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

November 12, 2011
Hillcrest Homes, La Verne, California

I. Call to Order
Moderator Karen Walters called the meeting to order at 8:40 a.m. with prayer.

II. Quorum
A roll call was taken. A quorum was declared to be present.

III. Announcements, Appointments, and Introductions of Special Guests and Others
A. District Executive Minister Don Booz was introduced. Timekeeper Maxine Ritchie was introduced. Tellers Shirley Crane, Shawn Carothers, Jim Weaver, and Richard Hart were introduced. Parliamentarian Russ Matteson was introduced.
B. A committee to verify the 2011 minutes was named: Linda Davis (Church of the Living Savior), Joe Schechter (La Verne), and Pat Royer (Modesto).
C. Special Guests introduced were Bob Gross, Lowell Flory, and Eric Law.
D. Matthew Neeley, Hillcrest CEO, welcomed the conference attendees and gave a background of Hillcrest Homes. Hillcrest Homes received a round of applause from the attendees in appreciation of their hosting the conference.

IV. Dedication of Delegates
The Delegates’ Dedication Litany was read (Page 6 of the Business Book).

V. Introduction of the Conference Officers and Proper Procedures
The Policy Board Chair Don Fancher, Moderator-Elect Jack Storne, Moderator Karen Walters, and Clerk Laura Miller were introduced. Karen Walters directed the delegates to Pages 7-9 of the Business Book for proper procedures for the conference.

VI. Approval of 2010 Minutes
A. A committee of Pat Royer (Modesto), Linda Davis (Church of the Living Savior), and Kate Spire (Circle of Peace) had verified that the minutes are correct.
B. Eric Bishop (La Verne) moved and Mauricio Iacuelli (Circle of Peace) seconded to approve the minutes. Approved.

VII. Approval of Agenda
Linda Davis (Church of the Living Savior) moved and John Heisel (Modesto) seconded to approve the agenda. Approved.

District Reports

VIII. District Executive Minister’s Report
A. Don Booz spoke briefly and showed a short video about some of the things happening in the PSWD.
B. Don Booz introduced the new Youth Cabinet and the Youth Director, Dawna Welch. The Youth Cabinet was sworn in, and the Youth Cabinet was affirmed by the conference attendees.
C. Don Booz spoke about pastors, and the conference attendees showed their appreciation for the District’s pastors and chaplains with a round of applause.
D. Don Booz showed a PowerPoint presentation highlighting some items happening in the PSWD.

E. Don Booz spoke briefly about the anxiety in the denomination following the recent Annual Conference.

IX. Standing Committee Delegate Report

Lucile Leard gave a report and directed the delegates to Page 13 of the Business Book. She thanked the Conference for the opportunity to represent the PSWD at Annual Conference. Lucile reported that nominees are needed for the national denomination and that she has the necessary forms available. Lucile solicited self-nominations and nominations of others.

X. Program Committee Report

A. Russ Matteson gave a brief report and thanked Hillcrest for hosting this year’s conference. Russ thanked Linda Hart, Matthew Neeley, Karen Clobes, and Neil Fancher for their work in making the conference successful.

B. Recommendation for District Conference Date and Locations

1. Russ Matteson directed the delegates to Page 66 of the Business Book for the new business item “Recommendation for District Conference Date and Locations.” He spoke briefly about the need to hold the District Conference in different locations around the District. Discussion was held.

2. This comes as a recommendation from the Program Committee. Approved.

XI. Report from the Pacific Southwest District Board

A. Board Chair Don Fancher directed the delegates to Page 18 for his report and thanked the members of the PSWD who have supported the ministry of the Churches of the Brethren locally and the District with time, talent, and money. He thanked the members of the Board of Administration for their work and acknowledged those who have finished their terms. Delegates were directed to Pages 20-22 of the Business Book for the Ministry and Stewards Commissions reports. Don Fancher and the commission chairs are willing to answer anyone’s questions.

B. Don Fancher explained that the one item that was not completed last year was the work of the stewardship education task team renamed Resolution for a Call to Education on Faith and Finances by the 2010 District Conference. That will be completed next year.

C. A question was asked about the Church Renewal and Revitalization Committee. Don Booz answered that this committee has been appointed and one meeting has been held.

D. Don Fancher (La Verne) moved and Barbara Ober (La Verne) seconded to accept the reports of the District Board of Administration. Approved.

XII. University of La Verne Report

No report. The new president, Devorah Lieberman, spoke at the evening dinner.

