

Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren

Business Book



52ND Annual District Conference
November 13-15, 2015

Held at:
Brethren Hillcrest Homes
2705 Mountain View Drive
La Verne, CA 91750

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Hillcrest Meeting House, site of our Business and Worship Sessions

**Pacific Southwest District
Church of the Brethren
2015 Annual Meeting**

November 13-15, 2015

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

Welcome to the 2015 Pacific Southwest District Conference

When you come to the 52nd District Conference of the Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren you will be coming to a place and a community that is strengthened by your presence and participation. We gather in the warm embraces of the Hillcrest community in La Verne, who have been a most gracious host to the district and the conference over the years.

When you come you will do so at a time when our society is being challenged to know what justice is. We gather in a time when our faith communities are being called upon to be leaders and trailblazers, just as they have in the past. God speaks to us in our own way and tells us what is just and unjust. God calls us to protect all of his children. This year's meeting comes at a time of continued challenge for the church, for Christians and for all as we struggle with how to deal with the wars abroad and at home.

I look forward to our time together as we search our hearts, and our minds, and our faith, and our souls in seeking how to live peaceful and just lives. The irony may be that living a peaceful and a just life may be incongruent. When we gather we shall pray and learn and conduct our business as God calls us to. But all are welcome to be part of the fabric of our district, as all are Called to be Just Christians.



Eric Bishop
Moderator

**PSWD District Conference
Business Meeting Agenda**

November 14, 2015

- I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer
- II. Roll call and establishing of Quorum
- III. Approval of Agenda and 2014 Minutes (p.46)
- IV. Business Items
 - A. Election of leadership (pp.13-15 & pp.50-55)
 - B. 2016 PSWD Ministry Investment Plan (p.56)
 - C. Query (p.65)
 - D. Closing Central Korean Evangelical Church of the Brethren
- V. Reports
 - A. Annual Conference Agencies (pp.33-45)
 - B. District Policy Board (pp.17-27)
 - C. District Executive Minister (pp.11-12)
 - D. District Program Committee (p.16)
 - E. Standing Committee Delegate (p.13)
- VI. Adjournment

Friday, November 13, (Registration, 9:00 am – 7:00 pm, closed during meals and worship)

8:30am	“Finding Hope” : PSWD Ministry Continuing Education Event Check-in & Session 1 Dean E. Kieffaber Chapel	
9:00	Registration & Information Table open	Village Center Lobby
	Exhibit Hall & SERRV shop Open	Galen Walker Boardroom
	<i>There are no “Children’s Activities” or “Nursery” on Friday, day or evening</i>	
12:00pm - 1:30	Women’s Fellowship Luncheon (Ticket Required) Maury Smeltzer Lounge	
	“Finding Hope” Ministers Education Event Lunch (Ticket for W.F. Luncheon included)	
1:30 - 5:00	<i>continue</i> “Finding Hope”, Session 2	Dean E. Kieffaber Chapel
	Time to rest, meditate, walk, visit the chapel, register, talk with someone...	
1:30 - 7:00	Registration Table Open	Village Center Lobby
	Exhibit Hall & SERRV shop Open	Galen Walker Boardroom
5:30	Opening Dinner (Ticket required) Maury Smeltzer Lounge	
6:45	Youth Activities: Gather in the lobby to prepare for worship	Village Center Lobby
7:30	Opening Worship – Moderator Eric Bishop: <i>Called to be Just Christians</i>	Meeting House
<i>after worship</i>	Registration & Information Table open	Village Center Lobby
	Exhibit Hall & SERRV shop Open	Galen Walker Boardroom
	Ice Cream Social sponsored by Hillcrest	Café
	Labyrinth self-guided meditation (map available at information desk)	
10:00	Youth Activities: High School stay, Middle School parents pick-up	

Saturday, November 14, (Registration, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm)

7:30am	Youth Activities <i>continue</i>	
8:00	Registration & Information Table open until lunch	Village Center Lobby
	Exhibit Hall & SERRV shop Opens	Galen Walker Boardroom
	Labyrinth self-guided meditation (map available at information desk)	
8:15 - 12:00	“Nursery” (eat all meals with parents)	
8:15 - 5:15	“Children’s Activities” (lunch is included)	
8:30 - 12:00 Business	8:30-11:00: Business Session #1	Meeting House
	11:15-Noon: Insight Session I	<i>Please attend the session you signed up for during registration</i>
12:15-1:15	Conference Lunch & Fellowship (Ticket Required) Maury Smeltzer Lounge	
Noon	Registration & Information Table: <u>Closes for the rest of conference</u>	

1:15 - 5:15	"Nursery" Closes for the rest of conference at 5:15 p.m.	
1:30 - 5:00 Business	1:30-2:15: Business Session #2 2:30-3:15: Insight Session II 3:30-4:15: Insight Session III 4:30-5:00: Business Session #3	Meeting House <i>Please attend the session you signed up for during registration</i> <i>Please attend the session you signed up for during registration</i> Meeting House
5:30	Dinner - Picnic (<u>Ticket Required for meal</u>) Campfire following picnic (<i>all are welcome</i>)	Shuffle Board Court Outside Meeting House
7:00	Exhibit Hall & SERRV shop <u>Close for the rest of conference</u>	Galen Walker Boardroom
7:30	Worship / Concert – <i>Mutual Kumquat</i>	Meeting House
9:00	Exhibit Hall & SERRV shop must be cleared out	
10:00	Youth Activities: High School stay, Middle School parents pick-up	

Sunday, November 15 (No registration)

	<i>There are no "Children's Activities" or "Nursery" on Sunday</i>	
8:30am	Breakfast with Marisol Morales (<u>Ticket Required</u>)	Maury Smeltzer Lounge
8:30	Board Reorganization (<i>Board of Administration only</i>)	Galen Walker Boardroom
10:00	Worship – Denominational General Secretary Stan Noffsinger Recognition of ordination anniversaries Consecration of Licensed Ministers, Board of Administration, Moderator-Elect, Moderator	Meeting House

Called to be Just Christians. A Word on our theme

Brothers and Sisters, the theme for the 52nd Conference for the Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren, **Called to be Just Christians**, came to me quite easily, though it took it while to come to me, because it comes from deep within my soul. It is based on Matthew 5:1-12 and 25:33-45. The double meaning is intended. As I discerned, meditated and prayed, I felt a deep calling and desire to allow justice to reign in our lives. I hold dear the phrase of Dr. Martin Luther King and Book of Amos, “No, no, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until ‘justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream.’ “

On the one hand, if we want to call ourselves Christians, to just be Christians, then we must model our lives and our attitudes after Christ. The very name “Christian” is defined as being Christ-like. And yet, to do that we are also called to be Just Christians, and seek and provide justice whenever and wherever it is appropriate. Providing justice is neither comfortable nor easy. But since when did being a Christian mean comfort and ease?

We see justice in many different forms today. The theme’s relation to the text is such that it is uplifting the truly persecuted, who are receiving justice for the lives they have lived (Matthew 5:1-12), and those ignoring justice being persecuted for that choice, as well (Matthew 25:33-45). We tend to make ourselves victims all too quickly. We tend to look at what others around us have received and we didn’t and call it an injustice. We have too many people living on our sidewalks. We have too many women being abused. We have too many children being malnourished or treated as slaves. And yet, we,

in the most powerful country in the world, choose to ignore it.

Jesus calls us to pay attention to those who have nothing. And he warns us what happens if we do not. This year is a call to remember those who are the poor in spirit, or mourn, or the meek. This is a year to call out those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, and those who are merciful and pure in heart. We are called to respond to the least of these. We are called to just be Christians and yet, at the same time, to be Just Christians.

When was the last time you provided justice to the poor? And what is your definition of justice? Is it writing a check and sending it to a food bank or homeless shelter? Or is it giving food to a hungry family and providing resources to help them get on their feet for the long term? Remember that when the disciples asked about sitting on the left-hand or right-hand of Jesus, it was their own actions that determined how they would be judged. “When you did it for the least of these, you did it to me” (Matthew 25:40). We can’t provide justice when it is convenient or when it is popular. Justice is served when it is needed and called for, and to and for those who need it the most.



Logo Interpretation & Artist Information

The 2015 logo was designed by Eric M. Davis to reflect theme and the phrase of Dr. Martin Luther King and Book of Amos, “No, no, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until ‘justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream.’ “

The blue in the logo represents water rolling down. The red represents oppression. The “T” represents the cross, Christ and sacrifice. Without sacrifice, there is not justice.

Davis is an artist who resides in La Verne, Calif., and is a member of the La Verne Church of the Brethren. Eric and his wife of 28 years Juliet, have two children. Their daughter Riley attends the University of California Santa Cruz, and their son Brandt attends Carleton College in Northfield, Minnesota.

Davis is one of the founders and early organizers of the Celebration of the Arts, which again will be hosted by the Church of the Brethren, May 2015. Attracting approximately 1,500 people each year, the event continues to grow. Free to artists, free to the public, free of judgment, the Celebration is an appreciation and expression of the community’s artistic soul.

Delegates' Dedication Litany

November 14, 2015

Moderator: Sisters and brothers, you have been called by your congregations to serve as delegates at this 52nd 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 a 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. Amen.**



Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren – 2015

Officers of the District Conference

Moderator.....	Eric Bishop, La Verne
Moderator-Elect.....	Richard Zapata, Príncipe de Paz (<i>until July 31, 2015</i>) John Price, Empire (<i>started July 31, 2015</i>)
Clerk.....	Laura Miller, Papago Buttes AZ
Board of Administration Chair (ex-officio).....	Marye Martinez, Modesto
District Executive Minister (ex-officio).....	Russ Matteson

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)

VII. 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) _____.”

VIII. 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.

IX. 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.

X. 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 14 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.

XI. 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.”

District Executive Minister's Report

Russ Matteson

Those who think they can do it on their own end up obsessed with measuring their own moral muscle but never get around to exercising it in real life. Those who trust God's action in them find that God's Spirit is in them — living and breathing God! Obsession with self in these matters is a dead end; attention to God leads us out into the open, into a spacious, free life. — Romans 8:5-6 (The Message)

These words from Romans as translated in *The Message* were the scripture focus at the service of installation in February, and have been before me throughout this year. Paul reminds us that our focus is to be on God, paying attention to what God's action is in the world, and following that lead in what we do and how we do it. So in visits, in weighing decisions, in working with Boards and committees, as we are the body of Christ together - always the question is what is God doing, where is God leading, and how can we follow God into the way of new life.

The items highlighted below are some of the ways in which we are trying to live into this new life:

Congregational Visits – A priority for this first year as District Executive Minister has been to join each congregation for worship. This has been a way to get a feel for the community that gathers in each place, meet a nice variety of people who are involved in a congregation, and to bring greetings and prayers from across the district to each congregation. I have been blessed by the welcome that I have received in each congregation. I continue to be active in visiting congregations, on Sundays and at other times to meet with Boards or committees. Don't hesitate to extend an invitation.

EYN Visitors – A highlight of this year for PSWD was the five days this summer spent hosting three visitors from Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria). Invited to partner in this with the LaVerne congregation, the guests were able to visit in 10 of the 26 congregations (and at Hillcrest), sharing about the faithfulness to Christ of the Nigerian Brethren in the midst of persecution and to give thanks for the support of the sisters and brothers in the US church - both in finances and in prayers. It is my hope that their visit has helped us

to be more closely connected to our sisters and brothers in EYN, and I encourage you and your congregation to keep EYN close in your prayers.

Building Conversations – The Policy Board has framed its work this year around “conversations” that are designed to bring people together in wondering and planning discussions that work to find God's leading for the direction of our district ministry. Several conversations have occurred over the course of all three Policy Board meetings, beginning in an assessment stage, building at the next meeting to an idea generation conversation, and then into planning and action conversations. Some conversations have started and are on hold as other things take priority. And other conversations, like the one about the Query from the La Verne congregation, have provided helpful feedback to the process of the congregation and the Executive Board. The Policy Board affirmed this model of working together at their August meeting, and we look to continue to grow in this in the years ahead.

Ministry Partnership Funds – This new initiative from the Policy Board will provide ways for the PSWD to come alongside many of our congregations with financial resources that will help them in efforts of revitalization/renewal, being mission points in their communities, and church planting. These funds are a part of the Ministry Support Grants section of the District Budget with approximately \$90,000 available for partnerships in 2016. Applications can be submitted throughout the year as congregations are ready to engage in a ministry, and decisions will be made in a timely fashion to partner with churches when they are ready to move. More details will be provided at District Conference and at www.pswdcob.org soon.

Ministerial Leadership – In addition to the five year review of ordinations occurring this year, we have been working throughout the district structure to implement and explain the 2014 Ministerial Leadership polity. The details of that are covered well in the report from the Ministry Commission. As a part of living into this paper we have worked this year at revising our processes which includes the Nurturing and Credentialing Committee and adding to the good work already

being done through our mentor program with licensed ministers and growing that into the discernment and calling cohorts which will deepen and broaden the support communities for those exploring the call to ministry. This also calls on the gifts of more members of our congregations to be involved in supporting those called into ministry. A highlight was meetings with licensed ministers and their mentors to talk about how this will strengthen their preparation for ministry. We are blessed with a gifted group of ordained, commissioned, and licensed ministers in PSWD who are committed to building the Kingdom of God in the communities where they serve and

throughout the world.

My thanks to you all for your prayers this past year - prayers for the PSWD, our congregations, my family, and the work which you have called me to share in with you. I am grateful for the kind words, prayers, and challenges that we have shared in together as we have moved into this relationship and the beginnings of our shared ministry throughout the District.

Pace y bene (Peace and all good),

Russ Matteson

District Executive Minister

Deceased Ministers

Paul S. Hersch 9/21/2014

Recognition of Ministers' Ordination Anniversaries

65 Years

Eugene Carper

60 Years

Carl Beckwith

Don Fancher

55 Years

Willard Ressler

45 Years

John Price

Clark Youngblood

40 Years

Beth Glick-Rieman

35 Years

Robert Morris

Mario Serrano

30 Years

Susan Boyer

25 Years

Shantilal Bhagat

Representing 495 years
of service.

