

# Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren

## Business Book



53<sup>RD</sup> Annual District Conference  
November 11-13, 2016

*Held at:*  
**Modesto Church of the Brethren**  
2301 Woodland Avenue  
Modesto CA 95358-9501



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**Old Business Item:**

*None*

**New Business Items:**

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Map of Modesto Church of the Brethren. . . . . Back cover



Modesto Church of the Brethren, site of our Business and Worship Sessions

**Pacific Southwest District  
Church of the Brethren  
2016 Annual Meeting**

November 11-13, 2016

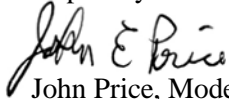
All events are at Modesto Church of the Brethren, California.

**Welcome to the 2016 Pacific Southwest District Conference**

Welcome to the Fifty Third Annual District Conference of the Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren. It has been my privilege to be your acting Moderator this year as I finished out a term for your elected Moderator. I believe that our district is at a cross-roads. We recognize that we are diverse in our theology and practice. We have a Unity Statement in place which declares that we will struggle together allowing space for each individual ministry. However we seem to congregate with like minded folks and rally our defenses of our position indicating that we think we are right and others are wrong. We must choose to accept one another as equals. If Jesus is Lord then our individual expressions of faith are our ways of furthering the Kingdom on Earth. We must move from tolerance to acceptance then to embracing one another as the individual members of the Family of God. We are to "Live at Peace" with one another as far as it depends on you. We can do this, if we choose to. More than that we can learn from each other when we are in conversation as to how and why we believe and practice our individual faith expressions. We have the choice to unite or fragment. I believe that we will be stronger if we unite.

In my years of service to the district I have learned more from those with whom I disagree than those with whom I agree. Different beliefs and positions challenge us to solidify our position and to ponder different points of view. It is my hope and prayer that we can learn to come together as the Family of God in the Pacific Southwest. Serving God and fellowman with integrity while promoting the Gospel. Let's be open to the moving of the Holy Spirit among us. Let's go as our Lord and Savior asked: Loving one another as He Loved Us.

Hopefully Proclaimed,



John Price, Moderator, 2016

**PSWD District Conference  
Business Meeting Agenda**

November 12, 2016

- I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer
- II. Roll call and establishing of Quorum
- III. Approval of Agenda and 2015 Minutes (p.[48](#))
- IV. Business Items
  - A. Election of leadership (pp.[15-17](#) & pp.[52-56](#))
  - B. 2017 PSWD Budget Proposal (pp.[58-61](#))
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  - A. Annual Conference Agencies (pp.[35-46](#))
  - B. District Policy Board (pp.[19-28](#))
  - C. District Executive Minister (pp.[11-14](#))
  - D. District Program Committee (p.[18](#))
  - E. Standing Committee Delegate (p.[15](#))
- VI. Adjournment



**Friday, November 11, “In Whom Shall We Trust?”: PSWD Ministry Continuing Education Event**

8:00 - 9:00am	Registration & Information Table open
8:30	Workshop Check-In: “In Whom Shall We Trust?”
8:45 - 12:15	Nursery / Child care (lunch with parents)
9:00-12:00	Workshop Session 1: “In Whom Shall We Trust?”
Noon	Lunch ( <u>Ticket Required</u> )
12:45 - 5:15	Nursery / Child care (resumes)
1:00 - 5:00	Workshop Session 2: “In Whom Shall We Trust?”

**Friday, November 11 — District Conference Schedule**

8:00am-9:30pm	Labyrinth & Prayer Room available for self guided meditation
3:00 - 9:00pm	Registration & Information Table Open (closed during worship)
3:00 - 9:00pm	Hospitality, Exhibits, & SERRV (closed during worship)
5:30 - 6:30	Opening Dinner ( <u>Ticket required</u> )
7:00	Singing before worship
7:00 - 8:45	Nursery / Child care
7:15 - 8:30	Opening Worship – Moderator John Price preaching
<i>after Worship</i>	Ice Cream Social sponsored by the Price family Labyrinth by Candle Light until 9:30pm
9:00 - 10:00	Youth will be gathering in Room 9 at the Modesto CoB
10:00	Youth Activities end: High School stay, Middle School parents pick-up

**Saturday, November 12 — District Conference Schedule**

	Breakfast on your own
7:30am	Youth Activities <i>continue</i>
8:00 - 11:30am	Registration & Information Table <i>open until lunch</i>
8:00am -9:00pm	Hospitality, Exhibits, & SERRV (closed during worship)
8:00am -9:30pm	Labyrinth & Prayer Room available for self guided meditation
8:15am -5:15pm	Children’s Activities (lunch included)
8:15 - 12:15	Nursery / Child care (lunch with parents)
8:30 - 10:45	Business Session #1
11:00 - 12:00	Insight Session I
	Registration Table: <u>Closes for the rest of conference</u>

12:15 - 1:00	Lunch ( <u>Ticket Required</u> )
1:00 - 5:15	Nursery / Child care (resumes)
1:15 - 2:15	Insight Session II
2:30 - 5:00	Business Session #2
5:30 - 6:30	Dinner ( <u>Ticket Required</u> )
7:00	Singing before worship
7:00 - 8:45	Nursery / Child care
7:15 - 8:30	Worship
<i>after Worship</i>	Labyrinth by Candle Light until 9:30pm
8:30 - 10:00	Youth will be gathering in Room 9 at the Modesto CoB
10:00	Youth Activities end: High School stay, Middle School parents pick-up

### **Sunday, November 13 — District Conference Schedule**

	Breakfast on your own
8:30am	Board Re-organization ( <i>Board of Administration only</i> )
9:45 - 11:45	Nursery / Child care
10:00 - 11:30	Worship – Carol Scheppard, Annual Conference Moderator speaking Worship led by Pastor Erin Matteson, Modesto CoB Recognition of ordination anniversaries Consecration of Licensed Ministers, Board of Administration, Moderator-Elect, Moderator

# ***We Are Family, The Family of God***

## ***Called to Obedience and Service. A Word on our theme***

As I began to think about the Theme for the 2016 District Conference I had many thoughts on how we might be able to live together as brothers and sister in Christ. As I see it the Church of the Brethren is at a crossroads. We can pull together or we can pull apart. We seem to be pulling apart faster than together. There have always been different points of view and ways of living out our Faith. The main two being Conservative and Liberal, now Progressive. I was raised what we call conservative. When I came back to California, after a failed ministry attempt in Indiana, where I was asked to leave, I was asked to be a part of the PSWD Board. I began working with Christians of different Theology and Expressions of Faith. I decided to offer them the same consideration I would expect from them. I came to understand that they were as dedicated to their beliefs as I was to mine. That they did believe in Jesus as Lord. That they wanted to live out their faith as much as I wanted to live out mine, it was just different. I came to appreciate those I had considered “wrong” in their faith position.

I wanted to offer this journey to our District Conference in 2016. My first thought was: “Can we be a Family?” Then I put a positive spin on that in our Theme: “We Are Family.” If God is our Father then we are all Brothers and Sister in Christ, His Family! Then the question becomes: can we offer the love of Christ to those who differ theologically and in practice. Can we love each other as Family? Yes we can! If we “Choose” to. I am asking us to: “Choose To,” to move from distrust to tolerance then from tolerance to acceptance then from acceptance to embracing one another as the Family of God. I was

reminded recently of the “Holy Kiss.” It thrilled me to remember the meaning of the “Holy Kiss.” We have long since stopped doing it. In my home congregation it was done at Love Feast after washing the brother or sister’s feet. I remember kissing the beard stubble cheek of a member of my home congregation. I also remember the awesome experience of washing my father’s feet and sharing the “Holy Kiss” with him. If we are going to be the Family of God then we must be able to embrace each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. Here in the PSWD we have our wonderful Unity Statement that declares we are willing to struggle together. But instead we gather in familiar, comfortable groupings. The American Natives had a saying about walking a mile in another’s moccasins in order to better understand the person. We experience God in various ways. We express, live out, that faith in various ways. Why can’t we extend grace to one another allowing each of us to find our faith and the way we want to live it out with equal acceptance? Father God is looking for obedience to His word and service to one another. Can we, here in the PSWD, commit to becoming “The Family of God?” I know we can and I am encouraging us to enter into the blessing of that family. Peacefully, Simply and mostly Together. Will you join me in living this blessed life?

John E. Price  
Moderator 2016



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### **Logo Interpretation & Artist Information**

The idea for the Logo was originally designed by Nathan Price in 2008 to represent the 300 years of faith struggle of the Brethren in the PSWD. Moderator John Price wanted the theme to reflect the Brethren commitment to God, Family and Neighbor. After the basic design had been sketched out it was given to Eric Davis who made the beautiful rendition you have before you. The intent of the Logo is to show the Brethren beginning through the Logo of Alexander Mack with the dedication to God, Family and Others demonstrating the commitment to Continuing the work of Jesus. It was to also show that we Brethren in the West are committed to the original vision of the founders of the Church of the Brethren. The struggle continues to be faithful. May God grant us another 300 years, if he tarries, to continue serving as did our Lord Jesus the Christ. John E. Price, Moderator 2016.

Eric M. Davis is an artist, graphic designer and aesthetic engineer. Eric has designed many PSWD conference logos. He enjoys the challenges in designing logos, graphic design, public art, paintings, and fine art. He and his family are members of the La Verne Church of the Brethren. See examples of his art at: [www.ericmdavis.com](http://www.ericmdavis.com)

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# Delegates' Dedication Litany

November 12, 2016

Moderator: Sisters and brothers in Christ, you have been called by your congregations to serve as delegates at this 53rd District Conference of the Pacific Southwest District. Do you accept the call?

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

Moderator: Will you be faithful to the word of God while celebrating the rich history of our denomination?

**Delegates: We will honor the Lord our God as we honor the heritage of our founders.**

Moderator: Will you seek the Lord's guidance while you thoughtfully consider the decisions put before you?

**Delegates: We will seek the leading of the Spirit of Christ in all matters before us.**

Moderator: Will you treat one another with love, respect and openness as together you conduct the business before you?

**Delegates: We will work together as Brethren. In our thoughts, words and deeds we will treat each other with compassion, kindness and patience.**

Moderator: You have promised to be faithful to the Word of God, while honoring our history as together as Brethren you thoughtfully and prayerfully consider the decisions to be made and to treat one another with respect, so let us all pledge together –

**All: As we go back to our individual congregations, we will share information on what has happened here. We will be positive and affirm the decisions made.**

**We will support the District in our actions and in our prayers, knowing that the Spirit of God is with us and is alive in us as we live as Brethren.**

**Amen.**



## **Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren – 2016**

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

Moderator..... John Price, Empire  
Moderator-Elect..... Sara Haldeman-Scarr, San Diego  
Clerk..... Karen Cosner, Modesto  
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 16 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

*Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live. Don't suppress the Spirit, and don't stifle those who have a word from the Master. On the other hand, don't be gullible. Check out everything, and keep only what's good. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-21, The Message)*

These exhortations, which come to us from Paul's earliest preserved writing, are a solid piece of wisdom for the work of your District Executive Minister. In my ministry with and among you I find myself constant in prayer, grateful for the expressions of God's Spirit in our congregations, and giving thanks for the variety of gifts that are present among our congregations and this district. Though we are different in some ways, we are striving to follow Jesus. Though we are spread throughout these two states, we are committed to the communities that we serve. Though we sing and pray in different languages, the good news of God's love for all people is our common voice.

The paragraphs that follow will give you some sense of the ministry you have called me to, and the ways in which together we are the family of God through the Church of the Brethren in the Pacific Southwest.

**Congregational Visits** - A high priority for my work continues to be connecting with congregations - in worship, with leadership groups, and with pastors. Most Sundays you will find me in one of our congregations, and this year I have preached, participated in licensings, commissionings, ordinations, and installations, as well as simply visited. I have met with several boards/leadership teams, search committees, and Sunday School classes. I continue to enjoy getting a deeper feel for the faith and life of our congregations. I am grateful for the warm welcome in Christ that I have received from all of you.

**Pastoral Transitions** - Several congregations have been through leadership transitions during the past year and I have provided support and guidance as they move through these times of transition. Below is information on the various transitions:

Glendale - Michael Fletcher began as the interim pastor in January and continues to serve.

The congregation is getting back on their feet following the death of John Jackson. The Search Committee has been formed, a profile created, and they are moving into interviews with prospective pastoral candidates.

Tucson - Ernie Snyder retired at the beginning of the year after 20 years of service to the congregation. They called Nelda Rhoades Clarke, who had moved to Tucson two years ago and was worshipping with them, to serve them as part-time pastor, which she has been doing since January. I officiated at her installation in February.

Live Oak - Erik Brummett was called by the congregation to be their part-time pastor beginning in February of this year. This is Erik's first call since completing Seminary, and we are glad to welcome him to the PSWD.

Pomona Fellowship - Andrew Sampson resigned and completed his service in June. The congregation has called Jeff Glass to serve as a  $\frac{3}{4}$  time interim pastor who is working with them on vision and direction before they form a search committee and begin the search for a settled pastor.

Bakersfield - James Isaacs announced that he will retire as pastor in February 2017. They have formed a search committee and are beginning the work of preparing to call a new pastor.

**Ministry Partnership Funds** - New in 2016, this model of encouraging congregations to try new ministries, or to engage in work towards renewal and revitalization, or to support mission point congregations has begun well. As of this writing, five congregations have participated, and others are in conversation with the district about possible ways of partnership. Those partnerships funded this year include:

Church of the Living Savior (McFarland) - Ministry opportunity as they brought "What on Earth am I here for?" to the congregation and surrounding community.

La Verne - Coaching/Training to work with Roy Oswald as a consultant on a strategic plan and focusing of ministry work.

Empire - Revitalization partnership as they engage in Vital Ministry Journey to work at congregational renewal. Stan Dueck from the COB national staff is their consultant and in the process he is training Dawna Welch and me in how to

facilitate this process with a congregation.

**Cristo Sion - Mission Congregation** funds to support them as they work with a largely lower income congregation.

**Modesto - Coaching/Training** to work with Stan Dueck as they explore their ministry priorities in a time of change and transition for the church in society.

**Focus and Finances Conversation** - Working with the Executive and Policy Board we spent a good deal of time and energy working to identify the primary and secondary areas of priority for our work as a district, and looking to formulate a financial plan to provide for support of priority areas and begin to ensure the future financial viability of the PSWD. There is more detail around this conversation and its work to this point in the preamble to the budget business items (see Exhibit C p.58). The work at naming and prioritizing our areas of focus is nearing completion, and this then will be a working document that will guide our work and be evaluated regularly to make sure we are working in the areas of priority.

**Waterford Closure** - The year began with helping this congregation come together with one another and friends and former members to give thanks for the witness of the Brethren in Waterford for nearly 100 years. The gathering was well attended and a fitting service of worship. Since that time the Closing Committee has been working to assess the needs of the properties (church and parsonage), and provide for the security of the properties. This work continues and the committee will be bringing recommendations to the Executive Board before the end of 2016. In addition, I am using the Waterford church as my primary office when I am in the northern part of the District which helps improve our insurance coverage on the property.

