

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

Business Book



**51<sup>st</sup> Annual District Conference**  
**November 7-9, 2014**

*Held at:*

**Brethren Hillcrest Homes**  
2705 Mountain View Drive  
La Verne, CA 91750



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Hillcrest Meeting House, site of our Business Sessions

# Pacific Southwest District Church of the Brethren

## 2014 Annual Meeting

November 7-9, 2014

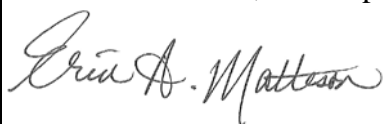
All events are at Brethren Hillcrest Homes in La Verne, California.

### Welcome sisters and brothers! to the 2014 Pacific Southwest District Conference

As you come to La Verne, specifically to Hillcrest, to sunny southern California, you come to participate in the 51st District Conference of The Church of the Brethren here in the Pacific Southwest District. You come as one of the beautiful, colorful strands that weave with others to make the incredible cloth that is God's Brethren community in the Pacific Southwest. With this conference, we move into the next 50 years of our history together. The *Spirit of the Living God*, continues to weave in and out moving among us.

Our meeting comes at a time of challenge for the Brethren and indeed almost all Christian communions. Yet a time when our core values of gathering around the Word and prayer, authentic community and peace and justice, simplicity and service are perhaps more needed and yearned for than ever. There are bright sparks of all these being creatively lived out in ways that reveal hope and possibility in many directions in our beloved district. So as we gather, let us not despair from a place of fear, cynicism or complacency. Let us celebrate together, encourage, motivate and inspire one another, seek, dream dreams, and share visions together, as we see each other through the eyes of God, sense Christ alive among us, and allow ourselves to get swept up and carried away in the Spirit of Life and Love that is *always* making all things new.

Friends in Christ, come open and in anticipation, of the **Spirit of God...Moving!**



Erin Matteson  
Moderator

### Thursday, November 6, (Ministers Continuing Education Event only)

6:00	Ministers Continuing Education Event Dinner	Maury Smeltzer Lounge
7:00	Ministers Continuing Education Event, Session 1	Dean E. Kieffaber Chapel

### Friday, November 7, (Registration, 9:00 am – 9:00 pm, closed during meals and worship)

8:00am	Ministers Continuing Education Event Breakfast	Maury Smeltzer Lounge
9:00 - 11:30	Registration & Information Table open - <i>Spirit of God Moving!</i>	Village Center Lobby
	Exhibit Hall & SERRV shop Open	Galen Walker Boardroom
9:00am	<i>continue</i> Ministers Continuing Education Event, Session 2	Dean E. Kieffaber Chapel
	<i>There are no "Children's Activities" or "Nursery" on Friday, day or evening</i>	

12:00pm - 1:30	<b>Women's Fellowship Luncheon</b> ( <u>Ticket Required</u> ) Emily Matteson, speaker, "Sisters in Christ"	Maury Smeltzer Lounge
	Ministers Continuing Education Event Lunch (Ticket for W.F. Luncheon included)	
1:30 - 5:00	<i>continue</i> Ministers Continuing Education Event, Session 3	Dean E. Kieffaber Chapel
1:30 - 7:30	Registration Table Open	Village Center Lobby
	Exhibit Hall & SERRV shop Open	Galen Walker Boardroom
5:00pm	Time to rest, meditate, walk, visit the chapel, register, talk with someone...	
5:30	<b>Intercultural Dinner - <i>Spirit of God...an Intercultural Movement</i></b> ( <u>Ticket required</u> ) Joe Detrick, Interim DE & Gimbiya Kettering, CoB Intercultural Min.	Maury Smeltzer Lounge
7:00	Time to rest, meditate, walk, visit the chapel, register, talk with someone....	
7:30	<b>Opening Worship - <i>Called together in the Spirit; Created to Live!</i></b>	Meeting House
<i>after worship</i>	Registration & Information Table open	Village Center Lobby
	Exhibit Hall & SERRV shop Open	Galen Walker Boardroom
8:30 - 10:00	Labyrinth (see map on back cover) available for self-guided meditation	
9:00	Ice Cream Social & Meet 'n Mingle - Annual Conference Moderator David Steele	Café
9:45	Brief Evening Vespers led by Cristo Sion/Pomona Fellowship	Dean E. Kieffaber Chapel

**Saturday, November 8, (Registration, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm)**

7:30am	<b>Breakfast in Community - <i>Spirit of God Moving in Ministry!</i></b> ( <u>Ticket Required</u> ) Sponsored by the Nurturing and Credentialing Committee	Maury Smeltzer Lounge
8:00	Registration & Information Table opens	Village Center Lobby
	Exhibit Hall & SERRV shop Opens	Galen Walker Boardroom
	Chapel & Labyrinth (see map on back cover) available for self-guided meditation	
8:15 - 12:05	"Children's Activities" and "Nursery" (eat all meals with parents)	
8:30 - 11:00 <b>Worshipful Work Session #1</b>	Call to order, prayer, seating of delegates, roll call/verify quorum, delegate dedication (p. <a href="#">7</a> ), and agenda approval. Introduction of Guests, Welcome by Hillcrest Approve prior District Conference Minutes (Exhibit A: <a href="#">41-44</a> ) Appoint a Committee to verify 2014 District Conference minutes Introduction of the 2014 – 2015 Ballot (Exhibit B: <a href="#">45-50</a> ) National Youth Conference Sharing & Introduction of the Youth Cabinet (p. <a href="#">11-12</a> ) Interim District Executive Report (p. <a href="#">11-12</a> )	Meeting House
	Stretch and Silliness break	
	District Board Report (p. <a href="#">19-25</a> ) Standing Committee Report (p. <a href="#">17</a> ) Peace Pole Presentation by On Earth Peace Search Committee Update	

11:15	Insight Session #1 <i>Please attend the session you signed up for during registration</i>
12:00pm	<b>Conference Lunch &amp; Fellowship</b> ( <u>Ticket Required</u> ) Maury Smeltzer Lounge
12:00	Registration & Information Table: <u>Closes for the rest of conference</u>
1:20 - 5:05	“Children’s Activities” and “Nursery” <u>Close for the rest of conference at 5:05 p.m.</u>
1:30 - 2:15	Insight Session #2 <i>Please attend the session you signed up for during registration</i>
2:30 - 4:00 <b>Worshipful Work Session #2</b>	Vote on the 2014 – 2015 Ballot (Exhibit B: <a href="#">45-50</a> ) Meeting House Sharing from our National Agencies (p. <a href="#">30-40</a> ) Vote on the Ministry Investment Plan Sharing from our Program Committee Conversation on <i>Spirit of God Moving</i> in the PSWD ( <i>time permitting</i> )
	Adjournment
4:15 - 5:00	Insight Session #3 <i>Please attend the session you signed up for during registration</i>
5:00	Time to rest, meditate, walk, visit the chapel, talk with someone...

5:30	<b>Dinner</b> - A Good Ole Fashion Picnic! ( <u>Ticket Required for meal</u> ) Shuffle Board Court Campfire following picnic! ( <i>all are welcome</i> ) Outside Meeting House
7:00	Exhibit Hall & SERRV shop <u>Close for the rest of conference</u> Galen Walker Boardroom
	Time to rest, meditate, walk, visit the chapel, talk with someone...
7:30	<b>Worship</b> - <i>Spirit of God Moving!</i> - led by our Youth! Meeting House
9:00	Exhibit Hall & SERRV shop must be cleared out
9:00 - 9:30	Evening Prayer - You are invited to consider a self led time of silence or self guided meditation. Dean E. Kieffaber Chapel
	Labyrinth (see map on back cover) available for self-guided meditation

### Sunday, November 9 (No registration)

	<i>There are no “Children’s Activities” or “Nursery” on Sunday</i>
8:30am	<b>Breakfast in Community:</b> <i>Spirit of God Moving at the table</i> , in devotions... Speaker: Randy Miller, Editor of Messenger ( <u>Ticket Required</u> ) Maury Smeltzer Lounge
8:30	Board Reorganization ( <i>Board of Administration only</i> ) Galen Walker Boardroom
10:00	<b>Worship</b> - <i>Spirit of God Moving...Called into God’s Creativity in the World!</i> <b>Recognition of ordination anniversaries</b> Meeting House <b>Consecration of Licensed Ministers, Board of Administration,</b> <b>Moderator-Elect, Moderator</b> <b>AND MORE!</b>



## ***Spirit of God Moving! A Word on our theme***

Friends, I spent a lot of time when I was Moderator-Elect reflecting on and praying about what might be a helpful theme for our district for 2014 when I would become Moderator. Some of what kept *rising to the surface* for me was the reality of how discouraged so many churches, not only across our district, but across the denomination and even our whole country, seem to be these days. The landscape of our world has been changing for a while now. Many persons seem tired, pessimistic, complacent or all three. In the end, that is not helpful, and I am not sure if *long term* frankly, it is faithful, either. I found myself feeling that perhaps some of what we need as the church right now is: a strong reminder that *God is with us moving among us (!)*; the encouragement (if not challenge) to move *ourselves* beyond our fear of what is happening around us and within us to be more *proactive* in considering the creativity and change God is inviting us to; an encouraging/challenging reminder that the Spirit is moving in order that we might discover within us a renewed sense of vision and mission... fresh energy and re-commitment to ministry out in our communities as lively partners with God in the healing of the world. We seem to need an encouraging, positive look toward the future! Then I remembered the text and context of Isaiah 43 and it's invitation to God's people who were

discouraged then. God invites them through Isaiah to realize again that God is with them, always, doing a new thing. They are *precious*, and will find "*rivers in the desert*" when they dare to perceive and move into new things, rather than resist change and try to keep things the same. This carried me into remembering the whole biblical story of our creative, creating God and a Christ who comes to offer new life. My reflection and prayer also carried me into remembering lots of beloved hymns on the Spirit of Life and God's promises to be with us carrying and calling us to good things! Sisters and brothers, ***the Spirit of God is MOVING!*** It is our calling to remember this. Trust in it. Watch and listen for it and feel it. It is our call to *move into it*. That we might be refreshed and nourished, led and surprised by it. To thrive as God's people we *must* move beyond frustration over what has or is changing, to perceive and discover what God is doing, and dare to ride the currents of the Spirit to a new day. May it be so for each of our congregations, and for all of us as a district.

- With you on the journey,



Erin Matteson, District Moderator

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### **Logo Interpretation**

The logo for the 2014 District Conference was designed by Jaimie Campbell. Jaimie is an artist, graphic designer, cook extraordinaire, and so much more. She is a beloved part of the Modesto Church of the Brethren. Embodying the theme well, our logo invites us to realize the dove as a symbol of the Spirit of God, carrying or "moving" the world forward. True to our Church of the Brethren heritage, the church is intentionally depicted as God's people gathered, not a building, present in the midst of God's world. There, women and men of all ages come together to worship and pray, listen to one another and serve, connecting yet always with an open space for another still to come be healed and join in God's healing work. Christ remains at the center, joyful, inviting, inspiring, in the fullness of our living together "For the glory of God, and our neighbors' good."

Erin Matteson,  
Moderator





# Delegates' Dedication Litany & Song

November 8, 2014

**Moderator:** Beloved sisters and brothers, you have been called by your congregations to serve as delegates at this 51st District Conference of the Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren. It is an honor to serve in this position of trust, responsibility and dedication, to be ones to make up this specific leadership community in this time and place. Do you accept this call?

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

**Moderator:** Will you be faithful to the Word of God, the Christ of Compassion, the Spirit of Life, while celebrating the rich history of our denomination and individual churches?

**Delegates:** **We will honor our God, Christ, the Spirit, as we honor those who came before us.**

**Moderator:** Recognizing we are a living peace church, will you seek the leading of the Spirit of Christ in all matters before us?

**Delegates:** **We commit to seek the leading of the Spirit and to humble ourselves to engage in the tension of community necessary for new birth.**

**Moderator:** Through word and deed, in mind and heart, will you treat one another with love, respect, and openness as together you conduct the business before you?

**Delegates:** **Even as we are from different cultures, and come together as unique creations from unique communities called in unique ways by Christ, we will work together as the larger body committed to seek the will of God that exists beyond us all. In thought, word and deed, we will honor the image of God in each of us, as we seek the mind of Christ for all of us together. We will treat each other with compassion, kindness, and patience.**

**Moderator:** You have covenanted to be faithful to God, seek the mind of Christ, honor those who came before us and the image of God within us here in order to thoughtfully consider and prayerfully discern the decisions to be made. Brothers and sisters let us invite God into our best intentions together then with this prayer ...

**All:** **Gracious, Holy God,  
May we be present and attentive to You and one another in our time here.  
May we return home sharing information on what has been discussed and decided,  
in a way that honors the covenant we have made with one another this morning.  
May we remain connected to one another as holy, Christian community in ways that  
keep us caring, communicating, encouraging, and compassionate with one another  
beyond any one decision that is made.  
May we always support the District, with our prayers and  
actions, in ways that demonstrate a deep reverence for  
how your Spirit is always moving within and among us all.**

**All:** **Hymn - *Spirit of the Living God*  
(2x through, using first *me*, then *us*)**



## **Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren – 2014**

### **Officers of the District Conference**

Moderator..... Erin Matteson, Modesto  
Moderator-Elect..... Eric Bishop, La Verne  
Clerk..... Karen Cosner, Modesto (*until Dec. 5, 2013*)  
..... Laura Miller, Papago Buttes AZ (*starting Dec. 20, 2013*)  
Board of Administration Chair (ex-officio)..... Marye Martinez, Modesto  
Interim District Executive (ex-officio). .... Joe Detrick

### **Note for the Delegates**

The Annual 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, and approves new programs, constitutional changes and budget. Through its delegates, it interprets and promotes the decisions of the District Conference to the local congregations.

### **Note for the Non-Delegates**

Non-delegates are urged to attend District Conference, including the business meeting. Non-delegates may discuss the business and make motions; voting is restricted to the delegates and officers. Wide participation at the business session adds inspiration and encouragement to the moderator, delegates, Board of Administration and staff. Pacific Southwest District has been noted for excellent attendance at the business session.

### **What May Be Done with Queries**

- (1) A query may be accepted and passed on to Annual Conference.
- (2) A query may be sent back to the originating church or District Board, which means one of several things: *not important, Annual Conference has already answered it, not a proper query, etc.*
- (3) A query **may not** be changed by amendment.
- (4) A query may be added to, but care must be taken not to change the intent of the query. One way to add is to attach a similar query to the one being considered.

### **Rules of Order on District Conference Business**

- (1) The moderator conducts business according to Robert's Rules of order, which will be the standard for any point not covered in the Constitution and By-Laws.
- (2) The moderator appoints tellers and timekeeper.
- (3) Nominations from the floor must have the prior consent of the nominee (*see also IV.A below*).
- (4) Length and number of speeches allowed are determined by the District Conference officers.
- (5) 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.
- (6) A quorum consists of sixty percent of the total elected delegates representing sixty percent of the churches of the District.

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

## **Parliamentary Procedure at a Glance**

(Based on Robert's Rules of Order Revised  
And Rules Governing Annual Conference)

### **I. The Five Essential Steps Through Which a Motion Passes**

- A. Presentation of the motion:  
“I move that \_\_\_\_\_.”
- B. Seconding the motion:  
“I second the motion,” or “I second it.”
- C. A written copy of the motion shall be given to the conference clerk.
- D. Stating the question (by the moderator) and discussion of it:  
“It has been moved and seconded that \_\_\_\_\_.”
- E. Putting the question to a vote:  
“Are you ready for the question? All of those in favor of the motion which is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. say ‘Aye.’ Opposed, ‘No.’”
- F. Announcing the result of the vote:  
“The motion is carried (lost) and you have voted to (not to) \_\_\_\_\_.”

### **II. Motions, Who Makes Them and How**

- A. All members of the District Conference have the privilege of moving and discussing the business of the Conference.
- B. To make a motion, it is necessary to “obtain the floor” – that is, to rise after the floor has been yielded and address the presiding officer by his/her official title (Brother/Sister Moderator). Give your name and the name of the congregation you represent as soon as you catch the eye of the moderator after addressing him/her.
- C. A motion is seconded without obtaining the floor or rising.

### **III. Some Rules of Debate**

- A. All remarks must be addressed to the chair.
- B. All remarks must pertain to the immediately pending question before the District Conference.
- C. All remarks must be of an impersonal nature.
- D. Length and number of speeches are determined by District Conference officers.

### **IV. Nominations and Voting**

- A. Nominations may be made from the floor. However, one must have the person's permission to present his/her name in nomination, have all the same written information provided by the other candidates to present to the conference clerk, and have copies of the ballot information to distribute to the delegates (*see page [15](#) below*).
- B. No member can be compelled to vote. Those not voting are not counted in deciding whether it is a majority, two-thirds, or unanimous. All blank ballots are ignored and, thus, not counted.
- C. Most votes are taken first by voice or by show of hands, except in case of motions requiring a two-thirds vote, when a rising vote is taken first.

## **V. Motions Classified and in Ascending Order of Precedence**

**A. Privileged and Incidental Motions:** motions that take precedence over any pending question although not related to that question. Not debatable.

1. **ADJOURN or RECESS**

Object: to dismiss a meeting or to provide for an intermission – “I move that we adjourn (recess) while (until) \_\_\_\_\_.”

2. **RAISE A QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE**

Object: to get the attention of the moderator at once, to ask a question, or to attend to some matter that cannot wait – “I rise to a question of privilege” (state your question).

3. **POINT OF ORDER**

“I rise to a point of order” (state your point).

**B. Subsidiary Motions:** motions that are applied to other motions for the purpose of most appropriately disposing of them.

1. **LAY ON THE TABLE – TAKE FROM THE TABLE** (second, not debatable, not amendable, simple majority)

Object: to lay aside business in such a manner that its consideration may be removed later – “I move that this matter be laid on the table.”