District Youth Advisor Report

I continue to be in awe of the Youth of our district and how they demonstrate their genuine faithfulness! They are involved in their local communities and congregations, they provide music and worship leadership, they serve on the district youth cabinet, the district board and even on the National Youth Cabinet! In their busy lives they find time to participate in National events like the Christian Citizenship Seminar, the National Junior High Conference and Summer work camps, too! When I asked some of these Youth why they are so active and involved in church life here is what I learned; "I think staying active in my church and district allows me to voice and share my beliefs with others", "I love my church family! Participation in local and national events is how I

give back and show my love", "The blessing of life is an amazing opportunity that God has given me. Therefore, any opportunity to grow spirituality in a positive environment is one I choose to take. Without a doubt God has blessed me through the active work in my congregation, my district and my attendance in national events such as NYC & CCS. Life is about taking opportunities". Wow! What a gift and blessing it is to serve and worship among these amazing young people.

I am excited to announce the youth who have answered the call to serve on the 2015/2016 Youth Cabinet:

- Harley Edwards - Modesto
- Rudy Amaya - Principe de Paz
- Elizabeth Piazza - Live Oak

- Ethan Strogon - La Verne
- Lauren Ober-Miller - La Verne

This Cabinet had their first meeting in August, gathering in La Verne, California to plan activities for youth at District Conference, 2015 and Western Regional Youth Conference, 2016. During their time together the cabinet participated in team building exercises, toured Hillcrest facilities, planned District Conference and Regional Youth Conference activities, and worshiped with the Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren. Youth

attending the 2015 District Conference, can expect another great year of fellowship, worship and fun with friends throughout the district. 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 continue to serve the Pacific Southwest District.

Dawna Welch
District Youth Advisor

Report of Standing Committee Delegate

Marlin L. Heckman

The Standing Committee of the 2015 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference met July 8 - 11, 2015 in Tampa, Florida. The new Puerto Rico District was recognized by the seating of its delegate, Jaime Diaz. All 37 delegates from the 24 districts were present, as well as the immediate past moderator, Nancy Sollenberger Heishman. Moderator, David Steele, Moderator-elect, Andy Murray, and Secretary, Jim Beckwith, provided leadership.

During its meetings, Standing Committee dealt with seven items of new business, including four which were carried over from last year. These four had to do with such items as legal and corporate matters related to bylaws of the Church of the Brethren and the Brethren Benefit Trust.

Other new items of business this year included the *Mandate for the 2015-2017 Review and Evaluation Committee*. That committee was elected at this year's conference and will be starting its process in coming months. The Mission and Ministry Board's *Resolution on Christian Minority Communities* was also passed. Extensive debate was engaged in with regard to the *Query: Future District Structure*. Standing Committee decided to recommend that the query be returned, but that a study committee be formed to focus on congregational as well as district and denominational vitality rather than simply on district structure.

The Standing Committee uses tables in its sessions like the tables used in the delegate business meetings.

Nominating Committee Report

Committee Members:

Richard Zapata, Chair & Moderator-Elect, *through July 31, 2015*

Joe Schechter

Jim LeFever

Karen Walters

Ex-Officio Members with vote:

Clerk, Laura Miller

Moderator, Eric Bishop

Board Chair, Marye Martinez

Ex-Officio Member without vote:

District Executive Minister: Russ Matteson

The Nominating Committee worked prayerfully to consider the needs for leadership in the Pacific Southwest District and the individuals whose gifts might be helpful in carrying out our shared ministry. We are grateful for the prayerful consideration that all who were asked gave to our call, and we are pleased to share with the conference the ballot which has the names of those who have responded positively to the call to serve. The committee continues to seek to call a variety of persons from across the district, and to bring together a strong mix of the district to provide leadership.

Respectfully submitted
Richard Zapata, Chair

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 st _____ 2 nd _____
--

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

Name:	Age (optional):
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:	

District Conference Program Committee Report

Committee Members:

Eric Bishop, Moderator, Chair
Richard Zapata, Moderator-Elect
Linda Hart (Pomona Fellowship)
Peggy Redman (Pomona Fellowship)
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
District Executive Minister: Russ Matteson
District Youth Advisor: Dawna Welch
PSW Women's President: Virginia Diaz
died 7/3/2015

On-Site Co-Coordiators:

Mary Kay Ogden (La Verne)
Michael Wolfsen (La Verne)
Karleen Daniels (Modesto)

God calls us to be Christian and God gives us the road map on how to do so successfully. It has been a wonderful experience to work with this year's Program Committee who has embraced the theme focusing on justice and worked to bring you an enriching, informative and entertaining conference. As we gather at Hillcrest, the committee has approached the planning of district

conference as a unique method of service to the body and works to provide a place to bring the body together as one and be whole.

Members of the committee have worked diligently to plan exciting worships that feature our musical guests, Mutual Kumquat, and the denomination's General Secretary, Stan Noffsinger. There has been a good amount of planning and discussion around what it means to accept the call to be Christian. The group has worked at planning informative in-sight sessions with information that attendees can take back to their congregations. It is our hope that you will enjoy every aspect of the conference and that it will leave you enlightened, informed, entertained. But most of all that it will also leave you challenged, fulfilled and spiritually uplifted. This will be a time to fellowship and worship together, as well as a time to reflect and be gracious together. As is written in Matthew 5:9, "Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they are the Children of God."

Have a wonderful 52nd District Conference.

Eric Bishop, Chair

JUSTICE
Called to be Just Christians
PSWD 2015 – Matthew 5:1-12; 25:33-45

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: #2015 John Gingrich (La Verne)

Recording Secretary: Clerk: 2015 Laura Miller (Papago Buttes, AZ)

2017	Roxanne Aguirre (Cornerstone)	
2016	Mike Boeger (Live Oak)	
2015	Brenda Dickson (South Bay)	
2015	Erick Flores (Príncipe de Paz)	Youth / Young Adult
#2016	Lois Frantz (Empire)	
#2015	John Gingrich (La Verne)	
2015	Rayna Harrison (La Verne)	Youth / Young Adult
2015	<i>vacant</i>	Youth / Young Adult
2017	Lillian Hopson (Imperial Heights)	
x2015	Tom Hostetler (La Verne)	
#2015	Mauricio Iacueli (Circle of Peace)	Section Rep. AZ
#2016	Marye Martinez (Modesto)	
2017	Norma Morris (Glendora)	
#2015	Karen Pierson (Living Savior)	Section Rep. Cen.CA
2017	Joel Price (Empire)	Section Rep. N.CA
2017	Cindy Slaughter (Glendale)	Section Rep. S.CA-W
2016	Jim Totzke (Cornerstone) (<i>until May 16, 2015</i>)	
x2016	Nelda Clarke (Tucson, AZ) (<i>starting July 6, 2015</i>)	
2017	Ann Weaver (Waterford)	
2016	Clark Youngblood (Circle of Peace, AZ)	
2016	Rebeca Zapata (Príncipe de Paz)	Section Rep. S.CA-E

Ex-Officio with vote

Moderator: Eric Bishop (La Verne)

Moderator-Elect: Richard Zapata (Príncipe de Paz) (*until July 31, 2015*)

John Price (Empire) (*started July 31, 2015*)

Clerk: x2015 Laura Miller (Papago Buttes, AZ)

Ex-Officio without vote

District Executive Minister: Russ Matteson

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: Eric Bishop (La Verne)

Moderator-Elect: Richard Zapata (Príncipe de Paz) (*until July 31, 2015*)

John Price (Empire) (*started July 31, 2015*)

District Executive Minister (Ex-Officio without vote): Russ Matteson

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

Ministry Chair: Tom Hostetler (La Verne)

Elected Member, Vice Chair: Karen Pierson (Living Savior)

Elected Member: Cindy Slaughter (Glendale)

Elected Member: Clark Youngblood (Circle of Peace)

Appointed Member: Barbara Ober (La Verne)

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: John Gingrich (La Verne)

Elected Member: Brenda Dickson (South Bay)

Elected Member: Norma Morris (Glendora)

Elected Member: Joel Price (Empire)

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

Board of Administration Report

This year has been a pleasure as positive people have shared their leadership towards the betterment of the Pacific Southwest District.

Starting in January, Russ Matteson was chosen by your Policy Board to lead our district. Knowing all too well our many strengths and some weaknesses and after discernment he has embraced the challenge. Not only have the ongoing projects been evaluated, tweaked and expanded, we have new areas to motivate and utilize the creativity of the leadership of the PSWD.

The Policy Board members continue to stay informed and be active in their responsibilities. Besides having a comprehensive mix of folks those that were elected this last year have proven to be willing to work and not just attend meetings in name only. They have joined commissions, committees, and contributed to discussions, made thoughtful suggestions and plans for our future. Our Treasurer, Larry Woodruff; Standing Committee Delegate, Marlin Heckman; Dawna Welch, Youth Advisor; and Joe Vecchio, Administrative Assistant also attend and actively participate in the Policy Board meetings.

Likewise the meetings for: Executive Board, Ministry, Stewardship, Investments, Grant Review, Nominating, Program, and Nurturing and Credentialing are not only productive but demonstrate the positive aspects of successful group dynamics. Meetings have been well organized and all have been eager to share ideas

and tasks. The groups have acknowledged one another for their many contributions, noting their work and individual skills they bring to the table. Please take the time to thoroughly read the reports provided in this booklet. If you have any questions or comments please talk to anyone on the commission or committee. Also, let anyone in leadership know if you would like to pursue the challenge of serving.

I think I would have to give the “Eagerness Award” to the Program Committee. They have been facilitated by Moderator, Eric Bishop. Not only are the meetings the lengthiest but they are filled with a great deal of enthusiastic spirit. Consequently I know this conference has been planned to provide participants with comprehensive insight sessions, meaningful and inspiring worship services, a variety of food choices and plenty of opportunity for fellowship. They are detail people who have given their task much thought and preparation while they make sure they refer to the lists and comments that have been offered and noted at previous conferences.

Finally, with our new slate of folks provided by the nominating committee we will have more great conferences to look forward to.

Marye Martinez, Board Chairperson

Ministry Commission Report

Ministry Commission:

Tom Hostetler, chair
Karen Pierson, vice-chair
Cindy Slaughter
Clark Youngblood
Barbara Ober (*appointed*)

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

Overview of the Work of the Ministry Commission

The Church of the Brethren believes in the priesthood of all believers, meaning that we understand all members to be in ministry. However, we call out certain people for licensing or ordination to the set-apart ministry. We provide multiple tracks for education and training, and we also are serious about supporting and sustaining ministers once they're established in leadership.

Calling, credentialing, nurture, professional growth and oversight of ministers is the privilege and responsibility of each of the districts within the denomination. Each district cares for these matters in their own ways. In the Pacific Southwest District a Ministry Commission is appointed by the Executive Board to whom the Commission is responsible.

These are some of the ways the Ministry Commission has cared for ministry issues in the past, along with some areas where we might develop further work:

A. Calling and Credentialing

"Calling is a naming and encouraging of an individual's God-given gifts for ministry in the church. Because the Church of the Brethren values the process of calling, the journey into credentialed ministry begins with a time of intentional and structured discernment involving an individual, the individual's congregation, the district, and a calling cohort. When engaged faithfully, the processes of intentional and structured discernment are honest endeavors that include a sincere openness to the leading of God." *Annual Conference, Ministerial Leadership, 2014*

1. **Nurturing and Credentialing Committee (NACC)** – For many years the PSWD Ministry Commission has appointed a NACC to assist in the process of calling and credentialing. In 2015 the committee members are: Sara Haldeman-Scarr (Chair), John Katonah, Peggy Redman, Don Shankster, John Price (plus district officers & DE)
Licensing: For candidates considering licensed ministry, the NACC:
 - Oversees the calling and credentialing process;

- Explains the expectations and differences of Commissioned and Ordained ministry to the congregation and the discerner;
- Invites and provides resources for exploration of full range of ministry training and educational programs in consultation with ministry training program leadership.
- Consults with the individual discerner and the congregation to select the members of the calling cohort;
- Provides tools for gifts discernment and Readiness for Ministry, referencing Office of Ministry Paper, "Candidates for Ministry Readiness for Ministry Program."
- Performs background check;
- Continues in conversation with the congregation and the discerner;
- Conducts a pre-licensing interview;
- Works with the discerner to determine the status of call and what next steps might be.
- Makes recommendations to the Ministry Commission about each candidate.

District Ministry Commission may:

- a. approve the individual discerner as a Licensed Minister, affirming the Covenant of Accountability and inviting the discerner to begin or continue training toward either the Commissioned or Ordained Ministry circle;
 - b. invite the discerner to further discernment; or
 - c. affirm the discerner in a vocational call outside credentialed ministry.
- If the District Ministry Commission approves the individual as a Licensed Minister, they then recommend them as such to the congregation. A congregational vote shall be taken to affirm their support of the candidate.
 - Upon affirmation of the congregation by a simple majority vote, the district executive or a representative of the District Ministry Commission will conduct a service of affirmation, acknowledging formally the Licensed Minister's new recognition and the collaborative Covenant of Accountability during a regular congregational worship service. These actions shall be reported to the District Board. Within 30 days after an affirmation service, the appropriate paperwork will be sent to the Office of Ministry.

Ordination or Commissioning: When a Licensed Minister is nearing the completion of training for a particular set-apart ministry; discerns spiritual and formative readiness for ministry together with

spiritual friends, the calling cohort, and the congregation; and pending a specific ministerial call, the NACC will hold an interview with the Licensed Minister, utilizing the Pre-Commissioning or Pre-Ordination Interview Guide, and make a recommendation to the Ministry Commission.

District Ministry Commission may:

- a. affirm a call to the particular circle of ministerial leadership,
 - b. invite an individual to further training, formation, or discernment, or
 - c. affirm a vocational call outside of set-apart ministry.
- When the District Ministry Commission affirms a call to set-apart ministry, they will make a recommendation to the District Board for approval of the call. The District Board shall affirm the call by a simple majority vote.
 - Upon the affirmation of the District Board, the District Ministry Commission shall notify the pastor, board chair, or other appropriate persons in the congregation so that a congregational vote can be taken to affirm the call. A representative of the District Ministry Commission shall be present for the congregational business meeting to take the vote. A congregational affirmation is by 2/3 majority vote.
 - After both the District Board and the congregation have affirmed a call to ministry, the district executive, or their designee, or a representative of the District Ministry Commission will conduct a service of commissioning or ordination during a congregational worship service (regular or special).