**Philosophy on District Held Properties** - The Executive and Policy Boards took time to discuss and articulate how the PSWD will work with real properties that were previously held by a District congregation. Our preference, of course, is that congregations continue to grow and thrive in their witness to the way of Jesus. But when we do take ownership of facilities, we will be intentional about assessing the physical state of the property, and exploring the possibilities for other ministry that the district might support out of the location. In

other words, we are placing a high priority on prayerfully discerning what God might be calling us to do with a property rather than assuming that the best use is to immediately sell the facility.

**Council of District Executives** - This group of colleagues who are in the same position as me meets together at least twice each year, and in those meetings works to address common concerns across the Districts and interacts with the leadership of the Annual Conference Agencies and their staff. In the months ahead we will be continuing conversation we have been working on over the last two years as we work with the Annual Conference Leadership Team to answer the query from West Marva District which was assigned to us related to accountability of ministers to statements of Annual Conference. In addition, I have begun to serve as representative of the council to the Board of On Earth Peace, and am working on the Executive Development Committee of the council which works to plan a biennial professional growth event for the DEMs and has input into how new DEMs are trained.

**PSWD Query to 2016 Annual Conference** - Following out of District Conference 2015 and our approval of the query "Living as Christ Calls", time was spent preparing the needed documentation to officially submit the query to the officers and Standing Committee. At Annual Conference I presented the query to the Standing Committee to open their consideration, as well as helping to introduce the query to the delegate body. Standing Committee recommended and the delegate body approved sending the concerns of the query to the Ministry & Mission Board for action as requested. This has been formally communicated to them by the Annual Conference officers and will be an item of business for them when they meet in October.

**Professional Growth** - I will be a participant in the Middle Judicatory Executive training event through the Alban Institute and Duke Divinity School in early November. This will provide an opportunity for me to engage questions of role, function, and leadership for those serving to support congregations and pastors. I am excited to participate, and believe the opportunity will provide a good chance for me to reflect on ways to move beyond the learning that happened during my first two years in this position.



I am also working on learning Spanish so that I might better communicate with and participate with the PSWD congregations that worship in Spanish. I did manage to share the vows and charge for licensing three new ministers at Principe de Paz in Spanish, but that was reading from a script.

**COB Church Planting Conference - PSWD** sent a team to this Church of the Brethren gathering in May at Bethany Theological Seminary. The team included Robert Aguirre, Jose Rudy Amaya, Michael Fletcher, Joshua Longbrake, Dawna Welch, and myself. Jeff Glass from our district was also there and joined our conversations as well as leading a few workshops. The event was a powerful opportunity for those who participated, and through them I think there will be many blessings for the District in the days ahead. For three of the participants it was their first exposure to the Church of the Brethren beyond the PSWD. This team continues to connect and is helping to articulate and encourage how we might suggest as a way for moving forward in the area of church planting in PSWD.

**Central Korean Evangelical Church Lawsuit** - In February we received notification

that the Court had accepted our proposed judgment in the lawsuit we have been a part of for several years. CKEC has appealed that judgment and their initial filing on this is due to the Appellate Court by September 30. We will be working to respond as soon as we know what their objection is. We are hopeful that we can find a way to resolve this situation and move into the future with this settled in the not too distant future. We did receive word in August that the rent being paid by the tenant church has completed paying off the amount owed to the Church of the Brethren Inc. to settle the CKEC mortgage, on which we were the guarantor.

I thank you for your continued prayers for our district, my ministry here, and my family. I give thanks for the many folks who serve in a variety of ways to make the ministry of the District happen. I am grateful for the support that I feel as I talk with people about the what God is inviting us into in partnership with Christ in the PSWD.

Pace e bene (Peace and all good),

*Russ Matteson*

District Executive Minister

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## Deceased Ministers

James D. Merrifield - October 4, 2015

John J. Jackson - November 7, 2015

Bryan L. Boyer - April 23, 2016

Jack B. Storne - August 27, 2016

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## Recognition of Ministers' Ordination Anniversaries

### 55 Years

Elvis C. Cayford  
Marlin L. Heckman  
William B. Wash

### 45 Years

Glenn J. Frazier  
John Grindler Katonah

### 35 Years

Don Booz

### 30 Years

Ron E.H. Faus  
Monty Keeling  
Carol A. Wise

—  
**Representing 380 years  
of service.**  
—

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## District Youth Advisor Report

Five years ago, in 2011, I was called to serve as the Pacific Southwest District youth advisor and one of my first responsibilities was to establish a youth cabinet. Over the past five years, I have had the pleasure of observing the unique leadership skills and inspiring faithfulness of 22 different youth, from 7 different congregations. In that time they helped plan meaningful activities and worship experiences for youth at 5 District Conferences, two spring district youth gatherings, National Youth Conference and a Regional Youth Conference that included Youth from the Pacific Northwest!

Over MLK Weekend 2016, 45 youth and advisors, mostly from California and Washington, gathered at the University of La Verne for the Western Regional Youth Conference, on the theme “Becoming the Beloved Community.” Praise bands from Cristo Sión, Príncipe de Paz, and Circle of Peace congregations provided music. Guest speakers Dr. Zandra Wagoner and Dr. Richard Rose of ULV, and Dr. Eric Bishop, former PSWD Moderator led us in nightly worship and On Earth Peace’s Matt Guynn provided overall content focused on Dr. King’s philosophy and methodology for challenging violence and building beloved community.

Entering my 6th year, I can humbly say that I continue to feel blessed by the opportunity to serve the PSWD and work along side such bright and promising young leaders of our district. I often hear people talk about youth being the future of our church but I would suggest that they are, in fact, the present church and have much to offer

right here and now!

Four youth have been called to serve on the 2016/2017 Youth Cabinet. Their names and congregations are:

- Elizabeth Piazza - Live Oak
- Jorge Molina - Príncipe de Paz
- Mario Cabrera - Príncipe de Paz

In August we met in Modesto for our first planning retreat. During our time together we participated in a bible study of the Moderator’s theme, helped plan Saturday evening worship, as well as planning opportunities for fun and fellowship at District Conference, 2016. At the end of our time together we scheduled our next meeting to plan a district-wide event for the Spring. Stay tuned more for details on that event in the new year!

Youth attending the 2016 District Conference, will get to know each other through a “Pow-Wow-How” style of sharing God’s presence, as well as participate in bible study, worship and a special off campus event just for YOUth! Housing arrangements have been made for Senior High Youth but all other activities and meals will include Junior High Youth.

The Youth Cabinet will be present at District Conference and can be identified by specially designed t-shirts. I hope you will take the time to introduce yourself and get to know our new PSWD leaders!

In Faith,  
Dawna Welch  
District Youth Advisor



Western Regional Youth Conference Participants 1/16/2016

# Report of Standing Committee Delegate

Marlin L. Heckman

The Standing Committee of the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference is charged with reviewing items of business coming before the conference and making recommendations to the delegate body for consideration.

The Standing Committee of the 2016 Church of the Brethren met June 25-29 in Greensboro, North Carolina. All 37 delegates from 24 districts were present, as well as immediate past moderator David Steele. Moderator Andrew Murray chaired the meetings assisted by moderator-elect Carol Scheppard, and secretary, James M. Beckwith.

During its meetings Standing Committee made recommendations in response to five items of new business. Query: Same Sex Weddings—Standing Committee proposed a recommendation but also approved the officers' suggestion that the delegate body be asked whether it would accept this query as an item of business since previous conference action had decided "to continue deeper conversations concerning human sexuality outside the query process." Standing Committee specified that the suggested response to query: Same Sex Weddings would require a two-thirds majority vote, because it is a controversial issue. [The item

was accepted by the delegate body as an item of business by a 55.1% vote. The recommendation of Standing Committee failed to receive the necessary 2/3 vote and the concern of the query was then referred to the Leadership Team and the Council of District Executives.]

Standing Committee proposed referring both query: On Earth Peace Reportability/Accountability to Annual Conference, and query: Viability of On Earth Peace as an agency of the Church of the Brethren, to the Review and Evaluation Committee which has the responsibility for reviewing agencies of the Church of the Brethren and its report will be presented to the 2017 Annual Conference.

In response to query: Continuing the study of our Christian responsibility to care for God's creation, Standing Committee proposed forming a study committee which will work with Brethren Benefit Trust to respond to concerns of the query.

Standing Committee recommended that the concerns of the query: Living Together as Christ Calls (originated in PSWD) be referred to the Ministry and Mission Board.

Thank you for the opportunity of representing the PSWD on Standing Committee.

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## Nominating Committee Report

### Committee Members:

Sara Haldeman-Scarr, Chair & Moderator-Elect

Joe Schechter

Jim LeFever

Doris Dunham

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

Clerk, Karen Cosner

Moderator, John Price

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

Sara Haldeman-Scarr, 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 <sup>st</sup> _____ 2 <sup>nd</sup> _____
--

**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:

John E. Price, Moderator, Chair  
Sara Haldeman-Scarr, Moderator-Elect  
Linda Hart (Pomona Fellowship)  
Peggy Redman (Pomona Fellowship)  
Deb Merrifield-Carothers (Circle of Peace)  
Robert Aguirre (Cornerstone, Reedley)  
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

### *On-Site Coordinator:*

Karleen Daniels (Modesto)

We, here in the PSWD, are very fortunate in the dedication and quality of the people who volunteer to lead our district as Board Members and Committee Members. It has been my pleasure to work with the Program Committee in Planning the 53rd District Conference for the Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren this past year.

The committee began their work last year as they looked forward to this year's conference. We began this year's work by coming together at the Modesto Church of the Brethren, the site of conference for 2016. Those of us living and serving in Northern California appreciate it when District Conference comes north. It has been especially nice for me as District Moderator to have the location so close to home. We viewed the Church plant to see how we would use the space available for Conference. We set the schedule for the weekend. We secured leadership for the Worship Services and Insight Sessions. John E. Price will bring us to Worship Friday evening around the theme of Family. A team from Program Committee will lead the Saturday Evening Worship Service. Carol Scheppard, Annual Conference Moderator, will be our speaker for the Sunday Morning Worship Service. As a part of the Friday Night Worship Service we will be dedicating gifts of support for our Service Project for the 2016 District Conference. That Service

Project is "Family Promise of Greater Modesto" an organization to help homeless families stay safe as they rebuild their lives.

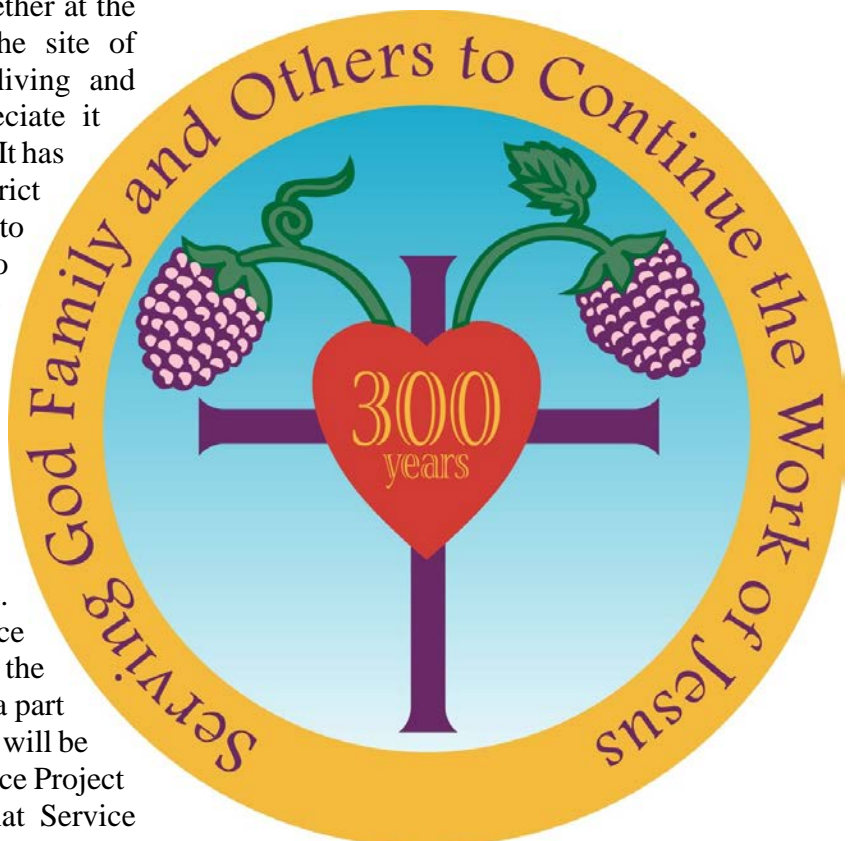
This year's Program Committee also took a look at the District Conference format, considering if it would be a good idea to meet only one day to conduct business. We asked for input from the Policy Board. The general consensus was that we need the three day schedule to have time to come together for gathering, worship, business, and information. It was decided to leave it as it is for the time being.

It is our hope that as we come together as "The Family of God" we will be encouraged, inspired and informed as to how we can enhance our local congregations to better serve each other and our communities.

Come, relax and enjoy the "Family" as we gather to Glorify God and serve our brothers and sisters in obedience to the "Good News" of God in and through Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior.

