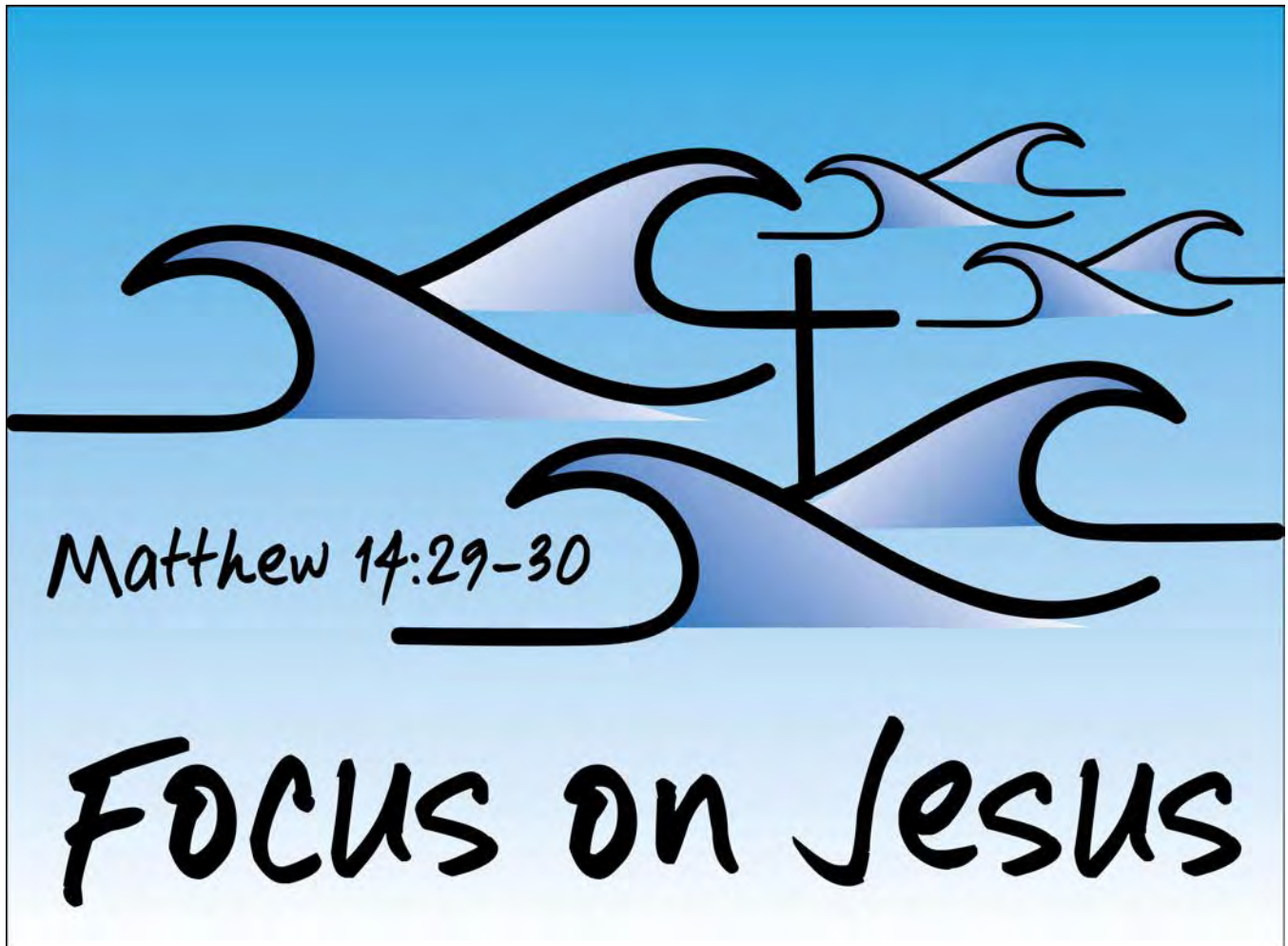


**Pacific Southwest District of
the Church of the Brethren**

Business Book



55TH Annual District Conference
November 9-11, 2018

Held at:
Hillcrest
2705 Mountain View Drive
La Verne CA 91750-4398

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Old Business Items: *None*

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Map of Hillcrest. Back cover



Hillcrest, site of our Business and Friday/Saturday Worship Sessions

**Pacific Southwest District
Church of the Brethren**

2018 Annual Meeting

November 9-11, 2018

All events are at Hillcrest in La Verne, California.

Welcome to the 2018 Pacific Southwest District Conference

District Conference is coming! You are invited to gather with brothers, sisters, friends and family from across the PSWD for a weekend of fun, fellowship, and business that will be "Focused on Jesus."

Our worship times will be hosted by three different congregations: Friday night- Church of the Living Savior, McFarland, Saturday night- Restoration Los Angeles, and Sunday morning- the La Verne Church in their sanctuary, a few blocks from Hillcrest. Moderator Karen B. Pierson will preside over our business sessions. From the national office the Compelling Vision Committee will be present to dialogue with us about what the future of the CoB may look like. We welcome David Steele, General Secretary of the Church of the Brethren.

There will be ice cream Friday night. What will the insight sessions be? What will the youth be doing? What else do you need to know about District Conference? Look at our web site for the latest details: www.pswdcob.org/distconf

Looking forward to seeing you this November in La Verne as we focus on Jesus in every aspect of our walk together !

Karen B. Pierson,

Moderator, 2018

PSWD District Conference — Business Meeting Agenda

November 10, 2018

- I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer
- II. Roll call and establishing of Quorum
- III. Approval of Agenda and 2017 Minutes (p.46)
- IV. Business Items
 - A. Election of leadership (pp.17-19 & pp.50-55)
 - B. 2019 PSWD Budget Proposal (pp.56-59)
 - C. 2020 Budget Parameters (pp.56-59)
 - D. Constitutional Amendment to add Nevada (pp.60)
 - E. Disorganizing of New Harvest Lindsay Congregation (pp.60)
- V. Reports
 - A. Annual Conference Agencies (pp.34-38)
 - 1. Representative from Bethany Theological Survey
 - 2. Representative from Church of the Brethren Inc.
 - B. District Policy Board (pp.20-27)
 - C. District Executive Minister (pp.11-14)
 - D. District Program Committee (p.17)
 - E. Standing Committee Delegate (p.16)
- VI. Compelling Vision Conversation
- VII. Adjournment

Friday, November 9: PSWD Ministry Continuing Education Event, presented by Josh Brockway

	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 9 — 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 – Church of the Living Savior, McFarland CA ○ Message: Moderator Karen B. Pierson ○ School Supplies Offering Received
<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 10 — District Conference Schedule

	Breakfast on your own
	7:30am - 10:30pm – Youth Activities continue 8:00am - Noon – Registration & Information Table open until lunch 8:00am - 7:00pm – 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 ○ Recognition of ordination anniversaries (page 14)
11:00 - 12:00	Insight Sessions (<i>chosen during registration</i>)

	During Lunch, Registration Table: <u>Closes for the rest of conference</u>
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch (<u>Ticket Required</u>)
12:45 - 5:30	Nursery / Child care (resumes)
1:00 - 3:00	Business Session #2: Compelling Vision Conversation
3:15 - 5:15	Business Session #3
5:30 - 6:30	Dinner (<u>Ticket Required</u>)
6:45 - 8:45	Nursery / Child care (resumes)
7:00	Gathering Music & Singing
7:15 - 8:30	Worship & Music – led by Restoration Los Angeles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Message: Pastor Jody Romero ○ Consecration of Licensed Ministers
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

Sunday, November 11 — District Conference Schedule

	Breakfast on your own
7:30am	Board Re-organization at <u>Hillcrest</u> including continental breakfast (<i>Board of Administration only</i>)
9:15 - 11:00	Nursery / Child care at the <u>La Verne Church of the Brethren</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Corner of Bonita Avenue and “E” Street, 4 blocks East of Hillcrest ○ www.lavernecob.org/children-in-worship
9:30 - 10:45	Closing Worship & Music – led by La Verne Church of the Brethren at their church site <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Message: Pastor Susan Boyer ○ Consecration of Board of Administration, Moderator-Elect, Moderator



2018 Pastor / Spouse Retreat, Sponsored by the PSWD Ministry Commission

“Focus on Jesus!”

Matthew 14:29-30

“See Me,” “Focus on Me!” Those are the words that keep coming to my mind, over and over, for the past two years. My response, “Okay Lord, I’m looking at You. Now what?” He says, “See Me, in every situation, in the people around you, SEE ME. Stop looking at the waves, the problems, the things you want to change, and focus on ME.” Is that as difficult for you as it is for me?

So now I’m focused, on Jesus, here is what I see: Do not judge(condemn, criticize), or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you (Matt 7:1-2). He didn’t judge the tax collectors, He invited them to join Him (Matt. 9:9-10, Luke 19:1-9). The man beside the Pool of Bethesda, the woman caught in adultery, Jesus didn’t condemn them, after He rescued them He told them to “sin no more” (John 5:14b, John 8:11b). He said people would know we are His by the way we love one another, and others (John 13:34-35, Matt. 5:44-45).



The way I understand it is I, we, are to “become love” (Bob Goff’s book: Everybody, Always). That’s what the Trinity is all about, Love.

Oh, yeah, about becoming love, it comes with getting out of the boat. Peter wanted to walk on water, with Jesus. The only way to do that is to get out of the comfort zone. I love my comfort zone, but if I love it more than Jesus then my comfort becomes an idol. God is a jealous god, He hates idols. If we stay where we’re comfortable the world won’t see the love that God planned to show through us.

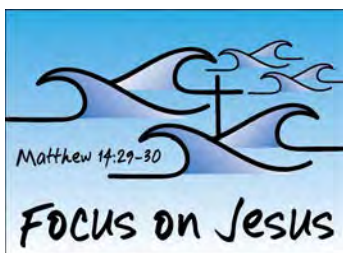
At District Conference 2018 we will have an opportunity to hear from brothers and sisters who have gotten out of the boat in Las Vegas and Los Banos. People who have gone to minister through Children’s Disaster Services and Brethren Disaster Ministries will be around to share their experiences. Ask them how God has enriched their lives through their experiences. I hope to see you at Conference in November.

God is calling each of us to get out of the boat in some way, but we will miss the call if we’re not focused on Jesus.

Karen B. Pierson

Moderator

Logo Creation



The 2018 logo and book marks were designed by Eric M. Davis to reflect the theme “Focus on Jesus.” Karen’s cousin, Eric is an artist and marketing professional, who operates Eric M. Davis Studio, LLC in La Verne, California. While in La Verne you can enjoy Eric’s work at the *Fourth Street Mill*, 2124 Bonita Avenue.

www.ericmdavis.com

Delegates' Dedication Litany

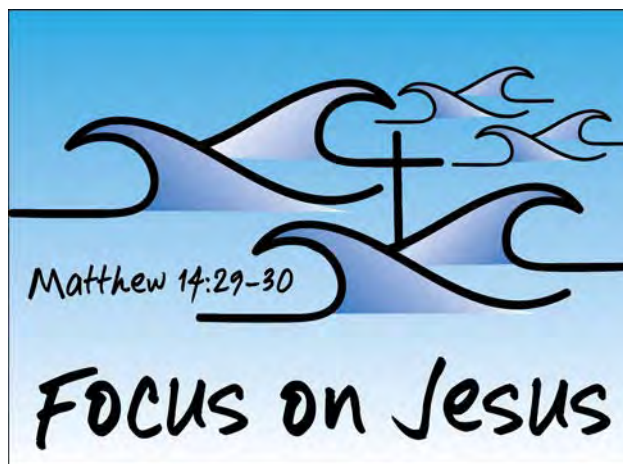
November 10, 2018

Moderator: Today we are here to
work as Christ's body.

**Delegates: Each of us separate,
but part of the whole.**

Moderator: Today as we work,
we will focus on Jesus.

**Delegates: We will focus on Love,
and God's will, not our own.**



Moderator: Brothers and sisters, how will you accomplish this task?

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

**All: Gracious, Holy God, May we be present and attentive to You and one
another in our time here. May we return home sharing information on
what has been discussed and decided, in a way that honors the covenant we
have made with one another this morning. May we remain connected to one
another as a holy, Christian community in ways that keep us caring,
communicating, encouraging, and compassionate with one another beyond
any one decision that is made. May we always support the District, with our
prayers and actions, in ways that demonstrate a deep reverence for how
your Spirit is always moving within and among us all. Amen.**



Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren – 2018

Officers of the District Conference

Moderator..... Karen Pierson, Living Savior (McFarland)
Moderator-Elect..... Bob Morris, Glendora
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)

VIII. 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) _____.”

IX. 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.

X. 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.

XI. 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 18 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.

XII. 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

*"And remember, I am with you always,
to the end of the age." – Matthew 28:20b*

Much of my preaching this year has focused around our need to remember that God is with us and does not leave us, and the call for us to pay attention to the faithful guidance that God provides. I preach these words as much to myself as for the congregations that I am sharing with in worship. I have found a deep sense of assurance that the words above, the last words of Jesus to his disciples in the gospel of Matthew, are a call to awareness that Jesus is with us always and inviting us to remember that in all that we are part of. The year has been filled with opportunities that have called us to be open to the faithful leading of Christ among us. As our moderator has reminded us throughout the year we need to focus on Jesus. Leadership in the district has sought to be faithful to the call and to the way of Jesus as we have moved out in ministry. I give thanks to God for the work of the Spirit in the ministry shared by the Pacific Southwest District during this past year.

We continue to be guided in our work by the PSWD Core Objective of *supporting congregations in being vital and healthy communities of faith that embody and share distinctive Brethren ways of Christian belief and action*. The work of the District staff has focused around:

- 1) support of Spanish language ministries and congregations;
- 2) support of new church projects in place and development;
- 3) support of congregations that are getting smaller and looking at next steps in their ministry;
- 4) refocusing of the PSWD Youth Ministry;
- 5) engaging the district in conversation around Christ's leading for investing of new resources.

Support of Spanish language ministries and congregations – With the addition of the Los Banos new church project in 2017, and the Las Vegas project in 2018, we now have five ministries that primarily worship and operate in Spanish. In February Gilbert Romero, Ministry Training Coordinator, and I hosted a gathering of Spanish speaking ministry leadership which brought together licensed ministers and pastors for a day of sharing and fellowship. We were joined by Roxanne

Aguirre, Spanish Language Training Coordinator for the Brethren Academy, who had time with SeBAH and EPMC students to provide information and conversation around these programs. The group greatly appreciated the time together and we are committed to finding other times to gather again and continue to build relationships.

