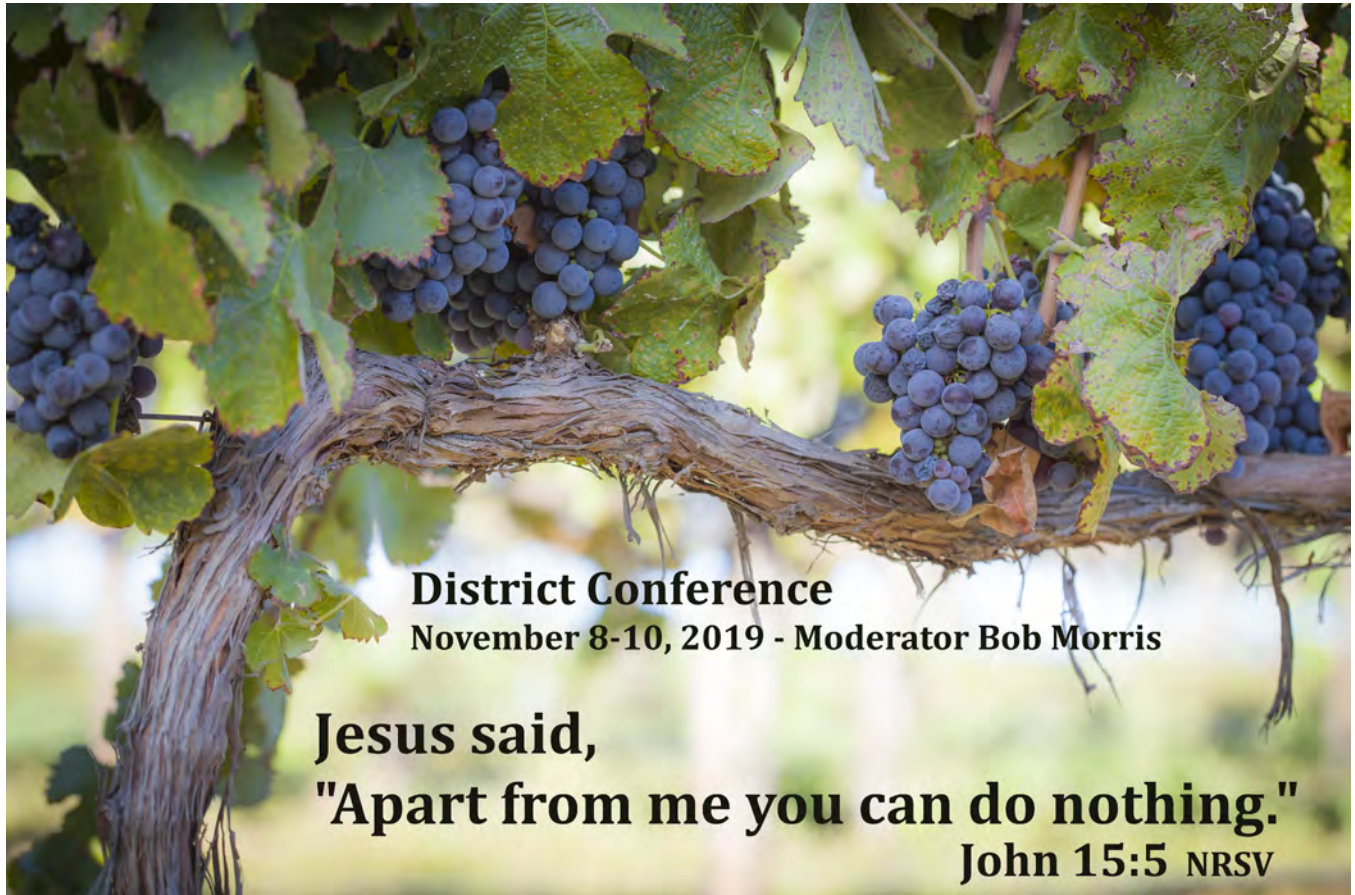


# **Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren**

## **Business Book**



**56<sup>TH</sup> Annual District Conference**  
**November 8-10, 2019**

*Held at:*

**Franciscan Renewal Center**  
5802 E. Lincoln Drive, Scottsdale AZ 85253



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2019 Pastor / Spouse Retreat, Sponsored by the PSWD Ministry Commission

**Pacific Southwest District  
Church of the Brethren  
2019 Annual Meeting  
November 8-10, 2019**

**All events are at Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, Arizona.**

**Welcome to the 2019 Pacific Southwest District Conference**

I want to welcome you to the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale/Paradise Valley, Arizona for the 2019 District Conference. We will meet in a brand new facility for worship services and business meetings. The Arizona congregations (Papago Buttes, Scottsdale, and Circle of Peace, Peoria) will be pulling out all the stops (that's a pipe organ term) to host us.

The District's Program Committee planned thoroughly and worked diligently to bring about a wonderful time of fellowship, worship, business, information, education, refreshment, renewal and fun.

The Worship Theme is from John 15:5 where Jesus said, "Apart from me you can do nothing." God willing, I will preach at Friday's opening worship. An Ice Cream social will follow. Saturday evening's preacher will be Dan Ulrich, Wieand Professor of New Testament Studies at Bethany Theological Seminary. A candle-lit labyrinth walk will follow. Circle of Peace's worship team will provide music both Friday and Saturday evenings. Sunday morning's preacher will be 2020 Annual Conference Moderator Paul Munday. A consecration service will wrap-up our worship. Papago Buttes will provide music accompaniment. Nursery service will be available during all three worship services.

I'd like to thank each of you in advance for your attending District Conference. I also appreciate all those who have helped plan and who are volunteering their service throughout the year and while at the Franciscan Renewal Center.

Gratefully,

*Bob Morris*, Moderator, 2019

**PSWD District Conference — Business Meeting Agenda**

November 9, 2019

- I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer
- II. Roll call and establishing of Quorum
- III. Approval of Agenda and 2018 Minutes (p.43)
- IV. Business Items
  - A. Election of leadership (pp.16-18 & pp.48-52)
  - B. 2020 PSWD Budget Proposal (pp.53-56)
  - C. 2021 Budget Parameters (pp.53-56)
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  - C. District Executive Minister (pp.11-13)
  - D. District Program Committee (p.16)
  - E. Standing Committee Delegate (p.15)
- VI. Adjournment

*All times are for Arizona, which is an hour ahead of California and Nevada in November.*

**(Pre) Thursday, November 7:** Training Session in Ministerial Ethics, lunch included

10:00am	Ethics Training Session begins at Papago Buttes CoB <a href="http://www.pswdcob.org/ethics">www.pswdcob.org/ethics</a>
5:00pm	Ethics Training Session concludes

**(Pre) Friday, November 8:** PSWD Ministry Continuing Education Event, presented by Dan Ulrich

	Conference Packets for event participants will be waiting in the workshop room
8:30	Workshop Check-In <a href="http://www.pswdcob.org/events/ministers">www.pswdcob.org/events/ministers</a>
8:45 - 12:15	Nursery / Child care (lunch with parents)
9:00-12:00	Workshop Session 1
Noon	Lunch (Included with workshop)(Others can buy this meal during web registration)
12:45 - 5:15	Nursery / Child care (resumes)
1:00 - 5:00	Workshop Session 2

### Friday, November 8 — District Conference Schedule

	<i>3:00-9:00pm Registration &amp; Information Table Open (closed during worship)</i> <i>3:00-9:00pm Meditation Chapel, Exhibits, &amp; SERRV (closed during worship)</i> <i>3:00-7:00pm Hospitality (closed during worship &amp; Ice Cream Social)</i>
5:30 - 6:30	Opening Dinner (Included with FRC housing)(Others can buy this meal during web registration)
6:45-8:45	Nursery / Child care
7:00	Gathering Music & Singing
7:15 - 8:30	Opening Worship   ○ Message: Moderator Bob Morris ○ Refugee Aid Offering Received
<i>after Worship</i>	Ice Cream Social Exhibits, Registration
9:00 - 10:30	Youth will be gathering in their activity room
10:30	Youth Activities close for today: Youth leave for the lodging chosen during registration.

### Saturday, November 9 — District Conference Schedule

7:30-8:30am	Breakfast at FRC (Included with FRC housing)(Others can buy this meal during web registration)
	<i>7:30am Youth Activities continue</i> <i>8:00-Noon Registration &amp; Information Table open until lunch</i> <i>8:00am-7:00pm Exhibits, &amp; SERRV (closes for the rest of conference)</i> <i>8:00am-9:00pm Hospitality, Meditation Chapel (closed during worship)</i>
8:15am -5:45pm	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 13)
11:00 - 12:00	Insight Sessions: First Set ( <i>Chosen during registration</i> )
	During Lunch, Registration Table: <u>Closes for the rest of conference</u>
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch (Included with FRC housing)(Others can buy this meal during web registration)
12:45 - 5:45	Nursery / Child care (resumes)
1:00 - 2:15	Art in the Sanctuary Insight Session (starts 15 minutes before the others)(chosen during registration)
1:15 - 2:15	Insight Sessions: Second Set ( <i>Chosen during registration</i> )
2:30 - 5:30	Business Session #2
5:30 - 6:30	Dinner (Included with FRC housing)(Others can buy this meal during web registration)
6:45 - 8:45	Nursery / Child care (resumes)
7:00	Gathering Music & Singing
7:15 - 8:30	Worship & Music ○ Message: Dan Ulrich, outdoors at Altar Ramada ○ Consecration of Licensed Ministers
<i>after Worship</i>	Candlelight Labyrinth Walk
9:00 - 10:30	Youth will be gathering in their activity room
10:30	Youth Activities close for today: Youth leave for the lodging chosen during registration.

### **Sunday, November 10 — District Conference Schedule**

8:00-9:00am	Breakfast at FRC (Included with FRC housing)(Others can buy this meal during web registration)
7:30am	Board Re-organization at FRC ( <i>Board of Administration members only</i> )
9:15-11:00	Nursery / Child care
9:30 - 10:45	Worship & Music: ○ Message: 2020 Annual Conference Moderator - Paul Munday ○ Consecration of Moderator & Moderator-Elect and District Board
11:00am	boxed lunches available when worship ends (for those who chose this option during registration)
12:00-1:00pm	Lunch in FRC Dining room (Included with FRC housing)(Others can buy this meal during web registration)

**Jesus said, “Apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5 NRSV)**  
**Jesús dijo, “Porque separados de mí nada podéis hacer.” (Juan 15:5 RVR1960)**

When I hear Jesus’ words, I am called to prayer. Jesus reminds me 1.) that I must be constantly listening to and talking with him, 2.) that any of my efforts which omit Jesus will be spiritually empty, 3.) that I am totally dependent on God, and 4.) that abiding in Jesus is the only way for me to remain connected to Jesus and to sisters and brothers. Jesus statement implies that everyone of us needs to maintain a vital, prayerful, connection to Jesus Christ.



Earlier this year, through District publications and by way of my church visits, I have asked each one of you to join me in regular prayer and to also do things that enhance your connection to Jesus, and, by extension, that enhance our connection to each other. Frequent reading of the Gospels and Old and New Testament Scriptures have helped us stay joined to Jesus and joined together. Because, if we are cut off from Jesus, the True Vine, we are also cut off from each other, the branches, and our work then becomes empty and amounts to nothing.

Since January, I have been visiting as many churches/congregations as have answered my invitation for a visit. Most of those visits have been on a Sunday morning. (When you receive this District Conference booklet, I yet may have a few congregations on my schedule still to be visited.)

Please plan to spend Friday through Sunday, November 8-10, 2019 in beautiful Scottsdale/Paradise Valley, Arizona. Although we held District Conference at the Franciscan Renewal Center in November of 2013, this year our main meetings will be held in an entirely new facility. We expect that our accommodations there will be even better than before!

I’m looking forward to our praying together while we are apart and when we meet together. Remember, add prayer to your church’s program. It won’t increase your budget, and the benefits are out of this world.

Gratefully,

*Bob Morris*

PSWD Moderator 2019

Moderator@pswdcob.org

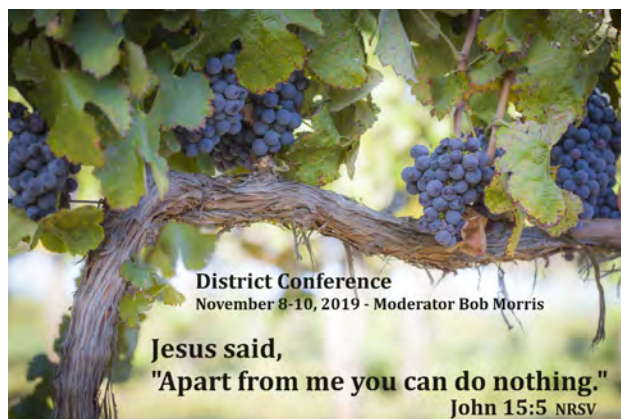


# Delegates' Dedication Litany

November 9, 2019

**Moderator:** We are gathered here today to conduct the business of the Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren. This is God's church. We are doing God's work.

**Delegates:** We are here today representing the Church of the Brethren in Arizona, California, and Nevada. We are God's people. We are here to do the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, together.



**Moderator:** Our work will not be completed here today. We must take experiences home with us: information from business and insight sessions, friendship and fellowship from hospitality, and inspiration from worship services.

**Delegates:** As we encounter the Presence of God here, we will return to our congregations to share, report, inform, and inspire.

**Moderator:** Jesus said, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."

**Delegates:** Understanding Jesus' meaning, we have been praying in private, in small groups, and in our worship services, seeking Jesus to be in us, to lead us, and empower us, so that our work always bears God's fruit.

**Moderator:** Let us dedicate ourselves now to God's work. Let us pray.

**Moderator and Delegates in Unison (Prayer of Dedication):** O God,  
You are gracious and kind, merciful and good. We are believers, your followers,  
your servants. We are gathered here to conduct your business.  
We call on you to be in us and to work through us, in our thoughts, our minds, and our hearts. May we accomplish your will as we give in to your guidance. We dedicate ourselves – our time, our energy, and our hearts to you. Grant us a spirit of unity in the bond of peace. Fill us with love, respect, and compassion for one another. May what we do here be so uplifting and inspiring that we cannot help but share the good news with our congregations when we return home. We recognize that apart from you we can do nothing. So, enable us to do all things through Jesus Christ who gives us strength. We commit ourselves to you in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



## **Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren – 2019**

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

Moderator..... Bob Morris, Glendora  
Moderator-Elect..... Mary Kay Ogden, La Verne  
Clerk..... Karen Cosner, Modesto  
Board of Administration Chair (ex-officio)..... Nelda Rhoades Clarke, Papago Buttes  
District Executive Minister (ex-officio)..... Russ Matteson

### **Note for the Delegates**

The 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 fifty percent of the total elected delegates representing fifty percent of the churches of the District.

