Janelle Keeling (Bakersfield)
 2007 Erin McCourt (Fellowship in Christ)
 #2008 Norma Sexton (Bakersfield)
 2008 Roma Jo Thompson (Papago Buttes)

Met regularly with us: Congregational Life Team, Jeff Glass

Ministry Commission:

#2007 Letha Ressler, chair (La Verne)
 2008 John Price (Empire)
 2008 Gilbert Romero (Bella Vista)

ex-officio members and staff who spent extra time with us:
 District Executive Minister, Bryan Boyer; Moderator,
 Mary Kay Ogden

Leadership Commission:

2007 Juanita Lapp, chair (La Verne)
 2008 Vera Mae Gephart (La Verne)
 2009 Victor Olvera (Bella Vista)
 2007 Cambria Teter (La Verne)

ex-officio members and staff who spent extra time with us:

Board Chair, Jim Davis;
 Center for Brethren Studies Director, Doris Dunham;
 Youth & Young Adult Ministries Coordinator, Dena Gilbert

Mission & Church Planting Commission:

2008 Thomas Dowdy, chair (Imperial Heights)
 2007 Cady Laycook (South Bay)
 #2007 Paul Lovelace (Pomona Fellowship)
 2009 Rene Quintanilla (Latino Community Brethren)
 2007 Mercedes Zapata (Príncipe de Paz/Santa Ana)

ex-officio members and staff who spent extra time with us:
 Missions Director, Carrie Cesar

Youth / Young Adult Members: (one year terms)

Erin McCourt (Fellowship in Christ)
 Cambria Teeter (La Verne)
 Vivian Vecchio (Glendora)

Stewards Commission:

#2008 Bill Johnson, chair (Modesto)
 2008 Everett Deidiker (Papago Buttes)
 x2008 Elizabeth Rowan (Pasadena)
 2007 Vivian Vecchio (Glendora)

ex-officio members and staff who spent extra time with us:
 Treasurer, Larry Woodruff;
 Financial & Property Manager, Carl Beckwith

Ex-Officio Members of the Board of Administration:

District Executive Minister: Bryan Boyer (La Verne)

Moderator: Mary Kay Ogden (La Verne)

Moderator-Elect: John Price (Empire) *who serves on a commission*

Treasurer: Larry Woodruff (La Verne) *who serves on Stewards*

Standing Committee 7/06-7/09: Roma Jo Thompson (Papago Buttes) *who serves on a commission*

PSWD Clerk: Laura Miller (Papago Buttes) *who serves as Recording Secretary*

Three Workgroups for 2006-2007 Board

Revitalizing Churches

Bill Johnson, Chair
 Everett Deidiker
 Milton Ewert
 Cady Laycook
 Victor Olvera
 John Price
 Vivian Vecchio
 Larry Woodruff

Training Leaders

Paul Lovelace, chair
 Juanita Lapp, secretary
 Erin McCourt
 Elizabeth Rowan
 Letha Ressler
 Roma Jo Thompson

Serving & Evangelizing Our Neighbors

Thomas Dowdy, Chair
 Gilbert Romero, vice-chair
 Norma Sexton, secretary
 Vera Mae Gephart
 Rene Quintanilla
 Mercedes Zapata

Board of Administration Report

It is truly an honor to serve as the Chair of the Board in the Pacific Southwest District. I am convinced that this is a place and a time where all can clearly see the movement of God's Spirit as we all seek to serve Him. There is a sense of purpose and excitement in the board as we work together with our congregations, new and old, to share the good news of Jesus Christ with those around us. Across the District there are signs of growth, signs of life, signs of God's presence as our people respond to Christ's simple command, "Follow me!"

We have been blessed with a truly wonderful staff here in the PSWD, and I give thanks for the hard work of our tireless District Executive Minister Bryan Boyer, our Administrative Assistant Joe Vecchio (thanks, Joe, for trying to keep me organized this year), our Treasurer Larry Woodruff, and our Financial & Property Manager Carl Beckwith. We have been very excited about the arrival of our new Missions Director, Carrie Cesar, who has brought real enthusiasm and dedication to her work, and to our new Center for Brethren Studies Director, Doris Dunham, who has done a truly incredible job of creating a new program which provides wonderful learning opportunities for all of us. Finally, we give thanks for the ministry of Dena Gilbert, whose long tenure ministering to District Youth is coming to a close. It is with profound appreciation for her many gifts, with appreciation for the love which she has brought to her ministry, and with sincere affection that we offer our heartfelt gratitude, and our best wishes as the Lord leads Dena into the future. The Board has been hard at work, deciding where the Lord is leading us as we consider how

best to fill the needs of the District in the areas of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, and we are excited about the new directions we are pursuing. Be sure to read the respective reports of our staff members – these are not just "reports;" they are accounts of the work of the Spirit of God in our midst, and there is a lot to be excited about.

There are many events that you can be involved in through the year (just take a look at the District calendar!); I personally was blessed to attend several, including the Spring Event in April, *Evangelism for the Rest of Us*, led by nationally known evangelism leaders Jim Henderson and Rose Madrid-Swetman; my thanks to the Imperial Heights Church for hosting this insightful training session.

The Board and its commissions, workgroups, and committees have done an amazing amount of work this year, with the approval of new job descriptions, the creation and processing of surveys, the administration of hundreds of thousands of dollars of grant monies, and work towards creating a new, more streamlined Board structure, more in line with the demands of our mission and vision of ministry. Across the Brotherhood, the PSWD is garnering attention for our dynamic approach to planting and revitalizing churches. I hope that this District Conference and these reports will help you to gain a sense of the powerful ways that God's Spirit is moving in our midst, as we seek to be faithful to the call to minister.

God bless,
Jim Davis
District Board Chair

Historical Committee Report:

*As of 7/9/2007,
No report submitted.*

Members:
Marlin Heckman (La Verne)
Bill Lemon, (Pomona Fellowship)
Board Chair, Jim Davis
Moderator, Mary Kay Ogden
District Executive Minister, Bryan Boyer

Ecumenical Council Representatives Report:

Arizona: Robert E. Keim

Arizona Ecumenical Council www.aecunity.net has grown to include a sizeable portion of Christian groups in our state. They hold various training events and continuing education efforts for all, as well as having several committees working actively on social justice issues. There is an ongoing effort to provide classes in training for church leadership. A number of these activities are funded

by various jurisdictions that assess themselves financially to cover the expenses. Our Church of the Brethren, being smaller, has contributed a lesser amount on an annual basis. Tithing individuals and local congregations are encouraged to underwrite this umbrella group that crosses denominational lines to present cutting-edge programming for all. It is a joy to represent you at the quarterly meeting of this ecumenical group.

Board of Administration Report: continued

Northern California: Art Crane

I attend the *North State Ecumenical Conference* in Sacramento, California. www.nsec.org "The NSEC is a gathering of judicatory representatives that serves as a forum for on-going discussion of faith and order matters for the purpose of developing and expressing unity in Christ in our witness to the world. We bring diversity that benefits all participant members and we encourage bilateral and multilateral dialogue.

We attempt to nurture a diversity that enriches the faith and order of all participants without advocating uniformity. We will seek opportunities to express our emerging unity. We meet to keep communication and local discussion open between our Christian churches, to learn more about one another, and to foster Christian unity. We have hosted ecumenical study days, special worship services and ecumenical activities."

"Revitalizing Churches"

Bill Johnson, workgroup chair

The Church Revitalization Work Group was really created in 2006 and did some preliminary work in the area of camps, newspaper advertising and has vigorously supported congregations looking at grants for additional support in their ministries and operation. This year will be the third and final year for full financial support for advertising. In the 2008 budget we are proposing a 50/50 split in cost between the district and the congregation.

However in 2007, with the help and support of Jeff Glass and Marty Sondermann (Lindsay) we are piloting the set up and running of up to 3 congregation web sites (to be on display at district conference) but also including in the 2008 budget sufficient funds to have all of our congregations equipped with a current well maintained site at district cost. Our provision in the 2008 budget is approximately \$20,000 which is a fraction of the funds we have spent on newspaper advertising. At present only 11 of our congregations show that they have a web site. Some of those in place do not receive regular updates. Our commitment going forward is that once new information is faxed or emailed in that the change would take place within 48 hours. Early reaction to our planned "website development" has been very good. We look for all to take advantage of this tool. We find that many young adults and young families frequently will "shop" a new church online before they ever walk through the door.

Jeff Glass and members of the church revitalization work group are actively working to have pilot programs in place for the "Strengths Program" and for "Natural Church Development." Both programs are excellent for a congregation to use as tools getting back on track for positive progress.

Probably the most vital activity that the church revitalization work group will do this year is the personal

face to face call each congregation is to receive this year from a member of the church revitalization work group. The call will involve four questions regarding progress in the four ministries (adult, young adult and young families, youth and children). What we are looking for and intend to share is *what's working*. We are looking for those great "best practices" that work and why.

At conference in October we intend to provide a best practices breakout session where we will have 3 to 4 best practice presentations by the folks that are actually doing the work and getting the results. We will also be providing a handout listing all the best practices received this year and who is doing what. It is hoped to update this handout from year to year.

Stewardship commission members and now members of the church revitalization work group have found it rewarding and interesting to hold the one on one discussions and finding out those "best practices" used. These calls give congregational leaders (pastors, board chairs) a chance to communicate, ask questions in a non crisis atmosphere. It's a chance to share "what's happening (that's good) elsewhere in the district and for the calling individual to provide essential follow up to help the congregation moving forward.

Through the work of our new Missions Director, Carrie Cesar, our new start up congregations and project congregations have regular communication scheduled throughout the year. For our 32 original and existing congregations this process of regular, structured communications is not in place.

It is hoped that through the current proposed board restructuring, of job descriptions of paid staff and goals that annual face to face, one on one discussions will be seen as an essential need and priority.

We have made progress. We will have success stories to tell. We still have much to do.

"Training Leaders"

Paul Lovelace, workgroup chair

The Training Leaders Workgroup distributed a survey to pastors, board chairs and moderators in February 2007. Our aim is to help the local congregations to: 1) Call out and

train leaders, 2) Present creative programs for your congregations, 3) Identify the skills and gifts of your congregants. To help train local leaders, we sent a \$50 certificate for Brethren Press to the churches that responded by March 31st. At our August meeting, we will go through the surveys and prepare materials for the future.