An ordained minister from another denomination wishing to serve in ministerial leadership and be credentialed in the Church of the Brethren must enter into an intentional time of discernment and orientation overseen by the District Ministry Commission. (See Ministerial Leadership, 2014)

2. **Recertification** – All licensed, commissioned and ordained ministers are accountable to both the district and the denomination. Annual Conference charges districts with the responsibility of credentialing ministers in the Church of the Brethren, and the denominational Office of Ministry works to resource and support districts in this process. Ministers remain accountable through the five-year credential review process, participating in continuing education, and regular training in ministerial ethics. Ministers serving as pastors of congregation are also responsible for

ensuring that yearly district and denominational statistical report forms are completed and submitted.

Every five years, District Ministry Commissions, in consultation with the Office of Ministry, shall conduct a **credential review process**. At the conclusion of these reviews, credential cards will be renewed for those ministers in good standing. In addition to the regular five-year reviews, District Ministry Commissions may also review credentials at any point. Ministerial credentials may be reviewed at any point under conditions deemed appropriate by a District Ministry Commission.

Reasons for termination of a credential may include the following:

- a. The credentialed person voluntarily chooses to discontinue his or her ministry to enter into another type of calling for which a ministry credential is not designated or desired.
- b. The credentialed person, for reasons other than illness or diminishment due to aging, ceases to be active in the life and work of the church.
- c. The credentialed person cuts himself or herself off from the ministry through some indiscretion so that usefulness for the leadership services designated by a ministerial credential is no longer tenable in the Church of the Brethren. In the event of indiscretion, after due process according to the paper on “Ministerial Ethics - 2008,” the District Board may terminate a credential.
- d. The credentialed person’s commissioning or ordination may be terminated by the District Board if the individual fails to fulfill his or her vows of membership and commissioning or ordination.

The district recognizes a Licensed Minister during the service of affirmation, and this recognition is valid for one year. The **district may annually reaffirm the Licensed Minister** up to 9 times (10 years total)

3. **Accountability** – As the time of exploration draws to a close, the individual discernor works closely with the congregation, district, and calling cohort to create a “**Covenant of Accountability**.” This document outlines the responsibilities of each body during the time of training and formation of a Licensed Minister (see Ministerial Leadership, 2014). In the past, this has included a yearly **Approval for Employment** of licensed ministers, approved by the Ministry Commission.

B. Nurture

Ministers need encouragement for building and

maintaining healthy support networks throughout the life of ministry. Issues range from logistical questions about how to ensure well-trained ministerial leaders to theological questions of what it means to be a credentialed, set-apart minister. In addition to these structural and theological questions, we are also painfully aware that our ministers themselves are struggling mightily. Loneliness and isolation have become a serious issue for ministerial leaders, and this pain needs attention for both the health of our individual brothers and sisters as well as the health of the denomination.

1. Ministry Circles and Cohort Groups – The 2014 Ministerial Leadership polity incorporates a new structure of “Ministry Circles.” Each of the ministry circles is designed to effectively form, equip and support ministers for a particular sort of ministry within the denomination. These ministry circles are intended to enable the church to call out more leadership, to include all in ministry, and to encourage individuals to take seriously the intentional discernment of their call within the gathered body of Christ. (See Ministerial Leadership, 2014)

- a. The “Calling” Circle – Once an individual senses a call, the first step is to enter into a time of Exploration of Call, in partnership with the congregation, the district, and a calling **cohort**. A cohort is special small group of brothers and sisters who commit to walking alongside the individual exploring a call to ministry. They will spend time together in prayer, study, and gifts discernment while offering guidance, encouragement, and reflection on the gifts, qualities, and potential for the ministerial call and leadership.

The discernor and the congregation, in consultation with the District Ministry Commission select the calling cohort, which includes an ordained mentor .

- b. The “Licensed” Circle – a Licensed Minister will continue with a cohort group, including a Church of the Brethren ordained minister as a supervisor, appointed by the District Ministry Commission.
- c. The “Commissioned” and “Ordained” Circles – all ministers will participate in a **mentoring** relationship, approved by the Ministry Commission.

2. Pastors and Spouses Retreat – For many years the PSWD has sponsored and heavily invested in a yearly retreat for all District pastors and their spouses. A setting is chosen where participants may rest, relax, and enjoy silence, recreation and

fellowship. Often outside resource persons have been incorporated, including key note speakers, yoga instructors, spiritual leaders, art instructors, dramatists, bible teachers, therapists, and musicians. These have been well attended and much appreciated by our District pastors and spouses, some of whom consider this their only “vacation” during the year.

C. Professional Growth

1. Continuing Education – Ministers credentialed in the Church of the Brethren are also responsible for participating in lifelong learning. The Church of the Brethren Office of Ministry provides Annual Conference Guidelines for Continuing Education, and all ministers shall abide by these guidelines.

A plan for continuing education for each minister should be encouraged, promoted and provided. We assist with financial support where possible by establishing continuing education accounts in the annual budgets, or by creating special reserve funds, for pastors engaged in continuing education. In an effort to assist our ministers in receiving continued education, the Ministry Commission offers training workshops and seminars, such as the **Pre-Conference Ministerial Workshop**.

2. Credentialed ministers are also required to participate in an official denominational **ethics training course** every five years. The Ministerial Ethics paper outlines this requirement.

3. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) – A CEU is equal to ten (10) contact hours of work with an accredited institution. An accredited institution, however, does not necessarily guarantee quality education that is compatible with the values and heritage of the Church of the Brethren. Therefore, it is imperative that the pastor consult with the appropriate leaders of the congregation and District Executive staff as continuing education plans are developed. A full description of requirements is seen in the Annual Conference paper “Guidelines for Continuing Education,” 2002.

A pastoral leader is expected to complete work in at least five (5) of the eight (8) focus areas listed below. The course work should be planned in such a way that five focus areas are covered during the five-year interval between ordination reviews. This will give the pastoral leader a minimum of five (5) CEUs (50 contact hours) during the stated period. Continuing education for part-time and bi-vocational pastors will need to take into account the pastoral/congregational agreement and be prorated to satisfy the agreement.

CEU Focus Areas

1. Biblical Studies
2. Spiritual Hardiness
3. Pastoral Leadership
4. Preaching and Worship
5. Evangelism and Church Growth
6. Pastoral Care
7. Special Ministry Areas
8. General Enrichment

The pastor should provide a copy of a written report to the congregation (including copies of CEU certificates) and to the District Office for placement in the ministerial file.

4. Training – All licensed ministers work toward, and all other ministers must have completed one of the following approved educational programs:

- The Master of Divinity degree from Bethany Theological Seminary or another institution accredited by the Association of Theological Schools. The Ministry Commission offers **scholarships to PSWD students** who attend Bethany. They receive \$9,000 total. After graduation (January 1 of the following year) they pay off this amount through 3 years of service. (1/3 each year) If they go into secular service (or non-Brethren), then it converts into a six year, no interest loan that is paid monthly.
- The Training in Ministry (TRIM) program through the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership provides an alternative for those who find it impossible or impractical to complete a Master of Divinity degree. It also offers appropriate ministry training to supplement the education of those who may hold degrees in higher education other than those named here. The PSWD Ministry Commission gives direction to students enrolled in TRIM through an appointed **TRIM Coordinator**, and pays 75% of all costs for students.
- The Academy Certified Training Systems (ACTS) programs, district or regional programs certified by the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership, provide still another alternative training track. The Ministry Commission also has been given permission to operate a training program similar to ACTS for Spanish speaking students called SeBAH. This program also has a **SeBAH Coordinator**, appointed by the Commission and pays 75% of all costs for students.
- Persons holding other degrees of higher education (e.g. a B.A. in Ministry, an MA in Theology, a PhD in Education) may complete

an M.Div. through Bethany's residential or distance programs or supplement their degree with the appropriate courses from the TRIM program.

D. Oversight

Annual Conference charges district boards with the authority and responsibility for the credentialing of ministerial leadership for the Church of the Brethren. The District Executive is indispensable for the implementation of any polity of ministerial leadership, and plays a vital role in ministerial relations in the PSWD. The **District Executive is invited to report** any need, opportunity or concern for the whole work of ministry at each meeting of the Ministry Commission for mutual discernment, support and guidance.

The 2014 “**Ministerial Leadership**” is the present polity, and the PSWD intends to be in conversation to implement this policy within the framework of our present structure.

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

NACC: Nurturing & Credentialing Committee:

2018 Sara Haldeman-Scarr, Chair
x2015 Peggy Redman
2016 Don Shankster
2017 John Price
2018 John Katonah

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

We had a fantastic year of exciting conversation and meaningful ministry. The spring meeting was wonderful as we talked about the future of the PSWD set apart ministry under the new Ministry Paper: so much to learn, so much to think about, so much to appreciate. We are looking forward to the beginning of new discernment cohort groups as well as the process of the other ministry circles. Even now congregations are beginning to step into the new process with individuals interested in exploring their call to the set apart ministry within the PSWD. The afternoon of the spring meeting included and ordination interview for Jennifer K. Scarr. The interview committee heard of her faith, her passion for peace and justice ministries, and her dreams for ministry. The NACC joyfully recommended her for ordination in the set apart ministry to the District

Ministry Commission. (A personal note of privilege: It is good to report that Jennifer has received a call to the Trotwood Church of the Brethren in Dayton, Ohio and was ordained and installed there on July 26th.)

The October meeting has not yet occurred at the writing of this report. We are looking forward to a very busy time together as the NACC group gathers for worship, ordination interviews, licensed minister interviews, Licensed Minister review, Mentor/Mentee reports and being about the credentialing ministry of the PSWD. The members of the committee (listed above) are all thankful for your continued prayer support. May God continue to bless each member with the wisdom, courage, and strength to be about this valued ministry of the district.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Haldeman-Scarr, NACC Chair

TRIM: Training in Ministry

SeBAH: Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispano *Hispanic Anabaptist Seminary*

It is a pleasure to report the progress of PSWD's Training in Ministry students and their counter parts, Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispano students for the 2014-2015 year. 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. Two of our current students are near completion and should be TRIM certified within a year's time. 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's new Coordinator of TRIM and EFSM ministry is Carrie Eikler who resides in Richmond, IN. This year our denomination has looked at timelines for TRIM students and have revised expectations that encourage students to complete their course work within a five year period. This is being guided by the Ministry Commission. Those students who are currently in the program and have already exceeded the five years are being made aware of their need to complete their TRIM requirements as soon as possible with the help of our District leadership.

Our SeBAH students continue to take their required courses. 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 anyone is interested in pursuing one of these programs please contact our District through the main office; (909) 392-4049 or FrontDesk@pswdcob.org or Tom Hostetler / Ministry Commission THostetler@livingathillcrest.org or Jim Martinez / TRIM, SeBAH Coordinator 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 of your church or the District work this may be where the spirit is moving you.

Jim Martinez
District Coordinator for TRIM & SeBAH

Mentor Overseer

We have fourteen people in the PSWD licensing program. It amazes me that our little district can have so many wonderful, dedicated people seeking ministry. Many as a second career. The Ministry Commission along with the Nurturing and Credentialing Committee oversees this program. My task is to find Mentors for our Licensed Ministers. Then to help if there are difficulties or problems. Things have been running smoothly. We are beginning to have people finish their education and move on to being Ordained. What a joy this is. Many stay within our district to serve. Some find their calling outside our district. I am confident that where ever they go they will serve well, bringing glory to our Lord and help to their congregations. The PSWD and delegates should be very pleased that the PSWD has such a vital and important program to provide leadership within the larger Denomination. What a blessing!

Yours most sincerely,
John E. Price, Mentor Overseer

Stewards Commission Report

Stewards Commission:

Mike Boeger, chair
John Gingrich, vice-chair
Brenda Dickson
Norma Morris
Joel Price

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

The Stewards Commission continues to support the PSWD and its local churches. The number and amount of grants has been reduced due to budget restraints. Our PSWD loans to our local congregations have increased and all will return 5% interest to the PSWD.

At the end of June 2015 our net worth is approximately 5 million, but continues to decrease,

as expenses are far greater than income. Please review the projections into the future.

All our decisions are approved by the Executive Board, with input from District Staff and other committees. Our C.P.A. showed no variances from normal accounting practices (p.25). We will have another review this year.

We thank those who have donated their time and judgement: the Grant Review Committee, the Investment Committee, and Ralph Carlton who keeps track of cash disbursements.

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

Grant Review Committee Report

Grant Review Committee (GRC):

Jim Martinez, Chair
Karin Nelson
Elizabeth Rowan
Mary Jo Swartz
Stephan Scott (through August 2015)

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

- Reduction in amount recommended for grants from \$332,107 for the 2014 year to \$96,711 for the 2015 year.
- Welcome new GRC member Stephan Scott of Imperial Heights.
- The committee kept in mind that the amount the District has in reserves is less each year.
- We looked at churches where grants have been successful and terminated future grant recommendations where grants have not shown growth or any sign of success.

- We review each church's quarterly reports and send feedback, both positive acknowledgments and questions of concern.
- PSWD has three active grants for the 2015 year: Circle of Peace, Glendale and San Diego. \$109,000 has been approved for 2016.
- All three grant congregations have been or are in the process of being trained in Relational Evangelism which they use as a focus in their grant plans to encourage church growth and to strengthen current members focus on how to approach growth and how to reach out to their communities by defining what their church is all about.

Respectfully submitted
Jim Martinez
Chair: Grant Review Committee

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REVIEW REPORT

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

We have reviewed the accompanying statement of financial position of **Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren**, a nonprofit organization, as of December 31, 2014, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the year then ended and the related notes to the financial statements. A review includes primarily applying analytical procedure to management's financial data and making inquiries of the Organization's management. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements as a whole. Accordingly we do not express such an opinion.

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 and for designing, implementing, and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements.

Our responsibility is to conduct the review in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require us to perform procedures to obtain limited assurance that there are no material modifications that should be made to the financial statements. We believe that the results of our procedures provide a reasonable basis for our report.

Based on our review we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2013 were audited by us, and we expressed an unmodified opinion on them in our report dated July 23, 2014, but we have not performed any auditing procedures since that date.