2. **PREVIOUS QUESTION** (second, not debatable, not amendable, two-thirds majority)

Object: to stop debate and order an immediate vote – “I call for (or move) the previous question.”

3. **POSTPONE TO A SET TIME** (second, debatable, amendable, simple majority).

4. **COMMIT, REFER, or RE-COMMIT** (second, debatable, amendable, simple majority),

Object: to place the business in the hands of a few for later reporting to the Conference (for major changes) – “I move that this matter be referred to a committee of \_\_\_\_ to be named \_\_\_\_\_ with instruction.”

5. **AMEND** (second, debatable, amendable, simple majority).

a. “I move to amend the motion by striking out \_\_\_\_\_.”

b. “I move to amend the motion by inserting \_\_\_\_\_ between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.”

c. “I move to amend the motion by adding \_\_\_\_\_ between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.”

d. “I move to amend the motion by striking out \_\_\_\_\_ and inserting \_\_\_\_\_.”

e. “I move to amend by striking out \_\_\_\_\_ and substituting this (read or state the substitution).”

6. **POSTPONE INDEFINITELY** (second, debatable, and amendable, simple majority).

Object: to kill a motion – “I move to postpone this matter indefinitely.”

**C. Principal Motion:** a motion made to bring before the Conference, for its consideration, any particular subject.

**D. Main Motion:** (second, debatable, amendable, simple majority).

Object: to introduce business for consideration –

a. “I move that \_\_\_\_\_.”

b. “I move the adoption (acceptance, approval) of this report.”

# Interim District Executive Minister's Report

## 2014 PSWD District Conference

Joe Detrick

**Spirit of God Moving.....***Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.* (Isaiah 43:18,19)

These words of Isaiah provide an engaging and challenging theme for this year's District Conference. It's a compelling invitation for persons to be receptive to the movement of the Holy Spirit. As our Moderator, powerfully noted in her commentary on the Conference theme, *We are created to be alive, moving, in a rhythm of being, and doing...waiting, watching, listening and hoping, for the places newness may be coming...*

In this time of transition of executive leadership, it is a prime time to consider how the Spirit is moving and continues to move within your beloved District! Sisters and brothers of PSWD **a new thing** is upon you, do you not perceive it!? It is a time of being patient and gracious with each other, trusting leadership, exploring new possibilities of ministry and mission in the district...*behold I make all things new!*

Among these *Spirit of God moving...* moments consider these unfolding hints of spiritual activity as we witness the power and presence of the Spirit moving through:

- the **words of encouragement and prayer** so richly shared within our District. Spiritual undergirding is vital for our witness and work.
- the **gifted office staff** who diligently work together as a sustaining team representing servant leadership for the will and good of the district churches.
- the **willingness of the Executive Board, Policy Board, Commissions, and Committees**, to function as a **partnership** in guiding life-sustaining ministries of the District.
- the **vital functions** of our supporting and supported **mission agencies** (district and national), whom all have mission statements that undergird their work as servants of Christ's ministry.
- the **life-giving witness** that happens when lay church leaders and ministers call forth the gifted-ness of people for service in God's community. (Read - the priesthood of all believers.)

- the **life-sustaining witness** of congregations who know who they are, where they are going, who stay flexible and creative and who know how to disagree without being disagreeable.
- the **energy and excitement felt by congregations** as they move outside their comfort zone and are not afraid to ask: *What are God's yearnings for our church? Where is Spirit of God leading? Who is my neighbor?*
- the **gift of our District's ministers** who have an awesome responsibility and the demands on them are considerable! Thank you for your ministry of support and care for your respective churches.
- the extra-ordinary, well-crafted and powerful **Unity Statement** (2007) along with a vibrant **Mission and Vision Statement** of the District, giving our corporate ministry focus and intentionality.
- the **enriching educational opportunities** available to our ministers-in-training: TRIM, EFSM, Seminary, and SeBAH (Seminario Biblico Anabautista Hispano).
- the **calling** of new persons to **follow** Jesus Christ.
- the **Spirit-led ministry** that seeks to serve the present and future age.

All of these, at some level, give hint to the transforming movement of the power and Spirit of God as we are invited into that deeper fellowship with God, and with one another, sharing in God's purposes, God's will, and God's shalom.

In this context, more specifically, I have deeply felt the Spirit of God moving through:

**Congregational Ministry:** Visiting twenty out of twenty-six congregations for worship, preaching, consultation with church boards and various committees. Celebrated the licensing and installation for Robert Aguirre at Cornerstone Community (Reedley), officiated at the ordination service (dual status) for Clark Youngblood at Circle of Peace (AZ), and installed Robert Morris at Glendora, and Andrew Sampson at Pomona Fellowship.

**Pastoral Care and Support Ministry:** Contacts and appointments with licensed and ordained ministers / pastors across the District. Attended the Pastor/Spouse Retreat with spouse. Attended the Multi-cultural Ministries Gathering at Príncipe de Paz.

**Administrative Ministry:** Staff time in the District Office at Hillcrest; meetings with District Policy Board, Executive Board, Ministry Commission, Stewards Commission, and various committees: Nurturing and Credentialing (NACC), Nominating, Program, Grant Review (GRC). Also, administrative time with the continuing proceedings regarding the PSWD/CKEC appeal.

**Denominational Ministries:** Participated in the Council of District Executive's events at Annual Conference (Columbus, OH) and the Annual Winter Retreat in Cocoa Beach, FL. Also met with the DE's of the West, in Mountain Grove, MO.

### Challenges for the Future

Over the course of these few months I've seen an impressive display of persons who love the church, its heritage, its values and practices, and a host of dedicated persons who provide a significant ministry of volunteering for District ministries. In light of the challenge of Isaiah to **do a new thing...** I would venture to suggest a number of challenges that will stretch the imaginations of District staff, District Board, clergy, and a significant group of lay leaders:

- Continuing enquires on what it means to be a *Missional Church* and a *Missional District*, and asking, "What are God's yearnings for our District and our church? Where is God's Spirit leading? Who is my neighbor?"
- Strengthening the "ties that bind" within PSWD from Paradise to Tucson, 957 miles. (How to increase support for one another in a highly relational church family.)

- Reinvesting energy for Church Planting and Church Revitalization (2012 Resolutions).
- Enhancing congregational health, welfare, and accountability through the conscientious study and implementation of the newly revised *Congregational Ethics* paper.
- Increased emphasis on the calling and training of ministerial leadership and careful study of the new *Ministerial Leadership* paper.
- Continuing exploration of what it means to be a multi-cultural district and denomination, asking, "In what ways can PSWD congregations work together to fulfill the Unity Statement and God's vision for a Multi-cultural church?" (Envisioning PSWD as a model for the denomination!)
- Re-envisioning the role and function of the District Office as a Resource Center for congregational vitality and support.
- Dare PSWD to take leadership regarding its query to Annual Conference (defeated) and become a model for conversation and action regarding Climate Change.

During this year I have been blessed to work with and feel the support of a talented District staff, a legion of engaging District Board folks, and a host of energetic, spiritually engaging pastors serving selflessly in our congregations. This district is rich in its diversity yet ever faithful to an identity that accepts one another and reflects God's love for all people. The church continues to be God's instrument of choice to bring hope, healing, and shalom in the world. As servants of Christ, let us move forward, unwavering in our love and loyalty to Christ and his Church. As **faithful witnesses of the Spirit of God moving...**, we can do no other! Amen.

On the Journey,

*Joe A. Detrick*

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## Recognition of Ministers' Ordination Anniversaries

### 65 Years

Eugene Palsgrove

### 35 Years

Jeffrey Glass  
Thomas Hostetler

### 25 Years

Jeanine Ewert

### 50 Years

Gerald Moore

### 30 Years

Jo Kimmel  
Nadine Pence

### 40 Years

Lila McCray

—  
**Representing 310 years  
of service.**  
—



## District Youth Advisor Report

When I first began my journey as the PSWD Youth Advisor 3 years ago, I knew that building relationships would be an important part of the work, both my relationships with pastors and youth as well as the youth's relationship with one another. Over the past few years, youth from Live Oak in Northern California to Circle of Peace in Arizona have gathered together for District Conferences and Spring Events coordinated by the PSWD Youth Cabinet.

In June, I had the privilege of providing resource leadership for youth at Camp Peaceful Pines and in July I traveled with 63 youth, and their advisors, to Fort Collins, Colorado for National Youth Conference. In both instances I experienced youth who are engaged and curious, creative and enthusiastic about being the church. They have varying beliefs and Christian foundations but they seem uniquely capable of encouraging each others authentic expressions of faith.

Four such youth have been called to serve on the 2014/2015 Youth Cabinet. Their names and congregations are:

- ◆ Jake Hoover - La Verne
- ◆ Rayna Harrison - La Verne
- ◆ Harley Edwards - Modesto
- ◆ Rudy Amaya - Principe de Paz

The new Youth Cabinet had their first planning meeting / retreat in August, gathering in La Verne, California to plan activities for youth at District Conference. During their time together the cabinet participated in team building exercises, toured Hillcrest facilities, worked with PSWD Moderator-Elect Eric Bishop, and worshiped with youth at Principe de Paz Friday evening, and Sunday morning with youth at La Verne.

Youth attending the 2014 District Conference, can expect another great year of fellowship and fun with friends throughout the district. Plus, opportunities to explore the theme of conference, *Spirit of God Moving*, it's scriptural foundation and implications for youth as we move forward as a district and the body of Christ! Housing arrangements have been made for Senior High youth only at Hillcrest, all other activities and meals will include Junior High youth as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Pacific Southwest District and continue this journey of faith with the Youth of our district.

Dawna Welch  
District Youth Advisor



# Nominating Committee Report

## Committee Members:

Eric Bishop, Chair & Moderator-Elect  
Joe Schechter  
John Price  
Karen Walters

### *Ex-Officio Members with vote:*

Clerk, Karen Cosner (*until December 5, 2013*)  
Laura Miller (*starting Dec. 20, 2013*)

Moderator, Erin Matteson

Board Chair, Marye Martinez

### *Ex-Officio Member without vote:*

Interim District Executive: Joe Detrick

positions. This year's committee has taken great efforts to identify and intentionally seek representation from across the district as it relates to diversity. That diversity comes in several forms and it includes congregations not represented, nor which have been represented and persons of varying gender, age, ethnicity and culture. We thank those who have accepted the call to share their spirit, gifts and talents with the District. We look forward to your service.

I wish to thank the committee members for their commitment to the task, and those who answered the call for their willingness to serve Christ and the body and for giving of their time and talents.

Respectfully submitted  
Eric Bishop, Chair

It has been a pleasure to serve as the nominating committee chair this year. It was our task, as it is every year for the nominating committee to discern, reflect and call out the talents of the district into leadership



Finished their elected terms on the District Board of Administration  
Richard Downhour, Phyllis Eller, John Jackson, Norman Johnson, Elizabeth Rowan

## Nominations from the Floor at District Conference

I, \_\_\_\_\_, am willing to allow my name to be placed on the year \_\_\_\_\_ ballot as a nominee for the following position of service: \_\_\_\_\_

Nominated by: 1<sup>st</sup> \_\_\_\_\_  
2<sup>nd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

**Personal Information:** *(make enough copies to be distributed to the delegates, about 100)*

Name:	Age <i>(optional)</i> :
Congregation:	
Vocation:	
Church Experience:	
Vision Statement:	
Address:	
Telephone:	
Email:	

## Suggestions for the Next District Conference Ballot

Dear Nominating Committee, for District Conference Ballot:		
I, _____, suggest that you consider: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 80%; margin: 0 auto;"><div>your name</div><div>your telephone</div></div>		
Name:	Email:	
Church:	Tele:	
Position: <input type="checkbox"/> Moderator Elect <input type="checkbox"/> Nominating Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Program Committee <input type="checkbox"/> District Board <input type="checkbox"/> Hillcrest Nominee <input type="checkbox"/> Camp La Verne Nominee <input type="checkbox"/> Clerk <input type="checkbox"/> General Board, Elgin <input type="checkbox"/> District Board Youth / Young Adult		

Dear Nominating Committee, for District Conference Ballot:		
I, _____, suggest that you consider: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 80%; margin: 0 auto;"><div>your name</div><div>your telephone</div></div>		
Name:	Email:	
Church:	Tele:	
Position: <input type="checkbox"/> Moderator Elect <input type="checkbox"/> Nominating Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Program Committee <input type="checkbox"/> District Board <input type="checkbox"/> Hillcrest Nominee <input type="checkbox"/> Camp La Verne Nominee <input type="checkbox"/> Clerk <input type="checkbox"/> General Board, Elgin <input type="checkbox"/> District Board Youth / Young Adult		



## Suggestions for Board Appointments

Dear District Board of Administration, when you make Board Appointments this coming year,	
I, _____, suggest that you consider: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 80%; margin: 0 auto;"><div>your name</div><div>your telephone</div></div>	
Name:	Email:
Church:	Tele:
Their skills and areas of expertise:	

Dear District Board of Administration, when you make Board Appointments this coming year,	
I, _____, suggest that you consider: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 80%; margin: 0 auto;"><div>your name</div><div>your telephone</div></div>	
Name:	Email:
Church:	Tele:
Their skills and areas of expertise:	



# Standing Committee Delegate Report

Marlin L. Heckman

The Standing Committee of the 2014 Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren met prior to conference in Columbus, Ohio. There were 37 delegates representing 23 Districts. The Standing Committee delegates met around tables, just as the Annual Conference delegates have for the past three years. The table arrangement allows for discussion among a group of delegates prior to discussion and voting.

The Standing committee reviews all items of business to be presented before the conference and makes recommendations to the conference delegate body. Major items of business this years included a Revision to the Ministerial Leadership Polity of the Church. The seven-year process of bringing this items to a final vote has now been completed and staff will work on implementation. A second major paper was on Congregational Ethics which was passed. Each congregation ought to familiarize itself with this information and its implications for local congregations. One disappointment in this year's conference business was decision, by the delegate body, to return, unanswered, the PSWD initiated query on Climate Change. By a margin of 14 or 15 votes this query was returned.

A previously requested change in representation on the Ministry and Mission Board resulted in a recommendation that there be no change in how board members are spread across the areas of the church. There had been a call to reduce representation from smaller areas.

The PSWD is in Area 5 of the denomination and includes congregations in the states of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, California and Arizona. In Area 5 there are 50 congregations with a total of 3,772 members. Area 5 represents 5% of the total denomination membership and gives 8% of the funds supporting the core ministry of the denomination.

One member of Standing Committee shared some interesting information from a study of districts of the Church of the Brethren west of the Mississippi River. Figures are for 2012.

West of the Mississippi there are:

- Seven districts of the Church of the Brethren
- 142 congregations
- 1,069 members
- 30 congregations with full-time pastors (13 are in PSWD)

In the total denomination there are:

- 1,031 congregations
- 117,093 members
- 310 congregations with full-time pastors
- 166 congregations with 100 or more in worship on Sunday morning

Thank you for the opportunity to have served as your Standing Committee delegate.

Marlin L. Heckman



National Women's Clergy Retreat 2014 in PSWD

Photo from brethren.org

PSWD Clergy at the retreat: (L-R) Janet Ober Lambert, Sara Haldeman-Scarr, Erin Matteson, Reba Herder, Dawna Welch, Doris Dunham, Susan Boyer

# District Conference Program Committee Report

## Committee Members:

Erin Matteson, Moderator, Chair  
Eric Bishop, Moderator-Elect  
Linda Hart (Pomona Fellowship)  
Erick Flores (Príncipe de Paz)  
Deb Merrifield-Carothers (Circle of Peace, AZ)  
Tom Hostetler (La Verne)  
Kirsten Storne-Piazza (Live Oak)

## Ex-Officio Members of the Committee:

Board Chair, Marye Martinez  
Interim District Executive: Joe Detrick  
District Youth Advisor, Dawna Welch  
PSW Women's President: Virginia Diaz

## On-Site Co-Coordination:

Linda Hart (Pomona Fellowship)  
Mary Kay Ogden (La Verne)

I cannot express enough appreciation for each member of our committee who gave generously of their time and talent in preparing this district conference for you. Members of the committee "teamed up" to work on various aspects of the conference including worship, business, logistical details, children's activities, meal program planning, hospitality and more. We have incredible leaders throughout our district. And you have several of them right here on this committee. I am grateful because District Conference is a key time we all come together as the body of Christ in the Pacific Southwest District. It deserves our full attention, creativity, and constant development.

We grounded all of our work throughout the year as a committee in devotions and prayer. Each time we met monthly, we began by hearing Isaiah 43:1-3a; 18-19 again, and focusing on a specific line from the creative writing I had developed that goes with our conference theme.

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God enfolds all creation in the Spirit,  
cradles and carries us,  
invites and challenges us to be part of a healing  
movement. . .

Yearning for more justice, love, peace and joy for  
God's world, She whispers and sings, swirls and  
swoons as she goes. . .

"Dance and play, serve and sing, with me, and  
one another and strangers, too. Take up your  
shovel and pick, basin and towel, signs of protest,  
cups of cold water . . . Till all creation be fresh  
and green again. Wholeness at hand, for all. . .  
True salvation, come at last."

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This kept us focused on our ultimate shared goal for this conference, *that we would all not just talk about the theme, but have an experience of the Spirit of God Moving among us during this time.*

Friends, through *every aspect* of being together at Hillcrest...as we eat together, explore and celebrate our ministries together, worship and pray together, educate ourselves about various aspects of ministry together, laugh and play together, cry and dream dreams together, may the *Spirit of God Moving* among us motivate and inspire us, carrying us to an even *deeper and richer* relationship with God, Jesus Christ and one another as the church in ways that not only transform *us*, but contribute to the healing and transformation God yearns for the world...