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

## **Parliamentary Procedure at a Glance**

(Based on Robert's Rules of Order Revised  
And Rules Governing Annual Conference)

### **VII. The Five Essential Steps Through Which a Motion Passes**

- A. Presentation of the motion:  
“I move that \_\_\_\_\_.”
- B. Seconding the motion:  
“I second the motion,” or “I second it.”
- C. A written copy of the motion shall be given to the conference clerk.
- D. Stating the question (by the moderator) and discussion of it:  
“It has been moved and seconded that \_\_\_\_\_.”
- E. Putting the question to a vote:  
“Are you ready for the question? All of those in favor of the motion which is \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. say ‘Aye.’ Opposed, ‘No.’”
- F. Announcing the result of the vote:  
“The motion is carried (lost) and you have voted to (not to) \_\_\_\_\_.”

### **VIII. Motions, Who Makes Them and How**

- A. All attendees of the District Conference have the privilege of moving and discussing the business of the Conference.
- B. To make a motion, it is necessary to “obtain the floor” – that is, to rise after the floor has been yielded and address the presiding officer by his/her official title (Brother/Sister Moderator). Give your name and the name of the congregation you represent as soon as you are recognized by the moderator after addressing him/her.
- C. A motion is seconded without obtaining the floor or rising.

### **IX. Some Rules of Debate**

- A. All remarks must be addressed to the chair.
- B. All remarks must pertain to the immediately pending question before the District Conference.
- C. All remarks must be of an impersonal nature.
- D. Length and number of speeches are determined by District Conference officers.

### **X. Nominations and Voting**

- A. Nominations may be made from the floor. However, one must have the person's permission to present his/her name in nomination, have all the same written information provided by the other candidates to present to the conference clerk, and have copies of the ballot information to distribute to the delegates (*see page 17 below*).
- B. No member can be compelled to vote. Those not voting are not counted in deciding whether it is a majority, two-thirds, or unanimous. All blank ballots are ignored and, thus, not counted.
- C. Most votes are taken first by voice or by show of hands, except in case of motions requiring a two-thirds vote, when a rising vote is taken first.

## **XI. Motions Classified and in Ascending Order of Precedence**

**A. Privileged and Incidental Motions:** motions that take precedence over any pending question although not related to that question. Not debatable.

1. **ADJOURN or RECESS**

Object: to dismiss a meeting or to provide for an intermission – “I move that we adjourn (recess) while (until) \_\_\_\_\_.”

2. **RAISE A QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE**

Object: to get the attention of the moderator at once, to ask a question, or to attend to some matter that cannot wait – “I rise to a question of privilege” (state your question).

3. **POINT OF ORDER**

“I rise to a point of order” (state your point).

**B. Subsidiary Motions:** motions that are applied to other motions for the purpose of most appropriately disposing of them.

1. **LAY ON THE TABLE – TAKE FROM THE TABLE** (second, not debatable, not amendable, simple majority)

Object: to lay aside business in such a manner that its consideration may be removed later – “I move that this matter be laid on the table.”

2. **PREVIOUS QUESTION** (second, not debatable, not amendable, two-thirds majority)

Object: to stop debate and order an immediate vote – “I call for (or move) the previous question.”

3. **POSTPONE TO A SET TIME** (second, debatable, amendable, simple majority).

4. **COMMIT, REFER, or RE-COMMIT** (second, debatable, amendable, simple majority),

Object: to place the business in the hands of a few for later reporting to the Conference (for major changes) – “I move that this matter be referred to a committee of \_\_\_\_ to be named \_\_\_\_\_ with instruction.”

5. **AMEND** (second, debatable, amendable, simple majority).

a. “I move to amend the motion by striking out \_\_\_\_\_.”

b. “I move to amend the motion by inserting \_\_\_\_\_ between \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_.”

c. “I move to amend the motion by adding \_\_\_\_\_ between \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_.”

d. “I move to amend the motion by striking out \_\_\_\_\_ and inserting \_\_\_\_\_.”

e. “I move to amend by striking out \_\_\_\_\_ and substituting this (read or state the substitution).”

6. **POSTPONE INDEFINITELY** (second, debatable, and amendable, simple majority).

Object: to kill a motion – “I move to postpone this matter indefinitely.”

**C. Principal Motion:** a motion made to bring before the Conference, for its consideration, any particular subject.

**D. Main Motion:** (second, debatable, amendable, simple majority).

Object: to introduce business for consideration –

a. “I move that \_\_\_\_\_.”

b. “I move the adoption (acceptance, approval) of this report.”

# District Executive Minister's Report

Russ Matteson

As we gathered for District Conference 2018 we were in prayer for the members of our congregation in Paradise, CA, and for their community as the Camp Fire was burning its way through the town. The small group of Brethren, and their partners in ministry from The Rock, all survived the fire, but many suffered the losses of their homes and all of the contents and are in the position of trying to start over. The Church building, the parsonage, and a few rental units were all lost to the fire, and the small congregation indicated to us that this was the end of ministry for them as a congregation.

Soon after the fire the District began to receive inquiries about how churches and individuals in our district and throughout the denomination could reach out in support to the Brethren impacted by the fire. The Executive Board established the Paradise Emergency Fund to receive donations that we could pass along as gifts to those affected. Over the last nine months donations of \$133,000 were received and shared with seven households that were identified by the church's leadership. Many of these individuals were not sufficiently insured for the losses, and these gifts have been most helpful to them in working to move forward.

As District Executive Minister I have been serving as the legal agent for the congregation since December and working to file paperwork with local authorities for cleanup of the property and with the church's insurance carrier. I am grateful for the help from Gail and Mike McCann, and Pastor Melvin and Jane Campbell, in keeping me aware of things going on in Paradise and coordinating on items related to insurance and cleanup. At this time the property has been cleaned and all debris removed, and we are awaiting word on soil samples to see if additional cleaning will be needed before any other work can be done. There are likely to be some cleanup costs that we will be billed for sometime in 2020. We do not intend to rebuild this building or continue the Brethren presence there. The District has received the proceeds from the insurance settlement from Brotherhood Mutual and a proposal for how those will be used is included in the business for this meeting.

I encourage us all to continue to hold the town of Paradise, and those who were/are its residents in our prayers as the journey ahead is long, and the grief for what has been lost continues.

## Dali's Visit PSWD

In February we were pleased to host Samuel and Rebecca Dali, leaders from EYN (the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) at many locations throughout the district. The vision to invite them came from pastors Sara Haldeman-Scarr and Alan McLearn-Montz. The PSWD covered the cost of bringing them out, and local churches hosted them and helped get them from one place to the next. During their week in California they shared with Bakersfield, McFarland, Los Banos, Empire, Modesto, Live Oak, Pomona Fellowship, and San Diego.

## Focus of Work

The day in and day out work of the District Executive Minister involves interacting regularly with our various congregations, trying to worship with each church at least annually, visiting with pastors and other leaders, providing support in times of discernment or conflict, working with the District Board to plan and implement direction in ministry for the district, and many other things that are part of this ministry call. I continue to drive about 25,000 miles each year getting around to places, and flying to those connections where driving is not practical.

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*. As a part of working on that, my time as District Executive Minister has again this year focused around:

- 1) support of Spanish language ministries / 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.

## Spanish Language Churches/New Church Projects

These areas, while separate, contain a significant amount of overlap since the two existing projects and one new project are Spanish language ministries. The work of training for ministry has



stabilized both within the district and at the denomination over the last year. We have our first graduate from EPMC with another close behind, several licensed ministers are nearing completion of all the requirements for SEBAH, and the two new church projects have begun their training work with congregational leaders through EPMC.

At the district level we are working to regularly provide resources and communication in both Spanish and English, moving into the reality of our district's makeup. This past year we had meetings in person and through Zoom with our Spanish speaking leaders. The Pastors' Retreat in May was intentionally a bi-lingual experience (we are grateful for the leadership of Daniel Topf who shared the presentations in both Spanish and English). And the upcoming pre-Conference event for pastors and leaders will be intentional about taking place in both English and Spanish.

The Las Vegas project, Iglesia Cristiana Elohim, is now subletting space from another church, and is being supported by District Church Planting funds to rent two additional rooms for use in children's ministry. This summer they hosted a once a week Children's Bible School at an apartment complex near one of their member's home, and had a regular group of about 20 children participate. The worshipping community is a faithful group, and they are making connections with many recent immigrants and those on the margins in Las Vegas.

The Los Banos project, Centro Agape en Acción, continues to reach out in their community. They are regularly at (or beyond) space capacity in the space they sublease, and we have worked hard to help them find a new home. The District has finished due diligence and is moving forward with the purchase of a commercial building in Los Banos that will serve as their worship and community space. One half of the purchase will be a district investment (diversifying into property) and will produce income from two existing renters, while the other half will be leased with movement to ownership to Centro Agape en Acción. We will support them in this effort with Church Planting Funds for the next few years. And as they grow, and the tenant leases expire, the church will be able to take ownership of more of the property.

And beginning on the ground work this September is a new project looking to bring a Spanish language congregation to Waterford. Florecita Merlos, her husband Jose, and their youngest daughter Hillary, have moved into the parsonage the District owns in Waterford and she is

beginning to get to know and reach out to the people there. The Church Planting Task Group, when talking with Florecita about her plans, reminded her to take time to fall in love with the place and the people as she sees what God is already doing and calling this new ministry to join. We had kept the property (parsonage and church) in Waterford in hopes that God might lead us into a new beginning there. Your prayers for this ministry's beginning are appreciated.

### **Support of congregations that are getting smaller**

You have read earlier about the Paradise congregation, and will take action at this District Conference to Disorganize the Tucson church. There was a celebration of Tucson's ministry and time of blessing for the church that purchased the building held in January. Pomona Fellowship is working with a developer who plans to purchase their property. The congregation is working on plans for where they will go next and what the shape and form of their ministry will look like in the years ahead.

### **Refocusing of District Youth Ministry**

The plan now is to convene a group to work at this question in 2020. If you have suggestions of people who might serve on this committee, please share those names with me.

### **Conversations around investing resources**

The Policy Board is pleased to bring a proposal to this District Conference that is the result of two years of listening and praying for God's guidance on what we might do with the resources gained from the sale of the parking lot in Los Angeles. This discernment intentionally sought out input from our congregations, last year's district conference, and the Policy Board working together to bring this plan to the Conference. If approved, there is still work to do in preparing how to distribute the funds and continuing communication about these possibilities. My thanks to all who participated in the conversations, and especially to Dot Hess, board vice-chair, who undertook the task of compiling and tabulating all of the reports from the meetings for the Board to work with in discerning a direction forward.

### **Pastoral/Congregational Transitions**

**Glendale** - Annali Topf completed her interim work in May as the congregation called Robert Aguirre to serve as their pastor and he began his service in June.

**Modesto** - Mike Fletcher completed his work as

interim in November, 2018. Stephen Reddy, a member of the congregation, served as interim from January through May. The congregation called Andrew Sampson to be the pastor and he began his call in June. Andrew, his wife Allison, and their two sons moved to Modesto from Fort Wayne, IN. Andrew formerly served in PSWD at Pomona Fellowship.

**Pomona Fellowship** - Lauren Seganos Cohen was called by the congregation as pastor in November, 2018, and began her service in December. Lauren relocated to PSWD with her husband, Jason, last summer from Maine.

### **Church Denominational**

Across the denomination, Districts were busy hosting the Compelling Vision conversations at more local levels which then came together to inform the full business of Annual Conference in July. In our district, the Executive Board decided to make funds available to encourage each church that has not usually sent a delegate to do so by offering to cover significant portions of the cost of attending. This was because we felt the church wide conversation important enough to have as many voices as possible present, and since the every six year attempt to bring the conference to the west (and thus be more affordable) was not happening. Ten congregations took advantage of the opportunity, at a cost to the district of \$15,000, and this effectively

doubled the number of our churches present in the conversation. The Compelling Vision Committees are now processing the information gathered at Annual Conference and are preparing a response that will be part of the business in 2020 in Grand Rapids, MI. I would encourage your continuing prayers for the Church of the Brethren, as it works on the Compelling Vision process and other concerns which threaten to divide the church.

### **Conclusion**

I am grateful to the many who serve on the District Board and our various committees that carry out the work and mission of the PSWD. It is the sharing of their time and gifts that are so important. And I appreciate, and hope you do as well, the work of our staff consisting of Joe Vecchio, Gilbert Romero, and Nohemi Flores. Your prayers for the work we do together, and as individual congregations, are deeply appreciated. As our moderator Bob Morris has reminded us with his theme this year, apart from Christ we can do nothing. May we remain connected to Christ and through that connection to one another. Amen.

Pace e bene, Paz y bien, Peace and all good,

*Russ Matteson*

District Executive Minister

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### **Deceased Ministers**

Ralph E. Click - 4/18/1929 – 9/22/2018  
Marlin L. Heckman - 1/20/1937 – 9/22/2018  
Jo Kimmel - 2/11/1931 – 9/7/2019

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### **Recognition of Ministers' Ordination Anniversaries**

#### **70 Years**

Gene Palsgrove

#### **55 Years**

Gerald L. Moore

#### **40 Years**

Jeffrey E. Glass  
Tom Hostetler

#### **30 Years**

Jeanine Ewert

#### **25 Years**

Terry R. Mathis

Representing 255 years  
of service.

**TRIM Supervisor Report.** . . . . . Russ Matteson  
See also Ministry Commission report on page 21.

This summer Nohemi Flores entered the TRIM program to continue her educational preparation for ministry. She attended orientation at Bethany Theological Seminary in July and is taking her first on-line courses. Jody Romero continues to make progress towards completing his course work.

*Russ Matteson, TRIM Coordinator*

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**MTC: Ministry Training Coordinator: SeBAH, EFSM, EPMC Report.** . . . . . Gilbert Romero  
See also Ministry Commission report on page 21.

In my role as MTC (Ministry Training Coordinator) for the district I find that through the 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.

Mercedes Zapata was ordained last fall, and now helps advise some of the students. I thank God for the Los Banos “Centro Agape en Acción” and Las Vegas “Iglesia Cristiana Elohim” church plants. Both have joined the EPMC program and are working on their studies with one book completed and the next starting in September. They are great in their fellowship and moving forward in their quest for working together. “Príncipe de Paz” pastors Richard and Becky Zapata will conclude their SeBAH program shortly. “Iglesia de Cristo Sion” pastor David Flores has completed EPMC and received a certificate of completion. Pastor Rita will continue her EPMC classes until complete. Floresita Merlos continues in SeBAH, and is ready to use her great leadership skills in beginning a new church start in Waterford. The above named students will complete their programs and classes in the next one and a half years.