In April the Nurturing & Credentialing Committee recommended Rigo and Margie Berumen, and Luz Roman for licensing, and those services took place in June. The licensing in Las Vegas included a visit from Annual Conference Moderator Samuel Sarpiya who assisted, and the first baptisms of that congregation.

Gilbert Romero, who began as MTC in September 2017, has been busy staying in contact with all of the licensed ministers and encouraging them in their given course of study. This includes regular calls and visits with the students, and interface with the Brethren Academy around program details and courses. The EPMC program is really being piloted in our district, with David and Rita Flores using it to finish their training, and it's first full engagement with the leaders (lay and ministry) in Los Banos and Las Vegas. The work in these two locations will get underway this fall. The SeBAH program is offering courses on a regular basis and we are nearing completion of this training by three of our licensed ministers. This July saw the district and the Brethren Academy's new Julie Hostetter Scholarship Fund supporting these three licensed ministers in attending Annual Conference in Cincinnati and meeting the program requirement related to this event.

All of the credentialing related paperwork is now translated into Spanish so that when our licensed ministers move towards ordination, and new licensed ministers come along that need resources in Spanish, they will be available. We contracted with Richard Zapata to do this translation work, and we will be sharing the denominational related pieces with the national Office of Ministry to be used by other districts as well. We are also updating policies that imposed extra costs and time burdens on ministry candidates who are most comfortable in Spanish to create a more hospitable and equitable credentialing process.

And we are looking into ways to continue to live into the bilingual nature of our district. More

communication from the District office to pastors is now sent in both English and Spanish. We are looking at the possibilities of having leadership for the Pastor/Spouse Retreat who can resource in both languages. The 2019 pre-conference minister's event will focus on Intercultural Hermeneutics and will engage leaders across languages. There are still areas to explore, but we are working to embrace who we are and are becoming as a district.

Support of new Church projects in place and development – It is a joy to see leadership coming forward and new Brethren communities of faith taking shape and reaching out with the good news of Jesus in their communities.

At District Conference 2017 the Los Banos project, led by Pastors Rigo and Margie Berumen, was introduced. This group has continued to grow in worship and outreach over the past year and now has a community of 70-90 persons who are related to the congregation, with steady attendance of 40-50 people for services. There is a strong ministry reaching out to and supporting marriages with monthly gatherings that strengthen the spiritual lives of the couples. Additionally, programs for youth and children continue to grow. The group has taken the name Centro Agape en Acción Iglesia de los Hermanos for this ministry as they seek to live into Los Banos as a community that puts God's love into action.

In January 2018 the Executive Board, upon recommendation of the Church Planting Task Group, named the work being done by Pastor Luz Roman in Las Vegas, Nevada, a project of the district. Luz is from the Dominican Republic, met the Church of the Brethren in Pennsylvania, and has some pastoral experience with a church in Boston. She felt God calling her to come to Las Vegas and begin a ministry, and she and her husband Orlando relocated to Las Vegas in 2016. As she was beginning to gather a group for worship and study, Luz reached out to her former Brethren pastor who put her in contact with leadership of the Renacer Hispanic Brethren Church Planting work, who connected her with our District. They meet in a very small rented room of a house, and over the course of the last many months the owner of the home has come to know Jesus and get involved in the church and was one of the first persons baptized by the congregation. Under the name Iglesia Cristiana Elohim (una Iglesia de los Hermanos) the group has about 35-40 people who relate to the congregation.

The District is working to support church

planting efforts with training for leadership and financial support to help overcome barriers to growth. The hope and plan is that projects will have a window of three to five years of financial support to move to the space of being able to support themselves in ministry.

In both of our current projects the need for new meeting and ministry space has been identified as a critical next step and so we have invested a good deal of time and effort into finding new space. In both the Las Vegas and Los Banos locations the local real estate markets have shown that opportunities are present to invest in property for ministry space that will provide larger facilities at a lower cost than leasing space. We are prepared to invest up to \$1,000,000 of our district funds in securing property. These will be loans to the projects structured like our loans to other district congregations. And as principal resources are returned we will have funds to invest in future opportunities. District Church Planting Support funds will help the projects with making their payment and decrease as they grow and are able to cover these costs from their resources. The groups will also be building equity towards moving to larger spaces as they grow.

2018 was the year for the biennial Church of the Brethren Church Planting Conference and we sent our church planters, a potential church planter, and two members of the district task group to the event. This provided good connection to the larger denomination for our new leaders, in addition to renewing worship and helpful sessions on church growth. Members of the Church Planting Task Group were inspired to consider creating a similar event here to encourage potential church planters and those who want to support these efforts in our district. Watch for news in the months ahead as plans develop.

As we have opened ourselves to God's leading in this area, others in the district are stepping forward with possible new church projects. At this point there are people prayerfully considering if the call of Christ is for them to start new ministries. We hope that you will hold the new work underway and under consideration in your prayers for God's guidance and blessing in the days ahead.

Support of congregations that are getting smaller and looking at next steps in their ministry – Work this year has also been with those congregations that may be nearing the end of their ministry, or who are committed to work at renewal and retooling of their

ministry to move into the future. Pomona Fellowship worked with their interim pastor Jeff Glass to intentionally look at these questions and is embarking on a course that will have them relocate their ministry and sell the current facility. I am working with them to find pastoral leadership that can help them claim the new ministry that God is leading them towards. The San Diego congregation spent the beginning of the year starting the Vital Ministry Journey to identify and plan for where God is leading their ministry. The work of implementation continues as they take steps focused on strengthening their ministry work. Tucson has been intentional in considering their situation and after more than a year of discernment has determined that they will end their ministry at the end of 2018. They remain hopeful that there may be a Church of the Brethren ministry again in Tucson. Other congregations are in various stages of consideration and prayerful conversation about where God is leading them in these days.

Refocusing of the PSWD Youth Ministry – In January Nohemi Flores began serving as the District Youth Advisor, and the immediate focus for the year was organizing and supporting the effort to get district youth to National Youth Conference 2018. With transitions in this position we were a bit behind and this became the priority for the year. We remain committed to strengthening the ministry of and with our youth and intend to give this more attention in the year ahead.

Engaging the district in conversation around Christ's leading for investing of new resources – At the beginning of 2018 a deal was in place to sell the lot we owned in Koreatown, and so the District Board began conversation around how the District might use the substantial resources that would come from the sale. We determined that the churches of the district should be invited into the conversation about where Christ might be leading us with regards to investing these funds in ministry. This fall and into next year members of the Board are visiting in churches and leading a worshipful conversation to help the district broaden the conversation and gather prayerful input. The ideas and information from these meetings will guide conversations of the Board in 2019 with the expectation that District Conference next year will hear recommendations regarding the ministry investment of those funds.

Pastoral/Congregational Transitions

- Bakersfield – Alan McLearn-Montz was called as pastor and began his ministry there in January. Alan, his wife Brenda, and one of their adult children, relocated to California from Iowa.

- Cornerstone Reedley – Robert Aguirre resigned as pastor in January and is pursuing other ministry opportunities at this time. The congregation is using lay leadership and discerning what is next for them in terms of pastoral leadership.

- Glendale – In January new pastor Randy Short received a serious cancer diagnosis. He continued to serve the congregation with energy and passion until his death in July of this year. Annali Murray, a licensed minister and recent Fuller Seminary graduate, will serve as their interim pastor. A search committee is forming and they hope to call a new pastor soon to continue the positive momentum that they are feeling.

- Laton – The congregation has been using lay leadership and guest speakers since early 2017 as speakers on Sunday mornings. The leadership of the congregation is strong and they continue in ministry with one another and in reaching the community.

- Modesto – The search continues under the guidance of Southern Ohio District Executive Minister Dave Shetler. Mike Fletcher will end his time as interim pastor in November after 16 months of leadership there. We are working on another interim pastor to provide leadership until a settled pastor is called.

- Pomona Fellowship – Jeff Glass ended his service as interim pastor in May after 22 months of service. A search committee is currently interviewing candidates to serve as the new pastor.

- South Bay – Philip Heidt resigned as pastor in August after 12 years of leadership with this congregation. During his service he helped the congregation discover and move into their partnership with Journey Evangelical Covenant Church and the shared renovation of the church facility. Philip has taken a call in a Christian Reformed congregation in Tualatin, Oregon. Philip has moved his ordination to the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA). The shared ministry at South Bay/Journey will be exploring what the next steps in replacing Philip's leadership will look like.

Professional Growth – This year the Council of

District Executives participated in a 2 day event as guests of Bethany Theological Seminary. We engaged in four ½ day courses led by professors in the areas of Bible, Worship, Christology, and Leadership. There was also significant time to interact with students, staff and faculty, deepening our connection with this portion of our denominational life. I also participated in the Church Planting Conference with the team from our district.

Council of District Executives – Much of our shared conversation during the last year has been around the development and implementation of the Compelling Vision process by the denomination. We are prayerfully hopeful that this conversation will help the denomination renew our commitment to shared vision and ministry. The conversation at District Conference, and a few additional opportunities to be part of the conversation in the district, will feed into conversations happening across the denomination and guiding all of our work at Annual

Conference 2019. I encourage individuals to be a part of the conversation, and for each church to send their delegate to Annual Conference. I continue to represent the Council at the On Earth Peace Board table, attending the two board meetings and various video conferences between those meetings.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve among you as District Executive Minister. It is a gift to visit and worship in our churches, share in the work of beginning new ministries and supporting existing ones, and work at the struggles we face as a district and individual congregations. Your prayers for one another, for our shared ministry, and for the work of your staff are deeply appreciated. I look forward to where Christ will lead us in the year ahead.

Pace e bene (Peace and all good),

Russ Matteson

District Executive Minister

Deceased Ministers

Robert E. Keim - 2/20/1926 – 4/20/2018

ordained for 70 years

Randall Scott Short - 3/31/1968 – 7/11/2018

Recognition of Ministers' Ordination Anniversaries

65 Years

James E. Daughtry

60 Years

Robert T. Neher

Galen R. Snell

55 Years

Thomas Deal

Glenn R. Stanford

Gene E. Wenger

50 Years

Gene F. Hipkind

40 Years

Nelda Rhoades Clarke

35 Years

Catherine “Cady” Laycook

25 Years

Erin Matteson

Russ Matteson

Janet Ober Lambert

Gilbert Romero

Zandra Wagoner

**Representing 600 years
of service.**

TRIM Supervisor Report. Russ Matteson
See also Ministry Commission report on page 22.

At the present time we have one student in the Training in Ministry program of the Brethren Academy. He continues to make progress towards completion of his educational program. TRIM allows students who cannot relocate to the Seminary to complete an approved program of study that prepares them for ministry. Often, as is our case, the individual is both a student and an active minister at the same time.

Russ Matteson, TRIM Coordinator

MTC: Ministry Training Coordinator: SeBAH, EFSM, EPMC Report. Gilbert Romero
See also Ministry Commission report on page 22.

In my role as MTC (Ministry Training Coordinator) for the district, I have found that although there are many challenges, our current team makes everything work! I have a wonderful job centered on putting people that have been called to ministry in the Church of the Brethren, into the training programs EFSM: Education for Shared Ministry, EPMC: Educación para Ministerio Compartido, and SeBAH: Seminario Biblico Anabautista Hispano. Then I follow-up with calls and emails encouraging the licensed ministers as they move through the training, and keep them connected to resources.

I look forward with joy to the Los Banos “Centro Agape en Acción” and Las Vegas “Iglesia Cristiana Elohim” church plants joining the EPMC program in the fall. Pastor Nick Corral of Cristo Genesis is exploring starting some of his leadership in the EPMC program. Mercedes Zapata is on track to move from SeBAH training to ordination this fall.

As our work moves forward, I pray that we continue to grow churches and ministers into the future.

Gilbert Romero, MTC

Youth Advisor Report. Nohemi Flores

I began my journey as the PSWD Youth Advisor in January 2018, I have desire to see youth to be called in following Jesus and loving their neighbor as they would treat others as they would like to be done to them. Over these months, youth have gathered together by the PSWD Youth Cabinet organization of activities.

In February, I had the privilege of providing NYC resources for youth at Camp La Verne’s Winter Camp. In July, I traveled with 54 youth and advisors to Ft. Collins, Colorado for National Youth Conference. In both instances I experienced youth who are engaged and curious, creative and enthusiastic about being the church. They have varying beliefs and Christian foundations but they seem uniquely capable of encouraging each other’s authentic expressions of faith.

Three such youth have been called to serve on the 2018/2019 Youth Cabinet. Their names and congregations are: Ivan Gonzalez (Príncipe de Paz), Sharon Maldonado (Iglesia de Cristo Sion), and Elizabeth Piazza (Live Oak). The new Youth Cabinet had their first planning meeting / retreat in August, gathering in La Verne, California to plan activities at District Conference for the youth. During their time together the cabinet participated in team building exercises, toured Hillcrest facilities, worked with PSWD Moderator-Elect Bob Morris, and worshiped with youth at Príncipe de Paz Friday evening, and Sunday morning with youth at La Verne Church of the Brethren.

Youth attending the 2018 District Conference, can expect another great year of fellowship and fun with friends throughout the district. Plus, opportunities to explore the theme of conference, *Focus on Jesus*, it’s scriptural foundation and implications for youth as we move forward as a district and the body of Christ! Housing arrangements have been made for Senior High youth only at Hillcrest, all other activities and meals will include Junior High youth as well.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Pacific Southwest District and continue this journey of faith with the Youth of our district.

Nohemi Flores. District Youth Advisor

Report of Standing Committee Delegate

Donald Shankster

The Standing Committee of the 2018 Annual Conference met in Cincinnati with all 36 delegates from 24 districts present. While approving the agenda for Standing Committee, a request to seat a delegate from a new district led to conversation around the tensions experienced in the Michigan District which led to a desire for splitting the district. A request to seat a delegate from a new district was deemed out of order because current polity does not allow for theological, ideological or creedal differences, only geographical.

Standing Committee is the body to which congregations and districts can make appeals, but only considers appeals that deal with process. Standing Committee does not take action on the rightness / wrongness of a decision. Those wishing to separate from the Michigan District were offered the path of a query through the Michigan district to change the polity of the Church of the Brethren. Generous time and energy went into seeking a viable avenue for all concerned.