"Serving & Evangelizing Our Neighbors"

Thomas Dowdy, workgroup chair

*As of 7/9/2007,
No report submitted.*

Church Life Commission Report

The Church Life Commission focus is in the various areas of ministry that a congregation might engage in to fulfill the call of "Continuing the Work of Jesus: Peaceful, Simply, Together." The appointed committees and representatives carry out that ministry, they are: Health and Caregiving, Disaster Response, Brethren Volunteer Service, Congregational Peace Network, and starting this year, the Peace and Justice Center. Because of our congregation and peace focus, the district's Executive Committee transferred oversight for the Peace and Justice Center from the Mission and Church Planting Commission to our Commission.

Our Commission spent time seeking individuals to serve representatives and committee members. We were successful in most of the areas needed. A 300th Anniversary Church of the Brethren Devotional Guide has been prepared as part of the 300th celebration of the Church of the Brethren and the Brethren Church. Congregations received information about the Guide and individuals were encouraged to order a Guide for use in their personal and collective devotional life.

Seventy-four were in attendance for this year's Spring Event, hosted by Imperial Heights with planning and support from Church Life and CLT, Jeff Glass. "**Evangelism for the Rest of Us**" was enthusiastically received by all who attended. The seminar was led by Jim Henderson and Rose Madrid-Swetland, both from **Off-the-Map.org** in Seattle. They did a good job sharing how people can make

evangelism an expression of who they are, not what they are supposed to "become." After teaching some simple steps for personal evangelism, everyone was invited to go to a local mall or coffee shop to practice what they had learned. Some exciting and energizing stories were shared by participants who came back knowing, "I can do this!" Another part of the seminar that was very helpful taught us how the local church can partner or network with other groups in serving the community. None of our congregations have a lot of resources to share with our communities, but we have some. As we learn to partner with other community groups, we can have a greater impact and witness for Christ. Many people left asking if we can have a follow-up event to this one in the future. This is a good sign that evangelism is alive in the PSWD!

Church Life Commission:

Milton Ewert, chair (Modesto)
Janelle Keeling (Bakersfield)
Erin McCourt (Fellowship in Christ)
Norma Sexton (Bakersfield)
Roma Jo Thompson (Papago Buttes)

Jeff Glass (CLT: Congregational Life Team for General Board) met with us on a regular basis.

Report to Church Life Commission from the Health and Caregiving Committee

The Health and Caregiving Committee of the PSWD had a display at District Conference 2006. We played a documentary CD from ABC about the various facets of their programs. It was their report to the National Annual Conference. We again offered our annual "Blood Pressure Clinic" for anyone interested. High blood pressure is becoming recognized as the cause of many serious health problems.

Our role in our district is to promote health and wellness in our district by continuing to set up an appropriate display and offer to take the blood pressures of attendees at our District Conference. We are also the link between our district and the Association of Brethren Caregivers. The Health & Caregiving Committee is working toward a closer relationship to our national organization, which should enhance our work in our district.

We are still in the process of organizing as an on-going committee. We have added a new member. In September of 2006 our committee sent the chair, Willard Ressler, to the National Older Adult Conference. None of our committee will be going to the Healing Ministries Conference in 2007, but hope to be able to send someone to the 2008 NOAC.

We helped coordinate the Deacon's Workshop at the

LA Verne Church of the Brethren, which was sponsored by ABC. Kathy Reed led the workshop, which was well done, and appreciated by those attending.

Dr. Joe Schechter will lead an insight session at our 2007 District Conference on our present healthcare crisis. We expect to be more active in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted, Willard Ressler, Chair

Health & Caregiving Committee

Willard Ressler, chair (La Verne)
Valerie Blackburn (Prince of Peace)
Phyllis Eller (Pomona Fellowship)
Virginia Olwin (Pasadena)
Joe Schechter (La Verne)
Norma Sexton (Bakersfield)
Robin Walker (La Verne)

Ex-Officio:

Church Life Chair: Milton Ewert (Modesto)
Board Chair: Jim Davis (Community Brethren)
Moderator: Mary Kay Ogden (La Verne)
District Executive Minister: Bryan Boyer (LaVerne)

Board of Administration Report: continued

Report to Church Life Commission from the Congregational Peace Network Coordinators

The committee is in the process of organizing and determining our areas of focus. These are:

- 1) Welcoming all persons, (including LGBTs, immigrants, issues of amnesty)
- 2) The Iraq War

Report to Church Life Commission from the District Disaster Response Coordinator

For two weeks in March, 11 people from California spent time in Southwestern Mississippi 200 miles north of New Orleans, rebuilding the lives of storm victims. Dot Hess describes highlights of their volunteer time:

Four of the group were non-Brethren which is a continuing testament to our witness. We worked in two teams mostly doing major structural and inside repairs because of long-term water leaks and rot. We also spent time repairing or replacing 5 different roofs.

One of our group had been a triage/trauma nurse in Louisiana for 12 days after Katrina passed through. We went back to visit the now-working hospital where they had served in the parking lot. Having him as a part of our team

Report to Church Life Commission from the Peace & Justice Center Board

Youth Activity Center:

The Imperial Heights Peace & Justice Center has continued to be a vital ministry within the community. The set aside Youth Activity Center continues to be the focus point for the involvement of the neighboring youth.

This Outreach has been very rewarding. It has been a catalyst for meeting and making new friends in the community. It has given the Imperial Heights Church an opportunity to meet the needs of the people in the community. Our efforts in the community such as the Friday Night Youth Activity has aided in the markedly decreased violence in the surrounding neighborhoods. It has conveyed a sense of care to the youth where in the past there as a void of caring for them. Hostility and tension have subsided. Also, there is less frequent violence outbursts and gun play in the surrounding areas. Intervention programs such as ours and others in the community have increased the youth academic interest.

The Peace & Justice Youth Activity program remains centered around Friday Night's three segmented time slots. The first one and one half hour is for sign-in and open game time. The second one hour segment is for participating in scheduled event activities. The last one hour segment is divided into assembly, devotions, snacks and refreshments time, followed by clean-up and closing time.

The center also features a Saturday morning Youth Chaplain hour and work program. Youth are encouraged to attend the weekly prayer meeting and discussion time, after

- 3) Possibility of pre-emptive war with Iran
- 4) The new development of nuclear weapons

The committee would like to thank Joanne Wagoner for her dedicated service to the committee and to the Pacific Southwest District.

- Jim Costello, chair (Modesto)
- R. Jan Thompson, (Papago Buttes)

was a real privilege, because it brought the horrors of those first few days back into focus.

We also visited the lower 9th ward and walked on the levee, part of the old and part of the newly rebuilt one. We saw the community as it looks today and wondered if all of New Orleans would ever come back to life.

Disaster Response Coordinators

Network Chair: Everett Deidiker (Papago Buttes)

Northern California: Milton Ewert (Modesto)

Southern California: Leroy Lapp (La Verne)

Arizona: Everett Deidiker (Papago Buttes)

which they are eligible to participate in work tasks around the church. Several field trips are scheduled each year. The last outing was to a Clippers Basketball Game. We are presently working on scheduling a trip to the Griffith Park Observatory during the summer months.

There are several rooms that are now associated with the Center. We recently updated one of the computer lab computers for multi media applications. Our future plans are to develop a periodic newsletter publication, with the assistance of our Church family. Another of our recent accomplishments is the "Wall of the Future." The "Wall of the Future" is a gallery of photos featuring the many youths that have attended the center since its inception. The youth are very proud of this gallery display.

A few things we have been involved in:

Many of the youth that began with us while they were young, had encounters with law enforcement as they got older. Some of these youths, with and without their parents or guardian, turn to us for help as character references and probation presence. We were able to help them in their time of crisis. For most of them it only took one occurrence. For a few, it took more than one offence. I am happy to say today, that most of these youths are doing just fine with their future.

We are also a resource and aid for youth that are seeking employment by contacting different sources of employment and referring the youths.

Board of Administration Report: continued

Other community involvements:

Affiliation with local law enforcement through the Clergy Council, addressing gang violence, homicide issues, and Youth Intervention programs.

We have been invited and attended several African American Hispanic Relationship Conferences. These conferences are held annually and are sponsored by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department and the Clergy Council.

Some things not fully accomplished:

Since the beginning of the Youth Activity Center we have always been on the search for youth leadership. Our efforts in trying to find youth leader type personalities have been futile so far. We are moving more in the direction of developing and training several people.

The Peace and Justice Center Board has discussed and addressed issues that affect our neighborhoods and community, such as: – Rites of Passage program, aimed at youth conduct discipline problems, – Sponsoring an annual Fund Raising Effort for the Center, – 501C(3) potential, maybe in the future, – Scholarship awards for inner-city

youth, – Education and the High School drop out rate, its impact on the community.

To fully address issues of this magnitude requires proactive work. At the present time, we realize we are a small group and that human development is our highest priority.

A.D. Anthony, July 3, 2007

Peace & Justice Center Board

2007	Thomas Dowdy (Imperial Heights)
2007	A.D. "Tony" Anthony (Imperial Heights)
2008	Lodi Morales (Iglesia de Cristo Genesis)
2008	Norma Sexton (Bakersfield)
2009	Dena Gilbert (La Verne)
2009	<i>vacant</i>

Ex-Officio:

Board Chair: Jim Davis (Community Brethren)

Moderator: Mary Kay Ogden (La Verne)

District Executive Minister: Bryan Boyer (La Verne)

Leadership Commission Report

There are some exciting things happening from the prospective of the District level.

(1) Doris Dunham has really taken hold of the Center for Brethren Studies program. She is getting the ball rolling with good classes for the students in many areas like local classes and on-line classes, taught by excellent instructors from around the brotherhood.

(2) In an effort to help churches identify their needs, as well as let us know of qualified people in the various churches who could lead workshops, a survey was designed by the "Training Leaders Workgroup" to be sent to all the churches in the district. An incentive of \$50 credit to Brethren Press was given to those responding by the designated time. We will be acting on these requests for training opportunities in the coming year.

(3) The District Youth Program under the direction of Dena Gilbert has had some very good activity, especially in the area of Young Adults.

(4) The Camping Programs at Camp Peaceful Pines and Camp La Verne are going pretty much as usual.

For all of these programs, please read the detailed reports given by each of the directors.

It is important that you know that the Leadership Commission wants to help in whatever way possible to help each church in the PSWD in the task of calling, training, and encouraging leaders.

