

Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren

Business Book



54TH Annual District Conference
November 10-12, 2017

Held at:

Hillcrest

2705 Mountain View Drive
La Verne CA 91750-4398

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Old Business Item:

None

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Hillcrest, site of our Business and Worship Sessions

Pacific Southwest District**Church of the Brethren****2017 Annual Meeting****November 10-12, 2017****All events are at Hillcrest in La Verne, California.****Welcome to the 2017 Pacific Southwest District Conference**

It's District Conference time again! We invite you to gather together to be with one another for a weekend of fun, fellowship, faith sharing and a little bit of work! In our gathering, we are going to witness to our understanding of Jesus through the joy of worship, the routine of business, and the fun of fellowship, hospitality, and service.

Brian McLaren, an author, speaker, activist and public theologian, will speak to us Friday night helping us connect to the importance of our Christian identity as we live in a multifaceted and multi-faith world. Saturday, Moderator Sara Haldeman-Scarr will preside over our business sessions and Saturday evening we will share together in a District Love Feast being with each other around table as we witness to the community and service of basin and towel. Sunday morning Sara Haldeman-Scarr will preach as we conclude the 2017 conference.

Can't wait to be with you and experience the with-ness and witness of Jesus in our lives together!

See you at Conference!



Sara Haldeman-Scarr, Moderator, 2017

PSWD District Conference**Business Meeting Agenda****November 11, 2017**

- I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer
- II. Roll call and establishing of Quorum
- III. Approval of Agenda and 2016 Minutes (p.44)
- IV. Business Items
 - A. Election of leadership (pp.14-16 & pp.48-54)
 - B. 2018 PSWD Budget Proposal (pp.55-58)
 - C. 2019 Budget Parameters (pp.55-58)
- V. Reports
 - A. Annual Conference Agencies (pp.33-37)
 - 1. Representative from On Earth Peace
 - 2. Representative from Brethren Benefit Trust
 - B. District Policy Board (pp.17-26)
 - C. District Executive Minister (pp.11-13)
 - D. District Program Committee (p.17)
 - E. Standing Committee Delegate (p.14)
- VI. Adjournment

Friday, November 10: PSWD Ministry Continuing Education Event, presented by Brian McLaren

	Conference Packets for event participants will be waiting in the Chapel
8:30	Workshop Check-In www.pswdcob.org/events/ministers
8:45 - 12:15	Nursery / Child care (lunch with parents)
9:00-12:00	Workshop Session 1
Noon	Lunch (<u>Ticket Required</u>)
12:45 - 5:15	Nursery / Child care (resumes)
1:00 - 5:00	Workshop Session 2

Friday, November 10 — District Conference Schedule

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>)
6:45-8:45	Nursery / Child care
7:00	Gathering Music & Singing
7:15 - 8:30	Opening Worship – Brian McLaren speaking
<i>after Worship</i>	Ice Cream Social in Café area Exhibits, Registration Work on the Service Project
9:00 - 10:30	Youth will be gathering in their activity room
10:30	Youth Activities end: Youth leave for lodging they chose during registration

Saturday, November 11 — District Conference Schedule

	Breakfast on your own
7:30am	Youth Activities <i>continue</i>
8:00am - Noon	Registration & Information Table <i>open until lunch</i>
8:00am -9:00pm	Hospitality, Chapel Devotions, Exhibits, & SERRV (closed during worship)
9:00am -9:00pm	Work on the Service Project (Birch Court kitchen area)
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
	During Lunch, Registration Table: <u>Closes for the rest of conference</u>
12:00 - 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 - 7:00	All District Love Feast & Worship (cost of meal included with registration) Children join their parents for this special event, NO Nursery / Child care is available
7:15	Evening activities after Love Feast include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Campfire with singing ○ Family Game Night ○ Work on the Service Project
10:30	Youth Activities end: Youth leave for lodging they chose during registration

Sunday, November 12 — District Conference Schedule

	Breakfast on your own
8:00am	Board Re-organization including continental breakfast (<i>Board of Administration only</i>)
9:30 - 11:45	Nursery / Child care
9:45	Gathering Music & Singing
10:00 - 11:30	Worship – Moderator Sara Haldeman-Scarr speaking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Recognition of ordination anniversaries ○ Consecration of Licensed Ministers, Board of Administration, Moderator-Elect, Moderator



2017 Pastor / Spouse Retreat
Sponsored by the PSWD Ministry Commission



“The Witness and With-ness of Jesus!”

Matthew 5:1-16



Christian identity involves both Witness and With-ness. Our Witness speaks to the confidence of engaging others in conversation, with curiosity and respect, as we share our understanding of the Christ-like way of life. Our With-ness speaks to accompanying each other on our chosen faith journeys seeking to find and to encounter God's merciful, abundant, and unconditional love. On our sacred journeys, illumined by the light of Jesus, together we can find the beauty of our unity nestled in the creativity of our diversity. And in this we are pulled together by the mysterious power of God into miraculous tapestries! In 2017, may we discover the artistry of our lives as we weave together our faith stories to proclaim our with-ness and witness in Jesus.

Sara Haldeman-Scarr

Moderator

Delegates' Dedication Litany

November 11, 2017

Moderator: As we gather here in this meeting room where we will make decisions and worship together, I invite us to affirm our faith in the One who unites us as brothers and sisters of the family of faith.

Delegates: **You, O God, create our world and give us life. You invite us on a faith journey asking that we trust You to be our guide. We acknowledge You are always with us. You are our God.**

Moderator: You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure. You welcomed us into your family even before we knew we wanted to be there. You reveal and prove Your love for us in the breathtaking beauty of creation and in the grace-filled gift of Jesus the Christ. We acknowledge Your generosity. You are with us now and always. You are breath-taking and grace-filled. You are our God.

Delegates: **You, O God, are Holy Breath. You are Life's presence. You are Comforter. You are Gospel. You are Reconciler. You are Healer. You are Resurrection. You are Heart. You are our God.**

Moderator: We are thankful for Your presence!

Delegates: You are our God.

Moderator: We are thankful for Your witness!

Delegates: You are our God.

Moderator: As we have affirmed our faith, we now affirm our calling to be here in this place as delegates gathered from the four corners of our district. We gather to be with one another. We gather to witness to the faith we have been given. We gather to make decisions with respect, compassion, kindness and patience. Affirming these hopes and these goals, let us sing together a hymn of affirmation, “*God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian*” –

All: Hymn of Affirmation

Tune Hyfrydol 8.7.8.7.D. (Come thou long expected Jesus 178 in the blue hymnal)

(1) God the Spirit, guide and guardian, wind-spiced flame and hovering dove,
breath of life and voice of prophets, sign of blessing, power of love:
give to those who lead your people fresh anointing of your grace;
send them forth as bold apostles to your church in every place.

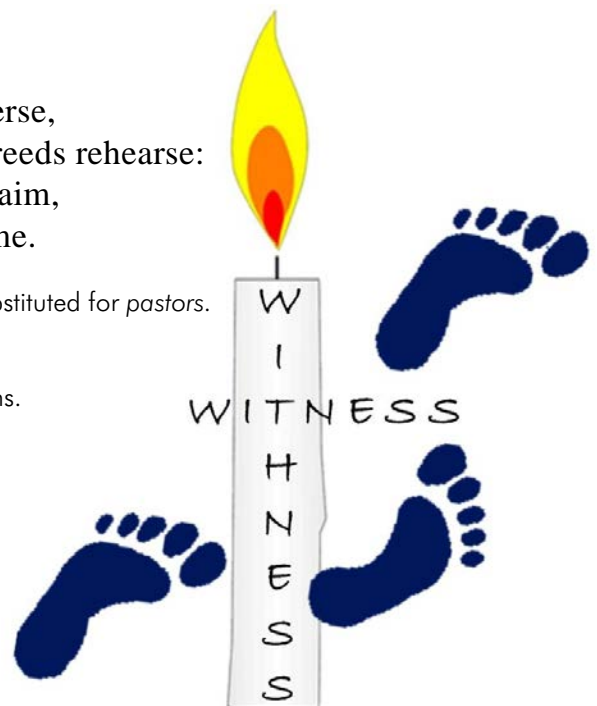
(2) Christ our Savior, sovereign, shepherd, Word made flesh, Love crucified,
teacher, healer, suffering servant, friend of sinners, foe of pride:
in your tending may all people* learn and live a shepherd’s care;
grant them courage and compassion shown through word and deed and prayer.

(3) Great Creator, life-bestower, truth beyond all thought’s recall,
fount of wisdom, womb of mercy, giving and forgiving all:
as you know our strength and weakness, so may those the church exalts
oversee its life steadfastly, yet not overlook its faults.

(4) Triune God, mysterious being, undivided and diverse,
deeper than our minds can fathom, greater than our creeds rehearse:
help us in our varied callings your full image to proclaim,
that our ministries uniting may give glory to your name.

*When appropriate, ministers, leaders, elders, or deacons may be substituted for pastors.

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Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren – 2017

Officers of the District Conference

Moderator..... Sara Haldeman-Scarr, San Diego
Moderator-Elect..... Karen Pierson, Living Savior (McFarland)
Clerk..... Karen Cosner, Modesto
Board of Administration Chair (ex-officio)..... Nelda Rhoades Clarke, Tucson
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.

Participation of 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 to the larger church, 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 attendees 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 are recognized by 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 15 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

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you. (Philippians 4:8-9, NRSV)

Paul's writing to the church in Philippi encourages the believers there, and those of us since, to place our focus on those things that we see and hear and experience in living with the spirit of faith that are worthy of praise. This is a good reminder to us, because I find that so often we can find ourselves focusing on things that take us away from Jesus, seeing only the problems and difficulties before us. So it is good to stop and take account of things, remembering the many bright points of blessing and goodness that are central to life when we are living in the spirit of Christ. Paul reminds us to focus on what we have learned and received in faith from those who have come before us and inspired us, keeping close to Christ and open to receiving the peace of God. My hope for our churches, for the sisters and brothers who gather in worship and service, is that we will keep our focus on Jesus in all that we do.

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 ordinations and installations, as well as simply visited. I have met with several boards/leadership teams, done pastor/congregation reviews, attended Council meetings, search committees, and Sunday School classes. I am grateful for the warm welcome in Christ that I continue to receive 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:

- Bakersfield - James Isaacs retired in February and the congregation has five members who are covering preaching while the deacons are providing pastoral care. The Search Committee is active in

looking for new pastoral leadership.

- Glendale - Randy Short has been called and began his service at Glendale in July. Randy and his wife Kathie come to PSWD from the Living Peace congregation in the Michigan District. We are grateful for the good service of Mike Fletcher as their interim for about 1 ½ years.

- La Verne - Janet Ober Lambert resigned as Associate pastor at the end of 2016 having served the La Verne congregation for 16 years in this capacity. The congregation began a search process for a Pastor of Spiritual Formation in the Spring of 2017 and called Dawna Welch to this new full-time ministry beginning in July. Dawna previously had been the part-time Minister of Children and Families at La Verne and the PSWD Youth Advisor.

- Modesto - Erin Matteson resigned effective the end of March after 13 ½ years of service at Modesto. The congregation has Mike Fletcher serving as their interim pastor since late July. The District has contracted with Dave Shetler, Executive Minister in Southern Ohio district, to serve Modesto in their search process since Erin is my spouse, and I had recently served the congregation in team ministry with her. Modesto is working on the Vital Ministry Journey to set future direction and will then enter the search process.

District Staffing

- **District Youth Advisor** - 2017 has been a year of opportunity and transition. District Youth Advisor Dawna Welch requested a leave of absence for 6-9 months in December to provide support in the La Verne congregation by taking on an increased pastoral presence during their transition to a new staff structure. Erik Brummett (pastor at Live Oak) accepted a call to serve as the interim District Youth Advisor for that period. Under Erik's leadership the youth cabinet met and planned a Spring Fling for Senior High youth which was hosted at the Bakersfield congregation and had 10 youth participate for the weekend which included reflections on our stewardship of creation and their abilities to work together which was tested on the High Ropes course at the Living Museum. In June Dawna resigned her district position to accept a full-time ministry call from the La Verne congregation. Erik has continued to serve in the interim capacity working to select the 2017-18 Youth Cabinet and then work with them to plan and

coordinate the activities for District Conference. We are currently searching for a new District Youth Advisor.

- **Ministry Training Coordinator** - The Ministry Commission and I also determined that it would be helpful to have someone serve in a part-time position as our Ministry Training Coordinator - covering the work of TRIM Coordinator, SeBAH advisor, and EFSM Supervising Pastor. In July we posted for this new position, which will work 15-20 hours each month, and use technology to do much of the connection with ministers involved in these various district level training programs. I am pleased to share that Gilbert Romero has accepted the invitation to serve the district in this way and began his work in September.

Congregational Transitions

- **New Harvest (Lindsay)** - I have been in conversation and prayer with the leadership of the congregation and have met with them in Council meeting, and the congregation will likely close in the next few months. A Closing Committee has been named and includes Joel and Susan Price, Karen Pierson, and Mark Heuer. We are working with the congregation to evaluate the church facility and explore the possibility of selling to another church in the area. I encourage you to hold the congregation and those working alongside them in your prayers in the days ahead.

- **Príncipe de Paz (Santa Ana)** - This congregation is excited to be supporting the beginning of a new church project "Príncipe de Paz Los Banos". The Executive Board took action in August to recognize this new group as a project and we hope that some from the congregation will be with us at District Conference. The group, under leadership of Rigo and Margie Berumen, began meeting in early 2017 at their home and soon outgrew the space. The Berumen's were part of the congregation in Santa Ana previously and had relocated to Los Banos a few years ago. In July a group from Santa Ana and the core group in Los Banos and Moderator Sara Haldeman-Scarr and Russ Matteson met for a time of sharing, prayer, and relationship building. Pray for this new church and their leadership, and for the Santa Ana congregation as they support them.