Standing Committee heard and discussed new business items, three of which dealt with language and procedure for elections (including designation of which District Executive will serve on the Pastoral Benefits and Compensation Advisory Committee). One presented a Global Vision for the Church of the Brethren - to work at a forum for international bodies of the church to come together and work at when and how to define an autonomous and viable "district" (national body). These were all recommended for approval to the Annual Conference delegate body and subsequently approved.

One new item of business (Change in Delegate Representation) that was in the booklet for Annual Conference was withdrawn by the leadership team when it was discovered that appropriate and correct procedures had not been followed.

Seven unfinished business items were presented and briefly discussed. The only action Standing

Committee takes on unfinished items is to look at whether a polity change is in the motion and requires a 2/3rds majority vote for passage. The Vision of Ecumenism, Vitality and Viability Report, and Recommendations of Creation Care were approved by the delegates of Annual Conference as were Amendments to the Bylaws and Update to Polity Regarding Annual Conference Agencies. The Denominational Leadership Gathering suggestion was turned down, following the guidance of the feasibility study committee (there are already gatherings of this nature).

The big item before the church is the Compelling Vision. Delegates agreed to set aside all new business at the 2019 Annual Conference in Greensboro, NC to provide time to work this vision (sadly not in San Diego). This was approved and delegates had several opportunities to engage in conversation and thought around a Compelling Vision. A process team led those conversations and will be coming to our district, and all of the others, for more conversation, to gain as much grass roots input as possible. The idea is that each previous conversation informs the next conversation.

Standing Committee also is responsible for forming the Nominating Committee which brings nominations to Standing Committee and on to Annual Conference. PSWD now has a member on Nominating Committee - yours truly. Please send any nominations you have for the ballot to me or the Annual Conference Office.

In his remarks as moderator, Samuel Sarpiya lifted up his visit to a project in our district, Iglesia Cristiana Elohim (in Las Vegas). He was moved by the growth, the baptism of new members, and the opportunity to participate in the licensing of Luz Roman. God is alive and active among us. Become a parable for your community and for God's glory.

In Christ, Don Shankster,

Standing Committee Delegate for PSWD

District Conference Program Committee Report

Committee Members:

Karen Pierson, Moderator, Chair
Bob Morris, Moderator-Elect (Glendora)
Robert Aguirre (Glendora)
Linda Hart (Pomona Fellowship)
Cady Laycook (South Bay)
Peggy Redman (Pomona Fellowship)
Kirsten Storne-Piazza (Live Oak)

Ex-Officio Members of the Committee:

Board Chair: Nelda Rhoades Clarke
District Executive Minister: Russ Matteson
District Youth Advisor: Nohemi Flores

On-Site Coordinators:

Linda Hart (Pomona Fellowship)
Mary Kay Ogden (La Verne)

Many hands shared the work, and many minds worked together to plan and organize the 2018 District Conference. Moderator Karen B. Pierson wishes to

thank all those on the Program Committee: Moderator-Elect Bob Morris (Glendora), Robert Aguirre (Glendora), Linda Hart (Pomona Fellowship), Cady Laycook (South Bay), Peggy Redman (Pomona Fellowship), Kirsten Storne-Piazza (Live Oak), District Youth Advisor Nohemi Flores (Cristo Sion), Mary Kay Ogden (La Verne), Board Chair Nelda Rhoades Clarke (Tucson), and District Executive Minister Russ Matteson. Thanks also go to Eric M. Davis (La Verne) for sharing his gift of creativity, Juliana Pitruzzello (Circle of Peace) for her web registrar work, and Joe Vecchio, District Administrative Assistant, for keeping me informed of deadlines. Thank you all for being flexible, giving your time and energy.

Working with this amazing group of brothers and sisters has been a joy. I pray that we will continue to focus on Jesus together!

Karen B. Pierson
Program Committee Chair

Nominating Committee Report

Bob Morris, Chair

Committee Members:

Bob Morris, Chair & Moderator-Elect
Doris Dunham
Jerry Davis
Lucile Leard

Ex-Officio Members with vote:

Clerk, Karen Cosner
Moderator, Karen Pierson
Board Chair, Nelda Rhoades Clarke

Ex-Officio Member without vote:

District Executive Minister: Russ Matteson

The Moderator-Elect is charged with convening the PSWD's Nominating Committee. Besides myself and the one most recently elected member, Lucile Leard, all of the other members were already familiar with the process. The Nominating Committee is charged with finding sisters and brothers in our district who are both capable and willing to serve the District on the Policy Board, and as Moderator-Elect and Clerk. In order to save both time and money, again this year, the Committee met entirely by Zoom, an online program which connects each of the nominating committee members by way of the Internet using each individual's own electronic-device-of-choice. On December 8, 2017, the first email went out to members in order to select a date

for our first Zoom gathering. On January 29, 2018 we began our process together. The meeting was opened with prayer. Then we reviewed the list of positions needing to be filled. We shared names of sisters and brothers we could call upon to serve. Members of the committee accepted assignments regarding who each one of us would contact. We emphasized that we should encourage all those contacted to pray first, asking God for guidance, before giving an answer as to whether or not God was calling them into service for our district. We met by way of Zoom at least once per month from January through May until our task was completed. Between meetings, we kept in touch and gave updates to each other by phone and by email. District Clerk, Karen Cosner, provided minutes of each of our meetings. At our final meeting in May, we said good-bye to Doris Dunham who had completed her term and thanked her for her service. Members of this year's nominating committee included, Doris Dunham, Gerald "Jerry" Davis, and Lucille Leard, those specifically elected to the Nominating Committee. Moderator Karen Pierson, Clerk Karen Cosner, Board Chair, Nelda Rhoades Clark, and District Executive, Russ Matteson, were the members of the 2018 Nominating Committee by virtue of their offices.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bob Morris, Moderator-Elect

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:		
your name	your telephone	
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:		
your name	your telephone	
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:

your name	your telephone
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:	
your name	your telephone
Name:	Email:
Church:	Tele:
Their skills and areas of expertise:	

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)

- 2019 Rudy Amaya (Príncipe de Paz) (*through April 8, 2018*)
- x2019 Richard Zapata (Príncipe de Paz) (*started June 7, 2018*)
- 2019 Katherine Boeger Knight (Live Oak)
- x2018 Christi Bowman (Living Savior, McFarland)
- 2018 Mario Cabrera (Príncipe de Paz)..... Youth / Young Adult
- 2018 Nelda Rhoades Clarke (Tucson, AZ)..... Section Rep. AZ
- 2019 Cheryl Crane (Prince of Peace, Sacramento)
- #2018 Brenda Dickson (South Bay)
- 2018 Jaime Farrar (Modesto)..... Youth / Young Adult
- 2020 David Flores (Cristo Sion)
- 2019 Eddie Hernandez (Modesto)
- 2019 Dot Hess (La Verne)..... Section Rep. S.CA-E
- 2018 Tom Hostetler (La Verne)
- x2018 Richard Keeling (Bakersfield)..... Section Rep. Cen.CA
- 2018 Elizabeth Piazza (Live Oak)..... Youth / Young Adult
- #2020 Joel Price (Empire)..... Section Rep. N.CA
- 2020 Norma Sexton (Prince of Peace, Sacramento)
- #2020 Cindy Slaughter (Glendale)..... Section Rep. S.CA-W
- 2020 Joanne Wagoner (La Verne)
- 2020 Julie Wheeler (La Verne)
- #2019 Clark Youngblood (Circle of Peace, AZ)

Ex-Officio with vote

Moderator: Karen Pierson (Living Savior, McFarland)

Moderator-Elect: Bob Morris (Glendora)

Clerk: 2018 Karen Cosner (Modesto)

Ex-Officio without vote

District Executive Minister: Russ Matteson

Treasurer: Larry Woodruff (La Verne)

Standing Committee Delegate: Don Shankster (Papago Buttes)

Invited to meetings without vote

Mission & Ministry 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: Karen Pierson (Living Savior, McFarland)

Moderator-Elect: Bob Morris (Glendora)

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)

Elected Member: David Flores (Cristo Sion)

Elected Member: Norma Sexton (Prince of Peace)

Elected Member: Joanne Wagoner (La Verne)

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

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

Stewards Chair: Joel Price (Empire)

Elected Member, *Vice Chair:* Eddie Hernandez (Modesto)

Elected Member, *Secretary:* Elizabeth Piazza (Live Oak)

Elected Member: Christi Bowman (Living Savior)

Elected Member: Brenda Dickson (South Bay)

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

Board of Administration Report

Our year began with Moderator Karen Pierson leading us in an exercise to “Focus on Jesus.” This was a good reminder to all of us that the work we do should always focus on Jesus and what he is calling us to do in this place and this time.

Two important issues that faced us as we started the year were how we can support new church growth, especially as we move into Nevada, and what would we do with the funds from the sale of the Koreatown property when the sale was finally completed.

As you have seen from our proposed amendment to our By-laws, we are recommending including Nevada in our district. We are excited to have our first project in Las Vegas, Iglesia Cristiana Elohim, outgrowing their one room meeting space and are working with them to find a location that will allow them to continue to grow.

In Los Banos, Centro Agape en Acción, which was introduced as a project at last year’s district conference has continued to grow and they also need additional and more available meeting space for that growth to continue. We discovered that in both Las Vegas and Los Banos we might be able to obtain more space at a lower cost by purchasing property rather than leasing space. The Executive Board made the decision that up to \$1,000,000 of our assets currently invested with Brethren Foundation could be invested in property to help these projects continue their growth. The properties will be titled to the District and repayment written as a loan to these groups. New Church Support funds will assist them in paying back the loans for the first several years until they are able to make those

payments independently. The pastors and leaders of these new churches are focused on Jesus and we see God calling us to support this growth with our financial resources as well as our prayers.

When the sale finally closed in April on the property in Koreatown and we had the money in our possession, we heard God calling us to look at how these funds could be used. Should we just invest them back into our general holdings or is God calling us to something more?

The Board heard God calling us to something new, something more. The Board also heard God calling us to go out into our district and ask you where you see God calling us in this time and this place. Hopefully we have already been to many of your churches and will be able to visit with the rest of you in the near future. During the coming year the Board will take your input and discern how God is calling us to use these resources to best grow the Kingdom of God in the Pacific Southwest District.

We are aware there are congregations struggling to survive and sometimes seeking help in closing, as with the New Harvest Lindsay congregation. These struggles will continue to happen in places as a part of the cycle of life. If we are focused on Jesus in this process, we will be called upon to find new ways to spread the good news of Jesus Christ in our world. We ask all of you to join us as partners in this calling.

Nelda Rhoades Clarke
Board Chair

Ministry Commission Report

Ministry Commission:

Tom Hostetler, chair
Clark Youngblood, vice-chair
Cindy Slaughter, secretary
Katherine Boeger Knight
David Flores
Norma Sexton
Joanne Wagoner

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

The Ministry Commission is so grateful for the work of the various sub-groups that do their work on our behalf - the Nurturing and Credentialing Committee and those who are working in ministry training. The NACC works with integrity and is dedicated to a careful review of all the materials and the deliberate interviews of all those who are candidates for licensing or ordination. Special thanks to our District Executive Minister, Russ Matteson for the many hours, prayers and miles expended on behalf of the ministers and churches of our district, and to Gilbert Romero, our new Ministry Training Coordinator for handling not only matters related to TRIM, SeBah, EFSM/EPMC, but advocating for all of our Latino ministers and new church projects. Please review their reports.

This year the Commission approved the recommendations from NACC to license Margie Berumen, Rigo Berumen and Luz Roman. We are excited about their ministries and look forward to what the Spirit will do in their midst.

The Ministry Commission employs a person to evaluate the psychological readiness for ministry for all licensing candidates. The person who was doing that for our district has retired. The Commission reviewed and approved a proposal to use psychologist Melissa Hofstetter for "Readiness for Ministry" Testing. She is in private practice, an ordained minister in the Mennonite Church USA and an adjunct professor at several schools who has been involved in readiness testing.

The Commission reviewed and adopted some changes to the process for licensing ministers in regard to the tools that are used for annual reporting, in order to streamline the process.

The Commission planned and coordinated the Pre-Conference Ministerial Workshop and Insight Session with Josh Brockway.

A letter was written reminding ministers of their obligations to access and undertake ongoing education

and training for Continuing Education Units, which they must have for the next Ministerial Review in 2020.

The Pastors and Spouses Retreat was expanded this year to include any minister and spouse in the District who wished to attend. The leader was Macrina Wiederkehr, a well known author, spiritual guide and a Benedictine monastic of St. Scholastica Monastery in Fort Smith, Arkansas. In her retreats, seekers are guided through experiences of silence, contemplation, and faith sharing. Many of her retreat themes come from her writings. She also draws extensively from literature and poetry and enjoys creating rituals.

In addition, we received updates and approved placements for recent ordinations and re-licensing for eight currently licensed ministers.

Tom Hostetler, Chair
PSWD Ministry Commission

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

TRIM Supervisor Report. Russ Matteson
See District Executive Minister report on page 15.

SeBAH, EFSM, EPMC Report. Gilbert Romero
See Ministry Training Coordinator report on page 15.

NACC: Nurturing & Credentialing Committee:

#2022 John Price, Chair
#2021 Don Shankster
2020 Susan Boyer
2019 John Katonah
x2018 Peggy Redman

Ex-Officio: Ministry Commission Chair,
District Moderator, District Board Chair,
District Executive Minister

NACC: Nurturing & Credentialing Committee

The NACC is a sub committee of the Ministry Commission we provide guidance and legwork in the licensing and ordination process for the Pacific Southwest District. We oversee the process in licensing and guide licensees toward the goal of ordination. We meet twice a year, in the fall and in the spring. Our fall meetings include interviews for those entering the licensed ministry, interviews of those who have completed their training and are ready to receive a call to ministry-ready for ordination, and the annual progress review of all licensed ministers in their movement towards ordination, especially their education. Our spring meeting this year included four

interviews with the result of recommendations for licensing of three candidates to licensed ministry within our district. All of the candidates are pastoring new church starts. It is an exciting time for the Pacific Southwest District as we begin new ministries in communities where we have not had a presence. Again we looked at how the candidates report their progress

for the year attempting to eliminate duplicate information. We are so blessed to have wonderful committed people moving into ministry positions within our District. God is blessing us with the movement of His Spirit among us.

John E. Price, NACC Chair

Stewards Commission Report

Stewards Commission:

Joel Price, chair

Eddie Hernandez, vice-chair

Elizabeth Piazza, secretary

Christi Bowman

Brenda Dickson

<u>Ex-officio</u> members: District Executive Minister, Moderator, Board Chair, Treasurer
--

The Stewards Commission continues to work to provide support through the churches of the PSWD. With the Ministry Partnership Funds we had three mission church partnerships and two ministry opportunity partnerships. The PSWD has loans to five of our churches which continue to return 5% interest to the PSWD.