Suchan & Associates

**Suchan & Associates
An Accountancy Corporation**

**Ontario, California
July 17, 2015**

Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren
Giving to the District by Congregations, Individuals and Groups
January 1 to December 31, 2014

Church ID #	Name of Church	General Fund	*Per Capita Giving	*2014 Membership
32-010	Bakersfield	\$0	\$0.00	94
32-145	Central Evangelical (Los Angeles)	\$0	??	<i>Over a year old</i>
32-025	Church of the Living Savior (McFarland)	\$1,155	??	<i>Over a year old</i>
32-028	Circle of Peace (Peoria, AZ)	\$4,200	\$53.16	79
32-270	Cornerstone Community (Reedley)	\$0	\$0.00	36
32-040	Empire	\$500	\$7.25	69
32-070	Glendale	\$900	\$19.15	47
32-080	Glendora	\$500	\$17.24	29
32-083	Iglesia de Cristo Genesis (Los Angeles)	\$250	\$4.03	62
32-037	Iglesia de Cristo Sion (Pomona)	\$750	\$9.74	77
32-150	Imperial Heights (Los Angeles)	\$200	\$3.17	63
32-090	Laton	\$0	??	<i>Over a year old</i>
32-100	La Verne	\$10,000	\$19.08	524
32-120	Live Oak	\$2,120	\$33.65	63
32-190	Modesto	\$2,000	\$8.81	227
32-193	New Harvest (Lindsay)	\$100	\$1.82	55
32-205	Papago Buttes (AZ)	\$300	\$5.36	56
32-210	Paradise Community	\$0	??	<i>Over a year old</i>
32-220	Pasadena	\$500	\$29.41	17
32-250	Pomona Fellowship	\$1,850	\$34.26	54
32-290	Prince of Peace (Sacramento)	\$0	\$0.00	91
32-322	Príncipe de Paz (Santa Ana) <i>received in 2015 for 2014</i>	\$1,800	??	<i>Over a year old</i>
32-280	Restoration L.A.	\$0	??	<i>Over a year old</i>
32-300	San Diego First	\$225	\$4.41	51
32-330	South Bay (Redondo Beach)	\$500	??	<i>Over a year old</i>
32-340	Tucson	\$600	\$23.08	26
32-350	Waterford	\$400	\$4.21	95
Sub-Total		\$28,850	\$16.60	1738

	New Life Giving	\$110
	Nigerian Crisis Fund at District Conference	\$433
	Individual Giving	\$1,526
Sub-Total		\$2,069

GRAND TOTAL \$30,919

** The above per-capita calculation is based on the 2014 Statistical Information report due 3/16/15 listing membership on 12/31/14.*

If the report was not received by the printing date, membership is listed as "over a year old."

Note: The district is assessed 65¢ per church member by Annual Conference each year. Please keep your membership number up to date.



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 14-15 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

Ecumenical Council Representatives

Arizona Ecumenical Council: Don Shankster (Papago Buttes)

Judicatory Representative to all Ecumenical Councils: Russ Matteson, District Executive Minister

District Disaster Response Coordinator

Network Co-Chairs: Lyndall & Lois Frantz (Empire)

Margaret Carl Trust Fund Advisory Committee

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

Administrator: Marlin Heckman, Trustee (La Verne)

Advisory Committee Members:

2015 Larry Woodruff (La Verne)

2016 Joe Schechter (La Verne)

2017 Richard Hart (Pomona Fellowship)

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)

#2015 Deb Merrifield-Carothers (Circle of Peace)

#2016 Richard Hart (Pomona Fellowship)

x2017 Janet Ober Lambert (La Verne)

2018 Karen Pierson (Living Savior)

2019 Bob Morris (Glendora)

Alternates for District Executive Minister:

#2016 Richard Hart (Pomona Fellowship)

Ex-Officio: (with vote), Ministry Chair

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



UNIVERSITY OF LA VERNE

INTERFAITH ENGAGEMENT

In September, White House officials named La Verne a recipient of the 2014 President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, designated as a top 5 institution in the category of interfaith and community service. Programs that set La Verne apart from other institutions include Freshman La Verne Experience's Community Engagement Day, which introduces students to the value of volunteerism. Students have contributed thousands of hours of service to community groups that address issues such as hunger, homelessness and environmental conservation.

SUMMER SERVICE

For Summer Service, La Verne expanding our partnerships with new faith and community agencies, including New Community Foundation Project in Harrisonburg, VA; the Dolores Huerta Foundation in Bakersfield, CA; and the Pomona Boys and Girls Club, where five of our students helped lead empowerment programs. La Verne students continued to be placed at Brethren Camps Myrtlewood and Koinonia, as well as at Camp Oakes, a YMCA site. Others served faith communities such as the La Verne Church of the Brethren; the Baha'i Community of Rancho Cucamonga, CA; and Clergy and Laity for Economic Justice in Los Angeles (CLUE-LA). La Verne alumna and Summer Service participant Anna Roy '02 recalls that "Summer Service introduced me to again what is good in life: nature, peace, and service to others."

CULTIVATING DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVITY

La Verne celebrated the 10th anniversaries of two programs this year. The Family Literacy and Math Conference continues to fulfill Professor of Education Marga Madhuri's vision of having an event for local families whose children could be the first to go to college. Alumni returned to help celebrate the decade mark of the REACH Summer Business Camp, which gives underserved and underrepresented high school students the opportunity to live on campus while learning to create and manage a small business.



2015 NEWMAN CIVIC FELLOW

A love for community and a passion for social justice led Abril Camarena to new heights as a young activist at La, including being named a Newman Civic Fellow by Campus Compact. “She strongly believes in social justice, and has demonstrated this through her activism on and off campus. Her activism can be seen through organizing other students on campus to protest for social justice, mentoring high school students, attending city hall meetings, and participating in interfaith events. I am immensely proud of her,” said President Devorah Lieberman, who nominated Camarena.

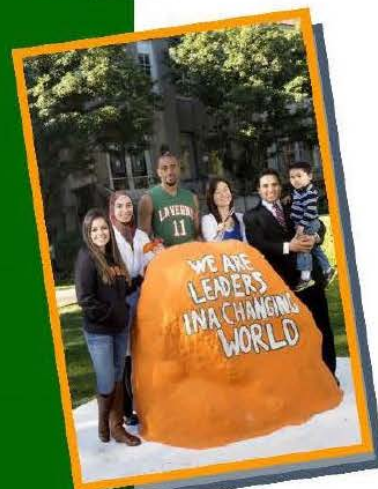
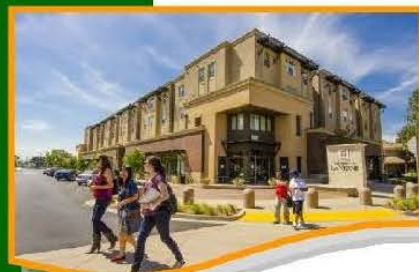
A first-generation college student, Camarena was instrumental in leading a demonstration on campus that created awareness about the disappearance of 43 college students in Mexico last year. Camarena plans to continue her work throughout the rest of her time at LA Verne and beyond by striving for social change through community engagement and by helping troubled juveniles.

ACUI PRESIDENT OF THE YEAR

The Association of College Unions International named University of La Verne President Devorah Lieberman “President of the Year” at its annual conference in April. Presidents are selected based on their involvement in student activities, college unification, participation outside administrative duties and encouragement of others to increase involvement. Dr. Peggy Redman, Emeritus Professor of Education, said in her nomination letter that “She attends every student event possible, from football games, to plays, to concerts, to alumni events near and far, where she is always in the heart of the conversation.” Redman added, “She has the unique ability to connect with people on a one-to-one basis, a gift that is significant in advancing the college union idea. She truly understands the meaning of building community.”

20% off tuition for all Brethren students in their first year

Julia Wheeler • 909-448-4686 • wheeler@laverne.edu



HILLCREST

A REMARKABLE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY®



2705 Mountain View Drive, La Verne, California 91750-4313

(909) 593-4917

MISSION STATEMENT

To serve and enrich the lives of older persons through quality services and facilities.

VISION STATEMENT

Remarkable Every Day!

CORE VALUES

Integrity – Respect – Service—Stewardship - Teamwork

HILLCREST HIGHLIGHTS AT A GLANCE

Hillcrest residents live days filled with accomplishments, fun-filled activities and community involvement. Listed are some of the highlights of this past year that have brought our mission and vision statements to life:

- Census stabilized at 388 residents.
- Entrance Fees received for residents with a continuing care contract were \$6,667,835, with a projected additional \$2,040,536 by June 30, 2015.
- A luncheon was held to honor major donors and Hillcrest benefactors for their generous giving to Hillcrest
- Hillcrest has four residents who are over 100 years of age: Kathryn Curtis, Bertha Draayom, Maxine Dull, and Mary Hunter.
- Woods Assisted Living has been remodeled to make rooms more aesthetically pleasing and been renamed as Cedar Court.
- Hillcrest loves its pets and their owners. Therefore, in addition to a pet park, pet services are made available to pets and their owners through quarterly training classes with a certified dog trainer.
- The Meeting House at Hillcrest continues to be the venue of choice for Hillcrest residents and families, associates, and the local community for special events.
- The Cultural Arts Society of La Verne led by residents, Hillcrest associates, and community leaders continue their mission to encourage, promote, and provide access to the arts.

NOTEABLE HONORS RECEIVED BY HILLCREST

Matthew Neeley, President and Chief Executive Officer, received the "Mentor of the Year" Award from Leading Age of California at its annual conference in Monterey, May 4, 2015.

HILLCREST OPERATING BUDGET

Fiscal Budget 2014/15: \$22,323,762 (budget)
Fiscal Budget 2015/2016: \$23,795,446 (proposed)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee: Jack Meek, Chair; Kathy Duncan, Vice Chair; Karin Heckman Nelson, Treasurer; Tim Hepburn, Secretary; Stephen Morgan, Past Chair

Directors: Don Fancher, Bill Gray, Roger Hanawalt, Howard Hawkins, James Irwin, Barbara Johnson, Joan Rosenbrock, Emmett Terrell, Joanne Wagoner

Ex-Officio with vote: Matthew Neeley, President and Chief Executive Officer; Russ Matteson, District Executive Minister

FUNDRAISING NEWS

- Total funds raise in fiscal year ending June 30, 2014: \$586,243.
- The 2015 Good Samaritan Dinner raised over \$86,400 for the Good Samaritan Fund.
- The Resident Fundraising Committee raised over \$10,000 for Hillcrest's entry monument and is currently raising funds for a state-of-the-art sound system upgrade in our Meeting House.

INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

- New and innovative programs have been introduced to residents at Woods Health Services and Southwoods Lodge. In particular, Music and Memory and Timeslips.
- "Remarkable Every Day!" Program recognizes residents and associates for exemplary service.
- Annual Hillcrest Health and Wellness Fair attended by over 300 residents and community members.
- Life Enrichment Series programs led by experts in the areas of body, mind, spirit, environment, emotions, relationships, and pursuits.
- Complete Wellness/Fitness Program at the Aquatic and Fitness Center.

Residents work hard at helping others, including those less fortunate at Hillcrest. The Thrift Shop, Gift Shop, Wood Shop, and Country Fair require hours of volunteer time, but provide needed funds to help those residents who outlive their financial resources. The following has been raised this fiscal year:

Thrift Shop	\$41,371.00
Gift Shop	\$ 9,500.00
Wood Shop	\$ 1,500.00
Country Fair	\$19,172.00

HILLCREST

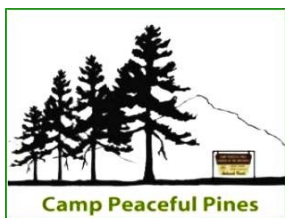
REMARKABLE FOR 70 YEARS!



DSS Certificate of Authority #69

DSS: #191501662

DHS #950000005



About Camp Peaceful Pines

Camp Peaceful Pines continues as an affiliated summer camping site of the PSWD of the Church of the Brethren. It has been in operation for over 60 years in the heart of the Sierra Nevada mountains and the Carson Iceberg Wilderness. Campers from Junior to Senior Highs, Families, Discovery campers and Women and Men Retreaters can find a Christian camping experience that is just right for them.



Youthful Campers

Although the Camp is rustic and only open 3 months of the year due to severe weather in the winter and road closures, it is cozy and inviting with a multitude of projects going on at any given time. 2014 saw the completion of the second fully accessible cabin that provides the camping experience



Cabin Building

to the elderly and the physically challenged individuals. In the summer of 2015, a second tent cabin will be renovated for more stability and convenience.

Volunteer superintendents, directors, counselors, construction workers, day laborers, families and friends all contribute to make Camp Peaceful Pines a viable spot for enjoying the great outdoors and taking time for spiritual reflection and growth. A number of churches and groups donate annually to the Camp budget which helps with ongoing costs of Forest Service fees, propane and fuel costs, upkeep and maintenance of the facility, leadership stipends and upgrades to cabins and amenities.



Discovery Campers



More information about specific camps and dates can be found on line at www.camppeacefulpines.org

Thank you for your continued support of the Outdoor Ministries program at Camp Peaceful Pines.

Peggy Hoover, Board Chair

Camp Peaceful Pines

2301 Woodland Ave.

Modesto, CA 95358

www.camppeacefulpines.org

Via Highway 108 on Sonora Pass at 6,000 feet



Family Camp



Greetings to the moderator, delegates, and members of the Pacific Southwest District from Brethren Benefit Trust. We are here to serve you as we work faithfully on your behalf.

Building financial security.

Bettering the World.

Together.

This is the vision for the ministries of Church of the Brethren Benefit Trust, which has been entrusted by Annual Conference to provide employee benefits, asset management services, deferred gift administration, and stewardship of educational resources to Brethren employees, organizations, and members. The staff strives to continually improve communications and conditions for our members. For example, Brethren Foundation Inc., in 2014, took steps to separate organizational client assets from the obligations and liabilities of its deferred gift program. Also in 2014, when we became aware of regulatory and compliance issues that would impact our members and clients, we formed BBT Alert, an email alert system that would allow us to funnel to our members information we receive on important benefits-related issues.

BBT serves nearly 5,000 people and organizations nationwide, but there's more to us than just our ministries. The Board and staff have been charged by Annual Conference with trying to help people and organizations be the best stewards of their financial resources. To that end, BBT provides a number of seminars and workshops upon request, manages a benevolence fund for pastors and congregational and district church workers, and manage investments in a manner that reflects denominational values. With this approach, time and time again, we have proven that it is possible to invest funds in the secular marketplace with a Brethren perspective and still outperform industry benchmarks.

That fact is a great testament to the strength of our denomination's values, and to the vision that our predecessors had at establishing a financial-based ministry that could help support and educate our employees with basic financial services so that they could be free to serve God through work within the Church of the Brethren.