*Dancing and playing, serving and singing  
with you,*

Erin Matteson, Chair



Karen Pierson, Becky Zapata and Erin Matteson  
at District Conference 2013



# PSWD Board of Administration

# = second 3 year term, x = unexpired term ending



**Thanks to all for your gift of service to the district.  
Special thanks to those who have completed  
their term of service as listed by year below.**

## ***Policy Board:***

Chair: 2016 Marye Martinez (Modesto)

Vice-Chair: 2016 John Gingrich (La Verne)

Recording Secretary: Clerk: 2015 Karen Cosner (Modesto) (*until December 5, 2013*)

x2015 Laura Miller (Papago Buttes, AZ) (*starting December 20, 2013*)

2016	Mike Boeger (Live Oak)	
2013	Robert Burke (Bakersfield).....	Youth / Young Adult
2015	Brenda Dickson (South Bay)	
2014	Richard Downhour (Papago Buttes)	
2014	Phyllis Eller (Pomona Fellowship)	
2016	Lois Frantz (Empire)	
#2015	John Gingrich (La Verne)	
2014	Rayna Harrison (La Verne).....	Youth / Young Adult
2014	Sarah Henrichs (Circle of Peace). ....	Youth / Young Adult
x2015	Tom Hostetler (La Verne) ( <i>starting December 10, 2013</i> )	
2012	Mauricio Iacueli (Circle of Peace).....	Section Rep. AZ
#2014	John Jackson (Glendale).....	Section Rep. S.CA-W
#2014	Norman Johnson (Waterford).....	Section Rep. N.CA
2015	Karen Pierson (Living Savior). ....	Section Rep. Cen.CA
#2014	Elizabeth Rowan (Pasadena)	
x2014	Cindy Slaughter (Glendale) ( <i>starting December 10, 2013</i> )	
2016	Jim Totzke (Cornerstone)	
2016	Clark Youngblood (Circle of Peace, AZ)	
2016	Rebeca Zapata (Príncipe de Paz). ....	Section Rep. S.CA-E

### ***Ex-Officio with vote***

Moderator: Erin Matteson (Modesto)

Moderator-Elect: Eric Bishop (La Verne)

Clerk: Karen Cosner (Modesto) (*until December 5, 2013*)

x Laura Miller (Papago Buttes, AZ) (*starting December 20, 2013*)

### ***Ex-Officio without vote***

Interim District Executive Minister: Joe Detrick

Treasurer: Larry Woodruff (La Verne)

Standing Committee Delegate: Marlin Heckman (La Verne)

## ***Executive Board: (Chosen each year by the Policy Board)***

Chair: Marye Martinez (Modesto)

Vice-Chair: John Gingrich (La Verne)

Ministry Chair: John Jackson (Glendale)

Stewards Chair: Mike Boeger (Live Oak)

Moderator: Erin Matteson (Modesto)

Moderator-Elect: Eric Bishop (La Verne)

Interim District Executive Minister (*Ex-Officio without vote*): Joe Detrick

## ***Ministry Commission: (Members chosen each year by the Executive Board)***

Ministry Chair: John Jackson (Glendale)

*District Board of Administration: continued*

Elected Member, *Vice Chair*: Tom Hostetler (La Verne)

Elected Member: Karen Pierson (Living Savior)

Elected Member: Mauricio Iacueli (Circle of Peace) (*until March 4, 2014*)

ex-officio members: District Executive Minister; Moderator; Board Chair

***Stewards Commission:*** (*Members chosen each year by the Executive Board*)

*Stewards Chair*: Mike Boeger (Live Oak)

Elected Member, *Vice Chair*: Richard Downhour (Papago Buttes)

Elected Member: John Gingrich (La Verne)

Elected Member: Norman Johnson (Waterford)

Elected Member: Elizabeth Rowan (Pasadena)

ex-officio members: District Executive Minister, Moderator, Board Chair, Treasurer

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## Board of Administration Report

Since the members of Pacific Southwest District met at our last conference in November of 2013 we immediately hired Joe Detrick as our Interim District Executive. Joe is providing the leadership to help support the existing programs and encourages us to grow during this transition as promised by the board to the delegates at our Annual District Conference.

The first major task of this board was to oversee the moving of our district office to a new location within the Hillcrest campus. In the meantime we were filling vacancies on the Policy Board, commissions and various committees. As you well know we are fortunate to have many folks to help with these and other district responsibilities.

The first weekend in January proved to be a very significant time. It was when we held our annual retreat which gave everyone around the table time to become familiar with our interim's style and skills. Both commissions and several committees held their initial meeting of the year that same weekend. The Transition Team met for the first time facilitated by Mary Jo Flory-Steury, Associate General Secretary at Church of the Brethren. Most of these groups continue their work on a monthly basis.

The focus for the January Retreat/Policy Board centered around the workings of the board; its ministry and mission. Our Moderator Erin Matteson led our devotions with the beginnings of our journey through this year of being aware of the Spirit of God Moving. The enthusiasm of the Policy Board was apparent by all taking a time to share amongst the gathered not only about their current role but their positive feelings and involvement within their congregations.

April's Policy Board meeting was a continuation of our previous meeting with the expansion into "Why we do What we Do-Purposeful Ministry." Creative reports were given which included info on herding cats, workings of the district office, commissions' status, all

committees and even a rap that hopefully got the spirit moving to district conference. The group also participated in previewing a survey that was developed by the Transition Team intended for individuals and churches to complete. Update on the appeals process surrounding the litigation with the Central Evangelical Church was addressed.

As this is being written a Search Team is being formulated. They represent all areas of the district and it is their charge to interview and recommend a District Executive.

The Pacific Southwest District thrives with the contribution of all whether you're staff, leader or praying for the Church of the Brethren. We journey with the Spirit while exhibiting core values of Christ-likeness, Love, Service, Peacemaking, Simplicity, Diversity, Social and Fiduciary Responsibilities and Ecumenism.

Marye Martinez  
Board Chair



January Board Retreat – Puzzle Activity

## Ministry Commission Report

### Ministry Commission:

John Jackson, chair  
Tom Hostetler, vice-chair  
Mauricio Iacuellli (*until March 4, 2014*)  
Karen Pierson

ex-officio members: District Executive Minister;  
Moderator; Board Chair

Long gone are the days when a minister could assume the following:

- Respect in the community
- People knowing the basic Biblical Stories
- Worship on Sunday mornings is a habit
- Insurance companies would compete to insure pastors
- That the cost of college and seminary would result in a commensurate wage

NOT YET GONE are the institutional and societal expectations that place obstacles for ministers as they seek a path to grow churches. Ministers today face almost unbearable daily stress as they live their calling.

In the name of all those who have answered the Call to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Commission has sought to mitigate these negative circumstances through the following measures:

#### Education:

We support two recent Bethany Seminary students with \$3,000 yearly scholarship (limit three years). The loan/scholarship is paid off by three years of service in a Brethren related ministry.

TRIM (TRaining In Ministry) & SeBAH (Seminario Biblico Anabautista Hispano) are alternatives to Bethany and provide students a quality education while living at home and in many circumstances continuing to serve our churches and institutions. The Ministry Commission pays 75% of the costs of these programs.

CEUs (Continuing Education Units) - Prior to District Conference, the Ministry Commission programs a Ministry Educational Event for our ministers. This year's emphasis is on Relational Evangelism and is being led by Fred Bernhard and Jeremy Ashworth.

#### Support:

Pastor/Chaplain/Spouse Retreat occurs the first half of June. This retreat is to be a gift for those who are currently serving our churches and institutions during these challenging times. It is an opportunity to:

- Form life-affirming relationships
- Experience healthy living through gentle exercise,

sleep, and good food.

- Participate in meaningful worship
- Gain Insight into the Bible as taught by trained scholars
- Have an opportunity to talk confidentially with a Christian Spiritual Director.
- Time to enjoy the beauty of God's good earth and renew one's faith
- Have structured time for daily prayer

It is the hope of the Ministry Commission that our ministers/spouses will return from the retreat in better physical health, know new inspiration from the Bible, be spiritually grounded, prayerful and engaged in the community of ministers who serve PSWD. The deepest hope is that they will continue these practices once they return to "real" life.

It has been my honor to serve as the Chair the Ministry Commission these six years. Thank you. Our ministers are worthy of our respect and support.

John Jackson,  
Chair of the Ministry Commission



Pastor Spouse Retreat Activities

The Ministry Commission extends our gratitude to those appointed by our commission:

#### NACC: Nurturing & Credentialing Committee:

2018 Sara Haldeman-Scarr, Chair  
#2014 Elizabeth Rowan  
2015 Erin Matteson  
2016 Don Shankster  
2017 John Price

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

**Mentor Overseer:** John Price

**TRIM / SeBAH Coordinator:** Jim Martinez

#### NACC: Nurturing & Credentialing Committee

Coming to you live from the office of Sara

Haldeman-Scarr the new chair of the Nurturing and Credentialing Committee!!! Breaking news!! Sara came on board early spring, tackled an amazing learning curve and chaired her first meeting in May. The NACC meets twice a year to consider items important to the PSWD and those who are seeking credentialing (being licensed or ordained within the Church of the Brethren)! At the meeting in the fall we meet to interview if necessary and also to consider the reports received from mentors and their mentees. The other meeting we gather for interviews and conversations with those who are entering or already in the credentialing process.

The agenda was pretty light at the May meeting. We enjoyed worship together. We had an amazing conversation with one of our Licensed ministers serving a congregation in LA. We shared in the joy he has in his ministry. We heard of service to the community, foot washing, simple living and a congregation that loves the Lord. We talked with him around his process for continuing with his licensing toward ordination. We affirmed him as he leads a Church of the Brethren Congregation into the surrounding community and ministers in the name of Christ.

The Committee continues to await opportunities to explore and discern calls to ministry with congregations and those they call to ministry. It is always good to walk with those who are called, and empower them and their congregations to ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara Haldeman-Scarr, NACC Chair

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### **TRIM: Training in Ministry**

### **SeBAH: Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispano *Hispanic Anabaptist Seminary***

TRIM and SeBAH Students are  
“Moving with the Spirit of God!”

This year finds our Training in Ministry students and their counter parts, Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispano students moving with the spirit of God as they continue their studies to be certified as TRIM or SeBAH educated. TRIM students pursue training in three subject areas: Bible and Theology, Ministry Skills, and General Education. It is intended as an entry level for those interested in leadership roles or those working towards ministry accreditation in the Church of the Brethren. SeBAH provides an alternative means of training that promotes a Hispanic-biblical-theological identity which is faithful to the Anabaptist heritage and meets the needs of the Hispanic Mennonite congregations in the United States who desire to train their ministerial staff in their own context.

The Denomination has a new Coordinator of TRIM and EFSM Ministry: Carrie Eikler who resides in Richmond, IN. We welcome her and appreciate her assistance with our students and coordinator.

Our SeBAH students continue to take their required courses and are now on ‘Espiritualidad y Disipulado Cristiano’ (Spirituality and Christian Discipleship). The next course, starting this fall, is ‘Teología de la Predicacion y del Culto’ (Theology of Preaching and Worship). The TRIM students work on their thirty units independently.

PSWD supports both of these programs prayerfully with the intention of grooming future ministers for our churches. Both programs receive financial assistance from our district. If you or someone you know is interested in pursuing one of these programs please contact our district office: (909) 392-4049, [FrontDesk@pswdcob.org](mailto:FrontDesk@pswdcob.org); or John Jackson/Ministry Commission at [PastorJJJ@gmail.com](mailto:PastorJJJ@gmail.com); or Jim Martinez, TRIM / SeBAH Coordinator at [Ajobhalfdone@yahoo.com](mailto:Ajobhalfdone@yahoo.com)

The Spirit of God moves us all at different times. If you feel so moved to become more involved in leadership or ministerial roles in your church or the district this may be where the spirit is moving you.

Jim Martinez

District Coordinator for TRIM & SeBAH

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### **Mentor Overseer**

The Pacific Southwest District (PSWD) continues to have many people seeking ministry through the licensing and credentialing process. In 2014 we had sixteen people in our credentialing program. The district continues to provide mentors for those moving through the credentialing process. Three people needed new mentors in 2014. The mentors are doing a fine job as they work with the licensed ministers. We should be having several of our licensed minister seeking ordination soon. That will be a great day for the District! Congregations within our District have done a great job in calling out people for the licensing and credentialing program. We have also done a great job in nurturing and credentialing through the Nurturing and Credentialing Committee (NACC) and the Ministry Commission. We continue to be pleased with the quality and quantity of people preparing to serve us as Ministers of the Gospel. It is my pleasure to serve the District in this capacity.

With appreciation,

John E. Price, Mentor Overseer

## Stewards Commission Report

**Stewards Commission:**

Mike Boeger, chair  
John Gingrich, vice-chair  
Richard Downhour  
Norman Johnson  
Elizabeth Rowan

Ex-officio members: District Executive Minister,  
Moderator, Board Chair, Treasurer

The Stewards Commission works with the Executive Board, the District Staff, and the Policy Board to maximize the safety and growth of the PSWD's funds.

We have invested in our local churches through grants and loans. The amount of grants total over 1.5 million for the last five years.

For the first time in many years our net worth will fall below 6 million. We thank our Investment Committee, led by Elizabeth Rowan, for their guidance in our investments. Even though our cost of

operation has declined, we continue to run a significant deficit. Please review the Ministry Investment Plan for projections into the future.

Every other year we have a full audit by a C.P.A., and we expect the results by our November 2014 meeting. Ralph Carlton has done a great job in keeping track of our cash disbursements for the past several years.

The Grant Review Committee, chaired by Jim Martinez, has worked to benefit the District and our local churches. They deserve our thanks and gratitude for the many hours contributed, and the decisions they have made.

Working together we can continue God's mission and the work of Jesus, here on Earth, Peacefully, Simply, Together.

Michael E. Boeger  
Stewards Commission Chair

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## Grant Review Committee Report

**Grant Review Committee (GRC):**

Jim Martinez, Chair  
Elizabeth Rowan  
Mary Jo Swartz  
Karin Nelson

ex-officio members: District Executive Minister, Board  
Chair, Stewards Chair, Moderator

The Grant Review Committee (GRC) members have been busy working with our interim District Executive Minister Joe Detrick and Mike Boeger, Stewards Chair, in reviewing last year's grant quarterly reports and in making recommendations to the Steward Commission on grant applications for this next year.

This is a job that is not taken lightly. The GRC makes recommendations to the Stewards Commission who then takes a recommendation to the Executive Board with the final approval being made at our District's Annual Conference. To date the GRC has overseen since 2008 over \$2,000,000

in grants and loans. Grants for the 2014 year totaled \$332,107. Breaking this down: Circle of Peace \$62,711; Glendale \$36,000; Iglesia de Cristo Sion \$32,000; Imperial Heights \$42,000; Pomona Fellowship \$38,000; Restoration L.A. \$40,000; Tucson \$47,000; and Waterford \$35,000.

In light of looking at the total PSWD budget the GRC has made a concerted effort in the amount they are recommending for grants for this next year. The committee had to keep in mind that the amount the District has in reserves is less each year and the amount of tithing to the District by our individual churches has not increased over the years. The total amount proposed by the GRC for the next round of grants for the 2015 year was less than \$180,000.

Respectfully submitted  
Jim Martinez  
Chair: Grant Review Committee

**Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren  
Giving to the District by Congregations, Individuals and Groups  
January 1 to December 31, 2013**

Church ID #	Name of Church	General Fund
32-010	Bakersfield	\$0
32-145	Central Evangelical (Los Angeles)	\$0
32-025	Church of the Living Savior (McFarland)	\$1,280
32-028	Circle of Peace (Peoria, AZ)	\$1,400
32-270	Cornerstone Community (Reedley)	\$0
32-040	Empire	\$500
32-070	Glendale	\$850
32-080	Glendora	\$300
32-083	Iglesia de Cristo Genesis (Los Angeles)	\$600
32-037	Iglesia de Cristo Sion (Pomona)	\$900
32-150	Imperial Heights (Los Angeles)	\$0
32-090	Laton	\$500
32-100	La Verne	\$10,000
32-120	Live Oak	\$2,120
32-190	Modesto	\$2,000
32-193	New Harvest (Lindsay)	\$150
32-205	Papago Buttes (AZ)	\$924
32-210	Paradise Community	\$0
32-220	Pasadena	\$1,000
32-250	Pomona Fellowship	\$1,850
32-290	Prince of Peace (Sacramento)	\$0
32-322	Príncipe de Paz (Santa Ana)	\$1,800
32-280	Restoration L.A.	\$0
32-300	San Diego First	\$225
32-330	South Bay (Redondo Beach)	\$0
32-340	Tucson	\$1,200
32-350	Waterford	\$400
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>\$27,999</b>

	Children's Disaster Service Rapid Response	\$100
	Showalter Bequest	\$14,000
	Individual Giving	\$6,366
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>\$20,466</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$48,465</b>





## Thank you !

The Policy Board thanks those who accepted appointments and task group assignments during the past year. Most appointments are for one year, longer appointments list the concluding year. The Executive Board aims at making appointments between District Conference and the end of the year so that appointees can begin their work in January. Please give us suggestions for next year with the forms on the information table, and on pages [15-16](#) above.

