

**Minutes of the Thirty-eighth Annual
Pacific Southwest District Church of the Brethren Conference
October 5-7, 2001
Hosted by the Bakersfield Community Church of the Brethren
Bakersfield, California**

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

NOTE: Items which came from the 2001 Conference Booklet are referred to in the section title. A copy of the 2001 Conference Booklet is a permanent part of these minutes.

The 38th meeting of the Pacific Southwest District was called to order by Moderator, Sherlo Shively.

I. Appointments: The Moderator introduced those appointed to various tasks.

II. Roll Call ... The Moderator declared that a quorum was present. **Delegates Allowed / Delegates Present**

total 133 total 96

Bakersfield Community	4	/	4
Bella Vista (LA)	4	/	1
Central Evangelical (LA)	4	/	0
Church of the Living Savior (McFarland, CA)	4	/	3
Circle of Peace (Peoria, AZ)	4	/	4
Community Brethren Church (Fresno, CA)	6	/	5
Community Church (Mesa, AZ)	4	/	1
Cornerstone Community (Reedley, CA)	4	/	3
Empire	4	/	4
Fellowship in Christ (Fremont, CA)	4	/	2
Glendale	4	/	4
Glendora	4	/	4
Iglesia de Christo Genesis (LA)	4	/	4
Imperial Heights (LA)	4	/	4
Laton	4	/	1
La Verne	6	/	6
Lindsay	4	/	0
Live Oak	4	/	4
Modesto	5	/	5
North County (San Marcos, CA)	4	/	0
Panorama City	4	/	0
Paradise	4	/	1
Pasadena	4	/	2
Papago Buttes (Phoenix 1st)	4	/	4
Pomona Fellowship	4	/	4
Prince of Peace (Sacramento, CA)	4	/	4

1	Príncipe de Paz (Santa Ana, CA)	4	.... /	....	4
2	San Diego 1st	4	.... /	....	3
3	San Francisco	4	.... /	....	0
4	South Bay (Redondo Beach, CA)	4	.... /	....	4
5	Tucson	4	.... /	....	4
6	Valley View Community (Whittier, CA)	4	.... /	....	3
7	Waterford	4	.... /	....	4

- 8 **III. Dedication of Delegates** was conducted by the Moderator.
- 9 **IV. Introduction of Guests** by Gene Hipskind, Executive Minister.
- 10 **V. Approval of the Agenda** with additions.
- 11 **VI. Reception of Iglesia de Cristo Genesis (p 54 Conf. Book):** Recommended by District Board that
 12 Iglesia de Cristo Genesis be accepted into PSWD as a Church of the Brethren congregation. Carried
 13 Members present were acknowledged and welcomed. A gift of a tub and towel was made to the
 14 pastor, for the congregation. Delegates representing this congregation were seated.
- 15 **VII. Approval of the Minutes of 2000 conference (p. 41-44 Conf. Book):** M/s/Carried
- 16 **VIII. Minutes of the 2001 District Conference:** Joe Schechter, Myrna Wheeler, and Bob Morris were
 17 appointed to read and recommend approval of the minutes of the 2001 conference. Joe Schechter will
 18 chair the committee.
- 19 **IX. Presentation of the Ballot:** Don Davis presented the ballot. Changes and additions were noted.
 20 Candidates present were introduced. Prayer was offered for blessing those who have agreed to serve
 21 the district, and those who gave consideration. Motion to vote by acclamation. Carried. Those
 22 elected were: Moderator-elect, Bill Wagoner; Nominating Committee, John Price; Program
 23 Committee, Joseph Miguel; Hillcrest Homes Board Nominees: Linda Battram, Richard Hart, and Bill
 24 Wagoner; District Board (SE), Ferne Schechter; District Board (SW), Frank Martinez; District Board
 25 (At large): Milton Ewert, Esther Ho, Paul Lovelace, and Letha Ressler.
- 26 **X. Standing Committee Delegate Report (p. 10 Conf. Book):** Karen Walters – Karen gave added
 27 information related to her representation of the district at the denominational level. Karen reminded
 28 those present of the need for nominees for the Annual Conference ballot. This is the year to elect a
 29 representative from Pacific Southwest District.
- 30 **XI. Congregational Life Team Report and General Board Report (p. 11 Conf. Book):** Steve
 31 Gregory, Carol Bowman, and Jan Thompson ... a media report was given to highlight activities and
 32 functions of the General Board and related agencies.
- 33 **XII. Conference Logo and Banner:** The Moderator announced that the banner and logo for conference
 34 were designed by Norma Sexton of the Bakersfield congregation. Norma was introduced to those
 35 present.
- 36 **XIII. New Business (p.55 Conf. Book): Recommendation from the Board of Administration for a**
 37 **Proposed Amendment to the PSWD Constitution** related to the term of office for the Standing
 38 Committee delegate: to bring district practice in line with denominational polity. Carried.
- 39 **XIV. New Business (p. 53 Conf. Book):** “Query on Denomination Name” (from La Verne congregation)
 40 ... Recommendation from the Board of Administration to forward the query to Annual Conference.
 41 Carried.
- 42 **XV. New Business:** Recommendation from the Board of Administration to establish a conversation
 43 committee, on the issue of denominational name change, be established in this district. Carried.
 44 George Sparks, Moderator for 2001-2002, will appoint members to this committee.