I am truly blessed to be a part of the district’s Ministry Training. Thank you for the opportunity.

*Gilbert Romero, MTC*

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**Youth Advisor Report.** . . . . . Nohemi Flores

I began my journey as the PSWD Youth Advisor in January 2018, I have the desire to see youth called in following Jesus and loving their neighbor as they would treat others as they would like to be done to them. The leadership role that the district Youth Cabinet and district Youth Advisor have in the PSWD is to organize events for youth throughout the year, and to be united.

Since last year, there have been 5 major activities where youth have been gathering more in fellowship at locations like Santa Ana, La Verne/ San Dimas (District Conference), Colorado for NYC, Bakersfield (Spring Fling), and Pomona (Summer Youth Retreat), and the upcoming Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona. At every event, youth are growing, learning, maturing, but most of all doing all things in good faith. What has been exciting is to see more and more youth are actively looking to meet more in the year.

Four youth have been called to serve on the 2019/2020 Youth Cabinet, Toshiro Gomez (South Bay), Ivan Gonzalez (Príncipe de Paz), Abraham Rosas (Glendale), Sharon Maldonado (Iglesia de Cristo Sion) They met in August.

Youth attending the 2019 District Conference, can expect another great year of fellowship and fun with friends throughout the district. Plus, opportunities to explore the theme at conference, *Apart from me, you can do nothing John 15:5*, it’s scriptural foundation and implications for youth as we move forward as a district and the body of Christ!

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*



2019-2020 Youth Cabinet & Advisor  
Nohemi, Sharon, Toshiro, Abraham, Ivan

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## Report of Standing Committee Delegate

Donald Shankster

Annual Conference exists to unite, strengthen and equip the Church of the Brethren to follow Jesus. Standing Committee is one arm of Annual Conference, that gives officers and the moderator an opportunity to check the pulse of the denomination before taking the larger conference stage.

All 36 delegates from the 24 districts were present at this year's gathering under the theme, ***Proclaim Christ; Reclaim Passion***, with Donita Keister guiding our time together. Absent were new queries from districts and agencies to give more time to dig deeper into the compelling vision that God has for the Church of the Brethren. However, Standing Committee took the opportunity to deal with procedural issues for itself including assembling a manual for Standing Committee that incorporates the many parts of what we do into one medium.

Guidelines, mission, core values, query processes, feasibility studies and appeals process were all put into one file. Revisions were made to various pieces of the manual.

Another part of Standing Committee is to hear from the agencies serving the Church of the Brethren (yes, we get to hear from them twice - again on the conference floor). Opportunity is given and encouraged to raise any questions about the activities of the various agencies.

Concern was raised this year about Jay Wittmeyer's large portfolio, serving the Global Church with contacts around the globe. The Mission and Ministry Board noted that it hopes to provide another position to assist Jay in working with these international bodies. Even so, it is exciting to hear about the church expanding in Venezuela, Spain, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, London, Brazil, just to name a few.

Standing Committee served as a guinea pig of sorts this year as the Compelling Vision Process team led us in conversations around questions they hoped to use on the conference floor. Some of those were tweaked before going to the larger floor, many went without revision. One concern was the intensity of emotion involved in some of the discussion making for a seemingly long session - again also experienced on the conference floor.

The Process team will continue to analyze and work with outside assistance to sift and prepare a

vision for the church to bring to the delegate body at the Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, MI, July 1-5, where they hope to have affirmation of a new vision for the Church of the Brethren. While the vision process was not to address the tension churches are feeling about inclusion and actions by pastors and churches, the process team gave time to address the "elephant in the room" to allow each delegate on the conference floor to name their concern. Many conversation tables continued to focus on that "problem" rather than the compelling vision questions. The larger church has yet to take PSWD's initiative of a dozen years ago of creating a unity statement for the district.

Another large piece of Standing Committee work is to come up with a ballot for Annual Conference each year. I thank all who allowed their names to be submitted this past year. While many of our names did not make it to the ballot, the nominating committee appreciates your willingness to be part of the process. Anyone can make a nomination for a position. It is most helpful to go online at: [www.brethren.org/ac](http://www.brethren.org/ac) and go to 2020 Nominations. You give the person's name, email address, position, and why you think he or she would be good for that position. The conference office will then email the person with a request to consider the nomination and a form to fill out and return. With our current polity, we need four nominations for each position by the end of the year - so please help us. Positions open: Moderator-Elect, Program and Arrangements Committee, Mission and Ministry Board - Area 1 and Area 4 (we are in Area 5), Bethany Board Clergy and Laity, Brethren Benefit Trust Board, On Earth Peace Board and Pastoral Comp and Benefits Advisory Committee. The conference website also lists the terms and responsibilities for each position if you check the "more info" link.

Paul Munday is our moderator for our 2020 Annual Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan. His theme: ***God's Adventurous Future***. David Sollenberger was elected as moderator-elect for this year.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve you,

In Christ, Don Shankster,

Standing Committee Delegate for PSWD

## District Conference Program Committee Report

### Committee Members:

Bob Morris, Moderator, Chair  
Mary Kay Ogden, Moderator-Elect  
Robert Aguirre  
Karleen Daniels  
Linda Hart  
Cady Laycook  
Peggy Redman

### *Ex-Officio Members of the Committee:*

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

### *Web-Registrar:*

Juliana Pitruzzello

To begin the process of planning for this year's District Conference, we held our first "person-to-person" meeting, Friday through Saturday, January 4 & 5, at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale/Paradise Valley, Arizona. We were able to sample the accommodations, the meal selections, and some of the meeting rooms. We were also able to view the beginning foundations of the brand new building we plan to use for worship and business at District Conference. In attendance were Moderator-Elect Mary Kay Ogden, Robert Aguirre, Karleen Daniels, Linda Hart, Cady

Laycook, and Peggy Redman from the Program Committee, as well as District Registrar and Conference Website Preparer Juliana Pitruzzello, District Administrative Assistant Joe Vecchio, District Youth Advisor Nohemi Flores, District Executive Minister Russ Matteson, and myself. We had a busy, but fruitful, time determining how many lodging rooms, meeting rooms, and other accommodations were needed for our November Conference. We also made assignments.

Throughout the remainder of this year we have met every month by way of Zoom for "face-to-face" meetings. (Zoom is a computer program which uses Internet connections to bring our faces and voices together for meaningful discussions. It also enables the District to save money and time for travel, meals, and lodging.)

The Program Committee, through use of sub-committees, plans and facilitates worship, business, insight-sessions, the Ice Cream Social, hospitality, youth participation, and the District-wide Service Project.

I want to thank all the Program Committee members and the other participants who have helped plan this District Conference to make it such a success.

Gratefully,

Bob Morris, Moderator

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## Nominating Committee Report

Mary Kay Ogden, Chair

### Committee Members:

Mary Kay Ogden, Chair & Moderator-Elect  
Jerry Davis  
Lucile Leard  
Susan Price

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

Clerk, Karen Cosner  
Moderator, Bob Morris  
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, Susan Price, 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.

After our PSWD conference, a date and time were selected for our first Zoom gathering. We opened each meeting with devotions, and began the process of reviewing the list of positions needing to be filled. From January through July, we shared names of sisters and brothers we could call upon to serve. Members of the committee accepted assignments for contacting nominees, asking them to pray first, for guidance, before giving an answer as to whether or not God was calling them into service of our district. At our final meeting we thanked Gerald "Jerry" Davis for his service as he completed his term.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Kay Ogden, 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 <sup>st</sup> _____ 2 <sup>nd</sup> _____
--

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

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

## Suggestions for the Next District Conference Ballot

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

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



## Suggestions for Board Appointments

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

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

# 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: Nelda Rhoades Clarke (Papago Buttes)

Vice-Chair: Dot Hess (La Verne)

Recording Secretary: Clerk: Karen Cosner (Modesto)

2019	Katherine Boeger Knight (Live Oak)	
2021	Christi Bowman (Living Savior, McFarland)	
#2019	Mario Cabrera (Príncipe de Paz)	Youth / Young Adult
2019	Olivia Celedon (Bakersfield)	Youth / Young Adult
#2021	Nelda Rhoades Clarke (Papago Buttes)	Section Rep. AZ
2019	Cheryl Crane (Prince of Peace, Sacramento)	
2021	Jaime Farrar (Modesto)	
2020	David Flores (Cristo Sion)	
2021	Jonas Funderburk (Glendale)	
2019	Eddie Hernandez (Modesto)	
2019	Dot Hess (La Verne)	Section Rep. S.CA-E
2021	Richard Keeling (Bakersfield)	Section Rep. Cen.CA
#2019	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)	
x2019	Richard Zapata (Príncipe de Paz)	

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

Moderator: Bob Morris (Glendora)

Moderator-Elect: Mary Kay Ogden (La Verne)

Clerk: 2021 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 (Papago Buttes)

Vice-Chair: Dot Hess (La Verne)

Ministry Chair: Clark Youngblood (Circle of Peace)

Stewards Chair: Joel Price (Empire)

Moderator: Bob Morris (Glendora)

Moderator-Elect: Mary Kay Ogden (La Verne)

District Executive Minister (Ex-Officio without vote): Russ Matteson

*District Board of Administration: continued*

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

*Ministry Chair:* Clark Youngblood (Circle of Peace)  
*Elected Member, Vice Chair:* Norma Sexton (Prince of Peace)  
*Elected Member, Secretary:* Cindy Slaughter (Glendale)  
*Elected Member:* Katherine Boeger Knight (Live Oak)  
*Elected Member:* David Flores (Cristo Sion)  
*Elected Member:* Richard Zapata (Principe de Paz)

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:* Christi Bowman (Living Savior)  
*Elected Member:* Jonas Funderburk (Glendale)

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

**Board Appointments:** *Page 25 below*

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## Board of Administration Report

Once again this year we began our work with Moderator Bob Morris leading us in opening worship based on his theme for 2019 District Conference, “Apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5). This has helped us center our work throughout the year.

Our biggest project this year was to follow up last year’s call to see where God is leading the PSWD in the future. This was motivated in part by the settling of the Koreatown property but more broadly where God is calling us to do his work through the PSWD. We began by making an effort to get into as many churches as possible for your input. We had a total of 15 meetings and received hundreds of suggestions of where we are called to serve.

We all know the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30). God calls us to invest our talents and not to bury them, so how will PSWD invest our gifts. After much dialogue, analysis and review we are bringing you our recommendations. Because we know God is always moving and our world is ever changing, we will continue to seek the will of God through the leading of the Spirit.

We lost the Paradise church this year to the fire that swept the area. The small congregation that was there determined that they would disorganize as a

church. Support was received from across the denomination and we were able to help the members of this church to re-establish their lives. The Board has determined that out of the ashes the insurance money will be used as an asset investment in growing churches seeking property or additions for their growth.

The Tucson Church of the Brethren will be disorganized at this district conference. After much prayer and study they decided to sell their property and discontinue as a congregation. They were able to sell the property to a Churches of God Hispanic congregation that is growing in Tucson. They have asked that the proceeds from the sale of the church be set aside for 5 years for a possible new church start in Tucson.

Much of what is happening in the district comes to you through other reports but as we oversee the work of God in PSWD, it is clear that good things are happening. As we focus on Jesus and realize that apart from Jesus we can do nothing, we can see how God would have us use our talents for the kingdom of God here and now.

Nelda Rhoades Clarke  
Board Chair

## Ministry Commission Report

### Ministry Commission:

Clark R. Youngblood, chair  
Norma Sexton, vice-chair  
Cindy Slaughter, secretary  
Katherine Boeger Knight  
David Flores  
Richard Zapata

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

I, as chair, express my thanks to the members of the Ministry Commission for their dedication and hard work this year. The Commission expresses appreciation and gratitude to the members of the Nurturing and Credentialing Committee (NACC), to Russ Matteson, District Executive Minister, Gilbert Romero, Ministry Training Coordinator, and psychologist Melissa Hofstetter, for their hard work in cooperation with the Ministry Commission to carry out the responsibilities of the Commission.

This year the Commission approved the recommendation from the NACC to license Sandra Millard, who, along with the re-licensing for 15 currently licensed ministers, brings the total number of licensed ministers this year to 16 persons. The Commission also approved the appointment of four ordained ministers to be mentors for four licensed ministers who did not have district appointed ordained mentors in their cohorts. The Ministry Commission formed an ad hoc committee to work on reviewing the specific guidance concerning responsibilities of the district appointed ordained mentors for licensed ministers. There will also be a vote to extend current licensees for 2020 and interviews of new candidates for licensing, commissioning and ordination.

A letter/email was written and sent reminding ministers of their obligations to access and undertake ongoing education and training for Continuing Education Units (5 CEUs required for the five-year period), that they must have for the next Ministerial Review in 2020. The Commission planned and coordinated this year's Pre-Conference Ministerial Workshop on the topic "Appreciating Scripture Through Different Cultural Lenses," led by Bethany Theological Seminary professor of New Testament Studies. Attendees receive 0.6 CEUs. An Ethics Training letter/email was written and sent to licensed and ordained ministers indicating this training as a requirement for the next Ministerial Review in 2020, giving three dates for the ethics training in English and one date for the ethics training in Spanish, and giving instructions for registering for one of the sessions. The

Commission voted to exempt eleven totally inactive (by virtue of failing health, etc.) ordained ministers from the CEU and Ethics Training requirements for renewal of ordination.

The Ministry Commission planned and sponsored this year's Pastors and Spouses Retreat. The leader was Daniel Topf speaking bilingually (English and Spanish) on the theme of "Seeing With New Eyes." There were 31 participants representing 15 churches. Yoga, as an activity, was replaced by birdwatching led by Jeff Strogon with all persons participating. Karen and Gary Pierson, as in years past, served as on-site retreat helpers. The retreat, as a whole, received very positive responses. The retreat for next year will be June 1-5.

Clark R. Youngblood, 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 14.

**SeBAH, EFSM, EPMC Report.** . . . . . Gilbert Romero  
See Ministry Training Coordinator report on page 14.

**NACC: Nurturing & Credentialing Committee:**  
#2022 John Price, Chair  
2019 John Katonah  
2020 Susan Boyer  
#2021 Don Shankster  
2023 Peggy Redman  
**Ex-Officio:** Ministry Commission Chair,  
District Moderator, District Board Chair,  
District Executive Minister

### NACC: Nurturing & Credentialing Committee

The NACC Committee 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 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 requirements. This is usually done during our Fall Meeting. At the March meeting we renewed one existing license and approved one new licensee. We make recommendations to the Ministry Commission



***District Board of Administration: continued***

who then review our process and recommendations and make the final decision on each case before them. It is an honor and privilege to be a part of this process as we bring new people into our district to serve as licensed

and ordained ministers among us.

