

**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

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.

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.

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

PSWD Board of Administration: 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.



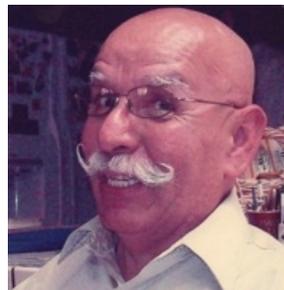
Cheryl Crane: incumbent
Age: 23
Congregation: Prince of Peace

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.



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.

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.



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 PSDW, SeBAH student, previous member of the PSDW Executive Board.

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

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.



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.