At the end of July the district is managing just under six million dollars. We continue to be diligent to reduce our deficit while being supportive to our congregations.

The Stewards Commission is a branch of the Policy Board, our discussions are brought with input from District Staff and other committees to the Executive Board for final approval. Our C.P.A. is performing our every other year audit to check all of our accounting

practices.

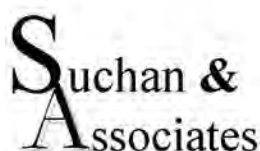
The Korean Church separation has come to a close after many years and many hours of work. The Policy Board will be asking for the input of the district churches in the ways to use the \$1.3 million dollars from the CKEC lot sale. We continue to maintain the Waterford Church property and as Russ uses it as his office in the north we look for the best way to use the property to do the work of Jesus. The funds from the sale of the Lindsay Church have been allocated to support new church plants, currently focused on the plants in Los Banos and Las Vegas. Both churches are looking for property to use to grow their Ministry and we are excited to partner with them as they grow the Kingdom of God.

We appreciate all the work, time, and efforts of all of those who work with the Stewards Commission: the Investment Committee, Ralph Carlton and Darrell Stark who keep track of our expenditures.

Working together, the Stewards Commission strives to continue the work of Jesus in the PSWD through our churches and communities, Peacefully, Simply, Together.

Joel Price

Stewards Commission Chair



An Accountancy Corporation

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

Phone: (909) 781- 6443 Fax: (909) 476- 7390 www.SuchanCPA.com

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of **Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren**, a nonprofit organization, which comprise the statements of financial position as of **December 31, 2017**, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the year then ended and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

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

Auditors' Responsibility

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

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

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

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of **Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren** as of **December 31, 2017**, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Prior Period Financial Statements

The December 31, 2016, financial statements were reviewed by us and our report thereon, dated August 29, 2017, stated we were not aware of any material modifications that should be made to those financial statements for them to be in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. However, a review is substantially less in scope than an audit and does not provide a basis for the expression of an opinion on the financial statements.

Suchan & Associates

**Suchan & Associates
An Accountancy Corporation**

**Ontario, California
September 13, 2018**

Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren
Giving to the District by Congregations, Individuals and Groups
January 1 to December 31, 2017

Church ID #	Name of Church	General Fund	*Per Capita Giving	*2017 Membership
32-010	Bakersfield	\$250	??	<i>Over a year old</i>
32-025	Church of the Living Savior (McFarland)	\$2,601	??	<i>Over a year old</i>
32-028	Circle of Peace (Peoria, AZ)	\$4,200	\$36.52	115
32-270	Cornerstone Community (Reedley)	\$0	??	<i>Over a year old</i>
32-040	Empire	\$500	\$6.85	73
32-070	Glendale	\$700	\$15.56	45
32-080	Glendora	\$0	\$0.00	28
32-083	Iglesia de Cristo Genesis (Los Angeles)	\$100	\$2.50	40
32-037	Iglesia de Cristo Sion (Pomona)	\$0	??	<i>Over a year old</i>
32-150	Imperial Heights (Los Angeles)	\$0	\$0.00	65
32-089	Las Vegas <i>new church start 1/12/2018</i>	<i>new</i>	<i>new</i>	<i>new</i>
32-090	Laton	\$0	??	<i>Over a year old</i>
32-100	La Verne	\$10,000	\$19.27	519
32-120	Live Oak	\$2,120	\$34.75	61
32-089	Los Banos <i>new church start 8/11/2017</i>	<i>new</i>	<i>new</i>	<i>new</i>
32-190	Modesto	\$2,100	\$10.19	206
32-193	New Harvest (Lindsay) <i>last meeting fall 2017</i>	\$0	??	<i>Closed</i>
32-205	Papago Buttes (AZ)	\$300	\$5.88	51
32-210	Paradise Community	\$0	??	<i>Over a year old</i>
32-220	Pasadena	\$1,000	\$66.67	15
32-250	Pomona Fellowship	\$1,650	\$31.13	53
32-290	Prince of Peace (Sacramento)	\$0	\$0.00	50
32-322	Príncipe de Paz (Santa Ana)	\$1,900	??	<i>Over a year old</i>
32-280	Restoration L.A.	\$0	??	<i>Over a year old</i>
32-300	San Diego First	\$1,000	\$19.23	52
32-330	South Bay (Redondo Beach)	\$3,000	??	<i>Over a year old</i>
32-340	Tucson	\$1,000	\$50.00	20
Sub-Total		\$32,421	\$23.27	1393

	District Conference Offerings (Individuals)	\$1,219
	Individual Giving	\$1,667
	Pomona Fellowship Women	\$100
	Marion Nine Trust (Fresno CoB)	\$725
Sub-Total		\$3,711
GRAND TOTAL		\$36,132

* The above per-capita calculation is based on the 2017 Statistical Information report due 3/15/18 listing membership on 12/31/2017.

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

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



Thank you !

The Policy Board thanks those who accepted appointments and task group assignments during the past year. Most appointments are for one year, longer appointments list the concluding year. The Executive Board aims at making appointments between District Conference and the end of the year so that appointees can begin their work in January. Please give us suggestions for next year with the forms on pages 18-19 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 2017-August 2018

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

PSWD Youth Cabinet – August 2018-August 2019

Ivan Gonzalez (Príncipe de Paz), Sharon Maldonado (Cristo Sion), and Elizabeth Piazza (Live Oak)

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)

2020 Brenda Dickson (South Bay)

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)

2018 Karen Pierson (Living Savior)

Alternates for District Executive Minister:

2019 Bob Morris (Glendora)

2019 Bob Morris (Glendora)

2020 Eric Bishop (La Verne)

Ex-Officio: (with vote), Ministry Chair

2021 Karen Shankster (Papago Buttes)

Ex-Officio: (without vote), District Executive

2022 Becky Zapata (Príncipe de Paz)

Minister

Congregational Vitality Task Group

Cheryl Crane (Prince of Peace, Sacramento)

Richard Keeling (Bakersfield)

District Executive Minister; Moderator; Board Chair

Church Planting Task Group

Rudy Amaya (Príncipe de Paz, Santa Ana)

Robert Aguirre (Glendora)

Mike Fletcher (La Verne)

Jeff Glass (*through May 2018*)(Modesto)

Dawna Welch (La Verne)

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



The University of La Verne hopes your PSWD Conference is spirit-filled and full of beloved community. We have much to share!

Ben Jenkins, University Archivist, has established a YouTube channel that highlights a video archives and collections from the University of La Verne. You can access it by visiting <https://library.laverne.edu> Videos and photos range from Lordsburg Academy, LVC, BVS and IVS, past Brethren District Conference photos and much, much more! Who knows, you just might see someone you know!

Our signature Brethren program, Summer Service, has again sent out 25 students to serve churches, camps and social service agencies. This life-changing experience is made possible through your current donations as well as generous legacy donations by these folks: Brandts, D.E. Brubaker, Elvina Deakin, Doramus Family, Ed and Noreen Driggs, Homer and Cora Fike, and Neva Olsen Root. We are forever grateful for the forward-thinking and generosity of our Brethren heritage.

A quote from a Summer Service participant:

In CLUE (Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice), I formed part of the Ziegler Young Religious Leaders and they helped me view the summer through a faith perspective. They challenged me to question my faith and find the Divine in my struggles, as well as my victories. By putting the faith perspective into my service, it made me view service differently. As a result of my experience, I am viewing my Business Major differently. I am being taught traditional business practices in school and have experienced practices which are good for a community at CLUE. The two seem to be at odds with each other. This is the struggle I will carry into my career – C.R. 2017

The Office of Religious and Spiritual Life continues our innovative Interfaith Fellows program. This program selects student leaders who want to be involved with high level interfaith education, dialogue and advocacy on campus. Last year, eight University of La Verne students received the Interfaith Fellows Scholarship, four of whom were Brethren students. They helped organize interfaith programs

and events, led a workshop for our Sophomore La Verne Experience Course (SoLVE) on interfaith cooperation, and conducted research on the usefulness of interfaith skills for employers. We are grateful for their service to the university community.

Every university needs a heart. Towards that aspiration, we are building the Ludwick Center for Spirituality, Cultural Understanding and Community Engagement. The center will honor our guiding principles of deep respect for spiritual life, cultural diversity and inclusivity. For a number of years, the university has been actively building a vibrant and vital spiritual life on campus, which includes education, clubs, service and lectures. The university has been recognized by the White House for its interfaith and community engagement.

This new center will include an inspirational sacred space in addition to office spaces comprised of four complementary offices, each bringing even more synergy to the conversations of peacemaking, hospitality, love, service and humility.

The project will repurpose Brandt Residence Hall and erect a sacred space adjacent, which will serve our entire campus and be available to the wider community. The Ludwick Center for Spirituality, Cultural Understanding and Community Engagement will have a lasting impact on the lives of students for generations to come.

Our Brethren Students enjoy a discount of 1/5 off their first year tuition with an award of a Brethren scholarship in subsequent years. Students have the opportunity to provide leadership in clubs, attend Brethren student dinners, and sometimes even preach in a local church! La Verne's welcome is wide for our Brethren students.

For any questions please contact:

Julie Wheeler, Director of Church and Interfaith Relations

jwheeler@laverne.edu

Office: 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

To be the Premier Destination for Vibrant Community Living

CORE VALUES

Integrity – Respect – Service—Stewardship - Teamwork

ASSOCIATE COMMITMENT STATEMENT

Remarkable Every Day!

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:

- Over 40 new residents joined the Hillcrest family.
- Net Entrance Fees received for residents with a continuing care contract were \$7,800,000.
- 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.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

Directors: Jeff Allred, Jon Blickenstaff, Harvey Good, Gilbert Ivey, Robert Johnston, Don Kurtz, Loren Newman, Kelly Niles-Yokum, Peggy Redman, Linda Saddlemire, Susan Tenorio

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, 2018: \$253,106
- Woods Health Services Capital Campaign has raised approximately \$4,003,141 million in cash and pledges toward the Woods remodeling project.
- Resident volunteer support at the Country Fair and the Hillcrest Thrift Shop and Gift Shop generated \$130,000 to the Good Samaritan Fund.



THE GALLERY AT HILLCREST



"The Story of La Verne"

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 opened to the public and was included in the third grade curriculum. Over a period of four weeks,

third graders from Bonita Unified School District toured the exhibit in The Gallery to see pictures, hear narratives, and artifacts about

the history of La Verne from pre-1897 to the present. In addition to visiting the exhibit, the students also watched a power-point presentation led by their teachers, and enjoyed a snack of oranges while drawing their own citrus labels. What was unexpected in their tour was meeting people in the gallery exhibit that could tell stories to them! These storytellers were referred to as "Culture Bearers." The "Cultures Bearers" included residents from

Hillcrest, CEO Matthew Neeley, and community members.

All "Culture Bearers" shared in the story-telling .

The exhibit, which is dedicated to Galen & Doris Beery, historians and servants of La Verne. When the children's tours ended in June, 421 children plus their teachers and aides experienced the exhibit!



About Camp Peaceful Pines

Camp Peaceful Pines is a summer camping site affiliated with 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. A variety of camps include: Junior / Jr High / Youth Camp, Discovery, Gourmet Cooking & Family Camp & Women's Retreat. We also rent the camp to groups such as family reunions when time slots are available.



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 a cozy & inviting place, with a multitude of projects going on at any given time. 2014 saw the completion of the second fully accessible cabin that provides quality camping experiences to the older campers and those who are physically challenged. In 2016 tent Cabin 14 was be completely renovated. Current projects for 2018-19 include Cabin 12 renovation & a major make-over for the kitchen.



Volunteer superintendents, leaders, directors, counselors, nurses, construction workers, day laborers, families and friends all contribute to making Camp Peaceful Pines a viable spot for enjoying the great outdoors, while taking time for reflection and spiritual growth in a Christian community setting. The churches and other groups who donate annually to the camp budget help to

defray the ongoing costs of running our camp. These costs include USFS fees, propane and fuel costs, garbage pickup, upkeep and maintenance of the facility, leadership stipends, upgrades to cabins and other amenities.



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

www.CampPeacefulPines.org

Camp Peaceful Pines
2301 Woodland Ave.
Modesto CA 95358



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

Garry Pearson, 2018 Board Chair

www.CampPeacefulPines.org

or look for us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/CampPeacefulPines

Via Highway 108 on Sonora Pass at 6,000 feet



Camp La Verne

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

Summer ...and... Winter!

We are available all year round. Check out our website www.camplaverne.org. 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 campmanager@camplaverne.org

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 campmanager@camplaverne.org

Help us buy a roof. We are now in the process of replacing the roof on the manager's house. Thank you for your generosity!! Our next major improvement will be repairing the Lodge. If you are able to help, please send your check to Camp La Verne, PO Box 355, La Verne CA 91750-0355

For more information about the camp call: Jeff Brehmeyer (909) 938-9605



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 Pacific Southwest District. It is our pleasure, as an agency of the denomination, to serve you.

As part of our strategy for future goals and plans, emphasis is placed on impacting the churches and districts of our members. The plans are always focused on benefitting and guiding — we help pastors and church workers prepare for a meaningful retirement; we manage funds for organizations so they can go about their work and use earnings to promote their ministries; we educate and inform so that our clients have the latest information. And this past year, our benevolent program helped two people who were in financial straits and were going to be evicted from their homes.

In the office, BBT staff is connected to each other and to our many members and clients through the usual electronic world of phones, computers, internet, etc. But at our core is the belief that although we must use this electronic platform as a means to do business, the most important element in our line of work is building and maintaining that personal relationship with all of those who rely on us for some very personal issues - insurance coverage, retirement planning and security, asset management, and deferred gift administration. So although the cyber world plays a big part in how we get our work done, we also make it a priority to get away from our screens and out of the office so that we may visit with our members and clients, wherever they are.

In addition to the client and member visits, several staff attend Annual Conference each year; BBT is represented at every one of the 24 district conferences from July through November. We also visit many Brethren retirement communities, colleges, and camps throughout the year. This is in addition to attending special events and gatherings such as NOAC, NYC, the Fellowship of Brethren Homes Forum, and the Worship and Prayer Summit. And we make on-site visits to plan sponsors for educational presentations and individual consultations. We make every effort to keep that personal relationship strong so that we get to know our people. And we are happy to say that we are also planning strategically in the next few years to seek and retain new members and clients, so that for them, and those who have been with us all along, we will remain a strong Brethren entity, ready to serve you for many years to come.