*John E. Price*

Program Committee Chair





# PSWD Board of Administration

# = second 3 year term, x = appointed to fill an 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: 2018 Dean Davis (Bakersfield) (*until March 10, 2016*)

2016 Mike Boeger (Live Oak) (*starting April 23, 2016*)

Recording Secretary: Clerk: 2018 Karen Cosner (Modesto)

2017 Roxanne Aguirre (Cornerstone)

2016 Mike Boeger (Live Oak)

2018 Nelda Clarke (Tucson, AZ)..... Section Rep. AZ

2018 Dean Davis (Bakersfield) (*until March 10, 2016*)..... Section Rep. Cen.CA

#2018 Brenda Dickson (South Bay)

x2016 Mary Fleming (Prince of Peace, Sacramento) (*starting November 14, 2015*)

x2017 David Flores (Cristo Sion / Pomona Fellowship) (*starting February 10, 2016*)

2016 Erick Flores (Príncipe de Paz)..... Youth / Young Adult

#2016 Lois Frantz (Empire)

2016 Rayna Harrison (La Verne)..... Youth / Young Adult

2017 Lillian Hopson (Imperial Heights)

2018 Tom Hostetler (La Verne)

x2018 Richard Keeling (Bakersfield) (*starting April 23, 2016*)..... Section Rep. Cen.CA

#2016 Marye Martinez (Modesto)

2017 Norma Morris (Glendora)

2017 Joel Price (Empire)..... Section Rep. N.CA

2018 Andrew Sampson (Pomona Fellowship) (*until June 5, 2016*)

x2018 \_\_\_\_\_ (*starting \_\_\_\_\_, 2016*)

2016 Alex Sanders (Modesto)..... Youth / Young Adult

2017 Cindy Slaughter (Glendale)..... Section Rep. S.CA-W

2017 Ann Weaver (Waterford) (*until January 9, 2016*)

2016 Clark Youngblood (Circle of Peace, AZ)

2016 Rebeca Zapata (Príncipe de Paz)..... Section Rep. S.CA-E

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

Moderator: John Price (Empire)

Moderator-Elect: Sara Haldeman-Scarr (San Diego)

Clerk: 2018 Karen Cosner (Modesto)

## ***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: Dean Davis (Bakersfield) (*until March 10, 2016*)

Mike Boeger (Live Oak) (*starting April 23, 2016*)

Ministry Chair: Tom Hostetler (La Verne)

Stewards Chair: Joel Price (Empire)

Moderator: John Price (Empire)

Moderator-Elect: Sara Haldeman-Scarr (San Diego)

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:* Cindy Slaughter (Glendale)

*Elected Member:* Nelda Clarke (Tucson)

*Elected Member:* Lois Frantz (Empire)

*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:* Joel Price (Empire)

*Elected Member, Vice Chair:* Mike Boeger (Live Oak)

*Elected Member:* Brenda Dickson (South Bay)

*Elected Member:* Mary Fleming (Prince of Peace, Sacramento)

*Elected Member:* Lillian Hopson (Imperial Heights)

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

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## Board of Administration Report

Pacific Southwest District has experienced many transitions during the past six plus years that I've served on the Policy Board. They have been both challenging and enriching. The rewarding part has been working with and getting to know many people who shared their gifts while supporting the district.

We've had two District Executive Ministers and an interim through our transition period. The times were richer than expected thanks again to all who provided leadership and volunteered their time on the many phases from the needs assessment to installation. I must note we had the profound privilege of Mary Jo Flory Steury, Associate General Secretary, walking us through and beside us during this important journey.

Other major happenings have been keeping appraised of our ongoing court case involving the separation with Central Evangelical and providing support for churches and pastors through our Grant Program and the recent addition of Ministry Partnership Funds administered by the Congregational Vitality Task

Group. There has also been the formation of a committee that focuses on how PSWD might do Church Planting. We provided financial and personnel support as Waterford Church of the Brethren discerned their need for closure. The district has partnered in loan agreements in several churches to improve their overall ministries which continues to help fulfill their loan repayment agreement.

Although the tasks are many and will continue to grow, our district is blessed with the willingness of talented members who strive for our continued success. They set their sights to be the best of what God has created them to be as they follow the example of Jesus.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be an active participant in serving the Pacific Southwest District.

Blessings,

Marye Martinez, Board Chair



June 2016, Pastor and Spouse Retreat sponsored by the Ministry Commission

## Ministry Commission Report

### Ministry Commission:

Tom Hostetler, chair  
Cindy Slaughter, vice-chair  
Nelda Clarke  
Lois Frantz  
Clark Youngblood  
Barbara Ober (*appointed*)

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

The Ministry Commission has worked hard to implement what Annual Conference sees as the process one uses to move from a person discerning a call to ministry to licensed minister, and then, from licensed minister to 2 other more permanent forms of ministry - commissioned and ordained. [We thought you should be up to date and informed about this, because this is the process that we'll be using in our district.]

So let's say that Lou Becker (just to make up a name) from the Mountain Vista COB (also made up) senses a call, or Lou's pastor is inviting Lou to consider ministry and Lou is willing to think and pray about that. Lou has a congregational connection - Lou's pastor or ministry team with whom Lou talks and prays. Maybe the District Executive or someone from the Nurture and Credentialing Committee talks to Lou about the call. And Lou is willing to form a group - a cohort group - that will meet 4 times to study and pray, and explore the call to ministry. The calling cohort consists of a mentor appointed by the district, a congregational representative and someone Lou wants to be a part of the group - a friend or peer or counselor. Together, with the cohort, Lou either decides that God is not calling toward ministry as a vocation, OR discerns that this is the way forward. The Calling Cohort, together with Lou, develops a plan for moving forward, called the Covenant of Accountability, which the congregation reviews, as well as the District.

This leads to an interview with the Nurture and Credentialing Committee (we just call it the NACC) who uses a number of tools to discern Lou's gifts and calling, and recommends Lou to the Licensed Ministry. As it always has, it includes some form of ministry training (seminary, TRIM, or SeBAH), engagement in spiritual practices; Lou continues to meet with a Cohort - all of which is designed to help Lou continue to discern how God is calling to a vocational ministry. This will take a number of years in most cases.

When that phase is finished, and the educational requirements are complete, Lou has another interview with the NACC, as an applicant to become either an

Ordained Minister or a Commissioned Minister.

Commissioned Minister is a new term, a new category. A Commissioned Minister is one called to a very specific ministry in one very specific setting. For those choosing this option, they would serve as the pastor or music minister or camp director or chaplain in one place - one church, one camp, one retirement home, for as long as he or she is there. But the Commissioned Minister does not transfer from one setting to another. This new credential recognizes the long tradition of the Church of the Brethren that has encouraged the practice of calling out those within the congregation to lead, and also provides a way to recognize persons who are called from outside our tradition to serve in one particular congregation. The expectations of the Commissioned Minister is similar in every other way to that of the Ordained Ministry.

Lou may decide, as the other option, to apply to become an Ordained Minister, called to serve the larger church, where Lou may serve multiple congregations in possibly different districts, or in district or denominational capacities over Lou's lifetime. And, of course, this category is the one we are already mostly familiar with. It has its own set of approved educational programs; and the credentials of the Ordained Minister are recognized throughout the denomination. The Ministry Leadership Paper also makes one change, and that is that the Ordained Minister will now meet regularly with a mentor, and serve as a mentor to others - which most of our Ministers do, but we will be working in our district to get more serious about this whole support and encouragement business.

So, Lou, as the Licensed Minister goes through all the requirements and, together with the Cohort decides on a path to either Commissioned or Ordained Ministry; Lou has an interview with the NACC, which makes a recommendation to the District Ministry Commission, which then recommends to the Executive Board. If all approve, the local congregation affirms this decision through a final vote, and if the vote is positive, then there is a Service of Commissioning or a Service of Ordination for Lou.

And then, the real fun begins. Ministry. After nearly 40 years in ministry, I've seen and done about all there is. And I've loved it all. So if there's one thing I still want to do with the time I have left, it's to encourage my sisters and brothers who are considering, training for and participating in ministry. This life is not always easy - on our spirits, or our families or pocketbooks. But it is rewarding. In my view, it's the most rewarding thing a person can do with their life. So my hat is off to those in all levels of ministry. We need

them. The world needs them. They are the ones who stand in the breach in all the broken places of life. And they deserve our applause.

Every 5 years the District reviews the ordination credentials of our ministers as a way for everyone to keep current on ethical issues, continuing education and activity in ministry. The District provides training (Ethics Training, seminars and workshops for CEU's (Continuing Education Units – which are required), sabbath (through the Pastors and Spouses Retreat) and support (through the District Executive). These are great methods for maintaining and attracting ministers!

But the congregation must take an active role in supplying funds for continuing education, adequate time for rest and recreation, regular sabbaticals, prayer, encouragement for the minister's emotional and spiritual needs (as with a therapist or spiritual director), a realistic job description, and fair and adequate compensation. Every congregation should find or invent ways to support, care for and encourage their ministers. I hope every delegate will make it a part of their responsibility to ask how these things are being done in their congregation.

Tom Hostetler, Chair  
PSWD Ministry Commission

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

**NACC: Nurturing & Credentialing Committee:**

2016 Don Shankster, Chair  
2017 John Price  
x2018 Peggy Redman  
2019 John Katonah  
2020 Susan Boyer

**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**

The arm of assistance for the Ministry Commission, NACC provides guidance and legwork in the licensing and ordination process for the Pacific Southwest District. With the implementation of the recently passed Guidelines for Ministerial Leadership, we are looking forward to some of the changes in our process. One area that ministers will note is the procurement of a "calling cohort" to give guidance, feedback, and support in the early stages of discerning whether or not a call to ministry is for them, in planning a strategy of education, and offering guidance during the education. The

intent is for these cohort groups to continue to follow and support the minister throughout their ministry.

Our Fall meetings include interviews for those entering the licensed ministry, interviews of those who have completed their training and are ready to receive a call to ministry - ready for ordination, and the annual progress review of all licensed ministers in their movement towards ordination, especially their education.

Our Spring meeting this year included two interviews for ordination - Erik Brummett who has been called to serve the Live Oak congregation and Angela Asomoah who has completed her studies and is waiting for a call. One other interview was with Joshua Longbrake, for licensing as he joins the Church of the Brethren, serving as an associate pastor at Circle of Peace.

We also gave some guidance in changing the annual review reporting forms for licensed ministers to reflect the new requirement of cohort groups. It is exciting to witness the interest and passion of those seeking to serve our Christ in his church, to share in their journeys toward ministry and to experience hope for the leadership of our district.

In Christ,  
Don Shankster, NACC Chair

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**TRIM: Training in Ministry**

**SeBAH: Seminario Biblico 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 Biblico Anabautista Hispano students for the 2015-2016 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. One of our current students has completed her TRIM work this past year. Congratulations to Dawna Welch! TRIM 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 and Church of the Brethren 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 Indiana. She and her office staff review and approve each student's work and maintain their transcripts.

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](mailto:FrontDesk@pswdcob.org) or Tom Hostetler / Ministry Commission [THostetler@livingathillcrest.org](mailto:THostetler@livingathillcrest.org) or Jim Martinez / TRIM, SeBAH Coordinator [AJobhalfdone@yahoo.com](mailto:AJobhalfdone@yahoo.com)

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

Jim Martinez

District Coordinator for TRIM & SeBAH

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## **Mentor Overseer**

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 wherever 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



Jack Storne, Pastor Erik Brummett, Nancy McAvoy, Russ Matteson, at Erik's installation as pastor at Live Oak CoB



Ernie Snyder, Pastor Nelda Clarke, Jim Daughtry at Nelda's installation as pastor at Tucson CoB



Florcita Merlos, Jessenia Pineda, Edgar Pineda  
Licensed to Ministry at Príncipe de Paz CoB



Russ Matteson & Joshua Longbrake  
Licensed to Ministry at Circle of Peace CoB

## Stewards Commission Report

### Stewards Commission:

Joel Price, chair  
Mike Boeger, vice-chair  
Brenda Dickson  
Mary Fleming  
Lillian Hopson

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

The Stewards Commission works to provide support to the PSWD thru its local churches. We continue to work to provide grants that will benefit our church congregations effectively while working to reduce our continuing deficit. Our PSWD loans to our local congregations continue and all return 5% interest to the PSWD.

In mid July 2016 our net worth is approximately \$4.5 million, but it is continuing to decrease. We are working to diminish our deficit, while remaining a viable source of support for our congregations. This is reflected in our projections for the future.

All of our decisions are brought through discussions at our Stewards meetings then presented to be approved by the Executive Board, with input from District Staff and other committees. Our C.P.A. is currently performing our every other year audit to make sure we have all accounting practices checked (p.25). We continue to work with our attorney to resolve the Korean Church separation

and with the closing of the Waterford Church we are working to evaluate the property, as well as, discussing the best way to use the properties in the future.

In 2016 we prepared and sent a letter to all churches with some thoughts related to their insurance coverages and practices, encouraging them to name the district as an additional insured, and to meet with their agent to be sure that they have appropriate coverages in place. We are also working on providing District churches with a workshop that will help them explore some of their accounting, record keeping, internal controls, and other items. The goal is to lift up best practices for their consideration and access to a skilled partner that works with churches in these areas. The workshop will likely be in early 2017, watch for updates this fall.

We appreciate those who have given of their time and wisdom: the Grant Review Committee, the Investment Committee, and Ralph Carlton and Darrell Stark who keep track of our expenditures.

Working together as stewards of God, we can continue the work of Jesus in our churches and communities, Peacefully, Simply, Together.

Joel Price

Stewards Commission Chair

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## Grant Review Committee Report

### Grant Review Committee (GRC):

#2017 Jim Martinez, Chair  
2016 Karin Nelson  
#2018 Elizabeth Rowan  
2016 Mary Jo Swartz

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

Our function is to oversee grants awarded by the District to individual churches to assist in their growth and support. In 2016 there were three churches that received grants: Circle of Peace \$45,000, Glendale \$26,000, and San Diego \$38,000. Each church submits quarterly reports on the progress of their grant work. We as a committee review their reports, address concerns

and recognize their efforts and their successes. We report our findings to the Stewards Commission, who then pass on information to the Executive Board, who along with our District Executive Minister make final decisions and actions concerning each grant.

This last year two of the three churches have been trained and focused on Relational Evangelism as a tool for planning their efforts towards church growth. Only these three churches were considered for grants for 2017 as grants are terminating at the end of the 2017 budget.

Respectfully submitted

Jim Martinez

Chair: Grant Review Committee





*An Accountancy Corporation*

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

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

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## **INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

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

We have audited the accompanying statement of financial position of **Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren**, a nonprofit organization, which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2015, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the year then ended and the related notes to the financial statements.

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

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

### **Auditors' Responsibility**

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

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

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

### **Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of **Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren** as of December 31, 2015, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

**Prior Period Financial Statements**

The December 31, 2014, financial statements were reviewed by us and our report thereon, dated July 17, 2015, stated we were not aware of any material modifications that should be made to those financial statements for them to be in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. However, a review is substantially less in scope than an audit and does not provide a basis for the expression of an opinion on the financial statements.