- 1 **XVI. Skit on Disaster Relief** workers needed: Milton Ewert and Ernest Snyder made a presentation on
2 the need for workers needed for the flood area in Northern Arizona. PSWD will coordinate this
3 project.
- 4 **XVII. Nurture Commission Report (p. 16 Conf. Book):** Sara Haldeman-Scarr introduced the members
5 of the commission. She reported that the Nurture Commission has made a change in focus from
6 programs to leadership development. The Youth Leadership Training Workshop was one of the
7 highlights. The 2001 Youth Outdoor Ministries Team was presented and they shared briefly about
8 what they did this past summer. Members were Chris Davis (San Diego), Katie Shick (McFarland),
9 Jesse Smeltzer (Modesto), and Jasmine DiIoli (La Verne). Word has just been received in the district
10 office that a BVS worker (Dan Royer) has been assigned (through August 2002) to serve as PSWD
11 Junior High Leader.
- 12 **XVIII. Report from the Denomination (p. 23 Conf. Book):** Paul Grout, Annual Conference Moderator,
13 brought greetings from the denomination. He also shared observations on what he has been seeing
14 and hearing as he visits congregations across the denomination.
- 15 **XIX. Report from the University of La Verne (p. 28 Conf. Book):** Bev Rupel presented the report and
16 made additional comments.
- 17 **XX. Report from Hillcrest Homes (p. 26 Conf. Book):** Chuck Cable presented the report, highlighting
18 several items and making additional comments.
- 19 **XXI. Report from the Association of Brethren Caregivers (p. 32 Conf. Book):** Steve Mason brought
20 greetings and made comments additional to the written report.
- 21 **XXII. Report from Bethany Theological Seminary (p. 29 Conf. Book):** Myrna Wheeler presented the
22 report and lifted up some new programs now provided by Bethany: Exploring Your Call (a program
23 for youth exploring a call to ministry), Distributed Education Program (presenting educational
24 opportunities in new ways), Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership, and Institute for Ministry
25 with Youth and Young Adults.
- 26 **XXIII. Witness Commission Report (p. 19 Conf. Book):** Bob Dittmar introduced the rest of the
27 commission. The Church Development Committee made a brief media report as a portion of the
28 commission report.
- 29 **XXIV. New Business-Congregation Name change:** Recommendation from the Board of Administration
30 to honor the request from the congregation in Phoenix to change the name of Phoenix First Church
31 of the Brethren to Papago Buttes Church of the Brethren. Carried.
- 32 **XXV. New Business-Disbanding San Francisco congregation:** Recommendation of the Board of
33 Administration to acknowledge the disbanding of the San Francisco Church of the Brethren. Sara
34 Haldeman-Scarr and Gene Hipskind led in a time of celebration of the past and the contributions of
35 the San Francisco congregation. Carried.
- 36 **XXVI. New Business-Authorization to Dispose of Acquired Property:** Recommendation of the Board
37 of Administration that if and when the San Francisco property is turned over to the district that the
38 board is authorized to dispose of the property. Carried
- 39 **XXVII. Report from the PSWD Board of Administration Chair (p. 14 Conf. Book):** Ernest Snyder
40 recognized members of the Board of Administration. Ernie added other comments as well. Several
41 items of importance have taken considerable time and careful and prayerful consideration this past
42 year: development of an accurate position description for the Executive Minister, development of
43 a Financial Strategy for the district (p. 59 Conf. Book), development of the Exceptional Needs
44 Program paper (p. 62 Conf. Book), and development of a Mission Strategy (p. 56 Conf. Book).
45 George Sparks gave additional information and explanation regarding the Mission Strategy. Ernie