Leadership Commission:

Janita Lapp, chair (La Verne)
Vera Mae Gephart (La Verne)
Victor Olvera (Bella Vista)
Cambria Teter (La Verne)

Ex officio members and staff who spent extra time with us:

Board Chair, Jim Davis; Center for Brethren Studies
Director, Doris Dunham; Youth & Young Adult
Ministries Coordinator, Dena Gilbert

Ministry Commission Report

I praise God that the ministers in our district are very much God-directed ministers and serve their congregation with dedication and vision.

A high light for 2007 was the Clergy Spouse Retreat in February with Helen Beery from Indiana and Don Parker from Ohio, representatives from On Earth Peace as our resource people. A committee of John Price, R. Jan Thompson, Letha Ressler and Bryan Boyer were appointed by the Ministry

Commission to plan the retreat. Colossians 3 was the basis of our theme, ending with "Above all, clothe your selves with LOVE" on Valentines Day.

The committee experimented with having the retreat from Sunday evening, February 22, through Wednesday, February 14, which was not a weekend. We found there were pros and cons for not having it over a weekend. It was difficult for the ministers with younger children to find adequate childcare

Board of Administration Report: continued

during the week and could not attend.

Approving grants for continuing education for our pastors is one of the pleasurable parts of our commission work. We feel, along with the denominational leadership, that continuing education is important to feed the minds and souls and inspire our pastors who lead our PSWD congregations.

We are grateful to James Merrifield for his faithful work as Chair of the Nurturing and Credentialing Committee as well as the work of the other committee members:

Persons serving on the NACC committee are:

x2011 Jim Merrifield, Chair (Circle of Peace)

x2007 Jerry Davis (Pomona Fellowship)

2008 Janet Ober (La Verne)

2009 Elizabeth Rowan (Pasadena)

2010 Brenda Isaacs (Bakersfield)

Ex-Officio: Ministry Commission Chair,
District Moderator, District Board Chair, District
Executive Minister

His NACC report follows:

<<<----->>>
– Nurturing & Credentialing Committee –
Jim Merrifield, Chair

The Nurturing & Credentialing Committee serves at the pleasure of the Ministry Commission. Persons who wish to be licensed, ordained or have their ordination recognized for term of service are interviewed with a recommendation made to the Ministry Commission. Additionally, mentor and licensed minister reports are reviewed annually with progress noted and recommendations made to the Ministry Commission.

The Nurturing & Credentialing Committee offers an interview opportunity to candidates twice per year. The committee conducted a meeting on October 6-7, 2006 at which three licensing interviews were conducted, one ordination interview and one recognition of ordination interview were convened. An additional licensing interview was conducted on October 27, 2006 at the Pacific Southwest District Conference at the Papago Buttes Church of the Brethren in Scottsdale, Arizona. Recommendations were submitted to the Ministry Commission on all of the above candidates.

Review of materials submitted by licensed ministers and their mentors was completed with recommendations made to the Ministry Commission.

A meeting scheduled for May 2007 was cancelled when no candidate submitted materials for review by the announced date.

Nurturing ministers is a huge task. Our thanks to the Ministry Commission not only for organizing a Minister's & Spouse Retreat this past winter but especially for their inclusion of the licensed ministers.

<<<----->>>

Another of the joys of the Commission is indebted to and want to publicly express our thanks to our Training in Ministry (TRIM) Coordinators, James Merrifield (Arizona) and Myrna Wheeler (California) for the time and energy they spend in

helping to provide another route for ordination other than seminary training. Their reports follow:

<<<----->>>
– California TRIM Coordinator's Report –
Myrna Long Wheeler

What a pleasure to work with licensed ministers trying to find their calling in ministry. The TRIM students are dedicated to working through their learning contract at a pace that fits their personal current life needs. All students must successfully complete two classes each year as a minimum requirement for the Academy standards. A big challenge for California TRIM is the geographic distance between students when trying to get together for our Spiritual Formation Group meetings—3 or 4 times a year.

Congregations play a BIG role in the success of TRIM students. After a congregation calls someone into ministry and s/he becomes licensed, the congregation must continue to support him/her spiritually, emotionally and financially. Classes and books have costs, and sometimes travel expenses. All TRIM students need a computer and internet access in order to take classes.

Opportunities must be provided for the TRIM student to lead worship, preach, and teach various groups within the congregation. This is especially important when the student has about finished his/her class work and embarks on the Supervised Ministry component—a 400 hour requirement in a supervised setting, often in the home congregation. The congregation's role is vital to the success and oversight of its licensed minister(s).

This year the TRIM students in California included: Doris Dunham (Bakersfield), Vicki Minyard (Whittier), George Sparks (Diamond Bar), Victor Olvera (East LA); Rene Quintanilla (Fresno), and two new additions: Paul Lovelace (Chino Hills) and Dawna Welch (Claremont). Paul and Dawna went through their TRIM Orientation at Bethany Seminary in February 2007.

The TRIM Coordinators from across the denomination meet once a year to share ideas, have inspirational time, and to look at new criteria and class offerings. This year's gathering is October 18-20, 2007 in Elgin, IL, so we can observe a General Board meeting for part of our agenda.

<<<----->>>
– Arizona TRIM Coordinator's Report –
Jim Merrifield

Brother Michael Martin has completed his TRIM program, received his Certificate of Completion and was ordained to the ministry at his home congregation, Papago Buttes Church of the Brethren, on Sunday, June 3, 2007. It is with thankful hearts that we extend our congratulations to Mike on his achievement and praise God for his blessing.

Sister Karen Walters continues in the TRIM program as she looks toward a ministry with special needs persons. We gather once per month, except in tax season, in our Spiritual Formation Group for prayer, study and support.

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Board of Administration Report: continued

I will close the Ministry Commission report by again thanking all ministers who work so diligently and who give so much of themselves to God and to our congregations in the Pacific Southwest District. I also want to thank the Ministry Commission Members for their diligent and dedicated work for the Pacific Southwest District. These members are Mary Kay Ogden, John Price, Gilbert Romero and Bryan Boyer, our District Executive, who was so encouraging and helpful during my tenure as Ministry Commission Chair.

Letha Miller Ressler
PSWD Ministry Commission Chair

Ministry Commission:

Letha Ressler, chair (La Verne)
John Price (Empire)
Gilbert Romero (Bella Vista)

Ex officio members and staff who spent extra time with us:
District Executive Minister, Bryan Boyer; Moderator,
Mary Kay Ogden

Mission & Church Planting Commission Report

The Commission focus has been to develop a working relationship with the Missions Director for the reviewing of new church startups and to provide necessary support to the current church projects. Our four continuing projects, Kern River, Latino Community, Lord of Love, The Well, and our three new Hispanic projects, have access to training resources, mission enrichment, and scholarship funds.

Support was provided to those that attended the Cross-Cultural Consultation and Celebration held in New Windsor, Maryland, April 19-22, 2007. This trip provided cross-cultural exchange and information sharing across districts. The budget was reviewed and approved group to provide necessary support.

The Future goal of the Mission and Church Planting Commission is to continue to provide on-going support to existing church projects and to also increase our effort to

broaden the cross-cultural presence and awareness in the district. This will be done through visitation, training, utilization of resource materials and sharing information about our successes.

Mission & Church Planting Commission:

Thomas Dowdy, chair (Imperial Heights)
Cady Laycook (South Bay Community)
Paul Lovelace (Pomona Fellowship)
Rene Quintanilla (Latino Community Brethren)
Mercedes Zapata (Príncipe De Paz)

Ex officio members and staff who spent extra time with us:
Missions Director, Carrie Cesar



The District Board at Work

*Pictured, two sides of our
four sided work area,
12 out of 28 people
August 25, 2007*



Stewards Commission Report

The PSWD Stewardship Commission for 2007 anticipates (as of this mid May writing) a good and active year. In the 2006 budget we had anticipated approximately \$500,000 in investment income but had actual earning for the year from our investment partners of about \$760,000 pushing overall receipts for the district to about \$890,000 for 2006.

For 2007 we budgeted approximately \$526,000 from investment income and our pace through mid May should exceed \$800,000 from investment income for 2007. This would put our overall income to approximately \$950,000 (projected). That's the good news.

At district conference meeting last year we voted to increase the limit on our grants from \$400,000 to \$600,000. We failed to put any research in coming up with that number. During our April board meeting the new limit was quickly reached thereby preventing us from addressing any new grants for the remainder of the year. An email and followup reminder letter is now going out to all congregations asking them to inform the stewardship chair of any grants they might have presented this year or for next year so that (this time) we can adequately raise the limit through our district budget process in October. We apologize for the delay for not being able to adequately address grant needs for 2007.

In June, the Stewards will mail version of the original Stewardship "mini package." We encourage all congregations to conduct an annual pledge process, and we emphasize how important it is to educate and to re-educate our congregations on the need to provide financial support to your own congregation, district, denomination and major partners in ministry and service.

This year the stewards also took time to go back to review the results from the 2004 stewardship survey and to take a current assessment of the same questions to see if progress has been made in activities and overall attendance numbers. Some positive turnaround numbers have been noted. At district conference we hope to provide a more detailed report of individual congregation success and activities.

In mid summer we will be sending a mailing to all congregations asking for your support regarding church real estate. As part of Brethren Church polity it is understood that when a church closes or is abandoned that church reverts (through a specific process) back to the district where it can either be restaffed or sold, with the funds being used to revitalize new or existing congregations. It has been understood that a specific

"reversion clause" was to have been placed on all church properties by their respective boards supporting this process. We now find that this is not the case and we are going through this re-mailing process to ask all congregations to either send the district office a copy of their previous recording or to go through the recording process and then forward a copy to the district office. The district will pay for and reimburse all recording costs. The mailing will also contain an eight page copy of Brethren Church polity regarding real estate. We hope to get this project behind us by year end.

Stewards have frequently used the phrase "good stewardship is just not about money". We have also used another common phrase that the definition of frustration is doing things the same way and expecting different results.

This year new job descriptions were provided to all paid staff. As of this writing some of that work is in review. The district board is presently looking at "slimming down" the present structure of the executive board so that it can be more timely and responsive. We are also looking at the timing of how and when do we do our work. Hopefully by district conference in the fall we will have made some "make sense changes" that can be discussed. If we are going to ask our congregations to step up to the challenge of congregational growth in these changing times the district staff and board leadership need to step up and lead by example.

Good stewardship is not just about money but how we utilize all of our resources (human, financial, and real property).