*Suchan & Associates*

**Suchan & Associates**  
An Accountancy Corporation

Ontario, California  
August 4, 2016

**Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren**  
**Giving to the District by Congregations, Individuals and Groups**  
**January 1 to December 31, 2015**

Church ID #	Name of Church	General Fund	*Per Capita Giving	*2015 Membership
32-010	Bakersfield	\$250	\$4.17	60
32-025	Church of the Living Savior (McFarland)	\$800	??	<i>Over a year old</i>
32-028	Circle of Peace (Peoria, AZ)	\$4,200	\$53.85	78
32-270	Cornerstone Community (Reedley)	\$0	\$0.00	33
32-040	Empire	\$0	\$0.00	74
32-070	Glendale	\$900	\$20.00	45
32-080	Glendora	\$0	\$0.00	30
32-083	Iglesia de Cristo Genesis (Los Angeles)	\$500	??	<i>Over a year old</i>
32-037	Iglesia de Cristo Sion (Pomona)	\$1,200	\$15.38	78
32-150	Imperial Heights (Los Angeles)	\$200	??	<i>Over a year old</i>
32-090	Laton	\$300	??	<i>Over a year old</i>
32-100	La Verne	\$10,000	\$19.08	524
32-120	Live Oak	\$2,120	\$34.75	61
32-190	Modesto	\$2,100	\$9.25	227
32-193	New Harvest (Lindsay)	\$100	\$1.54	65
32-205	Papago Buttes (AZ)	\$1,740	\$32.83	53
32-210	Paradise Community	\$0	??	<i>Over a year old</i>
32-220	Pasadena	\$1,000	\$58.82	17
32-250	Pomona Fellowship	\$1,850	\$37.00	50
32-290	Prince of Peace (Sacramento)	\$0	??	<i>Over a year old</i>
32-322	Príncipe de Paz (Santa Ana)	\$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	\$1,100	\$21.15	52
32-330	South Bay (Redondo Beach)	\$2,000	??	<i>Over a year old</i>
32-340	Tucson	\$600	\$26.09	23
32-350	Waterford – (last meeting held 1/9/2016)	\$400	\$10.81	37
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>\$33,160</b>	<b>\$22.00</b>	<b>1507</b>

	New Life Giving	\$45
	Marion Nine Trust (Fresno)	\$311
	Empire CoB Women's Fellowship	\$200
	Individual Giving	\$8,712
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>\$9,268</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$42,428</b>

\* The above per-capita calculation is based on the 2015 Statistical Information report due 3/16/16 listing membership on 12/31/15.  
 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 [16-17](#) 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 Faith Network: 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)

### **Waterford Closing Committee**

Mike Boeger (Live Oak), Norman Johnson (Empire), Joel Price (Empire)

### **PSWD Youth Cabinet – August 2015-August 2016**

Elizabeth Piazza (Live Oak), Lauren Ober Miller (La Verne),  
Harley Edwards (Modesto), Ethan Strogan (La Verne)

### **PSWD Youth Cabinet – August 2016-August 2017**

Elizabeth Piazza (Live Oak), Harley Edwards (Modesto), Jorge Molina & Mario Cabrera (Príncipe de Paz)

### **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:**

2018 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-(2018) Elizabeth Rowan (Pasadena)

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

Moderator (*ex-officio w/vote*)

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

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

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

#2016 Richard Hart (Pomona Fellowship)

x2017 Janet Ober Lambert (La Verne)

2018 Karen Pierson (Living Savior)

2019 Bob Morris (Glendora)

2020 Eric Bishop (La Verne)

*Alternates for District Executive Minister:*

#2016 Richard Hart (Pomona Fellowship)

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

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

### **Congregation Vitality Task Group**

Norma Morris (Glendora), Andrew Sampson (Pomona Fellowship), Erick Flores (Príncipe de Paz), District Executive Minister; Moderator; Board Chair





It's our Birthday year... We are turning 125! All are welcome for our Founder's Day celebrations the fourth week of April. We will have concerts, lectures, feasts and fairs. More information to come.

University of La Verne hosted the Western Regional Youth Conference over Martin Luther King Jr.'s weekend entitled *Becoming the Beloved Community*. We had nearly 45 high school students partake in campus tours, talks by La Verne's renowned religion professor, Richard Rose, and overall facilitation by On Earth Peace and District Youth Pastor, Dawna Welch. It was a moving and transformational experience for all.

As a private institution, the university is governed by a Board of Trustees. This body can be between 25 – 40 members. Currently we seat six Brethren Trustees: Mike Bidart, Mary Ann Davis, Mary Ann Melleby, Bob Dyer, David Shively, and Jim Long. The trustees range from educators to neurosurgeons and we have recently added our very first international trustee from Taiwan. We thank them for their continued wisdom and guidance.

Our Brethren Students enjoy 1/5 off their first year in tuition with an award of a Brethren scholarship in subsequent years. We have 15 Brethren students currently attending. Students have opportunities to take leadership in clubs, attend Brethren student dinners, and sometimes they have even preached in a local church! La Verne's welcome is wide for our Brethren students.

The university has hired an archivist, Ben Jenkins, who is a recent graduate and loves the history of our institution. In addition to organizing and categorizing

80 unmarked boxes, training interns to digitize our photo collection, Ben has established a video archives and a ULV YouTube channel. You can access it by going to <http://library.laverne.edu>. Videos and photos range from Lordsburg Academy period to alumni receptions just a few years ago. There are many interesting links on the Wilson Library page. Who knows, you might just see someone you know!

Our signature program, Summer Service, has reached a landmark of 60 years of serving churches, camps and social service agencies. This last summer we were able to, through generous donations, send 20 students out as far as Virginia and as close as Hillcrest. And a quote from one of our participants:

*... I am mostly thankful that the Summer Service Program and NCP taught me that I am physically, mentally, and emotionally stronger than I ever thought I was. This summer I lived some of the happiest and most peaceful moments of my life.*

The University of La Verne College of Law received full accreditation from the American Bar Association, an accomplishment gained through the implementation of innovative programs that have increased accessibility, enrollment and success for its students. Law School Dean Holmes said, "University of La Verne College of Law's enrollment has been on an upward trajectory the last four years, when law schools throughout the nation are suffering from decreased enrollment due to criticism about law schools' relevance, high cost, student debt and dwindling job prospects. We are proud to be recognized as leading change for law schools, and even prouder that our hard work has yielded full accreditation."

The Office of Religious and Spiritual Life spearheaded a new Interfaith Fellows program. This program selects student leaders who want to do high level interfaith education, dialogue and advocacy on campus. In this inaugural year, we had seven students who received the Interfaith Fellows Scholarship. They helped organize interfaith programs and events, led a workshop for our Sophomore La Verne Experience Course (SoLVE) on interfaith cooperation, and conducted research on the usefulness of interfaith skills for employers.

For any questions please contact Julie Wheeler, Director of Church and Interfaith Relations [jwheeler@laverne.edu](mailto:jwheeler@laverne.edu) 909-448-4686. I am happy to serve.



# 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 90% occupancy.
- Entrance Fees received for residents with a continuing care contract were \$6,352,658.
- Hillcrest has five residents who are over 100 years of age: Elizabeth Warner, Bertha Draayom, Maxine Dull, and Mary Hunter. June Teitsworth
- Woods Assisted Living has been remodeled to make rooms more aesthetically pleasing and been renamed as Cedar Court. Occupancy is at 93%.
- 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. Hillcrest currently has 50 pets living in the community.
- 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.

## HILLCREST OPERATING BUDGET

Fiscal Budget 2015/2016: \$23,795,446

Fiscal Budget 2016/2017: \$23,610,419

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Executive Committee:* Jack Meek, Chair; Kathy Duncan, Vice Chair; James Irwin, Treasurer; Mary Kay Ogden, Secretary; Stephen Morgan, Past Chair

*Directors:* Don Fancher, Curtis Frick, Bill Gray, Barbara Johnson, Don Kurtz, Kelly Niles-Yokum, Bob Peters, Peggy Redman, Joan Rosenbrock, Emmett Terrell

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

## FUNDRAISING NEWS

- Total funds raised for the Good Samaritan Fund in fiscal year ending June 30, 2016: \$174,160.15 .
- The Resident Fundraising Committee raised over \$17,000 for improvements to the current sound system 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.

# HILLCREST

## REMARKABLE FOR 70 YEARS!



## About Camp Peaceful Pines

Camp Peaceful Pines is 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 central Sierra Nevada Mountains and the Carson Iceberg Wilderness. Campers from Junior to Senior Highs, Families, Discovery campers, Women retreat & new this year a Music camp can find a Christian camping experience that is just right for them.

growing on the journey. A number of churches and groups donate annually to the Camp budget which helps with ongoing cost of USFS fees, propane & fuel costs, upkeep & maintenance of the facility, leadership stipends & upgrades to cabins and amenities.

More information about specific camps and dates can be found on the web at

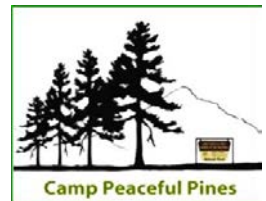
[www.CampPeacefulPines.org](http://www.CampPeacefulPines.org)



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

Garry Pearson, Board Chair

**Camp Peaceful Pines**  
2301 Woodland Ave.  
Modesto, CA 95358



**[www.CampPeacefulPines.org](http://www.CampPeacefulPines.org)**  
or search for us on Facebook

*Via Highway 108 on Sonora Pass at 6,000 feet*

Camp Peaceful Pines is rustic and only open 3 months of the year due to severe weather in the winter and road closures. It is cozy & 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 to the elderly and the physically challenged individuals. In the summer of 2016, a second tent cabin will be completely renovated.

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 & taking time for spiritual reflection &



The 'ARC' in early March, 2016



# Camp La Verne



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

## Summer ...and... Winter!

We are available all year round. Check out our website [www.camplaverne.org](http://www.camplaverne.org)  
Thanks to our incredible Camp Directors, dedicated Board, fantastic staff, and volunteers, Camp La Verne continues to provide camping opportunities every summer for Junior, Senior High, and Middle School children.

A Winter camp over Presidents Day is planned for Middle School and High School students.

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

We are grateful to have this resource and we want to share it with as many people as we can.

If you have ideas for Camp please let the Board know. If you would like to volunteer or serve on the Board please call or send an email. We want to hear from you! E-mail us at [clv@camplaverne.org](mailto:clv@camplaverne.org) or [k.doramus@gmail.com](mailto:k.doramus@gmail.com)

**Help us buy a roof.** The manager's house needs a new roof. If you would like to help send \$25 ( ¼ section), \$50 (½ section), or \$100 for a full section. Send your check to Camp La Verne, PO Box 355, La Verne CA 91750-0355

For more information about the camp call: [Kathleen Doramus 909-593-8836](tel:909-593-8836) or [Sara Davis 818-952-897](tel:818-952-897)

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



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

*Proverbs 24:3* tells us that, "A house is built by wisdom and becomes strong through good sense." This scripture is a fitting parallel to the work of the Brethren Pension Plan ministry over the last 73 years. It 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. Providing all of these things in a timely, professional, and faith-driven manner has been the mission of the staff, who with their collective wisdom over more than seven decades, have built this organization into the financial services ministry it is today.

BBT today serves nearly 5,000 people and organizations nationwide in our employee pension and insurance plans, our organizational asset management services, and through our deferred gift administration. As a Church of the Brethren institution, BBT manages its investments in a manner that reflects denominational values. Through socially responsible investing, we have shown that it is possible to invest funds in the secular marketplace with a Brethren perspective and still outperform industry benchmarks.

This was the vision that our predecessors had — to establish 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.

Our theme this year, "Putting the pieces in place for your financial future," is representative of what we strive to do each day through our ministry. Our faith also plays a role in how we fulfill our duties, endeavor to serve our customers, and plan for the future of our company. We believe this "good sense" approach is what Jesus and Scripture teaches, and we will continue to build our organization on these principles.

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

Church of the Brethren Pension Plans serves more than 4,800 current and former employees of congregations and denominational organizations. In 2015, approximately 1,680 annuitants received a monthly benefit averaging \$693 in the form of a check or direct deposit — a monthly distribution of approximately \$1.17 million

#### **Investments**

From year to year, Brethren Pension Plan investment fund balances change due to new contributions and distributions, and from fluctuations in the investment markets. 2015 was certainly not immune to market woes, but we would note that our manager selection process favors investment managers that focus on holding high quality portfolios with privately managed funds generally beat their benchmarks over the long term. It should also be noted that managers are expected to exceed certain performance standards, and are evaluated regularly, and BBT made changes regarding fund managers who were not performing to our expectations.

#### **Brethren Foundation Inc. — BFI**

Assets under management at the end of 2015 were \$5,755,524, a decrease of \$708,569 (11.0 percent) from the \$6,464,093 in total assets under management on Dec. 31, 2014. At the end of 2015, BFI was managing assets for nearly 200 deferred gift donors.

During 2015, two new charitable gift annuities, totaling \$65,000, were established with BFI. Also during 2015, nine individuals closed a total of nine accounts, including one bequest, one charitable remainder annuity trust, and three pass-through gifts, resulting in a sum of \$291,683 being distributed to Church of the Brethren organizations.

**Brethren Foundation Funds Inc. — BFFI**

Assets under management at the end of 2015 for nearly 200 organizational clients were \$150,080,265, a decrease of \$21,372,437 (12.5 percent) over the total under management on Dec. 31, 2014, of \$171,452,702. BFFI clients contributed \$5,263,059 to BFFI assets under management in 2015 and withdrew \$19,485,955.

**Socially Responsible Investing**

In 2015, the Board and staff of BBT continued their work with socially responsible investing. Where possible, investments of members, clients, and donors are managed in a socially responsible manner that is consistent with Church of the Brethren Annual Conference statements. This means that the top 25 Department of Defense contracts to publicly traded companies, and companies that generate more than 10 percent of their earnings from U.S. Department of Defense contracts, abortion, alcohol, gambling, pornography, or tobacco, are screened from our investment portfolios. Companies that are shown to be egregious violators of environmental regulations or human rights are also screened from our portfolios.

**Workshops**

We continue to measure the success of the educational presentations we offer, covering topics such as retirement readiness, long-term care, financial wellness, stewardship, and more. We are committed to providing this benefit at no cost to employer groups, denominational gatherings, and congregations. New this year is “Effectively Board,” which offers eight tips on the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of church boards. Visit [cobbt.org/workshops](http://cobbt.org/workshops) for more information on all the workshops we offer, and how to schedule one.

**Serving our Members**

With the challenges in the marketplace and in the volatility of the stock market, we feel blessed to be working with a strong organization and board. We are also focusing intently on manifesting the core values at Church of the Brethren Benefit Trust — to act with integrity, lead with compassion, provide competitive services, encourage mutual support, and model social responsibility. All of these values are the building blocks of our 2016 theme.

It is important to keep these values in mind as we ponder the future of BBT and how to best serve our church and lay members. We are a business, and as such, must chart a course that keeps us vital and successful in the marketplace, but we are also a church organization, and must consider a business plan that will enable us to serve on a very human level. It is with our members and clients in mind that we, throughout the year, explore ideas about how we can provide more in-depth financial advice, how to include additional Brethren-affiliated people in our plan, how to increase the products or the impact of the products that we offer, and how to stay vital and competitive in the evolving world of insurance, pension plans, and asset management services.

As we navigate another year, we reflect on the changes that were made in 2015, all the result of discerning the needs of our customers, rolling up our sleeves, and making it happen. Many changes taking place were small in nature, but with big, positive impact. We promise to continue to meet the needs of those we serve, through every email, every phone call, every meeting, and every relationship — upholding your trust in all that we do.



Harry Rhodes  
Chairman



Nevin Dulabaum  
President



Dear Delegates and Friends in the Pacific Southwest District,

For two thousand years, the Good News of Jesus has called the Church into a new life of self-giving love, peace that passes understanding, justice for the excluded and oppressed, and the work of reconciliation and good will. In the beginning, as in our day, such a welcoming call and invitation always involves difficult change.