- 1 shared also that the Board of Administration is looking at the issue of how persons are identified for
2 nomination to service on the Board. He also mentioned the important Liaison Program between the
3 Board of Administration and the congregations of the district.
- 4 **XXVIII. Recommendation from the Board of Administration to accept the Mission Strategy paper.**
5 Carried.
- 6 **XXIX. Recommendation from the Board of Administration to accept the Financial Strategy paper.**
7 Motion to amend the paper as follows: Add 5 I. Outdoor ministries: That the outdoor ministries of
8 the camps serving our district churches be supported as possible. M/s/failed: Rodney Davis/Sarah
9 Bache. Recommendation as originally presented Carried. Two corrections were noted in Conference
10 Booklet: On p. 60 line 20: 5 C ... It would *be* counterproductive... and on p. 60 line 41: 6 A ...”soft
11 match” (seat sweat equity)...
- 12 **XXX. Recommendation from the Board of Administration to accept the Exceptional Needs Program**
13 **paper (p. 62 Conf. Book):** Carried.
- 14 **XXXI. Ministry Commission Report:** Bubbles Miguel added comments to the written report. (The
15 written report was passed out to delegates...copy attached.) David Hurlbut, outgoing Director of the
16 Center for Brethren Studies, spoke about what is happening with these studies in the district. The
17 new Director of the Center for Brethren Studies will be Myrna Wheeler.
- 18 **XXXII. Report of the PSWD Executive Minister:** Gene Hipskind reported that he will have a report
19 of his sabbatical in the next issue of “Life and Witness.” He recognized and publicly thanked the four
20 people who assisted in the district office during the sabbatical: Marlin Heckman, Ferne Schechter,
21 Myrna Wheeler, and Don Clague. Gene acknowledged the “graduation” of Rev. Galen Ogden, Rev.
22 Glen Crago, and Rev. Bruce Wood during the past year, and celebrated the contributions they had
23 made to the district. Ordination anniversaries were also celebrated: 30 years: Glen Frazier; 35 years,
24 Jim Merrifield; 40 years, Bill Wash, Marlin Heckman, Milton Ewert, Elvis Cayford; 45 years, Dale
25 Ott; 50 years, Robert Walters, John Hunter; 55 years, Willard McDaniel and Bruce Wood; and 60
26 years, Ralph Bowman, Joe Jennings, and Bill Willoughby ... a total of 660 years of service. Gene
27 shared some significant observations from his time of sabbatical. He also outlined his focus on
28 following the core beliefs of the denomination and working for “life” in the church, rather than
29 “death.” Gene emphasized that it is important to be in conversation and to avoid being judge and jury
30 concerning who is right and who is wrong. He pointed out the continuing need for the development
31 of leaders in the district.
- 32 **XXXIII. Report of the Stewards Commission (p. 20 Conf. Book):** Richard Downhour introduced the
33 other members of the commission. He acknowledged and introduced Don and Beverly Fancher who
34 manage the properties at Long Beach on behalf of the district.
- 35 **XXXIV. Recommendation of the Board of Administration to adopt the Budget for 2002 (p. 45**
36 **Conf. Book):** Richard Downhour made comments and explanations on several items. Questions and
37 discussion followed. Carried.
- 38 **XXXV. Report from the Conference Program Committee (p. 9 Conf. Book):** Barbara Ober presented
39 the report. Sara Haldeman-Scarr was recognized for her work as On-site Coordinator. The conference
40 in 2002 will be held in La Verne, October 4-6th. Conference in 2003 will be held September 19- 21st,
41 in Fresno.
- 42 **XXXVI. Presentation of the resolution: “Claiming a Renewed Spirit Through Love and**
43 **Understanding.”** The resolution was presented by Roma Jo Thompson. Resolution carried.
44 Delegates are encouraged to take the resolution to their congregations for further action. (Copy
45 attached.)

1 **XXXVII. Open Microphone Session:** Several persons shared items of interest and of concern to the
2 district.

3 **XXXVIII. Adjournment:** The business meeting was adjourned by Moderator, Sherlo Shively.

4 **XXXIX. Consecration of Moderator and Moderator-elect for 2001-2002:** The service of consecration
5 for the Moderator and Moderator-elect was held at the close of the Sunday morning service. Sherlo
6 Shively passed the gavel to George Sparks, Moderator, and made closing remarks.

7 **XL. 2001-2002 Board of Administration:** Moderator, George Sparks introduced Sara Haldeman-Scarr
8 as Board Chair for 2001-2002. Sara introduced the new Commission Chairs and those who would
9 serve on each commission. Those persons are as follows:

10		
11	<u>Ministry Commission:</u>	<u>Stewards Commission:</u>
12	Valentina Satvedi, Chair	Richard Downhour, Chair
13	Letha Ressler	John Keeling
14	Bubbles Miguel	Paul Lovelace
15	Lucile Leard, Board Vice-Chair	Ferne Schechter
16	Frank Martinez	
17		
18	<u>Nurture Commission:</u>	<u>Witness Commission:</u>
19	Roma Jo Thompson, Chair	Elizabeth "Toni" Acevedo, Chair
20	Olga Rios	Don Mitchell
21	Milton Ewert	Art Crane
22	Bill Wagoner, Moderator-Elect	Esther Ho
23		

24 Ex-officio to the Board:
25 Gene Hipskind, Executive Minister (*without vote*)
26 Karen Walters, Standing Committee Delegate (*without vote*)
27 George Sparks, Moderator
28 Bill Wagoner, Moderator-elect
29 George Arnold, Treasurer (*without vote*)

30
31 Appointed by the Board (*without vote*)
32 Doris Dunham, Recording Secretary

33
34 Liaison from General Board (*without vote*)
35 R. Jan Thompson, General Board Member at Large

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37
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39 Minutes recorded by Doris Dunham, District Clerk.

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