Brethren Pension Plan

Church of the Brethren Pension Plan serves more than 4,500 current and former employees of congregations and denominational organizations. In 2017, average monthly benefits averaged \$732, for a total monthly distribution of approximately \$1.3 million! 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, in which 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

In 2017, the U.S. stock market experienced one of the least volatile years on record and hit numerous highs throughout the year. With the backdrop of the passage of a sweeping tax reform bill, strong corporate earnings reports, continued solid job growth, an accelerating global economy, and central banks still willing to provide accommodative monetary policies, the S&P 500 Index closed in positive territory every single month, and ended at 21.8 percent up for the year. However, market volatility keeps BBT closely monitoring developments within the world markets and how our managers navigate gyrations that may occur. Incorporating an extended time horizon, BBT's investment managers attempt to analyze economic and financial factors, and within that framework, adhere to the core objectives of our investment guidelines — stability, preservation of capital, liquidity, and rate of return — and we remain true to these fundamental tenets as we conduct oversight of the managers responsible for the assets under our supervision.

Brethren Foundation Funds – BFFI

BFFI manages assets for congregations and denominationally related organizations with account from \$10,000 to more than \$10,000,000. 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 2017 for nearly 200 organizational asset management clients were \$181,503,175, an increase of \$25,686,556 (16.5 percent) over the total under management on Dec. 31, 2016, of \$155,816,620. *(continued)*

BFFI clients contributed \$15,160,259 to BFFI assets under management in 2017, and withdrew \$13,408,462.

Brethren Foundation – 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 2017 were \$5,029,714, a decrease of \$223,148 (4.2 percent) from the \$5,252,862 in total assets under management on Dec. 31, 2016. At the end of 2017, BFI was managing assets for nearly 150 deferred gift donors.

Brethren Values Investing – BVI

In 2017, the Board and staff of BBT continued their work in a manner consistent with Brethren Values Investing guidelines. This means that whenever possible, assets managed for members, clients, and donors are invested according to guidelines that are consistent with Church of the Brethren Annual Conference statements. Screened from our portfolios are the 25 publicly traded companies that receive the top U.S. Department of Defense contracts, as well as companies that generate 10 percent or more of their gross earnings from U.S. Department of Defense contracts, firearms and military weapons systems, weapons of mass destruction, abortion, alcohol, gambling, pornography, or tobacco. Companies that are egregious violators of environmental or human rights regulations are also screened. Through BVI, advocacy is also practiced with companies in which BBT own stocks, and with other initiatives that affect how companies interact with shareholders and with others in the global community. Lastly, positive investing is also a component of BVI, which means investing funds in higher-than-normal risk areas that help stimulate economic growth in inner-city redevelopment communities.

Workshops

While overseeing retirement funds and retirement planning for other people, we recognize the importance of 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 received certifications that give them the knowledge and credentials to increase their level of service to our members. It was necessary in 2018 to add a staff person who is responsible for offering resources and direction to Brethren Pension Plan members that will help guide their journey toward retirement readiness. And as in past years, we will continue to provide free educational presentations on topics such as retirement readiness, long-term care, financial wellness, stewardship, and more.

Serving our Members

In 2017, we planned many initiatives meant to enhance the experience of our customers and draw new members and clients so that we can continue to grow as an organization created to serve you. One of our decisions in 2017 was to transition from a fully insured medical plan to a self-insured plan. We remain committed to trying to bring back a healthcare plan for pastors, and it is our hope that through the new self-insured approach, this goal will be reached in the not-too-distant future. We also made changes to our Pension Plan to give members more options and freedom of choice in withdrawing their Pension Plan funds. We also worked on broadening eligibility rules for Church Workers' Assistance Plan grant applications. We planned for additional staff at Brethren Benefit Trust in order to expand our Foundation work, and make retirement planning assistance available as part of our overall package. All of these things have slowly been implemented in 2018 from ideas and suggestions that were planted the previous year. We are committed to enhancing our product offerings and other initiatives as we continue to work faithfully to uphold your trust.

Harry

Harry Rhodes
Chairman

Nevin

Nevin Dulabaum
President



Witnessing, Listening for Justice and Peace

"But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear. For truly I say to you that many prophets and righteous wo/men have desired to see those things which you see, and have not seen them, and to hear those things which you hear, and have not heard them." Matthew 13:16-17

Dear Delegates and Friends,

Throughout 2018, On Earth Peace invites you and your districts to **join us as we celebrate the many ways in which we are all "Witnessing, Listening for Justice and Peace."** This year, following on the success of last year's "Being Built Together" theme, we will be seeking and highlighting stories from individuals, congregations, and organizations that reflect the engagement of our constituents in today's issues of justice and peace. We invite you to **share with us your stories of how the theme scripture resonates in the life of your district or congregation so that it might encourage others** who are confronting the threats of injustice and war.

Last year, even as challenging conflicts presented themselves across our denomination and the wider society, **OEP continued our journey of working as an organization committed to anti-racist transformation** to align ourselves, both within and outside of the Church of the Brethren, with those who bear the brunt of today's versions of war, which we understand to go beyond competing factions on a battlefield.

At Annual Conference we brought insight sessions on topics such as forbearance, childhood in the US, working to become a multicultural church, stories from racial justice struggles, and more. We worked throughout districts like yours to bring programs to youth and young adults and helped provide leadership for the Harrisburg, PA National Workcamp. We sponsored the "Big Rapids Song & Story Fest: Rafting in the Hollow of God's Hand!". The event's purposes included: to reconnect with the God of all creation and with each other; to tell the stories that make for peace and rekindle faith; to sing the words of our hearts in gratitude for the unceasing power of life; to root and ground ourselves in the Jesus Way; to deepen our connections with each other and the earth; and to learn the skills of peacemaking and justice-seeking. Across the church, and beyond we joined with many in the present-day struggles for justice and peace to provide faithful witness and accompaniment.

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.

We are grateful for the congregations in your district that participated in programs and made donations to On Earth Peace in 2017. If your congregation would like to learn more about On Earth Peace as you consider supporting our work through your budget, please contact us so a representative can visit with you and share more.

Yours in His Peace,

Bill Scheurer, Executive Director

Lamar Gibson, Director of Development

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
- A Certificate of Achievement in Theological Studies and three additional specialized graduate certificates
- Courses offered in nine formats and locations, including online, intensives, and synchronous video
- Options to help students balance course load and employment to fit their lifestyles, wherever they reside

2017-18 at Bethany

Strategic Implementation Plan ■ Building on Bethany's new strategic vision, this plan was developed by faculty and staff and approved by the board of trustees. Objectives and goals were named in the areas of marketing Bethany's heritage and mission, innovative curricula, enrollment, financial sustainability, and new global connections.

Pillars and Pathways Residential Scholarship ■ Initiated in fall 2017, this program enables recipients to study at Bethany without incurring additional debt if they (1) live in the Bethany Neighborhood and participate in community living, (2) volunteer eight hours per month at a nonprofit in Richmond (3) cover tuition costs through scholarships and aid, and (2) earn \$7500 per year. The scholarship covers the remainder to equal one year's expected cost of attendance for residential students.

Partnership with EYN ■ With the completion of a technology center in Jos, the first joint course for EYN and North American students was offered in January. Through synchronous video, students and faculty in classrooms an ocean apart participated together in the course *Global Perspectives on Scripture: 1 Corinthians*.

Urban Ministry Experience ■ Through a new partnership with the nonprofit City of Refuge in Atlanta, the immersion travel course *A Place of Refuge: Ministry in an Urban Context* was offered in January. Graduate students, Brethren Academy students, and auditors participated directly in the ministry programs and learned about styles and approaches in working with marginalized populations.

Strong Enrollment ■ Eleven new students in fall 2017 were joined by seventeen in spring 2018, Bethany's largest spring enrollment in a number of years. These totals included nine international students, including those in the partnership with EYN.

2018 Graduates ■ The graduating class earned eight MDivs, five MAs, one Certificate of Achievement in Theological Studies, three Certificates in Theopoetics and Theological Imagination, and one Certificate in Intercultural Biblical Interpretation.

A Twenty-Year Legacy ■ Tara Hornbacker, professor of ministry formation, missional leadership, and evangelism, retired and was named professor emerita by the board of trustees.

Seminaries That Change the World ■ Bethany was named to this group of schools for the third consecutive year by the Center for Faith and Service at McCormick Theological Seminary.

PARTNERS IN EDUCATION ■ In 2017-18, the Pacific Southwest District

- had 8 students in the Brethren Academy;

You can also support Bethany Theological 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

2018 District Conference

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the Pacific Southwest District,

I bring you greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ from the Officers of Annual Conference. *"We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."* *1Thessalonians 1:2-3* These words of Paul as he greeted the church in Thessalonica speak well our heartfelt gratitude for you as you labor faithfully in your districts and congregations to take the gospel of Jesus Christ to your communities and into all the world in every place you have felt God's call to serve.

As we anticipate gathering for the 233rd Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren in Greensboro, North Carolina our theme is "Proclaim Christ; Reclaim Passion." I invite us to proclaim the One in whom we live and move and have our being, the One who stands at the center of our life together, Jesus the Christ. As we together proclaim Christ, may we reclaim passion for Him our Teacher, Redeemer, and Lord, returning to our first love as His bride, the church. May we reclaim what is lost in passion for our life together as gathered believers called Church of the Brethren.

We are in a unique time in our life together. In our struggle to find understanding and commonality amid deep disagreements that are dividing us, the Annual Conference 2017 delegates called us to turn our attention toward the discernment of a compelling vision that would help guide our future as the Church of the Brethren. The Leadership Team and Council of District Executives have joined to develop a visioning process unlike any we have had in the past. We began our conversations toward a compelling vision in Cincinnati at our 2018 Annual Conference. Now we continue the work of shaping this vision through conversations that take place across the denomination this fall and winter. I hope each of you will be able to attend an event hosted by your district so that your voice will be part of the process.

Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together

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

In Greensboro July 3-7, 2019 we will share what was learned through our conversations in districts and at other denominational events. We will then spend much of our time during business sessions in deep conversation with one another as we work toward the conclusion of the compelling vision process.

I believe God's Holy Spirit is doing a new work among us. Let us pray fervently for our church and let us look forward with enthusiastic expectancy to how God will continue to make us and mold us to be His people doing His work in the world.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donita J. Keister". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial 'D' and a long, sweeping underline.

Donita J. Keister
2019 Annual Conference Moderator

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. 2 Cor. 5:17-18



Church of the Brethren

May 2018

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!

Once again I want to express my gratitude 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.

It has been an exciting and challenging year for the Church of the Brethren. I have spent significant time working alongside the Leadership Team, district executives, and other leadership to address the challenges before the Church. While it is easy to be consumed by our struggles, I am heartened by the incredible ministries and programs that are happening in your congregations and districts, as well as denominationally. I count it a privilege to work with an incredible team of staff working on your behalf to help us all continue the work of Jesus.

Denominationally we have been working to refocus our efforts and adapt to meet the changing needs of the church. As has been reported via Newslines, there have been a number of staffing changes and ongoing internal structural adjustments. From an outside perspective these changes may appear cosmetic, but they represent a shift toward a more holistic approach to our ministries, grounded in mission and discipleship.

Our mission seeks to serve as Christ's presence in communities, establishing local churches, both in the United States and globally, that offer a cup of cold water to a thirsty world. Where there is conflict, it offers peace. Where there is suffering, it offers healing. Where there is hunger, it offers food. Where there is ignorance, education. Where there is despair, fellowship. Brethren mission stands as Christ's light in the world, challenging the Church to be more than a mere mouthpiece of the gospel, but also a doer of good works that demonstrate God's love to a desperate world.

Through our discipleship, we embrace Jesus' call to go make and be disciples, sharing our lives more fully with others. This emerging vision of discipleship has its emphasis on making and growing disciples, forming and developing leaders, and transforming communities. As we strive

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to support new and renewing congregations, we are recovering a Brethren way of evangelism, helping congregations to disciple new people—more **diverse people**, more **young people**.

While intentionally grounding our ministries in mission and discipleship, we are also assessing our efforts at intercultural ministries. We as a church must more fully live into the 2007 Annual Conference statement, “Separate No More; becoming a multi-racial church.” This must be more than just a commitment. It must become our desire. A desire not fabricated through advocacy but grown out of Christ's commandment to love our neighbor. A desire that finds its grounding in mission and discipleship. I believe that we must begin nurturing this kind of desire in the hearts of others—into the heart of the church—because it is this kind of desire that will open us to new possibilities to thrive.

My friends, I do hope you believe 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', with a stylized, cursive script.

David Steele
General Secretary



Church of the Brethren

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The late summer and fall of 2017 challenged Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) and Children's Disaster Services (CDS) with one of the most demanding disaster seasons we have ever had. Never has BDM responded to so many disasters at one time, and back-to-back, without a break. In less than two months, CDS responded to two hurricanes (Harvey and Irma), a flood in Missouri, the deadliest shooting in recent history (Las Vegas), the largest wildfires in California history and the train disaster near Olympia, Wash. BDM staff have worked with disaster-affected districts, including trips to Puerto Rico for Hurricane Maria response. Brethren volunteers have also helped with clean up and early repair work.

All members of the Puerto Rico district were impacted when Hurricane Maria struck on Sept. 20, 2017, causing extensive and widespread damage to homes, roads, the power grid, water supply and cellular communication. Although Church of the Brethren buildings received limited damage, there was damage to the volunteer housing in Castañer and Caimito and at least 35 Brethren families had major damage to their homes. In support of the Puerto Rican Brethren, emergency supplies (solar chargers, generators, canned chicken, tools, tarps and other items) were sent and grants are supporting church-based recovery. BDM is working closely with the district to develop and implement a long-term recovery program before a new hurricane season. The district recovery committee is providing permanent solutions to many of the most vulnerable hurricane survivors.

As the first response program of BDM, CDS was exceptionally busy, with a record 16 disasters responses in 2017, including two critical responses. Volunteers, including some who served more than once, cared for 2,527 children in the aftermath of tornadoes, hurricanes, wildfires, flash floods and a dam breach, as well as the train disaster in Washington state and the mass shooting in Las Vegas, Nev. The latter two required the help of our Critical Response Childcare Team, the only national response program called to care for children in mass causality crises. The impact of CDS is illustrated by the words of a father sheltering in Florida with a CDS team as Hurricane Irma raged outside: "When you came in and started playing with our children, all the parents in this whole place just calmed right down. We knew we were going to be alright."