**“A Biblical Basis for Change”** is our theme for 2016. We focus on the story of First Church of Jerusalem told in Acts 10, 11, and 15, where the Spirit labored with the Church to change. The challenge of their day was how to reconcile their traditional interpretation of the Jewish law grounded in scripture, with all the signs and wonders showing that the Grace of God was somehow much bigger than these narrow laws as they understood them. Here is how Peter explained his actions when charged by some in the Church with violating expectations:

*“Therefore if God gave them the same gift as he also gave us  
after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, **who was I to hinder God?**”  
- Acts 11:17*

As we struggle together in the Church with the events and challenges of our day, On Earth Peace invites you as an individual disciple, a congregation, and a district to come together in a “Community of Practice” for justice, peace, reconciliation, and nonviolence—for **continuing the work of Jesus: peacefully, simply, together.**

We are seeking constantly for more leaders to join in cultivating the practices of conflict transformation and active nonviolence in the life of the Church and its members. Some may be called to stand with the excluded and oppressed in a given situation. Others may be called to help people on different sides of a conflict learn to love and work with each other better. For others, the paths you walk may be somewhere in between.

Yet, in our diversity we share a common understanding that all must work together for **faithful, nonviolent, positive peace and healthy conflict practices.** In doing this, we must often risk, be vulnerable, and extend and receive grace. It often can be messy, exhausting, and enlivening work, and it always requires us to care for one another—as we would have others care for us—and stretch our compassion and understanding into new life.

Here are some specific practice areas growing within the On Earth Peace community that you may find useful or inspiring in your personal, congregational, or district ministries:

- **Living Peace Church** – A Biblically based discernment guide and process for claiming your call to peacemaking as part of the identity of your congregation or district.
- **Ministry of Reconciliation** – Support for district Shalom Teams, help for congregations that are struggling with internal strife, and equipping people to engage conflict in faithful, healthy ways.
- **Stop Recruiting Kids** – A national campaign to mobilize public opinion for prohibiting the military recruitment of minors, and for supporting alternative service programs for young adults.
- **Internship Program** – Paid internships for young adults in college or vocational or graduate school, offering the opportunity to significantly contribute to meaningful work for peace and justice.
- **Peace Retreats for Youth** – District and congregational events to help youth grow in discipleship.

- **Agape-Satyagraha Youth Leadership Training in Conflict Transformation and Active Nonviolence** – Now in several sites around the country, and welcoming more.
- **Nonviolence Organizing Support** – Training and consultation to help disciples, congregations, and community groups working to address injustice and violence.
- **Racial Justice Organizing** – Training and mobilizing for those interested in racial justice activism and participation in the Black Lives Matter movement, in solidarity with communities of color.
- **[New] Biblical Basis for Inclusion** – A Biblically based study guide and workshop resource for individual readers, small groups, congregations, and districts to consider new ways of looking at the work of the Spirit in calling the Church to respond to faithful discipleship to Jesus in all of God's children.

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 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and an agency of the Church of the Brethren. We receive no regular funding from the Church of the Brethren Inc. budget, and rely solely on the commitment and generosity of our individual, congregational, and foundation supporters.

Thanks to you, we have been able to continue expanding 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, life, 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.

The following congregations in your district made donations to support On Earth Peace's ministries in 2015. If your congregation would like to learn more about On Earth Peace as you consider supporting our work through your budget, please contact us so a representative can visit with you and share more.

Yours in His Peace,



Bill Scheurer, Executive Director



Jordan Bles, Board of Directors Chair

**Thank you to these congregations for financial support in 2015:**

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

**Also, thank you to these program partners in 2015:**

Modesto  
Agape-Satyagraha  
  
Camp Peaceful Pines  
Youth Peace Travel Team  
  
**Peace Day**  
Circle of Peace  
La Verne  
San Diego

**Join us on Facebook:**



*If a donor or program partner should be listed and is missing, please contact us at [OEP@OnEarthPeace.org](mailto:OEP@OnEarthPeace.org).*



# MY SEMINARY OF CHOICE



**For those who choose theological education, Bethany**

**Seminary offers an array of choices for an experience that fits both life and call:**

- Two graduate degrees—master of divinity and master of arts—and four graduate certificates
- Seven areas in which MDiv students can focus ministry studies and twelve areas in which all students can focus their electives
- Courses offered in nine formats and locations, including online, intensives, and technologically connecting to an on-campus class in real time
- Options to help students balance course load and employment to fit their lifestyles, wherever they reside
- Financial aid and programs for all graduate and certificate students to keep debt and expenses as low as possible

## 2015-16 at Bethany

For the second consecutive year, Bethany Seminary was named to



**“Demonstrating great innovation in theological education,  
in integration with classical approaches for learning.”**

— CENTER FOR FAITH AND SERVICE  
McCORMICK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

- Nate Inglis, assistant professor of theological studies, and Mark Lancaster, executive director of institutional advancement, began employment.
- Pillars and Pathways offered students tools to manage the financial side of seminary—and life: Conscious Financial Living seminar, low-rent housing, financial aid to cover more than 85 percent of tuition, Federal Work-Study, community support for living simply
- The board of trustees began work on a new strategic plan, meeting with consultant Ted Long.
- The seventh Presidential Forum weekend featured internationally known speakers and leaders from the Brethren, Quaker, and Mennonite traditions to explore A Pilgrimage of Just Peace.
- The second Young Adult Event welcomed more than 80 attendees to In Tune, on young adults and music ministry.
- Three new graduate certificates in specialized areas will be offered in fall 2016: Biblical Interpretation, Conflict Resolution, and Theopoetics & Theological Imagination.
- A desire to better live into an awareness of diversity led to a new Multicultural Working Group.
- Rev. Musa Mambula of Nigeria was welcomed as Bethany's first International Scholar in Residence, helping to lead conversations with EYN about making theological education more feasible for Nigerian students.
- Thirteen students graduated in the class of 2016: seven with an MDiv, three with an MA, and three with CATS.
- Since 2013, 100 percent of new graduates seeking employment have been employed in the field of their choice.

## PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

In 2015-16,  
the Pacific Southwest District

- had 1 student in Bethany graduate programs;
- had 9 students in the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership;
- contributed \$20,645.00 in financial gifts (as of 6/14/16).

## 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 advantage of Bethany's course and certificate options;*
- *envisioning new forms of ministry for Bethany graduates, such as mentoring lay leaders, supervising Academy students, or coaching*



## Introducing general secretary David A. Steele

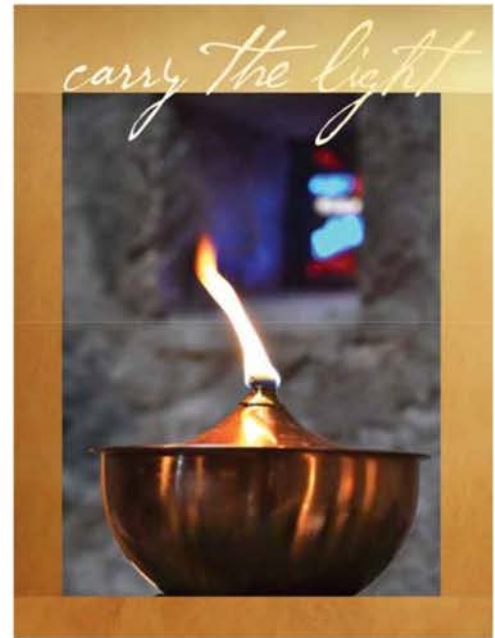
David A. Steele has been named general secretary of the Church of the Brethren. He is an ordained minister who since 2005 has been district executive minister of Middle Pennsylvania District.

Steele brings extensive experience of church leadership to the position of general secretary. He has experienced the highest elected position in the denomination, having served as moderator of Annual Conference in 2015.

He has been a leader in the Council of District Executives and a member of the Ministry Advisory Council.

In youth ministry, he has coordinated music and worship for National Youth Conferences and has had similar involvement in National Junior High Conferences, and has been an advisor for the National Youth Cabinet.

His experience of the wider church includes relating with ministry education, outdoor ministries, and ecumenical partners. He has been a board member of the Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center based at Elizabethtown (Pa.) College, has been a program director and board



*Much of my life and ministry has recognized the centrality of relationship and community. I have come to understand that neither is possible without me (in all circumstances) picking up a basin and towel. Jesus' simple act embodies an understanding that community is not possible without us kneeling and yielding and allowing the waters to wash*

*away all that separates us from the love of Christ and loving one another. I look forward to serving you as general secretary, and the opportunities we will have to kneel and yield together building relationship and community, as we continue the work of Jesus.*

— David A. Steele

chair for Camp Blue Diamond, Petersburg, Pa., and since 2009 has served on the board of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches.

He spent 13 years in the pastoral ministry, at Bakersfield (Calif.) Church of the Brethren and Martinsburg (Pa.) Memorial Church of the Brethren.

Steele attended McPherson (Kan.) College, where he earned a bachelor of arts in religion and philosophy, and Bethany Seminary, where he completed a master of divinity degree.

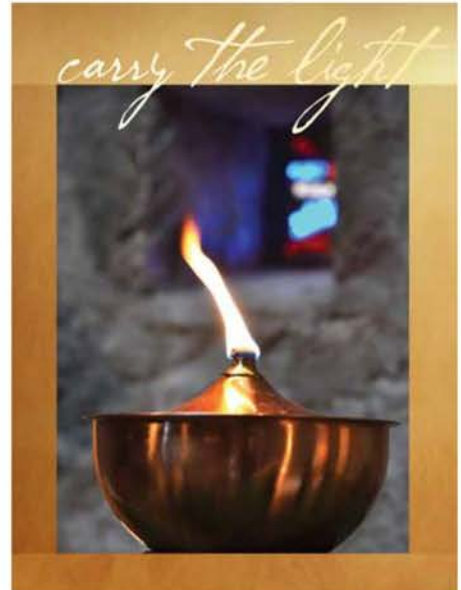
***“If we walk in the light  
as he himself is in the light,  
we have fellowship  
with one another.”***

*—1 John 1:7*

The Church of the Brethren has experienced dramatic joys and sorrows this past year, sometimes at the same time.

As the church in the United States walks alongside brothers and sisters of Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria), the journey is both spiritually uplifting and emotionally heavy.

In other areas of ministry, there have been high moments but also the hard work of leadership changes and struggles to meet financial commitments.



What sustains the church during difficult days? How do we strengthen our spirits?

We find strength in these familiar ways:

- Immersing ourselves in scripture.
- Worshiping together.
- Being community.
- Engaging in service.
- Living out God's story.
- Bearing witness to the peace of Christ.

The church refuels by staying connected to Jesus Christ, the light of the world. That is the light we carry.

David A. Steele  
General Secretary



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

Church of the Brethren, 1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120  
800-323-8039 • [www.brethren.org](http://www.brethren.org)





# Church of the Brethren

## Brethren Disaster Ministries Report to District Conferences

May 15, 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

There is much to celebrate, even in the midst of daunting global challenges. We celebrate the completion of Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) Superstorm Sandy responses. We celebrate the faithful work of more than 1,500 volunteers in 2015. We celebrate increased security in Nigeria allowing our brothers and sisters to begin their long journey home. We celebrate the exceptional support from districts, auctions, churches and members.

It is quite amazing that a total of 1,961 volunteers served during BDM's response to Superstorm Sandy by caring for children or by repairing homes. The volunteer efforts were valued at \$2,650,283 and helped 128 families move back home. Red Cross provided \$219,661 in grant funds to support the total project costs of \$485,240 in this three and a half year response. The Toms River, NJ site closed in March 2015, allowing a new project to start in Northern Colorado, in an area hit by wild fires and flooding in 2013. The Spotswood, NJ site completed work in January 2016 allowing a brief response in Harts, West Virginia in response to flooding. This led to opening a new project in Detroit, Michigan in response to widespread flooding in August 2014. This is where the need is greatest, and concerned volunteers are reporting particularly good experiences in this community.

BDM is also investing resources and volunteers in a new program, the Disaster Recovery Support Initiative (DRSI). It is a collaborative effort between BDM, the United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), supporting the development of Long Term Recovery Groups. The goal is to start home repair work much sooner after a disaster occurs.

The importance of our focus on children is often heard from those served: "All the families are talking about the children's center and how happy the kids are," said a dad from Middletown, CA whose family was evacuated when a wildfire roared through their town. In 2015, fifty-eight Children's Disaster Services (CDS) volunteers cared for 518 children in response to five events, including an apartment collapse, flooding, tornado, wildfire, and landslide. It was also a year full of training with 282 potential volunteers, ten workshops, and one training of trainers leadership seminar. To help expand this work, CDS continues to develop partnerships. A significant grant from the United Methodist Committee on Relief of \$50,000 per year for two years, as well as support from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), has allowed CDS to expand its work at local and state levels. Support for traumatized children was extended to Nigeria at a special training for women leaders. ([www.brethren.org/cds](http://www.brethren.org/cds))

The Nigeria Crisis response has been the largest and most challenging BDM project in the program's history. Over 11,000 members of Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) have been killed. There was extensive damage to the homes, farms and businesses of several million people and 1,668 churches were burned or abandoned.

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

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



Hundreds of women and children are still missing and hundreds of thousands are still displaced. The crisis is far from over, and Boko Haram is still a threat, but progress is being made: increased security has allowed Kulp Bible College and the Comprehensive Secondary School in Kwarhi to reopen near the EYN headquarters in Kwarhi.

With the unprecedented support of \$2,573,270 from US Brethren in 2015, a comprehensive program continues to be implemented in Nigeria by working closely with EYN and other partners. Through this program, food, blankets, and supplies were distributed to more than 250,000 people; hundreds of homes were built at five relocation camps; trauma healing/spiritual care workshops, medical care, and peace building continue; over 1,000 households have received training and equipment for small businesses; more than 1,000 children are being educated; and the Nigerian church has been stabilized and continues to function, even though 70% of the churches have been destroyed. Plans for 2016 expand this work to include supporting families returning to their homes with repairs, agricultural assistance, and restoring their ability to support themselves. A new fund has been created to support EYN church rebuilding. Another new initiative involves Books for Nigeria. We need your help collecting books for children and ministerial resources for Kulp Bible College.

The Nigeria Crisis is part of a much larger global crisis clarified by António Guterres, head of the United Nation High Commission on Refugees: "We are witnessing a paradigm change, an unchecked slide into an era in which the scale of global forced displacement .... is dwarfing anything seen before." **This global crisis represents 85% of BDM program activity in 2015** including work in Africa (Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria), Europe (Serbia, Greece, Hungary) and the Middle East (Syria, Iraq) offering hope to some of the nearly 60 million people displaced by violence. International natural disaster responses included the Nepal earthquake, Ecuador earthquakes, cyclones in Vanuatu and Myanmar, and flooding in Democratic Republic of Congo and Honduras.

We celebrate having the BDM offices fully staffed for the first time in three years. In January 2015, Jenn Dorsch was welcomed as BDM director of the rebuilding program, with Robin De Young joining her as the new program assistant in September. At the same time Sharon Franzén joined as office manager and Kristen Hoffman as the new program assistant working with Kathy Fry-Miller, associate director of CDS.

