

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

4 November 7-9, 2008

Community Brethren Church, Fresno, CA

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

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

- 12 **I. Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:39 a.m.
- 13 **II. Announcements, Appointments, and Introductions of Special Guests:** Timekeeper: Josh Winchester;
14 Parliamentarian: Thomas Guthrie; Head teller: Russ Chin; Translator: Carrie Cesar; Committee for
15 Review of 2008 Minutes: Lois Frantz (Empire CoB), Richard Downhour (Papago Buttes CoB), Karen
16 Wolff (La Verne CoB).
- 17 **III. Quorum:** There are 25 churches represented and 70 delegates present; a quorum was declared to be
18 present.
- 19 **IV. Delegate Dedication:** The delegates were dedicated. (Page 6 of the business book.)
- 20 **V. Opening Prayer:** Moderator John Price offered prayer, with special prayer for James Bowman and his
21 family.
- 22 **VI. Approval of 2007 Minutes:**
- 23 A. A committee of Emily Bosley (Papago Buttes), Karen Wolff (La Verne), and Everett Deidiker
24 (Papago Buttes) have reviewed the minutes of the 2007 Pacific Southwest Conference and verified
25 that the minutes are correct.
- 26 B. **Mike Wolfson (La Verne) moved and Marsha Scott (Community Brethren) seconded to**
27 **approve the minutes from the 2007 Pacific Southwest District Conference. Approved.**
- 28 **VII. Denominational Agency Reports:**
- 29 A. A video was shown of Church of the Brethren agencies: Bethany Theological Seminary, Brethren
30 Benefit Trust, Church of the Brethren Mission and Ministry, and On Earth Peace.
- 31 B. Lowell Flory gave a report from Bethany Theological Seminary.
- 32 C. Jonathan Shively gave a report from the Mission and Ministry Board and directed us to read the
33 “Walking With Others” poster and pages 38, 41-47 of the business book.
- 34 D. **Carrie Beckwith (La Verne) moved and Cady Laycook (South Bay) seconded to accept the**
35 **denominational agency reports. Approved.**
- 36 **VIII. Report from the Pacific Southwest District Board:**
- 37 A. Board Chair Bill Johnson gave a brief report from the District Board and directed us to pages 21-24
38 of the business book. Bill Johnson explained the changes in the new board structure, the ministry
39 training, the grant accountability reviews, and the Covenants of Understanding and invited
40 conference attendees to attend the grant workshops.

- 41 B. Bill Johnson introduced David Castenholz, Finance and Property Manager, who spoke briefly.
42 C. Two questions were asked about TRIM and CREDO, which were answered by Jonathan Shively.
43 D. **Sandy Boeger (Live Oak) moved and Jennie Agostini (Live Oak) seconded to accept the report
44 of the Board Chair. Approved.**
- 45 **IX.** The Doxology was sung by the conference attendees as an expression of appreciation for leadership of
46 the District.
- 47 **X. Report from the District Conference Program Committee:**
48 A. Program Committee member Russ Matteson gave a report from the program committee and directed
49 us to read pages 15 and 16 of the business book.
50 B. Russ Matteson thanked the Community Brethren Church for hosting the 2008 District Conference.
51 C. Russ Matteson explained that the 2009 District Conference will be held in Sacramento.
52 D. **Barbara Ober (Live Oak) moved and David Franklin (Modesto) seconded to accept the report
53 from the Program Committee. Approved.**
- 54 **XI. Interim District Executive Report:**
55 A. Mary Kay Ogden gave a brief report and thanked everyone for their assistance during her time as
56 Interim District Executive.
57 B. Mary Kay Ogden directed us to page 11 of the business book and recognized the ministers in the
58 District who have served for 25 years and more with a certificate.
59 C. Mary Kay Ogden introduced two new ministers to the District: Kate Spire (Circle of Peace) and
60 Donald Shankster (Papago Buttes).
61 D. **George Sparks (Glendora) moved and Gail Hiesel (La Verne) seconded to approve the Interim
62 District Executive report. Approved.**
- 63 **XII. Presentation of the 2009 Budget:**
64 A. David Castenholz directed us to Page 56 of the business book and explained that there are some
65 changes. These “Ministry Support Grants” lines changed:
66 1. Line 46, New Church Development, should read \$74,300.
67 2. Line 47, Companion Grants, should read \$369,921.
68 3. Line 48, Matching Grants, should read \$0.
69 4. Line 49, Subtotal Com/Match/Misc. Grants, should read \$444,221.
70 5. Line 52, Pastoral Grants, should read \$181,616
71 6. Line 53, Other Grants, should read \$0.
72 7. Line 54, Subtotal Ministry Support Grants, should read \$648,437.
73 8. Line 239, TOTAL EXPENSES, should read \$1,475,177.85.
74 B. David Castenholz explained the effect of the recent stock market trend on the District’s income.
75 C. The budget was further presented at a breakout session, which included a question and answer time.
76 D. **There is a recommendation from the Policy Board to approve the 2009 budget as amended.
77 Approved.**
- 78 **XIII. Election of Officers:**
79 A. Written ballots were distributed. The floor was opened for additional nominations. Marsha Scott was
80 nominated from the floor for Central California Representative on the Policy Board; Michael
81 Salerno was nominated from the floor for Policy Board member at large.
82 B. **Emily Bosley (Papago Buttes) moved and James Isaacs (Bakersfield) seconded to close
83 nominations. Passed.**
84 C. Ballots were marked and collected.