Stewards Commission:

Bill Johnson, chair (Modesto)
Everett Deidiker (Papago Buttes)
Elizabeth Rowan (Pasadena)
Vivian Vecchio, young adult member (Glendora)

Ex officio members and staff who spent extra time with us: Treasurer, Larry Woodruff; Financial & Property Manager, Carl Beckwith

Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren
Giving to the District by Congregations, Individuals and Groups
January 1 to December 31, 2006

Church ID #	Name of Church	General Fund	*Per Capita Giving	*2006 Members
32-010	Bakersfield	\$2,000	\$27.40	73
32-140	Bella Vista (Los Angeles)	\$500	\$7.25	69
32-145	Central Evangelical (Los Angeles)	\$300	\$5.77	52
32-025	Church of the Living Savior (McFarland)		\$0.00	80
	<i>donation to Príncipe de Paz through PSWD</i>	\$600		
32-028	Circle of Peace (Peoria, AZ)	\$2,920	\$28.35	103
32-032	Community Brethren Church (Fresno)	\$542	\$3.76	144
32-270	Cornerstone Community (Reedley)		\$0.00	91
32-037	<i>de Cristo Sion Church Plant (Pomona)</i>			
32-040	Empire	\$1,500	\$12.93	116
32-045	Fellowship in Christ (Fremont)	\$1,000	\$83.33	12
32-070	Glendale	\$150	\$4.29	35
32-080	Glendora	\$1,375	\$18.09	76
32-083	Iglesia de Cristo Genesis (Los Angeles)	\$200	\$3.85	52
32-150	Imperial Heights (Los Angeles)	\$200	\$3.23	62
32-084	<i>Jesucristo es la Verdad Church Plant (Ontario)</i>			
32-086	<i>Kern River Church Plant (Bakersfield)</i>			
32-088	Latino Community Brethren Fellowship (Fresno)		\$0.00	15
32-090	Laton	\$300	\$7.69	39
32-100	La Verne	\$16,355	\$34.65	472
32-103	<i>La Voz de Dios en Su Hogar Church Plant (LA)</i>			
32-120	Live Oak	\$2,120	\$19.63	108
32-135	<i>Lord of Love Plant (Victorville)</i>			
32-190	Modesto	\$5,000	\$23.26	215
32-193	New Harvest (Lindsay)	\$100	\$2.00	50
32-200	Panorama City		\$0.00	7
32-205	Papago Buttes (AZ)	\$2,500	\$36.23	69
32-210	Paradise Community		\$0.00	43
32-220	Pasadena	\$1,000	\$45.45	22
32-250	Pomona Fellowship	\$3,000	\$38.46	78
32-290	Prince of Peace (Sacramento)		\$0.00	83
32-322	Príncipe de Paz (Santa Ana)	\$200	\$2.15	93
32-300	San Diego First	\$2,500	\$43.10	58
32-330	South Bay (Redondo Beach)	\$100	\$1.89	53
32-337	<i>The Well Church Plant (Tucson)</i>			
32-340	Tucson	\$1,200	\$20.00	60
32-350	Waterford	\$100	\$1.79	56
Sub-Total		\$43,862	\$19.83	2212

	PSWD Women's Fellowship	\$400
	Pomona Fellowship Women	\$200
	Individual Giving	\$31,579
Sub-Total		\$32,179
GRAND TOTAL		\$76,041

* The above per-capita calculation is based on the 2006 Statistical Information report.

HILLCREST

A REMARKABLE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY®



2705 Mountain View Drive, La Verne, California 91750-4313

(909) 593-4917

Annual Report 2006/2007

MISSION STATEMENT

"Hillcrest provides older persons with services that enable them to live quality lives."

VISION STATEMENT

"To be the recognized provider of choice for quality senior services in the Pomona and San Gabriel Valleys."

CORE VALUES

*The core values of Hillcrest establish the standards and set the tone that support the human relationships of this community. Multiple ministries at Hillcrest occur in a complex web of relationships. Broad interaction is essential within and between staff and residents. Maintaining a productive community requires all relationships to be based upon **Integrity, Service, Respect, Teamwork and Stewardship.***

HILLCREST HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE

Hillcrest residents live days filled with plans, accomplishments, fun-filled activities and community involvement. Listed are some of the "daily" highlights of this past year that have brought our mission and vision statements to life:

- ! Census stabilized at 385 residents.
- ! The strategic plan for 7/1/06 to 6/30/09 developed and approved by the Board of Directors.
- ! Hillcrest Business Associates hosted a fundraising dinner to honor Mr. Ruben Guajardo, the artisan who created the chapel doors for the new Dean Kieffaber Chapel at Hillcrest.
- ! A luncheon was held to honor major donors and Hillcrest benefactors for their generous giving to Hillcrest.
- ! Hillcrest served 200 people as an official host site for National Senior Fitness Day.
- ! Bridges to the Future II campaign continues to provide funding for the Good Samaritan Fund. Over \$2.1 million has been received to date. The goal is to raise \$5 million in 5 years.
- ! Hillcrest has two residents who are 104 years of age: Leona Sheridan and Frieda Saines.
- ! Hillcrest website: www.livingathillcrest.org has special planned giving pages that include up-to-the-minute news from Washington and Wall Street, Hillcrest donor stories, and the syndicated column, "Savvy Senior."

- ! Meeting House Building Lofts are completed and occupied.
- ! Maple Court is in the final stages of construction and will have occupancy by the end of summer 2007.
- ! First floor of the Meeting House is near completion with occupancy expected in the near future.

NOTABLE HONORS RECEIVED BY HILLCREST

Hillcrest once again has received various honors from different organizations throughout the fiscal year:

- ! Association of Fundraising Professionals recognized as a nominee Hillcrest friends Edwin and Kay Coffeen for Outstanding Philanthropists, Hillcrest board member Jan Paulson for Outstanding Volunteer, and the Hillcrest Resident Fundraising Committee for Outstanding Volunteer Groups.
- ! Hillcrest resident Robert Rodriguez received the Outstanding Older American Award from the City of La Verne.
- ! Virginia Allen and the Camp Afflerbaugh Program received a Community Hero Award at the Los Angeles County Fair.

American Association of Homes and Services for the Ageing

- ! Hillcrest nominated Matthew Neeley, Vice President of Health Services and the "Heart of Hillcrest" associate program, for the Excellence in the Workplace Award.

International Association of Homes and Services for the Ageing Award

- ! Hillcrest resident Virginia Allen and the Camp Afflerbaugh Program received an Excellence in Ageing Services Award from IAHSa.

HILLCREST OPERATING BUDGET

Fiscal Budget 2005/2006: **\$16,144,151** (budget)

Fiscal Budget 2006/2007 **\$19,084,341** (proposed)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2006 - 2007

Executive Committee: Richard Hart, Chair; Jan Paulson, Vice Chair; Will Dale, Treasurer; Don Fancher, Secretary; James Piatt, Esq., Past Chair

Members: Yvonne Belcher, Adeline Cardenas-Clague, Janice Dietz, John Gingrich, Steve Johnson, George Magallon, John Odetto, Mary Kay Ogden, Joseph Schechter

Ex-Officio: Brian Boyer, Executive Minister (PSWD), Charles E. Cable, President and Chief Executive Officer; Jim Davis, Chair, Board of Administration, Pacific Southwest District Church of the Brethren (PSWD); Mary Kay Ogden, Moderator (PSWD)

FUNDRAISING NEWS

- ! Total funds raised this fiscal year to support residents who outlive their financial resources or who need help moving into Hillcrest were **\$938,000**
- ! Fiscal year 2006/2007 gifts total **\$1,043,000**
- ! Total dollars raised for Bridges to the Future II Campaign **\$2,136,000**
- ! The 2007 Good Samaritan Dinner (formerly known as the Annual Endowment Dinner) raised over **\$58,900** for the Good Samaritan Fund
- ! Total dollars raised this fiscal year to support the Brethren Ministers & Missionaries Endowment for retired church workers was **\$375**
- ! The dinner to honor Ruben Guajardo raised **\$51,000** for furnishings for the new chapel
- ! The Resident Fundraising Committee raised **\$42,878** for state of the art audio/visual equipment for the new Meeting House

INNOVATIVE HILLCREST PROGRAMS

One of the important elements of the Hillcrest lifestyle is the variety of programs that are offered to meet the needs of residents. Programs that are being continually developed include:

- ! Lifelong Learning Educational Program
- ! Braille Institute Low Vision Classes
- ! Program for residents to volunteer at Woods Health Services
- ! Afflerbaugh Intergenerational Program
- ! Morrison Senior Dining's "Be A Star" performance recognition program for dining associates
- ! "You Cared & I Noticed Program" recognizes associates for exemplary service.
- ! Annual Hillcrest Memory Fair
- ! Hillcrest cable television programming and operations
- ! Friday Evening Lecture and Musical Program Series
- ! Complete Wellness/Fitness Program

KIND AND GENEROUS

The Residents Association, led by Jerry Davis, Chair, works closely with staff to meet the needs of the community and preserve a happy and active lifestyle among our residents.

Other officers of the association are Lora Lee Russell, Vice Chair; Shirley Heckman, Secretary; and Ferne Schechter, Treasurer.

Residents work hard at helping others, including those less fortunate at Hillcrest. The Benevolent Thrift Shop, the Gift Shop, the Country Fair, Chapel offerings, and the Wood Shop require hours of volunteer time, but provide needed funds to help those residents who outlive their financial resources. Here is what they raised this past fiscal year:

Thrift Shop	\$23,359
Gift Shop	0*
Country Fair	12,750
Chapel Offerings	967
Other	<u>2,284</u>
Total Gifts	\$39,360

- * The gift shop will be moving into the Village Center and will have expenses so this explains their need to keep a reserve on hand.

VILLAGE CENTER HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ The stained glass window in the Meeting House and the carillons in the new Bell Tower (funded by friends of Hillcrest) were provided by the Miriam Young estate
- ✓ Gifts were received to fund the stained glass windows in the new chapel



DSS Certificate of Authority #69, DSS: #191501662,
DHS #950000005



Association of Brethren Caregivers



UNIVERSITY OF LA VERNE

Since 1891, the University of La Verne has provided its students with a sound, quality education. The university is currently undergoing a renewed commitment to academic enhancement. It recently appointed a new provost, **Alden Reimonenq**, a noted educator, respected administrator who embraces the same values ULV has upheld throughout its history – peace, service, internationalism and a respect for the environment.