For most disaster survivors, the road to recovery comes to an end when their homes are restored. With this as a goal, the BDM home rebuilding program sends volunteers and leaders to support community-based disaster recovery by repairing or reconstructing homes for people like 88-year-old Dorothy Brown from Columbia, S. C., who delights in showing the many photos and notes she has received from volunteers. They not only repaired her home, they became a part of her life—and an answer to her prayers.

In 2017, the ministry of home rebuilding and restoration reached 64 families in four communities across three states. The Columbia, S.C., project finished in August, after restoring homes damaged in 2015 storms and floods with an \$88,801 grant from the United Way of the Midlands for building materials. The project then moved to Marion County, S.C., to repair homes damaged by Hurricane Matthew in 2016. A six-week rebuild project in March and April, in Clay County in West Virginia, supported homes damaged in July 2016 floods. In July, a home rebuilding site opened in Eureka,

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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

Mo., in response to two historic floods. BDM volunteers also served 19 families on short-term disaster responses in Florida, Illinois, Missouri, Texas and West Virginia.

In February, the Disaster Recovery Support Initiative (DRSI), a partnership of the disaster ministries of the Church of the Brethren, the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), hired its first staff (Rachel Larratt and Tim Sheaffer) to pilot a program that supports local communities in the rapid development of effective long-term recovery programming. The DRSI team supported communities in La Salle County, Ill., and Wisconsin. Following Hurricanes Harvey, Irma and Maria, DRSI explored opportunities in Texas and the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI), resulting in a request to support local long-term recovery planning in USVI in 2018.

The greatest global need, representing 52 percent of BDM's \$1,090,818 project expenses, involved families forcibly displaced or impacted by violence. In South Sudan, funds supported food distributions and repairs to the Brethren Peace Center, which was ransacked by government forces during the ongoing civil war. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, a local partner assisted villagers forced to flee their homes due to political corruption, local warlords and hungry fighters.

As the biggest operation in BDM history, the Nigeria Crisis Response continues to support Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) in response to ongoing violence in Northeast Nigeria by the terrorist group Boko Haram. This response provides relief and recovery programs including peace building and trauma activities for adults and children; support for four displaced people relocation centers; home repair; agricultural support (seeds, fertilizer, soybean project, tractors); educational support, including scholarships for orphans; business and skills training for widows; food, medical and household distributions; safe water provision; shipping a container of books for schools, including Kulp Bible College; and ongoing advocacy and peace building work by the COB Office of Public Witness. Amazingly, even with all the displacement and violence, EYN has opened new churches as families relocate and has created four new districts.

The total 2017 program expenditures were \$460,013 for U.S. responses, including the Rebuild Program and CDS, \$529,091 for the Nigeria Crisis Response and \$101,714 for all other international responses. This includes continued support for Hurricane Matthew recovery in Haiti.

After so many disasters and the hurting families trying to recover, we pray for a calmer year and a time of healing. Please pray for BDM staff and volunteers who are stretched by the extent of need in the U.S. and around the globe. Thank you for your prayers and for supporting this auction and the programs of Brethren Disaster Ministries. You are a blessing and a beacon of hope to those in need.

In Christ,



Roy Winter, Associate Executive Director

On behalf of BDM staff – Sherry Chastain, Jenn Dorsch-Messler, Sharon Franzén, Kathy Fry-Miller and Terry Goodger

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



Brethren Volunteer Service Annual Report

Sharing God's Love Through Acts of Service

Working for Peace

Advocating Justice

Caring for Creation

Serving Human Needs

BVS ended 2017 with 45 volunteers...

- who served in eight countries: Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, El Salvador, Honduras, Republic of Ireland, Japan, Northern Ireland, and the United States.
- placed in 14 cities, and in 11 U.S. states and Washington, D.C.



Unit 316, Summer 2017: Volunteers take a group photo in front of the lodge at Camp Colorado before a work day in the community.

In 2017:

- BVS hosted two orientation units: one at Camp Colorado in Sedalia, Colo., and one at Camp Pine Lake in Eldora, Iowa.
- 89 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 2018 award goes to Quaker Cottage in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Quaker Cottage is a cross-community family support center sponsored by Quaker Service, a charity in Northern Ireland that provides, among other things, day services for disadvantaged and vulnerable families who have experienced trauma or have difficulty coping with daily life and are from the areas affected by the conflict in Northern Ireland. Run by the Religious Society of Friends in Ireland, Quaker Service delivers "practical, social and emotional support services that value and empower people just where they are. Simply put, our core purpose is to make love visible." The first BVS volunteer arrived in 1986 at Quaker Cottage — or "Quakers" as they like to call it — and since then 30 BVSers have worked with the children of the families who participate in the Cottage's programs.

The Partners in Service Award will be presented to Quaker Cottage July 5 at the BVS Annual Conference Luncheon in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Former Quaker Cottage volunteers: (L to R) Sam Carwile, Unit 293; Elena Anderson-Williams, Unit 309; Andrew Kurtz, Unit 301; and Becky Snell, Unit 303





Quaker Cottage: the house on the hill

Quaker Cottage and BVS: A Historic Partnership

Quaker Cottage is a special place. Perched halfway up Black Mountain, with “the best view” overlooking Belfast, the white building is visible from many vantage points in the city. One road leads up to the center from the mainly Protestant areas of west Belfast, and another road leads there from the mainly Catholic sections. Originally a genuine rural cottage where the Ulster Quaker Service Committee (now Quaker Service) brought together children from both faith traditions during the years of the conflict in Northern Ireland known as “the Troubles,” the center was rebuilt in 1991 and the families it now serves participate in a year-long intensive support program in which social workers meet with mixed (Protestant-Catholic) groups of mothers, and childcare staff and volunteers work and play with their children.

“BVS volunteers have been a core element of our team ever since I commenced as project manager at Quaker Cottage in 1989,” says Grant McCullough, “and today they are just as important as ever. In fact, still to this day the influence of the first BVS volunteer that I met, Nance Shallenberger, has an impact on our childcare team with her beautiful use of gentle, guiding language to help our children learn their way through life at Quaker Cottage. The volunteers that followed brought their own distinct styles and models of childcare that have helped mould Quaker Cottage into the special place that it is for so many children in Belfast. Volunteers bring songs, stories and quirky recipes from back home, but our predominant experience of our BVS volunteers has been the combination of a commitment to service and a love for children—and we couldn’t ask for more than that!”



Mural in the teen room at Quakers and current BVSer Maya Davis, Unit 316



Photos courtesy of Kristin Flory

New Project Spotlight: You'ai Care, Pingding, China

BVS has a new project in a place familiar to the Brethren—Pingding, in Shan-xi Prov-ince, China, in the area where some of the first Brethren missionaries settled in 1908.

Ruoxia Li and Eric Miller, Church of the Brethren members who are living in Pingding, China, have been working to provide hospice care, which is foreign to the Chinese culture. “People either go home to die or stay in the hospital receiving more treatment than necessary,” Miller said. Li and Miller chose this unique work in Pingding intentionally, basing it at the site of previous Brethren mission work in China.

BVS is honored to be partnering with Miller and Li, as well as You'ai Care and You'ai Hospital, to provide care for hospice and cancer patients, conduct educational programs related to elder care issues in the community, and host service-learning camps for children and youth. In addition to caring for patients, volunteers may also develop and lead outreach programs, assist with grant-writing, develop promotional materials, and assist with office work. You'ai Care is supported by the Church of the Brethren Global Mission and Service office.



You'ai Care staff with patients

Workcamp Update

Grey Robinson is serving as assistant workcamp coordinator in the BVS office. The 2018 theme is “Loving God, Loving People.”



BVS Staff

**Loving God
Loving People**
2018 Brethren Workcamps

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

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

4 **November 11, 2017**

Hillcrest, La Verne, California

5 **I. Call to Order**

6 The 2017 Pacific Southwest District Conference was called to order by Moderator Sara Haldeman-
7 Scarr at 8:32a.m. and prayer was offered. The delegates were given assigned tables to sit at and
8 were invited to get to know each other and consider the tables a place of hospitality.

9 **II. Introductions**

10 Moderator Sara introduced those at the front which included: Nelda Rhoades Clark, Board Chair;
11 Karen Pierson, Moderator-Elect; Karen Cosner, Clerk; Clark Youngblood, Time Keeper; Eric
12 Bishop, Parliamentarian; Russ Matteson, District Executive Minister; and Virginia Stark, pianist.

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

14 The clerk verified that we have 65 delegates in attendance representing 21 of our 25 congregations
15 to confirm that we have a quorum and can conduct the business of the Pacific Southwest District
16 at this 54th District Conference.

17 **IV. Approval of Agenda**

18 **Motion to accept Agenda, Donna McAvoy (Live Oak)/Janet Short (Pomona Fellowship),**
19 **Passed.**

20 **V. Approval of Minutes of 2016**

21 **A. Motion to approve 2016 Minutes, Sabrina Stern (San Diego)/Mike Fletcher (La Verne),**
22 **Passed.**

23 **B. The following persons volunteered to certify the accuracy of the 2017 Minutes: Phil Corr**
24 **(Church of the Living Savior), Richard Keeling (Bakersfield), and Richard Hart (Pomona**
25 **Fellowship).**

26 **VI. Delegate Dedication**

27 Delegates' Dedication Litany and Hymn of Affirmation, from page 6 of the Business Book.

28 **Table Conversation: Bible Study, Sara Haldeman-Scarr**

29 *Based on Matthew 5:1-16.* Sara asked the attendees to share a personal story based on a story of
30 Jesus and using lengths of play dough, weave the stories together. She closed the session by sharing
31 that an amazingly beautiful tapestry is made and that God is working through our diversity. She
32 then went around the room and smashed the tapestries that were made and shared that smashing
33 can create another tapestry.

34 **VII. Business Item: Election of Leadership, from page 48 of the Business Book.**

35 **A. The meeting was opened for nominations from the floor.**

36 **B. Seeing none, a motion was made to close the ballot, Jeff Glass (Modesto)/Phil Corr**
37 **(Church of the Living Savior), passed.**

38 **C. A motion was made to move the ballot, Luella Cole (Modesto)/Tom Hostetler (La Verne),**
39 **passed.**

40 **D. The following persons were elected to the PSWD 2018 positions:**

41 1. Moderator-Elect: Bob Morris (Glendora)

42 2. Nominating Committee: Lucile Leard (Glendale)

3. Program Committee:
 - a. Cady Laycook (South Bay)
 - b. Peggy Redman (Pomona Fellowship)
4. Standing Committee
 - a. Representative: Don Shankster (Papago Buttes)
 - b. Alternate: Sara Haldeman-Scarr (San Diego)
5. District Board of Administration:
 - a. Mario Cabrera (Príncipe de Paz), Youth & Young Adult Representative
 - b. Jaime Farrar (Modesto), Youth & Young Adult Representative
 - c. Elizabeth Piazza (Live Oak), Youth & Young Adult Representative
 - d. David Flores (Cristo Sion), At-Large Representative
 - e. Norma Sexton (Prince of Peace), At-Large Representative
 - f. Joanne Wagoner (La Verne), At-Large Representative
 - g. Julia Wheeler (La Verne), At-Large Representative
 - h. Joel Price (Empire), Northern CA Representative
 - i. Cindy Badell-Slaughter (Glendale) Southern CA West Representative

VIII. Introduction of Guests

Russ Matteson, District Executive Minister, introduced guests Nevin Dulabaum, Brethren Benefit Trust President; Jeff Carter, Bethany Theological Seminary President; Lori Current, Bethany Executive Director for Admissions & Student Services; Jay Wittmeyer, Brethren Inc. Executive Director, Global Mission and Service; Thomas Dowdy, PSWD representative on the Ministry and Mission Board; Erin Gratz, On Earth Peace Board Member; Julie Wheeler, University of La Verne Director of Church & Interfaith Relations; Zandra Wagner, University of La Verne Chaplain; Kamal Abu-Shamsieh, an international leader in Islamic chaplaincy.

Later in the day, Matthew Neeley, Hillcrest President & CEO, was introduced and shared greetings as our Hillcrest host, where residents are: dreamers, servers and quiet builders.

IX. Reports From Annual Conference Agencies (written reports on pages 33-43 of the Business Book) A video was shown representing all five agencies: On Earth Peace, Bethany Theological Seminary, Brethren Inc., Brethren Benefit Trust, and Annual Conference. Each year two agencies are present and give a live report, this year's reports were from:

- A. On Earth Peace: Board Member Erin Gratz expressed her gratitude for the District's support and shared that OEP has 5 permanent staff members.
- B. Brethren Benefit Trust: President Nevin Dulabaum shared the ways that BBT relates to socially responsible investments (Brethren Value Investments). They invest in third world developing companies. They don't invest in drugs or guns. They have a community development plan which invests in inner city projects and they look to boards that have ethnic and gender mix, etc.

X. Church Planting Task Force Report

The members are: Mike Fletcher (La Verne), Rudy Amaya (Príncipe de Paz), Donna Welch (La Verne), Jeff Glass (Modesto), and Robert Aguirre (Cornerstone). They are encouraging congregations to dream and follow up on their dreams. Their mission is to: Empower, Support, and Train.

New project Príncipe de Paz Los Banos. Russ introduced Pastors Becky and Richard Zapata of Príncipe de Paz in Santa Ana, who introduced the leadership couple in Los Banos Rigo and Margie Berumen. Moderator Sara led in a prayer of thanksgiving for the new church plant.

1 **XI. Policy Board Report**

- 2 A. Board Chair Nelda Rhoades Clarke reported: On April 29, 2017 the Policy Board accepted the
3 PSWD Objective – “A Circle of Support” (found on page 25 of the Business Book) which
4 contains “Core Objective – Supporting congregations in being vital and healthy communities
5 of faith that embody and share distinctive Brethren ways of Christian belief and action.” The
6 nine areas of PSWD focus include the responsibility of helping congregations build inter-
7 cultural ministry and relationships.
- 8 B. Update: The Lindsay “New Harvest” congregation will be closing and PSWD will sell the
9 facility to another congregation.
- 10 C. Update: The Korea church property will have an offer to sell by the end of the year.
- 11 D. Ministry Commission chair Tom Hostetler shared that there have been over 12 persons
12 interested in a licensed ministry. The commission approved 2 ordinations. There are 75
13 ordained and commissioned ministers in PSWD. Gilbert Romero was hired as Ministry
14 Training Coordinator. In 2018 all pastors and their spouses are invited to a retreat to be held
15 in Malibu. The commission believes all pastors deserve support and encouragement from the
16 District.
- 17 E. Stewards Commission chair Joel Price. See report on pages 22-24 of the Business Book. Nelda
18 shared that the Pastoral Support Grant program from the district is ending with 2017.