The vital work of these important ministries is made possible by the generous gifts of time, talents, and treasure by our volunteers and supporters, like those at this conference. Your support reaches close to home in the US and around our hurting world. Thank you for your prayers and support of Brethren Disaster Ministries and the Nigeria Crisis Response.

In Christ,



Roy Winter, Associate Executive Director

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





# Brethren Volunteer Service Annual Report

## Sharing God's Love Through Acts of Service

Working for Peace  
Advocating Justice

Caring for Creation  
Serving Human Needs

### Currently, BVS has 57 volunteers...

- serving in 10 countries: Bosnia-Herzegovina, El Salvador, Germany, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Republic of Ireland, Japan, Northern Ireland, and the USA
- placed in 11 different U.S. states and Washington, D.C.



Some of the current and former BVSeers that attended National Young Adult Conference Memorial Day weekend gathered for a picture in the Jo Young Switzer Center at Manchester University.

### In 2015:

- BVS hosted four orientation units: one at Camp Ithiel in Gotha, FL, one at Camp Mardela in Denton, MD, and two at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, MD.
- 93 total volunteers served throughout the year

### 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. The four communities of L'Arche Ireland and Northern Ireland will share the award for 2016.

L'Arche is the French word for "the ark" and is an international movement of almost 150 communities in 35 countries where people with and without intellectual disabilities share life together. L'Arche fosters an environment to celebrate the unique value of each and every person in those communities and recognizes our need of one another. L'Arche Ireland and Northern Ireland have invited 27 BVS volunteers since 1997 to live and work with core members and other volunteers in the four communities in Co. Kilkenny, Dublin, Cork, and Belfast. The Partners in Service Award will be presented to L'Arche Ireland and Northern Ireland at the BVS Annual Conference Luncheon on July 1 in Greensboro, NC.

L'Arche Co. Kilkenny Core Member, Paddy, and BVSeer Joe Pitocco (2012)



L'Arche Belfast Core Member, Larry, and BVSeer Hannah Monroe (2014)



L'Arche Belfast Core Member, Thomas, and BVSeer Andrew Miller (2016)







### Project Spotlight: L'Arche, Co. Kilkenny

Established in 1978, the L'Arche community in Callan, County Kilkenny, Republic of Ireland was the first L'Arche community in Ireland.

BVS sent Megan Blinn as its first volunteer to this community in 1997. Megan later went on to help start the L'Arche community in Belfast. Since sending the first BVSer, there have been 13 other volunteers who have served in this L'Arche

community and more than 30 total volunteers who have served at L'Arche communities around the world through BVS.

Elizabeth Batten, a recent BVSer at L'Arche Co. Kilkenny, says, "The people here foster community through love and caring, a sense of belonging and acceptance, and a drive to ensure the greatest quality of life that enables each person to achieve their full potential."

Assistants in this community are invited to share life with people with intellectual disabilities, building a community where everyone is valued regardless of ability, creed, or culture. Volunteers in this community have to be open to living with people of varying abilities in a community where God is recognized as the source of life and where difference is seen as a gift.



Kristin Flory

### The L'Arche Prayer

Father, through Jesus our Lord and our brother, we ask you to bless us. Grant that L'Arche be a true home, where the poor in spirit may find life, where those who suffer may find hope. Keep in your loving care all those who come. Spirit of God, give us greatness of heart that we may welcome all those you send. Make us compassionate that we may heal and bring peace. Help us to see, to serve, and to love. O Lord, through the hands of your little ones, bless us; through the eyes of those who are rejected, smile upon us. O Lord, grant freedom fellowship, and unity to all your people and welcome everyone into your kingdom. Amen.



### BVS Recruitment Volunteer: Elizabeth Batten

In November 2015, BVS welcomed Elizabeth to the team in Elgin as the Recruitment Volunteer.

Elizabeth is from Mendon, MI. She attended Grand Valley State University and obtained a Bachelor of Science in Communication Studies and Women and Gender Studies.

Elizabeth began her time in BVS at the summer 2014 orientation at Camp Mardela in Denton, Maryland. Before joining the BVS team in

November, she spent her first year in BVS with the L'Arche community in Callan, Co. Kilkenny, Republic of Ireland. "Sharing my life with the people I lived and worked at with was a magnificent gift."

Since coming to Elgin, Elizabeth has been traveling to various conferences, colleges, and churches sharing about BVS and her BVS story. She is excited to help lead the summer 2016 orientation in New Windsor, Maryland. "I loved my orientation and I can't wait to share in orientation excitement with the volunteers."

Elizabeth (pictured middle) with her drop-off day group at orientation



BVS staff

### Top Ten Reasons to Volunteer

10. Follow Jesus
9. Make new friends
8. Learn & strengthen skills
7. Discover new passions
6. Become a leader
5. New experiences that will change your life
4. Get involved in the world
3. Grow in your faith
2. Because you CAN make a difference
1. Because volunteering is AWESOME!



### Workcamp Update

Deanna Beckner (left) and Amanda McLearn-Montz are serving as assistant workcamp coordinators. The 2016 theme is "Blazing with Holiness".



BVS staff

Brethren Volunteer Service  
1451 Dundee Ave.  
Elgin, IL 60120

[www.brethrenvolunteerservice.org](http://www.brethrenvolunteerservice.org)  
[bvs@brethren.org](mailto:bvs@brethren.org)  
847-742-5100





# Church of the Brethren

## 2016 District Conference

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Pacific Southwest District,

Grace and Peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. The Annual Conference Officers join me in sending greetings and giving thanks for you and your good work on behalf of the Gospel. As you gather for your district conference, know that our prayers are with you, that your worship, study, and work together will strengthen your faith and energize your witness for Christ.

We live in times that challenge us in our quest to be a faithful people. Strife and uncertainty permeate our society and invade our churches, and we grow disheartened and discouraged. Yet Scripture teaches that troubled times can be times when God's blessing is most evident in the midst of God's people. We are not to fear the instability of our time, for our hope rests in the rock of our salvation. Isaiah reminds us: "Do not call conspiracy all that this people calls conspiracy, and do not fear what it fears, or be in dread. But the Lord of hosts, him you shall regard as holy; let him be your fear, and let him be your dread." (Is. 8:12-13)

As we face the various storms of our times we gain strength and hope from the stories of God's people in exile in Babylon. Robbed of the Land, the Temple, and the City of God, and hauled away to a foreign land, the People of God had little hope for survival. And yet, the promises of God would not die.

Isaiah prophesied: "And this shall be a sign for you: This year eat what grows of itself, and in the second year what springs from that; then in the third year sow, reap, plant vineyards, and eat their fruit. The surviving remnant of the house of Judah shall again take root downward, and bear fruit upward; for from Jerusalem a remnant shall go out, and from Mount Zion a band of survivors. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this." (Is. 37: 30-32)

And so the people gathered together the stories of their ancestors, the promises to Abraham, to Isaac and to Jacob, the call to Moses and the Covenant of the Law, and there in Babylon they were faithful. In the same way, let us too, be bold in this time of challenge – bold to turn aside from our despair, to step out in faith, to claim the promises that are ours in Christ Jesus, and to **Risk Hope** for the life and vitality of the Gospel.

As we look forward to Annual Conference 2017, next year in Grand Rapids, Mich. from June 28 to July 2, please join us in prayer that our gathering will be an opportunity to recall God's promises, recount our shared stories, bolster our unity, and commit our hearts as Christ's witness in world of desperate need.

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

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

"Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful." (Heb. 10:23)

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carol A. Scheppard". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Carol" and last name "Scheppard" being more prominent than the middle initial "A.".

Carol Scheppard  
2017 Annual Conference Moderator

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

**November 14, 2015**

**Hillcrest, La Verne, California**

**I. Call to Order**

The 2015 Pacific Southwest District Conference was called to order at 8:35 a.m. Prayer was offered by John Price.

**II. Order of Business**

The Order of Business was distributed by Head Teller, Marlin Heckman.

**III. Introductions**

Moderator Eric Bishop, Moderator-Elect John Price, Clerk Laura Miller, Board of Administration Chair Marye Martinez, and Timekeeper Marty Farahat were introduced.

**IV. Roll Call and Verification of Quorum**

A roll call was taken; fifty-seven delegates representing nineteen churches were present. A quorum was declared to be present.

**V. Delegate Dedication**

The delegates were instructed to sit in the designated delegate area. The delegates were directed to Page 7 of the Business Book for the Delegates' Dedication Litany.

**VI. Approval of Agenda**

**Mauricio Iacueli (Circle of Peace) moved and Don Wyatt (Empire) seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Approved.**

**VII. Introduction of Guests**

Stan Noffsinger (General Secretary), Loyce Borgmann (Brethren Benefit Trust), Matt Guynn (On Earth Peace), Bekah Houff (Bethany Seminary) were introduced.

**VIII. Approval of 2014 Minutes**

**Richard Hart (Pomona Fellowship) moved and Phil Corr (Church of the Living Savior) seconded to approve the minutes from the 2014 PSWD Conference. Approved.**

**IX. Committee to Certify 2015 Minutes**

A committee of Richard Hart (Pomona Fellowship), Lois Frantz (Empire), and Cady Laycook (South Bay) was named to certify the accuracy of the 2015 minutes.

**X. Introduction of 2016 Ballot**

A. The nominees on the 2016 ballot were introduced.

**B. Nelda Rhoades Clarke (Tucson) moved and Lois Frantz (Empire) seconded to close the nominations for the ballot. Approved.**

**XI. Introduction of Youth Adviser, Youth Cabinet, and Youth**

A. Youth Adviser Dawna Welch introduced the 2016 Youth Cabinet: Ethan Strogon (La Verne), Elizabeth Piazza (Live Oak), Harley Edwards (Modesto), Lauren Ober-Miller (La Verne), and Rudy Amaya (Príncipe de Paz).

B. The Youth from the District who were present came forward. Eric Bishop thanked the Youth for appearing and wished them well on their activities today. The Youth were excused.



1 **XII. Story of Justice**

2 Eric read a story of justice from Zandra Wagoner, chaplain of University of La Verne.

3 **XIII. Reports From Annual Conference Agencies**

4 A DVD was shown outlining the work of the four Church of the Brethren Agencies: On Earth  
5 Peace, Bethany Seminary, Brethren Benefit Trust, and Mission and Ministry Board. Loyce  
6 Borgmann and Matt Guynn spoke briefly about the agencies they represent: Brethren Benefit Trust  
7 and On Earth Peace.

8 **XIV. Introduction of the Query “Living Together as Christ Calls” from La Verne**  
9 **Church of the Brethren**

- 10 A. Delegates were directed to Page 66 of the Business Book. Mary Kay Ogden (La Verne) and  
11 Susan Boyer (La Verne) gave a background of how the Query came to be.  
12 B. Marye Martinez explained that there will be an insight session about the Query, and the Query  
13 will be an action item during the afternoon session.  
14 C. Phil Corr (Church of the Living Savior) asked if the Executive Board supports this Query.  
15 Marye Martinez answered that the Executive Board supports bringing the Query to the  
16 delegates for a vote.

17 **XV. Report From Standing Committee**

18 Standing Committee Delegate Marlin Heckman directed the delegates to Page 13 of the Business  
19 Book for his written report. In addition to the written report, Marlin Heckman noted that half of the  
20 congregations in the denomination do not turn in their statistics report; of the submitted reports,  
21 only four congregations west of the Mississippi River have 100 or more people attending Sunday  
22 worship. The PSWD has two of the four. Marlin Heckman shared that he appreciates the  
23 opportunity to represent the PSWD as a member of the Standing Committee.

24 **XVI. Central Evangelical Church Closure**

- 25 A. Board Chair Marye Martinez introduced the business item to close the Central Evangelical  
26 Church of the Brethren. Marye gave a history of the Central Evangelical relationship with the  
27 PSWD.  
28 B. **The Executive Board recommends that the Central Evangelical Church of the Brethren**  
29 **be closed, and any group meeting under the name is not associated with the Church of**  
30 **the Brethren.** A time was given for questions. A question was asked about the litigation.  
31 Marye Martinez answered that her report will cover the litigation. **It was approved to close**  
32 **the Central Evangelical Church of the Brethren.**  
33 C. District Executive Russ Matteson led a prayer as the relationship with Central Evangelical was  
34 concluded.

35 **XVII. Policy Board Report**

- 36 A. Marye Martinez directed the delegates to Page 18 of the Business Book. Marye noted that the  
37 PSWD has had three different District Executive Ministers over the last few years and that  
38 Russ Matteson has settled in as DE and is doing an excellent job.  
39 B. Marye explained briefly about the litigation with Central Evangelical. We should hear on  
40 December 2, 2015, that the property can be sold.  
41 C. Marye directed the delegates to the Ministry Investment Plan in the Business Book.  
42 D. Marye gave a background on the grant program and explained that the Ministry Partnership  
43 Funds is a new item.  
44 E. Marye Martinez acknowledged the Policy Board and Executive Board members and thanked  
45 them for their work.

- F. Mike Boeger spoke about the financial situation of the PSWD and directed the delegates to Page 64 of the Business Book for the Ministry Investment Plan summary. Mike Boeger acknowledged Ralph Carlson, bookkeeper; Jim Martinez, Chair of the Grant Review Committee; and Elizabeth Rowan, Chair of the Investment Committee.
- G. Mike Boeger gave some additional history about the Central Evangelical situation. Mike noted that because of the situation, the PSWD has implemented policies to prevent similar problems in the future. A question was asked about the proceeds from the sale of the Central Evangelical property. Mike Boeger answered that there will be expenses to be paid, and the amount due to the PSWD is not known at this time.
- H. Russ Matteson gave a report of the Ministry Commission in Tom Hostetler's absence. Russ directed the delegates to a pamphlet in the delegate packets regarding the Ministry Commission and outlined the procedure in calling a person to the set-apart ministry.
- I. The ministers of the PSWD were recognized with a round of applause.