Investments

While we acknowledge that most investment funds lagged their benchmarks, we would note that our manager selection process favors investment managers that focus on holding high quality portfolios. This characteristic will often cause performance to lag the benchmark during an extended up market, which we have enjoyed since 2009. However, over the long term our privately managed funds generally beat their benchmarks. It should be noted that managers are evaluated over a rolling five-year time period, and are expected to exceed certain performance standards.

Church of the Brethren Pension Plan

Church of the Brethren Pension Plans serves more than 4,700 current and former employees of congregations and denominational organizations. In 2014, approximately 1,660 annuitants received a monthly benefit averaging \$616 in the form of a check or direct deposit — a monthly distribution of approximately \$1.1 million.

Brethren Pension Plan's record keeper underwent a name change during the year, from Great-West Retirement Services to Empower Retirement. The firm continues to provide the same powerful online tools and customer service.

Church Worker's 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 2014, this program distributed \$143,939 to 42 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 for more information.

While we acknowledge that the regulatory environment remains complex and unclear with regard to insurance, we remain committed to exploring new ways to fulfill our Annual Conference mandate of providing useful insurance products for pastors, church members, agencies, retirement communities, and affiliated organizations within our denomination.

Brethren Foundation Inc. — BFI

Assets under BFI management at the end of 2014 were \$6,464,093, a decrease of \$382,984 (5.6 percent) from the \$6,847,077 in total assets under management on Dec. 31, 2013. At the end of 2014, BFI was managing assets for nearly 200 deferred gift donors.

In 2014, Brethren Foundation Inc. launched a separate 501(c)(3) corporation, to protect all organizational client assets from the business risk of its deferred gift program. This new corporation, Brethren Foundation Funds Inc., is described below.

Brethren Foundation Funds Inc. — BFFI

Brethren Foundation Funds Inc. was launched on Nov. 3, 2014, to manage all organizational client assets and to separate those assets from the business risk of BFI and its deferred gift program. As of Dec. 31, 2014, BFFI assets under management for nearly 200 organizational clients were an all-time year-end high of \$171,452,702, an increase of \$3,851,507 (2.3 percent) over the total under management on Dec. 31, 2013, of \$167,601,195.

BFFI clients contributed \$8,966,479 to BFFI assets under management in 2014 and withdrew \$13,676,600.

Socially Responsible Investing

In 2014, the Board and staff of BBT continued their work with socially responsible investing. Where possible, investments managed for members, clients, and donors are done in a socially responsible manner that is in concert with Church of the Brethren Annual Conference statements. In fourth quarter 2014, BBT President Nevin Dulabaum reached out to church members through BBT's *Benefit News* newsletter with his message of how a social concern can become a value that BBT screens out from its investments, reminding them that there is a process of proper discernment when seeking to have a new investment screen added.

Workshops

BBT is committed to educating members of the denomination about retirement readiness, stewardship, long-term care, financial wellness, and other relevant topics. In 2014, BBT provided over 40 workshops, at no cost, to employer groups, denominational gatherings, and congregations. This year we've added six new sessions, including "Socially Responsible Investing: What Where and How?" and "The Trouble with Taxes for Your Church's Clergy and Lay Employees." Visit brethrenbenefittrust.org/workshops for more information about BBT's educational offerings.

Striving to Better Serve You

We are constantly asking ourselves how we can better fulfill our Annual Conference mandate of serving the members, clients, and donors of the Church of the Brethren. Should we examine launching a new medical plan for pastors, in light of the changes and challenges of healthcare insurance provided by the Affordable Care Act? Should we provide asset allocation service, or perhaps even financial planning services, to our members and to perhaps all Brethren members? Should we allow loans and Roth contributions within the Brethren Pension Plan? Should we consider changing Brethren Pension Plan to allow Brethren-owned employer groups to participate? How can we adapt to the changing demographics to be relevant in the life of the church for years to come?

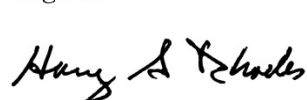
We will be directed by adhering to our purpose statement — the purpose of Church of the Brethren Benefit Trust is to support a mutual ministry of financial services among members, employees, and affiliated agencies of the Church of the Brethren, and other people and groups that share the values of the Church of the Brethren.

Thus, as we look ahead to the future, we return to the vision statement that we believe will be at the root of BBT fulfilling its Annual Conference mandate to serve —

Building financial security.

Bettering the World.

Together.



Harry Rhodes, Board Chairman



Nevin Dulabaum, President



Dear Delegates and Friends in the Pacific Southwest district,

For three hundred years the Church of the Brethren has opposed war and violence, based on our conviction that Christ offers all people a new chance for peace and reconciliation. For three hundred years, we have been a Historic Peace Church. **On Earth Peace seeks to support our denomination, in our time, to become a *Living Peace Church*.** Our 2015 theme is "Living into Scripture, Today!" Our focus text for 2015 comes from Luke 4:

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.
... "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

On Earth Peace lives into scripture today as a community of practice within the Church of the Brethren, Christianity, and the World. We proclaim and seek to live out of the conviction that justice, mercy, truth and reconciliation are inseparable, and that they are the root of God's Shalom and Christ's Peace (Psalm 85:10-13).

Some may be called to stand with the oppressed, others may be called to build bridges, and so on. Yet in our diversity we share a common understanding that all must work together for faithful, nonviolent, positive peace and healthy conflict; we must risk, be vulnerable, and extend grace. It's messy, exhausting and enlivening work that requires us to care for one other.

We are constantly looking for the next leaders to join us and for ways to institutionalize these perspectives wherever we are working. We invite you to make On Earth Peace your community of practice for Christ-centered justice, peace, reconciliation, and nonviolence.

Here are some specific On Earth Peace initiatives you may find useful in your congregational ministries:

- **Living Peace Church** – Scripturally-based discernment guide available for claiming your call to peacemaking as a congregation
- **Ministry of Reconciliation** -- Support for district Shalom Teams, help for congregations that are struggling, and equipping people to engage conflict in faithful, healthy ways
- **Stop Recruiting Kids** – Challenging the military recruitment of minors
- **Peace Retreats for Youth** – District and congregational events to help youth grow in discipleship
- **Agape-Satyagraha Youth Leadership Training in Conflict and Nonviolence** – Now in 6 sites around the country!

- **Nonviolence and organizing support** – Training/consultation to help communities address injustice and violence
- **(NEW) Racial Justice organizing** – connecting with those interested in racial justice organizing and Black Lives Matter, in solidarity with communities of color
- **(NEW) Internship Program** – paid internships for young adults offering the opportunity to significantly contribute to meaningful work for peace and justice

The staff and board thank all of you who have supported the peacebuilding ministries of On Earth Peace with your amazing generosity, and we ask you to prayerfully consider how you can strengthen your investment in this work of the gospel of peace and reconciliation.

On Earth Peace is an independent 501c3 agency and receives no regular funding from the Church of the Brethren, Inc.

Thanks to the commitment and generosity of our individual, congregational, and foundation supporters, On Earth Peace has been able to expand our community of practice, where we help each other use the tools of active nonviolence and conflict transformation to transform a world of violence, oppression, and war into a beloved community of justice and peace.

Your gifts support the ability of On Earth Peace to serve all those who call on us with a “no one left behind” commitment to program delivery. Over 80% of all our funds come from individual and congregational giving.

The following congregations in your district made donations to support On Earth Peace’s ministries in 2014. If your congregation would like to learn more about On Earth Peace as it considers supporting our work through its budget, please contact us, so a representative can visit and share more.

Yours in Christ’s peace,



Bill Scheurer

Join us on Facebook:



Thank you to these congregations for financial support in 2014:

- Bakersfield
- Circle of Peace
- Glendale
- La Verne
- Modesto
- Papago
- Pasadena
- Pomona
- Fellowship
- San Diego First

Thank you to these program partners in 2014:

La Verne, Modesto, and San Diego First participated in Peace Day (Sept 21)

Modesto hosted an Agape-Satyagraha training

If a donor or program partner should be listed and is missing, please contact us at oep@OnEarthPeace.org.



Bethany Theological Seminary has been named to the 2015 class of

*“The selected seminaries and divinity schools have demonstrated great **innovation in theological education**, in integration with classical approaches for learning.”*

SEMINARIES
that **CHANGE** the **WORLD**

— CENTER FOR FAITH AND SERVICE, MCCORMICK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

At Bethany, “innovation in theological education” means

- ❑ Addressing the economic well-being of students with new programming to improve financial literacy, reduce debt, and develop good personal and financial stewardship;
- ❑ offering timely new courses for today, including Ministry across Generations, Just Peace: An Ecumenical Call, and Ecological Theology and Christian Responsibility;
- ❑ making theological education more accessible by offering low-rent housing, classroom technology that brings in distance students, and financial aid that covers up to 100 percent of tuition after the base fee;
- ❑ strengthening the master of arts program with a first-year MA Formation Seminar, choice of thesis or portfolio, and two required courses in ministry studies;
- ❑ enhancing the curriculum to meet needs of current students through a reconciliation studies program, seven areas in which MDiv students can focus ministry studies, and twelve areas in which all student can focus their electives.

2014-15 at Bethany

- Dr. Nate Inglis, a member of Olympic View Church of the Brethren, was hired as assistant professor of theological studies, to begin July 1, 2015.
- The pilot project for the new technology classroom was the course New Testament Exegesis: Gospel of Matthew, taught by Dan Ulrich.
- Our faculty presented more than 160 sermons, workshops, and other group presentations. As professionals in their fields, they also participated in national and international guilds and conferences, speaking in Jamaica, London, South Africa, and Vienna.
- The Institute for Ministry with Youth and Young Adults hosted more than sixty-five people at the first Young Adult Forum—Anabaptism, the Next Generation.
- The Bethany Neighborhood, reduced-cost community housing for students, was dedicated, including the naming of Patterson House for longtime Bethany supporters Ivan and Clara Patterson.
- We celebrated the success of the Reimagining Ministries campaign with a total of \$6.6 million raised, surpassing the original goal by 12 percent.
- Explore Your Call, an annual discernment event for high school students, was held in Fort Collins, Colorado, in conjunction with NYC.
- Eighteen students graduated in May, the second largest class in seventeen years.

Bethany and the Pacific Southwest District: Partners in Education, 2014–15

- ✦ Students in graduate programs: 4 ✦ Students in the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership: 6
- ✦ Students in SeBAH-CoB: 6 ✦ Financial support: \$22,135 from your district and congregations

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.



Church of the Brethren

Greetings to attendees of the Pacific Southwest District Conference:

It is hard to imagine that 12 years have passed since you received the first letter from me as Church of the Brethren General Secretary. So much has happened, and the time has passed so quickly. For this year's letter, I have chosen to reflect on where we have been together over the past 12 years.

It has not been an easy time. We have seen wars, violence, disasters, and widening societal gaps. The wealthy get richer, while the poor are poorer and have increased in number. Few people live truly peacefully. Gun violence rages in our cities, along county highways, and in many places around the world. It would be quite easy to wonder whether the church has made any difference at all.

I love the title of R. Jan and Roma Jo Thompson's book on the history of the Brethren Service Center: *Beyond Our Means*. It reminds us of what this church has accomplished over the past 300 years, with emphasis on the last century. I think the Thompsons also predicted the unexpected: that this Church of the Brethren community, in spite of our size, would continue to affect global issues. Indeed, although our numbers do not reflect what we consider growth in numerical terms, our presence in and service to the world has been significant.

From 2003 to the present the Church of the Brethren has:

- produced and aired a nationally televised Christmas Eve Service, sharing across the nation some of the best elements of Brethren life, thought, and worship;
- celebrated the 300th Anniversary of the founding of our church, along with our sisters and brothers from the Old German Baptist Brethren Church, Brethren Church, Dunkard Brethren Church, Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, and Conservative Grace Brethren Churches International;
- co-published two very successful Sunday School curricula (*Gather 'Round* and *Shine*) in cooperation with the Mennonites;
- seen international growth of the Church of the Brethren with new congregations in the United States, Haiti, Spain, Democratic Republic of Congo (not yet recognized by Annual Conference), India, and the Dominican Republic;
- responded to extreme disasters in Southeast Asia, Haiti, New Orleans, and Nigeria with an amazing level of support, walking alongside leaders in those communities as they served their neighbors in a manner consistent with their context of living;
- sponsored gatherings of the Historic Peace Churches on the continents of Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Americas, where participants considered the contemporary implications for people who follow Jesus' teachings of peace and reconciliation amidst growing violence;

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- led the Together Conversations in our districts and congregations, to discern what it means to be the church today;
- launched the Seminario Biblico Anabautista Hispano (SeBAH-CoB) educational program, a Spanish-language ministry training program of the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership;
- developed the Vital Ministry Journey for congregations, led by staff of Congregational Life Ministries to empower and encourage congregations to envision what God wants to emerge through them;
- spoken to the world about war, weaponry, slavery, torture, minority oppression, racism, forbearance, bullying, sanctions, and much more through board and Annual Conference resolutions and statements, all of which were founded on our understandings of Jesus' teachings;
- spoken to world leaders on important issues, hopeful that we might find alternative paths to resolving conflicts;
- continued National Youth Conference and National Older Adult Conference, as well as National Junior High Conference, National Young Adult Conference, Christian Citizenship Seminars, Ministry Summer Service, and domestic and international work camps;
- reinvigorated the voice and atmosphere of Annual Conference by conducting business around round tables;
- Welcomed the caring ministries of the Association of Brethren Caregivers (ABC) into the Congregational Life Ministries following the merger of ABC and the General Board to form the Church of the Brethren, Inc.

The list goes on and on. I do not believe that the size of the Church of the Brethren is the best measure of our witness. Rather, our true witness is reflected in our understanding of Christ's teaching as we worship, study, and pray together with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and as we engage in life around us with the heart, mind, and spirit of Christ. Indeed, our witness is the Word. The Word that became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood. The Word that did not stand idly by, but engaged the society—all of society.

In the years to come, the crisis of the past 18 months in Nigeria will be seen as a transitional time for the Church of the Brethren. As our sisters and brothers of Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) faced extreme violence and persecution, they called Brethren around the world into a season of prayer and fasting. We responded with prayer, words of support, funding, and staff to assist the church leaders in shaping their response to the crisis. The Nigerian church continually prayed for peace to come, not just for themselves, but for all of Nigeria. As EYN president Samuel Dali closed this year's Majalisa (annual conference), he spoke these words: "I give thanks to God for Boko Haram. They have brought us closer to Christ's peace and united us in the ways of Christ as a church. From here we commit to taking Christ across Africa." He and other EYN leaders have persevered with prayers for peace, hope for the future, and the resolve to grow the church as they move into new

neighborhoods. Perhaps their witness, tenacity, and faith is a model for us as together we seek to be the Light of Christ in this world.