The following are a few highlights from the 2006-07 academic year:

- P Professor of Religion Jonathan L. Reed took part in a televised forum discussing James Cameron's documentary "The Lost Tomb of Jesus." Moderated by Ted Koppel and aired on the Discovery Channel, the forum's panel featured individuals selected for their expertise in such fields as archaeology, theology, and biblical research. In addition, Reed wrote "Archeology Contributions to the Study of Jesus and the Gospels," lead article in the essay collection "The Historical Jesus in Context" published by Princeton University Press.
- P Josh Martin and Rob Ruiz became the first students in school history to hold the title of national debate champions when they earned top honors at the 2007 United States Universities Debating Championships. They defeated Loyola Marymount University, University of Alberta, and Portland State University in the final round to clinch the title.
- P This year's President's Dinner Gala raised more than \$260,000 to benefit the university's student scholarship fund. Additionally, the raffle of a new 2007 Toyota Prius plus a voice auction raised \$100,000 for faculty research and development.
- P In its 2007 "America's Best Colleges" issue, U.S. News and World Report again identified ULV among the leaders in the National Universities category in terms of racial diversity.

My personal thanks and appreciation to everyone for your continuing support of the University of La Verne.

Julia Wheeler

Church Relations

(909) 593-3511 x 4686

New Community Project

Report to the Pacific Southwest District Conference

Greetings to our friends in PSWD!

In its third full year of operation, the New Community Project continued its work of promoting peace through justice, care for God's earth and experiential learning. Director David Radcliff and other staff offered leadership in settings as varied as congregations; college campuses; grade, middle and high schools; community groups; church camps; ecumenical conferences; youth events (including National Youth Conference and the National Junior High Conference); and Bethany Seminary. Program hallmarks included providing speakers and workshop leaders; a variety of print and electronic newsletters; new educational materials for children, youth and adults; new worship resources and a study/action guide on global warming; and Learning Tours aimed at transforming participants and showing solidarity with our neighbors and the embattled creation. Highlights of the year included:



*"...turning the world
upside down."
-Acts 17:6*

- ! Leading five Learning Tours (Ecuadorian Amazon, Guatemala, Sudan, Denali/Kenai Fjords, Arctic Village)
- ! Speaking in nearly 100 settings around the country
- ! Expanding staff to seven full, part-time and volunteer positions
- ! Collaborating with ecumenical colleagues in initiatives related to environmental care and the Christian response to globalization
- ! Supporting projects to combat malaria in Sudan; to foster girls' education in Central America, Nepal and Sudan; to promote reforestation and forest preservation in Ecuador, Sudan and Guatemala; to assist the homeless in Goshen, IN; and to guarantee the preservation of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
- ! Developing significant new relationships in Nepal, Burma, Thailand, and India, including placements for Solidarity Workers
- ! Maintaining a regularly updated and informative website (www.newcommunityproject.org)
- ! Continuing the Join the Band program of commitment to responsible living with the earth and its people

The NCP Advisory Board includes Steve Brady (chair); Kim McDowell (vice-chair); Madalyn Metzger; Al Hansell; Matt Boyer; Chrissy Sollenberger; David Rogers; Larry Lesh.

We welcome questions, comments and participation in our programs. Best wishes in your own ministries and witness on behalf of Christ and the church.

The NCP Advisory Board includes Steve Brady (chair); Kim McDowell (vice-chair); Madalyn Metzger; Al Hansell; Matt Boyer; Chrissy Sollenberger; David Rogers; Larry Lesh.

We welcome questions, comments and participation in our programs. Best wishes in your own ministries and witness on behalf of Christ and the church.

David Radcliff
Director
New Community Project
dradcliff@newcommunityproject.org



Camp La Verne sends greetings to the Pacific Southwest District. I just returned from a weekend of Art Camp led by Eric Davis and Dorothy Davis. A small but enthusiastic group spent the weekend at Camp drawing, painting, learning art concepts and sharing. The weather was beautiful and Camp looks great. It was such a pleasure to be there!

Camp La Verne is blessed by the hard work, love and caring of many people. There is Steve Johnson who makes sure all our insurance policies are up to date. Jeff Brehmeyer, Rugere DePartee and Bob Schatz keep camp in good condition. Jo Ann Dominic was up for Art Camp and cleaned the kitchen from top to bottom. Bob Bennett has spent the last two years getting our books in order and working with state agencies to preserve our non-profit status. Lucile Leard, in addition to being an outstanding board member, is providing bridge financial support to make sure we can get the water tank fixed. Many of you have made donations to the water tank fund. Thank you so much! Jeff Pence, Ron Hart, Linda Hart and Janet Hart continue their steadfast support of our summer camping program by leading our children in outstanding camping experiences. Without them our Brethren camps would not happen. Elric Boardman, Kathy Doramus, Erica Schatz, Kevin Schatz and Chuck Price have served faithfully on the board this past year helping to strengthen Camp. And last but certainly not least, our Camp staff, Linda Costello and Peter Harrington are doing a wonderful job of managing rentals, establishing contacts with the other camps in the area and catering services while providing pivotal services to all our camps! They are working on the various certifications required by our current regulatory environment and doing great! Linda and Pete are a blessing to Camp to be sure.

We continue to think about ways to revive our camp programs. From the availability of volunteers to the appreciation of the simple pleasure of very rustic desert mountain camping, things have changed a lot since I was a camper 40 years or so ago. For me, I just have to get in touch with how much my children love camp to know that the work we do to bring Camp to another generation of children is important and worthwhile. I had three of my four children with me for Art Camp and their love of Camp is so apparent that I just can't let go. Won't you join me in working for Camp La Verne? My goal for the next year is to bring together more people who are excited about Camp. We can have FUN working on this together! Please feel free to call me or e-mail me if you have a willingness to throw your lot in with us and rebuild Camp La Verne so that we may continue to enjoy Camp and offer its blessing to our neighbors and our children!

Peace,
Sara E. Davis
Board Chair
www.camplaverne.org

Camp Peaceful Pines

www.cob-net.org/camp/peaceful_pines.htm

It is fifty-five plus years since a group of Northern California Church of the Brethren church leaders were shown a place on Clark Fork Road in the Sierra Mountains by the US Forest Service. Those present decided to locate a church camp at that place. The vision of those who felt the call of God to locate there and reach out and use the place for Church of the Brethren summer camping as a means to grow and be inspired by God's Spirit is still a commitment of those involved today.

This year we followed the COB Unified Denominational Outdoor Ministries curriculum entitled "On the Way." The Biblical narratives that were studied and analyzed were: "Blessed on the Way – Abram and Sarai", "Led on the Way – Pillars of Clouds and Fire", "Walking Together on the Way – Ruth and Naomi", "Challenge on the Way – Jesus' Baptism and Temptation", Rejoicing on the Way – Peter, John and the Lame Man", Sent on the Way – Great Commission".

This summer there were six different camps held. June Family Camp, Youth Camp, July Family Camp, Junior/Junior High Camp, Discovery Camp, and an Older Age Camp were the camps that took place.

Bible Study/Resource leadership was provided by Rev. Mary Fleming, pastor of the Prince of Peace COB, Sacramento, CA, Rev. Bill Frey, pastor of the New Harvest Community Church, Lindsay, CA, Rev. Blaine Miner, Chaplain at the Sheridan Correctional Center, Sheridan, Ill., Rev. Frank Ramirez, pastor of the Everett Church of the Brethren, Everett, PA., and Rev. Elizabeth Rowan, pastor of the Pasadena COB, Pasadena, CA. During the Junior/Junior High Camp, Frank Ramirez incorporated into the discussion a book he authored entitled "The Meanest Man in Patrick County." This book contains various stories of Brethren history and individuals "On the Way" within Brethren history.

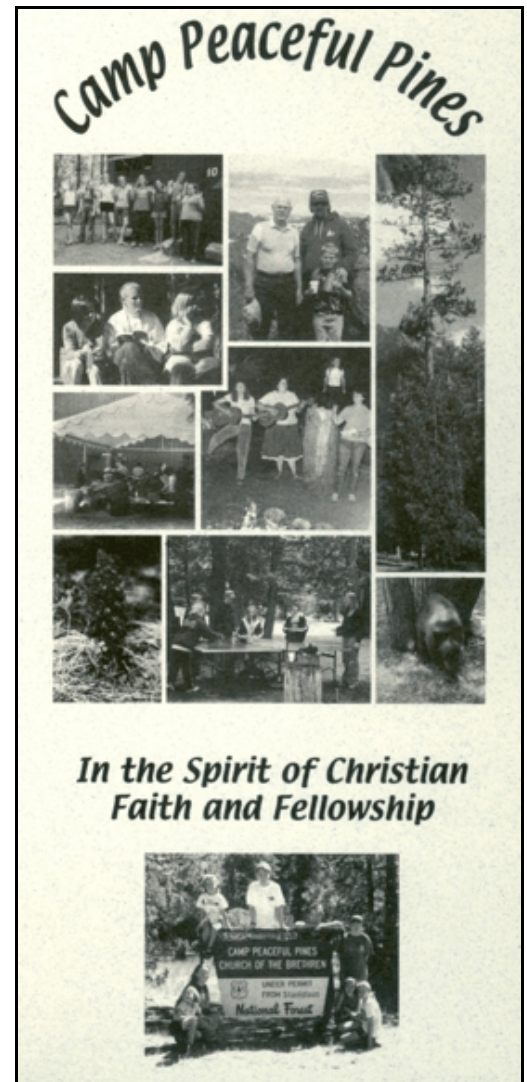
Rental income remains as a major source of financial resource. This past summer one of our renters decided not to rent due to the inability to secure staff to hold a camp. This year marked 50 years for the Old Order German Baptist Brethren to rent our Camp.

The physical upkeep of the Camp is an ongoing endeavor. We have had to replace the roof on several cabins and the kitchen/pantry. We need to replace the roof on the Dining Hall.

On May 5, 2007 a fund raiser called "Let's Celebrate Camp Peaceful Pines" was held. A Mexican dinner was served. A silent and an audible auction were held. A little over \$6400.00 was raised.

We wish to express our thanks to all who support Camp Peaceful Pines with their prayers, thoughts, and financial gifts.

Milton H. Ewert
Board Chair





2007 Report

An anniversary was quietly celebrated in 2006, an anniversary that honored a change that has had a profound impact on the lives of many Church of the Brethren pastors and denominational staff over the past 20 years.