John E. Price, NACC Chair

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## Stewards Commission Report

<p><b>Stewards Commission:</b></p>
Joel Price, chair
Eddie Hernandez, vice-chair
Christi Bowman, secretary
Jonas Funderburk
<u>Ex-officio</u> members: District Executive Minister, Moderator, Board Chair, Treasurer

The Stewards Commission has been busy doing the work in the district to provide support to the churches of the PSWD. We continue to offer ministry partnership funds to aid and encourage our churches to find new avenues of evangelism and growth. The PSWD has loans to six churches that return 5% interest to the PSWD.

With the CKEC sale funds and the property insurance funds from Paradise the district is managing just over nine million dollars. We continue to work at managing the annual operating 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. has performed our every other year audit review to check

all of our accounting practices and reported that we are in good order.

We continue to work through the input received from our congregations on how to use the \$1.3 million from the CKEC lot sale. We are preparing the Waterford Church parsonage for the arrival of Florecita Merlos and her family as they work towards starting a new congregation in Waterford. We are working with our new congregation in Los Banos to find a building for them to feel at home so their Ministry can continue to grow the Kingdom of God.

We appreciate the many members who commit a lot of time and effort to do the work of the Stewards Commission. We also appreciate those who give input on investments, Larry Woodruff (our Treasurer), Mary Kay Ogden, and Ferne Schechter who sign the checks, and Ralph Carlton and Darrell Stark who manage our accounts.

We as the Stewards Commission continue to strive to do the work of Jesus in the PSWD by serving our congregations so they can be the hands and feet in their communities showing the unconditional love of our Savior; 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](http://www.SuchanCPA.com)

## **INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REVIEW REPORT**

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

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of **Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren**, a nonprofit organization, which comprise the statements of financial position as of **December 31, 2018**, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the year then ended and the related notes to the financial statements. A review includes primarily applying analytical procedures to management's financial data and making inquiries of the Organization's management. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements as a whole. Accordingly we do not express such an opinion.

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

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

### **Accountant's Responsibility**

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

### **Accountant's Conclusion**

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

### **Prior Period Financial Statements**

The financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2017, were audited by us, and we expressed an unmodified opinion on them in our report thereon, dated September 13, 2018. We have not performed any auditing procedures since that date.

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

**Suchan & Associates  
An Accountancy Corporation**

**Ontario, California  
July 11, 2019**

# **Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren** **Giving to the District by Congregations, Individuals and Groups** **January 1 to December 31, 2018**

Church ID #	Name of Church	\$ General Fund	*Per Capita Giving	*2018 Membership
32-010	Bakersfield	\$250	??	Over a year old
32-021	Centro Agape en Acción (Los Banos)	\$2,709	??	Not Received
32-025	Church of the Living Savior (McFarland)	\$800	??	Over a year old
32-028	Circle of Peace (Peoria, AZ)	\$4,200	\$43.75	96
32-270	Cornerstone Community (Reedley)		??	Over a year old
32-040	Empire		\$0.00	73
32-070	Glendale	\$800	??	Over a year old
32-080	Glendora	\$700	??	Not Received
32-082	Iglesia Cristiana Elohim (Las Vegas)		??	Over a year old
32-083	Iglesia de Cristo Genesis (Los Angeles)	\$300	??	Over a year old
32-037	Iglesia de Cristo Sion (Pomona)		??	Over a year old
32-150	Imperial Heights (Los Angeles)	\$150	??	Over a year old
32-090	Laton		??	Over a year old
32-100	La Verne	\$10,000	\$19.31	518
32-120	Live Oak		??	Over a year old
32-190	Modesto	\$2,500	??	Over a year old
32-205	Papago Buttes (AZ)	\$300	\$6.38	47
32-210	Paradise Community, last meeting 11/4/2018			closing
32-220	Pasadena	\$1,000	\$62.50	16
32-250	Pomona Fellowship	\$1,750	\$33.65	52
32-290	Prince of Peace (Sacramento)	\$140	\$4.67	30
32-322	Príncipe de Paz (Santa Ana)	\$2,000	??	Over a year old
32-280	Restoration Los Angeles		??	Over a year old
32-300	San Diego First	\$1,000	\$19.23	52
32-330	South Bay (Redondo Beach)	\$2,250	??	Over a year old
32-340	Tucson, last meeting 12/30/2018			closing
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>\$30,849</b>	<b>\$34.90</b>	<b>884</b>

	District Conference Offerings (Individuals)	\$3,327
	Individual Giving	\$838
	Paradise Fire Donations	\$42,546
	Children's Disaster Services (CDS)	\$170
	School Supply Offering at District Conference	\$200
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>\$47,081</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$77,930</b>

\* The above per-capita calculation is based on the 2018 Statistical Information report due 4/15/18 listing membership on 12/31/2018.

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

§ Three Church 2018 donations were received in January 2019. They are included on this report, but not on the audited books. Please be more timely next year.

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 17-18 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: 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 2018-August 2019***

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

### ***PSWD Youth Cabinet – August 2019-August 2020***

Toshiro Gomez (South Bay), Ivan Gonzalez (Príncipe de Paz),  
Abraham Rosas (Glendale), Sharon Maldonado (Iglesia de Cristo Sion)

### ***Margaret Carl Trust Fund Advisory Committee***

*Applications for Bibles, tracts, etc. are available from the PSWD Office.*

*Administrator:* Norma Morris, Trustee (Glendora)

*Advisory Committee Members:*

2021 Larry Woodruff (La Verne)

2019 Joe Schechter (La Verne)

2020 Brenda Dickson (South Bay)

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

2019 Bob Morris (Glendora)

2020 Eric Bishop (La Verne)

2021 Karen Shankster (Papago Buttes)

2022 Becky Zapata (Príncipe de Paz)

2023 Karen Pierson (Living Savior)

*Alternates for District Executive Minister:*

2019 Bob Morris (Glendora)

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

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

### ***Congregational Vitality Task Group***

Cheryl Crane (Prince of Peace, Sacramento)

Joanne Wagoner (La Verne)

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

Richard Keeling (Bakersfield)

Julia Wheeler (La Verne)

### ***Church Planting Task Group***

Rudy Amaya (Príncipe de Paz, Santa Ana)

Robert Aguirre (Glendale)

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

Mike Fletcher (La Verne)

Dawna Welch (La Verne)



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

### **It's coming!**

The Ludwick Center for Spirituality, Cultural Understanding and Community Engagement is opening in a few weeks. The campus is abuzz with this new center which 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.

Please come to our **Dedication Ceremony:**

*Thursday, November 14, 2019*

*3:30 PM.5:00 PM*

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:

*I find that my interest in temporary or brief voluntary opportunities is waning. My view of community has shifted. I no longer see community as simply a term to describe people who live and work in the same place or have obligatory interaction with neighbors. Community is a means of enacting change. Community is a way of raising children. Community is a method of learning. I can say that this experience has altered the way I see myself and my place in the world.*

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, seven 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.

## **I need your help!**

Our Brethren students enjoy a discount of 1/5 off their first year tuition with an award of a Brethren scholarship in subsequent years. If you know of students who are interested, please send them my way. 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](mailto: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 \$6,235,309.
- 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:* Kathy Duncan, Chair; Curtis Frick, Vice Chair; Linda Saddlemire, Treasurer; Barbara Johnson, Secretary; Mary Kay Ogden, Past Chair

*Directors:* Jeff Allred, Jon Blickenstaff, Harvey Good, Dot Hess, Gilbert Ivey, Robert Johnston, Don Kurtz, Leroy Lapp, Christine Meek, Loren Newman, Kelly Niles-Yokum, 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 & Benevolent Funds and Endowments in fiscal year ending June 30, 2019: \$250,963
- As of June 30, 2019, Woods Health Services Capital Campaign has raised approximately \$4,057,455 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 \$111,000 to the Good Samaritan Fund.





# HILLCREST RECEIVES BEST PRACTICES AWARD

In May 2019, at the annual LeadingAge California conference in Monterey California, Hillcrest was honored and presented with the statewide "Best Practices/Innovation of the Year Award." This was one of only two awards presented at the 3-day conference among 400 member organizations throughout the state.



Hillcrest was selected and honored to receive this award for its purposeful strategy of being the "Gathering Place" for the surrounding community. Each year Hillcrest holds approximately 200 events (large and small) on its campus for groups in the broader community. These range from the Mayor's State of the City Luncheon and Address to City Council Candidate Forums for the public. They include Sunday School Luncheons in the dining room, Bridge Clubs, and Doctoral programs for the University of La Verne. The marvelous "Story of La Verne" exhibit and Hands-on History program that serves over 400 3rd Graders each year as part of the Gallery at Hillcrest, and many, many more.

Hillcrest has deliberately opened its doors to welcome the community and to embrace individuals, families, and groups of all shapes and sizes. We've had literally hundreds enjoy meals in our dining room and cafe, over 350 non-resident participants in our aquatic and fitness programs. Space has been reserved for numerous local organizations like the Montessori Preschool, Bonita High School sports teams, a local Clock Club, and even a Mommy and Me exercise class and dog training classes on the green grass of Hawthorne Avenue.

As the Gathering Place for its local community, Hillcrest welcomes individuals and families to experience the atmosphere, loving culture, and some of its services.

Beyond, gathering on our campus, Hillcrest reaches out to serve the broader community as well. For example, approximately 13,000 meals are prepared each year by Hillcrest and delivered to home-bound individuals in the surrounding community through a partnership with the La Verne/San Dimas Meals on Wheels program.

Through this and many other means, Hillcrest continues to strive to live out its vision to "be the Premier Destination for Vibrant Community Living."



## 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, Family Camp & Women's Retreat. We also rent the camp to groups such as family reunions when time slots are available.

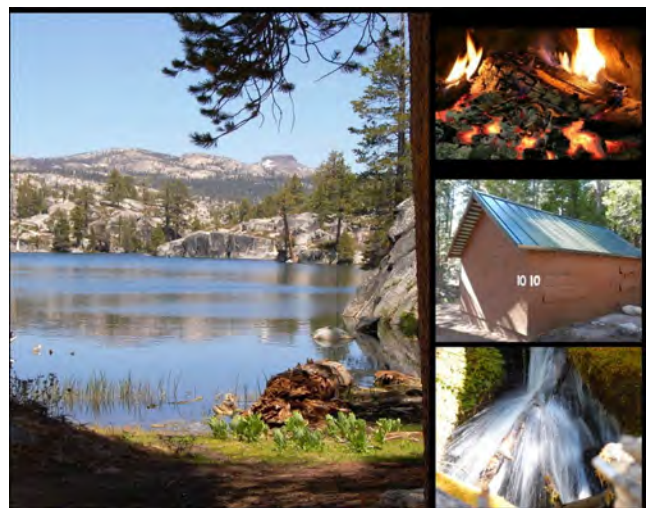


Camp Peaceful Pines is rustic and only open three months of the year due to severe weather in the winter and road closures. It is a cozy & inviting place, with a multitude of projects going on at any given time. 2014 saw the completion of the second fully accessible cabin that provides quality camping experiences to the older campers and those who are physically challenged. In 2016 tent Cabin 14 was be completely renovated. Current projects include replacement of Cabin 12, and a major make-over for the kitchen.

**S'MORES !!!**



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

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



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

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

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

Garry Pearson, 2019 Board Chair

# Camp La Verne



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

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

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

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

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

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](mailto:campmanager@camplaverne.org)

Thanks to your generosity we have completed re-roofing the Manager's House. It looks great!! 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](mailto:Camp La Verne, PO Box 355, La Verne CA 91750-0355)

For more information about the camp call: [Jeff Brehmeyer \(909\) 938-9605](tel:(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.





## CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN BENEFIT TRUST

**2019 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.**

Since last year's District Conference, our denomination has been navigating the discernment and conversation of the Compelling Vision process — a process that will hopefully clarify and unify who we are as a church.

Our BBT group took part in this as well, addressing three key questions — What does a church that is making a difference in people's lives and in the world look like? What do we need to do to become that kind of church? What can BBT do to help us become that kind of church?

Through our collective travels and engagement in the Compelling Vision process, we have heard a variety of opinions of what this process will have achieved when it is concluded, and until the Compelling Vision Process Team is able to distill direction and/or outcomes, uncertainty will continue.

But not for BBT. BBT was formed by the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference to serve members and organizations of the denomination, and others of like mind. While we acknowledge that there is dissension and disagreement within the denomination, BBT's role is to serve all congregations, employees of affiliated agencies and organizations, and other organizations that share common values and bonds.

### **Brethren Pension Plan**

Church of the Brethren Pension Plan serves more than 4,700 current and former employees of congregations, districts, camps, retirement communities, and denominational organizations.

Last year, approximately 1,780 monthly benefit payments averaged \$753, which means we paid out more than \$1.3 million to our members in total monthly benefits!

Earlier this year, Brethren Pension Plan switched to a new recordkeeper, Northwest Plan Services. We see a big advantage to working with a smaller, niche-style recordkeeping company that will be better able to manage the unique, complex structure of our Plan, as well as troubleshoot and solve problems for members, and improve their overall customer experience.

### **Church Workers' Assistance Plan**

This benevolence ministry offers grants to active and retired church workers who have severe financial need. In 2018, more than \$330,000 was given in assistance to 47 individuals, and this included helping three families save their home from foreclosure. This year we expanded the scope of the program as we started issuing grants to pastors and church workers in Puerto Rico.

### **Brethren Insurance Services**

Brethren Medical Plan completed its first year as a partially self-insured plan in 2018, a transition from a fully insured arrangement that has given us more control over plan design, premium setting, and groups that can join the plan. We are working to grow the Plan by emphasizing proactive prevention instead of reactive treatment. In 2019 we passed along a premium rate increase of no more than 1 percent. We continue to work to stabilize and grow the Plan with the hope of again providing medical insurance to our pastors at a future date. We also saw an increase this year of usage of our ancillary insurance offerings, which includes life, vision, dental, Medicare Supplement, short- and long-term disability, and long-term care.

### **Asset Management through Brethren Foundation Funds**

BFFI manages assets for congregations and denominationally related organizations with accounts 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 2018 for nearly 200 organizational clients were \$165,959,489. We would love to serve your congregation and district if we aren't already. Let's talk!

### **Charitable Gift offerings through the 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 2018 were \$4,467,815. At the end of 2018, BFI was managing assets for nearly 150 deferred gift donors.