Ministry Partnership Funds - In 2017 the District has allocated to three different partnerships. This model of encouraging congregations to try new ministries, or to engage in work towards renewal and revitalization, or to support mission point

congregations began in 2016. As of this writing, those partnerships funded this year include:

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

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

Príncipe de Paz - Mission Congregation funds to support them as they work with a largely lower income congregation.

Focus and Finances Conversation - At the April meeting the Policy Board approved a working document that articulates a District Core Objective and the Circle of Support that names out the work we will focus on to undergird the Core Objective.

PSWD Core Objective - Supporting congregations in being vital and healthy communities of faith that embody and share distinctive Brethren ways of Christian belief and action. This working document comes out of conversations at Board meetings over the last year and a half (the full document is printed as an exhibit on page 25). The Board and I hope that our work in the district and congregations will provide energy and renewal in the way of Christ as our members and congregations are equipped and supported to live out their calling as followers of Jesus. This document then helped provide focus as we plan for future events and opportunities, and for where we are making ministry investments and priorities in the 2018 budget.

Council of District Executives - Much of my colleague District Executives work together this year was spent working with the Annual Conference Leadership Team in preparing the response to a query from West Marva District from 2016 Annual Conference that was referred to us for an answer. That document outlined the manner in which Districts should care for the relationships of ministers and congregations and the statements of Annual Conference. The document was adopted by the delegates this summer. As a part of the response that was approved was a call for work to begin on engaging the whole church in articulating a "compelling vision" that might help us move into a shared focus in ministry. I suspect that 2018 will have a great deal of focus throughout the denomination on coming together in this conversation. I have also attended two meetings of the On Earth Peace Board as the CODE liaison, and

am working with the Executive Development Committee on planning a professional growth event for the District Executives in April 2018 to be held at Bethany Theological Seminary. This will also include time for the District Executive Ministers to meet the current student body and get to know those who are preparing to serve our congregations, while also explaining the search process to the students.

Professional Growth - During 2017 I participated in two different growth events. The first was Anti-Racism Training through Crossroads and was a part of my preparation to serve as the CODE liaison to the On Earth Peace Board. This was an engaging 48 hours of exploring the history of race in American society and beyond, and looking at how people can work to develop anti-racist ways of being in the midst of a system that advantages “whiteness”. I also attending a weeklong workshop on Conflict Resolution Skills for Church Leaders done by the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. This workshop provided hands on training in various mediation and resolution practices. As part of this I am now certified to offer some preliminary workshops to congregations and leaders on self awareness and conflict.

I continue to work on learning Spanish so that I might better communicate and participate with the PSWD congregations that worship in Spanish. I am a slow learner of languages.

Central Korean Evangelical Church Lawsuit
- As of early 2017 our legal actions with CKEC

have really come to a conclusion. Since that time we have been waiting on the outcome of a lawsuit between New Life Oasis Church and CKEC. New Life Oasis is the congregation that has been renting the facility from CKEC for the past five years and had a contract to purchase the full property (our lot included). That case has moved in New Life Oasis’ favor, but of course is again in the early stages of an appeal process. We are working to get an arrangement with New Life Oasis to lease the lot from us as in our opinion they no longer have a right to use it as part of their agreement with CKEC. As such we have filed an Unlawful Detainer action against them to help us in our efforts to secure a lease. They have indicated an interest in purchasing the lot, but we have yet to see any movement on that and so are also taking the steps needed to get our lot clear from being combined with the CKEC lots so that we might sell it independently.

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

Deceased Ministers

Eugene G. Carper - December 26, 2016

Lila E. McCray - May 7, 2017

Beth Glick-Rieman - May 15, 2017

Shantilal Bhagat - July 7, 2017

Recognition of Ministers’ Ordination Anniversaries

60 Years

Ralph E. Click

50 Years

John H. Gingrich

Karl A. Pohlhaus

40 Years

Russell W. Betz

James Isaacs

Donald Shankster

35 Years

Philip Corr

Olga Serrano

30 Years

Sara Haldeman-Scarr

Joseph V. Vecchio

—
**Representing 410 years
of service.**
—

Report of Standing Committee Delegate

Marlin L. Heckman

The Standing Committee of the 2017 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference met June 25-29 in Grand Rapids Michigan. All 36 delegates from the 24 Districts were present.

During the meetings, prior to Conference, Standing Committee discussed and made recommendations in response to four items of new business on this year's agenda.

New Business Item no. 1 was from On Earth Peace, an agency of the church, requesting that a new Polity for Agencies be developed. Standing Committee affirmed OEP's concern requesting that the Leadership Team update current polity with regard to agencies of the church.

New Business Item no. 2, was also from On Earth Peace. The query was titled Patient Hope in Matters of Conscience. Standing Committee confessed that the church has not practiced forbearance well, recommending that the church prayerfully consider the insights of OEP's recommendation and that work be done to implement the 2008 Annual conference resolution "Urging Forbearance."

Two additional items of new business came from Brethren Benefit Trust recommending amendments to their Articles of Organization with regard to "Brethren Values Investing," and a proposed change in the Polity for Electing Brethren Benefit Trust Board Directors, such that only two nominees would be required for the Annual Conference ballot. Ironically both of these BBT

business items were delayed to the 2018 Annual Conference due to time constraints.

Normally items of unfinished business do not come before Standing Committee but SC was asked to discuss and made a recommendation to the delegate body on a couple items in the Report of the Review and Evaluation Committee. There were 10 recommendations in their report to the delegate body.

Standing Committee recommended that Recommendation no. 6 would require a two-thirds vote for passage. Recommendation no. 6 was: **The Review and Evaluation Committee recommends to the 2017 Annual Conference that On Earth Peace no longer remain an agency of the Church of the Brethren.** This item failed to receive the necessary two-thirds vote by the delegate body. The vote was 56.9% (370 yes/280 no).

Recommendation no. 10: **The Review and Evaluation Committee recommends to the 2017 Annual Conference that Standing Committee rescind the 2014 rejection of On Earth Peace's Statement of Inclusion.** (The vote of the delegate body was 311 no/305 yes).

I have appreciated the opportunity to serve the PSWD for these two three year terms as your delegate to Standing Committee. The Church is not of one mind but the two votes noted here suggest that there have been some changes toward a middle ground in some quarters.

Nominating Committee Report

Karen Pierson, Chair

Committee Members:

Karen Pierson, Chair & Moderator-Elect
Jim LeFever
Doris Dunham
Jerry Davis

Ex-Officio Members with vote:

Clerk, Karen Cosner
Moderator, Sara Haldeman-Scarr
Board Chair, Nelda Rhoades Clarke

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.

Nominations from the Floor at District Conference

I, _____, am willing to allow my name to be placed on the year _____ ballot as a nominee for the following position of service: _____

Nominated by: 1 st _____ 2 nd _____

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

Name:	Age (optional):
Congregation:	
Vocation:	
Church Experience:	
Vision Statement:	
Address:	
Telephone:	
Email:	

Suggestions for the Next District Conference Ballot

Dear Nominating Committee, for District Conference Ballot:		
I, _____, suggest that you consider: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 80%; margin: 0 auto;"><div>your name</div><div>your telephone</div></div>		
Name:	Email:	
Church:	Tele:	
Position: <input type="checkbox"/> Moderator Elect <input type="checkbox"/> Nominating Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Program Committee <input type="checkbox"/> District Board <input type="checkbox"/> Hillcrest Nominee <input type="checkbox"/> Camp La Verne Nominee <input type="checkbox"/> Clerk <input type="checkbox"/> General Board, Elgin <input type="checkbox"/> District Board Youth / Young Adult		

Dear Nominating Committee, for District Conference Ballot:		
I, _____, suggest that you consider: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 80%; margin: 0 auto;"><div>your name</div><div>your telephone</div></div>		
Name:	Email:	
Church:	Tele:	
Position: <input type="checkbox"/> Moderator Elect <input type="checkbox"/> Nominating Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Program Committee <input type="checkbox"/> District Board <input type="checkbox"/> Hillcrest Nominee <input type="checkbox"/> Camp La Verne Nominee <input type="checkbox"/> Clerk <input type="checkbox"/> General Board, Elgin <input type="checkbox"/> District Board Youth / Young Adult		



Suggestions for Board Appointments

Dear District Board of Administration, when you make Board Appointments this coming year,	
I, _____, suggest that you consider: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 80%; margin: 0 auto;"><div>your name</div><div>your telephone</div></div>	
Name:	Email:
Church:	Tele:
Their skills and areas of expertise:	

Dear District Board of Administration, when you make Board Appointments this coming year,	
I, _____, suggest that you consider: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; width: 80%; margin: 0 auto;"><div>your name</div><div>your telephone</div></div>	
Name:	Email:
Church:	Tele:
Their skills and areas of expertise:	

District Conference Program Committee Report

Committee Members:

Sara Haldeman-Scarr, Moderator, Chair
 Karen Pierson, 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: Nelda Rhoades Clarke
 District Executive Minister: Russ Matteson
 District Youth Advisors:

Dawna Welch (*through January 2017*)

Interim, Erik Brummett

On-Site Coordinator:

Linda Hart (Pomona Fellowship)

those who served on the committee sharing the With-ness and Witness of Jesus with each other.

Her thanks goes out to: Sara Haldeman-Scarr, Moderator, Karen Pierson, Moderator-Elect Peggy Redman (Pomona Fellowship) Deb Merrifield-Carothers (Circle of Peace) Robert Aguirre (Cornerstone, Reedley) Kirsten Storne-Piazza (Live Oak), District Executive Minister Russ Matteson, member and on site coordinator Linda Hart (Pomona Fellowship).

Details are always challenging but these individuals enjoyed the challenge of bringing this conference to life. Together we witnessed the Spirit dancing among us as we visioned and envisioned the days of conference. The results of our time together, our planning, our praying and our celebrating can be seen in the days of the conference.

Thanks so much for the honor to serve with you!

Sara Haldeman-Scarr

Program Committee Chair

When creative energy is high so many wonderful things can happen! What an amazing group of individuals we had working together this year to bring this conference to life. Moderator Sara Haldeman-Scarr wishes to thank all those who helped, but specifically

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: 2018 Nelda Rhoades Clarke (Tucson)

Vice-Chair: 2019 Dot Hess (La Verne)

Recording Secretary: Clerk: 2018 Karen Cosner (Modesto)

2017 Roxanne Aguirre (Cornerstone, Reedley) (*through May 27, 2017*)

x2017 _____ (*started _____, 2017*)

2019 Rudy Amaya (Príncipe de Paz)

x2018 Christi Bowman (Living Savior, McFarland) (*started April 4, 2017*)

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

2019 Cheryl Crane (Prince of Peace, Sacramento)

#2018 Brenda Dickson (South Bay)

x2017 David Flores (Cristo Sion)

2019 Eddie Hernandez (Modesto)

2019 Dot Hess (La Verne). Section Rep. S.CA-E

2017 Lillian Hopson (Imperial Heights)

2018 Tom Hostetler (La Verne)

x2018 Richard Keeling (Bakersfield). Section Rep. Cen.CA

District Board of Administration: continued

2019 Katherine Boeger Knight (Live Oak)
2017 Norma Morris (Glendora)
2017 Elizabeth Piazza (Live Oak). Youth / Young Adult
2017 Joel Price (Empire). Section Rep. N.CA
2017 Israel Rosas (Glendale). Youth / Young Adult
2017 Alex Sanders (Modesto). Youth / Young Adult
2017 Cindy Slaughter (Glendale). Section Rep. S.CA-W
#2019 Clark Youngblood (Circle of Peace, AZ)

Ex-Officio with vote

Moderator: Sara Haldeman-Scarr (San Diego)
Moderator-Elect: Karen Pierson (Living Savior, McFarland)
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)

Invited to meetings without vote

Ministry & Mission Board members residing in PSWD: Thomas Dowdy

Executive Board: (Chosen each year by the Policy Board)

Chair: Nelda Rhoades Clarke (Tucson)
Vice-Chair: Dot Hess (La Verne)
Ministry Chair: Tom Hostetler (La Verne)
Stewards Chair: Joel Price (Empire)
Moderator: Sara Haldeman-Scarr (San Diego)
Moderator-Elect: Karen Pierson (Living Savior, McFarland)
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: Clark Youngblood (Circle of Peace)
Elected Member, Secretary: Cindy Slaughter (Glendale)
Elected Member: Katherine Boeger Knight (Live Oak)

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: Lillian Hopson (Imperial Heights)
Elected Member, Secretary: Brenda Dickson (South Bay)

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

Board of Administration Report

I am a relative newcomer to the PSWD, having only moved here in the fall of 2013. I am still learning many things about the district and the people and churches that make up this district.

During this my first year as chair of the Board, I have seen changes happening, growth taking place and some old problems remaining with us. We continue to struggle with issues surrounding our property in Los Angeles. I would like to say that we hope this will be resolved by the time of District Conference but I know

that has been the hope for many years.

There are ongoing changes in leadership in our churches and the District. This year has seen the departure of Dawna Welch from the District staff but she remains a part of the District. At the writing of this report we are seeking to fill a part-time position to work with the youth. In addition we are looking to fill a part-time position to be the Coordinator of Ministry Training Programs. Both of these positions are critical to the growth of the PSWD.

We see growth in some of our churches, particularly our Hispanic congregations. The District has helped some of our congregations with Partnership funds as well as loans to facilitate their growth.

We continue to have congregations struggling with their size and seeming stagnation. At least one of these congregations is looking to the future and what it would mean to die as they are so they can give life to new growth.

The church's witness to love, hope and peace are needed in our world now more than ever. We continue to be called to care for our brothers and sisters wherever they are and be a light of love and joy to the world. May we continue the work of Jesus peacefully, simply, together.

Nelda Rhoades Clarke, Board Chair

Ministry Commission Report

Ministry Commission:
Tom Hostetler, chair
Clark Youngblood, vice-chair
Cindy Slaughter, secretary
Katherine Boeger Knight
<i>ex-officio</i> members: District Executive Minister; Moderator; Board Chair

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

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

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

Calling and Credentialing

1. Nurturing and Credentialing Committee (NACC) - For many years the PSWD Ministry Commission has appointed a NACC to assist in the process of calling and credentialing. In 2017 the Chair is Don Shankster.