### ***Financial Appointments***

***Treasurer:*** (authorized signatory) Larry Woodruff (La Verne)

***Other Authorized Signatories:*** (yearly appointment) Ferne Schechter (La Verne),  
Mary Kay Ogden (La Verne)

### ***Historical Committee***

*District By-Laws, Article III.K.2.*

Chair: Marlin Heckman (La Verne)

Bill Lemon (Pomona Fellowship)

*Ex-Officio: Board Chair, Moderator, District Executive Minister*

### ***Transition Team***

John Gingrich (La Verne)

Marlin Heckman (La Verne)

Mauricio Iacueli (Circle of Peace)

Jim LeFever (Glendale)

Marye Martinez (Modesto)

John Price (Empire)

Becky Zapata (Príncipe de Paz)

National Office Consultant: Mary Jo Flory-Steury

### ***Search Committee***

***Arizona:*** Jeremy Ashworth (Circle of Peace), Don Shankster (Papago Buttes)

***Northern California:*** John Katonah (Modesto), David Messamer (Modesto)

***Southern California:*** John Gingrich (La Verne), Jim LeFever (Glendale), Mary Kay Ogden (La Verne)

Becky Zapata (Príncipe de Paz)

National Office Consultant: Mary Jo Flory-Steury

### ***District Disaster Response Coordinator***

Network Chair: Lyndall Frantz (Empire)

### ***Margaret Carl Trust Fund Advisory Committee***

*Applications for Bibles, tracts, etc. are available from the PSWD Office.*

*Administrator:* Robert Earhart, Trustee (La Verne)

*Advisory Committee Members:*

2015 Larry Woodruff (La Verne)

2014 Marlin Heckman (La Verne)

2016 Joe Schechter (La Verne)

### ***Investment Committee***

*Manages investments with our investment partners, based on performance assessments.*

Chair: At large-(2015) Elizabeth Rowan (Pasadena)

District Executive (*ex-officio* w/o vote)

Moderator (*ex-officio* w/vote)

Stewards Chair (*ex-officio* w/vote)

Treasurer-Larry Woodruff (La Verne) (*ex-officio* w/vote)

### ***Ministerial Ethics Committee: (5-Year Term ending)***

2016 Richard Hart (Pomona Fellowship)

*Alternates for District Executive Minister:*

2017 Russ Matteson (Modesto)

#2016 Richard Hart (Pomona Fellowship)

2018 Karen Pierson (Living Savior)

*Ex-Officio:* (with vote), *Ministry Chair*

#2014 Joe Schechter (La Verne)

*Ex-Officio:* (without vote), *District Executive*

#2015 Deb Merrifield-Carothers (Circle of Peace)

*Minister*



## INTERFAITH ENGAGEMENT

The University of La Verne is committed to being a model campus in interfaith cooperation. The University is once again joining President Obama's Interfaith and Community Service Campus Challenge for the 2014-15 academic years. The President's Interfaith Challenge emphasizes interfaith cooperation and community service as an important way to build understanding between different communities and contribute to the common good. La Verne's student-led *Better Together* events invite students from all traditions to work together across religious and non-religious beliefs to make the world a better place for everyone, serving their communities together and addressing social issues most important to them. Most recently the group has been addressing food security issues through community gardens. As a participating campus in President Obama's challenge, a team of leaders from La Verne, including University Chaplain, Zandra Wagoner, and President Lieberman, attended a White House sponsored gathering in Washington D.C. in September 2014.

There are a number of additional experiential and educational interfaith opportunities for students, including participation in a variety of holiday celebrations, special lectures and panels, workshops, and multi-religious ceremonies. In the past year, La Verne sent 9 students to the Interfaith Leadership Institute led by Interfaith Youth Core where they learned skills to be interfaith leaders back on our campus. These leaders, in collaboration with *Common Ground*, La Verne's interfaith student club, planned a number of events including a fast paced Speed-Faithing event where students learned the basics about many different religious and philosophical traditions. The students and the Office of Religious and Spiritual Life also hosted a number of Souljourns, monthly field trips to religious or spiritual communities in Southern CA. Over the past year, the students have visited the Hsi Lai Buddhist Temple, joined the Olvera Street celebrations in Los Angeles for Palm Sunday, and celebrated a special holiday with the Baha'is in Rancho Cucamonga.

## COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP

For Summer Service, La Verne added three new placements for 2014, expanding our partnerships with new faith and community agencies. Two of our students were placed with New Community Project in Harrisonburg, VA, a Brethren-related agency that focuses on environmental and economic justice. We also had two students working with the Dolores Huerta Foundation in Bakersfield, CA, an organization known for its farm worker advocacy and for creating networks of healthy, organized communities pursuing social justice. And finally we added the Pomona Boys and Girls Club where five of our La Verne students helped lead youth empowerment programs. We continued to have students placed at two Brethren camps: Camp Myrtlewood and Camp Koinonia, as well as at Camp Oakes, a YMCA camp in Big Bear, CA. We also had students serving faith communities such as the La Verne Church of the Brethren, the Baha'i Community of Rancho Cucamonga, and Clergy and Laity for Economic Justice in Los Angeles (CLUE-LA). In addition, we continue to have students working with community organizations including David and Margaret Home, Hillcrest Homes, Inland Valley Hope Partners, and Habitat for Humanity.





# UNIVERSITY OF LAVERNE

## SPORTING OUR COLORS: GOING GREEN

The University of La Verne Sustainable Campus Consortium was created in 2002 to support the University's mission statement by promoting proactive, environmentally responsible practices throughout all campus activities. This year, in concordance with the Consortium, the University of La Verne officially signed on to the Billion Dollar Green Challenge, becoming only the second California University to do so. By signing up, La Verne commits to establishing a Green Revolving Fund which will be used to fund green, sustainable projects that will reduce the university's carbon footprint. Green revolving funds invest in energy efficiency projects to reduce energy consumption and reinvest the money saved in future projects. They are called "revolving funds" because the funds loan money to specific projects, which then repay the loan through an internal account transfer from savings achieved in the institution's utilities budget. As a result of this and many other efforts, the University was featured in *The Princeton Review's Guide to 332 Green Colleges, 2014 Edition* for its "noteworthy achievements in integrating sustainability into the campus, classroom and community."

## CULTIVATING DIVERSITY & INCLUSIVITY

La Verne continues to be a leader in cultivating diversity and inclusivity campus and community wide. This year, for the second time, La Verne was host to AHSIE Conference (Alliance of Hispanic Serving Institution Educators). Three of La Verne's faculty presented during this conference which saw over 375 people in attendance. La Verne also sponsored its second annual LEAD (Latino Education Access and Development) Conference to empower young Latinos to realize their dreams. The conference featured keynote speaker astronaut Jose M. Hernandez, whose parents first came to California as immigrant farm hands. La Verne also puts actions behind its words with the annual REACH Summer Business Camp, which gives underserved and underrepresented high school students the opportunity to live on campus while learning how to create a web site, organize and manage a business, motivate employees and more.

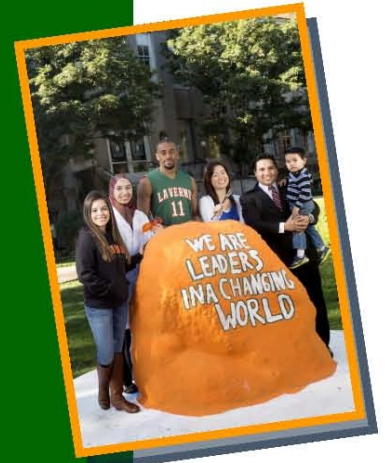
## 2020 STRATEGIC VISION

The entire campus is engaged in its new strategic plan, the "2020 Strategic Vision." Our goal is to build the institution's identity around educational excellence, both on the curricular and co-curricular levels. The 2020 Strategic Vision is driven by four strategic initiatives and goals:

- ◆ Achieving Educational Excellence (curricular and co-curricular)
- ◆ Strengthening Human and Financial Resources
- ◆ Heightening Reputation, Visibility and Prominence
- ◆ Enhancing Facilities and Technology

The Brethren core values upon which the university was founded are the driving force behind these goals which ultimately move to strengthen the impact of La Verne's mission in the local community and worldwide. As we rally together, please join us as we strive to shape our world for the better.

*20% off tuition is offered to all Brethren students for their first year*



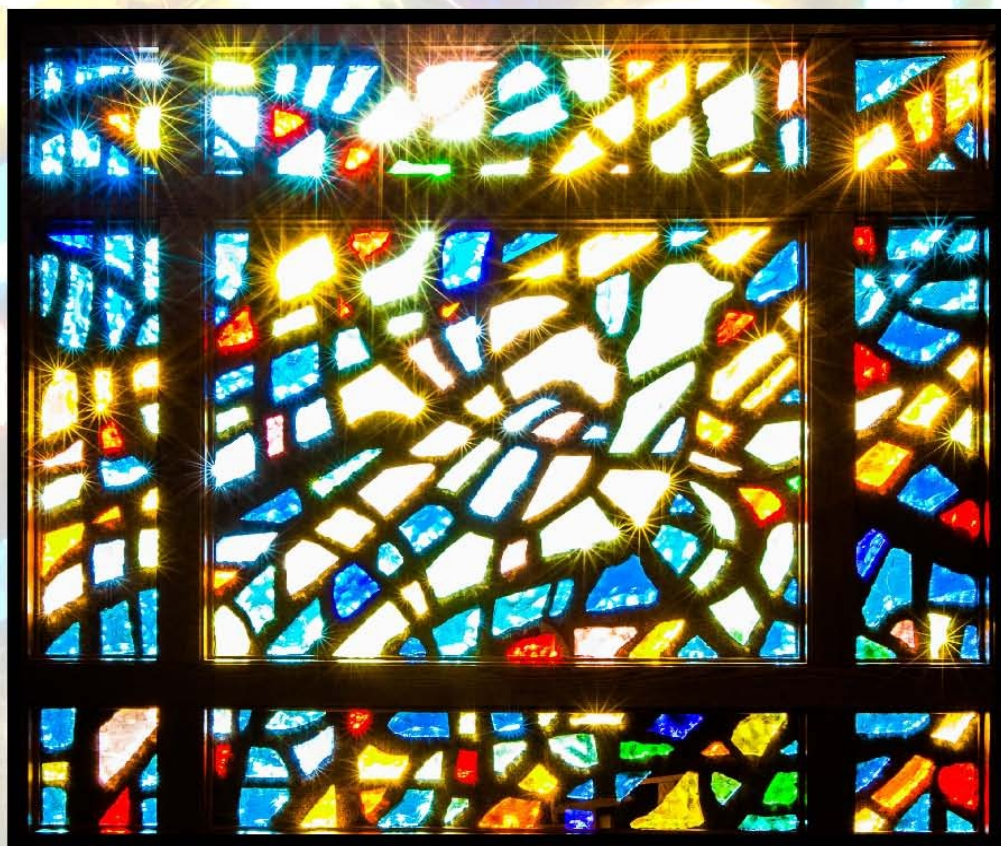
Julie Wheeler • 909-448-4686 • [jwheeler@laverne.edu](mailto:jwheeler@laverne.edu)





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# Camp La Verne

Camp La Verne invites you to enjoy the peace and simplicity of the San Bernardino Mountains at 6,770 feet. Enjoy Jenks Lake. Spend the night in our rustic cabins. In...

Summer



... and

Winter!



We are available all year round. Check out our website [www.camplaverne.org](http://www.camplaverne.org)

Thanks to our incredible Camp Directors, dedicated Board and fantastic staff, volunteers, and our new Camp Manager Terry Lithcum, Camp La Verne continues to provide Brethren camping opportunities every summer for Junior High, Senior High, and Middle School children.

Facilities are available for rent as well. We rent to school groups, scouts, and church groups. If you would like to rent the facilities for your church or family gathering email the camp at [clv@camplaverne.org](mailto:clv@camplaverne.org).

We are grateful to have this resource and we want to share it with as many people as we can. If you have ideas for Camp please let the Board know. If you would like to volunteer or serve on the Board please call or send an email. We want to hear from you! E-mail us at [clv@camplaverne.org](mailto:clv@camplaverne.org)



Camp La Verne is under a Special Use Permit from the San Bernardino National Forest. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, Camp La Verne is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination: write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



**We send warm greetings and God's abiding peace to the moderator, delegates, and members of Pacific Southwest District!**

How can an organization like Church of the Brethren Benefit Trust make future plans when day-to-day forces – the economy, the denomination, state, and federal legislation – can have such a big impact on its work?

Throughout 2013, this question fueled a strategic pathway project for Brethren Pension Plan, Brethren Insurance Services, Brethren Foundation, and BBT's investment and workshop ministries – a project that aims to redefine BBT's foundational statements and establish several broad goals for the organization as it moves forward.

It is for the greater good of the Church of the Brethren that BBT provides affordable retirement savings solutions, reliable insurance products, competitive investment options for organizations, a daily focus on socially responsible investing, and valuable workshops that are presented cost-free to Church of the Brethren audiences across the country. BBT's new path will be pursued based on its revised core values – acting with integrity, leading with compassion, providing competitive services, encouraging mutual support, and modeling social responsibility.

Throughout this report, you will find news about BBT's ministries, as well as glimpses into the future of this Church of the Brethren agency. We invite you along on our journey. Together, we can make BBT an organization that responds to your needs and Christ's call for service and community.

#### **Investments**

Even as big-picture concerns (such as rising interest rates, turmoil in the Middle East, and continued gridlock in Washington) worried economists, each quarter in 2013 produced positive market returns, marking the strongest year for the S&P 500 Index since 1997. All 10 sectors of that index finished the year with gains. While equities performed well in 2013, a rising interest rate environment held fixed income (bond) returns down.

#### **Church of the Brethren Pension Plan**

Church of the Brethren Pension Plans serves more than 4,670 current and former employees of congregations and denominational organizations. In 2013, around 1,670 annuitants received a monthly benefit averaging \$619 in the form of a check or direct deposit – a monthly distribution of approximately \$1 million.

Brethren Pension Plan's record keeper, Great-West Retirement Services, makes available powerful online tools designed to make the task of retirement readiness easier than ever before.

#### **Church Workers Assistance Plan**

Church Workers' Assistance Plan benevolence program offers grants to active and retired church workers with severe financial need. The Plan is funded by congregations that contribute the equivalent of 1 percent of their staff members' salaries, as well as by congregational donations. In 2013, this program distributed \$96,740 to 20 individuals.

#### **Brethren Insurance Services**

Brethren Insurance Services continue to provide for pastors and denominational employees an excellent offering of ancillary insurance products, including vision, dental, life, long-term and short-term disability, retiree life, and Medicare supplement insurance.

We also continue to offer Long-Term Care Insurance to all members of the Church of the Brethren; to employees of Church of the Brethren-affiliated agencies, organizations, colleges, and retirement communities; and to their families and friends. Visit [brethrenbenefittrust.org/long-term-care](http://brethrenbenefittrust.org/long-term-care) for more information.

1505 Dundee Avenue • Elgin, Illinois 60120-1619 • Web Site:  
[www.brethrenbenefittrust.org](http://www.brethrenbenefittrust.org)  
847-695-0200 • 800-746-1505 toll free • 847-742-0135 fax



**Brethren Foundation Inc.**

BBT's asset-management ministry through Brethren Foundation for churches, districts, and Brethren-affiliated organizations experienced another year of significant growth in its assets under management, which reached \$174,448,272 at the end of 2013.

BFI launched five new tactical investment options in 2013. These tactical funds are actively managed by an investment adviser and use BFI's array of investment options. This additional level of investment service is available for an additional fee.

BFI launched three new strategic investment options in 2013 – Bank Loans Fund, Global Aggregate Fixed Income Fund, and Multi-Strategy Hedge Fund.

In addition to its lineup of 24 funds available to organizational clients, BFI also provides a variety of deferred gift options to members of the Church of the Brethren.

**Securities lending litigation**

2013 brought closure to the lawsuit BBT filed in April 2010 against its prior custodian regarding its securities lending program.

**Socially Responsible Investing**

Through shareholder initiatives, by refusing to invest in companies that don't adhere to Brethren guidelines, and by offering a fund that invests in under-resourced communities, BBT uplifts Annual Conference principles through its socially responsible investing program.

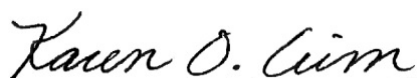
**Workshops**

BBT is committed to educating members of the denomination about retirement readiness, stewardship, long-term care, financial wellness, and other relevant topics. In 2013 BBT provided over 40 workshops at no cost to employer groups, denominational gatherings, and congregations, including sessions like "Help! There's too much month at the end of my money!" and "Church, Inc.: The church as a small business." Visit [brethrenbenefittrust.org/workshops](http://brethrenbenefittrust.org/workshops) for more information about BBT's educational offerings.

**Planning to serve you better and better**

Service is a core component of the Church of the Brethren, and BBT strives to demonstrate an ethos of service through its day-to-day interactions with members, as well as through its long-term plans. We are grateful to each person, congregation, and organization for the relationship we have with them as we all strive to be strong stewards of our financial resources.

BBT exists to serve, and so we welcome continued input and counsel from our participants and the church at large as we work faithfully to uphold your trust. May your journey be joyous and fulfilling, and may we serve as a resource and guide along the way.



Karen O. Crim, Board Chairwoman



Nevin Dulabaum, President



## Visions & Dreams of Building Peace

*"Your young people will see visions, and  
your elders will dream dreams."*

Joel 2:28 | Acts 2:17

We are celebrating the 40th Anniversary of On Earth Peace with a yearlong *"Visions & Dreams of Building Peace"* party, and you are invited!

The message of Pentecost is that the gospel of peace is for everyone. Peter quoted Joel's vision of a time when all people—young and old, rich and poor—would be full of the Spirit of the Lord. Pentecost was the birth of the Church, when the Spirit spoke to everyone in their own words.

The good news of Jesus is about loving the "other" while overthrowing the "otherness" of judgment and violence. Jesus said that John the Baptist came to prepare the way by turning the hearts of the young and old to each other. The Holy Spirit taught Peter and the other disciples from Pentecost on, that God's love was to all people, not just to their nation.

#VisionsAndDreams is a way for you to #BuildPeace through storytelling.

*"An enemy is one whose story we have not heard."*

– Gene Knudsen Hoffman

To celebrate the 40th Anniversary of On Earth Peace, we invite you to find someone who seems different from you in some important way—age, gender, race, religion, philosophy, culture, class, etc.—and interview each other about your respective visions and dreams on how to build peace in yourself, family, church, community, nation, and world.

Capture your interview in a video, or in an audio podcast or text transcript with an interesting photo, and post it at the new [www.VisionsAndDreams.us](http://www.VisionsAndDreams.us) blog. Then, share it on your Facebook, Twitter, and other feeds.

