



## 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.*

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