1a) Licensing: For candidates considering licensed ministry, the NACC:

- Oversees the calling and credentialing process;
- Explains the expectations and differences of Commissioned and Ordained ministry to the congregation and the discernor;

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

District Ministry Commission may:

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

the District Board. Within 30 days after an affirmation service, the appropriate paperwork will be sent to the Office of Ministry.

1b) Commissioning/Ordination: When a Licensed Minister is nearing the completion of training for a particular set-apart ministry; discerns spiritual and formative readiness for ministry together with spiritual friends, the calling cohort, and the congregation; and pending a specific ministerial call, the NACC will hold an interview with the Licensed Minister, utilizing the Pre-Commissioning or Pre-Ordination Interview Guide, and make a recommendation to the Ministry Commission.

● When the District Ministry Commission affirms a call to set-apart ministry, they will make a recommendation to the District Board for approval of the call. The District Board shall affirm the call by a simple majority vote.

● Upon the affirmation of the District Board, the District Ministry Commission shall notify the pastor, board chair, or other appropriate persons in the congregation so that a congregational vote can be taken to affirm the call. A representative of the District Ministry Commission shall be present for the congregational business meeting to take the vote. A congregational affirmation is by 2/3 majority vote.

● After both the District Board and the congregation have affirmed a call to ministry, the district executive, or their designee, or a representative of the District Ministry Commission will conduct a service of commissioning?or ordination during a congregational worship service (regular or special).

1c) An ordained minister from another denomination wishing to serve in ministerial leadership and be credentialed in the Church of the Brethren must enter into an intentional time of discernment and orientation overseen by the District Ministry Commission. *(See Ministerial Leadership, 2014)*

Nurture

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

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

1a) The “Calling” Circle - Once an individual senses a call, the first step is to enter into a time of Exploration of Call, in partnership with the congregation, the district, and a calling **cohort**. A cohort is special small group of brothers and sisters who commit to walking alongside the individual exploring a call to ministry. They will spend time together in prayer, study, and gifts discernment while offering guidance, encouragement, and reflection on the gifts, qualities, and potential for the ministerial call and leadership.

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

1b) The “Licensed” Circle - a Licensed Minister will continue with a **cohort** group, including a Church of the Brethren ordained minister as a supervisor, appointed by the District Ministry Commission.

1c) The “Commissioned” and “Ordained” Circle - all ministers will participate in a mentoring relationship, approved by the Ministry Commission.

2. Pastors and Spouses Retreat - For many years the PSWD has sponsored and heavily invested in a yearly retreat for all District pastors and their spouses. A setting is chosen where participants may rest, relax, and enjoy silence, recreation and fellowship. Often outside resource persons have been incorporated, including keynote speakers, yoga instructors, spiritual leaders, art instructors, dramatists, bible teachers, therapists, and musicians. These have been well attended and much appreciated by our District pastors and spouses, some of whom consider this their only “vacation” during the year.

Professional Growth

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

A plan for continuing education for each minister should be encouraged, promoted and provided. We

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

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

3. Continuing Education Units (CEUs) – A CEU is equal to ten (10) contact hours of work with an accredited institution. A pastoral leader is expected to complete work in at least five (5) of the eight (8) focus areas listed below. The course work should be planned in such a way that five focus areas are covered during the five-year interval between ordination reviews. This will give the pastoral leader a minimum of five (5) CEUs (50 contact hours) during the stated period. Continuing education for part-time and bi-vocational pastors will need to take into account the pastoral/congregational agreement and be prorated to satisfy the agreement.

Focus Areas:

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

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

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

● The Master of Divinity degree from Bethany Theological Seminary or another institution accredited by the Association of Theological Schools. The Ministry Commission offers scholarships to PSWD students who attend Bethany. They receive \$9,000 total. After graduation (January 1 of the following year) they pay off this amount through 3 years of service. (1/3 each year) If they go into secular service (or non-Brethren), then it converts into a six year, no interest loan that is paid monthly.

● The Training in Ministry (TRIM) program through the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership

provides an alternative for those who find it impossible or impractical to complete a Master of Divinity degree. It also offers appropriate ministry training to supplement the education of those who may hold degrees in higher education other than those named here. The PSWD Ministry Commission gives direction to students enrolled in TRIM through an appointed TRIM Coordinator, and pays 75% of all costs for students.

● The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership has provided two alternative training tracks in Spanish. (1) SeBAH-CoB is a Spanish language ministry training program of the Academy and District in partnership with the Hispanic Pastoral and Leadership Education office at the Mennonite Education Agency and is similar to the TRIM program. (2) Education for Shared Ministry, EFSM Español, which provides congregationally based training for ministers in Spanish. Costs for both training tracks are shared by the District and local congregation. PSWD pays 75% of all costs for students.

● Persons holding other degrees of higher education (e.g. a B.A. in Ministry, an MA in Theology, a PhD in Education) may complete an M.Div. through Bethany's residential or distance programs or supplement their degree with the appropriate courses from the TRIM program.

Oversight

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

Tom Hostetler, Chair
PSWD Ministry Commission

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

NACC: Nurturing & Credentialing Committee:

#2021 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

TRIM/EFSM/SeBAH Coordinator: Russ Matteson

NACC: Nurturing & Credentialing Committee

Our committee gives guidance and provides much of the legwork in the licensing and ordination processes for the Pacific Southwest District Ministry Commission. We walk *with* licensees through their period of discernment and preparation for ministry, offering oversight of their journey holding interviews at the beginning and end of the licensing process on behalf of the Ministry Commission.

Last year, our Fall meeting was in the format of a zoom conference video for our annual review of the reports of licensees and cohort groups, to ensure the progression in their study and development for ministry. We also gave guidance on the ordination process for one of our ministers seeking ordination.

In the Spring of this year, we recommended one ordination, heard updates on various licensees, and approved the direction of the district in establishing a position to manage the various avenues of licensing - TRIM, EFSM, & SEBAH. (Training In Ministry, Education For a Shared Ministry, - SEBAH is training in Spanish and EFSM also offers training in Spanish).

We are privileged to walk *with* people in this process as they make their *witness* to the call of God on their lives. We find energy and hope as young, old and all in between find themselves called to follow our Lord into training for ministry. We count on all of us to lay hands on others saying, "I sense you have gifts for ministry." Extend the call.

In Christ,

Don Shankster, NACC Chair

Stewards Commission Report

Stewards Commission:

Joel Price, chair

Lillian Hopson, vice-chair

Brenda Dickson, secretary

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

The purpose of the Steward's Commission is to work within the PSWD to provide support to the local churches. All of our decisions are brought through discussions at our Stewards meetings then presented to be approved by the Executive Board. We earnestly work with churches within the PSWD to update and refurbish their facilities to better fit their congregation's needs. Our PSWD loans to our congregations continue to return 5% interest to the PSWD.

With the addition of the Waterford Church property and one of the Korean church property lots, our total assets are approximately \$5.7 million. We are diligently working on diminishing our operating deficit while remaining a viable resource for our congregations into the future.

We continue to work with our attorney to come to a conclusion with the Korean Church. We now own one of the lots and are hopeful to sell it and conclude this situation. We are currently renting the Waterford Church parsonage and are still discussing what would be the best use for the church building in the future.

Due to program evaluation and budgetary

constraints we are no longer offering Pastoral Support Grants beginning in 2018. The churches receiving grant money in 2017 are the Circle of Peace, Glendale, and San Diego congregations. We thought you would like to know some statistical history of the Pastoral Support and other grants that have been given throughout the years. The current grants have been going since 2005 and have provided more than \$4 million dollars in congregational investments throughout these past twelve years.

While our investment with Brethren Benefit trust has shown better returns this year, we have chosen to invest in a couple of our own churches. We have two new loans at this time. One with South Bay and their partner church Journey Evangelical Covenant, and one with Restoration LA. South Bay and Journey did a major remodel to make their church building more user friendly and more appealing to the community. Restoration LA is selling their parsonage. They used their loan to fix up the parsonage and build a wall separating the parsonage from the church property. They will use the funds from the sale of the parsonage to do some repairs and updates to the church building.

We rejoice as we work together as stewards of God, continuing the work of Jesus in our churches and communities; Peacefully, Simply, Together.

Joel Price

Stewards Commission Chair



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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REVIEW REPORT

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

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of **Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren**, a nonprofit organization, which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2016, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements. A review includes primarily applying analytical procedures to management's financial data and making inquiries of the Organization's management. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements as a whole. Accordingly we do not express such an opinion.

Management'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.

Accountant's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to conduct the review engagement in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the AICPA. Those standards require us to perform procedures to obtain limited assurance as a basis for reporting whether we are aware of any material modifications that should be made to the financial statements for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We believe that the results of our procedures provide a reasonable basis for our conclusion.

Accountant's Conclusion

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

Report on 2015 Financial Statements

The financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2015, were audited by us, and we expressed an unmodified opinion on them in our report dated August 4, 2016. We have not performed any auditing procedures since that date.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Suchan & Associates'.

**Suchan & Associates
An Accountancy Corporation**

**Ontario, California
August 29, 2017**

Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren
Giving to the District by Congregations, Individuals and Groups
January 1 to December 31, 2016

Church ID #	Name of Church	General Fund	*Per Capita Giving	*2016 Membership
32-010	Bakersfield	\$250	??	Over a year old
32-025	Church of the Living Savior (McFarland)	\$2,431	??	Over a year old
32-028	Circle of Peace (Peoria, AZ)	\$4,200	\$45.65	92
32-270	Cornerstone Community (Reedley)	\$0	\$0.00	34
32-040	Empire	\$0	\$0.00	73
32-070	Glendale	\$700	\$16.28	43
32-080	Glendora	\$600	\$20.00	30
32-083	Iglesia de Cristo Genesis (Los Angeles)	\$100	\$1.92	52
32-037	Iglesia de Cristo Sion (Pomona)	\$0	\$0.00	51
32-150	Imperial Heights (Los Angeles)	\$0	\$0.00	64
32-090	Laton	\$0	??	Over a year old
32-100	La Verne	\$10,000	\$19.12	523
32-120	Live Oak	\$2,120	\$34.75	61
32-190	Modesto	\$2,100	\$9.68	217
32-193	New Harvest (Lindsay)	\$100	\$1.54	65
32-205	Papago Buttes (AZ)	\$300	\$5.88	51
32-210	Paradise Community	\$0	??	Over a year old
32-220	Pasadena	\$1,000	\$66.67	15
32-250	Pomona Fellowship	\$2,150	\$46.74	46
32-290	Prince of Peace (Sacramento)	\$0	\$0.00	87
32-322	Príncipe de Paz (Santa Ana)	\$1,800	??	Over a year old
32-280	Restoration L.A.	\$0	??	Over a year old
32-300	San Diego First	\$1,150	??	Over a year old
32-330	South Bay (Redondo Beach)	\$1,000	??	Over a year old
32-340	Tucson	\$1,200	\$57.14	21
Sub-Total		\$31,201	\$20.46	1525

	District Conference Offerings (Individuals)	\$4,108
	Individual Giving	\$437
	Waterford Church funds at closing	\$17,880
	Empire CoB Women's Fellowship	\$200
	Women's Fellowship	\$400
Sub-Total		\$23,025
GRAND TOTAL		\$54,226

* The above per-capita calculation is based on the 2016 Statistical Information report due 3/15/17 listing membership on 12/31/16.

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.

Pacific Southwest District Objective – A Circle of Support

April 29, 2017 – Accepted by the PSWD Policy Board

Core Objective - Supporting congregations in being vital and healthy communities of faith that embody and share distinctive Brethren ways of Christian belief and action - What resources can be brought to support individual and groups of congregations in their efforts to be vital and healthy? How does our work reflect and encourage formation in the ways that our anabaptist/radical pietist lens shapes our life and witness today?

Much of this will occur through paying attention to and holding in balance the principles which make the circle of support highlighted below. Further, this work may include district sponsored training or coaching, resourcing for local churches, training for lay leadership, conflict resolution assistance, etc. Resources will be a mix of staff, consultants, and finances.

Support/Encourage congregations in their mission - Resource the local church for mission, education, worship, evangelism, health and vitality. Supporting congregations that are wrestling with the end of their ministry. Provide workshops and events that bring training to more than one congregation at a time.

Support/Encourage the work of congregations in birthing new faith communities - provide encouragement and active support for those congregations (or groups of congregations) that are looking to plant new church communities. Help to match those interested in beginning new expressions of the COB movement with supportive congregational partners.

Call/Train/Support ministry and ministers - work includes the credentialing processes, training (through Seminary, TRIM, SeBAH and other paths), and ongoing affordable opportunities for professional growth and personal/family renewal.

Guide congregations through times of leadership transition - largely focused on pastoral transitions including: departure of current pastor, helping to secure good interim leadership (if needed), facilitating search process for new pastor, and helping undergird a good beginning of new ministry.

Provide Stewardship support of local congregations - inform and train on good stewardship of finances and facilities, risk management understandings and care, other business/legal concerns.

Provide Youth leadership and faith development - opportunities to grow in faith, leadership, and connection with the breadth of the district, cultivating a commitment to Christ and leading out in moving the church into God's future.

Share opportunities for mission across the district - enhance current work with Brethren Disaster Ministries, but also looking for a project or two that PSWD could come together around to be involved in mission/ministry together, not to replace the good ministry being done through the local church, but to supplement and provide ways to strengthen a shared sense of witness.

Build Intercultural ministry and relationships - instill strong foundations for mutual relationships as sisters and brothers in Christ across our predominantly mono-cultured congregations. Encourage and support congregations that are seeking to become intercultural faith communities.

Produce District Conference to promote ministry, connection, and unity in Christ - continue to focus DC as to its purpose in our life together and how it can be used to strengthen our preparation for local ministry, our sense of connection and unity, and connection to the larger Church of the Brethren community.