For help bringing your *"Visions & Dreams of Building Peace"* to life, visit us at [www.OnEarthPeace.org](http://www.OnEarthPeace.org) or email [info@OnEarthPeace.org](mailto:info@OnEarthPeace.org) any time.



## A FIRST THOUGHT IN SEMINARY EDUCATION

Jeff Carter, President

Lynn Myers, Chair of the Board of Trustees

*“Bethany Theological Seminary equips spiritual and intellectual leaders with an Incarnational education for ministering, proclaiming, and living out God’s shalom and Christ’s peace in the church and world.” – MISSION STATEMENT*

The 2013-14 year was one of transition for Bethany Seminary. While staff and faculty continued working toward established strategic goals and joined with students in a community of learning and life experience, the year also brought new leadership, new faculty, new curricula, and new conversations.

- Jeff Carter became Bethany’s tenth president on July 1, 2013, and was inaugurated on March 29, 2014, during the spring trustee meeting. Many within the Bethany community took part in the service, themed “Can I Get a Witness?” Thomas G. Long, Bandy Professor of Preaching at Candler Theological School, gave the sermon.
- “Focused and Flexible” is the tag line for Bethany’s new curriculum, first offered in fall 2013. Developed with attention to the evolving roles and nature of ministry and the church, the curriculum (1) enables students to specialize in areas that match their interests and calling and (2) offers various options for them to do so.
- Debbie Roberts began teaching classes in conflict transformation as the new assistant professor of reconciliation studies, a position added as part of the new curriculum. Other new courses encompass missional church, intergenerational studies, and intercultural studies.
- By January 2014 the \$5.9 million goal of the Reimagining Ministries campaign had been met; however, staff continued sharing Bethany’s educational goals and mission with constituents, hoping to exceed the goal by at least the same percentage as did our previous campaign in 2006. Campaign funds are supporting additional faculty instruction in reconciliation studies, a growing emphasis in missional church and evangelism coursework, and expanded access to Bethany’s resources through webcasting and other technology.
- Building and maintaining relationships in a variety of venues has been a priority for the administration this year through presidential travel, restructured recruitment efforts, and gatherings as part of the campaign.

### Additional Highlights

- Eight new Bethany alumni/ae received MDiv degrees in May.
- Bethany received a \$249,954 grant from the Lilly Endowment Inc. to develop programming that addresses the economic challenges facing future ministers. Courtney Hess was hired to direct this project.
- “Living Love Feast,” the sixth Presidential Forum, brought Brethren and friends together to contemplate this valued expression of faith in our history and within the broader contexts of tradition and ritual.
- Renovations to Mullen House added more housing space for students and guests of Bethany.
- Scott Holland was named Warren W. Slabaugh Professor of Theology and Culture, and Dawn Ottoni-Wilhelm was named Alvin F. Brightbill Professor of Preaching and Worship; both are appointments to endowed chairs.
- Carrie Eikler began serving as the new coordinator of TRIM and EFSM for the Brethren Academy.

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## BETHANY AND THE PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT: PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

- Students in graduate programs: 4      ➤ Students in the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership: 7
- Financial support: \$20,877 from your district and congregations during fiscal 2012-13 to date

### **You can also support Bethany Seminary by**

*remembering Bethany with prayer and personal and congregational support • calling persons of all ages into ministry • encouraging those in other professions to take Bethany courses • envisioning new forms of ministry for Bethany graduates, such as mentoring lay leaders, supervising Academy students, or coaching pastors new to the Church of the Brethren.*

**To learn more about Bethany, visit [www.bethanyseminary.edu](http://www.bethanyseminary.edu)**



## Church of the Brethren

June 2014

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Pacific Southwest District Conference:

Greetings to you in the name of Christ the Savior. It is an honor and a privilege to be sharing these words with you on behalf of the volunteers, employees, and Mission and Ministry Board of the Church of the Brethren. We are praying for you and for the well-being of the churches in your district as you gather to worship, sing praises, pray, and accomplish the tasks set before you by your Moderator.

It would be commonplace for us to gather at a district meeting without giving much thought to the journey each has taken from their homes to the meeting place; or for us to have ever given thought to the issue of personal security as we gather as part of the body of Christ. But . . . that is no longer my perspective, having attended the Majalisa of the Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN—the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) this past April. I traveled with Jay Wittmeyer, Executive Director of Global Mission and Service, across Nigeria to EYN Headquarters, where some 1,200 attendees gathered in an assembly hall, quite literally risking their lives – both in their travel and in being gathered together as followers of Christ. During each day of the assembly, we engaged the same components of worship and work as you are doing, with one exception. While gathered, we heard reports of the abduction or death of members of the church due to the violence plaguing northeastern Nigeria. While not an imminent threat, the heightened anxiety and fear were palpable.

The theme of the Majalisa was, appropriately, “God has not forgotten us...” We heard repeatedly – from church leaders and attendees alike – phrases such as, “Do not worry about us, for our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ shall never be shaken,” or “This darkness cannot overcome my faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.” The brightness of their eyes, their deep commitment to discipleship, and their sincere prayers that the Light of Christ might soften the hearts of the aggressors made clear the depth of faith of the Nigerian Brethren.

Much has happened since we departed Abuja on April 14, 2014, including the abduction of the Chibok girls, which we heard about as we prepared to embark on our flight home. The news received almost daily now continues to be discouraging. But the faith emerging from the people remains steadfast. On May 27, a student of Kulp Bible College wrote to me, saying, *“Thank you very much for your prayers each day and your concern for all Nigerians. We believe that ‘With God all things are possible.’ All we are going through today will be a story some day and so we will never give up. [We] I will stand for Christ even to [our] my last second on earth.”*

Our concern and engagement in prayer and fasting for the Nigerian church has caught the attention of people across the nation and around the world. A group of second graders in Wakarusa, Indiana, collected 400 pounds (\$1,700.00) of coins for the Chibok girls, to be used by the Center for Caring, Empowerment, and Peace Initiatives (CCEPI) to help the families of the missing girls. When learning of this gift, CCEPI founder Dr. Rebecca Dali replied, “Wow! This is incredible. It is a wonderful gift for the Chibok girls and their parents. God will bless them.”

*Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.*

1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, Illinois 60120 847-742-5100 800-323-8039 Fax: 847-742-6103

Other faith groups are also responding to the situation in tangible ways. The Week of Compassion, a ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), contributed \$2,500 for the EYN Compassion Fund. The National Council of Churches called all member denominations into prayer for our church as we accompany EYN during this difficult time.

Each of your congregations has been called to accompany EYN in this season of prayer and fasting. At first, some of our membership said, “Yes, we *pray* but what can we *do*?” Sisters and Brothers, praying *is* doing! The call to prayer came from the heart of the Rev. Dr. Samuel Dali, President of EYN. Even a month after our visit, he expressed gratitude for the US church’s prayers, writing “*By praying for us and sending funds to help the victims, you are already supporting us. You are also sharing our stories with others, which is receiving a series of positive and encouraging responses. There is no more manner of helping than this. We will only continue to be very grateful to you as you continue to walk with us.*” Your stories posted on your congregations’ web sites, your Facebook posts to friends about the situation, and your e-mails to EYN members – for those of you who have personal Nigerian friends – are a source of great encouragement and help sustain the hope that darkness will not prevail.

While this has captured much of our attention and energy, the mission and service of the Church of the Brethren continues. Your national staff picked up the pace to carry the load as they work to bridge local congregations with one another, the nation, and the world. From preparing for Annual Conference and National Youth Conference; to continuing the Vital Ministry Journey for districts and congregations; to mission outreach with Brethren in Nigeria, Spain, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Brazil, and India; to the revision of the denomination’s Ministerial Leadership Polity; to the children’s services and reconstruction projects of Brethren Disaster Ministries, we are together on the journey as radical, compassionate disciples of Jesus Christ.

Included in your conference materials is the Annual Report for the Church of the Brethren. It will provide you with additional information about the many ministries and service opportunities we accomplish together at home, across the country, and around the globe.

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and support, as we *Continue the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.*

In Christ’s service, I remain

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Stanley Noffsinger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stanley" and last name "Noffsinger" clearly legible.

Stanley J. Noffsinger  
General Secretary



# Church of the Brethren

May 2014

## **Brethren Disaster Ministries Report to District Conferences**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

When her home was badly damaged by Hurricane Sandy, Tina W. lived in her car while her three children stayed with various relatives. Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) volunteers did all of the repairs necessary to make her home safe and livable again. Tina and her children were reunited in their restored home in time for Thanksgiving. This story is repeated many times over wherever BDM responds to disasters.

### ***Home Rebuilding and Other U.S. Responses***

Called to serve those in need following devastating disasters, 1,155 volunteers restored disaster-damaged homes at 6 BDM recovery sites in 4 states during 2013. The volunteers provided 71,056 hours of service valued at \$1,573,180 on behalf of 119 families in New York, New Jersey, Indiana and Ohio.

This year, BDM's long-term recovery projects in response to Hurricane (Super Storm) Sandy have continued in Toms River and Spotswood, New Jersey. BDM has been awarded a Red Cross Grant to underwrite up to \$280,100 in Sandy recovery expenses through December 2014. Also, following destructive tornadoes in central Illinois last November, BDM is sending in teams from surrounding districts to support local construction efforts.

BDM hosted a training seminar for district disaster coordinators in November 2013, and is planning a workshop for new disaster project leaders later this year. These volunteers are essential to the functioning of BDM responses.

In response to the extreme drought affecting a large portion of the central US since 2012, Brethren Disaster Ministries implemented a Farm Relief Initiative that provided small grants to give farmers a hand up. Six struggling farmers applied for and received grants of \$3,000 each.

### ***Children's Disaster Services***

Children's Disaster Services (CDS) was involved in six diverse responses in 2013. The Boston Marathon bombing was the Critical Response Childcare Team's first response to a terrorist situation since 9/11 and first time caring for injured children. When the Asiana Airways jetliner crashed in San Francisco, the team again cared for an injured child who only spoke Mandarin Chinese. Thirty-one CDS volunteers cared for 1,473 children after the devastating tornado in Moore, Okla. An apartment fire in California, flooding in Colorado, and a tornado in Illinois brought the total child contacts to 1,612 with 60 volunteers giving 430 days of service. So far this year, CDS has responded on behalf of children affected by the horrific mudslide in Oso, Washington and by an ice storm in Pennsylvania.

*(Continued on next page)*

*Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.*

Brethren Disaster Ministries, 601 Main Street, P.O. Box 188, New Windsor, Maryland 21776-0188  
410-635-8731 800-451-4407 Fax: 410-635-8739



## **Disaster Ministries Report to District Conferences May 2014**

Six CDS workshops were held in 2013, training 114 potential volunteers. Kathy Fry-Miller was hired as the new associate director of Children's Disaster Services, starting in February 2014. One of her goals is to build up the volunteer base in the Gulf Coast and Pacific Northwest.

### ***International Responses***

The call to reach areas of greatest need has led Brethren to respond to disasters and emergencies in eight countries spanning Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and the Middle East. In response to Boko Haram terrorism in Nigeria, BDM has given \$25,000 from the Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) to the Nigerian Church of the Brethren to provide aid to families that have been victimized and to help rebuild churches.

Disaster recovery efforts are ongoing in response to the catastrophic Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines, supported by \$180,000 in EDF grants so far this year. Brethren Disaster Ministries is working with partners in the Philippines to diversify livelihoods, increase incomes, and improve food security.

A grant of \$100,000 from the Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) has brought relief to refugees who have been displaced by the protracted civil war in Syria. In South Sudan, a \$6,800 grant supported Brethren mission workers responding to a brush fire that destroyed several villages, and \$30,000 supported other Sudan relief. Direct support to SHAREcircle in Angola provided critical supplies to refugees returning after years of displacement. Responses in Thailand, the West Bank and Myanmar were also accomplished by supporting Church World Service (CWS) and Action by Churches Together partners.

A major success story is the emergence of the Haitian Church of the Brethren leading disaster response in Haiti. After working with BDM through hurricane and earthquake responses, the Church requested support to rebuild homes destroyed by Hurricane Sandy. The \$75,000 grant was used to rebuild 15 homes in the Marin area, with financial oversight provided by BDM.

### ***Financial Activity***

BDM project expenses for 2013 totaled \$479,953, including \$220,148 for U.S. home rebuilding and CDS responses, \$12,000 for CWS U.S. responses, and \$247,805 for international responses. All Brethren Disaster Ministries programming is supported solely by the Emergency Disaster Fund.

The vital work of this important ministry is made possible by the generous gifts of time, talents, and treasure by BDM volunteers and supporters. This support, by God's grace, allows BDM to be the hands and feet of Christ in a hurting world.

In Christ's Service,



Roy Winter, Executive Director

On behalf of BDM/CDS Staff – Kathy Fry-Miller, Darlene Hylton, Elizabeth Mullich, and Jane Yount



# Brethren Volunteer Service Annual Report

Summer 2014

## Sharing God's Love through Acts of Service

Working for Peace  
Advocating Justice

Caring for Creation  
Serving Human Needs



*Here are a few of the exciting things happening in BVS!*

### In 2013:

- BVS hosted four orientation units:
- One in Gotha, Fla., and three in New Windsor, Md
- 63 new volunteers entered the program
- 149 total volunteers served throughout the year

Chelsea Goss



*The 2013 fall orientation Unit #303 gathers for a picture in New Windsor, Md, after attending Sunday morning worship services at local congregations.*

### Currently, BVS has 80 volunteers...

- ranging in age from 18 to 77 years
- placed in 16 different US states and Washington, D.C.
- serving in 12 countries: Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, El Salvador, Germany, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Republic of Ireland, Japan, Northern Ireland, South Sudan, and the USA

### 2014 BVS Partners in Service Award

Each year, BVS presents a Partners in Service Award to an individual, group, or organization that has shown an exceptional commitment to the work of sharing God's love through acts of service. This year's recipient is Walt Wiltschek.

Walt is campus pastor and director of Religious Life and Church Relations at Manchester University in North Manchester, Ind. Previously he served as editor of *Messenger* magazine and director of news services for the Church of the Brethren and as a newspaper sports journalist. Walt has long been a staunch supporter of BVS, and the fruits of his labor have shown in recent years. During his tenure, the university has seen an increase in Manchester students and graduates joining Brethren Volunteer Service. The trend of choosing BVS after completing an undergraduate degree at a Brethren college appears to be gaining some traction. Of the 63 volunteers that began serving BVS this past year, 19 (30%) were graduates of one of the six colleges and universities connected to the Church of the Brethren (Bridgewater, Elizabethtown, Juniata, La Verne, Manchester, and McPherson).



Walt Wiltschek



Walt will receive the award at the BVS Annual Conference luncheon on July 4 in Columbus, Ohio, where he will be the guest speaker.

## Church of the Brethren Workcamps Join the BVS Staff

With the addition of Emily Tyler to our staff, we have welcomed the Brethren Workcamp Ministry to the BVS family. Last year, 2013 was the first full year it was housed and run through the BVS Office. Katie Cummings (Weyers Cave, Va.) and Tricia Ziegler (Sebring, Fla.) served as the assistant coordinators for the 2013 workcamp season, choosing to focus on the theme “Deeply Rooted in Christ.” Some 375 youth and advisors, along with 35 volunteers offering leadership, came together at 23 locations across the country to study this theme, based on Colossians 2:6-7, during their week of service.

Workcamp Office



Emily Tyler with Jenna Stacy  
(2014 Assistant Workcamp  
Coordinator)

In August 2013, Jenna Stacy (Campobello, S.C.) joined the workcamp staff and began work on the 2014 workcamp season. “Teach With Your Life,” based on 1 Timothy 3:11-16, will guide this season as nearly 150 participants and volunteer leaders gather at 7 locations around the US to serve the community and study the theme. In addition to these 7 locations, a young adult workcamp will be serving in La Tortue, Haiti. This is a smaller number of sites than is typical for a workcamp season as the workcamp ministry is encouraging senior high youth to attend National Youth Conference.



Workcamp Office



Tricia Ziegler & Katie Cummings  
(2013 Assistant Workcamp  
Coordinators)

Beginning in August 2014, Hannah Shultz (Lutherville, Md.) and Theresa Ford (Mont Clare, Pa.) will begin their year of BVS service as assistant coordinators for the 2015 workcamp season, which will return to full slate of junior high, including a senior high, young adult, and intergenerational workcamps.

## Congregations Connecting



In recent year, BVS has had the privilege of partnering with some Church of the Brethren congregations to create and/or support new project placements for volunteers. While the idea is not new, the energy behind it appears to be, judging by the numbers. The following congregations partially or fully support a BVS project and volunteer:

Central (Roanoke, Va.); First Central (Kansas City, Kan.); Lewiston (Lewiston, Maine); Roanoke (Roanoke, La.); San Diego (San Diego, Calif.); Skyridge (Kalamazoo, Mich.)/Camp Brethren Heights; Washington City (Washington, D.C.)

BVS also has more than a dozen projects connected to the three intentional community houses: Cincinnati, Ohio; Elgin, Ill.; and Portland, Ore. To find out how to start or support a project near you, contact a member of the BVS staff.

## Recruitment and BVS Connections Dinners

In January 2014, Ben Bear rejoined BVS for his third year of service. He was a member of Unit #277 and has served in Colorado and Cincinnati as well as lived in the Portland BVS house. His focus during his time of service is recruitment, and he has hit the ground running! He has made it to five of the six Brethren college campuses already and connected with dozens of pastors around the denomination.

Ben Bear



BVS supporters at the  
Olympic View dinner.

One new initiative he has begun during his travels is something he’s calling a “BVS Connections Dinner.” These are dinners co-sponsored by Brethren Volunteer Service and a local congregation in the area where Ben is traveling. The goal is to gather BVS alumni to share their stories with other alumni, supporters, and potential future volunteers. BVS has partnered with three different hosting congregations so far: Olympic View

(Seattle, Wash.); Oak Grove (Roanoke, Va.); and Manassas (Manassas, Va.). Keep an eye on our Facebook page and Newslane for future dinners coming to your area!