### **Investment Oversight**

We are keenly aware that the stock market in the past year experienced wild up-and-down swings, which in turn affected our members' and clients' peace of mind. It was difficult to watch the numbers going in the wrong direction at the end of 2018, an action that is completely out of our control. What we can do, however, is maintain a strong stable of investment options that perform well both in terms of real returns and when compared with their respective benchmarks. We believe investments should be for the long term, and so we evaluate our investment managers and mutual funds over a five-year rolling time period. Providing sound investment choices to our members is one of our top mandates, and we do so by having solid investment choices with investment assistance available so that all those we serve can work toward fulfilling their financial goals.

### **Brethren Values Investing**

We have long believed that Brethren values investing not only makes sense from a conscience perspective, but that our values-based portfolio frequently outperforms portfolios that are not considered socially responsible. Wherever possible, our investments 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. We also practice advocacy through BVI with companies in which BBT owns 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. We have one such investment option that helps rebuild communities nationwide.

### **Workshops for all**

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, which 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. Feel free to pick up our workshop brochure at our booth or from a BBT staff member. We'll be glad to present a BBT workshop at your congregation upon request.

### **How BBT has served**

BBT is proactive in its advocacy to solve problems and provide solutions to those we serve. We offer quality products at competitive prices. We provide resources and information to help individuals and organizations become strong stewards of their financial resources. And, with compassion, we provide benevolent funds to help pastors and church workers who have extraordinary financial challenges.

Brethren Pension Plan began in 1943; Brethren Insurance Services in 1954. Our asset management and deferred gifts ministry began in 1990. Through the decades we have served thousands of pastors, church workers, and employees of affiliated Church of the Brethren organizations, as well as individual church members. We expect to continue our service for decades to come.

**Building Financial Security.**

**Bettering the World.**

**Together.**

That's BBT.

**Harry**

Harry Rhodes  
Chairman

**Nevin**

Nevin Dulabaum  
President

1505 Dundee Ave. • Elgin, IL 60120-1619 • [www.cobbt.org](http://www.cobbt.org)  
847-695-0200 • 800-746-1505 toll-free • 847-742-0135 fax



Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

On Earth Peace is delighted to share our 2019 report as you gather to do the work of ministry at your District Conference. **"Seeing Jesus"** is our 2019 theme and it represents a celebration of all the places we witness the work of Jesus and his ministry being carried out in the Church of the Brethren and beyond. From Oregon and Ohio to Nigeria and Palestine, we are working alongside Jesus-inspired leaders and communities for justice and peace.

Among our newest offerings is the **Congregational Peace Health Checkup** in which we invite you to reflect about the vitality of your congregation specifically focused around how Christ's teachings of peace, nonviolence, justice, and reconciliation take shape in your common life and your ministries. Through this process of reflection and discernment, we hope to strengthen the work and the connectedness of local congregations in these vital areas. Please contact Matt Guynn at [MGuynn@OnEarthPeace.org](mailto:MGuynn@OnEarthPeace.org) to learn more about how this ministry might support the work taking place in your district.

We continue to experience growth and transformation through our **On Earth Peace Internship Program** that invites 18-24 year olds, college and graduate students of all ages to gain experience working for justice and peace. While many of our interns have been affiliated with Brethren institutions of higher education, we are attracting students from other backgrounds who are drawn to our work and the peace church heritage it inspires. Contact Marie Benner-Rhoades at [MRhoades@OnEarthPeace.org](mailto:MRhoades@OnEarthPeace.org) to learn about this and other programs that are available for youth and young adults in your congregations and district.

OEP supports several Communities of Practice (CoP) that focus on specific issues of justice and peace like environmental stewardship, anti-racism, and conflict transformation within congregations and communities. Early this year, **the OEP Prison Justice Community of Practice was thrilled to support the "You Deserve Love" Project** based out of the Good Shepherd Church of the Brethren in Blacksburg, VA. Started by a four-year old who wanted to send messages of love and hope to individuals on death row, the project grew tremendously and even gathered recognition from professional media coverage, and received an overwhelming positive response from the prisoners.



Over the last year the board and staff of On Earth Peace have worked diligently to update **our values, vision, and mission statements**. Rooted in our anti-racism and anti-oppression commitments, we examined our historic and current program offerings and ministries, the local, national, and international work of our constituents and congregational partners, and the unique contributions On Earth Peace brings to the larger movement for justice and peace. The new statements are as follows:

**Values:**

- ❑ **Jesus-Centered Spirituality** - We follow Jesus into the work of justice and peace. We share in spiritual practices and develop faith resources to help undergird our programs.
- ❑ **Positive Peace** - We learn, teach, and practice dynamic forms of peacemaking which see conflict as an important tool to meet needs, address injustice, correct imbalances of power, and seek healing and reconciliation.
- ❑ **Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression** - We commit to name and undo barriers to participation in our programs based on identity, and to work for full inclusion and equity for all who wish to join in our work. We commit to the long-term transformation of On Earth Peace, the church, and society.
- ❑ **Intergenerational Leadership** - We nurture peacemakers and leaders, and honor the wisdom, skill, and experience of all generations.
- ❑ **Beloved Community** - We commit to raising the levels of relationships until justice and peace prevail, and all people attain their full human potential.

**Vision:** A world in Beloved Community, liberated from oppression, violence, and war.

**Mission:** We develop and walk with leaders and communities who work for justice and peace.

We are excited about completing this important work and look forward to living into these values, vision, and mission together with you and the congregations and members in your district. We'd love to hear about how you already see them alive in the work of your district!

We hope that your district conference is a success and we value the continued financial support of the congregations that are represented. Last year, congregational giving accounted for over one-third of total funds raised for On Earth Peace. Email [OEP@OnEarthPeace.org](mailto:OEP@OnEarthPeace.org) to learn more about congregational giving opportunities.

Peace & Blessings!



## The Bethany Community

2018-19

### Theology for a world of possibilities

Newly envisioned and revised MDiv (fall 2018) and MA (fall 2019) degrees are being offered. Focusing on process and outcomes, the new degree objectives help students gain knowledge and skills for their desired vocations. A greater variety of courses can be used to fulfill degree requirements.

Bethany's first new degree in fifty years will be offered in fall 2019: **Master of Arts: Theopoetics and Writing**. The first degree in this field at any school, it is a collaboration with the renowned Ministry of Writing program at Earlham School of Religion, and each school will offer the degree separately.

Bethany's graduate programs continue to grow with a **Certificate in Theology and Science** (fall 2018) and a **Certificate in Biblical Peacemaking** (fall 2019). The latter was developed to meet the needs of EYN students, who can take all qualifying courses online, along with North American students.

The 2019 graduating class earned three MDivs, six MAs, four Certificates of Achievement in Theological Studies, six Certificates in Theopoetics and Theological Imagination, one Certificate in Biblical Interpretation, and one Certificate in Intercultural Biblical Interpretation.

### Making the educational pathway affordable

The **Pillars and Pathways Residential Scholarship**, enabling residential students to study at Bethany without incurring additional debt, was at capacity with ten students. The program gained attention through staff presentations at national theological education events and collaboration with other seminaries also addressing student debt.

**Nine new students** and one alumnus enrolled in fall 2018 and were joined by nine more in spring 2019. The total included five international students.

### Where faith meets life, for a better world

Bethany was named to **Seminaries That Change the World** for the fourth consecutive year by the Center for Faith and Service at McCormick Theological Seminary.

**Dr. Samuel Dali** served as Bethany's second **international scholar in residence** during 2018-19, traveling to a number of churches and events to speak about the Seminary's partnership with EYN and current state of EYN in Nigeria. His wife, Dr. Rebecca Dali, often spoke with him about her own social justice work with Nigerian women.

A **new partnership with the Richmond Symphony Orchestra** launched The Recital Series, bringing RSO members and guest musicians to Bethany's Nicarry Chapel for several public performances during the year.

After twenty-five years, the **Bethany Center received an upgrade** with renovations to the lobby and Gathering Room, new technology, and new carpet and paint throughout.

## BETHANY'S MISSION

Bethany will uphold its mission by embracing and articulating its Anabaptist-Pietist identity and reaching both within and beyond the church to serve a broader, more diverse constituency. Hallmarks of a Bethany education will be

- an interdisciplinary approach to learning;
- integration of theory and practice;
- increasingly diverse programs of study.

## Partners in Education

In 2018-19, the **Pacific Southwest District**

- had 3 students in Bethany graduate programs and 12 students in the Brethren Academy;
- contributed \$22,935.00 as of 06/30/2019.

**You can also support Bethany Seminary by**

- remembering Bethany with prayer and personal and congregational support;
- calling persons of all ages into ministry;
- encouraging those in other professions to take advantage of Bethany's course and certificate options;
- envisioning new forms of ministry for Bethany graduates, such as mentoring lay leaders, supervising Academy students, or coaching pastors new to the Church of the Brethren.





## Church of the Brethren

Fall 2019

Warm Greetings To The Sisters and Brothers of the District Conferences,

It is a joy to sense our partnership, together, in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ!

We live in a season of great need for 'another way of living' in Jesus. Sin, both personal and systemic, ravages human life, resulting in division and despair. Thus, it's easy to give up. Yet, as recent Annual Conference themes remind us, we are called to carry the light -- risk hope -- be living parables -- proclaim Christ, reclaim passion -- nevertheless.

As we anticipate our 2020 Annual Conference, we envision "God's Adventurous Future," claiming that outcome as our conference theme. For God, in Christ, moves us forward through our despondency towards a future marked by redemption, healing, and vision. Thus, John's outlook in Revelation is clear and confident:

"I saw Heaven and earth new-created...I heard a voice thunder... "Look! Look! God has moved into the neighborhood... He'll wipe every tear from their eyes...Look! I'm making everything new. Write it all down—each word dependable and accurate." (Revelation 21:1-5, The Message)

New Creation. Dependable. Accurate. That's our future, in Christ Jesus.

Today, we live in the tension between the already and the not yet. Thus, division and despair rattle and threaten. But we live with eager expectation -- nevertheless -- for God in Christ advances a future of promising reality, making everything new.

As we affirm a Compelling Vision for the Church of the Brethren at the 2020 Annual Conference, it's crucial that we focus on God's New Creation promise in Jesus, for wallowing in division and despair has no future. Only as we adventure with Christ, stretching toward Christ's promise of redemption, healing, and vision, do we flourish, knowing God's abundant life.

So, join me July 1-5, 2020 in Grand Rapids for the 234<sup>th</sup> recorded Annual Conference, eager and expectant of "God's Adventurous Future"!

In Christ,

Paul Munday  
2020 Moderator, Church of the Brethren

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

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



## Church of the Brethren

District Conference 2019

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Greetings to you in the name our Lord, Jesus Christ! It is an honor and privilege to write to you on behalf of the employees, volunteers, and Mission and Ministry Board of the Church of the Brethren. We are praying for you, your congregations, and your district as you gather to worship, sing praises, pray, and accomplish the tasks set before you by your District Moderator.

It has been a year of anticipation for our beloved denomination as many have gathered in district settings to participate in the Compelling Vision conversation. I had the privilege of leading some of the district conversations, where I was encouraged by a hopeful spirit and a commitment to our common ministries in the Church of the Brethren. At this writing, I eagerly anticipate the continuation of the conversation this summer at Annual Conference, which will have already taken place by the time you gather for your district conference.

It is in those and other settings that I hear common themes emerging: themes of service, peace, community, mission, and discipleship, which are central to the ministry and mission of the Church of the Brethren. From preparing for events and conferences, to revitalizing congregations and equipping and supporting church planters, to outreach in established and emerging mission fields, to ongoing support of our ministerial leadership, to children's services and rebuilding efforts following disasters, we are partners on the journey as radical, compassionate disciples of Jesus Christ.

As I continue to listen to the voice of the church in my travels and through correspondence and phone calls, I can still hear a voice of hope – hope that as we discern a compelling vision for the Church of the Brethren, we continue to be called together to acts of justice, kindness, and humility toward those within our own denomination and throughout the world. I share that hope, and I pray that it is Christ's vision and not our own that emerges and guides the ministries of our congregations, districts, and denomination for years to come.

I am deeply grateful for the many ways your district and each congregation continue to faithfully live out the Gospel. The varied ministries of our congregations, both small and large, play an essential role in our common ministry together. And district ministries, from camping programs to disaster response to retirement communities, provide opportunities for faith formation, service, fellowship, and leadership development.

Together, we are the Church of the Brethren, serving the world in Jesus' name.

Your servant in Christ,

David Steele  
General Secretary

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

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





## Church of the Brethren

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In these disaster and crisis filled years, Paul's letter to the Galatians has given us strength and reminded us to "not become weary in doing good". Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) and Children's Disaster Services (CDS) were focused on relief and recovery from the major hurricanes of 2016 and 2017, when Hurricanes Florence and Michael, wildfires and new waves of violence severely stretched program staff, volunteers and program resources. The rapid growth of the Camp Fire in northern California burned most of the town of Paradise, including the Paradise COB, resulting in a response by CDS as well as joint programming with the Pacific Southwest district.

The BDM rebuilding network was repairing and rebuilding homes damaged by Hurricane Matthew (2016), when Hurricane Florence hit the same areas of North and South Carolina in September 2018. After a brief closure during the storm, BDM volunteer teams expanded the project to help clean up and muck out re-flooded homes. One homeowner shared, "I am a resident and I give you all my heartfelt thanks. Thank you for not giving up on twice flooded Nichols, S.C."

The rebuilding of homes in Puerto Rico (Hurricane Maria), in partnership with the Puerto Rico district, started in September with volunteers based at the Castañer Iglesia de Los Hermanos (Castañer COB). The rebuilding project is serving the three mountain churches and will also rebuild homes on the northern coast of PR in 2019. This program is building on earlier relief work included the distribution of supplies, food and tools and the creation of a recovery committee by the PR district. The materials used to repair the homes are being supplied by a FEMA program called Voluntary Agencies Leading and Organizing Repair (VALOR) and COB Emergency Disaster Funds.

Rebuilding volunteers also worked in Eureka, Mo., through March 2018, providing recovery from floods in 2015 and 2017. The total from all rebuild projects in 2018 shows that more than 80 families received repair or rebuilding support in North and South Carolina, Puerto Rico, and Missouri, as well as in short-term responses in the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI). This work was extended by the Disaster Recovery Support Initiative (DRSI), a BDM partnership with other denominations that worked in St. Thomas, USVI, through August 2018. This effort provided training, technical assistance and support to the St. Thomas Recovery Team as it developed its long-term hurricane recovery program.