Although the Brethren Pension Plan has existed for more than 60 years for pastors and more than 40 years for lay church workers and denominational staff, up until 1986 the Pension Plan did not give members a choice in how their Pension contributions were invested. With the approval of the Annual Conference, the Church of the Brethren Pension Plan on Jan. 1, 1986, moved from book value to market value accounting. Coupled with this change, participants for the first time were given the opportunity to select the investment strategy for their funds. Today, the Plan's five funds are managed by eight national investment managers; each manager specializes in an investment type that ranges from stocks to bonds, short-term instruments, and community development investments. This strategy gives the Pension Plan great diversity of investments and, over the long term, reduced risk and greater returns. Since 1986, the Common Stock Fund has earned 674 percent and the Balanced Fund 483 percent, with annualized returns of 10.8 and 9.2 percent, net of expenses. When compounded over the years, these returns have greatly increased the accounts of members who invested in these funds, allowing some long-term members to receive annuities that equal or exceed the salaries they received as full-time employees.

While helping pastors, lay church workers, and employees of Brethren affiliated organizations save their assets for use later in their lives, Brethren Benefit Trust has also been active for the past 16 years in helping Church of the Brethren congregations and agencies invest their assets. Growth in the Brethren Foundation continued in 2006, with more than \$126 million invested by over 200 clients at the end of the year among nine diversified investment options.

All Church of the Brethren Credit Union members in 2006 were offered new savings opportunities through the Church of the Brethren Credit Union, for which Brethren Benefit Trust has served as administrator since 2004. These new savings options give eligible members higher-than-normal returns and increased tax benefits.

In addition to helping Church of the Brethren individuals and organizations save, BBT also continued its work in helping individuals in the area of finance. Credit Union loan rates for cars, boats, motorcycles, and RVs remained competitive, with the capital for these loans coming from other members through their deposits in savings accounts, Certificates of Deposit, and Individual Retirement Accounts. This member-owned, not-for-profit Church of the Brethren organization anticipates offering checking accounts, debit cards, home equity loans, and online banking in 2007 to further meet the needs of its members.

BBT also assisted some individuals with personal finance issues, with grants to qualified applicants through the Church Workers Assistance Plan, and through the presentation of seminars at Annual Conference and National Older Adult Conference. Late in the year, BBT hired Steve Mason as its first full-time Brethren Foundation director to better assist individuals who want to contribute assets back to one or more church-related organizations and to bolster customer service with asset management clients. BBT remains committed to helping its members serve God within this denomination and beyond.

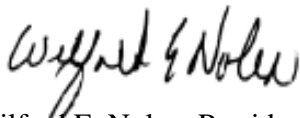
1505 Dundee Avenue ! Elgin, Illinois 60120-1619 ! Web Site: www.brethrenbenefittrust.org
847-695-0200 ! 800-746-1505 toll free ! 847-742-0135 fax

Strong retirement annuity assumption rates mean that many Pension Plan annuitants can continue to pastoral or benevolent duties well into retirement. The Brethren Medical Plan, although challenged to continue offering a competitive product to the Ministers Group due to an aging population and an inadequate U.S. healthcare system, continues to provide healthcare coverage for hundreds of Brethren pastors and employees. Some of these members have a pre-existing medical condition and could not receive such affordable care if not for the Brethren Medical Plan.

BBT's commitment to wellness strives to increase Church of the Brethren members' life spans, improve their quality of life, and reduce their need for expensive healthcare solutions. The Clergy Consultation Service, offered to pastors within the Brethren Medical Plan, assists clergy in their ministry to others by providing counseling and referral service in times of need. Finally, BBT's active participation in socially responsible investing means that Pension members' and Foundation clients' monies are used to affect social change in the worldwide marketplace through shareholder advocacy initiatives and through investment in community development projects.

As of Dec. 31, 1986, the year when the Pension Plan moved from book value to market value accounting, there were 1,795 Plan members with assets totaling \$58,757,000. As of Dec. 31, 2006, the 4,151 Plan members had invested assets of \$289,382,000. BBT Board members and staff celebrate the growth in Plan membership, which ensures that more Church of the Brethren pastors and church workers will have better financial security in retirement. Between the Pension Plan and Brethren Foundation, BBT now manages about \$410 million. We celebrate the growth of assets in our ministries over the past two decades, which underscores the soundness of our multi-manager, well-diversified investment system. This growth helps provide an asset base from which BBT administers its financial services.

BBT's ministries were created in the spirit of mutuality and with the intent of helpfully and successfully serving Church of the Brethren pastors, lay staff members, and individual members. Through its work at helping people and organizations save, finance, give, and serve, BBT strives to provide strong services with quality customer service at competitive costs. As always, we welcome the input and counsel from our participants and the church at large as we work faithfully to uphold your trust.



Wilfred E. Nolen, President



Harry S. Rhodes, Board Chair



Association of Brethren Caregivers

Dear District Leader,

The Church of the Brethren has a long history of providing care to others. Through the tradition of the deacons, health care professionals, and a variety of other ministries, caregivers in the Church of the Brethren have worked toward physical, mental and spiritual healing for individuals and congregations. The Association of Brethren Caregivers strengthens the caring ministries of the Church of the Brethren by raising awareness and providing resources for congregations in the following ways.

Workshops — ABC's ministries provide workshops at Annual, District and ABC conferences, and special congregational training events. Workshop topics include:

- P Deacons: How to Relate to Those Who Are Suffering
- P Working on Mental Health/Understanding Mental Illness
- P Introduction to Deacon Ministry
- P Older Adult Ministry in Your Congregation
- P The ABC's of Life Planning
- P The Age Wave Workshop
- P Lighten Up, Brethren! Holistic, Healthy Congregations
- P Heart and Soul of Wellness

Special Congregational Emphases — Each year, ABC encourages congregations to observe "Health Promotion Sunday," "Cover the Uninsured," "Older Adult Month," "Disabilities Awareness Month" and "National Donor Sabbath." "Lighten Up, Brethren!" is ABC's wellness initiative that some churches are choosing to use during worship and for health-consciousness events. In 2007, ABC created worship and study resources on the theme "Christ Exalted in the Body: Congregational and Personal Health" for Health Promotion Sunday.

Conferences — Each year at Annual Conference ABC sponsors insight sessions, networking meetings and mutual help groups. On alternating years, ABC hosts the Caring Ministries Assembly, which will be held this year from September 6-8, at the Lititz (Pa.) Church of the Brethren and the National Older Adult Conference, which will be held Sept. 1-5 in 2008 and September 7-11 in 2009 at Lake Junaluska Assembly, N.C. Both events offer Bible study, worship celebrations, plenary sessions, workshops and entertainment. Also, ABC will continue to host a series of Deacon Training Events in the spring of 2008. Over the past two years that the Deacon Training Events have been held, more than 1,000 deacons have received additional training from this agency. The Fellowship of Brethren Homes sponsors the Forum, an educational gathering for CEOs and staff of Brethren-affiliated retirement facilities.




Mutual Help Groups — Mutual help groups are held at Annual Conference on a range of issues, such as grief and cancer, that are intended for Brethren to find a safe place to share their hurts and feel support from others.

Caregiving and Messenger-On-Tape — ABC produces two subscription services for congregations: *Caregiving*, a quarterly publication that provides practical articles about caregiving for pastors, deacons and other caregivers, and *Messenger-On-Tape*, a reading service of *Messenger* for people with vision impairments.

Scholarships — In 2006, approximately \$20,000 in scholarships were awarded to Church of the Brethren members studying nursing.

Your continued support of these caring ministries is appreciated by the ABC Board and staff. Your support as congregations and individuals makes the ministries of the Association of Brethren Caregivers possible.

Sincerely,

Kathy Reid
Executive Director

An Agency of the Church of the Brethren

1451 Dundee Avenue Elgin, Illinois 60120-1694 Phone (847) 742-5100 Fax (847) 742-6103

E-mail abc@brethren.org Website www.brethren-caregivers.org



*An agency of the
Church of the Brethren
empowering people to
discern the things
that make for peace*

500 Main Street, P. O. Box 188
New Windsor, MD 21776-0188

Phone: 410-635-8704
Fax: 410-635-8707

E-mail:
oepe_oepa@brethren.org
Website:
www.brethren.org/oepe

Dear Sisters and Brothers at district conference,

The story of On Earth Peace and its ministries is the story of people.

People addressing violence and injustice.

People overcoming divisions and difference.

People engaging youth in their communities.

People living out Christ's love.

Divisions and struggles afflict our church, our communities, and our world.

Destructive conflict, suffering, and violence affect the lives of many people daily.

It can be easy to lose hope, yet there is something that draws us together.

The bridge is Christ's love.

As we look back on the past year, we give thanks for the many bridges that have been built within the church and beyond through the skilled leadership of our volunteers, practitioners, and staff. We give thanks for the support and encouragement from so many congregations and individuals who entrust us with their support in this work.



We are joined in Christ's love.



The story of On Earth Peace is a story of people. These people include a deeply committed and spiritually grounded staff and board, and the many volunteers and contributors who lend a hand.

The story of On Earth Peace, we believe, is God's story, being told through our lives. To those who have been part of this story over the past year, we offer our thanks for your commitment, your participation, and your support. To those who have not been part of this story, we offer an invitation to join us in this holy adventure of reconciliation and building bridges.



Blessings and peace,

Bob Gross (on behalf of the board and staff of On Earth Peace)
Executive Director



"The gifts that He gave were that some would be pastors and teachers . . . to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ." - Ephesians 4:11-12

Bethany Theological Seminary's 102nd academic year included many significant changes:

- **Personnel**—We welcomed Enten Eller as Director of Distributed Education and Electronic Communications; we said farewell to Professor Dena Pence, who accepted an appointment as Director of the Wabash Center for Teaching and Learning, and to Professor Jeff Bach, who will serve as Director of the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College; and we recognized with appreciation Eugene F. Roop's 15 years of service as President as he retired on June 30.
- **Student changes**—We welcomed 41 new students, including a new *M.Div.-Connections* cohort. We congratulated 11 persons who completed Brethren Academy programs last fall and 19 persons who received graduate degrees this spring.

Throughout its history, as Bethany has encountered changes, the church has remained faithful. As he concludes his presidency, Dr. Roop observes that one of his most satisfying discoveries has been "the faithfulness of the Church of the Brethren's relationship to Bethany, and the commitment of the Church to ministry education. . ." such as:

- **offering individual and corporate prayer support** for Bethany students, faculty and staff;
- **serving as a teaching congregation** for students in their ministry formation experiences;
- **contributing to the Brethren Student Scholarship**, partnering with students and the Seminary to provide significant financial aid;
- **providing financial gifts** as part of congregational outreach.