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 15-16 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)

PSWD Youth Cabinet – August 2016-August 2017

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

PSWD Youth Cabinet – August 2017-August 2018

Elizabeth Piazza (Live Oak), 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)

2019 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)

x2017 Becky Zapata (Príncipe de Paz)

Alternates for District Executive Minister:

2018 Karen Pierson (Living Savior)

2019 Bob Morris (Glendora)

2019 Bob Morris (Glendora)

Ex-Officio: (with vote), Ministry Chair

2020 Eric Bishop (La Verne)

Ex-Officio: (without vote), District Executive

2021 Karen Shankster (Papago Buttes)

Minister

Congregational Vitality Task Group

Roxanne Aguirre (Cornerstone, Reedley) (*through May 27, 2017*)

Cheryl Crane (Prince of Peace, Sacramento)

Richard Keeling (Bakersfield)

District Executive Minister; Moderator; Board Chair



Lordsburg Academy La Verne College University of La Verne

Our past, present and future were remembered and celebrated this past year as the university saw its 125th birthday. We hosted 125 events throughout the year to commemorate the growth and expansion of our academy, founded in 1891 by a group of simple Brethren wanting a *better life* for their children. One of the highlight events was **Transformations: Brethren Heritage, Shared Core Values, and our HSI (Hispanic Serving Institution) Identity**. This community forum discussed our evolving mission and identity. The panel was comprised of: Reverend Susan Boyer, Senior Pastor of the La Verne Church of the Brethren; Dr. Beatriz Gonzalez, Vice Provost and Chief Diversity Officer; Dr. David Hollinger, Professor Emeritus of History, UC Berkeley; Dr. Jonathan Reed, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs. The University is still making a *better life* for over 2,600 undergraduates and over 5,000 post-graduates. We continue to abide in the core values grounded in our forbears' ideals: lifelong learning, ethical reasoning, civic and community engagement, and diversity and inclusivity.

Fresh news:

- We have broken ground on a new residence hall and dining hall that will be ready for move-in fall, 2018
- A beautiful new center is being designed to house the sacred space on campus. The sacred space, which will serve people of all faith traditions, will be part of a larger center that brings together spiritual life, multicultural advancement, interfaith engagement, international services, and community engagement. The new center will engage students in reflection and action, fostering practices of peace, justice and compassion, and is designed to have active, collaborative spaces, contemplative areas for prayer, meditation and small groups, as well as places for gathering and celebration We are eagerly awaiting this dynamic destination!
- Looking to our regional needs, a Physician's Assistant Program will be coming to campus in the near future
- The College of Education received the largest gift in the history of the institution, a gift of \$10,000,000, to ensure that we educate quality teachers for our future. The new name is LaFetra College of Education.
- We are one of just five institutions in the country recognized by the White House for our efforts and accomplishments in interfaith cooperation and community service.

The Office of Religious and Spiritual Life started a new program last year called the Interfaith Fellows. One of our Brethren students, **Erik Bahnson**, was chosen as a Fellow last year and gave this speech the La Verne Church:

At the University of La Verne, Interfaith Fellows are the students selected by our chaplain, Zandra Wagoner, to pursue (in her words) "high-level interfaith work." Recklessly driven by the Pollyannic assumption that people of different religious backgrounds can get along, we plan and design events that expose our school community to diverse worldviews and the perspectives of their practitioners.

We even get people to open up about their own religion. There's a class every ULV sophomore is required to take called SoLVE, in which three lectures covering civic subjects command mandatory attendance - ours is one of them. The Fellows regularly remix its formula to reflect what worked, what didn't, and what sounds jazzy, but we always call for involvement from the crowd. This semester, we successfully directed audiences to reflect on and even speak openly about their spiritual journeys, the difficulty of talking about faith, the presence of privilege, and more.

The Fellows promote off-campus events that enable multicultural interactions, like SoulJourns, a series of field trips to minority groups' houses of worship - or non-worship, in the case of LA's atheist Sunday Assembly. Fellows frequently apply for out-of-town conventions like the Interfaith Leadership Institute, where education from and conversation with others in our field inspire new strategies and visions for future work.

I'd like to believe every shared personal revelation we facilitate brings La Verne's student body that little bit closer, but the true depth of intimacy our program allows is experienced only by a handful of folks that get together every week in our chapel's basement. The club Common Ground was founded principally by beloved alum Tahil Sharma (himself both Hindu and Sikh) to become a place for talking about religion with people of no religion in particular.

Tahil saw his initiative as important not only because resulting relationships would help dispel stereotypes and defend against prejudice, but also because there will never be a club just for Wiccans, Buddhists, or Zoroastrians; there simply aren't enough of them around, but that doesn't mean we can deny them a space to belong. It is in this sense that I believe interfaith life at ULV most reflects the message of Jesus; when the American paradigm leaves you feeling unaccounted for, the Fellows won't forget to set a place at the table for you. E.B.

Our Brethren Students enjoy 1/5 off their first year in tuition with an award of a Brethren scholarship in subsequent years. La Verne's welcome is wide for our Brethren students.

In God's Light,

Julia Wheeler, Director of Church and Interfaith Relations

jwheeler@laverne.edu University: 909.448.4686 Cell: 909.720.9832

HILLCREST

A REMARKABLE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY®



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

(909) 392-4000

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 93% occupancy in the RCFE levels of care.
- Net Entrance Fees received for residents with a continuing care contract were \$4,829,936 .
- Hillcrest has five residents who are over 100 years of age: Elizabeth Warner, Bertha Draayom, Maxine Dull, and Mary Hunter. June Teitsworth
- 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 regularly scheduled 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.
- A collaborative effort among the La Verne Historical Society, the City of La Verne, Bonita Unified School District, the University of La Verne, and Hillcrest has created an historical exhibit for The Gallery at Hillcrest. The exhibit tells the story of how Lordsburg/La Verne began and became the town we love through photographs, memorabilia, and personal experiences. The exhibit will be open to the public and part of the third grade curriculum in BUSD.

HILLCREST OPERATING BUDGET

Fiscal Budget 2016/2017 = \$22,132,716

Fiscal Budget 2017/2018 = \$23,786,837

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee: Mary Kay Ogden Chair; Curtis Frick, Vice Chair; James Irwin, Treasurer; Barbara Johnson, Secretary; Jack Meek, Past Chair

Directors: Jeff Allred, Jon Blickenstaff, Don Fancher, Harvey Good, Bill Gray, Don Kurtz, Kelly Niles-Yokum, Bob Peters, Peggy Redman, 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 and Endowment in fiscal year ending June 30, 2017: \$330,044.
- Woods Health Services Capital Campaign raised approximately \$1.7 million in cash and pledges toward the Woods remodeling project.

INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

New and innovative programs have been introduced to residents at Woods Health Services and Southwoods Lodge. In collaboration with the University of La Verne's Biology department (which includes a class in public health research), Resident Life & Wellness is conducting a multi-stage, multi-year study investigating the ability of storytelling to increase the sense of community and person-centered care in WHS.

Independent residents at Hillcrest's Sewing Center have partnered with Resident Life & Wellness to create a number of "fidget blankets" for residents at WHS and Southwoods Lodge. These are small (2' x 3') lap blankets that feature a number of different hand-eye coordinating activities stitched into them: residents with cognitive impairment can button/unbutton, work a zipper, tie and untie knots, etc. To simultaneously increase the sensory input and calm, small sachets of dried lavender (grown, picked, and dried here at Hillcrest) have also been sewn into the blankets, so that as residents handle them, the soothing scent of lavender is released.

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, and provide needed funds to help those residents who outlive their financial resources.

HILLCREST



Monday, May 22nd was a historic day for Hillcrest. Over 100 residents signed a personal pledge of commitment to the person-centered mission of the Eden Alternative® program. The pledge read:

We, the undersigned, willingly pledge our personal commitment to uphold our person-centered mission to create an environment where loneliness, helplessness, and boredom are replaced with loving companionships, opportunities to give care, and spontaneous moments of joy.

This was an important milestone in Hillcrest's ongoing journey to change the institutional model of care at Woods Health Services. It signified a community-wide commitment to a more resident-centered philosophy of care at Woods and Hillcrest as a whole.

Everyone has a stake in making life the best that it can be for those who live and work at Hillcrest. We all touch each others lives in ways big and small. We can, and will, do it together and this commitment brings us all one step closer.



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 Gourmet Cooking 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



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



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 was 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 &

www.CampPeacefulPines.org
or look for us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/CampPeacefulPines

Via Highway 108 on Sonora Pass at 6,000 feet



The 'ARC' on March 26, 2017

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.camploverne.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 saraedavis@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 saraedavis@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: Sara Davis 818-952-8972



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 from Brethren Benefit Trust to the moderator, delegates, and members of the Pacific Southwest District. It is our pleasure, as an agency of the denomination, to serve you.

The BBT staff has devoted much time and energy in the last year to discussion, planning, and prayer over how to best provide employee-based pension and insurance plans, and organizational asset management services well into the future. From these many gatherings, conversations, and reflective moments, a theme for the coming year has emerged — “Serving You Along Your Path.”

Our commitment at BBT is to seek ways that bestow the most benefit to our members and clients and their livelihoods, whether in physical or financial wellness, or in helping make their money work harder for them. BBT and its affiliates of Brethren Benefit Trust Inc., Brethren Foundation Funds Inc., and Brethren Foundation Inc. today serve approximately 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. We will continue to follow this path as we move through the coming year, and navigate the many changes and challenges in the financial and benefits marketplace.

We are encouraged by the words of Psalm 119, which tells us, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” It is with our great faith in Christ that we, as a denomination and as an organization, are empowered to lead the way on this journey as we fulfill our duties, serve our customers, and plan the future course of BBT.

Brethren Pension Plan

Church of the Brethren Pension Plan serves more than 4,700 current and former employees of congregations and denominational organizations. In 2016, average monthly benefits were more than \$700, with some exceeding \$4,000 per month! Retirement distributions vary among members according to how long one has paid into the plan, how much was contributed from each paycheck, and the impact of the markets on the invested assets.

By saving according to the Annual Conference-recommended contribution formula where churches, districts, and camps contribute 11 percent of the employee’s wages to the Pension Plan, while the employees themselves contribute 4 percent of their wages, participants have a high probability of securing retirement income that comfortably replaces the income they received while working.

Investments

The global market’s rocky path was apparent in 2016, with Brexit and the U.S. presidential election, to name just two such potentially volatile investment scenarios. But the S&P 500 Index hit a record high and finished the year on a strong note, due in part to the prospect of the new administration’s policies.

Brethren Foundation Funds Inc. – BFFI

BFFI manages assets for congregations and denominationally related organizations. Whether the account has \$10,000 or much more, staff work diligently to ensure that clients have numerous investment options, can check the status of their funds and handle administrative tasks via a secure online Web portal, and are able to access their funds very quickly, much like one would with a bank, through electronic fund transfers. Assets under management at the end of 2016 for nearly 200 organizational asset management clients were \$155,816,620, an increase of \$5,736,355 (3.8 percent) over the total under management on Dec. 31, 2015, of \$150,080,265.

BFFI clients contributed \$14,922,820 to BFFI assets under management in 2016 and withdrew \$17,673,612.

Brethren Foundation Inc. – BFI

This ministry manages deferred gifts for any Church of the Brethren members who are working on stewardship of their resources. It offers a number of charitable gift instruments for various types of needs and results, and can write a gift for multiple Church of the Brethren congregations and organizations. Assets under management at the end of 2016 were \$5,252,862, a decrease of \$502,662 (8.7 percent) from the \$5,755,524 in total assets under management on Dec. 31, 2015. At the end of 2016, BFI was managing assets for nearly 200 deferred gift clients.

During 2016, one new charitable gift annuity, totaling \$100,648, was established. Also during 2016, 19 individuals closed a total of 28 accounts, including one charitable gift fund, six pass-through gifts, and 21 charitable gift annuities, resulting in a sum of \$456,833 being distributed to COB organizations.

Brethren Values Investing – BVI

At the November 2016 meeting, the BBT Board voted to discontinue its use of the term “socially responsible investing” when referring to this investment screen, and begin using the more precise designation of “Brethren Values Investing.” This new terminology, or “BVI,” is now being used in place of “socially responsible investing” or “SRI” as the identifier of the social screening for BBT.

Despite the new name, the actual funds have not changed and are invested just as they have been. All assets under management are invested, whenever possible, in a manner that is consistent with the positions of the Church of the Brethren as expressed in Annual Conference statements. These guidelines exclude the 25 largest publicly traded U.S. defense contractors, and publicly traded companies that generate 10 percent or more of their revenues from abortion, alcoholic beverages, defense contracts, gambling, pornography, tobacco, or weapons (and their components). Companies that consistently violate environmental regulations, as well as companies engaging in human rights violations (including slavery and child labor), are also screened out.

Perhaps the best way to think of this new approach is — BVI is simply SRI the Brethren way.

Workshops

We recognize that a very important aspect of handling retirement funds and retirement planning for other people is equipping them with the tools they need to be successful, and BBT has taken several steps to bolster this feature within the organization. Several staff members have been working on certifications that will give them the knowledge and authorization to increase their level of service to our members. As in past years, we will continue to provide free, educational presentations, upon request, on topics such as retirement readiness, long-term care, financial wellness, stewardship, and more.

Serving our Members

What we most want the district to know is that BBT exists to serve you. We acknowledge that there are many facets to a unique organization such as ours, one in which we must be vigilant about market trends, insurance regulations, and investment strategies, as well as address customer service for HR directors, recent retirees, pastors and church secretaries or treasurers, with any request, large or small. We strive to balance the small-business nature of our day-to-day interactions with the need to stay focused on national or even global trends and shifts that may affect us. This keeps us continually questioning how best to serve our members.

Our goal is sustainable, long-term products and services that will make a positive difference in many more lives in the years ahead.