Children's Disaster Services volunteers responded with enthusiasm and compassion to care for affected children in diverse and challenging disasters ranging from Hawaii's earthquake and volcano eruption, to the shooting at a synagogue in Pittsburg, Pa., the Camp Fire in California and the devastation of Hurricanes Florence (North Carolina) and Michael (Florida). CDS also provided specialized care for refugee children in McAllen, Texas after they were released by immigration authorities. In total, volunteers cared for 6,799 children in 11 different responses.

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

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



Lisa Crouch was named the new CDS associate director in August, after Kathy Fry-Miller's retirement.

The Nigeria Crisis Response remains the largest BDM international response in 2018, and in BDM history. Working in partnership with Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN) and the European organization Mission 21, BDM is helping lead and support a major response that also involves four other nonprofit partners. This extensive program includes four camps for Internally Displaced Persons, food distributions, medical assistance, seeds and fertilizer for self-reliance, new drinking water wells, education assistance for orphan children, livelihood training centers for widows and orphans, trauma workshops, training of one-on-one counselors, a peace conference with Christians and Muslims, home repairs for the most vulnerable and continued development of a long-term soybean program for farmers. This relief occurs amidst the continued killing of farmers, kidnappings, food shortages and malnutrition. Even with these challenges, EYN has planted many new churches where families have been relocated.

Other 2018 international responses include Hurricane Matthew recovery in Haiti, with the Haitian COB completing the construction of 10 new homes in a small remote community outside Les Cayes. BDM is supporting a smaller response to an October 5.9 magnitude earthquake that struck far northwest Haiti, damaging Brethren homes and a Brethren school. Another sister church response was support for recovery from spring flooding in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Grants to Church World Service (CWS) supported Venezuelans fleeing the humanitarian crisis; a relief and recovery program in Indonesia after an earthquake and tsunami; and survivors of flooding in Kenya. A shipment of canned meat and supplies and a grant supported flood recovery work in southern Honduras through partner Proyecto Aldea Global. A grant of \$40,000 provided psycho-social support for Syrian refugee children in church-based educational programs through partner Lebanese Society for Education and Social Development.

The total 2018 program expenditures were \$730,022 for U.S. responses, including the Rebuild Program and CDS; \$548,662 for the Nigeria Crisis Response; and \$237,297 for all other international responses.

This ministry is only possible because the whole church is working together. Individual members and supporters, volunteers, churches and districts are part of the body of Christ coming together to pray, serve, give hope and help families heal. Through all this we pray more people come to God and know God's amazing love.

Thank you for your support. You are part of the body bearing witness to God's love for all who are lost and need Christ.



Roy Winter, Associate Executive Director

On behalf of BDM staff – Sherry Chastain, Lisa Crouch, Jenn Dorsch-Messler, Sharon Franzén and Terry Goodger

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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 2018 with 34 volunteers...**

- who served in seven countries: Bosnia-Herzegovina, El Salvador, Nigeria, Republic of Ireland, Japan, Northern Ireland, and the United States.
- placed in 17 U.S. states and Washington, D.C.



*Unit 319, Summer 2018: Volunteers take a group photo in front of the gazebo at Camp Colorado before a work day in the community.*

### **In 2018:**

- BVS hosted three orientation units: one at Camp Colorado in Sedalia, Colo., one at Camp Swatara in Bethel, Pa., and one at Camp Pine Lake in Eldora, Iowa.
- 79 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 2019 award goes to the Asian Rural Institute (ARI) in Tochii-ken, Japan.

ARI is an agricultural school that teaches rural community members from Africa, Asia, and the South Pacific how to sustain a living through organic farming and servant leadership. The main mission of ARI is to "build an environmentally healthy, just, and peaceful world, in which each person can live to his or her fullest potential. This mission is rooted in the love of Jesus Christ." In order to do this effectively rural leaders from around the world are invited to participate in a nine month training program where they learn agricultural knowledge and servant leadership. "Through community-based learning they study the best ways for rural people to share and enhance local resources and abilities for the common good." The goal is for these leaders to return home with ideas about how to improve and work alongside their communities. Since 2011, five BVSers have volunteered at ARI working in multiple areas that include, but are not limited to, livestock, cooking, farming, ecumenical relations, and admissions.

The Partners in Service Award will be presented to ARI, July 4, 2019, at the Annual Conference Brethren Volunteer Service Luncheon in Greensboro, N. C.

Photos courtesy of ARI & Mike Shimizu







## The End of an Era: Dan McFadden Resigns as Director of BVS

On November 2, 2018, Dan McFadden concluded his time as director of Brethren Volunteer Service. He began his work out of the Church of the Brethren General Offices in Elgin, Ill., on December 1, 1995, where he worked for nearly 23 years. During his tenure, he spent countless hours supporting more than 1,200 volunteers as they served in BVS.

Dan was a member of Unit 152 in 1981 with 33 other volunteers. He and another volunteer worked with Salvadoran refugees fleeing from war to Honduras. He remembers that they were sent for all practical purposes to a war zone knowing basic Spanish. Despite it being a difficult project, Dan says, "I wouldn't trade it for a different experience." Thus began Dan's love of and commitment to BVS.

Not only was Dan's life impacted by BVS, but also were the lives of his entire family. He met his wife in BVS, and all three of their children have served or are currently serving in BVS.

Dan's impact on BVS and the volunteers he supported is immeasurable. He is remembered by many as someone who would always lend a listening ear and approached people with a non-judgmental heart. Dan also never stopped recruiting for BVS. There is still hope that someone Dan sat next to on an airplane will show up at an orientation some day.

In his next chapter, Dan is continuing his work with people as he returns to the social work field with a private counseling practice.

Emily Tyler has been called to fill the role of director after nearly seven years of coordinating the workcamp ministry and recruitment for BVS. She began her new role on February 4, 2019.



*Dan trust falling at an orientation, Dan enjoying time with volunteers, and Unit #152*

## New Project Spotlight: Good Samaritan Services, Ephrata, Pa.

Good Samaritan Services in Ephrata, Pa. is one of the newest BVS projects, joining the list of over 60 other projects in 2018, and already has two BVS volunteers currently serving with them.

Good Samaritan Services' vision is to play a leading role in the community by preventing and ending homelessness. GSS provides emergency shelter, transitional housing, and permanent housing. It also gives immediate help to people who are experiencing homelessness, and helps those at risk of becoming homeless by providing stability, restoring their hope, and transforming lives. BVSers at GSS work alongside community volunteers to organize donations, provide childcare, and work in the office.

BVS is honored to be partnering with GSS to provide a safe space to the guests in their time of transition. Our volunteers working alongside the community in a space that is faith-centered and committed to leaving a lasting impact through partnership, generosity, stewardship, and gratitude.



*Photos courtesy of Judith Blak and Julia Bumbauer*



*BVSers at Good Samaritan Services*

## Workcamp Update

Lauren Flora and Marissa Witkovsky-Eldred are serving as the assistant workcamp coordinators in the BVS office. The 2019 theme is "grow."



*Wendy McFadden*



Brethren Volunteer Service  
1451 Dundee Ave.  
Elgin, IL 60120  
brethrenvolunteerservice.org  
bvs@brethren.org  
847-429-4384



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

**November 10, 2018**

**Hillcrest, La Verne, California**

**I. Call to Order**

- The 2018 Pacific Southwest District Conference was called to order by Moderator Karen B. Pierson at 8:40 a.m.
- District Executive Minister Russ Matteson shared information about the Camp Fire in Northern California; in the first 10 hours it was blown into Paradise, California. Pastor Melvin Campbell has relocated to Chico; the fire destroyed the church and parsonage. Being aware of the loss and pain in our body we offered prayers.
- A prayer was offered for the delegates and our meeting.

**II. Verification of Quorum**

The clerk verified that we have 77 delegates in attendance representing 21 of our 25 congregations to confirm that we have a quorum and can conduct the business of the Pacific Southwest District at this 55th District Conference.

**III. Delegate Dedication**

Moderator Karen introduced a reflection activity. A short film in which Don Davis shared his story was followed by a time of sharing personal stories of when God has used us for His purpose without our knowing. The Delegates' Dedication Litany was recited, from page 7 of the 2018 Business Book.

**IV. Introductions**

Moderator Karen introduced Bob Morris, Moderator-Elect; Nelda Rhoades Clarke, Board Chair; Sara Davis, Substitute Clerk; Norma Morris, Time Keeper; Eric Bishop, Parliamentarian; Russ Matteson, District Executive Minister.

**V. Approval of Agenda**

**Page 3 of the 2018 Business Book, accepted as published.**

**VI. Approval of Minutes**

- A. **The minutes of the 2017 meeting, page 46 - 49 of the 2018 Business Book, as reviewed and found to be accurate were moved to acceptance by Eddie Hernandez of Modesto, seconded by Linda Lovelace of Pomona Fellowship; passed.**
- B. The following persons volunteered to certify the accuracy of the 2018 Minutes: Phil Corr (Church of the Living Savior, McFarland), Richard Hart (Pomona Fellowship), Lois Frantz (Empire).

**VII. Business Item: Election of Leadership, from page 51 of the 2018 Business Book.**

- A. The Moderator asked for nominations from the floor. There were none.
- B. **Sara Haldeman-Scarr, San Diego, moved that the delegates accept the ballot as a slate M/S/C.**
- C. **The motion to move the ballot was M/S/C.**
- D. The following persons were elected to the PSWD 2019 positions:
  - 1. Moderator-Elect: Mary Kay Ogden, La Verne
  - 2. Clerk: Karen Cosner, Modesto
  - 3. Nominating Committee: Susan Price, Empire

4. Program Committee, District Conference:
  - a. Robert Aguirre, Glendora
  - b. Karleen Daniels, Modesto
5. District Board of Administration:
  - a. Mario Cabrera, Principe de Paz, Youth & Young Adult Representative
  - b. Olivia Celedon, Bakersfield, Youth & Young Adult Representative
  - c. Elizabeth Piazza, Live Oak, Youth & Young Adult Representative
  - d. Christi Bowman, Church of the Living Savior, At-Large Representative
  - e. Jamie Farrar, Modesto, At-Large Representative
  - f. Jonas Funderburk, Glendale, At-Large Representative
  - g. Nelda Clarke, Tucson, Arizona Representative
  - h. Richard Keeling, Bakersfield, Central CA Representative

### **VIII. Introduction of Guests and recognition of Ordination Anniversaries**

- A. Russ Matteson introduced Pastor Luz Roman and her husband Orlando Roman. Luz is our church planting pastor at the Nevada church Iglesia Cristiana Elohim; the church plant was recognized in January, Luz was licensed in June and will begin training next year. PSWD was able to support the congregation with a van and other equipment. Additional support is coming from our church planting commission. Luz addressed the delegates in Spanish with Orlando translating. She shared her story of her call to ministry: Luz had offered to clean a church in Boston when she first came to the US where she became a leader for the Spanish speaking congregation. When the minister departed he asked her to assume responsibility for the church. She, herself, was then called to Las Vegas where she reached out to people she knows in the COB for support and affiliation. The COB relationship led to our support of the church planting in Las Vegas. Bob Morris offered a prayer of blessing in both Spanish and English.
- B. Following a break, the delegates were welcomed by Shirley Turner, Hillcrest.
- C. Prayer was offered for Thousand Oaks dealing with an active fire.
- D. Carl Beckwith, SERRV, shared the story of COB in the early 40's working with the Sales Exchange for Refugee Relocation. SERRV has a shop at Hillcrest during our conference.
- E. Brother Russ made further introductions and welcomed guests:
  - David Steele, General Secretary
  - Josh Brockway, Director, Spiritual Life and Discipleship
  - Thomas Dowdy, Mission and Ministry Board
  - Steve Mason, Director of Brethren Foundation
  - Kesla Klinger, Bethany Theological Seminary Admissions
  - Eric Bishop, Bethany Board
  - Iris Oseguera, translator simultaneous
  - Alan McLearn-Montz, new Bakersfield pastor
  - Annali Topf, interim pastor Glendale, member of Pasadena
  - Lauren Seganos Cohen, incoming Pastor Pomona Fellowship
- F. Ordination anniversaries were recognized by Ministry Commission Chair Tom Hostetler (La Verne), see page 14 of the 2018 Business Book. Ministers came forward for a presentation of a certificate of service. Brother Tom led us in prayer.

### **IX. Reports From Annual Conference Agencies** (See pages 34-45 of the 2018 Business Book)

- A. David Steele, General Secretary, shared the ministry report from four agencies along with a video report about the Church of the Brethren, Bethany, Brethren Benefit Trust and On Earth Peace. The video shared our vision for a global church, and described us as a community of believers coming together to work to embody Christ. Bethany highlighted their practical engagement of hearts and hands. BBT financial services is rooted in Brethren values. OEP provides training and support in conflict resolution, transformation, non-violence, Christian peacemaking.

- B. Brethren Inc.: Brother David also shared that the Mission and Ministry Board is working to refresh the website and is in prayer with the Paradise community where Disaster Ministries is available to help. He shared that Dan McFadden of BVS resigned following almost 23 years of service. The Board is actively working to fill his position and would appreciate applicants. He noted the Discipleship Ministries, Christian Citizenship Seminar, National Older Adult's Conference, Mission work in Nigeria and other efforts being made by the Board and staff.
- C. Bethany Theological Seminary: Kesla Klinger brought greetings from Jeff Carter, President of Bethany. Sister Kesla shared that she grew up in the COB in Indiana and participated in the Indiana Boys and Girls club. She informed us that Bethany Chapel services are shared on YouTube.

**X. Business Item: Action to Disorganize the New Harvest Lindsay Church of the Brethren**  
(See page 60 of the 2018 Business Book)

- A. Sister Dot Hess rose to introduce this action item from the Policy Board. Sara Haldeman-Scarr, San Diego, asked a question answered by Russ Matteson, as a matter of polity churches, are "organized" and, so, they are not closed but "disorganized."
- B. **The motion to Disorganize the New Harvest Lindsay Church of the Brethren did not need a second and passed unanimously.**
- C. Brother Russ, lead the group in a prayer of appreciation for the Lindsay Congregation. The congregation had maintained an olive orchard since it's founding and donated the proceeds to the mission work of the denomination. The congregation, organized for 107 years, has a deep and rich legacy.

**XI. Business Item: Amendment to PSWD Constitution** (See page 60 of the 2018 Business Book)

- A. **By Policy Board recommendation, formally add Nevada in the PSWD. No discussion; all in favor, none opposed.**

**PSWD Constitution**

**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.

**XII. Ministry Commission Report**: Chair Tom Hostetler (See pages 22-23 of the 2018 Business Book)

- A. Mercedes Zapata, Príncipe de Paz, was Ordained!
- B. Brother Tom said that there continues to be many persons interested in ministry; more than a dozen have expressed interest in licensing.
- C. Brother Tom recognized Gilbert Romero, Russ Matteson and Joe Vecchio for their support of the Ministry Commission and the district. The delegates responded with a standing ovation.