### **XVIII. Election of 2016 Officers**

- A. **Erin Matteson (Modesto) moved and Thomas Dowdy (Imperial Heights) seconded to accept the ballot as a slate.** Linda Davis (Church of the Living Savior) spoke against a slate ballot.
- B. **The motion to accept the ballot as a slate was approved.**
- C. **The motion to approve the slate ballot was approved.**
- D. The following persons were elected to the PSWD 2016 positions:
1. Moderator-Elect: Sara Haldeman-Scarr (San Diego)
  2. Nominating Committee: Doris Dunham (Bakersfield)
  3. Clerk: Karen Cosner (Modesto)
  4. Standing Committee Alternate: Don Shankster (Papago Buttes)
  5. Program Committee:
    - a. Robert Aguirre (Cornerstone)
    - b. Kirsten Storne-Piazza (Live Oak)
  6. Board of Administration:
    - a. Erick Flores (Príncipe de Paz), Youth/Young Adult Representative
    - b. Rayna Harrison (La Verne), Youth/Young Adult Representative
    - c. Alex Sanders (Modesto), Youth/Young Adult Representative
    - d. Brenda Dickson (South Bay), At-Large
    - e. Tom Hostetler (La Verne), At-Large
    - f. Andrew Sampson (Pomona Fellowship), At-Large
    - g. Nelda Clark (Tucson), Arizona Representative
    - h. Dean Davis (Bakersfield), Central California Representative

### **XIX. Query "Living Together as Christ Calls" from La Verne Church of the Brethren**

- A. **There is a recommendation from the Executive Board to accept the Query as a business item.** Discussion was held. Several people spoke in opposition to accepting the Query as an item of business. One person spoke in favor of accepting the Query as a business item. **The recommendation to accept the Query as a business item was approved, eight nays.**
1. Phil Corr (Church of the Living Savior) asked the Moderator to rule whether the Query is out of order with the Query process of the Church of the Brethren. Moderator Eric Bishop ruled that the Query is in line with the Annual Conference intent of queries.
  2. **Phil Corr (Church of the Living Savior) moved and Joel Price (Empire) seconded to return this document to the District Board with the understanding that the Board will engage all the District churches in dialogue regarding the matters raised by this**

document. The motion to return the Query to the District Board was discussed. People spoke both in favor and in opposition to the motion. **The motion failed to pass.**

3. Discussion was held on the Query. People spoke both in favor and in opposition of the Query.

B. **The recommendation from the Executive Board to approve the Query was approved, one abstention, ten nay votes.**

## XX. Program Committee Report

Eric Bishop acknowledged the work of the Program Committee for their work on this year's conference. Next year's District Conference will be held November 11-13 in Modesto, CA.

## XXI. Ministry Investment Plan

A. Mike Boeger directed the delegates to Page 64 of the Business Book for the summary of the Ministry Investment Plan. A time was given for questions and discussion. A question was asked about some of the support given to congregations. Mike Boeger answered that there is a lot of support given to support individual churches and ministers. Mike gave a brief background of the grant program and explained that the recipients are being monitored for congregational growth.

B. **The Ministry Investment Plan comes as a recommendation from the Policy Board. Approved, one nay, no abstentions.**

## XXII. District Executive Minister Report

Russ Matteson directed the delegates to Page 11 of the Business Book. Russ thanked the congregations in the PSWD for the warm welcome as District Executive Minister. Russ has visited each church in the PSWD. Russ welcomed the new pastors to the PSWD: Phil Corr (Church of the Living Savior) and Nelda Clarke (Tucson). Live Oak, Waterford, and Glendale will be going through transitions in the coming weeks. Russ explained that he has connected with persons in the Phoenix area who are seminary trained and discovered the Anabaptist faith tradition. We will work with them to build a relationship and see if they can find their home. Russ acknowledged the work of the Policy Board members, the Grant Review Committee, the Nurturing and Credentialing Committee, the Nominating Committee, the Program Committee, and individuals who have worked as mentors. All of these people are working to further the work of Christ. A time was allowed for questions of Russ Matteson.

## XXIII. Moderator's Closing Remarks

Eric Bishop thanked the District for the opportunity to serve as the Moderator.

## XXIV. Passing of the Gavel

Eric Bishop passed the gavel to Moderator-Elect John Price.

## XXV. Adjournment

A. **Richard Hart (Pomona Fellowship) moved and Mauricio Iacueli (Circle of Peace) seconded to adjourn the meeting. Approved.**

B. The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

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Minutes recorded by Laura Miller, Clerk

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In May 2016 the draft copy of the minutes was examined and given preliminary approval by the committee: Richard Hart (Pomona Fellowship), Lois Frantz (Empire), and Cady Laycook (Southbay).

# Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren November 2016 – November 2017 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

	Karen Pierson, Living Savior, McFarland - CC

## Nominating Committee

Vote for 1 Three year term

	Gerald Davis, Pomona Fellowship - SE

## Program Committee, District Conference

Vote for 1 Three year term

	Linda Hart, Pomona Fellowship - SE (incumbent)

## District Board of Administration Youth & Young Adult Representatives

Vote for 3 One year term

	Elizabeth Piazza, Live Oak - NC
	Alex Sanders, Modesto - NC (incumbent)
	Israel Rosas, Glendale - SW

## District Board of Administration At-Large Representatives

Vote for 5 Three year term

	Jose Rudy Amaya, Príncipe de Paz - SE
	Cheryl Crane, Prince of Peace - NC
	Eddie Hernandez, Modesto - NC
	Katherine Boeger Knight, Live Oak - NC
	Clark Youngblood, Circle of Peace - AZ (incumbent)

## Southern CA East Representative

Vote for 1 Three year term

	Dot Hess, La Verne - SE

## Brethren Hillcrest Homes Board Nominees

Vote for 1 Three year term

	Linda Battram Dorosh, La Verne - SE

## 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 2016 - 2017 Ballot

Candidates are listed by office, alphabetically by last name.

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

**Moderator-Elect** (vote for 1): The two year term begins immediately. In addition to being an officer of District Conference, the Moderator-Elect serves on the District Board of Administration, the District Conference Program Committee, and chairs the Nominating Committee.



**Karen Pierson:**

*Age:* 59

*Congregation:* Church of the Living Savior CoB, McFarland.

*Vocation:* Substitute Teacher.

finished my second term on the district board. During that time I also served on the Ministry Commission. At Church of the Living Savior I have served on the Praise Team, and helped in the Children's Adventure Club on Sunday morning.

*Vision Statement:* To see every individual, every church in the PSWD working together as the body of Christ.

*Church Experience:* In December 2015 I

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**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.



**Gerald Davis:**

*Age:* 85

*Congregation:* Pomona Fellowship CoB

*Vocation:* Retired farmer

*Church Experience:* District Moderator 3 times, PFCOB Assistant Moderator, PFCOB Deacon.

*Vision Statement:* Jesus told us to love God, to love our neighbors, and to love each other as Jesus loves us. I believe that we should share the truth that God has revealed to us with each other in this spirit of love.

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**Program Committee, District Conference** (vote for 1): 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.



**Linda Hart:**

*Age:* 77

*Congregation:* Pomona Fellowship CoB

*Vocation:* Retired Special Education Teacher

*Church Experience:* Have been member of the Church Board, pastoral search committee, and all the commissions, currently serving on the Music and Worship Commission. Volunteer in all aspects of the life of our church.

*Vision Statement:* To show/live Gods love in word and deed. To see the church become a place of love, service and acceptance and to continue the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply and together.



**PSWD Board of Administration:** The term begins immediately. The purpose of the Board is to manage and administer the religious and business activities of the District, as authorized by the District Conference.

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**PSWD Board of Administration: Southern CA East 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.



**Dot Hess:**  
*Age:* 75  
*Congregation:* La Verne CoB  
*Vocation:* Retired college administrator and management consultant.

*Church Experience:* District and annual conference delegate, locally served on several commissions and the Church Board, served several years with Brethren Disaster ministry in New Orleans, New Jersey and Colorado.

*Vision Statement:* The churches of our district are so varied in size and need, but I want to see us work together to better understand each other. We are all followers of one Jesus simply, peacefully and it must be together.

**PSWD Board of Administration: At-Large Representatives.** . . . . . Vote for 5 (three year term)  
Board members must be a member of a Church of the Brethren congregation within the district for at least one year prior to election and must have demonstrated leadership ability.



**Jose Rudy Amaya:**  
*Age:* 47  
*Congregation:* Príncipe de Paz CoB  
*Vocation:* Professional Truck Driver Class C

Worship Chair, Church Accompanist, VBS Director and teacher.

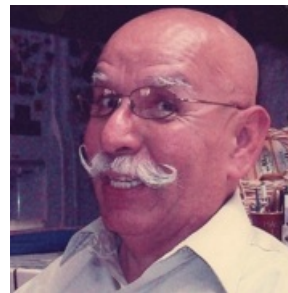
*Vision Statement:* As Christians we are bound together to support each other as we grow to become stronger spiritually and increase our ability to do God's work in a needy world.

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*Church Experience:* 1) Participated at the Church Planting Conference at Bethany Seminary in 2016; 2) Local Church Moderator; 3) Missions and Community Outreach minister at Príncipe de Paz.

*Vision Statement:* To follow Jesus and share his loving grace to others.

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**Edward A Hernandez:**  
*Age:* 72  
*Congregation:* Modesto Church of the Brethren  
*Vocation:* Retired, retail management.



**Cheryl Crane:**  
*Age:* 55  
*Congregation:* Prince of Peace, Sacramento  
*Vocation:* Elementary School Teacher

*Church Experience:* Church Moderator, Church

*Church Experience:* I am fairly new to the Church of the Brethren. I first became introduced through attending the past 5 annual conferences. I was accepted as a member in November 2013. I have become active in our fellowship through choir, member of the "worship and spiritual life" commission and within the last year have become a deacon. Also I had been co-chair of our annual church retreat committee.

*Vision Statement:* To become actively involved with the district policies. Seeking to find resolutions to the challenges of our denomination. To bring “new blood” and enthusiasm. Help our fellowship to become united in peace, love and Christ centered accomplishments.

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**Katherine Boeger Knight:**

*Age:* 45

*Congregation:* Live Oak Church of the Brethren

*Vocation:* Vocational background in business, farming, human resource management, and Brethren

Volunteer Service recruitment. Currently parenting.

*Church Experience:* I have been blessed with many opportunities to serve the church locally, nationally, and even internationally. I am currently serving on my congregation's nominating committee and have previous experience on all three commissions of the church board and as Nurture Commission Chair. I have also served as Annual Conference Delegate and worked with Brethren Disaster Services with multiple Brethren groups at various locations. --- As Coordinator of Recruitment and Service Advocacy for Brethren Volunteer Service and Global Mission Partnerships, I met with countless different Church of the Brethren districts, congregations, members, pastors, volunteers, colleges, denominational employees, and related agencies where they reside, work, and worship as well as at multiple educational gatherings such as Intercultural Consultation and seminars and conferences for various age groups from youth to older adult. Internationally I have served at a Nigerian Work Camp and on a Christian Peacemaker Teams Delegation to Colombia. I feel called to now serve our district as well.

*Vision Statement:* My vision is for our district and our congregations to grow spiritually and physically, exploring and implementing ways to plant, support, and encourage our churches while enhancing relations between them, strengthening the bond within our district.

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**Clark R. Youngblood:**

*Age:* 69

*Congregation:* Circle of Peace CoB

*Vocation:* Retired Professor of Christian Studies, Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, AZ

*Church Experience:* I am an ordained minister (retired) in the Church of the Brethren and have been a member of Circle of Peace Church for 8 years. I have served on the Church Board (Leadership Team) of Circle of Peace in the past as Chair of the Evangelism and Church Growth Committee and am currently serving as Moderator of Circle of Peace Church. Also, in the past, I have taught an adult Bible study class at Circle of Peace. I am finishing a term on the PSWDCOB Policy Board and am on the Ministry Commission of PSWDCOB.

*Vision Statement:* My vision for the Church is the carrying out of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20). This includes, not only evangelism, but discipleship in deed as well as in theory. This discipleship includes both one's personal spiritual growth and the living out of the complete Gospel which includes all that Jesus taught, including social justice and ecological responsibility. Put another way, it is the Great Commandment - love God with your whole being - and the Second like unto it - love your neighbor as yourself and - love and care for God's creation.

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## Ballot Background Information, Exhibit B

### SWD 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.



**Elizabeth Piazza:**

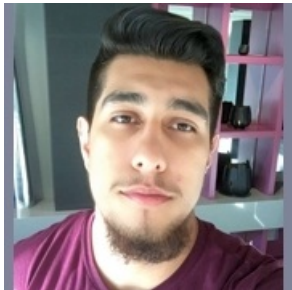
*Age:* 15

*Congregation:* Live Oak CoB

*Vocation:* High School Student

*Church Experience:* I have been the youth representative on the Live Oak Church of the Brethren Board for the past two years. I have also served on the PSWD Youth Cabinet for the past two years.

*Vision Statement:* I would like to be a part of growing the youth participation in our district. I would be honored to have an opportunity to be a voice for the youth and encouraging a focus on youth participation in our district, our communities, and our nation as we continue to serve God and one another.



**Israel Rosas:**

*Age:* 20

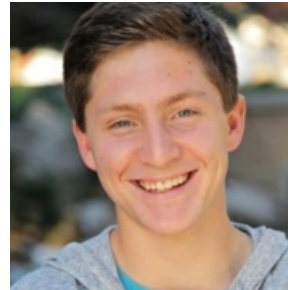
*Congregation:* Glendale Church of the Brethren

*Vocation:* I am currently a student and athlete at the local community college here in Glendale and I plan on transferring out to a 4 year university in a couple years to pursue a major in either psychology or business. I also hope to further my football career.

*Church Experience:* My family and I have been part of the Glendale COB for about 4 years. In those 4 years I tried to contribute and do my part to make Glendale COB a place my brothers and I can call home. I worked close with the late pastor John who guided me to be a better person and who truly played a big role into who I am today. I helped pastor John get everything ready and organized every morning before church, setting up candles, helping set up tables for his famous breakfast, whatever it may be, I helped him get the job done.

Since it was my job to be at church very early in the morning, I attended almost every Sunday school meeting there was. I went to camp Laverne every year I could. I attended national youth conference in Colorado which was an extraordinary experience. And I was also convinced that my voice was good enough to be part of the church choir.

*Vision Statement:* I hope to take this opportunity to put in my part and contribute in any way I can. Along with being another voice on the board, I hope to gain more experience to further extend my involvement in the COB youth. im really excited to work together to help the COB vision grow.



**Alex Sanders:**

*Age:* 20

*Congregation:* Modesto CoB

*Vocation:* I am a Junior 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 4 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.

## Ballot Background Information, Exhibit B

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



**Linda Battram Dorosh:**

*Congregation:* La Verne  
Church of the  
Brethren

*Vocation:* Lawyer

*Church Experience:*  
Served on Hillcrest Board  
over fifteen years ago.

Choir member and serve in other music programs.  
Christian Education Committee for six years and  
Finance Committee for one year.

*Vision Statement:* To continue to keep  
Hillcrest a retirement village of choice, and  
maintain loyalty to the Church of the Brethren in  
Christ's love, companionship and care. To  
support our Church body and leadership with all  
of ability and God given talents possessed. To  
grow so that others may benefit from our  
collective labors of love, and follow Christ our  
Savior into the Realm of Heaven.



## Pacific Southwest District 2017 PSWD Budget and 2018 Operating Expense Maximum

The Policy Board has given a great deal of thought and attention to the finances of the PSWD as a part of its work in 2016. Certainly the 2015 Operating Deficit of \$519,108 and the accompanying 2015 loss on our investments of \$317,967, which combined to reduce our asset base by \$837,075 helped to focus our attention. Along with the financial considerations, the Policy Board also focused on what our ministry and financial priorities should be as we move into the future.