Harry

Harry Rhodes
Chairman

Nevin

Nevin Dulabaum
President



Dear Delegates and Friends in the Pacific Southwest District,

When On Earth Peace was founded in 1974, our primary calling was to ensure the vitality of Brethren commitments to peace and reconciliation within our denomination. While this continues to guide our work today, over the last several years, we've been blessed to expand this calling beyond our church community and to share it with other denominations and communities around the world. Together, with the support of Brethren individuals, congregations, and districts, we have worked to connect our heritage as a Brethren-based organization to every aspect of our peace and justice ministries from peacebuilding and anti-militarism education to being in solidarity with frontline communities from Standing Rock to Palestine.

"Being Built Together" is our theme for 2017. Anchored in Ephesians 2:19-22, we seek to uplift the beauty of what is possible when we endeavor to be together, with Jesus as the cornerstone. In this passage, Paul offers a bold, expanded vision of the household of God in which strangers and foreigners become neighbors and fellow members in a "dwelling place of God". We recognize that the task of building a structure in which we all "fit" isn't easy and it can't be accomplished overnight. Over the next year, our goal is to share the "building blocks" and "tools" that we bring to make this expanded household possible in the church and beyond.

In advance of your district conference, On Earth Peace invites you individually, as a congregation, and district to identify your "toolkit" and to work with us towards justice, peace, reconciliation, and nonviolence. We've provided examples of our program offerings in a previous letter.

On behalf of our staff and board, thank you for your consistent and continued support of On Earth Peace. We are 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. Your gifts allow us to continue expanding our community and to share these vital ministries around the country and the world. We ask that you prayerfully consider how you can strengthen your investment in our work.

The following congregations in your district made donations to On Earth Peace in 2016. 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Scheurer".

Bill Scheurer, Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lamar Gibson".

Lamar Gibson, Director of Development

Thank you to these congregations for your financial and programmatic support in 2016:

- Bakersfield
- Circle of Peace
- Glendale
- La Verne*
- Modesto
- Papago Buttes
- Pasadena
- Pomona Fellowship
- San Diego First*
- Tuscon
- Western Regional Youth Conference

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

MY SEMINARY OF CHOICE


www.bethanyseminary.edu

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

2016-17 at Bethany

This academic year, Bethany Seminary was again a member of



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

— CENTER FOR FAITH AND SERVICE
McCORMICK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

- To place greater emphasis on student recruitment, a new Admissions and Students Services Department was created, and Lori Current was hired as executive director of admissions and student services.
- Enabling students to complete seminary with no new educational or consumer debt, the Pillars and Pathways Scholarship was developed, covering the gap between cost of attendance for residential students and the combination of Bethany aid and work income the student receives.
- Bethany and Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria formed a partnership to facilitate theological education for EYN students. Plans were created and funds were raised for a technology center in Jos, Nigeria, where students will take online classes with US students in real time. English proficiency classes and the first graduate course are planned for the coming year.
- The trustees approved a strategic vision document, from which goals, objectives, and implementation steps for a strategic plan will be formulated.
- Three new specialized graduate certificates were offered: Biblical Interpretation, Conflict Resolution, and Theopoetics and Theological Imagination. Six new students enrolled in these certificate programs.
- Musa Mambula of Nigeria served as Bethany's first international scholar in residence, helping facilitate plans and fund-raising for the new partnership
- The Presidential Forum and Young Adult Event featured guest speakers and Bethany faculty and students who addressed a variety of topics related to God's Green Earth, A Call to Care and Witness.
- Students in the class of 2017 graduated in May, six with MDivs, four with MAs, two with CATS, and four with Certificates in Theopoetics and Theological Imagination.

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

In 2016-17, the Pacific Southwest District

- had 1 student in Bethany graduate programs;
- had 9 students in the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership;

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 pastors new to the Church of the Brethren.*



Church of the Brethren

2017 District Conference

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Pacific Southwest District,

I invite you and your congregation to gather in Cincinnati, Ohio on July 4-8th, 2018 for the 232nd Annual Conference. Matthew 9:35-38, will be the scripture for our theme “Living Parables.” Between now and our next Annual Conference, I encourage you to spend time praying through this scripture from Matthew and the many parables of Jesus. The work done at local and district level is the glue that holds, individual Christian and the local congregation together in the Church of the Brethren, which is a part of the larger Brethren tribe within the Christian community that make up the body of Christ.

Jesus’ life and action provide the template for Brethren today. For Jesus did not just study his context, he became part of it. He added humanity to his divinity, he was not just a generic version of being human, we also are called to be more than ordinary human beings, we are a “Living Parable” our lives could be a natural response to God’s love and grace in our world, and that should inspire us to be the living parables. Parables were told in a historical context. In this case, we would be a living historical figures, historically and yet fully present in today’s cultural context.

During this next year, it is my hope and prayer that we as the church will work on embodying the call to be a living parable as we seek to understand Jesus’ parables and that we will build our communities in which our congregations work to be a parable to the world around us. We live in a time with many distractions or things that want to distract us from being the parable Jesus calls us to be.

To this end, let the appeal made by Jesus be evident as we gear up to gather again in Cincinnati! May we become like Jesus who “went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” (Matthew 9:35-38) NIV

Your brother in Christ,

Samuel Kefas Sarpiya
2018 Annual Conference Moderator



Church of the Brethren

May 2017

Though the Brethren as a group have existed for nearly three hundred years, we subscribe to no formal creed. We simply try to do what Jesus did. Jesus brought a message of life, love, and hope. But he offered much more than inspiring words: He understood that people's spiritual needs also include day-to-day human ones – food, health, rest, comfort, friendship, and unconditional acceptance. "I am the way," he told his followers. He showed them how to trust, how to care, and how to help. Steadily, lovingly, even radically, Jesus went about saving the world – by serving its people. Because we believe his message, we seek to do the same.

– Church of the Brethren Identity Pamphlet

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Greetings to you in the name of Christ our Savior!

I am grateful for the many ways your district and local congregations faithfully strive to live out the Gospel – to simply try to do what Jesus did. The vital ministries of our Church of the Brethren congregations small to large are at the heart of our Church. We should never diminish the essential role that each unique part of the body plays in our common ministry together.

As you may know, I am committed to visiting all the districts in my first year with you as general secretary to hold listening sessions. As I have visited with you, I have been uplifted and encouraged not only by your hospitable and hopeful spirit but by your commitment to our common ministries together in the Church of the Brethren.

As we know all too well, there are a number of loud voices on either side of the issues we face that are demanding our attention and have dominated much of our time these past number of years. My efforts at intentional listening are to hear the voice of the church – listening for God's voice arising not from the loudest few, but from the gathered community. As I listen, there is no doubt that some of you clearly resonate with the dominant voices, yet the prevailing voice emerging from the listening sessions is one of hope – hope that we remain one Body in Christ continuing our struggle – together.

We have not been doing "together" very well as a Church. I am aware that many are weary of the struggle, yet as disciples of Jesus we are called to another way of living – a way that is not always easy and requires struggle. I would invite you to join me in our continued struggle to follow Jesus. It is my hope that we might change our adversarial posture to one of serving one another – one in which we stoop to wash the feet of our brother or sister in Christ. I believe such a change in posture positions us to listen more intently to one another – thus better able to love and care for the other. I believe that such a posture of service would be transformational for our Church.

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

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

My friends, I do hope you can see that our struggle together is worthwhile. We are doing good ministries together locally in our congregations and districts and denominationally. Our efforts at offering the cup of cold water model to the world that we are about another way of living – the way of Jesus. May we not forget that through our simple acts of service, we too are working to save the world – in Jesus' name.

I invite you to join me in another way of living.

Your servant in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Steele". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" and last name "Steele" clearly distinguishable.

David Steele
General Secretary



Church of the Brethren

May 15, 2017

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

“There is enough water for everyone....it is like water is coming right from heaven!” Adamu, the chairman of a newly-built relocation village in Nigeria, exclaimed after a water well and solar pump were installed. Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) staff and volunteers are privileged to hear this type of gratitude overflowing from those we serve in Christ. Your donations, support and hours of volunteering matter and help share God’s love around the world.

In the midst of dramatic world challenges and changes, BDM is striving to respond and meet needs in more effective ways. In the past, we had to wait until long-term recovery groups were organized locally. Now BDM is helping form recovery groups through a new program - the Disaster Recovery Support Initiative (DRSI). In response to flooding in 2015, this collaborative effort of BDM, the United Church of Christ Disaster Ministries and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) worked in South Carolina for most of 2016, with the benefit that this turned into one of five BDM rebuilding sites during 2016.

The rebuilding response to Detroit, Mich. ran from April through the end of 2016, helping homeowners whose basements had flooded in 2014. In Colorado, volunteers worked through August to rebuild homes damaged by flooding and wildfires. A short flood response in West Virginia was followed by the opening of the new South Carolina project toward the end of the year. This rebuild and repair work, combined with DRSI, was completed by 1,174 volunteers who helped 123 families return home or be provided with a safe living environment. They served a total of 74,606 hours valued at \$1,757,717.36. A total of eight grants provided \$144,699 funds to extend this work beyond what is possible with donations alone.

The intense response activity of 2016 extended to Children’s Disaster Services (CDS), which responded to 12 disasters, the highest number in program history. In total, 97 volunteers cared for 1,782 children in the U.S. based responses. CDS also provided its first international response by creating a new Healing Hearts program for children traumatized by the terrorist violence in Nigeria. Two Training of Trainers workshops in Nigeria for over 100 Nigerian participants resulted in thousands of Nigerian children experiencing this healing ministry. The busy year included 11 U.S. trainings, with 292 participants, including a Critical Response Child Care leadership seminar. CDS received two outside grants totaling \$65,000.

The greatest “disaster” of the last decades has been the massive humanitarian crisis caused by global violence and terrorism. With more than 65 million people displaced by violence in the world, this crisis has been the focus of 75 percent of Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) international programming, with the largest program area being the Nigeria Crisis Response, which accounted for \$4.24 million in relief and recovery ministry during 2014 -2016.

After 2½ years of partnering and supporting Ekklesiyar Yan’uwa a Nigeria (EYN, Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) much has improved, even though the crisis and violence caused by the terrorist group Boko Haram continues in parts of northeast Nigeria. EYN leadership has moved back to their original headquarters in Kwarhi, and the damaged homes and offices have been repaired on the

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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

Church compound. Even as they are challenged by ongoing violence and food shortages, approximately 75 percent of the displaced families have returned home to start the process of rebuilding. Those that can't return home are settling in new areas and starting new congregations. The many program areas include:

- Peace building and trauma healing workshops and advanced training
- Special trauma healing programming developed for children
- Building new homes and repairing homes for returnees
- Providing emergency food, medical supplies and household goods
- Distributing seed, fertilizer, goats and chickens; supporting a new soybean initiative
- Providing equipment, tools and training in livelihood and agriculture
- Supporting repairs and renovations to Kulp Bible College and other schools
- Supporting the education of more than 2,500 children
- Continuing the support of EYN repairs, conferences and printed materials

The combined 2016 expenses for the global refugee crisis and the Nigeria Crisis was \$1,819,857, which is nearly double the average BDM yearly budget. This includes work in many parts of Africa including Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania and South Sudan. Through a partner in Lebanon, BDM is supporting Syrian children with food and education. The largest natural disaster of the year was Hurricane Matthew, which affected Haiti, Cuba and the southern U.S. In Haiti, the BDM response began with emergency food and water distributions, followed by distributions of animals and seeds and, in the third phase home reconstruction.

The total 2016 program expenditures were \$424,700 for U.S. responses, including the Rebuild Program and CDS, \$1,468,679 for the Nigeria Crisis Response and \$351,801 for all other international responses.

As the world changes, BDM and CDS stretch to find new and better ways to provide disaster ministries and work with volunteers. The image of our programs, the quality of our work and the credibility of our volunteers is even more crucial in these times. Reverend Becky Wilson, the coordinator of the Northwest Detroit Flood Recovery Project, said it well: "BDM's compassion and excellent workmanship [were] a blessing to the northwest Detroit community."

By working together as volunteers, districts and the whole Church we are sharing Christ's love in this hurting world.

In Christ,



Roy Winter, Associate Executive Director

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



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 45 volunteers...

- Serving in eight countries: Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, El Salvador, Honduras, Republic of Ireland, Japan, Northern Ireland and the United States.
- Placed in 11 different U.S. states and Washington, D.C.

BVS Staff



Unit 313, Summer 2016—The last orientation unit to go through training at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md.

In 2016:

- BVS hosted four orientation units: one at Camp Ithiel in Gotha, Fla., one at Camp Eder in Fairfield, Pa., and two at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md.
- 87 total volunteers served throughout the year.

Partners in Service Award

Each year, BVS presents a Partners in Service Award to an individual, group, or organization that has shown exceptional commitment to the work of sharing God's love through acts of service. The 2017 award goes to Bethany Theological Seminary.

Bethany has partnered with BVS since the beginning of BVS in 1948. In recent years the partnership includes regular participation by Bethany staff in the annual BVS mid-year retreats. Staff have been an integral part of a day at the retreat focused on vocation and call. Many former BVSers have found their way to Bethany for further education. The class of 2017 saw four former BVSers graduating— Jody Gunn, Bryan Hanger, Wendy McFadden, and Jonathan Stauffer.

The Partners in Service Award will be accepted by Jeff Carter, president of Bethany Seminary, himself a former BVSer, at the BVS Annual Conference Luncheon on June 29 in Grand Rapids, Mich. Jeff will also serve as the luncheon speaker, reflecting on "What goes around . . . Politics, Religion, and BVS."

New Bethany students for the 2016-2017 school year



Photos courtesy of Bethany Seminary

Bryan Hanger (2nd from left): Former BVSer who recently graduated from Bethany



Jonathan Stauffer: Former BVSer and recent Bethany graduate preaching





BVS Unit #1 in front of Old Main, 1948.

Brethren Service Center: Remembered

Most BVS orientation units were held at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md., including the first one pictured at left. During those early years, volunteers worked half a day at the clothing center or other settings on campus to pay for their training. Units were held there regularly until 1971, and they returned there off and on for many years. In the past 20 years, at least one unit a year was held at the Center—as were the 50th and 60th anniversary events for BVS.