**XIII. Stewards Commission Report**: Chair Joel Price (See pages 23-26 of the 2018 Business Book)

- A. Brother Joel reviewed the financial report on page 23-26 of the 2018 Business Book, highlighting the need to find a church meeting location in Las Vegas and Los Banos, as well as holding onto the church in Waterford. The financial report received a "presents fairly" audit opinion. There were no questions.

1 **XIV. Business Item: Policy Board Budget Recommendations**

2 A. The 2019 Operating Budget and the 2019 Church Planting Support Budget was presented, see  
3 Exhibit C, on pages 56 - 59 of the 2018 Business Book. The anticipated deficit is in line with  
4 2016 goals. The Church planting budget supports the objectives of the Policy Board. Discussion  
5 followed. Linda Davis, Church of the Living Savior (McFarland), commended the hard work  
6 of the Board and Commission to be sustainable, “the Board did a little more stewardship rather  
7 than just claiming that promise” that God will provide.

8 **The Policy Board recommends to the District Conference the adoption of the 2019**  
9 **Operating Budget and the 2019 Church Planting Support Budget as presented. Passed by**  
10 **voice vote.**

11 B. The 2020 Policy Board Recommendation regarding expense maximum, on page 57 of the 2018  
12 Business Book. The action proposes to raise the expense maximum by \$4,000 over 2019 to  
13 \$450,000. Pastor Phil Corr, McFarland, questioned the limit in the case of an emergency.  
14 Brother Russ answered that if conditions changed, the board could come to District Conference  
15 with a proposal.

16 **The Policy Board recommends to the District Conference that the expense maximum**  
17 **for the 2020 Operating Budget be \$450,000. Passed by unanimous voice vote.**

18 **XV. Program Committee Report:** See page 17 of the 2018 Business Book, Sister Karen made an appeal  
19 for evaluations and reminded delegates that next year we will be in Arizona.

20 **XVI. Standing Committee Report** (See page 16 of the 2018 Business Book)

21 Representative, Don Shankster, Papago Buttes, is the PSWD Standing Committee delegate. The  
22 current focus on vision and process attempts to get away from the divisions in the church. The  
23 Denomination has not accepted the PSWD unity statement, not recognizing how it might help them.  
24 Division brings problems to our denomination. There are eight churches in Michigan that want to  
25 form a District based on ideology, not geography. This group sent a delegate to Standing Committee  
26 to be “recognized.” The delegate was present for all meetings. Recognition was not given, however,  
27 “we have no way to recognize districts based on ideology, only geography.” The Officers instructed  
28 the Michigan group that they would need to put forth a query to allow ideological districts.

29 Brother Don explained that Standing Committee has time to talk amongst themselves and that  
30 the smaller group allows the church to bridge differences and unify. Next year we go to Greensboro  
31 N. Carolina, “a one building operation.” Next year the work on a compelling vision will be a big part  
32 of AC, no new business. 2020 will be in Grand Rapids.

33 Standing Committee also forms the Nominating Committee for denominational leadership  
34 elected by the Annual Conference. Brother Don is on the Nominating Committee. He made an  
35 appeal for nominations. OEP, Bethany BBT boards, need people. You cannot nominate yourself.

36 Pastor Phil Corr, Church of the Living Savior (McFarland), from the floor, asked for further  
37 elucidation of the Michigan split. General Secretary, David Steele attempted to address the question.  
38 He doesn’t know. We haven’t heard much from them. They are serviced by a temporary part time  
39 District Executive.

40 Sister Linda Williams, San Diego, asked a follow up question: Has anyone suggested the  
41 Ministry of Reconciliation process for them. Brother David will pass that on to their DE.

42 Brother Oren Scala, San Diego, asked for clarity on the Unity Statement comment? Brother  
43 Don said, “It hasn’t ever been introduced to the Denomination.” It was approved by this District but  
44 not the Denomination.

1 **XVII. District Executive Minister Report:** (See pages 11-15 of the 2018 Business Book)

2 Brother Russ offered words of encouragement for all our churches and his prayers for us and our  
3 focus on Jesus. He is thankful for the pastors that serve our churches. In addition to the passing of  
4 Bob Keim, having served 70 yrs in ordained ministry, and Randy Short who died after a year at the  
5 Glendale Church, Ralph Click and Marlin Heckman passed away this year. Pastor Margie Berumen,  
6 Los Banos, came through cancer surgery well but was not able to be at our District Conference. Russ  
7 shared that 75% of pastors in our denomination are part time or bi-vocational, and how we do a  
8 better job supporting these pastors is a key question. Church of the Brethren has received a  
9 Lilly Foundation grant of 1 million dollars to work on how to support a “Part time pastor with a full  
10 time church.”

11 **Table Conversation:** Moderator Karen B. Pierson

12 The Moderator shared a statement describing her experience being Moderator. The Moderator then  
13 invited the delegates to share with each other for 20 minutes about their experience here at district  
14 conference.

15 **XVIII. Passing the Gavel**

16 Sister Karen passed the gavel to moderator elect Brother Bob Morris who expressed his appreciation  
17 for the call and for Karen’s service. The delegates expressed their appreciating with a standing  
18 ovation.

19 **XIX. Announcements**

20 Sister Mary Kay announced that worship at 7 p.m. would be in this room, we should pay no attention  
21 to the camp fire and chairs set up for story-telling outside. After worship this evening, the center  
22 pieces are available to take home. All were invited to the 9:30 a.m. worship at La Verne Church the  
23 next day.

24 **XX. Adjournment**

25 The meeting was adjourned at 5:09 p.m.

26 \_\_\_\_\_  
27 Minutes recorded by Sara Davis, substitute clerk

28 \_\_\_\_\_

29 In May 2019 the draft copy of the minutes was examined and given preliminary approval by the committee:  
30 Phil Corr (Church of the Living Savior, McFarland), Richard Hart (Pomona Fellowship), Lois Frantz  
31 (Empire).

# Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren

## November 2019 – November 2020 Ballot

Candidates are listed alphabetically by last name.

NC=Northern California, CC=Central California, SW=Southern CA West, SE=Nevada & 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

	Al Clark, La Verne - SE

### Nominating Committee

Vote for 1 Three year term

	Lillian Hopson, Imperial Heights - SW

### Program Committee, District Conference

Vote for 1 Three year term

	Karen Pierson, Church of the Living Savior - CC

### District Board of Administration

#### Youth & Young Adult Representatives

Vote for 2 One year term

	Mario Cabrera, Príncipe de Paz - SE (incumbent)
	Hannah Nelson, La Verne - SE

### S.Calif. East / Nevada Representative

Vote for 1 Three year term

	Dot Hess, La Verne - SE (incumbent)

### District Board of Administration

#### At-Large Representatives

Vote for 5 Three year term

	Erik Brummett, Live Oak - NC
	Cheryl Crane, Prince of Peace - NC (incumbent)
	Eddie Hernandez, Modesto - NC (incumbent)
	Jeremiah Irizarry, Empire - NC
	Richard Zapata, Príncipe de Paz - SE (currently filling an unexpired term)

### Brethren Hillcrest Homes Board Nominees

Vote for 0 Three year term

	Nominees not requested in 2019

### Camp La Verne Trustee Nominees

Vote for 0 Three year term

	Nominees not requested in 2019

### 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 2019 - 2020 Ballot**

Candidates are listed by office, alphabetically by last name.

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

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



**Al Clark:**

*Age:* 71

*Congregation:* La Verne  
CoB

*Vocation:* University  
Professor of Humanities

*Church Experience:* In  
the past decade I was

LVCOB Church Board Chair for five years, and I served on the Peace & Justice Commission and on the Personnel Commission. I have taught adult Sunday School for over two decades, and I volunteer at the Children's Summer Peace Camp. I also volunteer once a month in the nursery during church and once a month recording service with a digital camera. Some twenty years ago, I served as church

moderator. As a historian by profession, I also conduct architectural tours of the LVCOB sanctuary, and I continue to record oral history interviews of congregational members.

*Vision Statement:* The Church of the Brethren seeks to continue the work of Jesus peacefully, simply, together, but neither our denomination nor even our district seem to be working as closely together as they might. I would like to see the PSWD become a model of togetherness within our many differences not only for the denomination but also for our nation and world. I would like us to seek community by finding commonality through the sharing of differences as well as similarities, perhaps starting with the sharing of some congregational oral histories.

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**Nominating Committee** (vote for 1): The three year term begins immediately. Members may not serve successive terms. Nominating Committee presents to the District Conference a ballot for each vacancy.



**Lillian Hopson:**

*Congregation:* Imperial  
Heights CoB

*Vocation:* I am a retired accountant. I volunteer for many civic and community organizations. Currently I serve as an elected officer

on three of the organization's boards.

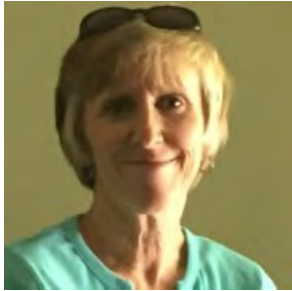
*Church Experience:* I serve as deacon, usher, past church board chair and past member of PSW District Board.

*Vision Statement:* My vision is to witness God's love as we serve one another in love, treating others with respect. Loving God, loving each other.



## Ballot Background Information, Exhibit B

**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.



**Karen Pierson:**

*Age:* 62

*Congregation:* Church of the Living Savior

*Vocation:* Substitute teacher

*Church Experience:* I grew up in the Glendora CoB. Have been an active member in McFarland since 1980. Have served on the PSWD Board for many years. Served as Moderator of PSWD in 2018.

*Vision Statement:* My vision: that as we serve, others would see Jesus.

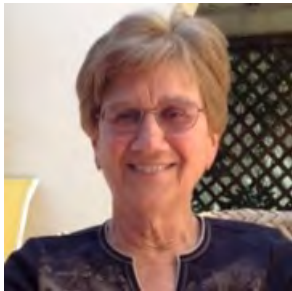
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**PSWD Board of Administration:** The term begins immediately. The purpose of the Board is to manage and administer the religious and business activities of the District, as authorized by the District Conference.

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

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



**Dot Hess:** *incumbent*

*Congregation:* La Verne CoB

*Vocation:* Retired

*Church Experience:* I have served on various commissions and sing in the Church choir. I currently

serve as Vice Chair of the PSWD Executive Board.

*Vision Statement:* I have enjoyed serving on the district board because it gives me an in to who and what our church really is. I'm excited about the future of our denomination and the future of our district. I see a New (kind of) Church ahead of us and I'm very excited.

## Ballot Background Information, Exhibit B

### PSWD Board of Administration: At-Large Representatives..... Vote for 5 (three year term)

Board members must be a member of a Church of the Brethren congregation within the district for at least one year prior to election and must have demonstrated leadership ability.



**Erik Brummett:**

*Age: 33*

*Congregation: Live Oak CoB*

*Vocation: Pastor*

*Church Experience:*

I currently serve Live Oak Church of the Brethren as pastor. In addition to all the normal duties and responsibilities of a pastor, I have become involved with two local ministries. For the last two years, I been involved in leading worship services for residents at River Valley Care Center, a local nursing home. I and 4 members from Live Oak COB lead hymns, prayers, share a message, and converse with the residents that attend. I have also been involved with a local mobile food bank, where instead of people coming to us for food, we took the food to the people. Because of the nature of the shared space between the Live Oak congregation and the Live Oak Child Development Center, I often find myself interacting with the children enrolled in the program.

*Vision Statement:* To see the church being the church. To see the church seeking to love neighbor, stranger, and enemy. To see the church seeking to live and practice peace. To see the church seeking to glorify God, follow Jesus Christ, and live in the presence of the Holy Spirit. To see the church seeking to offer a place for all people. To see the church actively, sincerely, openly seeking to be the church, the people, the community God has called it to be.

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**Cheryl Crane: incumbent**

*Age: 23*

*Congregation: Prince of Peace*

*Vocation: Elementary School Teacher*

*Church Experience:*

I have served my local church as a deacon, worship leader, children's programs leader, board chair. I have previously served in PSWD on the Policy Board.

*Vision Statement:* I continually seek God's wisdom and his plan for my service to Him. As a member of PSWD policy board, I will seek ways to make churches stronger in order for them to continue to serve God. The churches in PSWD also work together to serve God in bigger and better ways than a single church.

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**Edward A Hernandez:**

*incumbent Age: 74*

*Congregation: Modesto CoB*

*Vocation: Retired from retail management*

*Church Experience:*

I have been an active member of the Modesto CoB, serve on Worship and Spiritual Life commission (3 years) and I am an active Deacon for the last 4 years. Also have served as a district member for the last 3 years.

*Vision Statement:* I seek to be an active member, working toward the spiritual growth of our church, along with helping our congregation grow in number. I also seek to help build the unity peace among the Church of the Brethren.

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## Ballot Background Information, Exhibit B



**Jeremiah Irizarry:**

*Age: 39*

*Congregation: Empire CoB*

*Vocation: Information Technology*

*Church Experience: Waterford CoB: IT:*

Webmaster; Sound Technician; Board Member; Outreach Commission Chair, Financial Secretary; Newsletter Editor; Sunday Worship Counter; Backup Office Assistant. — Empire CoB: IT: Webmaster; Board Member; Worship Commission; Mariners Co-President. — Brethren Volunteer Service: Information Services Tech Support BVSer, Church of the Brethren (Brethren Service Center)

*Vision Statement:* My vision is to grow in God's love through acts of service and ministry.

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**Richard Zapata:** *currently filling an unexpired term*

*Age: 55*

*Congregation: Príncipe de Paz CoB*

*Vocation: Bi-vocational Pastor, Motivator, Evangelist, son, husband, father and grandpa.*

*Church Experience:* Currently a member of the Ministry Commission of the PSWD, SeBAH student, previous member of the PSWD Executive Board.

*Vision Statement:* To bring more people closer to Jesus by means of the Anabaptist tradition.

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## PSWD Board of Administration: Youth & Young Adult Representative. Vote for 2 (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:** *incumbent*

*Age: 19*

*Congregation: Príncipe de Paz CoB*

*Vocation: Second Year College Student.*

*Church Experience:*

What I have done for God in my church has consisted of being in the media ministry for 6 years and serving in our district for 3 years. In our district, I have been a part of the district youth cabinet for 3 years and also part of the district board. I have just started serving in the Young Adult Steering Committee helping organize National Young Adult Conference.