At Bethany, we know that the church of the future will require new types of ministry, including:

- **Cross-cultural experience** for ministry in a multi-cultural world;
- **Multiple models** for a variety of situations and congregational settings;
- **Leading missional churches** who will explore new ways of equipping persons as effective witnesses of the Gospel.

Bethany is moving forward in a new century. In their book *Reclaiming God's Original Intent for the Church*, Wes Roberts and Glenn Marshall declare, "We must, by faith in our triune God, move forward into uncharted territory. To do anything less would leave succeeding generations without the message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This new journey isn't merely an option if we're serious about our calling to be pastors and church leaders in the future." Bethany seeks to prepare pastors and church leaders for the Church of the Brethren who are thoughtful about our heritage, prayerful in their ministry, and skillful in their leadership.

The support of individuals and congregations of the Church of the Brethren in calling, sending and supporting those called to ministry is essential to Bethany's mission.

- In the 2006/2007 academic year, 84% of graduate students and 100% of Academy students were members of the Church of the Brethren;
- In 2006, Church of the Brethren congregations provided more than 50% of the Seminary's Annual Fund income.

Your ongoing support of the Seminary will allow Bethany to offer ministry education that remains

- **accessible** through local, online, and offsite classes;
- **affordable** through generous financial aid;
- **valuable** through an educational program that is relevant to the student and the church;
- **sustainable** for future generations of students.

Eugene F. Roop, President; Anne Murray Reid, Board Chair

Bethany and the Pacific Southwest District: Partners in educating ministry leadership

Students in graduate programs: Roland Johnson - Waterford; Janelle Flory Schrock - La Verne

Students in Academy programs: Doris Dunham - Bakersfield; Paul Lovelace, Vicki Minyard, George Sparks - Pomona Fellowship; Michael Martin, Karen Walters - Papago Buttes; Victor Olvera - Bella Vista; Rene Quintanilla - Community Brethren; Dawna Welch - La Verne

Financial support: \$18,989 in 2006 from your district and congregations

Thank you so very much for your prayers and continuing support of Bethany Theological Seminary

Greetings from the Annual Conference Moderator
to the Pacific Southwest District Conference
meeting October 12-14, 2007
at La Verne Church of the Brethren
La Verne, California



Brothers and Sisters in the Pacific Southwest District,

I invite you and the congregations of your district to
celebrate the 300th Anniversary of the Brethren!

Eight believers were baptized in the Eder River in Schwarzenau, Germany in 1708 to form the first Brethren congregation. Since then hundreds of thousands have faithfully followed Jesus as members of the many branches of our Brethren family tree. Two of those branches will celebrate this 300th Anniversary together when our Church of the Brethren Annual Conference and the Brethren Church General Conference worship and fellowship on Sunday and Wednesday during our July 12-16, 2008 conferences in Richmond, VA – for the first time since the early 1880's!

I hope *you* will be there. I challenge each of you, as I challenged this year's Annual Conference, to bring three persons to this historic 300th Anniversary celebration in 2008:

- (1) bring someone new into Christ's church this year and invite them to come to the special "Experience of Brethren Faith Journeys" that will take place at Annual Conference
- (2) bring someone to represent a congregation that has not sent a delegate in recent years – perhaps travel or room together, to lessen expenses for smaller congregations
- (3) bring a friend from your congregation who has not had opportunity to get to Annual Conference yet – in particular, bring youth and young adults and young families.

It is Life-giving to follow Jesus together as we do God's work in God's world. New horizons are emerging – exciting "300" ideas are popping up all over the place! Imagine: 300 new churches planted, 300 refugees resettled, 300 persons called to ministry, 300 homes rebuilt in Louisiana, \$300 given by 300 members – to provide \$90,000 for new global mission ministries, 300 . . . Remarkable possibilities! Seeds to plant to bring forth fruitfulness for generations to come.

Our 300th Anniversary scripture is John 12:24, "*Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.*" Wow! Imagine what will happen when we Brethren truly surrender to God, allowing Christ to transform us and inviting the Spirit of the Living God to fully empower us! As your District Conference theme says, imagine what will happen when we are "*Alone Together with the Spirit*" (John 14:15-17).

May your District Conference proclaim the power of God to accomplish great purposes through our life together – as partners with all the people God wants yet to bring into our congregations. ***Each one bring one!*** – Open your eyes to the people God is placing into your life, learn to more fully and authentically share your faith with them, and invite them to put their faith into action through the ministries of the church. Then rejoice – the new century of the Brethren will begin! And the God who raised Jesus Christ from the dead will work mightily among us and through us.

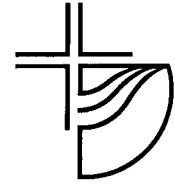
Shalom, dear friends in Christ! ~ See you in Richmond, Virginia, July 12-16 ~

James M. Beckwith, 2008 Moderator, 300th Anniversary Annual Conference

paji@annvillecob.org ! www.brethren.org/ac ! www.churchofthebrethrenanniversary.org
Annual Conference exists to unite, strengthen, and equip the Church of the Brethren to follow Jesus.

Church of the Brethren General Board

1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120-1694 847 742 5100 800 323-8039



Church of the Brethren

District Conference 2007

*“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord...that he may teach us
his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” Micah 4:2a*

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

On behalf of the members, employees, and volunteers of the General Board, I bring you greetings in the name of Jesus Christ, the Savior! Blessings as you meet to worship and attend to the business of your district’s ministries.

As the General Board continues the work of Jesus in partnership with districts and congregations, this year we are focusing on the invitation to “come” found in Micah 4:2. As we walk together, we share the good news with each other and with neighbors. Thank you for your prayers and support! Come, walk with us and . . .

- ! Assist with the exciting work of evangelism, teaching, service, and church planting in Sudan, Brazil, and Haiti;
- ! Take part in the expanded summer workcamp ministry which provides spiritual formation for youth and adults;
- ! Respond to ongoing disaster recovery through prayer and by supporting four rebuilding projects around the Gulf Coast;
- ! Celebrate the 300th denominational anniversary by participating in a variety of events and by using “*Fresh from the Word*”, a commemorative devotional book published by Brethren Press.

We, your General Board and staff, seek to be Christ-like servants of the Spirit who are community-minded, faithful stewards, evangelists, peacemakers, and globally- focused witnesses. Come, join us as we journey “up the mountain of the Lord” for the sake of Christ and the kingdom of God.

In Christ,

Stanley J. Noffsinger
General Secretary

Congregational Life Team Report, 2007

Pacific Southwest District Conference

Move in our Midst is one of the most popular of all hymns in **The Hymnal**. Though it was written in 1950, its words still capture our feelings for a close and faithful walk with God. All of us, as individuals and congregations have desires like those expressed in verse 2, "Touch Thou our hands to lead us aright; Guide us forever, show us Thy way. Transform our darkness in to Thy light; Spirit of God, lead Thou us today'.

The General Board established Congregational Life Teams (CLT's) 10 years ago in response to congregational needs, through Annual Conference at Long Beach. CLT's are staff living regionally around the country to assist congregations, pastors, leaders and districts. We bring experience and knowledge in resourcing, networking, leadership development, and consultation, especially in the areas of worship planning, spiritual formation, evangelism, stewardship education, small membership churches, and urban and ethnic ministries. We don't come with "the answer", but work with you in discerning God's desires for your situation.

The Congregational Life Team members for your district are Jeff Glass and Steve Gregory. Our colleague, Carol Bowman, is no longer a CLT. She now works full time in the Funding Office. Her position is to be filled, but the decision as to when, is on-hold until this Fall. She continues to work in the area of Stewardship Education for congregations. So, please call her for any stewardship needs (509-663-2833).

Since last year's district conference, we have supported the work of your district in a variety of ways including assisting in the work of your district board, leading workshops and giving guidance to the prayer experience stations at last year's district conference, consulting with pastors and congregations, and providing planning leadership for this year's highly successful Spring Event with Jim Henderson.

As part of the work of the PSWD Board, Jeff went to Gallup University to receive training in Gallup Strength Finders. This is a new way to understand how God has gifted individuals as well as to help them find meaningful service experiences as individuals and in teams within the church. He is eager to introduce you to this great resource that Gallup has developed from over 40 years of research.

"Strike from our feet, the fetters that bind. . ." We all desire to be free to serve others and glorify God. CLT's can come alongside to help identify things that hold you back and help design ways for you to become all that God has designed for your congregation!

Please contact us at:

Jeff Glass
888-826-4951
jglass_gb@brethren.org

Steve Gregory
509-662-3211
sgregory_gb@brethren.org

Church of the Brethren General Board

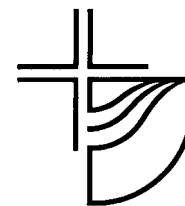
Brethren Disaster Ministries

601 Main Street P.O. Box 188 New Windsor, MD 21776-0188

410-635-8731

1-800-451-4407

Fax: 410-635-8739



Church of the Brethren

May 2007

Immediately after a well publicized disaster like hurricane Katrina, there is a huge swell of volunteers and resources that flow to the disaster site, often without regard to effectiveness or appropriateness. While some of this surge of support is needed, the massive outflow of untrained people also can be problematic and obstruct the necessary relief to those most impacted. In contrast, a gentle, constant rain of volunteers can make a huge difference in the lives of disaster survivors. I continue to be amazed how Brethren seem to understand the concept that a slower, steady stream of volunteers and resources will provide a flow of living water for disaster survivors.

The joint effort of Districts, Churches and volunteers from across the country has helped Brethren Disaster Ministries expand and grow during this time of intense and large disasters. Just a few years ago having two active rebuilding project sites at a time was our norm, and when three were opened we felt stretched and struggled for volunteers. We celebrate the 60 volunteers per week that worked at four project sites in Louisiana and Mississippi during the winter of 2007. It was worth the effort – Brethren have helped over 300 families return to a new or repaired home.

To reach this goal of 4 sites, the first step was the upgrade of the tool trailers and vehicles. Our aim is to have a heavy duty truck, 12-passenger vans and a well equipped tool trailer at each location. Project leadership has also been expanded through two special training events, held at Gulf Coast response sites, and through the creation of a regional project director position that is filled by John and Mary Mueller, formerly of Cape Coral, FL. The Muellers provide regionalized construction and program leadership while based at our Chalmette, La. project site.