The words of Paul to the Christians in Colossae illustrate the expected witness of the church:


“Therefore, as God’s choice, holy and loved, put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Be tolerant with each other and, if someone has a complaint against anyone, forgive each other. As the Lord forgave you, so also forgive each other. And over all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity. The peace of Christ must control your hearts—a peace into which you were called in one body. And be thankful people. The word of Christ must live in you richly. Teach and warn each other with all wisdom by singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing to God with gratitude in your hearts. Whatever you do, whether in speech or action, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus and give thanks to God the Father through him.”
(Colossians 3:12-17 CEB)

Sisters and brothers, it has been an honor and privilege to serve the Church of the Brethren as General Secretary. It is only by the grace of God, the selfless commitment and work of the staff, volunteers, and Mission and Ministry Board members, and your unending support through gifts, actions, and words of encouragement that the Church of the Brethren continues to witness and minister “beyond our means.” I give thanks to God for these years of service and for the journey we have made together.

I look forward to the future as we: *Continue the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.*

May God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit be with us all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Stanley Noffsinger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stanley J. Noffsinger
General Secretary



Church of the Brethren

May 2015

Brethren Disaster Ministries Report to District Conferences

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

“It was terrible, at one point I was like tired and couldn’t make it. I just told them to go and I would stay there, but **I got helping hands and people carried me**...over the mountains through the bushes to Cameroon.” Vilica was a college student in Mubi, Nigeria and one of hundreds of thousands fleeing for their lives as Mubi and the nearby headquarters of Ekklesiyar Yan’uwa a Nigeria (EYN, Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) were attacked by the Islamist militant group Boko Haram in October 2014.

Just as Vilica's friends helped her, Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) is called to be the hands and feet of Christ in a hurting world. BDM's focus is on rebuilding homes, caring for children, and providing international relief in communities recovering from disaster.

Home Rebuilding

For the third year in a row, BDM is continuing a major response to Hurricane (Super Storm) Sandy, which had caused extreme devastation along the New Jersey coast in 2012. BDM's first Sandy recovery project in Toms River, N.J. was completed on May 1, 2015. A second Sandy recovery project, based in Spotswood, N.J., is continuing through the end of this year. BDM was awarded a Red Cross Grant to underwrite up to \$280,100 of BDM's Sandy recovery expenses through March 2015. On a smaller scale, last summer BDM called upon volunteers from Illinois and Indiana to assist briefly with rebuilding several homes that were destroyed by a tornado in Gifford, Ill.

Answering the call to serve, 801 volunteers restored disaster-damaged homes at 3 BDM response sites in 2 states during 2014. The volunteers provided 57,664 hours of service valued at \$1.3 million on behalf of 83 families. One volunteer said of his experience of serving with Brethren Disaster Ministries, “Even though the focus is rebuilding, there are lots of people-related sub-ministries that go on and are life changing.”

BDM is developing partnerships with Disciples of Christ and United Church of Christ, which eventually may lead to joint disaster response project sites. The partnership was evident at the BDM hands-on Disaster Project Leadership Training in Bayville, NJ, with five of the thirteen participants from partner denominations.

Children's Disaster Services (CDS)

CDS carried out two responses with 130 children cared for by 14 volunteers during 2014. The small community of Oso, Washington lost 43 residents and many homes after a massive mudslide. Responding to the call, CDS volunteers cared for children with intense feelings about the experience as they tried to make sense of why they survived. A mother of a young boy shared she did not realize how important that play time away from the disaster was for him to begin to heal.

New associate director Kathleen Fry-Miller was involved in supporting 7 CDS workshops in seven states with 134 potential volunteers. Forty-one new and experienced project managers attended leadership training events. A major focus this year is on the CDS Gulf Coast expansion project sponsored by

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Disciples of Christ agencies. The expansion began by identifying and training regional leadership, connecting with Gulf Coast partners and church groups to increase capacity in this disaster-prone region.

International Responses

The year started with BDM continuing a large response to super typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines by partnering with Heifer International, Lutheran World Relief and local organizations with \$175,000 in grants. All together, Brethren responded to disasters and emergencies in 10 countries spanning Asia, Central America, Europe, the Middle East, and Africa - most significantly the Nigeria Crisis Response.

Nigeria Crisis

Samuel Dali, president of Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN) shared: "I keep wondering if we did not have the relationship with the Church of the Brethren...what could we have done with the present situation? Because our life support since this has happened has been the Church of the Brethren."

As the violence escalated in 2014 to horrific levels, the need grew for a large and comprehensive response. Joint planning meetings between the Church of the Brethren in the US and EYN led to a multi-faceted crisis response plan. The 2014-2015 part of the plan focuses on providing emergency food, water, and supplies; building long-term shelters for displaced families; supporting education for displaced children; and supporting trauma-healing workshops.

The majority of the plan is implemented through the EYN crisis management team. Four other partners are expanding this response to meet more need: the Center for Caring, Empowerment and Peace Initiatives; Lifeline Compassionate Global Initiatives; Women and Youth Empowerment for Advancement and Health Initiative; and Favored Sisters Christian Foundation. Through these partners a significant response is underway. This is a small start compared to the plans for \$2.8 million in activity in 2015 and the goal of \$11.2 million through 2019. See www.brethren.org/nigeriacrisis.

The apostle Paul wrote that when one part of the body suffers, we all suffer, and when one part is honored, we all rejoice. We have heard the cries from our EYN brothers and sisters.

Financial Activity

Donations to BDM, CDS, and the Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) totaled \$1,790,054 in 2014, with the addition of \$172,091 from the Red Cross grant for Hurricane Sandy response, and \$38,000 from the Disciples of Christ for the CDS Gulf Coast work. This support provided for all BDM expenses, including staff, programs, and allocations for disaster response. The 2014 expenditures include \$594,187 for U.S. responses including home rebuilding and CDS, and \$784,097 for international responses.

The important mission of Brethren Disaster Ministries is made possible by the invaluable talents and gifts of our many committed volunteers and supporters. This support, by God's grace, will allow us to carry out our mission today and touch many lives in the months ahead.

In Christ's Service,



Roy Winter, Executive Director

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

Brethren Volunteer Service Annual Report

Summer 2015

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 2014:

- BVS hosted four orientation units: one in Gotha, Fla., one in Denton, Md., and two in New Windsor, Md.
- 48 new volunteers entered the program
- 115 total volunteers served throughout the year



The 2014 fall orientation, Unit #307, gathers for a picture in New Windsor, Md., after attending Sunday morning worship services at local congregations.

Currently, BVS has 64 volunteers...

- ranging in age from 18 to 78
- placed in 12 different US states and Washington, D.C.
- serving in 10 countries: Bosnia-Herzegovina, El Salvador, Germany, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Republic of Ireland, Japan, Northern Ireland, and the USA

2015 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. Cincinnati (Ohio) Church of the Brethren, Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren in Elgin, Ill., and Peace Church of the Brethren in Portland, Ore., will share the award for 2015. These congregations will be recognized for their commitment to partnering with BVS in hosting intentional community houses within their communities. The members of these congregations have supported volunteers and hosted a community house where volunteers commit to living together and serving at BVS projects in the area. The Cincinnati and Highland Avenue churches hosted the first BVS community houses starting in 2009, followed by Peace Church in 2010.



Cincinnati house with neighbors



Elgin's BVS house



Multiple generations of Portland BVSers

The Partners in Service Award will be presented to representatives of the three congregations at the BVS Annual Conference Luncheon on July 13 in Tampa, Fla.

Jocelyn Snyder Joins BVS Staff

Jocelyn Snyder



In January 2015, BVS welcomed Jocelyn Snyder as its newest staff member as the orientation coordinator. Jocelyn succeeds Callie Surber, who served in the same role for more than seven years. A member of BVS unit 299, Jocelyn served for two years with the Africa Inland Church in Torit, South Sudan. Previously, she had spent three years as a volunteer in Choma, Zambia, through Mennonite Central Committee, working with Choma Secondary School. Jocelyn also has worked in a pastoral role with youth at her home congregation, Hartville (Ohio) Church of the Brethren, and at Mount Tabor United Methodist Church in East Canton, Ohio.

Responsibilities for the orientation coordinator include the application process for new volunteers, coordination of orientations and mid-year retreats, and support for current volunteers. Jocelyn hit the ground running, leading the winter orientation for Unit 308 only a few weeks after arriving! Looking forward, Jocelyn is excited about growing into her work and ministry with BVS. "Service isn't always easy but, hopefully, the good times outweigh the bad. Learning to be resilient is important. I hope that I can help people be able to learn, grow, struggle, laugh, and love. It is about truly loving God and loving others."

Jocelyn holds a degree in Youth Ministry from Malone College in Canton, Ohio. She resides in Elgin, Ill., and is based at the Church of the Brethren General Offices.

Jessie Houff Is the BVS Orientation Volunteer

Jessie Houff began a second year of BVS in January 2015 when she joined the orientation team in Elgin, Ill. Previously, Jessie had served as the first BVS volunteer working at Rural and Migrant Ministry in Liberty, N.Y. She is a member of Bridgewater (Va.) Church of the Brethren and is a 2013 graduate of Bridgewater College with a bachelor of arts degree in Art and Theater. Welcome to Elgin and the BVS team, Jessie!



Lisa Mayers Houff

Project Spotlight: Food, Hunger, and Gardening Associate

In the past few years, BVS has welcomed some exciting new projects as options for volunteers. Blue Rose Ranch (Springfield, Colo.), Midwives for Haiti (Hinche, Haiti), and Rural and Migrant Ministry (Liberty, N.Y.) are a few examples. One of these new projects that has been particularly exciting to watch take shape, the Food, Hunger, and Gardening Associate in Washington, D.C., was created through the joint efforts of the Church of the Brethren's Global Food Crisis Fund (GFCF) and the Office of Public Witness. This position is funded through a grant from the GFCF and works to expand the Going to the Garden initiative.

Maureen Zach



The first volunteer associate is Katie Furrow. Katie joined BVS as part of unit 307 and is a 2014 graduate of Bridgewater (Va.) College where she majored in sociology and minored in peace studies, both of which have been useful and applicable in her work in D.C. She has traveled around the country visiting with other urban community gardeners and learning about the challenges people in cities face regarding food availability and nutrition. The topic is nothing new to Katie; her senior honor's project was a year-long ethnographic study of low-income individuals struggling with food access. Katie sees her current work as a continuation of her undergraduate work. "When I learned about this project, I was intrigued by the intersection of advocating for food policy programs while

working on the ground to help establish community gardens in areas much like the one I studied. The prospect of getting to advocate for a more fair food system, which would allow people from all walks of life to have full access to healthy food really excited me!"

Katie has constructed a garden outside of Washington City (D.C.) Church of the Brethren with the hope that it will be a tool to not only educate, but potentially feed people through programs such as the Brethren Nutrition Program (another BVS project). BVS is eager to establish new projects such as Katie's. If you think you may know of one, contact the BVS office.



Pepper plants in the D.C. garden



Workcamp Update

Theresa Ford (left) and Hannah Shultz are serving as assistant workcamp coordinators. The 2015 theme is "Side by Side: Imitating Christ's Humility."

Cheryl Brumbaugh-Coyford



Brethren Volunteer Service is a ministry of the Church of the Brethren
www.brethrenvolunteerservice.org
bvs@brethren.org
 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120
 800-323-8039 ext. 396



Church of the Brethren

2015 District Conference

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Pacific Southwest District,

Please accept the warmest greetings, from the officers of Annual Conference, in the name of Christ Jesus, our Lord. We remember you with love and gratitude at the time you begin the work of your district conference.

The work done at the district level is the mortar that holds individual Christians and local congregations together in a larger Christian community that we understand as the Church of the Brethren. Without energetic and faithful districts there is no larger Church and we are grateful for the labor, the prayers, the fellowship and the hope that you bring on behalf of our Church. We have a legacy that is far greater than our size would predict and a vision that is far bolder than our numbers would justify. We hope that along with the service and struggle involved in being the people of God you will also experience the joy and fulfillment that is promised those whose hearts are in the Lord.

Whether a conference is for forty or four thousand, it requires planning, preparation and faithful participation and provides rewards that only those who have been a part can completely understand. Thank you for taking the time from the demands and commitments of your daily life to meet on behalf of our Church.

As we remember you, please also remember us as we prepare for our Annual Conference in Greensboro, North Carolina next July. Pray that we neither shy from the challenges that face our dear Denomination nor become so preoccupied with them that we fail to receive the grace and joy of our faith.

In Christ,

Andy Murray
2016 Annual Conference Moderator

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**Minutes of the
Fifty-First Annual District Conference
Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren**

4 **November 8, 2014**

Hillcrest, La Verne, California

5 **I. Call to Order**

6 The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. with prayer offered by Moderator Erin Matteson.

7 **II. Appointments**

8 A. Timekeeper Joanne Wagner was introduced. Parliamentarian Jerry Davis was introduced.
9 Head teller Larry Woodruff was introduced, along with tellers Norma Wilson, Beth Franz,
10 Karlene Daniels, and Beverly Brandt.

11 B. A committee to verify the accuracy of the 2014 minutes was named: Richard Hart (Pomona
12 Fellowship), Marlin Heckman (La Verne), and Brenda Isaacs (Bakersfield).

13 **III. Introduction of Conference Officers**

14 Board of Administration Chair Marye Martinez, Moderator Erin Matteson, Moderator-Elect
15 Eric Bishop, Clerk Laura Miller, and Interim District Executive Minister Joe Detrick were
16 introduced.

17 **IV. Welcome**

18 Eric Bishop welcomed the conference attendees and instructed the delegates to move into the
19 marked delegate sections. The procedure for speaking from the floor was explained.

20 **V. Quorum**

21 A roll call of delegates was taken. A quorum was declared to be present.

22 **VI. Dedication of Delegates**

23 Erin Matteson led the delegates in the delegate dedication, litany and song, as found on page 7
24 of the Business Book.

25 **VII. Approval of Agenda**

26 Eric Bishop directed the delegates to pages 3-5 of the Business Book for the agenda. **Approval of
27 the agenda comes as a recommendation from the Conference Officers. Approved.**

28 **VIII. Spirit of God Moving Moment Number One: Hillcrest Homes**

29 A. Hillcrest Chaplain Tom Hostetler welcomed the attendees to Hillcrest. Tom gave a history
30 of Hillcrest and an overview of its services.