19 **Table Conversation:** The attendees were asked to discuss three questions:

- 20 1. What is happening in the District that you heard, that was interesting to you and why?
21 2. What would you like to know more about in the PSWD and the work of the Policy Board?
22 3. Where might you have gifts to share or want to get involved with the PSWD?

23 **XII. 2018 PSWD Budget Proposal** – Pages 55-58 of the Business Book.

- 24 A. **The Policy Board recommends to District Conference the adoption of the proposed 2018**
25 **budget as presented. Passed.**
- 26 B. **The Policy Board recommends to District Conference that the Operating Expense**
27 **maximum for the 2019 budget be \$446,000. Passed.**

28 **XIII. Program Committee Report:** Printed on page 17 of the Business book.

29 **XIV. Brethren Disaster Report:** Dot Hess presented a slide show.

30 **XV. Standing Committee Report**

31 Marlin Heckman shared that each district is allowed 1 delegate for every 5000 members. This year
32 there were 36 delegates for Standing Committee. All items of business are reviewed by the standing
33 committee. Change of Polity requires 2/3 vote of the membership. There were four items of new
34 business, two were continued to next year because Annual Conference did not have time to get to
35 them. It is important that we continue to remind the rest of the church that we here in the West exist
36 and are a part of the body.

37 **XVI. District Executive Minister Report:** Printed on pages 11-13 of the Business book.

38 Russ introduced persons in new pastoral leadership within the district, including: Dawna Welch is
39 the new full time Spiritual Formation Minister for the La Verne congregation. Randy Short is the
40 new minister for Glendale, Mike Fletcher is the Interim at Modesto. Southern Ohio District
41 Executive Minister David Shetler is working with Modesto in the search for a new pastor. Russ is
42 working with Bakersfield in the search for a new pastor. Russ introduced Gilbert Romero as the
43 new Ministry Training Coordinator for the District, and shared that Erik Brummett has been serving
44 as the interim District Youth Advisor. In September the District Office moved from Hillcrest to
45 office space at the Pomona Fellowship church facility to lower the cost of office rent.

1 **XVII. Congregational Vitality Task Group**

2 See “Ministry Partnership Funds” on page 12 in the Business Book. A video featuring Church of
3 the Living Savior (McFarland), Modesto, and Glendale, talking about the work they had done with
4 their Ministry Partnership Funds was shared. Seven different congregations have received
5 partnership funds over the last two years.

6 **XVIII. Reports**

7 **Motion to accept the reports with appreciation for all the work. Thomas Dowdy (Imperial**
8 **Heights)/Jody Romero (Restoration LA) Passed.**

9 **Table Conversation:**

10 What have you learned in your insight sessions or during the business and reports of the District?

11 **XIX. Announcements**

- 12 A. Thank you to the tellers, Gary and Rae Stern.
13 B. The Policy Board will meet at 8:00am Sunday morning.
14 C. Please return at 5:30 for Love Feast.
15 1. The Service Project will be in the main room after Love Feast.
16 2. The Campfire will take place following the Love Feast outside the entrance to the
17 Meeting House.

18 **XX. Passing the Gavel**

19 Sara Haldeman-Scarr thanked the conference for supporting her and having fun and passed the
20 gavel to Moderator Karen Pierson encouraging her to have the Joy of Faith, the Wisdom of God
21 and the Blessing of Courage.

22 **XXI. Adjournment**

23 The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

24 _____

25 Minutes recorded by Karen Cosner, Clerk

26 _____

27 In June 2018 the draft copy of the minutes was examined and given preliminary approval by the committee:
28 Phil Corr (Church of the Living Savior), Richard Keeling (Bakersfield), and Richard Hart (Pomona
29 Fellowship).

Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren

November 2018 – November 2019 Ballot

Candidates are listed alphabetically by last name.

NC=Northern California, CC=Central California, SW=Southern CA West, SE=Southern CA East, AZ=Arizona
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
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mary Kay Ogden, La Verne - SE
<input type="checkbox"/>	

Clerk

Vote for 1	Three year term
<input type="checkbox"/>	Karen Cosner, Modesto - NC (incumbent)
<input type="checkbox"/>	

Nominating Committee

Vote for 1	Three year term
<input type="checkbox"/>	Susan Price, Empire - NC
<input type="checkbox"/>	

Program Committee, District Conference

Vote for 2	Three year term
<input type="checkbox"/>	Robert Aguirre, Glendora - SE (incumbent)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Karleen Daniels, Modesto - NC
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	

District Board of Administration Youth & Young Adult Representatives

Vote for 3	One year term
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mario Cabrera, Príncipe de Paz - SE (incumbent)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Olivia Celedon, Bakersfield - CC
<input type="checkbox"/>	Elizabeth Piazza, Live Oak - NC (incumbent)
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	

District Board of Administration

At-Large Representatives

Vote for 3	Three year term
<input type="checkbox"/>	Christi Bowman, Living Savior - CC (currently filling an unexpired term)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jaime Farrar, Modesto - NC
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jonas Funderburk, Glendale - SW
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	

Arizona Representative

Vote for 1	Three year term
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nelda Clark, Tucson - AZ (incumbent)
<input type="checkbox"/>	

Central CA Representative

Vote for 1	Three year term
<input type="checkbox"/>	Richard Keeling, Bakersfield - CC (currently filling an unexpired term)
<input type="checkbox"/>	

Brethren Hillcrest Homes Board Nominees

Vote for 0	Three year term
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nominees not requested in 2018
<input type="checkbox"/>	

Camp La Verne Trustee Nominees

Vote for 0	Three year term
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nominees not requested in 2018
<input type="checkbox"/>	

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 2018 - 2019 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.



Mary Kay Ogden:

Age: 72

Congregation: La Verne
CoB

Vocation: Retired public
school teacher and
administrator

Church Experience:

Locally: Serve as a member of the Personnel

Commission, The Peace Camp Planning Committee, Children's Story Time Speaker, Count the offering, Greeter, Faith Partner. District: District Conference Planning Committee (facilities), Back up check signer. National: Children's Disaster Services Trainer and Responder.

Vision Statement: To strengthen the ties that bind us together in Christian love and service.

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



Karen Cosner: *incumbent*

Congregation: Modesto
CoB

Vocation: Retired
Executive Director of
non-profit social service
agency providing
housing counseling and
rental assistance to
homeless families.

Church Experience: I am currently the board chair, a member of the search committee, on the personnel committee and sing in the choir. I have been clerk for the District.

Vision Statement: I have learned so much and grown in this position and welcome the opportunity to continue to provide support to the leadership as we work together to continue the mission and ministry of the PSWD.

Ballot Background Information, Exhibit B

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.



Susan Price:

Age: 41

Congregation: Empire CoB

Vocation: I am a helpmate. I help my husband and our family. I am a caregiver for our special needs daughter. I help my teacher friends

by subbing for them. I help at church wherever I am needed.

Church Experience: In the recent past I served as Youth Leader for 18 years and Assistant Pastor for 9

years. I have led the choir for 20 years and lead the Fellowship Singers every week. I enjoy working with all ages through Vacation Bible School, teaching Sunday School, studying the Bible, planning church events, handing out food to the needy, visiting people in the hospital, and leading music.

Vision Statement: It is my utmost wish for all people that we can truly know who Jesus is and what He has done for us, obey His teachings, serve Him wholeheartedly, being the best witness we can possibly be.

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



Robert Aguirre: *incumbent*

Age: 38

Congregation: Glendora CoB

Vocation: Non-Profit Administrator

Church Experience: I recently participated in the Church Planting / Revitalization Conference in Indiana. It was good to hear from different pastors who shared their experiences. It was also good to connect with local pastors and lay leaders who share in the same passion for ministry.

Vision Statement: My vision is to follow Jesus while serving the church and loving the world.



Karleen Daniels:

Age: 75

Congregation: Modesto CoB

Vocation: Business owner and social work

Church Experience: Locally, I am currently the chairperson for our Christian Education Commission and am on the Senior Ministry Committee. I lead children's church most Sundays, occasionally cook for our Wednesday night dinners and usually cook dinner for our monthly Family Unity Nights. Two years ago I served as the local coordinator for district conference when it was in Modesto.

Vision Statement: I hope to help create interesting and useful programs for those attending conference.

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

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

Board members elected as sectional representatives need to reside in the section they represent, and must be a member of a Church of the Brethren congregation within the district for at least one year prior to election and must have demonstrated leadership ability.



Nelda Clarke: *incumbent*
Age: 67
Congregation: Tucson CoB
Vocation: Minister

Church Experience: I am currently the pastor at the Tucson Church of the Brethren and serve as chair of the District Policy

Board. I have served on the District Board in Northern Plains and chair of their Ministry Commission. In addition I have served as a table coordinator at several recent Annual Conferences and in other roles over the years.

Vision Statement: My vision for the church is to spread God's love wherever we are and wherever we go, leaving judgement to God.

PSWD Board of Administration: Central 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.



Richard Keeling: *currently filling an unexpired term*
Age: 31
Congregation: Bakersfield CoB
Vocation: Teacher

Church Experience: I have been an active member of the Bakersfield Church of the Brethren all of my life. Starting in High School and continuing to the present day, I take care of the sound in church and run the Powerpoint in the back. I also served two terms as Moderator from 2011-2017 and am

currently serving as Board Chair. I attended the 2015 Annual Conference in Tampa, Florida as a delegate, and spent the last 18 months serving on the District Policy Board in place of a seat that was vacated.

Vision Statement: My vision for the district is to focus on being faithful and responsible stewards of the resources we have, and finding a message that resonates with today's society. I believe that now, more than ever, there is a desire for a church that stands up for principles of peace and justice. To do that effectively, we must first build bonds of love, trust, and understanding within our local congregations and communities.

Ballot Background Information, Exhibit B

PSWD Board of Administration: At-Large Representatives Vote for 3 (three year term)
Board members must be a member of a Church of the Brethren congregation within the district for at least one year prior to election and must have demonstrated leadership ability.



Christi Stanford

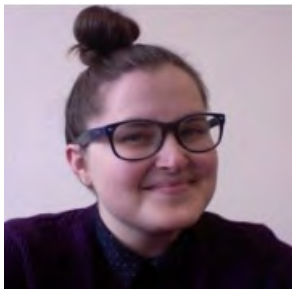
Bowman: *currently filling an unexpired term*
Age: 56

Congregation: Church of the Living Savior, McFarland

Vocation: I have been a high school teacher /counselor for 27 years.

Church Experience: I have taught Sunday School and have assisted with the leadership of our youth groups. I have served on the Nurture Commission, helped organize and lead small group Bible studies, and have been an Annual Conference Delegate. I help with the music ministry in our congregation and I am currently our Board Chair.

Vision Statement: I want to reflect my Christian beliefs and values of faith, honesty, hope, kindness and love. I believe that Jesus set an example of service and we have been given the responsibility to follow it. I would like to see the PSWD provide leadership training, financial assistance, and building maintenance/repair for our sister congregations. I look forward to the possibility of working with my brothers and sisters in Christ as we serve God together and strive to make a difference in our local congregations and our communities.



Jaime Farrar:

Age: 23

Congregation: Modesto CoB

Vocation: Behavioral Interventionist

Church Experience: Recently was the young adult position on the policy board.

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.



Jonas Funderburk:

Age: 57

Congregation: Glendale CoB

Vocation: Accounting Assistant

Church Experience: I have been treasurer for the Glendale Church for over 30 years and also serve on the church board.

Vision Statement: To help the Church of the Brethren have exposure to as many people as possible and let people who do not know God in their lives see what is possible when you lead a God-centered life.

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:

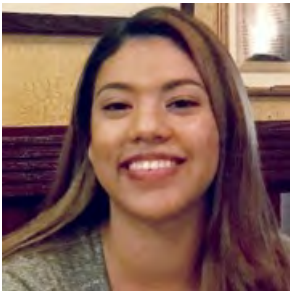
Age: 18

Congregation: Príncipe de Paz CoB

Vocation: I primarily organize events for the youth for the Pacific Southwest District.

Church Experience: I have the honor to serve in the Youth Cabinet, the District Board, and helping out in my local congregation. As a youth cabinet leader we help organize events tailored to the youth. As a district board member I listen and give my opinions from a young point of view about specific decisions made for the Pacific Southwest congregations. I also primarily do musical assistance for our live band in Iglesia Príncipe de Paz.

Vision Statement: I have a goal to introduce a completely different point of view to everyone I meet.



Olivia Celedon:

Age: 16

Congregation: Bakersfield CoB

Vocation: High school student and cheerleader.

Church Experience: I've attended Bakersfield Church of the Brethren my whole life. I recently went to National Youth Conference this summer.

Vision Statement: I would like to be more involved in the church. Understand how things work and contribute more time with the youth.



Elizabeth Piazza:

incumbent

Age: 17

Congregation: Live Oak CoB

Vocation: High School Senior.

Church Experience: I am currently the youth representative on the Church Board at the Live Oak Church of the Brethren. I have also been a member of the PSWD Youth Cabinet for the past 3 years. Recently, I have had the opportunity to be a Youth Representative on the PSWD Policy Board and serve as secretary to the Steward's Commission.

Vision Statement: I have had the opportunity on various PSWD Committee's for the past 3 years. This has been a time of learning and spiritual growth for me. I would like to continue to serve another year and be a voice and advocate for the youth of the district. I believe the youth can and will continue to be a vital part of this district and denomination as we all serve and grow together.

Pacific Southwest District 2019 Operating Budget and Church Planting Support Budget, and 2020 Operating Expense Maximum

In the pages that follow you will find the proposed 2019 PSWD Operating Budget, the 2019 Church Planting Support Budget, and the recommended 2020 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 2015-17 Actual columns in the chart with the 2019 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. From that work they determined that the Operating Budget deficit each year should work to be not more than \$300,000. Last year they also brought to District Conference a proposal to name a 2019 Operating Expense Maximum of \$446,000 which was adopted setting the expense limits for the 2019 Operating Budget proposal which follows.

The 2017 and 2018 Policy Boards have continued conversation around lining up budget expenditures with areas of priority and focus for the ministry work of the PSWD as reflected in the document *Core Objective - A Circle of Support* which then provided broad guidance to the allocation of funds in the 2018 and 2019 budget proposal.