By midsummer 2007, we will see several Hurricane Katrina rebuilding projects come to a close because the critical need in those communities is met. The plan is to keep at least 2 projects open, and then open additional rebuilding sites in the fall, when more volunteers are able to respond. While our work in some communities ends, the need continues to be great. There are still 80,000 families living in FEMA trailers, often in the midst of the debris from their destroyed home.

Similar expansion efforts are underway for Children's Disaster Services (CDS). Our long range plan focuses on more effective rapid response to disasters, providing more education about the needs of traumatized children, and focusing on localized training and deployment of volunteers. While this program planning is still underway, CDS volunteers are busy working at a FEMA recovery center serving the metro New Orleans area. More than 3,800 Katrina children have been served since the storm.

Another way volunteers showed their flexibility was highlighted by the 2006 response to Lebanese refugees being transported through the Baltimore-Washington International airport. In this unique response, parents were given a respite and children a safe place to be a child. Some of the children were even traveling alone.

This expanding ministry is being supported by the new position of associate director, children's Disaster Services. In a time of rapid change and high expectations for disaster response agencies, it is critical to continue to show our leadership in children's services after disasters.

In the midst of all this amazing work by Brethren volunteers, the Church of the Brethren was able to touch lives throughout the world by providing aid to people in 14 nations. A large grant of \$350,000 supported the long term rebuilding needs of the Southeast Asia tsunami survivors. This is an incredible testament of how Brethren focus on long term needs of those impacted by disaster. Other international grants focused on disaster response and violent conflict zones in Africa, the Middle East and Central America. The desperate situation in western Sudan (Darfur), where over 3 million people are displaced from their homes, continues to be a focal point for EDF grants.

This is just the beginning of the story. Hopefully, you noticed the new program names. The ER/SM era is over, welcome to Brethren Disaster Ministries (formerly Emergency Response). Disaster Child Care has expanded into Children's Disaster Services, while Service Ministries moves back to Material Resources. All these names are intended to better communicate the mission of our work together.

Finally, the real story is the volunteer and supporter in the pew. It really is the volunteers who make these programs. New names, new tools and even new vehicles don't matter if there is no volunteer ministering to disaster survivors. Similarly, without financial support from across the denomination, our presence in the US and globally would not be possible. Brethren Disaster Ministries is the work of the whole Church.

There continues to be great need in our own lands, and far abroad. Please, come walk with us and be part of the shower of living water in a hurting world.

In Christ's Service,



Roy Winter
Executive Director, Brethren Disaster Ministries

Brethren Volunteer Service 2006 Report

Sharing God's Love through Acts of Service

Working for Peace

Maintaining the Integrity of Creation

Advocating Justice

Serving Basic Human Needs

Here are a few of the exciting and important things happening in BVS:



In 2006, BVS had . . .

- 52 new volunteers
- 4 orientation units
- 87 volunteers serving across the world

Currently, BVS has

- volunteers in 12 different countries
- volunteers in 17 different US states
- volunteers from age 18 to 70

Over the past year, one of the newer BVS projects, Boys Hope Girls Hope Kansas City, hosted its first BVS'er, Paula Hoffert. The early success of that project has helped pave the way for bringing in a new Boys Hope Girls Hope project in New Orleans for this year.



Volunteers Rieke Flesch, Meredith Morckel, and Stan Morris practice shopping on a budget at a local grocery store during their orientation.

The BVS office created a new set of brochures in 2006. Three in all, one features the international programs, one focuses on older adults, and one describes the general BVS program. Each brochure was purposefully set in a different color, as to help make them more distinguishable from one another. For those interested in picking up or viewing the new brochures, contact the BVS office.



Bethany Walk teaches Laurin Wuennenberg how to knit during free time at the BVS winter orientation in Gotha, Florida.

Three new projects were welcomed into the BVS project family last year. The Church of the Brethren Stewardship Formation and Education Office in Wenatchee, Washington, offers the opportunity for a volunteer to make congregational contacts and provide stewardship resources. Church World Service, Washington, D.C., is a multi-denominational cooperative that advocates for social justice issues. Boys Hope Girls Hope, New Orleans, Louisiana, provides family-like homes, opportunities, and education to children in need. Additionally, Camp Mardela, Denton, Maryland, reactivated as a BVS site last year.



Volunteer David Huber poses for a picture between two small trees during the older adult orientation.

This year BVS has placed a considerable emphasis on recruiting within the church of the Brethren. There was a concentrated focus on asking questions to congregations to find out how BVS can be more helpful in promoting. The overwhelming answer is that BVS should have more personal interaction. Three BVS staff members, Sam Bowman, Carolyn Gong, and Monica Rice, took on the task of visiting over 150 congregations in 2006 to hear pastors' and church leaders' thoughts about BVS. Keeping in mind the conversations and



thoughts of a broad base of church pastors and leaders, BVS is excited about future recruiting opportunities within the church. Among the events and locations BVS staff attended include: National Youth Conference, Eastern Regional Youth Conference, Roundtable, College of Wooster, McPherson Regional Youth Conference, the Cross Cultural Consultation, National Older Adult Conference, and the six Brethren colleges, in districts such as Northern Ohio, Atlantic Southeast, and Missouri/Arkansas.



BVS'er Hanae Ikehata shops for fresh produce in New Windsor, Maryland.



During orientation, BVS'ers Athena Gible, Lukas Palm, and Matt Yelton share a smile.

Trees for Life Wichita, Kansas, was chosen as the recipient of the second "Partners in Service" award. The award recognizes an individual, project, or congregation that has demonstrated exceptional commitment in partnering with Brethren Volunteer Service to continue the work of Jesus. Balbir and Treva Mathur, founders of Trees for Life, accepted the award, and Balbir spoke on "The Song of Service" at the BVS luncheon at Annual Conference 2007.

At the 2007 older adult orientation in New Windsor, MD, nine volunteers comprised the unit. That number ties the highest mark for an older adult orientation since BVS re-established the older adult orientation in May of 1999. The volunteers went all over the world to projects as diverse as Alderson Hospitality House in West Virginia to the World Friendship Center in Japan. BVS is looking to continue adding to the number of volunteers in the older adult units, as well as in the other orientations. For more information contact BVS.

Brethren Volunteer Service is a Ministry of the Church of the Brethren General Board
www.brethrenvolunteerservice.org bvs_gb@brethren.org
 1451 Dundee Ave, Elgin, IL 60120 800-323-8039

WITNESS TO WASHINGTON

Church of the Brethren Witness / Washington Office

District Conference Report 2007

In my year end report for 2005 I drew attention to the fact the Iraq war had claimed just over 2000 U.S. casualties. At year end 2006, we were just under 3000. By the time most of our district conferences convene, the death toll of the Iraq War will be over 4000. Our walk for peace and justice continues to be one full of challenges and one full of confession. Many of you joined with me on the annual conference floor at Des Moines and called for an end to the Iraq war; for a commitment to “seek peace by taking action to bring troops home from Iraq. To call on religious leaders from all faiths who preach violence to consider the things that truly make for peace. To consider the wisdom of Jonah that provides direction: “Let everyone call urgently on God. Let them give up their evil ways and their violence” (Jonah 3:8). To prayerfully call upon the global community to formulate and actively implement a nonviolent, just plan that will bring peace and security to Iraq.” (AC 2006) This resolution has been proclaimed to congressional leaders by our office and shared from Brethren pulpits and yet Iraq war casualties, on all sides, rise and reveal numbers unconscionable. Come walk with us in the pursuit of peace and justice is a call that must continue.

Our walk for the witness of peace and justice is carried out through political advocacy and through program and educational resource development. Josh Sollenberger and Ben R. Martin, Ministry Summer Service interns for our office, delivered the above resolution on Iraq to over twenty two congressional leaders from heavily Brethren populated districts. Todd Flory, BVS Legislative Associate, wrote numerous articles and policy background pieces and attended Capitol Hill Working Group meetings on behalf of the Church of the Brethren. Amy Adkins, one-half time administrative assistant for the office, helped develop and promote our 2006 Conscientious Objection materials and received and processed your requests for these and other educational resources. To date over thirty two hundred CO resource packets have went out to Brethren and non-Brethren individuals, congregations and organizations. The entire staff has planned and provided leadership for numerous retreats, workshops, and conferences held throughout all of 2006. Annual Conference and National Youth Conference provided opportunities for the BW/VO staff to educate and interact with individuals and congregations through insight sessions, direct witness opportunities, and resource sharing. Emily O'Donnell, BVS Program and Legislative Associate came to our office in October of 2006 and is directing a project to research and publish the involvement of the Church of the Brethren during the civil rights movement. Jordan Blevins joined our office in January 2007 as a Legislative Intern and helped facilitate our Faith Expedition to Vietnam and a subsequent Global Food Crisis Fund water and sanitation project in that region. Partners in our work include On Earth Peace, the Youth and Young Adult and Brethren Volunteer Service Offices of the General Board, and the Outdoor Ministries Association through continued support of the Youth Peace Travel Team. Ecumenical and interfaith work continues through organizations such as National and World Council of Churches, Religions for Peace, Church World Service, Churches Supporting Churches, Decade to Overcome Violence (director Phil Jones is the national chair of this program for 2007), Center on Conscience and War, Churches for Middle East Peace, National Farm Workers Ministry, Christian Peacemaker Teams, Equal Exchange, and others. In late December, early January, a Faith Expedition to Vietnam allowed thirteen Brethren participants, hosted by Church World Service, to explore the history and see today's reality of this post war nation. Our 2006 annual conference, an important partner in our work, adopted a pastoral letter in regards to the difficult issue of immigration, calling attention to our 1982 AC Resolution on this issue and offered full support to the Millennium Development Goals, recognizing their close relation to our 1990 paper, Caring for the Poor. Such support gives strength to our work in Washington, DC.

In the closing weeks of 2006 I received a phone call from a young 14 year old woman. She was planning a “Darfur Awareness Day” for her community. The violence of Darfur, Sudan, had challenged her heart and spirit. She was called to respond. It is a blessing when we receive calls from outside our office walls, “Come walk with me”, I heard this young woman say. Her invitation empowered the work of our office.

Whether in Iraq or Sudan, in our concern for global warming, poverty, hunger, or immigrant rights we are challenged and we are given hope through our faithful response to God's personal or communal call along this journey. Thanks to you, the people of this district, who offer your support in so many ways. May peace prevail.

- Phil Jones, director Brethren Witness/Washington Office