The Center was also the site for a number of BVS projects, including SERRV, Zigler Hospitality Center, Brethren Disaster Ministries, the maintenance department, Material Resources, and On Earth Peace. Many volunteers served as truck drivers, hauling donations from locations around the country and to the ports in Baltimore.

If you came through New Windsor at a certain time, you remember Joel Petre, the head chef. He went there in the mid-1940s following alternative service in the CPS camps. Joel headed up the kitchen for many years and later was also head of the maintenance department. “He was a wonderful chef,” says Miller Davis, former BVSer and longtime manager of the Brethren Service Center.

Why remember the food? For BVS and service, the context of food has been central—whether it’s our own meals or food for those we serve. Conversations happen around meals. Hunger issues are a focus of service. In food banks, soup kitchens, meals for residents, sustainable agriculture, and community gardens, food is central to our wellbeing. When we remember Joel Petre, we also remember how BVS—and the whole Church of the Brethren—was fed by the Brethren Service Center.



Joel Petre serving in the dining room, Windsor Hall, 1950s.

New Project Spotlight: Horton’s Kids



Matilde Thompson
Unit 315

Horton’s Kids is one of the newest BVS projects. It is a program that empowers children living in one of Washington, D.C.’s most under-resourced communities, and prepares them to graduate from high school ready for college, career and life. In fall of 2016, Horton’s Kids received its first volunteer, Matilde Thompson. Matilde came to BVS from Germany through the partnership BVS has with EIRENE, a development and volunteer program that the Church of the Brethren helped start in 1957.

Matilde did not think she wanted to serve with kids when she came to the US. She didn’t even know she was good at working with kids. And then she met the kids from the Anacostia neighborhood. She discovered a hidden gift.

“Even though I didn’t know the kids at first, they were super nice. Really welcoming to me. They’ve taught me a lot about their culture, from such different backgrounds. And even though they have lots of challenges outside of Horton’s, they have ambitions, and they want to come to tutoring, and they want to learn. Some have parents in jail and they are still motivated to keep going.” Matilde says she “really hopes they get a new BVSer when I leave, and that they like this project as much as I do. It will be hard to leave this community at the end of my term.”



Matilde reading to one of the students at Horton’s Kids.

Workcamp Update

Shelley Weachter (left) and Deanna Beckner are serving as assistant workcamp coordinators. The 2017 theme is “Say Hello.”



sayhello
3 John 13-14
2017 Brethren Workcamps

Brethren Volunteer Service
1451 Dundee Ave.
Elgin, IL 60120
brethrenvolunteerservice.org
bvs@brethren.org
847-429-4396

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

4 **November 12, 2016**

Modesto Church of the Brethren

5 **I. Call to Order**

6 The 2016 Pacific Southwest District Conference was called to order at 8:35 a.m. Prayer was offered
7 by Sara Haldeman-Scarr.

8 **II. Introductions**

9 Moderator John Price introduced those at the front table which included: Moderator-Elect Sara
10 Haldeman-Scarr, Clerk Karen Cosner, Board of Administration Chair Marye Martinez,
11 Parliamentarian Gerald Davis, Lois Frantz Time Keeper.

12 **III. Roll Call and Verification of Quorum**

13 A roll call was taken; 59 delegates representing 21 churches were present. A quorum was declared
14 to be present.

15 **IV. Delegate Dedication**

16 The delegates were instructed to sit at their assigned tables. The delegates were directed to page
17 7 of the Business Book for the Delegates' Dedication Litany.

18 **V. Approval of Agenda**

19 **Nelda Rhoades Clarke (Tucson) moved and Norma Sexton (Prince of Peace) seconded to**
20 **approve the agenda as presented. Approved.**

21 **VI. Introduction of Guests**

22 Russ Matteson, District Executive Minister, introduced guests from across the Denomination.
23 Present were representatives from Annual Conference, Church of the Brethren Inc., Bethany
24 Theological Seminary, Brethren Benefit Trust, On Earth Peace, McPherson College and the
25 University of La Verne.

26 **VII. Approval of 2015 Minutes**

27 **Committee to Certify the 2015 Minutes moved their approval. Philip Corr (Living Savior)**
28 **moved and Cindy Slaughter (Glendale) seconded to amend the 2015 minutes for clarification**
29 **as follows: XIX.B. The conference voted to approve sending the Query to Annual Conference**
30 **with one abstention and ten nay votes. Amendment approved. Minutes were approved as**
31 **amended.**

32 **VIII. Committee to Certify 2016 Minutes**

33 A committee of Richard Hart (Pomona), Scott Valles (Glendale) and Philip Corr (Living Savior)
34 was named to certify the accuracy of the 2016 minutes.

35 **IX. Moving Cristo Sion to Congregation Status**

36 A. Marye Martinez, Board Chair introduced the action item recommend that Cristo Sion be
37 moved to Congregational Status. Marye referred the Delegates to page 63 of the Business
38 Book and gave a history of the relationship of Cristo Sion to the PSWD.

39 B. **The Executive Board recommends to District Conference that Cristo Sion be moved to**
40 **Congregational Status. The vote passed with a standing ovation and welcome.**

41 C. Pastor David Flores shared words of thanks and the four delegates were seated.

Morning Table Conversation by Delegates

Moderator John Price invited the delegates into a time of conversation at their tables around the conference theme “We are family. The family of God!” They were invited to reflect on the following questions together: How do we live together as family in the midst of our diversity? Do we ignore our differences? Do we just tolerate one another? How do we respect those who differ in their beliefs? How do we move from tolerance to respect of one another’s beliefs and practices?

X. Introduction of Youth Cabinet and TRIM Presentation

- A. Youth Adviser Dawna Welch introduced the 2017 Youth Cabinet: Jorge Molina (Principe de Paz), Mario Cabrera (Principe de Paz) and Elizabeth Piazza (Live Oak). Russ dedicated the Youth Cabinet for the year 2017. The youth were thanked for their service and were excused.
- B. Jim Martinez presented Dawna Welch her TRIM (Training in Ministry) Completion Certificate.

XI. Standing Committee Report, Margaret Carl Trust and Historian Report

- A. Standing Committee Delegate Marlin Heckman directed the delegates to Page 15 of the Business Book for his report. Marlin directed the Delegates to Page 27 of the Business Book which shows statistics for congregations in the PSWD, their per capita giving and membership. These are not accurate statistics as there are nine congregations who do not report and of those reported some of their numbers are old and may have changed. Marlin encouraged the congregations to complete these forms.
- B. The Margaret Carl Trust was started in 1943 to purchase and distribute Bibles and tracts and for the abolition of alcohol and tobacco. Marlin Heckman is the trustee. \$33,000 has been spent over 31 years. The committee meets twice each year. Congregations can ask for monies to purchase Bibles and tracts.
- C. Marlin Heckman is the Historian for the District. In 1865 the first Brethren congregation settled in the PSWD. Marlin is requesting materials documenting the history of the district to be sent to him, the District Office or the archives at the University of La Verne.

XII. Introduction of the Ballot

- A. Moderator-elect Sara Haldeman-Scarr directed the delegates to turn to Page 53 of the Business Book and introduced the Nominees. It was asked if there were nominations from the floor. **Hearing none the motion to close nominations: Al Clark(La Verne) moved, Cady Laycook (South Bay) seconded. Passed.**
- B. The body was led in prayer by the Moderator-elect.
- C. **Motion to accept the ballot as a slate, Mike Boeger (Live Oak), Al Clark (La Verne) Seconded.** Discussion from the floor. Why were ages listed? Along with other information, it gives a demographic representation of the body. **The motion to approve the slate ballot was approved.**
- D. The following persons were elected to the PSWD 2017 positions:
 - 1. Moderator-Elect: Karen Pierson (Living Savior)
 - 2. Nominating Committee: Gerald Davis (Pomona Fellowship)
 - 3. Program Committee: Linda Hart (Pomona Fellowship)
 - 4. District Board of Administration:
 - a. Elizabeth Piazza (Live Oak), Youth & Young Adult Representative
 - b. Alex Sanders (Modesto), Youth & Young Adult Representative
 - c. Israel Rosas (Glendale), Youth & Young Adult Representative
 - d. Jose Rudy Amaya (Principe de Paz), At-Large Representative
 - e. Cheryl Crane (Prince of Peace), At-Large Representative
 - f. Eddie Hernandez (Modesto), At-Large Representative
 - g. Katherine Boeger Knight (Live Oak), At-Large Representative

- h. Clark Youngblood (Circle of Peace), At-Large Representative
 - i. Dot Hess (La Verne) Southern CA East Representative
5. Linda Battram Dorosh (La Verne) Hillcrest Homes Board

XIII. Reports From Annual Conference Agencies

Following a Video presentation, Mark Lancaster, Director of Institutional Advancement for Bethany Theological Seminary, brought greetings from Bethany and David Steele brought greetings from the Church of the Brethren Inc. and the Mission and Ministry Board.

XIV. Policy Board Report

- A. Marye Martinez, Board Chair, shared that the transition of the board over the 7 years that she has been on it has been very positive, there have been changes in the budget, new church planting, closing of churches, we have worked on how do we support the congregations in the district, members are taking a more active part on the commissions, the atmosphere is very positive as we look ahead. Marye thanked the board for their support and hard work.
- B. Tom Hostetler, chair of the Ministry Commission, referred the delegates to the Ministry Commission's report page 21 of the Business book. He explained the importance of the Pastor/Spouse retreat and encouraged congregations to send their pastors to the retreat. He shared that the Commission continues to provide ways for ministers to earn required Continuing Education Units. Tom shared that the work of the Ministry Commission has been a privilege and a blessing.
- C. Marye explained that the District will no longer be awarding large grants, but is transitioning to Ministry Partnership Funds which are awarded by the Congregational Vitality Task Group. She shared that there are 23 persons on the policy board and if anyone is interested in serving, talk to a board member.
- D. Joel Price, chair of the Stewards Commission, shared that there was a ruling on the Korean Church lawsuit and we are waiting to see if it will be appealed. The Waterford church has closed and the Parsonage has been rented out. An informational letter was sent to all congregations regarding insurance coverage and practices. There will be a workshop on accounting and records in early 2017. He thanked the Grant Review Committee and the Investment Committee for their work. Joel shared that South Bay Congregation will be taking a 20 year loan with the District for \$750,000 at 5% interest for some refurbishing and expansion. Joel shared that 2017 will be the last year for grants and the oversight of the final reports will be accomplished by the Stewards Commission.

XV. 2017 PSWD Budget

- A. Delegates were directed to Pages 59-61 of the Business Book. A time was given for questions and discussion. Questions asked were: What is the long-term intention? What does it mean to reduce staff compensation? More vacation or more time off? In 14 years are we going to go broke or sell 3 or 4 churches? We want to be viable for a long time. Can we explore more viable income strains? Don't sit on money so that we will be in existence 20 years from now and not help our congregations.
- B. **The 2017 Budget comes as a recommendation from the Policy Board. Tom Hostetler (La Verne) moved to amend the 2017 proposed budget by increasing line 7000 to allow for staff increases not to exceed \$5,000. Al Clark (La Verne) seconded. Passed. The PSWD Budget for 2017, passed as amended, one nay.**
- C. **The Policy Board recommends that the Operating Expense maximum for 2018 budget be \$425,000. After some discussion the recommendation passed.**

1 **XVI. Program Committee Report**

- 2 A. Deb Merrifield (Circle of Peace) thanked the Program Committee for their hard work on this
3 year's conference. Next year's District Conference will be held November 10-12, at Hillcrest
4 in La Verne.

5 **XVII. District Executive Minister Report**

6 Russ Matteson referred the Delegates to Pages 11-13 in the Business Book. He explained that the
7 Ministry Partnership Funds are meant to encourage congregations to experiment with new
8 ministries, to work towards renewal and revitalization or to support mission point congregations.
9 He is working at engaging congregations in the Congregations Ethic Paper that was passed by
10 Annual Conference and will be holding Ethics of Discipleship workshops in the coming year. He
11 thanked Marye Martinez, outgoing Board Chair and Mike Boeger for their service to the Board.
12 Thanks to Jim Martinez, Elizabeth Rowan, Karin Nelson and Mary Jo Swartz for their service on
13 the Grant Review Committee. Russ shared that he used I Thessalonians 5:16-21 as his guide. "Be
14 cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God
15 wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live."

16 **XVIII. Waterford Church of the Brethren**

- 17 A. Marye Martinez referred the Delegates to Page 63 of the Business Book.
18 B. **The Executive Board recommends to District Conference that Waterford Church of the
19 Brethren be closed. The question was asked if the property stayed with the District.
20 Polity of the Church of the Brethren is that church property stays with the District. The
21 action to close the Waterford Church of the Brethren passed.**
22 C. Russ led a prayer of thanksgiving for the Ministry of the Waterford Church.

23 **Afternoon Table Conversation by Delegates**

24 Moderator John Price invited the delegates to another time of conversation around tables. Inviting
25 them to focus on the following questions: How do we move from tolerance to acceptance and
26 support? Can we support those who differ from what we believe? Can we learn from each other
27 when we have diverse points of view? Are we stronger together or separated into like beliefs?

28 **XIX. Moderator's Closing Comments**

29 John Price expressed his appreciation to PSWD for this year and the way we conducted business.

30 **XX. Passing the Gavel**

31 John Price passed the gavel to Moderator Sara Haldeman-Scarr. Sara shared that her theme would
32 be "The Witness and With-ness of Jesus!", based on the Beatitudes and distributed small footprint
33 key chains to be a reminder throughout the year that the goal is to have a world abundant with
34 Christ's unconditional love.

35 **XXI. Adjournment**

36 The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

37 _____
38 Minutes recorded by Karen Cosner, Clerk

39 _____

40 In February 2017 the draft copy of the minutes was examined and given preliminary approval by the
41 committee: Richard Hart (Pomona), Scott Valles (Glendale) and Philip Corr (Living Savior).

Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren

November 2017 – November 2018 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

	Bob Morris, Glendora - SE

Nominating Committee

Vote for 1 Three year term

	Lucile Leard, Glendale - SW

Program Committee, District Conference

Vote for 2 Three year term

	Cady Laycook, South Bay, Redondo Beach - SW
	Peggy Redman, Pomona Fellowship - SE (incumbent)

Standing Committee

Vote for 1 Three year term

	Don Shankster, Papago Buttes - AZ

Standing Committee, Alternate

Vote for 1 Three year term

	Sara Haldeman-Scarr, San Diego - SE

District Board of Administration Youth & Young Adult Representatives

Vote for 3 One year term

	Mario Cabrera, Príncipe de Paz - SE
	Jaime Farrar, Modesto - NC
	Elizabeth Piazza, Live Oak - NC (incumbent)

District Board of Administration At-Large Representatives

Vote for 4 Three year term

	David Flores, Cristo Sion - SE (incumbent)
	Norma Sexton, Prince of Peace - NC
	Joanne Wagoner, La Verne - SE
	Julia Wheeler, La Verne - SE

Northern CA Representative

Vote for 1 Three year term

	Joel Price, Empire - NC (incumbent)

Southern CA West Representative

Vote for 1 Three year term

	Cindy Badell-Slaughter, Glendale - SW (incumbent)

Brethren Hillcrest Homes Board Nominees

Vote for 0 Three year term

	Nominees not requested in 2017

Camp La Verne Trustee Nominees

Vote for 0 Three year term

	Nominees not requested in 2017

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 2017 - 2018 Ballot

Candidates are listed by office, alphabetically by last name.

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

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



Bob Morris:

Age: 65

Congregation: Glendora
CoB

Vocation: Pastor

Church Experience:
Pastor of the Glendora

Church of the Brethren congregation; together with my wife, Norma, hosted a one week-end session of the PSWD Executive Board; Commissions, and Board of Administration Meeting; serve as a member of the district's Ethics Committee; occasionally preach at Brethren Hillcrest Homes Sunrise Service and Evening Vespers; participates in the PSWD Pastors/Spouses Retreat with my spouse; initiated regular fellowship gathering of Church of the Brethren pastors in Arizona; past member of PSWD Nurturing and Credentialing Committee; past-member of PSWD Executive

Committee; former Chair of Christian Education & Evangelism Commission; former President of the Los Angeles Chapter of the Huntington's Disease Society of America; former Pastor of the Tucson and Bakersfield Congregations; and served on the board of Camp Greenhorn (Bakersfield, Lindsay and McFarland congregations).

Vision Statement: My vision for our district, our congregations, and our ministries is for us to make new friends of people like us and those different from us, to share our love for Jesus with them gradually and eventually, for all of us to stop worrying about surviving as local churches, as a district, and as a denomination, and just simply Love God, Love our Neighbors as ourselves, and Love each other, and to just see how that goes and to do it all for the Glory of God and our Neighbor's/Neighbors' Good.

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.



Lucile Leard:

Age: 80

Congregation: Glendale
CoB

Vocation: Retired music
teacher

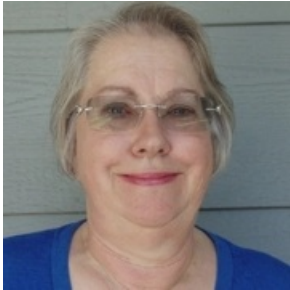
Church Experience: I
have been active in most

church jobs. I am currently Music Director at the Glendale COB. I have been on the church board, children's Sunday school teacher and many other

jobs. I was on the district board for 12 years, different terms. I served on Standing Committee representing the PSWD.

Vision Statement: I see the District as helping the churches grow and prosper, supporting them with leadership and financially. Many of our churches are struggling, and the District can support them in many ways. Strong leadership from the district is vital for the local churches to survive.

Program Committee, District Conference (vote for 2): The three year term begins immediately. The Committee is responsible for planning the District Conference program, obtaining leadership, and making all necessary arrangements for the conference, in cooperation with on-site representatives.



Cady Laycook:

Age: 63

*Congregation: South Bay,
Redondo Beach, CoB*

*Vocation: Ministry/social
service with persons
with developmental
disabilities*

Church Experience: I was a member of District Board serving two terms about 7 years ago, I have served on church board for several years and also served as church clerk. I have been District and Annual Conference delegate for my congregation many times in the past 2 decades. I sing in our church choir and serve in our hospitality ministry and assist with our Neighbor to Neighbor program serving meals to homeless and economically disadvantaged on a monthly basis.

Vision Statement: My vision/desire is that the Program Committee will support the work of the district by planning and coordinating a hospitable and meaningful district conference event. I hope and pray that this work will enable participants to accomplish the required business and decision making of the district, to worship and find inspiration together, to have opportunities to grow and learn about ministries of the church locally and beyond and to fellowship with one another. Most of all I pray that the committee's work will provide

the environment and opportunity for all conference participants to heed the call to strengthen the bonds of love for one another as brothers and sisters, to serve the church and to glorify our Lord.



Peggy Redman: incumbent

Age: 79

*Congregation: Pomona
Fellowship CoB*

*Vocation: Retired College
Professor (ULV)*

Church Experience:
Pomona Fellowship COB
positions include: Sunday School Teacher,; Chair, Christian Education; Chair, Music and Worship; Moderator, 4 terms; Church Board Chair; Choir member, 60 years; • PSWD positions: District Board; Program Committee (current); Nurturing and Credentialing Committee (current); District Moderator • National involvement: Membership on NOAC Planning Committee; Annual Conference Delegate, multiple times; attendance at 25 Annual Conferences.

Vision Statement: The Church of the Brethren has a unique and important role to play in the world in which we live. Our commitment to Service and Justice girded by our belief and faith in Jesus puts us in a position to help our fractured world heal.

Standing Committee Delegate (vote for 1) & **Alternate** (vote for 1) are elected by the District Conference to serve a 3 year term representing the district on Annual Conference Standing Committee, and are eligible to serve one additional term. When a Standing Committee Delegate is not able to complete the term, the alternate completes the term to provide continuity, assuming the replaced delegate's term limits.



Delegate

Don Shankster:

Age: 66

Congregation: Papago Buttes, Scottsdale AZ

Vocation: I have been called to pastoral ministry

Church Experience: I serve as pastor of the Papago Buttes Church of the Brethren, on the District Nurturing and Credentialing Committee as chairperson, as district representative to Arizona Faith Network (our version of ecumenical council).

Vision Statement: It is my vision that we in our denomination continue to seek the mind of Christ as we bring our diversity to the table of our Lord in our deliberations on polity and our responses to the world's cries around us.



Alternate

Sara Haldeman-Scarr:

Age: 61

Congregation: San Diego CoB

Vocation: Pastor/organizer

Church Experience:

As a follower of Jesus Christ, it is a privilege to pastor the First Church of the Brethren of San Diego. I currently serve as Moderator of the Pacific Southwest District. Locally in San Diego, I chair the San Diego Day of Compassion Celebration, the City Heights Interfaith Standing Together in Peace Event, and The Peace Resource Center of San Diego.

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

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

PSWD Board of Administration: Northern CA 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.



Joel Price: *incumbent*

Age: 41

Congregation: Empire CoB

Vocation: Farmer

Church Experience: I have had many

opportunities to serve over the years. I served as the steward chairman of our church board when I was

in high school and attending Waterford COB. I have been a member of the Empire Church of the Brethren for 19 years. I have been the yard maintenance man at our church for the last ten years. I have also been serving on our stewards commission at Empire COB, for the last six years. I also assist with government commodities food give away in the Empire community the first Wednesday of the month. I have also assisted with the youth at our church. I have served the district by being a delegate to four district conferences, have

Ballot Background Information, Exhibit B

served on the Stewards committee of the Policy Board for three years, and served as the chairman of the Stewards for the last year. I have also had the privilege of helping with the youth at district conference and two National Youth Conferences. I am eager to serve in any way that God calls me, with my wife by my side.

Vision Statement: My vision is to follow the teachings of Jesus Christ using the Bible as my guide. I strive to share the love of Jesus with the people that God puts in my path and to continue to deepen my relationship with Christ. I try to make myself available for Christ to use me in the way He desires to do His work here on earth.

PSWD Board of Administration: Southern CA West 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.



Cindy Badell-Slaughter:
incumbent

Congregation: Glendale
CoB

Vocation: Music
Publishing, Licensing
and Clearance.

Church Experience: My husband Bill and I are members of Glendale Church of the Brethren, where

I serve as Board Chair. I also serve the PSWD on the Policy Board and Ministry Commission.

Vision Statement: My vision is to serve God and be a part of a church community where I can participate and make a positive difference. It has been a joy and honor to serve the Church of the Brethren PSWD on the Policy Board and Ministry Commission. I hope to continue to serve the PSWD in whatever capacity God has led me.

PSWD Board of Administration: At-Large Representatives. Vote for 4 (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.



David Flores: *incumbent*
Age: 62

Congregation: Cristo Sion
CoB

Vocation: Pressman, in the
printing industry

Church Experience:

I am, License Pastor and Teacher, actually serving in the Policy Board.

Vision Statement: My Vision for the Church is to continue the great commission, serving as disciples of Jesus in the world, teaching how to follow him with our lives, and share God's love to one and other. "For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself, no longer counting people's sins against them. And he gave us this wonderful message of reconciliation." 2 Corinthians 5:19 (NLT).



Norma Sexton:
Age: 59

Congregation: Prince of
Peace, Sacramento

Vocation: Pharmacist,
Cello performer and
teacher

Church Experience: Formerly, I was an active participant and Licensed Minister in the Bakersfield Community Church of the Brethren. Following my move to Auburn, California in 2011 I am attending the Prince of Peace Church in Sacramento. I have previously served a six-year term on the District Policy Board.

Vision Statement: I answered the call to serve as a District Representative to support and encourage our local churches to grow spiritually and physically and to contribute leadership in District business matters.

Ballot Background Information, Exhibit B



Joanne Wagoner:

Congregation: La Verne
CoB

Vocation: Retired
Teacher/Reading
Specialist

Church Experience: I have served and provided leadership on numerous church commissions, committees, various programs and activities including Sunday School, Choir, Youth Group, and Peace Camp. I previously served on the PSWD Board, PSWD representative on the Hillcrest Board. I am currently part of the leadership team for Southern California (COB) Children's Disaster Service, and trained through CDS National Office as a Project Manager to serve in emergency shelters.

Vision Statement: Churches in the district continue to work towards peace and justice in a manner the provides models how diverse communities can establish meaningful, loving relationships. ● Churches reach out and share what is unique about being Brethren and how members strive to understand and follow the teachings of Jesus. ● District continue to explore and find new ways of being church in today's world.



Julia Wheeler:

Age: 53

Congregation: La Verne
CoB

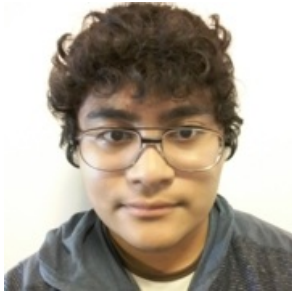
Vocation: Church
Relations ULV

Church Experience: Along with attending the La Verne Church of the Brethren, I recruit Brethren students to the university and nurture the alumni/ church/ district/ denominational ties with the college.

Vision Statement: I strive to shine God's light upon any situation in which I am involved. I hope to serve the district with all my skills and talents.

PSWD Board of Administration: Youth & Young Adult Representative. . . Vote for 3 (one year term)

Youth members must be at least 15 years old and less than 24 years old as of December 31 of the year elected.



Mario Cabrera:

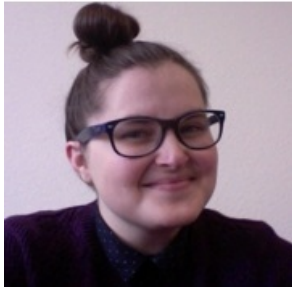
Age: 16

Congregation: Príncipe de Paz CoB

Vocation: Student

Church Experience:
District Youth Cabinet.

Vision Statement:



Jaime Farrar:

Age: 22

Congregation: Modesto CoB

Vocation: Working with kids on the autism spectrum.

Church Experience: I grew up at the Modesto Church of the Brethren. I was able to attend both national junior high and youth conferences. In my youth group I also was able to partake in a Brethren Workcamp in Puerto Rico.

Vision Statement: I want to do what I can to allow our district to follow in the footsteps of Jesus with the best of our abilities.



Elizabeth Piazza:

incumbent

Age: 16

Congregation: Live Oak CoB

Vocation: High School Student and Athlete.

Church Experience: I have had the opportunity to serve as the Youth Representative on the PSWD Policy Board this past year. I have served on the PSWD Youth Cabinet for the past three years and have been the youth representative on the Live Oak Church of the Brethren Board for the past three years.

Vision Statement: I have been honored to have had the opportunity to serve as a Youth Representative on the PSWD Policy Board this past year. I have learned a lot and would like the opportunity to continue to be a voice for the youth and part of the growth of youth participation in our local churches, our district and our communities as we serve God and one another.

Pacific Southwest District 2018 PSWD Budget and 2019 Operating Expense Maximum

In the pages that follow you will find the proposed 2018 PSWD budget and the recommended 2019 Operating Expense Maximum from the Policy Board. You may recall that in 2016 the Policy Board spent a significant amount of time looking at the District budget and the operating deficits that were represented in budgets over the last several years (see the 2014-16 Actual columns in the chart with the 2018 budget proposal). The determination of the 2016 Policy Board was that continued deficits at this level would not provide a base of funding at which we could work to operate as a district with the kinds of programs and support that were desired. With that in mind they brought the 2017 budget which worked to make changes where it could while providing a transition out for the three congregations that were still receiving Minister Support Grants. They also brought to District Conference a proposal to name a 2018 Operating Expense Maximum of \$425,000 which was adopted setting the expense limits for the 2018 budget proposal which follows.

