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 maintaince 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

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 priviledge 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.

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.