*Vision Statement:* We need strong leaders, strong relationships, strong communities to keep the brethren youth strong and willing to participate in the things that matter. I would like to be a voice and advocate for the youth of the district. We should not be afraid of letting our voices be heard to change the world that we live in.

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**Hannah Nelson:**

*Age: 17*

*Congregation: La Verne CoB*

*Vocation: Student*

*Church Experience:*

I have attended the La Verne Church of the Brethren my entire life. I attend youth events at the church and have been to National Youth Conference and Christian Citizenship Seminar in the last few years. I have also been involved with Camp La Verne.

*Vision Statement:* I want to help introduce the voice of the youth to the church and to become more involved with youth programs.

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## Pacific Southwest District 2020 Operating Budget and Church Planting Support Budget, and 2021 Operating Expense Maximum

In the pages that follow you will find the proposed 2020 PSWD Operating Budget, the 2020 Church Planting Support Budget, and the recommended 2021 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. 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 \$450,000 which was adopted setting the expense limits for the 2020 Operating Budget proposal which follows.

The Policy Board has 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 2020 budget proposal.

### 2020 PSWD Operating Budget

In the spreadsheets that follow is the proposed 2020 District Operating Budget. The Policy Board is recommending a budget expense of \$462,029. This is \$12,029 above the Operating Maximum that was approved at the 2018 District Conference. The Board felt this necessary to continue to fund key commitments, including our commitment to fair compensation for the staff that works on our behalf. 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 anticipated deficit for 2020 is \$307,529, a small increase from the 2019 budget, but still significantly lower than prior years and in line with the sustainability goal that the Policy Board had articulated in 2016.

### 2020 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. \$45,000 is marked for this work in 2020.

Ministry Training and Minister Support – Our work with providing training for those called into ministry continues to grow, and as some students finish their work other students are just beginning. It is a vital partnership - the district support of ministry training - that seeks to ensure we have strong pastoral leaders for the years to come. 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 continue 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 2020 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.

### 2020 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 was used in 2018 and about will be used \$12,000 (of \$60,000 budgeted) in 2019. The Policy Board is recommending a 2020 budget of \$72,000 across the three church plants that are in operation.

**Action Item:** The Policy Board recommends to the District Conference the adoption of the 2020 Operating Budget and the 2020 Church Planting Support Budget as presented.

### 2021 Operating Expense Maximum

The recommendation for 2021 of \$475,000 is a \$13,000 increase over 2020 budget. 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 2021 Operating Budget be \$475,000.

### Pacific Southwest District Church of the Brethren Income & Expense Summary - Proposed 2020 Budget

		2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2018 Actual	2019 Budget	2020 Proposed
Contributions Income	4100	53,527	52,477	34,849	29,222	35,500	33,500
Interest and Other Income	4200	42,728	42,624	100,250	107,784	82,900	100,300
Participation Income	4600	20,829	19,394	15,337	21,983	24,600	20,700
<b>Total Operating Income</b>		117,084	114,494	150,436	158,989	143,000	154,500
Congregational Development Ministry	5005	158,127	133,052	117,390	36,540	48,500	46,500
Pastoral Leadership & Support	5300	22,015	37,137	21,198	31,014	29,500	30,400
District Empowering Ministry	5500	39,041	40,604	38,052	63,922	47,500	44,600
Partnership & Property Ministry	5700	121,202	55,103	126,640	42,708	22,750	23,805
Service Ministries	6300	2,244	3,111	3,365	5,471	9,000	9,500
District Operating Ministry	6500	292,632	295,224	290,799	299,085	288,677	307,224
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>		635,261	564,231	597,444	478,740	445,927	462,029
<b>Operating Deficit</b>		-518,177	-449,737	-447,008	-319,751	-302,927	-307,529



PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT OF THE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN						
2016-2020, District Budget Overview						
Power Church Report Levels		PC	2016	2017	2018	2019
1	2	3	4			
		Line #	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget
2020						Proposal
<b>INCOME</b>		<b>4000</b>				
<b>MINISTRY INCOME</b>		<b>4010</b>				
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS INCOME</b>		<b>4100</b>				
	Individuals	4110	337	1,667	838	2,500
	Congregations	4120	31,201	30,520	27,714	31,000
	Church Closure Contritribution	4125	17,880	0	0	0
	Groups	4126	0	100	0	0
	Subtotal Temp Restricted Income	4700	2,059	2,087	0	0
	CDS Children's Disaster Rapid Response	4135	0	0	670	0
	Other Income	4140	1,000	475	0	2,000
<b>Subtotal Contributions Inc.</b>		<b>4100</b>	<b>52,477</b>	<b>34,849</b>	<b>29,222</b>	<b>35,500</b>
<b>INVESTMENT INCOME</b>		<b>4200</b>				
	CHECKING/MONEY MKT INCOME	4210	2	1	0	0
	NOTES REC. INTEREST/FEES	4301	39,044	72,326	107,784	67,000
	SALE OF CHURCH PROPERTY	4500	0	0	0	0
	MISC. INCOME	4550	3,578	27,923	0	15,900
<b>Subtotal Investment Income</b>		<b>4200</b>	<b>42,624</b>	<b>100,250</b>	<b>107,784</b>	<b>82,900</b>
<b>PARTICIPATION INCOME</b>		<b>4600</b>				
	DIST CONF INCOME	4610	16,770	12,002	14,962	20,500
	EVENTS INCOME	4630	2,624	3,335	7,021	4,100
<b>Subtotal Participation Income</b>		<b>4600</b>	<b>19,394</b>	<b>15,337</b>	<b>21,983</b>	<b>24,600</b>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>			<b>114,495</b>	<b>150,436</b>	<b>158,989</b>	<b>143,000</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		<b>5000</b>				
<b>MINISTRY INVESTMENTS</b>		<b>5001</b>				
<b>CONGREGATIONAL DEV MIN</b>		<b>5005</b>				
	WEB SITE DEVELOPMENT	5020	306	715	801	1,500
	Ministry Partnership Funds	5180	268	25,675	35,739	47,000
	Cong Minister Support Grants	5100	132,477	91,000	0	0
<b>Subtotal Congregational Dev Min</b>		<b>5005</b>	<b>133,052</b>	<b>117,390</b>	<b>36,540</b>	<b>48,500</b>
<b>PAST'L. LDRSHP &amp; SUPPORT</b>		<b>5300</b>				
	TRIM (TRAINING IN MIN)	5310	1,637	220	230	1,000
	SEBAH & EPMC	5315	15,648	4,137	9,849	7,000
	BETHANY THEO. SEMINARY	5320	0	0	0	1,500
	PASTORS' RETREAT	5325	17,319	10,710	17,446	15,000
	MINISTER'S WORKSHOP	5330	1,800	4,221	2,120	2,500
	OTHER DISTRICT WORKSHOPS	5335	0	744	1,369	500
	MINISTER'S ETHICS TRAINING	5336	0	0	0	1,000
	PROF. GROWTH SUBSIDY	5338	485	583	0	1,000
	TEMP RESTRICTED EXPENSES	7943	248	583	0	0
<b>Subtotal Past'l. Ldrshp &amp; Support</b>		<b>5300</b>	<b>37,137</b>	<b>21,198</b>	<b>31,014</b>	<b>29,500</b>



**Publicis**

## Power Church Report Levels

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## Use of Monies from the Sale of District Property in Koreatown

### “Ministry and Improvement Fund”

The sale of the PSWD held property in the Koreatown area of Los Angeles resulted in a \$1,330,000 cash gain to the District. Over the past two years the Policy Board has discussed the use of these funds to support district ministry and also engaged local congregations and District Conference in a discussion about what God is calling the District to do with these resources. The Policy Board, after hearing from churches, one another, and seeking God’s leading recommends that the monies be used as follows:

1. **Pastoral and Leadership Support - \$200,000** – These funds would be used for training events for pastors and lay leaders in areas that would strengthen ministry for congregations and throughout the district. These could include family ministry, evangelism and outreach, discipleship, and others. Support for pastoral coaching would also be available.
2. **Facility Repairs and Improvements - \$450,000** – These funds would be available on a matching basis to help with repairs and upgrades to existing church facilities.
3. **New Ministry Opportunities - \$450,000** (\$225,000 to encourage existing congregations, \$225,000 for church planting efforts) – Monies for existing congregations would supply seed money to support the congregation in engaging with new opportunities or expanding existing ministries that engage their community with the gospel, both in word and actions. Monies for church planting will provide ongoing support to the work of current projects and new opportunities as they arise.
4. **Youth - \$100,000** – Monies will be used to help local congregations grow in ministry with youth through training and program development. Will also provide scholarship opportunities for youth to participate in Church of the Brethren programs like work camps, Christian Citizenship Seminar, National Youth Conference, and Brethren camps.
5. **An additional \$133,000** will be held in reserve to be allocated as additional funds to areas above that are being utilized, or to a new emerging opportunity.

These funds will be set aside for these purposes through the end of 2023, after such time they may be redirected by the Policy Board to other needs. Guidelines and policies for using these funds will be developed by District leadership in 2020 and will be publicized to congregations and their leadership.

Action Item to District Conference: **The Policy Board recommends to the District Conference the proposal for use of the monies from the sale of Koreatown Property to create the “Ministry and Improvement Fund.”**

## Use of Paradise Funds for Real Property Purchase or Additions

### “Growth from the Ashes Fund”

**Goal:** To use funds from real property proceeds to assist in the acquisition of new church property or the construction of new space on existing property to accommodate congregations that are growing numerically and need additional space.

**Source of Funds:** PSWD has received about \$1,600,000 as the insurance settlement on the Paradise Church of the Brethren property. Expenses related to cleanup and other matters (legal fees) may cost up to \$100,000. This will leave a sizeable amount of funds from the loss of this congregation.

**Proposal:** PSWD will set aside the funds from the insurance settlement on the Paradise Church of the Brethren to provide asset investment (not a loan) in real property or structural additions to accommodate growth. The District would invest up to \$250,000, but not more than one half (½) of the total cost. The congregation or project would need to be able to show evidence of their ability to cover the cost of any loan that they might take on from PSWD or another source to pay the balance of any note they might take on. These funds will be set aside through 2025.

***For example...***

- If a congregation was looking to buy a property (as they currently have none) at a cost of \$350,000, the PSWD would give an asset investment of \$175,000. The congregation would have to have the balance of funds or could borrow them from the PSWD.
- If a congregation was looking to buy property at a cost of \$600,000, the PSWD would give an asset investment of \$250,000. The congregation would have to have the balance of funds or could borrow them from the PSWD.
- If a congregation was looking to make an addition to their facility at a cost of \$1,000,000, the PSWD would give an asset investment of \$250,000. The congregation would have to have the balance of funds or could borrow them from the PSWD.
- If a congregation was looking to relocate as they had outgrown their facility, there would be up to \$250,000 available to assist in the purchase of a new location. If the new facility cost is \$3,250,000, and the proceeds from their current facility were \$2,500,000, the balance being \$750,000 the PSWD would give an asset investment of \$250,000. The congregation would have to have the balance of funds or could borrow them from the PSWD.

**Congregations reached:** It is anticipated that this reinvestment of funds in real property would result in providing assistance to 6 to 8 congregations.

Action Item to District Conference: **The Policy Board recommends to the District Conference the proposal for use of the Paradise Church of the Brethren insurance settlement funds to create the “Growth from the Ashes Fund.”**

## **Action to Disorganize the Tucson Church of the Brethren**

In 2017 the leaders of the Tucson congregation undertook a study to look at the options for the future of the congregation. The members were faithful, but small in number, and growing older. They invited the District into conversation with them over the next several months and several ideas and possibilities were explored that might allow the ministry work of the congregation to continue. In May of 2018, with the support of the District, the congregation listed the property for sale. In August 2018 the congregation voted to close at the end of December 2018. The church facility was sold in November to Iglesia Fuente de Vida (an Assemblies of God church) who assisted with final cleanup and allowed the congregation to worship through the end of the year. On January 5, 2019, a closing celebration was held to celebrate 63 years of ministry in Tucson and to offer a blessing to Iglesia Fuente de Vida. The congregation asked and the Executive Board agreed that the proceeds from the sale be held for five years in the hope that another Church of the Brethren congregation might be birthed in the Tucson area. We give thanks for the many who have served faithfully in Tucson.

Action Item to District Conference: **The Policy Board recommends to the District Conference that the Tucson Church of the Brethren be disorganized.**

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**Exhibit G**

## **Action to Disorganize the Paradise Church of the Brethren**

In November 2018 the Camp Fire swept through the town of Paradise destroying most homes and businesses, including the Paradise Church of the Brethren and its buildings. The small group of Brethren who were part of the congregation determined that with the fire the time had come to close the congregation. In January 2019 they notified the District of this intent and asked the District Executive Minister to serve as their legal agent in responding to items related to filing insurance claims and clean up of the property. The few financial records remaining will be transferred to the District this fall. Most of their records and historical documents were destroyed by the fire. Members of the congregation have been most helpful in the process of working with insurance claims and the county agencies who are supervising clean up efforts. The Paradise congregation was organized in 1941 and served faithfully for 78 years.

Action Item to District Conference: **The Policy Board recommends to the District Conference that the Paradise Church of the Brethren be disorganized.**

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**Exhibit H**

## **Organizing Centro Agape en Acción as a Fellowship**

In early 2017 Rigo and Margie Berumen began to gather a community together for Bible study and fellowship in their home in Los Banos. As the group grew, they sought out a larger space to gather and a ministry connection for this group to be a member of. The Berumens had previously been a part of the Principe de Paz (Santa Ana) congregation, and through leaders there connected with the Pacific Southwest District and were recognized as a project in August 2017. Over the past two years the group has grown in numbers and faithfulness, has had the pastors and key lay leaders enter into ministry training through the Brethren Academy, and formed a vision for the ministry and provided a structure for the carrying out of ministry. In recognition of this growth and development, they are ready to be organized as a Fellowship and to move forward in ministry as they continue to grow in serving Christ in the Los Banos community.

Action Item to District Conference: **The Policy Board recommends to the District Conference to organize Centro Agape en Acción as a fellowship.**

## 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 – 2019. . . . .	Nelda Rhoades Clarke. . . . .	Russ Matteson



**Franciscan Renewal Center**  
Peace. Renewal. Good.

**BUILDING NAME**

Room Name or Number

**OUTDOOR FEATURE**

- Coffee
- Dining
- Women's Rest Room
- Men's Rest Room
- Vending Machine
- House Phone
- Smoking Area
- Putting Green
- Shade Structure
- Fountain
- Handicap Accessible Room

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