The 2017 Policy Board has continued conversation around lining up budget expenditures with areas of priority and focus for the ministry work of the PSWD. In April the Board adopted the working document *Core Objective - A Circle of Support* (pg 25) which then provided broad guidance to the allocation of funds in the 2018 budget proposal.

2018 PSWD Budget

In the spreadsheets that follow is the proposed 2018 District Budget. In the notes below you will get a glimpse of the choices that were made to create this budget, and the way in which our core objective and support foci guide us to the priorities that are supported. The budget has a total operating expense of \$424,806 for 2018, which is reduction of more than \$108,000 from the 2017 budget and meets the Operating Expense maximum set for 2018 by last year's district conference. The anticipated deficit for 2018 is \$284,606, a significant decrease from prior years and in line with the sustainability goal that the Policy Board had articulated in 2016.

2018 District Budget Notes

Commitments

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. Funds are also available to support vital ministry in communities whose mission is with those who are on the economic margins. \$40,000 is marked for this work in 2018.

Shared Outreach Ministry – \$3000 is again provided for this effort that will support finding and engaging in a shorter term outreach/service ministry within or near the geography of PSWD that we might share together and help us build connections and unity as we work together.

Ministry Training and Minister Support – Our work with providing training for those called into ministry continues to grow, with 10 licensed ministers and the likelihood of more in the year to come. Eight of these individuals are engaged in Spanish language based programs of the Brethren Academy and the district covers 75% of the cost of this training. We have also called a Ministry Training Coordinator who will work with these students helping them to reach their goals for ministry and meet the objectives of their training programs. We also provide funds for the annual retreat for pastors and chaplains, a key week of spiritual and personal renewal, and for the professional growth event prior to District Conference.

Youth Leadership and Faith Development – 2018 is a National Youth Conference year and we have allocated additional funds to support the transportation needs of getting youth to this mountain top event in the Church of the Brethren. Additionally we continue to grow leaders through their participation on the Youth Cabinet and as Youth/Young Adult members of the Policy Board.

Congregational Mission and Transition Support – The work of our District staff represented in the Operating Ministry portion of the budget plays key roles in helping congregations in connecting to resources, supporting Boards and pastors, and working with congregations in pastoral transitions or evaluating future steps in ministry.

Savings

District Office Rent Reduction – we have relocated the office to the Pomona Fellowship church and are beginning to realize the savings that were initially anticipated in the 2017 budget.

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.

Legal Expenses – Our ongoing legal costs related to the property in Koreatown have continued in 2017, but we are realistically optimistic that this will change for 2018, and allow us to realize a significant reduction in our Property & Legal expenses.

Action Item: The Policy Board recommends to District Conference the adoption of the proposed 2018 budget as presented.

2019 Operating Expense Maximum

The Policy Board brings 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 2019 in the year ahead. This will encourage the District to continued work at moving toward the articulated goals of sustainability into the future which included working to reduce the annual deficit to not more than \$300,000.

The recommendation is to set an operating expense maximum of \$446,000 for 2019. This represents an increase of 5% over the 2018 budget expense level. This will allow the Policy Board to work with some anticipated increases in costs and continue to focus our efforts to support congregations in being vital and healthy communities of faith.

Action Item: The Policy Board recommends to District Conference that the Operating Expense maximum for the 2019 budget be \$446,000.

Pacific Southwest District Church of the Brethren Income & Expense Summary - Proposed 2018 Budget

		2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Budget	2017 YTD (Aug.)	2018 Proposed
Contributions Income	4100	34,209	53,527	52,477	36,000	20,704	35,500
Interest and Other Income	4200	70,324	42,728	42,624	41,300	57,452	76,800
Participation Income	4600	26,264	20,829	19,394	24,300	2,441	27,900
Total Operating Income		130,797	117,084	114,494	101,600	80,597	140,200
Congregational Development Ministry	5005	317,468	158,127	133,052	142,500	83,127	41,500
Pastoral Leadership & Support	5300	43,463	22,015	37,137	33,500	13,550	26,000
District Empowering Ministry	5500	58,241	39,041	40,604	35,600	21,546	41,500
Partnership & Property Ministry	5700	99,670	121,202	55,103	20,500	80,781	21,450
Service Ministries	6300	5,241	2,244	3,111	9,000	267	6,500
District Operating Ministry	6500	322,022	292,632	295,224	289,982	181,953	286,856
Total Operating Expenses		846,105	635,261	564,231	531,082	381,224	423,806
Operating Deficit		-715,308	-518,177	-449,737	-429,482	-300,627	-283,606
Add:							
Brethren Investments gain/(loss)	4400	177,777	-317,967	258,806	0	339,113	
Sale of Church Property	4500						
Increase/Decrease in Net Assets		-537,531	-836,144	-190,931	-429,482	38,486	-283,606
Beginning Cash / Notes / Investment Value		5,957,400	5,447,732	4,599,987	4,409,096		

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT OF THE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN					
2015-2018, Four Year District Budget Overview					
Power Church Report Levels		PC	2015	2016	2017
1	2	3	4		
		Line #	ACTUAL	ACTUAL	BUDGET
INCOME		4000			2018
					PROPOSAL
MINISTRY INCOME		4010			(100) = negative 100
CONTRIBUTIONS INCOME		4100			
	Individuals	4110	6,633	337	4,000
	Congregations	4120	34,660	31,201	30,000
	Church Closure Contritribution	4125	0	17,880	0
	Groups	4129	9,518	0	0
	Subtotal Temp Restricted Income	4130	0	2,059	0
	CDS Children's Disaster Rapid Response	4134	372	0	0
	Other Income	4140	2,344	1,000	2,000
Subtotal Contributions Inc.		4100	53,527	52,477	36,000
INVESTMENT INCOME		4200			
	CHECKING/MONEY MKT INCOME	4210	2	2	0
	NOTES REC. INTEREST/FEES	4301	41,797	39,044	40,000
	INVESTMENT FUNDS	4400	0.0	0	0
	SALE OF CHURCH PROPERTY	4500	0	0	0
	MISC. INCOME	4550	929	3,578	1,300
Subtotal Investment Income		4200	42,728	42,624	41,300
PARTICIPATION INCOME		4600			
	DIST CONF INCOME	4610	17,819	16,770	20,500
	EVENTS INCOME	4630	3,010	2,624	3,800
Subtotal Participation Income		4600	20,829	19,394	24,300
TOTAL INCOME			117,084	114,494	101,600
EXPENSES		5000			
MINISTRY INVESTMENTS		5001			
CONGREGATIONAL DEV MIN		5005			
	WEB SITE DEVELOPMENT	5020	1,865	306	1,500
	Ministry Partnership Funds	5180		268	50,000
	Cong Minister Support Grants	5100	156,262	132,477	91,000
Subtotal Congregational Dev Min		5005	158,127	133,052	142,500
PAST'L. LDRSHP & SUPPORT		5300			
	TRIM (TRAINING IN MIN)	5310	2,066	1,637	2,500
	SEBAH (SEM.BIB ANA HIS)	5315	2,638	15,648	9,000
	BETHANY THEO. SEMINARY	5320	0	0	1,500
	PASTORS' RETREAT	5325	10,880	17,319	14,000
	MINISTER'S WORKSHOP	5330	3,348	1,800	4,000
	OTHER DISTRICT WORKSHOPS	5335	3,083	0	2,500
	MINISTER'S ETHICS TRAINING	5336	0	0	0
	PROF. GROWTH SUBSIDY	5338	0	485	0
	TEMP RESTRICTED EXPENSES	5343	0	248	0
Subtotal Past'l. Ldrshp & Support		5300	22,015	37,137	33,500

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	ACTUAL	BUDGET	PROPOSAL
					DISTRICT EMPOWERING MINISTRY	5500			
					<u>DISTRICT CONFERENCE</u>	5520	18,622	18,827	18,600
					<u>MINISTRY COMMISSION</u>	5540	2,097	765	1,000
					<u>STEWARDS COMMISSION</u>	5560	131	234	500
					<u>BD OF ADM & WORK GROUPS</u>	5600	10,723	14,347	7,500
					<u>NURTURING/CREDENT.COMM</u>	5630	5,901	3,483	3,500
					<u>SHALOM TEAM</u>	5640	0	0	0
					<u>RESOURCE MATERIALS</u>	5650	0	0	500
					<u>INTER-CULTURAL MINISTRY</u>	5660	0	200	1,000
					<u>NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE</u>	5670	0	1,961	0
					<u>Youth Activity & Cabinet Expense</u>	5680/7	1,567	786	3,000
					Subtotal District Empowering Min	5500	39,041	40,604	35,600
					PARTNERSHIP & PROP. MIN	5700			
					<u>DENOMINATIONAL ASSESSMENT</u>	5710	1,626	1,609	1,800
					<u>STANDING COMMITTEE</u>	5720	2,056	2,304	2,500
					<u>UNIVERSITY OF LA VERNE</u>	5725	5,000	5,000	4,000
					<u>ECUMENICAL COUNCILS</u>	5730	0	400	500
					<u>COUNCIL OF DIST EXECS</u>	5740	345	900	500
					<u>PROPERTY & LEGAL</u>	5800	112,175	44,891	11,200
					Subtotal Partnership & Prop. Min	5700	121,202	55,103	20,500
					SERVICE MINISTRIES	6300			
					<u>DISASTER RESPONSE</u>	6310	2,136	3,011	5,000
					<u>CHILDREN'S DISASTER SERV</u>	6320	108	100	1,000
					<u>Other Dist Service Opportunity</u>	6340			3,000
					Subtotal Service Ministries	6300	2,244	3,111	9,000
					DIST. OPERATING MINISTRY	6500			
					<u>OFFICE SPACE & UTILITIES</u>	6520	28,341	28,497	18,500
					<u>EQUIPMENT & MAINTENANCE</u>	6600	1,061	4,234	2,500
					<u>SUPPLIES/PRNTG/PUBLICAT'N</u>	6650	5,100	5,545	5,500
					<u>POSTAGE AND MAILING</u>	6670	1,255	2,352	1,600
					<u>INSURANCE</u>	6680	8,280	12,044	13,200
					<u>AUDIT AND PROF. FEES</u>	6700	16,868	20,730	19,000
					<u>STAFF SALARIES</u>	7000	180,837	174,286	179,900
					<u>STAFF BENEFITS & RCWF</u>	7100	24,835	19,721	18,132
					<u>STAFF TRVL-PROF GROWTH</u>	7500	21,645	23,541	28,100
					<u>NEW LIFE/PUB ETC & Misc.</u>	7750	4,410	4,272	3,550
					Subtotal Dist. Operating Ministry	6500	292,632	295,224	289,982
					Subtotal Ministry Investments	5001	635,261	564,231	531,082
					TOTAL EXPENSES		635,261	564,231	531,082
					EXCESS INCOME\EXPENSES		(518,177)	(449,737)	(429,482)

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
2017.	Hillcrest, La Verne.	November 10-12.	Sara Haldeman-Scarr

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
2016 – 2017.	Nelda Rhoades Clarke.	Russ Matteson

Activity Locations

- 7- Registration & Information Table – Village Center Lobby
Saturday Campfire in parking lot by Village Center Lobby
- 11- Friday Workshop – Dean E. Kieffaber Chapel
- 9- Worship: Friday, Saturday, Sunday – Meeting House
- 9- Business Session: Saturday – Meeting House
- 10- Exhibits & SERRV – Galen Walker Board Room
- 6- Relaxation / Visiting / Ice Cream Social
– Café & Fireside Lounge
- 11- Quiet Devotions – Dean E. Kieffaber Chapel
- 17- Service Project Birch – Court Kitchen area

See also Schedule on pages 4-5

Hillcrest



Smoke Free Campus

Buildings close at 9:00pm

E = Elevator

R = Restroom

Meal Locations

- 16- **Conference Meals** – Maury Smeltzer Lounge (*pre-paid with Registration*)
- 9- – Saturday Love Feast – Meeting House (*pre-paid with Registration*)
- 15- Mountain View Dining Room – 7:30-9:00am / 11:00-1:00pm / 5:00-7:00pm (*additional cost*)
- 6- Café – 11:00am-2:00pm on Friday & Saturday (*additional cost*)(*closed Sunday*)

Insight Session Locations

- 9- Meeting House
- 11- Dean E. Kieffaber Chapel (also Friday Workshop)
- 14- Private Dining Room
- 12- CEO Conference Room
- 18- Jasmine Room

Age Group Activity Locations

- 4- Nursery / Childcare – Pinecrest Upstairs Multi-Purpose Room
- 2- Youth – Resident's Service Center (**Citrus Room = Activity Room**)
– See Youth Schedule handout at registration for overnight locations at Hillcrest
- 3- Children's Activities – Pinecrest Downstairs Multi-Purpose Room



No Parking at green marked curbs and spaces (for residents and loading)

Locations: West → East / Left → Right

- 1- Citrus Parking Lot is in back of -2- the Residents Service Center
- 2- Resident's Service Center (**Citrus Room = Activity Room**) – Youth
- 3- Pinecrest Downstairs Multi-Purpose Room – Children's Activities
- 4- Pinecrest Upstairs Multi-Purpose Room – Nursery / Childcare
- 5- Aquatic / Fitness Center – *not used*
- 6- Café & Fireside Lounge – Relaxation / Visiting / Ice Cream Social
- 7- Village Center Lobby – Registration
- 8- Shuffleboard Court
- 9- Meeting House – Worship, Business, and Insight Sessions
- 10- Galen Walker Board Room – Exhibits & SERRV
- 11- Dean E. Kieffaber Chapel – Insight Sessions / Quiet Devotions / Ministers Educational Event
- 12- CEO Conference Room – Insight Sessions
- 13- Maple Court Upstairs Activity Room – *not used*
- 14- Private Dining Room – Insight Sessions
- 15- Mountain View Dining Room
- 16- Maury Smeltzer Lounge – Conference Meals
- 17- Birch Court Kitchen area – Service Project
- 18- Jasmine Room – Insight Sessions