If you know of an upcoming event in your area and would like to have BVS present or represented, be in touch. It is always nice to be invited!



Ben Bear

BVS volunteers from the Elgin Intentional Community House (l-r): Katie Cummings, Tim Heishman, Jenna Stacy, Ben Bear, and Sarah Neher.

*Brethren Volunteer Service is a ministry  
of the Church of the Brethren*  
[www.brethrenvolunteerservice.org](http://www.brethrenvolunteerservice.org)  
[bvs@brethren.org](mailto:bvs@brethren.org)  
1451 Dundee Ave, Elgin, IL 60120  
800-323-8039



## Church of the Brethren

Dear Pacific Southwest District Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our God whose love is a powerful gift to us and to the world. As you gather together as the Pacific Southwest District Churches of the Brethren for your District Conference, please know that your people and congregations will be in my prayers.

I would like to extend an invitation to you and your congregations to join us as we gather in Tampa, Florida on July 11-15, 2015 for the 229th Annual Conference. Based on John 15:9-17, our theme will be, *Abide in My Love...And Bear Fruit*. Between now and our next Annual Conference, I would encourage you to spend time praying through this scripture from John's Gospel.

Abiding in Jesus' love is basic to our faith. It is not simply a reference to an emotional response. Love is something we do, because Jesus loved us first. Jesus models a love that transcends all the other loves, because it is ready to give of itself totally, without the hope or expectation of receiving anything in return. It is ready to give even at the risk of its own life, its own welfare.

Bearing fruit is the response that Jesus requires of those he has chosen as his friends and expressions of this abiding, enduring, unwavering love for others. Those bearing this fruit become part of an even greater relationship that unites us to God through Jesus and to one another.

Christ's love received and shared is transformational and what makes life not just bearable but joyful. Our response to Christ's love and continued action – loving others – leads to the joy that Jesus speaks of in verse 11, the joy that he knows because of his obedience to God, and the perfect unity they share. Jesus urges his followers to choose obedience and to experience his abiding love so that they may also experience this kind of total joy.

During this next year it is my hope and prayer that we as the church will work to bear fruit by building community based in response to the abiding presence of Jesus and in mutual acts of love. There is much that continues to distract us from bearing fruit. It is inescapable that the creative people of God will see the complexities of life in different ways. To that end, the command of Jesus is clear: abide in my love and bear fruit. Love one another no matter the cost. Experience the joy of loving from the heart.

Your servant in Christ,

David Steele, 2015 Church of the Brethren Moderator

*Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.*

**Minutes of the Fiftieth Annual District Conference  
Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren**

**November 9, 2013**

**Franciscan Renewal Center, Scottsdale, Arizona**

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 8:42 a.m.

**II. Welcome**

Moderator Jim LeFever welcomed everyone.

**III. Appointments**

A. Timekeeper Karen Pierson was introduced. Parliamentarian Jerry Davis was introduced. Tellers Berkley Davis, Julie Wheeler, Karen LeFever and Becky Zapata were introduced.

B. A committee to verify the accuracy of the 2013 minutes was named: June Cheleden (Glendale), Marye Martinez (Modesto) and Thomas Guthrie (Glendora).

**IV. Introduction of Conference Officers**

Board of Administration Chair Don Fancher, Moderator Jim LeFever, Moderator-Elect Erin Matteson, Clerk Karen Cosner and District Executive Don Booz were introduced.

**V. Opening Prayer**

Moderator Jim LeFever led the attendees in prayer.

**VI. Quorum**

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

**VII. Dedication of Delegates**

The Delegates' Dedication Litany (page 7 of the Business Book) was read.

**VIII. Approval of Agenda**

**The agenda was approved.**

**IX. Approval of the 2012 District Conference Minutes**

A. In June 2013, the draft copy of the minutes was examined by the committee: Russ Matteson (Modesto), Linda Davis (Church of the Living Savior) and Richard Hart (Pomona Fellowship).

**B. The minutes of the 2012 District Conference were approved.**

**X. Report from the Pacific Southwest District Board**

A. Don Fancher thanked all those who worked on the District Board. He reported that Mary Jo Flory-Steury has been helping the District to secure an Interim District Executive. He stated that it is helpful to have a person who had previous District Executive experience and announced that Joe Detrick will be our Interim District Executive. There will be a transition team and a search committee who will work on securing a permanent District Executive.

B. Ministry Commission Chair John Jackson reported that he works closely with the District Executive in nurturing and educating our licensed and ordained ministers so that they are appropriately educated, properly credentialed and spiritually called.

The Commission relies heavily on the Nurturing and Credentialing committee and thanks was given to Janet Ober for 10 years of service on this committee. John Price is in charge of mentors for new pastors and Jim Martinez is coordinator for TRIM and SeBAH for the district.



Two events that this commission sponsors are the Ministerial Education event and the Pastor/spouse retreat.

- C. Stewards Commission Chair John Gingrich shared that the Stewards: take care of our resources, they support and enable the ministry of the District, they take care of our investments with Brethren Benefit Trust, they receive requests for grants (mostly for pastoral support) and requests for loans.

John thanked Mike Wolfson for his work as chair of the Grant Committee, Ralph Carlton our part-time accountant and Joe Vecchio for his support in keeping the Stewards informed.

- D. Don Fancher directed the delegates to page 18-25 of the Business Book for the District Board Report.

- E. **The District Board Report was approved as printed.**

#### **XI. Report from the District Executive Minister**

- A. Don Booz introduced our guests: Jeff Carter Bethany, Nevin Dulabaum Brethren Benefit Trust, Bob Gross On Earth Peace, Stan Dueck Vital Ministry Journey and Randy Miller Editor of the Messenger.

- B. Don Booz is most proud of the Youth Ministry and Dawna Welch and her development of leadership in our District Youth. The 2014 Youth Cabinet is: Molly Montgomery Bakersfield, Rayna Harrison La Verne, Jake Hoover La Verne and Leilah Floyd Glendale. Don Booz then consecrated and installed their service to the Youth Cabinet.

- C. Don Booz announced that pastors will be receiving a more permanent plastic identification card then they have received in the past. We have 16 licensed ministers in 26 congregations.

- D. Don Booz thanked: Joe Vecchio, Brenda Perez, Dawna Welch, Ralph Carlton, Larry Woodruff, the Board of Administration and his wife Cindy Booz for all of their support and dedication.

- E. The delegates were directed to page 11 and 12 of the Business Book and then a video was presented.

#### **XII. Introduction of the 2013-2014 Ballot**

Erin Matteson instructed delegates to turn to page 13 in the Business Book for the Nominating Committee report. Instructions for making nominations from the floor were given and referred to on page 14. The nominees were introduced to the delegates by a Power Point presentation and delegates were referred to the Ballot on pages 43-49 in the Business Book. Erin closed her report with prayer.

#### **New Business**

#### **XIII. Ministry Investment Plan**

- A. John Gingrich opened his report by asking, "Why do we exist?" He then directed delegates to pages 52-60 in the Business Book, referring to the Mission and Vision Statements stated at the beginning of the 2014 Pacific Southwest District Ministry Investment Plan.

- B. Some questions were asked and answered.

- C. **The motion comes to approve the 2014 Ministry Investment Plan comes as a recommendation from the Board of Administration. Approved, two nay votes.**

#### **XIV. Strategic Plan**

- A. Marye Martinez presented the "Board of Administration Strategic Plan" as presented on pages 61-63 in the Business Book.

- B. Comments were taken. Questions were asked and answered.

1 **XV. NYC Video**

2 A Video of NYC was shown.

3 **XVI. Well Wishes of 50th Anniversary**

4 Well wishes from across the denomination were shared with the delegates.

5 **XVII. Election of Officers**

6 A. There were no nominations from the floor.

7 B. **John Jackson (Glendale) moved and Don Wyatt (Empire) seconded to approve the ballot**  
8 **as a slate. Approved, unanimous.**

9 C. The following people were elected to 2014 Pacific Southwest District positions:

- 10 1. Moderator-Elect: Eric Bishop (La Verne)
- 11 2. Nominating Committee: Joe Schechter (La Verne)
- 12 3. Program Committee: Linda Hart (Pomona Fellowship)
- 13 4. Board of Administration:
  - 14 a. Rebeca Zapata (Príncipe de Paz), Southern California East Representative
  - 15 b. Michael Boeger (Live Oak)
  - 16 c. Lois Frantz (Empire)
  - 17 d. Marye Martinez (Modesto)
  - 18 e. Jim Totzke (Cornerstone)
  - 19 f. Clark Youngblood (Circle of Peace)
  - 20 g. Robert Burke (Bakersfield), Youth/Young Adult Representative
  - 21 h. Rayna Harrison (La Verne), Youth/Young Adult Representative
  - 22 i. Sarah Henrichs (Circle of Peace), Youth/Young Adult Representative
- 23 5. Camp La Verne Trustee Nominee: Marlyn "Lyn" Sylva (La Verne)

24 **XVIII. Program Committee Report**

25 Jim LeFever thanked everyone for their hard work on the program committee and particularly  
26 Cathy Iacuellli and Deb Merrifield-Carothers the on-site coordinators. He also thanked Joe Vecchio  
27 for his unlimited enthusiasm and support. He referred the delegates to page 17 in the Business Book  
28 for the written report.

29 **XIX. Standing Committee Report**

30 Standing Committee: Marlin Heckman referred to the written report on page 16 in the Business  
31 Book and submitted this addendum:

32 The 2014 Annual Conference Moderator, Nancy Sollenberger Heishman wrote the following on the  
33 Annual Conference theme web page: "My dream for this coming year is that we will take steps toward living  
34 out the beginning of our denominational vision statement, which is: "Through scripture Jesus calls us to live  
35 as courageous disciples in word and action." "To accomplish this dream of searching the scriptures together  
36 in order to hear the voice of Jesus calling us to courageous discipleship, I invite us to set aside this year to  
37 all study a particular New Testament letter together, the letter that the apostle Paul wrote to the Philippians.  
38 In this small letter, as well as the background found in the book of Acts, we see what a life of truly  
39 courageous discipleship looks like. Even from a prison cell, Paul passionately proclaimed the gospel of  
40 Christ and encouraged others to find the courage to live it out in their daily lives." "The book of Philippians  
41 has just 104 verses and 2243 words. I challenge everyone to read Philippians throughout this year, to preach  
42 on it, to study it together in small groups, to meditate on it daily, and yes, while we're at it, why not  
43 memorize the whole book? It would only require memorizing 2 verses a week until next July!"

44 "As your Standing Committee delegate I second the moderator's challenge and ask that as  
45 congregations in the Pacific Southwest we intentionally study the book of Philippians this year. Even if we



cannot send delegates to Annual Conference in Columbus, Ohio next July we can all participate in preparation for Conference by studying these scriptures, as individuals and congregations.”

**XX. Reports from Institutions with Brethren Beginnings**

A. **University of La Verne Report:** Julie Wheeler gave a report about the University of La Verne found on page 27 in the Business Book.

B. **Camp Peaceful Pines:** Russ Matteson gave a report about Camp Peaceful Pines and referred delegates to the booth in the display room.

C. **Hillcrest:** Tom Hostetler gave a report on Hillcrest. See page 26 in the Business Book.

D. **Camp La Verne:** No report. Their written report is on page 27 in the Business Book.

**XXI. Annual Conference Agencies**

A video was shown highlighting the denominational agencies. Nevin Dulabaum, President of Brethren Benefit Trust spoke about BBT and Bob Gross spoke about On Earth Peace.

**XXII. Special Presentation**

Don Fancher made a special presentation to Don Booz on his retirement as the District Executive Minister for 5 years for PSWD. A video was presented and everyone was invited to a reception after the worship service.

**XXIII. Moderator's Closing Remarks**

A. The Moderator Jim LeFever asked delegates to break up into small groups and discuss 5 questions that he distributed. Time was given at the end to share some of the conversation. He will collate the information that is turned in and make sure that the Board of Directors has it.

1. Relating to the soon to be called DE:

a. What would you like her/him to know about your congregation?

b. How would you see him/her relating to your congregation?

2. How is our mission as Brethren different from other Protestant churches in our area?

3. How would you describe “healthy congregational life”? How can the District help you toward this goal?

4. Is the District effective in calling and developing new leadership?

5. Alternative (How do you see the process of calling and developing new leadership in our churches)?

**XXIV. Passing of the Gavel**

A. Moderator Jim LeFever passed the gavel to Erin Matteson.

B. Erin Matteson shared a poem and asked How can we be less afraid? And how can we be open to newness? She read scripture from Isaiah and Acts. Her theme is “Spirit of God Moving!.” She encouraged us to play with play dough and to ponder on: “How am I being changed by God, or the Church, or the District?”

**XXVII. Adjournment**

Erin Matteson adjourned the conference at 3:07 p.m. with prayer.

Minutes recorded by Karen Cosner, Clerk

In September 2014, the draft copy of the minutes was read by the committee: June Cheleden (Glendale), Marye Martinez (Modesto) and Thomas Guthrie (Glendora).

# Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren 2013 – 2014 Ballot

Candidates are listed alphabetically by last name.

Incumbent=Nominee is finishing an elected term to the same position; Unexpired Term=finishing another person's term.

## Moderator-Elect

Vote for 1 Two year term

	Richard Zapata, Príncipe de Paz - SE

## Nominating Committee

Vote for 1 Three year term

	Jim LeFever, Glendale - SW

## Standing Committee

Vote for 1 Three year term

	Marlin Heckman, La Verne - SE (incumbent)

## Standing Committee Alternate

Vote for 1 Three year term

	Don Shankster, Papago Buttes - AZ (incumbent)

## Program Committee, District Conference

Vote for 2 Three year term

	Deb Merrifield, Circle of Peace - AZ (incumbent)
	Peggy Redman, Pomona Fellowship - SE

## District Board of Administration

### Youth & Young Adult Representatives

Vote for 3 One year term

	Erick Flores, Príncipe de Paz - SE
	Rayna Harrison, La Verne - SE (incumbent)

## District Board of Administration

### At-Large Representatives

Vote for 4 Three year term

	Roxanne Aguirre, Cornerstone, Reedley - CC
	Lillian Hopson, Imperial Heights - SW
	Norma Morris, Glendora - SE
	Ann Weaver, Waterford - NC

## Northern California Representative

Vote for 1 Three year term

	Joel Price, Empire - NC

## Southern California West Representative

Vote for 1 Three year term

	Cindy Slaughter, Glendale - SCW (unexpired term)

## Brethren Hillcrest Homes Board Nominees

Vote for 1 Three year term

	Steve Johnson, La Verne - SE (incumbent)

## Camp La Verne Trustee Nominees

Vote for 1 Three year term


## 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.

## Pacific Southwest District - Church of the Brethren Background Information for the 2013 - 2014 Ballot

Candidates are listed by office, alphabetically by last name.

Descriptions of each office are condensed from the PSWD Constitution: [www.pswdcob.org](http://www.pswdcob.org)

**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, the District Conference Program Committee, and chairs the Nominating Committee.



**Richard Zapata:**

*Age:* 50

*Congregation:* Príncipe de Paz Church of the Brethren

*Vocation:* Pastor, visionary, musician, husband, father, grandpa and healthy eater.

*Church Experience:* Pastor of Príncipe de Paz CoB since 2009 with 20 years of previous experience as a church planter and worship leader. Former PSWD New Life bulletin translator, former Stewards Committee chair, former Grant Committee member.

*Vision Statement:* To grow God's kingdom of justice, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Romans 14:17).

---

**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.



**Jim LeFever:**

*Age:* 66

*Congregation:* Glendale Church of the Brethren

*Vocation:* Architect

*Church Experience:*

BVS: 1970-1973, Local church: Board member, Stewards Committee

Annual and District Conference delegate and Moderator. District: Moderator 2013, Transition and Search Committee 2014.

*Vision Statement:* Our challenge is to identify and call leadership that has the passion and ability to raise up the simple powerful Brethren beliefs, identify receptive hearts looking for our message and renew vitality here in the southwest.

---

**Brethren Hillcrest Homes Board of Directors Nominees**..... (vote for 1)  
The three year term begins in accordance with the policy of Hillcrest.



**Steven Johnson:**

*Age:* 53 (incumbent)

*Congregation:* La Verne Church of the Brethren

*Vocation:*

Insurance Broker

*Church Experience:*

Currently on Property Commission.

*Vision Statement:*

My vision of Hillcrest, Hillcrest is Home.

## Ballot Background Information, Exhibit B

**Standing Committee Delegate** (vote for 1) & **Alternate** (vote for 1) are elected by the District Conference to serve a 3 year term representing the district on Annual Conference Standing Committee, and are eligible to serve one additional term. When a Standing Committee Delegate is not able to complete the term, the alternate completes the term to provide continuity, assuming the replaced delegate's term limits.



### Delegate

**Marlin L. Heckman:**

*Age: 77 (incumbent)*

*Congregation:* La Verne Church of the Brethren

*Vocation:* Retired Academic Librarian

*Church Experience:* Local Church: Board member & chair; Assistant Moderator; Nominating Committee; Church Historian; Annual Conference delegate. District: Board member & chair; Nominating Committee; Historical Committee; Standing Committee Representative; Hillcrest Board member. Denomination: Historical Committee.

*Vision Statement:* That the congregations of the PSWD continue to work together to fulfill the dreams of those who brought Brethren beliefs and values to the Pacific shore 156 years ago.



### Alternate Delegate

**Don Shankster:**

*Age: 63 (incumbent)*

*Congregation:* Papago Buttes Church of the Brethren

*Vocation:* To serve God and neighbors with the love of Christ and to bring glory to God's kingdom as I minister with others in a local church setting. Pastor.

*Church Experience:* Pastor, Arizona Ecumenical Council, District Board (N. Ind), Moderator and Standing Committee Delegate. (Southeastern district).

*Vision Statement:* Continue the work of Jesus in building God's kingdom here on earth.