31 B. David Steele, Denomination Moderator, brought greetings and spoke about the plans for
32 the next Annual Conference. It was noted that Thomas Dowdy will be preaching. Everyone
33 was encouraged to attend Annual Conference.

34 **IX. Approval of Prior Minutes**

35 A. Erin Matteson directed the delegates to the minutes from the 2013 conference.

36 B. **It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Approved.**

37 **X. Introduction of the 2014-2015 Ballot**

38 Eric Bishop introduced the ballot and explained the procedure for nominations from the floor.
39 Eric explained that suggestions for the ballot for next year are welcome

40 **XI. Introduction of Youth, Youth Cabinet, and Youth Advisor**

41 A. Youth Advisor Dawna Welch was introduced. Dawna explained that National Youth
42 Conference was held this year at Fort Collins with the theme "Called by Christ, Blessed on

the Journey.” Dawna explained that the youth of the PSWD have had a wonderful history of support from the District. Three of the youth spoke about their experiences and expressed their gratitude for the opportunities they have received.

B. Dawna introduced the 2014/2015 Youth Cabinet: Rayna Harrison (La Verne), Rudy Amaya (Príncipe de Paz), Jake Hoover (La Verne), and Harley Edwards (Modesto). Dawna led the group in prayer for the Youth Cabinet.

C. Eric Bishop introduced the group of thirty-two youth who were present at the Conference. The youth were recognized with a round of applause. The youth departed the Conference in order to perform a service project for the residents of Hillcrest.

XII. Report from the Interim District Executive Minister

Interim District Executive Joe Detrick reported that he enjoyed his work as Interim District Executive this last year. Joe gave a metaphor about quilts and the PSWD and the importance of each piece of the quilt. Joe Detrick directed the conference attendees to pages 11 and 12 of the Business Book for his written report. Joe Detrick was acknowledged with a round of applause.

XIII. Spirit of God Moving Moment Number Two: University of La Verne

Zandra Wagoner, chaplain of University of La Verne, spoke about ULV and explained that ULV was recognized as one of the top five universities in interfaith services. Zandra also spoke about summer service workers and the benefits to the students and congregations.

XIV. Report from the Pacific Southwest District Board of Administration

A. Marye Martinez reported that we were blessed to have Joe Detrick serve as Interim District Executive for the last year and directed the attendees to pages 20-22 of the Business Book for the written reports.

B. Marye outlined several of the Board’s accomplishments over the last year.

C. Marye recognized the five people whose board terms have expired: Phyllis Eller, Richard Downhour, Norman Johnson, Elizabeth Rowan, and John Jackson.

D. Marye noted that the Denomination is looking for qualified people to hold board positions at the Denominational level. Marye, Joe Vecchio, or Joe Detrick can be contacted for more information.

E. Marye acknowledged Joe Detrick for serving as Interim District Executive for the last year and explained that Joe will stay through January 2015 to work with incoming District Executive Russ Matteson during the transition. Marye presented Joe Detrick with gifts to thank him for his work as Interim District Executive.

F. Marye thanked Mary Jo Flory-Steury for her work with the Transition Team and Search Committee in finding a new District Executive.

G. Marye noted that the newly-elected Policy Board will reorganize itself tomorrow morning in order to continue the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, together.

XV. Nominating Committee Report

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.

XVI. Standing Committee Report

A. Marlin Heckman directed the attendees to his report on page 17 of the Business Book.

Marlin explained there were 37 delegates representing 23 Districts.

B. Marlin reiterated the need for qualified people to serve at the Denominational level.

C. Marlin noted that our query on climate change was returned unanswered. Marlin was asked

what the next step would be; Marlin explained that it is up to us if we want to follow up. Erin Matteson explained that this was brought up at the last Policy Board meeting; it is on the agenda for the Policy Board and Executive Board for the next year.

XVII. Special Presentation from On Earth Peace

A. Marty Farahat presented certificates to the churches that are Living Peace Churches.

XVIII. Search Committee Report

- A. Mary Jo Flory-Steury reported that a search process was begun a year ago upon the retirement of Don Booz. The Transition Team and Search Committee were acknowledged.
- B. John Gingrich reported that the Search Committee interviewed three applicants and made a unanimous recommendation to hire Russ Matteson. John thanked Mary Jo Flory-Steury for her work in the process.

XIX. Election of Officers

- A. There were no nominations from the floor; nominations were closed.
- B. **John Jackson moved and Pat Royer seconded to approve the ballot as a slate. Approved.**
- C. The following people were elected to the 2015 Pacific Southwest District positions:
1. Moderator-Elect: Richard Zapata (Príncipe de Paz)
 2. Nominating Committee: Jim LeFever (Glendale)
 3. Standing Committee: Marlin Heckman (La Verne)
 4. Standing Committee Alternate: Don Shankster (Papago Buttes)
 5. Program Committee:
 - a. Deb Merrifield-Carothers (Circle of Peace)
 - b. Peggy Redman (Pomona Fellowship)
 6. Board of Administration:
 - a. Joel Price (Empire), Northern California Representative
 - b. Cindy Slaughter (Glendale) Southern California West Representative
 - c. Roxanne Aguirre (Cornerstone)
 - d. Lillian Hopson (Imperial Heights)
 - e. Norma Morris (Glendora)
 - f. Ann Weaver (Waterford)
 - g. Erick Flores (Príncipe de Paz) Youth/Young Adult Representative
 - h. Rayna Harrison (La Verne) Youth/Young Adult Representative
 7. Brethren Hillcrest Homes Board Member: Steve Johnson (La Verne)

XX. Spirit of God Moving Moment Number Three: Camp Peaceful Pines

Elaine Harty from Camp Peaceful Pines described some of the new ideas that have been implemented recently: men's retreat, women's retreat, couples retreat, hiking camp, family camp, beginners' camp, and a special needs camp.

XXI. Reports From Annual Conference Agencies

- A. Mary Jo Flory-Steury spoke about the Mission and Ministry Board and their work. Mary Jo explained the theme for the next Annual Conference: Carry the Light.
- B. Fred Bernhardt spoke about Bethany Seminary and invited delegates to refer to page 33 of the Business Book for a report. Fred explained the use of current technology in instruction.

XXII. Ministry Investment Plan

- A. Mike Boeger introduced the Ministry Investment Plan and directed the delegates to pages 53-62 of the Business Book. Page 62 contains a summary of the Ministry Investment Plan. Mike explained the sources of income for the District as well as the investments and expenses. Several grants have been given to congregations for pastoral support.

Operational expenses have gone down, partly because of a move of the PSWD office to a smaller location. Mike explained that in 2013 a full audit was conducted by a CPA firm, which showed our assets were at \$6,960,951.

B. The adoption of the Ministry Investment Plan comes as a recommendation from the Policy Board. Approved.

XXIII. Spirit of God Moving Moment Number Three: Camp La Verne

Mary Kay Ogden spoke about Camp La Verne and the many opportunities for children at camp. Maintenance, outreach, and promotion continue to be concerns. Scholarships make camp affordable to our church and community.

XXIV. Program Committee Report

A written report from the Program Committee is on page 18 in the Business Book. The committee met by teleconference as well as in person all year. The Program Committee was acknowledged for their hard work this weekend. Mary Kay Ogden and Linda Hart worked hard on-site to make the conference successful.

XXV. Moderator's Closing Remarks

A. Erin Matteson reminded the conference attendees to fill out evaluation forms because each one is read and discussed. Erin invited everyone to attend the worship service tonight, which will be led by the youth.

B. Erin invited input from the floor, and several people shared their hopes, dreams, and concerns for the PSWD and their local congregations.

XXVII. Adjournment

The 2014 Pacific Southwest District Conference was adjourned at 3:56 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Laura Miller, Clerk

In August 2015, the draft copy of the minutes was examined by the committee: Richard Hart (Pomona Fellowship) Marlin Heckman (La Verne), and Brenda Isaacs (Bakersfield).

Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren 2015 – 2016 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

	Sara Haldeman-Scarr, San Diego - SE

Nominating Committee

Vote for 1 Three year term

	Doris Hopwood Dunham, Bakersfield - CC

Clerk

Vote for 1 Three year term

	Karen Cosner, Modesto - NC

Program Committee, District Conference

Vote for 2 Three year term

	Robert Aguirre, Cornerstone, Reedley - CC
	Kirsten Storne-Piazza, Live Oak - NC (incumbent)

District Board of Administration Youth & Young Adult Representatives

Vote for 3 One year term

	Erick Flores, Principe de Paz - SE (incumbent)
	Rayna Harrison, La Verne - SE (incumbent)
	Alex Sanders, Modesto - SE

District Board of Administration At-Large Representatives

Vote for 3 Three year term

	Brenda Dickson, South Bay - SW (incumbent)
	Tom Hostetler, La Verne - SE (incumbent)
	Andrew Sampson, Pomona Fellowship - SE

Arizona Representative

Vote for 1 Three year term

	Nelda Rhoades Clarke, Tucson - AZ

Central California Representative

Vote for 1 Three year term

	Dean Davis, Bakersfield - CC

Brethren Hillcrest Homes Board Nominees

Vote for 1 Three year term

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 2015 - 2016 Ballot

Candidates are listed by office, alphabetically by last name.

Descriptions of each office are condensed from the PSWD Constitution: 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.



Sara Haldeman-Scarr:

Congregation: San Diego
Church of the Brethren
Vocation: Pastor/organizer.

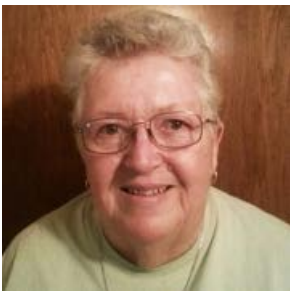
Church Experience:

As a follower of Jesus Christ, it is a privilege to pastor the First Church of the Brethren of San Diego. I currently serve as the Chair of the District Nurture and Credentialing Committee. Locally in San Diego, I chair the San Diego Day of

Compassion Celebration, the City Heights Interfaith Standing Together in Peace Event, The Peace Resource Center of San Diego and serve on the board for the Interfaith Center for Worker Justice.

Vision Statement: I believe: Jesus is the Center of our faith; Community is the Center of our lives; Reconciliation is the Center of our work. It is my vision to create a sacred space where all are welcomed and all are invited to embody these values respectfully, conversationally, and faithfully.

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.



Doris Hopwood Dunham:

Age: 77

Congregation: Bakersfield
Church of the Brethren
Vocation: Hospice
Bereavement Care
Worker

Church Experience: I have served in the following positions: PSWD Clerk, PSWD Director of Center for Brethren Studies, member "Committee to Study a Process for Responding to Congregational Disagreements with Annual Conference Decisions," Bakersfield Church Moderator, Board Chair, Ordained Minister, Adult

Sunday School and Bible Study Leader, and Deacon Board member. I serve as Worship Leader on a rotational basis, preach several times each year, assist with leading Eucharist and Love Feast celebrations, preach at Hillcrest Homes Vesper Services, and in other settings as requested.

Vision Statement: I believe that the PSWD has a unique opportunity to lead our denomination in serving multiple cultures, working toward Unity in Diversity, and providing for a variety of worshipful experiences for all who seek opportunities for worship. I believe in a loving, supportive, and inclusive God (in Trinity) who is open to all who will seek a relationship with God in their lives.

Clerk (vote for 1) The three year term begins immediately. The Clerk serves on the Nominating Committee; records the minutes of the District Conference, and in cooperation with the District Executive Minister(s) prepares the minutes for publication and distribution to the local congregations; forwards to the Annual Conference secretary any queries passed to Annual Conference by the District Conference; assists in the interpretation of the minutes of the District Conference; serves as an ex-officio member of the Policy Board; and records the minutes of the Policy Board. The Clerk may be requested by the Executive Board to attend its meetings as the recorder.



Karen L. Cosner:

Congregation: Modesto Church of the Brethren
Vocation: Retired Non-Profit Administrator

Church Experience: Currently Board Chair. Past: chair of Fellowship and Recreation Commission,

member of Christian Education Commission, Worship Committee, Deacon, Grant Writing Committee, Head

cook for Wednesday night dinners, Delegate to District and Annual Conference.

Vision Statement: My vision is to serve the District by insuring that the business of the District and actions taken at the Board, Policy and Nominating committee meetings are recorded accurately and timely. That I might offer my experience and expertise to further the vision and mission of the District. That I might be faithful to the calling of Jesus and to work peacefully, simply and together with the leadership as we strive to serve.

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.



Robert Aguirre: Age: 35

Congregation: Cornerstone Community Church of the Brethren, Reedley
Vocation: Pastor

Church Experience: Robert Aguirre became the pastor at Cornerstone

Community COB in Reedley, upon long time pastor Jim Totzke's retirement in January of 2014. Robert, along with his wife Roxanne, make every effort to attend district events; including district conference, the pastor spouse retreats and an intercultural gathering in Santa Ana. During Robert's time as pastor, Cornerstone has hosted local district leaders such as District Executive Russ Matteson and Pastor Jody Romero. Robert and his family are very happy in the Church of the Brethren and always look forward to meeting new brothers and sisters in Christ in the district and beyond.

Vision Statement: My vision is to grow in Christ and follow the call that God has placed on my life. I look forward to continue to minister in the local church setting with my family and am open to serving lifelong in different ways in the Church of the Brethren.



Kirsten Storne-Piazza:

Age: 42 (incumbent)
Congregation: Live Oak Church of the Brethren
Vocation: Healthcare Director / Therapist

Church Experience: I have had the honor of

serving on the PSWD Program Committee for the past 3 year term. I have found this experience to be a time of spiritual and personal growth and a wonderful opportunity to expand knowledge of the district and denomination as a whole. My family (husband, 2 daughters and myself) are active participants in our local Live Oak congregation through music ministry and with the youth. Occasionally, I get the opportunity to fill the pulpit in the absence of the pastor. I would be honored to continue to serve our district on the Program Committee.

Vision Statement: My vision is to serve God, my congregation, community and district as we acknowledge our past, identify our present and prepare for our future in a way that encourages unity and creates energy in a dynamic, renewed manner.

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: Arizona 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.



