

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

3 **November 9, 2013**

**Franciscan Renewal Center, Scottsdale, Arizona**

4 **I. Call to Order**

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

6 **II. Welcome**

7 Moderator Jim LeFever welcomed everyone.

8 **III. Appointments**

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

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

13 **IV. Introduction of Conference Officers**

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

16 **V. Opening Prayer**

17 Moderator Jim LeFever led the attendees in prayer.

18 **VI. Quorum**

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

20 **VII. Dedication of Delegates**

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

22 **VIII. Approval of Agenda**

23 **The agenda was approved.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

33 **New Business**

34 **XIII. Ministry Investment Plan**

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

- 38 B. Some questions were asked and answered.

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

41 **XIV. Strategic Plan**

- 42 A. Marye Martinez presented the "Board of Administration Strategic Plan" as presented on pages  
43 61-63 in the Business Book.

- 44 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 Iacueli 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 **XXI. Annual Conference Agencies**

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

13 **XXII. Special Presentation**

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

17 **XXIII. Moderator’s Closing Remarks**

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

21 1. Relating to the soon to be called DE:

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

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

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

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

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

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

30 **XXIV. Passing of the Gavel**

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

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

36 **XXVII. Adjournment**

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

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39 Minutes recorded by Karen Cosner, Clerk

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