---

**Program Committee, District Conference** (vote for 2): 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.



**Deb Merrifield:**

*Age: 50 (incumbent)*

*Congregation:* Circle of Peace Church of the Brethren

*Vocation:* Clinical psychologist

*Church Experience:* I have served one previous term on the Program committee for the PSWD and served on the pastoral ethics committee for the District. I was the co-on-site coordinator for District Conference in Scottsdale, AZ in 2013. I serve in many capacities at my own congregation, including, Sunday school teacher, children's story teller, Pastoral relations and Chair of the Membership Resources Committee of the church board.

*Vision Statement:* I pray to be a part of the District Conference helping to resource congregations to provide vital and vibrant ministry from an Anabaptist perspective in Jesus' name.



**Peggy Redman:**

*Age: 76*

*Congregation:* Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren

*Vocation:* Professor of Education, Emerita, University of La Verne

*Church Experience:* Lifetime of activity in the Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren. Served on all commissions, currently on the Christian Education Commission. Taught Sunday School from young children to adult. Served as Moderator and Board Chair. Former PSWD Moderator. Currently Chair of the Residents' Association at Hillcrest. Former University of La Verne Board Member, former Hillcrest Board Member.

*Vision Statement:* Working with all members of the church while respecting differences as we work toward our common purpose to continue the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, and together.

**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: Northern California Representative.** . . . . . Vote for 1 (three year term)

Board members elected as sectional representatives need to reside in the section they represent, and 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.



**Joel Price:**

*Age:* 37

*Congregation:* Empire Church of the Brethren

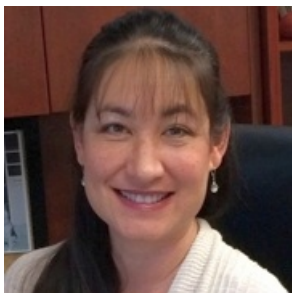
*Vocation:* I farm 115 acres of walnuts & almonds with my dad on our farm, Glory Farms, in Waterford, CA.

*Church Experience:* I have been a member of the Empire Church of the Brethren for 16 years. I am the Sunday School Supervisor and help with the youth. I will be chaperoning our youth to National Youth Conference this year. I also run the

technology equipment during our Monday night Gathering Service. I also maintain the grounds and landscaping at our church. I have been a delegate at District Conference the last three years and am eager to learn more about the district and how it functions.

*Vision Statement:* My vision is to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ using the Bible as my guide. I strive to share the love of Jesus with the people that God puts in my path and to continue to deepen my relationship with Christ. I try to make myself available for Christ to use me in the way He desires to do His work here on earth.

**PSWD Board of Administration: Southern California West Representative.** . . . Vote for 1 (three year term)



**Cindy Slaughter:**

*(unexpired term)*

*Congregation:* Glendale Church of the Brethren

*Vocation:* I have worked in the Film & TV music industry for close to 30 years. Currently, I am President

of Heavy Hitters Music Group.

*Church Experience:* Member of the Church Board, Board Chair, alternate Sunday School

Teacher District Experience: Annual Conference Delegate, Policy Board Committee Member.

*Vision Statement:* My vision is to be of service in a Church where we strive to help others and serve the community. To be part of a team and help ensure successful results through kindness, love, unity and respect in the name of Jesus Christ. Encourage, motivate, discuss and offer fresh ideas so that the Church of the Brethren continues growing and moving in a positive direction, yet at the same time caretake and protect the traditions that make the Church of the Brethren strong, unique and very special.



**PSWD Board of Administration: At-Large Representatives. . . . .** Vote for 5 (three year term)

Board members 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.



**Roxanne Aguirre:**

*Age:* 32

*Congregation:*

C o r n e r s t o n e  
Community, Reedley  
Church of the Brethren

*Vocation:* Currently I am  
enjoying my roles as  
wife, mother, and

student. For the first time in over 10 years I am not working and am focused on my family while completing my Masters degree in Marriage Family and Child Counseling. I have a bachelors degree in psychology, and have had a career as a Case Manager working with those suffering from mental illness. My interests are reading, writing, traveling, and cultural studies. In the future I would like to continue to work on teaching the church how to approach working with people from various cultures. As the world around us is changing so are our churches and as a church we need to be prepared to respond to the needs of our communities.

*Church Experience:* My husband became the pastor of Cornerstone Community in Reedley, Ca this January. Prior to that I had made a commitment to become Anabaptist and am very happy to be part of Church of Brethren. I feel that I am part of the spiritual family God had planned for me. My role at our local church is a passive one, as I am the mother of two with another little one on the way. I do sit on the church board, help with potlucks, occasionally sing on the worship team, and would like to help the church start a food pantry for the community. My participation in the district so far has included; attending District Conference 2013 with my family, speaking on Cultural Humility at the District's Intercultural Gathering (also accompanied by my family), and attending the district's Pastors and Spouses retreat this June alongside my husband.

*Vision Statement:* I would like to work on the board in order to help the church and district in uniting small churches, sharing the Anabaptist tradition, and sharing the spirit of community

values with others. My hope is that I will be able to grow in knowledge of our denomination and help others as they embrace Anabaptist values particularly those of living in community, living simply, and loving others as Jesus did. I am very honored to have been nominated to be an at-large representative of the Policy Board. I look forward to being of service to my district.



**Lillian Hopson:**

*Age:* 69

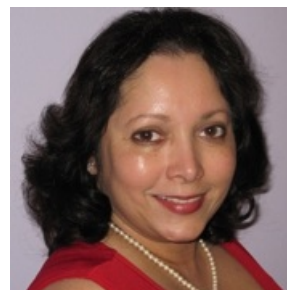
*Congregation:* Imperial  
Heights, Los Angeles  
Church of the Brethren

*Vocation:* Retired  
A c c o u n t a n t ,  
Community volunteer-

The Carson Coordinating Council, Carson Citizen Cultural Arts Foundation, Carson Women's Club, Commissioner for the City of Carson and baby sit my three year old grandson.

*Church Experience:* Local - member of the Leadership Team District- Past President of the Women's Fellowship.

*Vision Statement:* Performing the work of the church, promoting Christian love and unity in the Community of Christ.



**Norma Morris:**

*Age:* 59

*Congregation:* Glendora  
Church of the Brethren

*Vocation:* I love  
gardening. It is an  
opportunity to provide

a place of beauty and serenity where one can connect with the outdoors. I spent more than 35 years working in the clerical field: Association Office Coordinator, Mount Diablo Region YMCA; Administrative Assistant, AIG Construction Defect Claims; Executive Secretary, GNEC and Transcriptionist, USIS, Georgetown, Guyana.



## Ballot Background Information, Exhibit B

*Church Experience:* Created a welcoming worshipful atmosphere in the Tucson Church of the Brethren. Hosted meals in the fellowship hall. Hosted the TCoB website and Facebook page. Performed the service of TCoB photographer, designed the church bulletin and included photographs of church members and events. Prior involvement in other churches: Former Member of the Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church Choir; former Greeter at the New Life Church, Alamo CA.; member of the St. Joseph Catholic Church, Diamond, Demerara, Guyana. Secretary of the Youth Group, St. Joseph RC Church; Decorating Committee Member, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church, Georgetown, Guyana.

*Vision Statement:* I envision a church community working with all people, providing the tools that would help them live their lives knowing and following Jesus.



**Ann Weaver:**

*Age:* 66

*Congregation:* Waterford Church of the Brethren

*Vocation:* Pastor Waterford CoB four years.

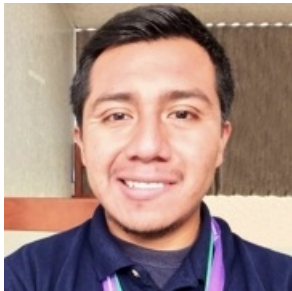
*Church Experience:* Pastor, Teacher, Minister of Outreach and Missions, Musical Director, Member of the Ministerial Association of Waterford, and past member of the PSWD Church Plant/Revitalization Committee.

*Vision Statement:* I would like to see the PSWD Board support and encourage all of our District Churches as we work together and individually in reaching our communities for Christ.

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

Youth members must be at least 15 years old and less than 24 years old as of December 31 of the year elected.



**Erick Flores:**

*Age:* 23

*Congregation:* Príncipe de Paz Church of the Brethren

*Vocation:* I am currently a college student at California State

University, Fullerton. I also work as a Certified Pharmacy Technician (CPHT).

*Church Experience:* I am currently the church secretary of the congregation Príncipe de Paz. I am also part of the worship ministry in Príncipe de Paz church. I also help with translations in the church where I attend. I helped to translate documents from English to Spanish for Annual Conference. I am also involved with the Program and Arrangements Committee since 2012.

*Vision Statement:* My calling is to work close with other youth and young adults, seeking the direction from God. I like working together with others, and communicating my ideas effectively. I pray to be guided by God to speak on behalf of other youth, and to be a representative voice for the Hispanic communities.



**Rayna Harrison:**

*Age:* 17 (incumbent)

*Congregation:* La Verne Church of the Brethren

*Vocation:* I am a senior at Upland High School. I am also a student Athletic Trainer at my

school, and a karate instructor at Red Dragon Karate Upland.

*Church Experience:* I have attended the La Verne Church of the Brethren for 15 years and a member for the last 6 years. I am a 2 year member or the district youth cabinet and a 1 year member of the PSWD board.

*Vision Statement:* I look at my position as a youth representative as a way to bring the exciting plans and perspectives of the youth of PSWD to attention. This position helps me make a connection of the youth activities and the higher level decisions of our district.



*An Accountancy Corporation*

3286 E. Guasti Road, Suite 130, Ontario, CA 91761

Phone: (909) 781- 6443 Fax: (909) 476- 7390 [www.Suchancpa.com](http://www.Suchancpa.com)

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## **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT**

**To the Board of Directors  
Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of **Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren**, a nonprofit organization, which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2013 , and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the year then ended and the related notes to the financial statements.

### **Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### **Auditors' Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

**Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of **Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren** as of December 31, 2013, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

**Prior Period Financial Statements**

The December 31, 2012, financial statements were reviewed by us and our report thereon, dated August 8, 2013, stated we were not aware of any material modifications that should be made to those financial statements for them to be in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. However, a review is substantially less in scope than an audit and does not provide a basis for the expression of an opinion on the financial statements.

*Suchan + Associates*

**Suchan & Associates  
An Accountancy Corporation**

**Ontario, California  
July 23, 2014**

## Pacific Southwest District 2015 Ministry Investment Plan

### Introduction

The writer of Ephesians, writing to a collection of churches near Ephesus, acknowledges the challenges of the time and encourages the young churches to embrace their one faith, one hope, and one God. Hear again these familiar words,



*I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.*

***Ephesians 4:1 - 6 (NRSV)***

Written nearly two thousand years ago, the encouraging words from Ephesians prove helpful as the Pacific Southwest District seeks to strengthen congregational life and extend Christ's message to the world. It is not by accident that the writer stresses the word "one" seven different times in the above passage. After all, seven is a number of perfection and wholeness. Building upon the oneness of faith the writer of Ephesians calls on the church to grow in spiritual depth and numeric participation as it extends the gift of God's grace to others. The church, in this instance, is both local and global. We, as the Pacific Southwest District, are connected to one another as a particular family of faith on the west coast. We are also connected to the wider Church of the Brethren.

We are committed to developing leadership within the district while continuing our support for pastoral ministry grants. The following 2015 ministry investment plan utilizes the Pacific Southwest District's Mission and Vision Statements and our Core Values. Following each narrative, the investment plan specific to the particular ministry area is presented. The figures for 2013 reflect actual income and expenses. The figures for 2014 reflect the anticipated income and expenses based on the first five months of 2014. The figures for 2016 to 2017 reflect the projected income and expenses for those years.

It is the hope of the Board of Administration that the 2015 ministry investment plan, accompanied by a narrative, will create a living financial document that reflects the district's faith and future ministry together.

#### **Action of the Pacific Southwest District Board of Administration:**

The District Board of Administration, meeting at the Hillcrest Retirement Community, La Verne, California, on August 2, 2014, approved the Ministry Investment Plan for consideration by the Pacific Southwest District Conference on November 8, 2014.

## Pacific Southwest District 2015 Ministry Investment Plan

This ministry investment plan communicates how the Pacific Southwest District uses the financial resources entrusted to us by God to do the work we believe we are called to do. A ministry investment plan is a communication tool, not an administrative tool. A ministry investment plan does not provide a line-by-line breakdown of where money goes, although that information is also available. A ministry investment plan tells our story and interprets our mission. It reminds us of what we do, and why we do it.

Board of Administration approved several statements which are intended to help guide the decision making and direction of the Pacific Southwest District. These include:

### Unity Statement

*PSWD District Conference, 10/13/2007*

*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.*

### Mission Statement

*PSWD District Board, 1/9/2010*

*To support congregations in their calling to serve, baptize and teach in the name of Jesus Christ.*

### Vision Statement

*To be a visible community of faith supporting and engaging a variety of Christ-centered ministries.*

### Core Values

*Christ-likeness*

*Love*

*Service*

*Peacemaking*

*Simplicity*

*Diversity*

*Social Responsibility*

*Fiduciary Responsibility*

*Ecumenism*



## Ministry Income

The Pacific Southwest District has three sources of income: contribution income, investment income and participation income (essentially in and out).

### Contribution Income

Individuals and congregations are given the opportunity to contribute and support the PSWD ministry investment plan. Throughout the year, individuals financially support by purposeful giving of their financial resources. Although such financial gifts can never be assumed, we do anticipate a certain amount of individual giving based on previous years. Bequests are also received throughout the year. Congregations are given the opportunity to contribute to the ministry investment plan through the yearly congregational outreach planning process.

<b>Contribution Income</b>	<b>2013 Actual</b>	<b>2014 Anticipated</b>	<b>2015 Proposal</b>	<b>2016 Projected</b>	<b>2017 Projected</b>
Individuals	17,632	4,000	4,000	5,000	5,000
Congregations	26,199	24,500	25,000	25,000	25,000
Closed Congregations	0	0	0	0	0
Groups	0	0	0	0	0
Children's Disaster Services	240	200	300	400	500
Other	675	3,377	160	160	170
<b>Total Contribution Income</b>	<b>44,746</b>	<b>32,077</b>	<b>29,460</b>	<b>30,560</b>	<b>30,670</b>

### Investment Income

The sale of churches has allowed PSWD to be blessed with financial resources unlike any other district in the denomination. However, it is not our desire to continue to sell church property. By utilizing the best financial advice from Brethren Benefit Trust the District is able to support a variety of ministry needs and projects.

<b>Investment Income</b>	<b>2013 Actual</b>	<b>2014 Anticipated</b>	<b>2015 Proposal</b>	<b>2016 Projected</b>	<b>2017 Projected</b>
Checking/Money Market	2	3	6	13	19
Notes Receivable Interest	24,328	22,866	21,181	19,203	17,684
Investment Funds (5%) return	784,217	182,533	228,879	219,828	206,684
Sale of Church Property	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	62,403	25,841	1,600	1,600	1,600
<b>Total Investment Income:</b>	<b>870,950</b>	<b>231,243</b>	<b>251,666</b>	<b>240,644</b>	<b>225,987</b>

## Participation Income

Participation occurs all year long in a variety of ministry settings. At our annual District Conference, congregations minister to one another, delegates conduct the business of the district, and all participants are empowered for the work of ministry. Ongoing regional training in church growth ministry and Brethren History and Polity classes are made available for lay and credentialed ministers. Special events like the Pastor/Spouse Retreat, All Ministers Educational Event, and other ministry events, provide for effective ministry in the local congregation.

<b>Participation Income</b>	<b>2013 Actual</b>	<b>2014 Anticipated</b>	<b>2015 Proposal</b>	<b>2016 Projected</b>	<b>2017 Projected</b>
District Conference	27,698	23,000	24,000	29,200	30,200
Events	1,744	5,400	2,500	2,600	2,600
<b>Total Participation Income:</b>	<b>29,442</b>	<b>28,400</b>	<b>26,500</b>	<b>31,800</b>	<b>32,800</b>
<b>TOTAL MINISTRY INCOME:</b>	<b>945,138</b>	<b>291,720</b>	<b>307,626</b>	<b>303,004</b>	<b>289,457</b>

## Ministry Investments

### Congregational Development Ministry

Ministry Support Grants and loans provide financial assistance to PSWD congregations in order to carry out the Great Commission and achieve congregational growth. The District has made a commitment toward church growth using the good gifts of the great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us. We have a fiduciary responsibility to use our financial resources with intention and accountability.

<b>Congregational Development Ministry</b>	<b>2013 Actual</b>	<b>2014 Anticipated</b>	<b>2015 Proposal</b>	<b>2016 Projected</b>	<b>2017 Projected</b>
Web Site Development	147	1,000	300	300	300
Vital Ministry Journey	1,647	1,000	1,000	0	0
Ministry Support Grants <i>(one-time grants empowering congregations to develop new ways of reaching out to their communities)</i>	341,325	309,524	200,000	200,000	200,000
<b>Total Congregational Development Ministry:</b>	<b>343,119</b>	<b>311,524</b>	<b>201,300</b>	<b>200,300</b>	<b>200,300</b>

## **Pastoral Leadership and Support Ministry**

The Ministry Commission supports and challenges our PSWD Ministers (licensed and ordained) to a Gospel Ministry that embraces growth in education, health, ethics, active spiritual discernment, and salvation.

All our Licensed Ministers will be engaged in an approved, active educational/discernment process that leads them towards ordination or a return to vital lay ministry. These approved educational activities include TRIM, SeBAH, and Bethany Theological Seminary (along with other properly credentialed seminaries). It also includes ministers education events sponsored by the Ministry Commission.

All our pastors, chaplains, and other encouraged ministers are called to gather not only at District Conference, but also at our annual Pastor/Spouse Retreat to the benefit of their Biblical, spiritual and physical health. The overarching goal of the Pastor/Spouse Retreat is to support the 2007 Unity Statement passed unanimously by the District Conference of that year.