Nelda Rhoades Clarke:
Age: 64
Congregation: Tucson
Church of the Brethren
Vocation: Minister

Church Experience: I served the denomination on Standing Committee and the Nominating Committee of Standing Committee. I served the Northern Plains District on the Shalom Team, District Board and Ministry

Commission. I have served local churches as delegate to Annual Conference and District Conference. I have served on the local Board, taught Bible classes, serve as moderator, and as pastor.

Vision Statement: My vision for the church is to help all experience God's love. I see us sharing with one another our experiences of God's love and finding ways that we can share that with others recognizing that we are all children of God.

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



Dean Davis MD MBA:
Age: 57
Congregation:
Bakersfield Church of
the Brethren
Vocation: Semi-retired
Oncologist

Church Experience: I have been active in local church leadership as Steward and have represented our congregation at local, regional and national assemblies. I have served to help revitalize our infrastructure and financial situation to facilitate our mission. It has been my interest to enable the church to recognize

the changing social, cultural and political environments in which it dwells to better serve our collective ministries.

Vision Statement: I seek to better understand and ultimately serve the Church of the Brethren in its mission to conduct the path of Christ to all peoples. As our world has evolved, so too might the church seek to evolve its message to reach our changing communities and create new opportunities for a path to Christ. I hope my strong secular academic training may be of value to the Church to help navigate the environmental challenges that will develop in the future.

Ballot Background Information, Exhibit B

PSWD Board of Administration: At-Large Representatives. Vote for 3 (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.



Brenda Dickson:

Age: 70 (incumbent)

Congregation:

South Bay Church of
the Brethren, Redondo
Beach

Vocation:

Facility Manager.

Church Experience: Facility Manager for South Bay COB, South Bay church board, PSWD Board - Stewards Committee.

Vision Statement: Help our congregations find ways to grow by filling people's need to know Jesus.



Tom Hostetler:

Age: 62 (incumbent)

Congregation: La Verne
Church of the Brethren

Vocation: Chaplain

Church Experience: I have been a chaplain at Hillcrest Homes for 5 years, and a congregational pastor in the Church of the Brethren for 36 years. I have served one term on the District Board, District Ministry Commission and District Conference Program Committee in the PSWD, and a number of other moderator, district, camp and new church development involvements in other districts.

Vision Statement: My passion is to see the Church of the Brethren in the PSWD continue to be relevant as a uniting, growing, welcoming community of faith engaged in peace, justice, concern for creation, inclusion, spirituality, and service.



Andrew Sampson:

Age: 37

Congregation: Pomona
Fellowship Church of
the Brethren

Vocation: Pastor

Church Experience:

Local: Currently pastor of Pomona Fellowship and previously served churches in Indiana and Maryland and as chaplain at Timbercrest Senior Living. Currently a member of the Claremont Interfaith Working Group for Peace in the Middle East. District: A member of the Congregational Life and Shalom Teams (Mid-Atlantic) as well as the Ministry Interview Team (Mid-Atlantic and S/C Indiana). Former representative to Indiana Partners for Christian Unity and Mission. Current member of the Camp La Verne board. National: In Brethren Volunteer Service 2000-01, and various national workcamps in 2005, 1992-1996.

Vision Statement: To work within the Church to try and follow the example, teachings, and life of Jesus, encourage and widen the kingdom of God to include everyone, and be still and quiet enough to hear the Spirit speaking.

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 (incumbent)

Congregation: Príncipe de Paz Church of the Brethren

Vocation: I am currently a college student at Cal State Fullerton. I am currently employed as a

Certified Pharmacy Technician (CphT).

Church Experience: I am currently the church secretary and part of the worship ministry in the congregation Príncipe de Paz. I also help with translations in the church where I attend. I helped to translate documents from English to Spanish for Annual Conference in 2014 and will help again this year for the 2015 Annual conference. I was also involved with the Program and Arrangements Committee from 2012 until 2014.

Vision Statement: My calling is to work close with other Brethren while 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: 18 (incumbent)

Congregation: La Verne Church of the Brethren

Vocation: College Student.

Church Experience:

As a youth in the Church of the Brethren I participated in the youth cabinet for PSWD for 3 years. I also have been on the board for 2 years and am looking forward to another year as the young adult representative on the board.

Vision Statement: I hope to bring a new set of eyes and ears to the policy board. This year I have volunteered for more committees and I am looking forward to getting more involved in the different areas of the church.



Alex Sanders:

Age: 19

Congregation: Modesto Church of the Brethren

Vocation: I am a sophomore at California State University, San Marcos. I intend to

major in Criminology and Justice Studies with a focus on social inequality, community, and injustice.

Church Experience: My family has attended the Modesto COB for 3 years, and it has been a great place for growth for myself, my younger brother, and my mom. I helped serve dinners at our local homeless shelter and attended a few meetings with our congregations youth group.

Vision Statement: I see this position in PSWD as a great opportunity to work at the administrative level of the church. I am excited for the chance to represent the youth in our district and work together with other churches to further the mission of the Church of the Brethren.

Pacific Southwest District 2016 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, continuing our support for pastoral ministry grants, and coming alongside churches with the new Ministry Partnership Funds. The following 2016 ministry investment plan is grounded in 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 2014 reflect actual income and expenses. The figures for 2015 are the figures approved by District Conference for the 2015 Ministry Investment Plan. The figures for 2017 to 2018 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 1, 2015, approved the Ministry Investment Plan for consideration by the Pacific Southwest District Conference on November 14, 2015.

Pacific Southwest District 2016 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.

District Conference and the Board of Administration have 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.

Contribution Income	2014 Actual	2015 M.I.P.	2016 Proposal	2017 Projected	2018 Projected
Individuals	1,526	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Congregations	29,200	25,000	28,000	31,000	33,000
Closed Congregations	0	0	0	0	0
Groups	0	0	0	0	0
Children's Disaster Services	36	300	0	0	0
Other	3,447	160	3,000	3,000	3,000
Total Contribution Income	34,209	29,460	35,000	38,000	40,000

Investment Income

The sale of churches has allowed PSWD to be blessed with financial resources. 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.

Investment Income	2014 Actual	2015 M.I.P.	2016 Proposal	2017 Projected	2018 Projected
Checking/Money Market	2	6	0	0	0
Notes Receivable Interest	21,269	21,181	40,394	38,450	36,050
Investment Funds (5%) return	177,777	228,879	200,000	200,000	200,000
Sale of Church Property	0	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous	49,053	1,600	1,300	1,300	1,300
Total Investment Income:	248,101	251,666	241,694	239,750	237,350

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. Special events like the Pastor/Spouse Retreat, All Ministers Educational Event, and other ministry events, provide for effective ministry in the local congregation.

Participation Income	2014 Actual	2015 M.I.P.	2016 Proposal	2017 Projected	2018 Projected
District Conference	19,461	24,000	20,500	20,000	20,000
Events	6,803	2,500	3,200	2,100	4,600
Total Participation Income:	26,264	26,500	23,700	22,100	24,600
TOTAL MINISTRY INCOME:	308,574	307,626	300,394	299,850	301,950

Ministry Investments

Congregational Development Ministry

Ministry Support Grants, the new Ministry Partnership Funds, 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.

Congregational Development Ministry	2014 Actual	2015 M.I.P.	2016 Proposal	2017 Projected	2018 Projected
Web Site Development	92	300	1,500	0	0
Vital Ministry Journey	852	1,000	0	0	0
Congregational Support (<i>Ministry Support Grants and Ministry Partnership Funds</i>)	316,524	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
Total Congregational Development Ministry:	317,468	201,300	201,500	200,000	200,000

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. 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.

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.

Pastoral Leadership and Support Ministry	2014 Actual	2015 M.I.P.	2016 Proposal	2017 Projected	2018 Projected
Training in Ministry (TRIM)	2,926	6,000	4,000	3,000	3,000
Seminario Biblico Anabautista Hispano (SeBAH)	4,830	6,000	6,000	5,000	4,000
Bethany Theological Seminary Student Grants/Loans	4,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Pastor/Spouse Retreat	18,352	20,000	20,000	15,000	15,000
Minister's Workshop	4,216	10,000	7,000	3,000	3,000
Other District Workshops	3,920	5,000	4,000	3,000	2,000
Professional Growth Subsidy (PSWD Events)	3,920	3,000	6,000	4,000	4,000
Minister's Ethics Training <i>(2014 only)</i>	800	0	0	0	0
Total Pastoral Leadership and Support Ministry:	43,464	51,500	48,500	34,500	32,500

District Empowering Ministry

The District depends on a wide variety of volunteers who serve onboards, 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. The PSWD District Youth Cabinet reflects our commitment to develop future leadership. District Conference seeks to provide direction and counsel to all of the PSWD ministry investments.

District Empowering Ministry	2014 Actual	2015 M.I.P.	2016 Proposal	2017 Projected	2018 Projected
District Conference	17,526	30,000	18,600	18,000	17,500
Ministry Commission	1,656	4,000	3,000	2,500	2,500
Stewards Commission	146	1,100	1,000	750	750
Board of Administration and Work Groups	17,300	29,500	13,500	11,000	11,000
Nurturing and Credentialing Committee (NACC)	2,498	4,000	3,500	3,500	3,500
Shalom Team	0	0	0	0	0
Resource Materials	0	1,000	500	500	500
Inter-Cultural Ministry	296	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
National Youth Conference (NYC) Regional Youth Conference (RYC)	17,020	0	3,500	5,000	5,000
Youth Cabinet	1,799	4,000	4,000	3,000	3,000
Total District Empowering Ministry:	58,241	74,600	48,600	45,250	44,750

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.

Partnership and Property Ministry	2014 Actual	2015 M.I.P.	2016 Proposal	2017 Projected	2018 Projected
Denominational Assessment	1,637	1,700	1,700	1,800	2,000
Standing Committee	2,181	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
University of La Verne	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Ecumenical Councils	300	1,000	500	500	500
Council of District Executives	450	500	500	500	500
Property & Legal	90,102	26,500	13,200	4,200	4,200
Total Partnership and Property Ministry:	99,670	37,200	23,400	14,500	14,700

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.

Service Ministry	2014 Actual	2015 M.I.P.	2016 Proposal	2017 Projected	2018 Projected
Disaster Response	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Children's Disaster Services	241	2,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Total Service Ministry:	5,241	7,500	6,500	6,500	6,500

District Operating Ministry

The District staff includes Russ Matteson, District Executive Minister; Dawna Welch, Youth Advisor; and Joe Vecchio, Administrative Assistant. Together, the staff represents a strong team of diverse talents and gifts. In various ways, the staff continues to insure the efficient and proper support of our pastors and congregations.

District Operating Ministry	2014 Actual	2015 M.I.P.	2016 Proposal	2017 Projected	2018 Projected
Office Space and Utilities	30,753	31,550	30,600	30,600	18,500
Equipment and Maintenance	5,348	3,600	3,000	2,500	2,500
Supplies/Printing/Publications	5,958	13,500	8,000	8,000	8,000
Postage and Mailing	3,539	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Insurance	9,021	8,850	9,000	9,000	9,100
Audit and Professional Fees	21,960	18,500	22,500	18,900	23,200
Staff Salaries	179,491	194,200	173,400	173,400	173,400
Staff Benefits and Retired Church Workers' Fund	32,614	41,200	18,132	18,132	18,132
Staff Travel/Professional Growth	28,327	37,200	31,100	31,100	31,100
New Life/Publications/ Email Newsletters	5,011	5,770	3,550	3,550	3,550
Total District Operating Ministry:	322,022	357,870	302,782	298,682	290,982
TOTAL MINISTRY INVESTMENTS:	846,106	729,970	631,282	599,432	589,432

Summary of Ministry Income and Ministry Investments

MINISTRY INCOME	2014 Actual	2015 M.I.P.	2016 Proposal	2017 Projected	2018 Projected
Contribution Income (p. 58)	34,209	29,460	35,000	38,000	40,000
Investment Income (p. 58)	248,101	251,666	241,694	239,750	237,350
Participation Income (p. 59)	26,264	26,500	23,700	22,100	24,600
TOTAL MINISTRY INCOME:	308,574	307,626	300,394	299,850	301,950

MINISTRY INVESTMENTS	2014 Actual	2015 M.I.P.	2016 Proposal	2017 Projected	2018 Projected
Congregational Development Ministry Investments (p. 59)	317,468	201,300	201,500	200,000	200,000
Pastoral Leadership and Support Ministry Investments (p. 60)	43,464	51,500	48,500	34,500	32,500
District Empowering Ministry Investments (p. 61)	58,241	74,600	48,600	45,250	44,750
Partnership and Property Ministry Investments (p. 62)	99,670	37,200	23,400	14,500	14,700
Service Ministry Investments (p. 62)	5,241	7,500	6,500	6,500	6,500
District Operating Ministry Investments (p. 63)	322,022	357,870	302,782	298,682	290,982
TOTAL MINISTRY INVESTMENTS	846,106	729,970	631,282	599,432	589,432

PROJECTED YEARLY INCREASE/DECREASE IN PSWD NET ASSETS	2014 Actual	2015 M.I.P.	2016 Proposal	2017 Projected	2018 Projected
	(537,532)	(422,344)	(330,888)	(299,582)	(287,482)

[illegible]

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[illegible]

August 31, 2015 in conference call, approved to pass the query to District Conference. October 5

Table 1

November 14, 2015 approved the Query to send to Annual Conference

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
2015.	La Verne, CA.	November 3-15.	Eric Bishop

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>)
2015.	Marye Martinez.	Russ Matteson

Activity Locations

- 7- Registration & Information Table – Village Center Lobby
- 11- Friday Workshop – Dean E. Kieffaber Chapel
- 9- Worship: Friday, Saturday, Sunday – Meeting House
- 9- Business Session: Saturday – Meeting House
- 10- Exhibits & SERRV – Galen Walker Board Room
- 6- Relaxation / Visiting / Ice Cream Social
– Café & Fireside Lounge
- 1- Meditative Walk – Labyrinth
- 11- Quiet Devotions – Dean E. Kieffaber Chapel

See also Schedule on pages 4-5

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 (also Friday Workshop)
- 5- Aquatic / Fitness Center
- 17- Birch Court Conference Room

Age Group Activity Locations

- 3- Nursery – *Start in:* Pinecrest Downstairs Multi-Purpose Room
- 2- Youth – Resident's Service Center (**Citrus Room = Activity Room**)
– High School sleep over at 10:00pm – Boys=(2)Citrus Room, Girls=(5)AFC
- 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 (**Citrus Room = 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
- 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

