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.
XV. **NYC Video**  
A Video of NYC was shown.

XVI. **Well Wishes of 50th Anniversary**  
Well wishes from across the denomination were shared with the delegates.

XVII. **Election of Officers**  
A. There were no nominations from the floor.  
B. **John Jackson (Glendale) moved and Don Wyatt (Empire) seconded to approve the ballot as a slate. Approved, unanimous.**  
C. The following people were elected to 2014 Pacific Southwest District positions:  
   1. Moderator-Elect: Eric Bishop (La Verne)  
   2. Nominating Committee: Joe Schechter (La Verne)  
   3. Program Committee: Linda Hart (Pomona Fellowship)  
   4. Board of Administration:  
      a. Rebeca Zapata (Príncipe de Paz), Southern California East Representative  
      b. Michael Boeger (Live Oak)  
      c. Lois Frantz (Empire)  
      d. Marye Martinez (Modesto)  
      e. Jim Totzke (Cornerstone)  
      f. Clark Youngblood (Circle of Peace)  
      g. Robert Burke (Bakersfield), Youth/Young Adult Representative  
      h. Rayna Harrison (La Verne), Youth/Young Adult Representative  
      i. Sarah Henrichs (Circle of Peace), Youth/Young Adult Representative  
   5. Camp La Verne Trustee Nominee: Marlyn “Lyn” Sylva (La Verne)

XVIII. **Program Committee Report**  
Jim LeFever thanked everyone for their hard work on the program committee and particularly Cathy Jacuelli and Deb Merrifield-Carothers the on-site coordinators. He also thanked Joe Vecchio for his unlimited enthusiasm and support. He referred the delegates to page 17 in the Business Book for the written report.

XIX. **Standing Committee Report**  
Standing Committee: Marlin Heckman referred to the written report on page 16 in the Business Book and submitted this addendum:  
The 2014 Annual Conference Moderator, Nancy Sollenberger Heishman wrote the following on the Annual Conference theme web page: “My dream for this coming year is that we will take steps toward living out the beginning of our denominational vision statement, which is: “Through scripture Jesus calls us to live as courageous disciples in word and action.” “To accomplish this dream of searching the scriptures together in order to hear the voice of Jesus calling us to courageous discipleship, I invite us to set aside this year to all study a particular New Testament letter together, the letter that the apostle Paul wrote to the Philippians. In this small letter, as well as the background found in the book of Acts, we see what a life of truly courageous discipleship looks like. Even from a prison cell, Paul passionately proclaimed the gospel of Christ and encouraged others to find the courage to live it out in their daily lives.” “The book of Philippians has just 104 verses and 2243 words. I challenge everyone to read Philippians throughout this year, to preach on it, to study it together in small groups, to meditate on it daily, and yes, while we’re at it, why not memorize the whole book? It would only require memorizing 2 verses a week until next July!”  
“As your Standing Committee delegate I second the moderator’s challenge and ask that as 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.
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).