- 85 D. The following people were elected:
 86 1. Moderator-elect: Felton Daniels
 87 2. Nominating Committee: Christi Bowman
 88 3. Program Committee: Russ Matteson (2nd term)
 89 4. Standing Committee: Lucile Leard (2nd term)
 90 5. Standing Committee Alternate: Eric Bishop (2nd term)
 91 6. Policy Board: Thomas Dowdy (2nd term)
 92 7. Policy Board: John Jackson
 93 8. Policy Board: Mike Martin
 94 9. Policy Board: Elizabeth Rowan
 95 10. Policy Board AZ Rep: Emily Bosley (1 year term)
 96 11. Policy Board Central CA Rep: Martin Sondermann
 97 12. Policy Board Northern CA Rep: Norman Johnson
 98 13. Youth/Young Adult Rep: Vincent Castaneda
 99 14. Youth/Young Adult Rep: Edward Cesar (2nd term)
 100 15. Youth/Young Adult Rep: Rehana Franklin

101 **XIV. PSWD Agency Reports:**

- 102 A. Julie Wheeler gave a report on the relationship between the University of La Verne and the District
 103 and reported that the university had a hiring freeze and had asked the District for a one-year grant
 104 to continue the campus ministry, which was approved. Julie Wheeler also reported that she is writing
 105 a curriculum for a Brethren core service course.
 106 B. **George Sparks (Glendora) moved and Art Crane (Sacramento) seconded to approve the**
 107 **University of La Verne report. Approved.**
 108 C. Hillcrest Chaplain Myrna Wheeler gave a report on Hillcrest Retirement Center and reported that
 109 Charles Cable will be retiring in January 2009. Myrna Wheeler directed us to read the written report
 110 in the business book on pages 30 and 31.
 111 D. **Linda Williams (San Diego) moved and Dewayne Gamez (Tucson) seconded to approve the**
 112 **Hillcrest report. Approved.**
 113 E. Myrna Wheeler gave a report on the TRIM (Training in Ministry) program. Myrna Wheeler and
 114 presented certificates of graduation to Victoria Minyard and Doris Dunham.

- 115 **XV. Standing Committee Report:** Lucile Leard gave a report from the Standing Committee and
 116 directed us to read the yellow handout in the packet. Lucile Leard asked us to think prayerfully about
 117 people who might be willing to accept a role in leadership.

- 118 **XVI. Informational Update: Central Evangelical Church:** David Castenholz gave a report on the
 119 situation with Central Evangelical Church and answered questions as to why the church wishes to
 120 disassociate itself from the Church of the Brethren, where the property is located, liability issues,
 121 and our interest in the property.

- 122 **XVII. Incoming District Executive Minister:** Don Booz briefly addressed the conference.

123 **XVIII. Report of Church Starts and Revitalization:**

- 124 A. Carrie Cesar reported on her work for the first year in revitalization and the work for the second year
 125 in ministry analysis. The third year she hopes to expand into more issues.
 126 B. Alfredo Cesar gave a report on his recent work for the District.
 127 C. **Esther Ho (Fellowship in Christ) moved and Michael Wolfson (La Verne) seconded to approve**
 128 **the church starts and revitalization reports. Approved.**

129 **XIX. District Long-Term Vision:** David Castenholz explained that when he joined the District staff, he
130 felt the District needs a long-term plan that will allow the Church of the Brethren to remain vibrant
131 and to grow into the future.

132 **XX. Invitation to Annual Conference 2009:** An invitation was extended to attend the District
133 Conference in San Diego in 2009 and to visit the new Friends Center at San Diego CoB.

134 **XXI. Moderator's Report:** John Price directed us to read his written report in the *What's Happening in*
135 *the District* newsletter that was sent to all churches.

136 **XXII. Passing of the Gavel:** The moderator's gavel was passed to Jim Martinez. Jim Martinez spoke
137 briefly. The theme for District Conference 2009 will be based on Romans 12:2-6. Jim Martinez
138 presented a gift to John Price.

139 **XXIII. Adjournment:** Mike Salerno (Pomona) moved and Victoria Minyard (Bells Vista) seconded to
140 adjourn the 2008 District Conference. Approved. The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

141 _____
142 Minutes recorded by Laura Miller, Clerk

143 _____
144 In June 2009, the proof copy of the minutes was approved by the committee: Lois Frantz (Empire CoB),
145 Richard Downhour (Papago Buttes CoB), Karen Wolff (La Verne CoB).