PSWD has in place administrative procedures and polity that assure the proper New Testament calling of pastors and those discerning their call in ministry for the Church of the Brethren.

PSWD holds our licensed and ordained ministers to the highest level of ethical behavior in accordance with the Annual Conference paper on Ethics in Ministry and Relationships.

The Ministry Commission advocates and promotes effective ways for our licensed and ordained ministers to fulfill their calling to be spiritually/physically healthy and thus have a greater opportunity to be successful in their ministries.

<b>Pastoral Leadership and Support Ministry</b>	<b>2013 Actual</b>	<b>2014 Anticipated</b>	<b>2015 Proposal</b>	<b>2016 Projected</b>	<b>2017 Projected</b>
Training in Ministry (TRIM)	2,892	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Seminario Biblico Anabautista Hispano (SeBAH)	7,144	6,000	6,000	7,400	7,400
Bethany Theological Seminary Student Grants/Loans	4,500	3,000	1,500	3,000	3,000
Pastor/Spouse Retreat	11,244	14,000	20,000	18,000	18,000
Minister's Workshop	4,464	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Other District Workshops	0	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Professional Growth Subsidy (PSWD Events)	2,730	6,000	3,000	4,000	4,500
Minister's Ethics Training(2014 only)		2,000			
<b>Total Pastoral Leadership and Support Ministry:</b>	<b>32,974</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>51,500</b>	<b>53,400</b>	<b>53,900</b>

## District Empowering Ministry

The District depends on a wide variety of volunteers who serve on commissions and committees who carry out the mission, vision and core values of PSWD. The Board of Administration coordinates the District ministry investments and oversees the general operations of District ministries. Begun in the 2011 ministry investment plan, the formation of a PSWD District Youth Cabinet reflects our commitment to develop future leadership. District Conference seeks to provide direction and council to all of the PSWD ministry investments.

<b>District Empowering Ministry</b>	<b>2013 Actual</b>	<b>2014 Anticipated</b>	<b>2015 Proposal</b>	<b>2016 Projected</b>	<b>2017 Projected</b>
District Conference	34,274	30,000	30,000	36,000	31,000
Ministry Commission	756	3,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Stewards Commission	59	1,000	1,100	1,100	1,100
Board of Administration and Work Groups	18,844	23,460	29,500	22,000	23,000
Nurturing and Credentialing Committee (NACC)	2,275	5,000	4,000	3,000	3,000
Shalom Team	0	0	0	0	0
Resource Materials	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Inter-Cultural Ministry	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
National Youth Conference (NYC)	192	21,000	0	0	0
Youth Cabinet Travel	2,648	3,000	4,000	4,500	4,000
<b>Total District Empowering Ministry:</b>	<b>59,048</b>	<b>88,460</b>	<b>74,600</b>	<b>72,600</b>	<b>68,100</b>



## Partnership and Property Ministry

PSWD has a long tradition of continuing financial support of outreach to the wider church and affiliated institutions. Our involvement in the denomination requires an in-kind contribution through staff involvement and leadership in the denomination and ecumenical participation.

<b>Partnership and Property Ministry</b>	<b>2013 Actual</b>	<b>2014 Anticipated</b>	<b>2015 Proposal</b>	<b>2016 Projected</b>	<b>2017 Projected</b>
Denominational Assessment	1,453	1,650	1,700	1,700	1,700
Standing Committee	1,746	2,000	2,500	2,500	2,500
University of La Verne	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Ecumenical Councils	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Council of District Executives	1,056	450	500	500	500
Property	185,448	80,200	26,500	6,550	6,550
<b>Total Partnership and Property Ministry:</b>	<b>194,703</b>	<b>90,300</b>	<b>37,200</b>	<b>17,250</b>	<b>17,250</b>

## Service Ministry

The vision statement of PSWD requires us to be a visible community of faith supporting and engaging a variety of Christ-centered ministries. Ongoing ministry and service to those in need are the cornerstone of the gospel. We are asked to reach out to those who require our assistance and encouragement.

<b>Service Ministry</b>	<b>2013 Actual</b>	<b>2014 Anticipated</b>	<b>2015 Proposal</b>	<b>2016 Projected</b>	<b>2017 Projected</b>
Disaster Response	3,619	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Children's Disaster Services	593	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
<b>Total Service Ministry:</b>	<b>4,212</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>7,500</b>	<b>7,500</b>

## District Operating Ministry

The District staff includes Joe Detrick, Interim District Executive Minister; Dawna Welch, Youth Advisor; Joe Vecchio, Administrative Assistant; and Brenda Pérez, Secretary. Together, the staff represents a strong team of diverse talents and gifts. The District staff is known throughout the denomination as innovative and creative leaders who faithfully support the Church of the Brethren tradition while setting pace for creative approaches to ministry. In various ways, the staff continues to insure the efficient and proper support of our pastors and congregations.

<b>District Operating Ministry</b>	<b>2013 Actual</b>	<b>2014 Anticipated</b>	<b>2015 Proposal</b>	<b>2016 Projected</b>	<b>2017 Projected</b>
Office Space and Utilities	37,862	33,000	31,550	32,200	33,050
Equipment and Maintenance	14,140	3,600	3,600	3,800	4,000
Supplies/Printing/Publications	10,957	13,000	13,500	13,500	14,000
Postage and Mailing	2,195	3,000	3,500	3,500	4,000
Insurance	8,494	8,600	8,850	9,150	9,500
Audit and Professional Fees	15,634	22,500	18,500	24,700	18,700
Staff Salaries	204,536	173,200	194,200	200,000	206,000
Staff Benefits and Retired Church Workers' Fund	44,701	26,000	41,200	44,200	47,600
Staff Travel/Professional Growth	43,981	39,890	42,200	44,600	48,100
New Life/Publications/ Email Newsletters	2,690	5,770	5,770	5,780	5,780
<b>Total District Operating Ministry:</b>	<b>385,190</b>	<b>328,560</b>	<b>362,870</b>	<b>381,430</b>	<b>390,730</b>
<b>TOTAL MINISTRY INVESTMENTS:</b>	<b>1,019,246</b>	<b>876,344</b>	<b>734,970</b>	<b>732,480</b>	<b>737,780</b>

## Summary of Ministry Income and Ministry Investments

<b>MINISTRY INCOME</b>	<b>2013 Actual</b>	<b>2014 Anticipated</b>	<b>2015 Proposal</b>	<b>2016 Projected</b>	<b>2017 Projected</b>
Contribution Income (p. <a href="#">55</a> )	44,746	32,077	29,460	30,560	30,670
Investment Income (p. <a href="#">55</a> )	870,950	231,243	251,666	240,644	225,987
Participation Income (p. <a href="#">56</a> )	29,442	28,400	26,500	31,800	32,800
<b>TOTAL MINISTRY INCOME:</b>	<b>945,138</b>	<b>291,720</b>	<b>307,626</b>	<b>303,004</b>	<b>289,457</b>

<b>MINISTRY INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>2013 Actual</b>	<b>2014 Anticipated</b>	<b>2015 Proposal</b>	<b>2016 Projected</b>	<b>2017 Projected</b>
Congregational Development Ministry Investments (p. <a href="#">57</a> )	343,119	311,524	201,300	200,300	200,300
Pastoral Leadership and Support Ministry Investments (p. <a href="#">58</a> )	32,974	50,000	51,500	53,400	53,900
District Empowering Ministry Investments (p. <a href="#">59</a> )	59,048	88,460	74,600	72,600	68,100
Partnership and Property Ministry Investments (p. <a href="#">60</a> )	194,703	90,300	37,200	17,250	17,250
Service Ministry Investments (p. <a href="#">60</a> )	4,212	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
District Operating Ministry Investments (p. <a href="#">61</a> )	385,190	328,560	362,870	381,430	390,730
<b>TOTAL MINISTRY INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>1,019,246</b>	<b>876,344</b>	<b>734,970</b>	<b>732,480</b>	<b>737,780</b>

<b>PROJECTED YEARLY INCREASE/DECREASE IN PSWD NET ASSETS</b>	<b>2013 Actual</b>	<b>2014 Anticipated</b>	<b>2015 Proposal</b>	<b>2016 Projected</b>	<b>2017 Projected</b>
	<b>(74,108)</b>	<b>(584,624)</b>	<b>(427,344)</b>	<b>(429,476)</b>	<b>(448,323)</b>

## Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren

### Locations / Dates / Moderators of District Conferences

1964. ....	La Verne. ....	August 28-30. ....	R. Truman Northup
1965. ....	Modesto. ....	October 15-17. ....	Marvin Belcher
1966. ....	Forest Home. ....	October 14-16. ....	Leland A. Nelson
1967. ....	Fresno. ....	October 13-15. ....	Lowell K. Brubaker
1968. ....	Long Beach. ....	October 11-13. ....	R. Truman Northup
1969. ....	Bakersfield. ....	October 10-12. ....	Edward K. Ziegler
1970. ....	Phoenix First. ....	October 9-11. ....	Jerry Davis
1971. ....	Modesto. ....	October 15-17. ....	Harold D. Fasnacht
1972. ....	La Verne. ....	October 13-15. ....	Duane Wyles
1973. ....	Fresno. ....	October 11-13. ....	Paul E. Miller
1974. ....	Pasadena. ....	October 11-13. ....	John W. Hunter
1975. ....	Empire. ....	October 10-12. ....	Ida S. Howell
1976. ....	Long Beach. ....	October 15-17. ....	Marvin A. Belcher
1977. ....	McFarland. ....	October 7-9. ....	D. Eugene Lichty
1978. ....	University of La Verne. ....	October 13-15. ....	Norman N. Glick
1979. ....	Modesto. ....	November 9-11. ....	Arthur M. Baldwin
1980. ....	Phoenix First. ....	October 24-26. ....	LaVon Rupel
1981. ....	Fresno. ....	October 16-18. ....	C. Wayne Zunkel
1982. ....	Pomona Fellowship. ....	October 15-17. ....	Barbara Enberg
1983. ....	Empire. ....	October 14-16. ....	Irven Stern
1984. ....	South Bay. ....	November 9-11. ....	Galen Snell
1985. ....	McFarland. ....	November 8-10. ....	Dwayne Brubaker
1986. ....	Imperial Heights. ....	October 17-19. ....	Robert E. Keim
1987. ....	Prince of Peace, Sacramento. ....	October 16-18. ....	Jerry Davis
1988. ....	Long Beach. ....	October 7-9. ....	W. Donald Clague
1989. ....	Modesto. ....	November 3-5. ....	Richard L. Landrum
1990. ....	Phoenix First. ....	October 12-14. ....	Sherlo Shively
1991. ....	Glendale (CA). ....	October 11-13. ....	Harold J. Forney
1992. ....	Waterford. ....	November 13-15. ....	Donald E. Fancher
1993. ....	La Verne. ....	October 8-10. ....	Myrna L. Wheeler
1994. ....	Fresno. ....	November 11-13. ....	Pat Royer
1995. ....	County of San Diego. ....	October 6-8. ....	Lowell Brubaker
1996. ....	Modesto. ....	October 11-13. ....	Milton H. Ewert
1997. ....	Pomona Fellowship. ....	October 10-12. ....	Peggy Redman
1998. ....	South Bay / Imperial Heights. ....	September 18-20. ....	Jerry Davis
1999. ....	Phoenix First. ....	October 8-10. ....	Karen Walters
2000. ....	Sacramento / Live Oak. ....	October 13-15. ....	Belita Mitchell
2001. ....	Bakersfield. ....	October 5-7. ....	Sherlo Shively
2002. ....	La Verne. ....	October 4-6. ....	George Sparks
2003. ....	Community Brethren, Fresno. ....	September 19-21. ....	Bill Wagoner, Honorary Myrna Wheeler, Acting
2004. ....	Pomona. ....	October 29-31. ....	David Hurlbut
2005. ....	Modesto. ....	October 7-9. ....	R. Jan Thompson
2006. ....	Papago Buttes. ....	October 27-29. ....	Joe Schechter
2007. ....	La Verne. ....	October 12-14. ....	Mary Kay Ogden
2008. ....	Community Brethren, Fresno. ....	November 7-9. ....	John Price
2009. ....	Sacramento. ....	November 6-8. ....	Jim Martinez
2010. ....	Hillcrest, La Verne. ....	November 12-14. ....	Felton Daniels
2011. ....	Hillcrest, La Verne. ....	November 11-13. ....	Karen Walters
2012. ....	Hillcrest, La Verne. ....	November 9-11. ....	Jack Storne
2013. ....	Scottsdale, AZ. ....	November 8-10. ....	Jim LeFever
2014. ....	La Verne, CA. ....	November 7-9. ....	Erin Matteson

# Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren

## PSWD Board of Administration Chairs District Executive Ministers

	Board Chair	Executive Minister
1964 – 1965. ....	Jacob T. Dick. ....	Glen H. Bowlby
1966 – 1967. ....	Arthur M. Baldwin. ....	Glen H. Bowlby
1968. ....	Herbert W. Hogan. ....	Glen H. Bowlby
1969 – 1971. ....	Herbert W. Hogan. ....	R. Truman Northup
1972 – 1973. ....	Forrest V. Groff. ....	R. Truman Northup
1974 – 1977. ....	J. Calvin Keeling. ....	R. Truman Northup
1978 – 1981. ....	W. Donald Clague. ....	R. Truman Northup
1982 – 1983. ....	S. Loren Bowman. ....	R. Truman Northup
1984 – 1985. ....	Marlin Heckman. ....	Irven & Pattie Stern
1986 – 1989. ....	James Walters. ....	Irven & Pattie Stern
1990. ....	Janice Fralin. ....	Irven & Pattie Stern
1991. ....	Roger Richer. ....	Irven & Pattie Stern
1992. ....	Todd Hammond. ....	Irven & Pattie Stern
1993. ....	Gregg Moser. ....	Irven & Pattie Stern
1994. ....	R. Jan Thompson. ....	Glenn Stanford ( <i>interim</i> )
1995. ....	R. Jan Thompson. ....	Gene Hipskind
1996. ....	Tom Bryant. ....	Gene Hipskind
1997 – 1999. ....	Jonathan Shively. ....	Gene Hipskind
2000 – 2001. ....	Ernest Snyder. ....	Gene Hipskind
2002. ....	Sara Haldeman-Scarr. ....	Gene Hipskind
		Richard Hart ( <i>interim</i> )
2003. ....	Sara Haldeman-Scarr. ....	Richard Hart ( <i>interim</i> )
		Dean Kieffaber ( <i>interim</i> )
		Bryan Boyer
2004 – 2006. ....	Paul Lovelace. ....	Bryan Boyer
2007. ....	Jim Davis. ....	Bryan Boyer
2008. ....	Bill Johnson. ....	Bryan Boyer
		Richard Hart ( <i>interim</i> )
		Mary Kay Ogden ( <i>interim</i> )
		Randy Yoder ( <i>interim</i> )
		Don Booz ( <i>December</i> )
2009. ....	Myrna Wheeler ( <i>through July</i> ). ....	Don Booz
	Thomas Dowdy ( <i>began in August</i> ). ....	Don Booz
2010. ....	Thomas Dowdy ( <i>through January 9</i> ). ....	Don Booz
	Don Fancher ( <i>began January 9</i> ). ....	Don Booz
2011 – 2013. ....	Don Fancher. ....	Don Booz
2014. ....	Marye Martinez. ....	Joe Detrick ( <i>interim</i> )



## Activity Locations

See also Schedule on pages [3-5](#)

- 7- Registration & Information Table – Village Center Lobby
- 9- Worship, Business, Friday Workshop – Meeting House
- 10- Exhibits & SERRV – Galen Walker Board Room
- 6- Relaxation / Visiting / Ice Cream Social  
– Café & Fireside Lounge
- 12- Prayer – Quiet Room
- 1- Meditative Walk – Labyrinth

Hillcrest



Smoke Free Campus  
Buildings close at 9:00pm  
E = Elevator      R = Restroom

## Meal Locations

- 16- **Conference Meals** – Maury Smeltzer Lounge (*pre-paid with Registration*)
- 8- – Saturday Picnic – Shuffleboard Court (*pre-paid with Registration*)
- 15- Mountain View Dining Room – 7:30-9:00am / 11:00-1:00pm / 5:00-7:00pm (*additional cost*)
- 6- Café – 11:00am-2:00pm on Friday & Saturday (*additional cost*)(*closed Sunday*)

## Insight Session Locations

- 9- Meeting House
- 11- Dean E. Kieffaber Chapel
- 4- Pinecrest Upstairs Multi-Purpose Room
- 5- Aquatic / Fitness Center
- 17- Birch Court Conference Room

## Age Group Activity Locations

- - Nursery – \_\_\_\_\_
- 2- Youth – Resident's Service Center (**Activity Room**)
- 3- Children's Activities – Pinecrest Downstairs Multi-Purpose Room



No Parking at green marked curbs and spaces (for residents and loading)

## Locations: West → East / Left → Right

- 1- Labyrinth – Meditative Walk
- 2- Resident's Service Center (**Activity Room**) – Youth
- 3- Pinecrest Downstairs Multi-Purpose Room – Children's Activities
- 4- Pinecrest Upstairs Multi-Purpose Room – Insight Sessions
- 5- Aquatic / Fitness Center – Insight Sessions
- 6- Café & Fireside Lounge – Relaxation / Visiting / Ice Cream Social
- 7- Village Center Lobby – Registration
- 8- Shuffleboard Court – Picnic
- 9- Meeting House – Worship, Business, and Insight Sessions
- 10- Galen Walker Board Room – Exhibits & SERRV
- 11- Dean E. Kieffaber Chapel – Insight Sessions / Quiet Devotions / Ministers Educational Event
- 12- Quiet Room – Prayer
- 13- Maple Court Upstairs Activity Room – *not used*
- 14- Private Dining Room – *not used*
- 15- Mountain View Dining Room
- 16- Maury Smeltzer Lounge – Conference Meals
- 17- Birch Court Conference Room – Insight Sessions