2019 PSWD Operating Budget

In the spreadsheets that follow is the proposed 2019 District Operating 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 \$445,927 for 2019, which meets the Operating Expense maximum set for 2019 by last year's district conference. The anticipated deficit for 2019 is \$302,927, a significant decrease from prior years and in line with the sustainability goal that the Policy Board had articulated in 2016.

2019 District Operating 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. \$47,000 is marked for this work in 2019.

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 12 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. The district covers 75% of the cost of Academy level training. The Ministry Training Coordinator works 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 – We are beginning the process of budgeting in anticipation of the next National Youth Conference in four years. As a deposit on our support of NYC 2022 we have placed \$2500 in the 2019 budget which will begin to build the fund to send our youth that year. 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.

2019 Church Planting Support Budget

The Policy Board upon recommendation of the Executive Board set aside the funds (approximately \$123,000) from the sale of the New Harvest Lindsay church property to be used for Church Planting Support. About \$10,000 has been used in 2018, and we anticipate larger support needs in 2019 as projects move into improved facilities. The Board recommends a Church Planting Support Budget of \$60,000 from these funds for 2019.

Action Item: The Policy Board recommends to the District Conference the adoption of the 2019 Operating Budget and the 2019 Church Planting Support Budget as presented.

2020 Operating Expense Maximum

In 2016 the Policy Board undertook a major study of working towards a sustainable financial picture for the PSWD into the future. They determined that an Operating Deficit of \$300,000 or less was a key way to work towards financial stability into the future. At this level of deficit a strong return on our asset base would likely offset the projected deficit. Moderate returns would result in a gradual reduction in the asset base. And in the event of poor returns or even a loss in assets, we would be in a better position to handle the challenges and reposition for the future as needed.

The recommendation for 2020 of \$450,000 is a \$4000 increase over 2019. This level will require the Policy Board to make strategic choices in budget planning next year. This level of expense holds us right in the area of an anticipated deficit very near the working deficit level identified by the Policy Board in their prior work.

Action Item: The Policy Board recommends to the District Conference that the expense maximum for the 2020 Operating Budget be \$450,000.

Pacific Southwest District Church of the Brethren Income & Expense Summary - Proposed 2019 Budget

		2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2018 Budget	2018 YTD (Aug.)	2019 Proposed
Contributions Income	4100	53,527	52,477	34,849	35,500	12,554	35,500
Interest and Other Income	4200	42,728	42,624	100,250	76,800	52,773	82,900
Participation Income	4600	20,829	19,394	15,337	27,900	6,099	24,600
Total Operating Income		117,084	114,494	150,436	140,200	71,426	143,000
Congregational Development Ministry	5005	158,127	133,052	117,390	41,500	32,852	48,500
Pastoral Leadership & Support	5300	22,015	37,137	21,198	26,000	26,090	29,500
District Empowering Ministry	5500	39,041	40,604	38,052	41,500	35,168	47,500
Partnership & Property Ministry	5700	121,202	55,103	126,640	21,450	27,774	22,750
Service Ministries	6300	2,244	3,111	3,365	6,500	5,472	9,000
District Operating Ministry	6500	292,632	295,224	290,799	286,856	168,569	288,677
Total Operating Expenses		635,261	564,231	597,444	423,806	295,925	445,927
Operating Deficit		-518,177	-449,737	-447,008	-283,606	-224,499	-302,927
Add:			909,729				
Brethren Investments gain/(loss)	4400	-317,967	258,806	603,474			
Sale of Church Property	4500			123,715			
Increase/Decrease in Net Assets		-836,144	-190,931	280,181	-283,606	-224,499	-302,927
Beginning Cash / Notes / Investment Value		5,447,732	4,599,987	4,409,096	4,689,275		

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT OF THE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN						
2015-2019, Five Year District Budget Overview						
Power Church Report Levels		PC	2015	2016	2017	2018
1	2	3	4			
	Line #	Acutal	Acutal	Acutal	Budget	2019
						Proposal
INCOME		4000				
MINISTRY INCOME		4010				
CONTRIBUTIONS INCOME		4100				
	Individuals	4110	6,633	337	1,667	2,500
	Congregations	4120	34,660	31,201	30,520	31,000
	Church Closure Conitribution	4125	0	17,880	0	0
	Groups	4129	9,518	0	100	0
	Subtotal Temp Restricted Income	4130	0	2,059	2,087	0
	CDS Children's Disaster Rapid Respon	4134	372	0	0	0
	Other Income	4140	2,344	1,000	475	2,000
Subtotal Contributions Inc.		4100	53,527	52,477	34,849	35,500
INVESTMENT INCOME		4200				
	CHECKING/MONEY MKT INCOME	4210	2	2	1	0
	NOTES REC. INTEREST/FEES	4301	41,797	39,044	72,326	59,900
	SALE OF CHURCH PROPERTY	4500	0	0	0	0
	MISC. INCOME	4550	929	3,578	27,923	16,900
Subtotal Investment Income		4200	42,728	42,624	100,250	76,800
PARTICIPATION INCOME		4600				
	DIST CONF INCOME	4610	17,819	16,770	12,002	20,500
	EVENTS INCOME	4630	3,010	2,624	3,335	7,400
Subtotal Participation Income		4600	20,829	19,394	15,337	27,900
TOTAL INCOME			117,084	114,494	150,436	140,200
EXPENSES		5000				
MINISTRY INVESTMENTS		5001				
CONGREGATIONAL DEV MIN		5005				
	WEB SITE DEVELOPMENT	5020	1,865	306	715	1,500
	Ministry Partnership Funds	5180		268	25,675	40,000
	Cong Minister Support Grants	5100	156,262	132,477	91,000	0
Subtotal Congregational Dev Min		5005	158,127	133,052	117,390	41,500
PAST'L. LDRSHP & SUPPORT		5300				
	TRIM (TRAINING IN MIN)	5310	2,066	1,637	220	500
	SEBAH & EPMC	5315	2,638	15,648	4,137	5,000
	BETHANY THEO. SEMINARY	5320	0	0	0	1,500
	PASTORS' RETREAT	5325	10,880	17,319	10,710	15,000
	MINISTER'S WORKSHOP	5330	3,348	1,800	4,221	2,500
	OTHER DISTRICT WORKSHOPS	5335	3,083	0	744	1,500
	MINISTER'S ETHICS TRAINING	5336	0	0	0	1,000
	PROF. GROWTH SUBSIDY	5338	0	485	583	0
	TEMP RESTRICTED EXPENSES	5343	0	248	583	0
Subtotal Past'l. Ldrshp & Support		5300	22,015	37,137	21,198	26,000

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT OF THE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN										
2015-2019, Five Year District Budget Overview										
Power Church Report Levels				PC	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
1	2	3	4	Line #	Acutal	Acutal	Acutal	Budget	Proposal	
				DISTRICT EMPOWERING MINISTRY	5500					
				<u>DISTRICT CONFERENCE</u>	5520	18,622	18,827	17,967	18,000	19,500
				<u>MINISTRY COMMISSION</u>	5540	2,097	765	1,644	500	500
				<u>STEWARDS COMMISSION</u>	5560	131	234	0	500	500
				<u>BD OF ADM & WORK GROUPS</u>	5600	10,723	14,347	13,092	11,500	12,500
				<u>NURTURING/CREDENT.COMM</u>	5630	5,901	3,483	3,232	3,500	6,500
				<u>RESOURCE MATERIALS</u>	5650	0	0	0	500	500
				<u>INTER-CULTURAL MINISTRY</u>	5660	0	200	0	500	2,500
				<u>NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE</u>	5670	0	1,961	0	4,000	2,500
				<u>Youth Activity & Cabinet Expense</u>	5680/7	1,567	786	2,117	2,500	2,500
				Subtotal District Empowering Min	5500	39,041	40,604	38,052	41,500	47,500
				PARTNERSHIP & PROP. MIN	5700					
				<u>DENOMINATIONAL ASSESSMENT</u>	5710	1,626	1,609	1,494	1,600	1,600
				<u>STANDING COMMITTEE</u>	5720	2,056	2,304	2,316	2,500	2,500
				<u>UNIVERSITY OF LA VERNE</u>	5725	5,000	5,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
				<u>ECUMENICAL COUNCILS</u>	5730	0	400	300	500	500
				<u>COUNCIL OF DIST EXECS</u>	5740	345	900	779	450	450
				<u>PROPERTY & LEGAL</u>	5800	112,175	44,891	117,751	12,400	13,700
				Subtotal Partnership & Prop. Min	5700	121,202	55,103	126,640	21,450	22,750
				SERVICE MINISTRIES	6300					
				<u>DISASTER RESPONSE</u>	6310	2,136	3,011	3,265	3,000	5,500
				<u>CHILDREN'S DISASTER SERV</u>	6320	108	100	100	500	500
				<u>Other Dist Service Opportunity</u>	6350			0	3,000	3,000
				Subtotal Service Ministries	6300	2,244	3,111	3,365	6,500	9,000
				DIST. OPERATING MINISTRY	6500					
				<u>OFFICE SPACE & UTILITIES</u>	6520	28,341	28,497	28,860	15,600	15,600
				<u>EQUIPMENT & MAINTENANCE</u>	6600	1,061	4,234	5,834	2,000	2,000
				<u>SUPPLIES/PRNTG/PUBLICAT'N</u>	6650	5,100	5,545	6,436	5,000	5,000
				<u>POSTAGE AND MAILING</u>	6670	1,255	2,352	1,618	1,700	1,700
				<u>INSURANCE</u>	6680	8,280	12,044	13,309	13,200	13,200
				<u>AUDIT AND PROF. FEES</u>	6700	16,868	20,730	17,465	22,600	18,600
				<u>STAFF SALARIES</u>	7000	180,837	174,286	163,100	170,806	173,569
				<u>STAFF BENEFITS & RCWF</u>	7100	24,835	19,721	26,032	25,450	27,008
				<u>STAFF TRVL-PROF GROWTH</u>	7500	21,645	23,541	25,161	27,100	28,600
				<u>NEW LIFE/PUB ETC & Misc.</u>	7750	4,410	4,272	2,984	3,400	3,400
				Subtotal Dist. Operating Ministry	6500	292,632	295,224	290,799	286,856	288,677
				Subtotal Ministry Investments	5001	635,261	564,231	597,444	423,806	445,927

Action Items for PSW District Conference 2018

Amendment to PSWD Constitution

This amendment will formally add the state of Nevada to the territory of the Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren. While the current wording does allow us to operate in Nevada, the officers of Annual Conference encourage districts to specifically name out the geographic territory that is included in a district.

This changes Article I of the constitution to read as follows (changes to the text are double underlined):

Article I. Name and Boundaries

The name of this corporation is “Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren” (hereinafter “the District”). From 1964 to 1990 the corporation was named Pacific Southwest Conference, which was created from a consolidation in 1964 of the two corporations titled Northern California District of the Church of the Brethren and the District of Southern California and Arizona.

Pacific Southwest District embraces all of the congregations of the Church of the Brethren in Arizona, California and Nevada and any additional area which may be properly designated by the District Conference and approved by the Standing Committee of Annual Conference.

The Policy Board recommends to the District Conference that the Amendment to Article I of the District Constitution and By-laws be adopted.

Action to Disorganize the New Harvest Lindsay Church of the Brethren

In early 2017 the New Harvest Lindsay congregation’s leadership began conversation with the District Executive Minister about next steps for the congregation and it’s future ministry. They had been without regular pastoral leadership or pulpit fill for several months. Many possibilities were explored including calling out a member of the congregation to be licensed and trained for ministry in their setting. Various doors of possibility closed and in August of 2017 the congregation voted to close if the church facility could be repurposed or sold. The District Executive Board appointed a Closing Committee consisting of Karen Pierson, Joel Price, and Russ Matteson to work with the congregation on issues around ending ministry. In October 2017 the closing committee and congregational leaders met with leadership of Vision Calvary Chapel of Porterville to hear a proposal to sell Vision Calvary Chapel the Lindsay property for their use as a church. Details were worked out and in late November 2017 the sale of the property was completed (property was sold for \$125,000). The congregation decided that they did not wish to have a closing service before the property was transferred over to the new owner. In the Spring of 2018 final records were transferred to the District. All members of the congregation have found new churches to call home and there is no membership to be cared for. Love Feast and Communion supplies from the Lindsay congregation were received by the District to be given to the two new churches in Los Banos and Las Vegas. We give thanks for the 107 years of faithful ministry of the Lindsay and New Harvest congregation.

The Policy Board recommends to the District Conference that the New Harvest Lindsay Church of the Brethren be disorganized.

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
2018.	Hillcrest, La Verne.	November 9-11.	Karen Pierson
2019.	Scottsdale, AZ.	November 8-10.	Bob Morris
2020.	Hillcrest, La Verne.	November 13-15.	

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
2017 – 2018.	Nelda Rhoades Clarke.	Russ Matteson

Activity Locations

- 7- Registration & Information Table – Village Center Lobby
- 11- Friday Workshop – Dean E. Kieffaber Chapel
- 9- Worship: Friday, Saturday, Sunday – Meeting House
- 9- Business Session: Saturday – Meeting House
- 10- Exhibits & SERRV – Galen Walker Board Room
- 6- Relaxation / Visiting / Hospitality
– 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*)
- 14- – WOW Saturday Luncheon in Private Dining Room
- 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 (*see handout at conference for final locations*)

- 2- Resident's Service Center: Citrus Room
- 4- Pinecrest Upstairs Multi-Purpose Room
- 5- Aquatic / Fitness Center
- 9- Meeting House (also *Compelling Vision Discussion*)
- 11- Dean E. Kieffaber Chapel (also *Friday Workshop*)
- 14- Private Dining Room
- 12- CEO Conference Room
- 13- Maple Court Upstairs Activity Room
- 18- Jasmine Room



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

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

Locations: West → East / Left → Right

- 1- Citrus Parking Lot is in back of -2- the Residents Service Center (**just off the map on "A" Street**)
- 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 – Insight Sessions
- 6- Café & Fireside Lounge – Relaxation / Visiting / Hospitality
- 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 – Insight Sessions
- 14- Private Dining Room – Insight Sessions, WOW Luncheon
- 15- Mountain View Dining Room
- 16- Maury Smeltzer Lounge – Conference Meals
- 17- Birch Court Kitchen area – Service Project
- 18- Jasmine Room – Insight Sessions