XIII. Report from the Agencies of Annual Conference

A. Steve Mason (Brethren Benefit Trust) and Bob Gross (On Earth Peace) each spoke briefly when they presented the official four agency video report that includes the Church of the Brethren Inc., Brethren Benefit Trust, On Earth Peace and Bethany Theological Seminary.

B. Lowell Flory spoke briefly about Bethany. He reported that there has been an increase in off-campus students and that Bethany is trying to make programs accessible to more people.
New Business

XIV. Bella Vista Name Change
A. Don Fancher explained that Bella Vista followed the proper procedures. He noted this will be a Doing Business As (DBA), not a legal name change. The new name will be “Restoration Los Angeles.”
B. This comes as a recommendation from the Policy Board. Approved.

XV. Election of Officers
A. Richard Hart presented the 2012 ballot to the delegates. There were no nominations from the floor.
B. Charles Cable (La Verne) moved and Sara Haldeman-Scarr (San Diego) seconded to accept the ballot as a slate. Discussion was held. Approved.
C. The following people were elected to 2012 PSWD Positions:
   1. Jim LeFever (Glendale), Moderator-Elect
   2. John Price (Empire), Nominating Committee
   3. Marlin Heckman (La Verne), Standing Committee Delegate
   4. Don Shankster (Papago Buttes), Standing Committee Delegate Alternate
   5. Berkley Davis (Pomona), Program Committee
   6. District Board of Administration Policy Board
      a. Norman Johnson (Waterford), Northern California Representative
      b. John Jackson (Glendale), Southern California West Representative
      c. Richard Downhour (Papago Buttes)
      d. Phyllis Eller (Pomona)
      e. Elizabeth Rowan (Pasadena)
      f. Mike Wolfsen (La Verne)
      g. Paige Butzlaff (La Verne) Youth/Young Adult Rep
      h. Nohemi Flores (Cristo Sion), Youth/Young Adult Rep
      i. Julie Park (Glendale), Youth/Young Adult Rep
   7. Steve Johnson (La Verne), Brethren Hillcrest Homes Board

XVI. Ministry Investment Plan
A. Don Fancher introduced the Ministry Investment Plan and directed the delegates to Pages 54-64 of the Business Book. A time was given for questions and comments.
B. This comes as a recommendation from the Policy Board. Approved.

XVII. Query: Annual Conference Elections
A. Jack Storne introduced the query. Don Fancher gave a background on the query and explained that the Policy Board has forwarded this query to the District Conference for its consideration. A time was given for questions or comments.
B. This comes as a recommendation from the Policy Board. Approved.

Old Business

XVIII. Process for Responding to Congregational Disagreements with Annual Conference and/or District Conference Decisions
A. Don Fancher introduced the paper (Exhibit G, a supplement to the Business Book).
Don explained that in 2010, the Board of Administration had presented a paper, which was rejected. A committee was appointed to write a paper for 2011. That committee consisted of Linda Davis (Church of the Living Savior), Jeanine Ewert (Modesto), Tom Hostetler (La Verne), Sara Haldeman-Scarr (San Diego), Doris Dunham (Bakersfield), Lois Frantz (Empire), and Reba Herder (La Verne). Board Chair Don
Fancher (La Verne), Moderator Karen Walters (Papago Buttes), and District Executive Minister Don Booz served ex-officio.

B. Linda Davis spoke about the need for the paper and highlighted several items. A time was given for questions and comments.

C. *It was moved to strike Section C. Lines 180-190. The motion died, lacking a second.*

D. *This item comes as a recommendation from the Executive Board. Approved.*

**XIX. Introduction of Special Guest**

Tim Harvey, Annual Conference Moderator, was introduced and spoke briefly. He invited everyone to attend Annual Conference in St. Louis in 2012.

**XX. Moderator’s Closing Remarks**

Karen Walters thanked everyone who worked hard to make the PSWD 2011 District Conference a success and thanked the attendees for the opportunity to serve as Moderator. Karen led the attendees in prayer.

**XXI. Passing of the Gavel**

Karen Walters passed the gavel to Jack Storne.

**XXII. Adjournment**

Jack Storne thanked Karen Walters for her hard work over the last year. Jack Storne adjourned the PSWD 2011 District Conference at 4 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Laura Miller, Clerk

In June 2012, the draft copy of the minutes was examined by the committee: Linda Davis (Church of the Living Savior), Joe Schechter (La Verne), and Pat Royer (Modesto).