

1 **Minutes of the**
2 **Fifty-First Annual District Conference**
3 **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

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

- 2 A. Youth Advisor Dawna Welch was introduced. Dawna explained that National Youth
3 Conference was held this year at Fort Collins with the theme “Called by Christ, Blessed on
4 the Journey.” Dawna explained that the youth of the PSWD have had a wonderful history
5 of support from the District. Three of the youth spoke about their experiences and
6 expressed their gratitude for the opportunities they have received.
- 7 B. Dawna introduced the 2014/2015 Youth Cabinet: Rayna Harrison (La Verne),
8 Rudy Amaya (Príncipe de Paz), Jake Hoover (La Verne), and Harley Edwards (Modesto).
9 Dawna led the group in prayer for the Youth Cabinet.
- 10 C. Eric Bishop introduced the group of thirty-two youth who were present at the Conference.
11 The youth were recognized with a round of applause. The youth departed the Conference in
12 order to perform a service project for the residents of Hillcrest.

13 **XII. Report from the Interim District Executive Minister**

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

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

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

22 **XIV. Report from the Pacific Southwest District Board of Administration**

- 23 A. Marye Martinez reported that we were blessed to have Joe Detrick serve as Interim District
24 Executive for the last year and directed the attendees to pages 20-22 of the Business Book
25 for the written reports.
- 26 B. Marye outlined several of the Board’s accomplishments over the last year.
- 27 C. Marye recognized the five people whose board terms have expired: Phyllis Eller, Richard
28 Downhour, Norman Johnson, Elizabeth Rowan, and John Jackson.
- 29 D. Marye noted that the Denomination is looking for qualified people to hold board positions
30 at the Denominational level. Marye, Joe Vecchio, or Joe Detrick can be contacted for more
31 information.
- 32 E. Marye acknowledged Joe Detrick for serving as Interim District Executive for the last year
33 and explained that Joe will stay through January 2015 to work with incoming District
34 Executive Russ Matteson during the transition. Marye presented Joe Detrick with gifts to
35 thank him for his work as Interim District Executive.
- 36 F. Marye thanked Mary Jo Flory-Steury for her work with the Transition Team and Search
37 Committee in finding a new District Executive.
- 38 G. Marye noted that the newly-elected Policy Board will reorganize itself tomorrow morning
39 in order to continue the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, together.

40 **XV. Nominating Committee Report**

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

1 **XVI. Standing Committee Report**

- 2 A. Marlin Heckman directed the attendees to his report on page 17 of the Business Book.
3 Marlin explained there were 37 delegates representing 23 Districts.
4 B. Marlin reiterated the need for qualified people to serve at the Denominational level.
5 C. Marlin noted that our query on climate change was returned unanswered. Marlin was asked
6 what the next step would be; Marlin explained that it is up to us if we want to follow up.
7 Erin Matteson explained that this was brought up at the last Policy Board meeting; it is on
8 the agenda for the Policy Board and Executive Board for the next year.

9 **XVII. Special Presentation from On Earth Peace**

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

11 **XVIII. Search Committee Report**

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

17 **XIX. Election of Officers**

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

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

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

1 **XXI. Reports From Annual Conference Agencies**

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

6 **XXII. Ministry Investment Plan**

- 7 A. Mike Boeger introduced the Ministry Investment Plan and directed the delegates to pages
8 53-62 of the Business Book. Page 62 contains a summary of the Ministry Investment Plan.
9 Mike explained the sources of income for the District as well as the investments and
10 expenses. Several grants have been given to congregations for pastoral support.
11 Operational expenses have gone down, partly because of a move of the PSWD office to a
12 smaller location. Mike explained that in 2013 a full audit was conducted by a CPA firm,
13 which showed our assets were at \$6,960,951.
14 B. **The adoption of the Ministry Investment Plan comes as a recommendation from the**
15 **Policy Board. Approved.**

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

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

20 **XXIV. Program Committee Report**

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

25 **XXV. Moderator's Closing Remarks**

- 26 A. Erin Matteson reminded the conference attendees to fill out evaluation forms because each
27 one is read and discussed. Erin invited everyone to attend the worship service tonight,
28 which will be led by the youth.
29 B. Erin invited input from the floor, and several people shared their hopes, dreams, and
30 concerns for the PSWD and their local congregations.

31 **XXVII. Adjournment**

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

33 _____
34 Minutes recorded by Laura Miller, Clerk

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