Out of those conversations there is a desire to move the district towards a more sustainable future, and from there to focus on prioritizing the work of staff and additional funds to best move us forward in supporting the congregations and ministry of the PSWD. The work on Ministry Focus is nearly complete, and will continue to drive Policy Board conversation into 2017 and beyond. A strong consensus emerged that the District needs to move towards a budget with a deficit that does not exceed \$350,000 annually in order to provide the best opportunity into the future to support the health, growth, and vitality of congregations in the PSWD of the Church of the Brethren.

### 2017 PSWD Budget

In the spreadsheets that follow is the proposed 2017 District Budget. In the notes below you will get a glimpse of the choices that were made to create this budget, and the priorities that are supported. The budget has a total operating expense of \$528,082 for 2017, which is reduction of more than \$103,000 from the 2016 budget. The anticipated deficit for 2017 is \$426,482, a significant decrease, but not quite to the target goal mentioned above. In the end there were commitments that the Policy Board felt were important to carry through into 2017, while giving notice that the nature of those commitments will likely be different when we arrive at 2018.

### 2017 District Budget Notes

#### ***Commitments***

Congregational Support Grants – These will continue with the three congregations we are currently working with for 2017, but they have all been advised that this is the final year of this kind of support from PSWD. The grant support in 2017 comes to \$91,000.

Ministry Partnership Funds – These continue to grow in working with congregations to encourage entrepreneurial work to revitalize, grow, and try new ministries with shared financial support from the district. \$50,000 is marked for this work in 2017.

Shared Outreach Ministry – \$3000 is provided for this new item that will support an effort to find and engage in an outreach/service ministry within the geography of PSWD that we might share together and would help us to build connections and unity as we work together in a shared project.

#### ***Savings***

District Office Rent Reduction – we are in conversation to find a new location at Hillcrest with a lower rental cost. \$12,000 savings.

Ministry Commission budget – Investments remain strong in TRIM, SeBAH, and other training opportunities, as well as for the Pastor (Spouse) Retreat and a Professional Growth event at District Conference. We will be tightening the expenses on some events. \$12,000 savings.

District Board Operations – These have been reduced to reflect more accurately the actual expenses of recent years, and we are actively exploring other ways to connect virtually that would lead to additional cost savings while still preserving the value of relationship. \$13,000 savings.

District Staff – Budget has no increase in staff compensation in 2017. Additionally, there are reductions in the expenses for Travel and Professional Growth to more accurately reflect our experience in these areas. \$9,000 savings.

#### **Action Item:**

The Policy Board recommends to District Conference the adoption of the proposed 2017 budget as presented.

## 2018 Operating Expense Maximum

The Policy Board is also bringing to District Conference an action item that asks the delegate body to set an Operating Expense Maximum at this District Conference which will guide the Policy Board as it works on the budget for 2018 in the year ahead. The Policy Board did not want to force details onto next year's Board, but did want to encourage the District to continue moving toward the articulated goals of sustainability into the future which included working to reduce the annual deficit to not more than \$350,000.

The recommendation is to set an operating expense maximum of \$425,000 for 2018. This represents a reduction in expenses of \$103,000 from the 2017 budget, and of \$420,000 from the actual expenses of 2014. The Policy Board will have its work to do in 2017 to prepare a budget at this level, and to align finances, staff, and commission focus to support the priorities they are continuing to articulate. A significant portion of this education will come from ending congregational support grants, but additional reductions in staff time, and some other areas of support are likely. We invite you to hold the 2017 Board in your prayers as they continue this work.

While this will be a challenge, and a change from our past investment practices in congregational staff support, the Policy Board is hopeful that moving in this direction will set us on course for a future that is sustainable into and through the decade of the 2020's.

### Action Item:

The Policy Board recommends to District Conference that the Operating Expense maximum for the 2018 budget be \$425,000.

### Pacific Southwest District Church of the Brethren Income & Expense Summary - Proposed 2017 Budget

		2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Budget	2016 YTD (Aug.)	2017 Proposal	2018 Estimate
Contributions Income	4100	34,209	53,527	35,000	38,159	36,000	38,000
Interest and Other Income	4200	70,324	41,797	41,694	24,841	41,300	40,300
Participation Income	4600	26,264	20,829	23,700	1,868	24,300	26,900
<b>Total Operating Income</b>		130,797	116,153	100,394	64,868	101,600	105,200
Congregational Development Ministry	5005	317,468	158,127	201,500	93,630	142,500	
Pastoral Leadership & Support	5300	43,463	22,015	48,500	29,890	35,500	
District Empowering Ministry	5500	58,241	39,041	48,600	25,077	35,600	
Partnership & Property Ministry	5700	99,670	121,202	23,400	22,531	20,500	
Service Ministries	6300	5,241	2,244	6,500	2,911	9,000	
District Operating Ministry	6500	322,022	292,632	302,782	194,987	284,982	
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>		846,105	635,261	631,282	369,026	528,082	425,000
<b>Operating Deficit</b>		-715,308	-519,108	-530,888	-304,158	-426,482	-319,800
Add:							
Brethren Investments gain/(loss)	4400	177,777	-317,967	200,000	185,191		
Sale of Church Property	4500						
Increase/Decrease in Net Assets		-537,531	-837,075	-330,888	-118,967	-426,482	-319,800
<b>Beginning Cash / Notes / Investment Value</b>		5,957,400	5,447,732	4,599,987	4,480,250		

## Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren 2015-2018, Four Year District Budget Overview

Power Church Report Levels					Pc	2015	2016	2017	2018
1	2	3	4		Line #	Actual	Budget	Proposal	Estimate
Income					4000				
Ministry Income					4010				
Contributions Income					4100				
Individuals					4108	6,633	4,000	4,000	4,000
Congregations					4120	34,660	28,000	30,000	31,000
Church Closure Contribution					4125	0	0	0	0
Groups					4129	9,518	0	0	0
CDS Children's Disaster Rapid Response					4134	372	0	0	0
Other Income					4140	2,344	3,000	2,000	3,000
Subtotal Contributions Inc.					4100	53,527	35,000	36,000	38,000
Investment Income					4200				
Checking / Money Mkt Income					4210	2	0	0	0
Notes Rec. Interest / Fees					4301	41,797	40,394	40,000	39,000
Investment Funds					4400	0	0	0	0
Sale of Church Property					4500	0	0	0	0
Misc. Income					4550	929	1,300	1,300	1,300
Subtotal Investment Income					4200	42,728	41,694	41,300	40,300
Participation Income					4600				
Dist Conf Income					4610	17,819	20,500	20,500	20,500
Events Income					4630	3,010	3,200	3,800	6,400
Subtotal Participation Income					4600	20,829	23,700	24,300	26,900
Total Income						117,084	100,394	101,600	105,200
Expenses					5000				
Ministry Investments					5001				
Congregational Dev Min					5005				
Web Site Development					5020	1,865	1,500	1,500	
Ministry Partnership Funds					5030	0	0	50,000	
Cong Minister Support Grants					5100	156,262	200,000	91,000	
Subtotal Congregational Dev Min					5005	158,127	201,500	142,500	0
Pastoral Leadership & Support					5300				
Trim (Training in Min)					5310	2,066	4,000	2,500	
Sebah (Sem.bib Ana His)					5315	2,638	6,000	9,000	
Bethany Theo. Seminary					5320	0	1,500	1,500	
Pastors' Retreat					5325	10,880	20,000	14,000	
Minister's Workshop					5330	3,348	7,000	4,000	
Other District Workshops					5335	3,083	4,000	2,500	
Minister's Ethics Training					5336	0	0	0	
Prof. Growth Subsidy					5338	0	6,000	2,000	
Subtotal Pastoral Leadership & Support					5300	22,015	48,500	35,500	0
District Empowering Ministry					5500				
District Conference					5520	18,622	18,600	18,600	
Ministry Commission					5540	2,097	3,000	1,000	

Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren 2015-2018, Four Year District Budget Overview									
Power Church Report Levels					Pc	2015	2016	2017	2018
1	2	3	4		Line #	Actual	Budget	Proposal	Estimate
				Stewards Commission	5560	131	1,000	500	
				Board of Administration & Work Groups	5600	10,723	13,500	7,500	
				Nurturing & Credentialing Committee	5630	5,901	3,500	3,500	
				Shalom Team	5640	0	0	0	
				Resource Materials	5650	0	500	500	
				Inter-cultural Ministry	5660	0	1,000	1,000	
				National Youth Conf./Regional Youth Conf.	5670	0	3,500	0	
				Youth Activity & Cabinet Expense	5680/7	1,567	4,000	3,000	
				<b>Subtotal District Empowering Min</b>	<b>5500</b>	<b>39,041</b>	<b>48,600</b>	<b>35,600</b>	<b>0</b>
				<b>Partnership &amp; Prop. Min</b>	<b>5700</b>				
				Denominational Assessment	5710	1,626	1,700	1,800	
				Standing Committee	5720	2,056	2,500	2,500	
				University of La Verne	5725	5,000	5,000	4,000	
				Ecumenical Councils	5730	0	500	500	
				Council of District Executives	5740	345	500	500	
				Property & Legal	5800	112,175	13,200	11,200	
				<b>Subtotal Partnership &amp; Prop. Min</b>	<b>5700</b>	<b>121,202</b>	<b>23,400</b>	<b>20,500</b>	<b>0</b>
				<b>Service Ministries</b>	<b>6300</b>				
				Disaster Response	6310	2,136	5,000	5,000	
				CDS: Children's Disaster Services	6320	108	1,500	1,000	
				Other District Service Opportunity	6340	0	0	3,000	
				<b>Subtotal Service Ministries</b>	<b>6300</b>	<b>2,244</b>	<b>6,500</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>0</b>
				<b>District Operating Ministry</b>	<b>6500</b>				
				Office Space & Utilities	6520	28,341	30,600	18,500	
				Equipment & Maintenance	6600	1,061	3,000	2,500	
				Supplies/ Printing/ Publications	6650	5,100	8,000	5,500	
				Postage and Mailing	6670	1,255	3,500	1,600	
				Insurance	6680	8,280	9,000	13,200	
				Audit and Prof. Fees	6700	16,868	22,500	19,000	
				Staff Salaries	7000	180,837	173,400	174,900	
				Staff Benefits & Retired Ch Workers Fund	7100	24,835	18,132	18,132	
				Staff Travel / Professional Growth	7500	21,645	31,100	28,100	
				New Life / Pub Etc & Misc.	7750	4,410	3,550	3,550	
				<b>Subtotal District Operating Ministry</b>	<b>6500</b>	<b>292,632</b>	<b>302,782</b>	<b>284,982</b>	<b>0</b>
				<b>Subtotal Ministry Investments</b>	<b>5001</b>	<b>635,261</b>	<b>631,282</b>	<b>528,082</b>	<b>0</b>
				<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>635,261</b>	<b>631,282</b>	<b>528,082</b>	<b>425,000</b>
				<b>Excess Income \ Expenses</b>		<b>-518,177</b>	<b>-530,888</b>	<b>-426,482</b>	<b>-319,800</b>



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## Moving Cristo Sion to congregation status

**The Executive Board recommends to District Conference that Cristo Sion be moved to Congregational Status.**

Cristo Sion Iglesia de los Hermanos joined the PSWD as a project in 2007. They were an existing church when they joined the Church of the Brethren. Since that time they have operated their ministry out of space in the Pomona Fellowship congregation. Their pastoral leadership, David & Rita Flores, and Nohemi Flores are licensed ministers and are active participants in the SeBAH Ministry Training program as they work towards ordination.

Originally the project was supported and encouraged by staff for New Church Development and Hispanic Ministries. When those positions were ended in 2010, ongoing support came largely from Jerry and Berkeley Davis of the Pomona Fellowship congregation. The Flores have been active in the District and have attended Annual Conference on several occasions. In many ways they have operated as a congregation since 2011 without acknowledgment of such, or structured District support of them as a project. This action recognizes their status as a congregation among us and will allow them to have delegates at District and Annual Conference, and for the pastors membership and licenses to ministry to be held in the congregation.

## Closing Waterford Church of the Brethren

**The Executive Board recommends to District Conference that Waterford Church of the Brethren be closed.**

In the summer of 2015, Ann Weaver announced her retirement as the pastor of the Waterford congregation. The District Executive Minister met with the leadership team of the congregation to discuss future directions and possibilities for ministry. After a process of conversation and discernment the Board recommended to the congregation that the church be closed at the end of 2015 with the retirement of the pastor. This was approved at a Council meeting in October 2015. A Closing Committee was named by the Executive Board to work with the leadership of the congregation as they worked with the District to arrange for the transfer of finances, records, and property, and to plan for a closing worship service in January 2016. This was well attended by current members and by friends and former members of the Waterford congregation. Their shared commitment to ministry and witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ was remembered and celebrated in the worship service. It is with sadness, but thanksgiving for the ministry done during the past 98 years, that this recommendation to formally close the congregation comes to District Conference.

At this time the Closing Committee is evaluating the physical needs of the property to see what work must be done to continue to use the building, and soon will make a recommendation to the Executive Board about future uses of the church building.

## 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. ....	Hillcrest, La Verne. ....	November 7-9. ....	Erin Matteson
2015. ....	Hillcrest, La Verne. ....	November 13-15. ....	Eric Bishop
2016. ....	Modesto. ....	November 11-13. ....	John Price

# 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 – 2016. . . . .	Marye Martinez. . . . .	Russ Matteson

## Activity Locations

See also Schedule on pages [4-5](#)

- #15 Registration & Information Table – Sanctuary Foyer
- #16 Friday Workshop – Fine Arts Room
- #14 Worship: Friday, Saturday, Sunday – Sanctuary
- #14 Business Session: Saturday – Sanctuary
- #15 Exhibits – Sanctuary Foyer
- #4 SERRV – Room # 4
- #19 Relaxation / Visiting – The Rest Area
- #18 Ice Cream Social – The Gathering Place
- #21 Meditative Walk – Labyrinth
- #5 Prayer & Meditation – Room # 5 “*The Quiet Place*”
- #17 Hospitality – Hospitality Room

## Meal Locations

- #18 **Conference Meals** – The Gathering Place (*pre-paid with Registration*)

**Insight Session Locations:** The assignment of session topics to rooms will happen on October 27.  
The handout in your *Participant Packet* has all the details. Or look at the copy posted at the *Information Table* just outside the Sanctuary doors.

- #14 Session 1 – Sanctuary
- #16 Session 2 – Fine Arts Room (also Friday’s Workshop)
- #1 Session 3 – Room # 1-2
- #6 Session 4 – Room # 6
- #11 Session 5 – Room # 11

## Age Group Activity Locations

- #12 Nursery – Nursery by the Sanctuary
- #10 Children’s Activities – Room # 10
- #9 Youth – Room # 9
  - High School sleep over is off campus, call Dawna Welch 909-267-5477 to locate a Youth



