Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren

Business Book

Together / Juntos
Acts / Hechos 2

58th Annual District Conference
November 7-14, 2021
Business on Saturday, November 13

A Virtual on the web, Conference
Held using Internet formats like Zoom

www.pswdcob.org/distconf
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Welcome to the 2021 Pacific Southwest District Conference

Once again, we are meeting in the midst of the global pandemic, but this year some of us can gather at Hillcrest face to face. One thing this devastating disease has taught is the blessings of meeting by Zoom, so this district conference meets in hybrid format, allowing some people to participate virtually in the insight sessions, the worships, the business meetings, and even in the special “conversation circles.” Indeed, all of the insight sessions are being conducted via Zoom again this year, allowing everyone in the district to engage in them and permitting the sessions to be viewed for months to come. The exciting part about gathering in hybrid format is that additional Sisters and Brothers can participate while at the same time practicing the Brethren value of living simply by avoiding a tiring, resource-consuming journey to La Verne.

There are sixteen exciting insight sessions to enjoy this year, offered from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. Pacific, Sunday through Wednesday evening prior to the conference gathering itself. Although you can participate in only one live session per evening, you can later watch the ones you missed at your leisure on YouTube. Preceding the opening Sunday insight session at 5 p.m. on November 7 is Virtual Social Gathering/Fellowship Time. This is opportunity to greet virtually together and chat and perhaps also eat. Since I am a historian, there is plenty of history included among the insight sessions.

The worship sessions all include multiple perspectives on Acts/Hechos 2. In both the Friday and the Saturday worship, two different preachers will present short messages. On Saturday one of them will be in Spanish and, like the others, it will be simultaneously translated. At all three worships, and, in fact, during the business sessions as well, exciting music will be shared from our diverse PSWD congregations. The ice cream social on Friday night will also feature diversity as attendees enjoy a selection of multicultural, wrapped cold treats. An especially meaningful special feature of the conference is the Conversation circles on “multi-cultural together” lead by Darla Deardorff at the Saturday afternoon business session.

For the health and safety of face-to-face attendees, the conference will abide by all CDC, Los Angeles County, and Hillcrest rules and health advisories. As these are frequently updated, we will not know the precise details until we gather on Friday, November 12. We expect, however, that masks will be required, and we urge all attendees to come fully vaccinated. Because of Covid, we ask attendees to eat dinner separately before they arrive for worship on Friday night and breakfast before they come to Business Session I on Saturday morning. Pandemic constraints also dictate box lunches on Saturday and a pizza snack on Saturday evening.

This will be an unusual conference because of the lingering global plague, but it will be a great conference because its hybridity will allow more Brothers and Sisters to come together to participate. Thank you for your decision to come together with your district.

Peace,

Al Clark, Moderator
Al Clark, 2021 PSWD Moderator
Moderator@pswdcob.org
PSWD District Conference — Business Meeting Agenda

November 13, 2021 — 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer
2. Roll call and establishing of a quorum
3. Approval of this Agenda and the 2020 Minutes (p. 45)
   A. Name a Committee to review the 2021 minutes
4. Business Items
   A. Election of leadership (pp. 16-16 & pp. 49-53)
   B. 2022 PSWD Operating Budget & Church Planting Budget Proposals (pp. 54-57)
   C. 2023 Budget Parameter (p. 54-57)
   D. Update the PSWD Constitution and Bylaws
5. Reports
   A. Annual Conference Agencies (pp. 31-44)
      1. Brethren Benefit Trust (p. 31)
      2. On Earth Peace (p. 33)
   B. District Policy Board (pp. 18-24)
   C. District Program Committee (p. 15)
   D. Standing Committee Delegate (p. 14)
   E. District Executive Minister (pp. 11-13)
6. Plenary Session – Story Circles with Dr. Darla Deardorff
7. Adjournment

Sunday, November 7 . . . . . . . . . All times are PST: Pacific Standard Time </> Arizona times are one hour later

- 5:00 p.m. Pacific – Virtual Social Gathering on Zoom
- 4 Virtual Insight Sessions at 6:30-7:45 p.m. PST
  - www.pswdco.org/distconf/insight has more detail. (Chosen during registration)
    - (1) Christian Living in the 4th Industrial Revolution: How Faith and Technology Impact Each Other — (by Daniel Toph, Ph.D.)
    - (2) Brethren Identity: 4 ministers share — (facilitated by Annali Topf with panelists Richard Zapata, Julie Wheeler, Jon Chubb)
    - (3) Having a Congregational Coach can help — (facilitated by Russ Matteson)
    - (4) Loving New Neighbors — (by Kathryn LaPointe)

Monday, November 8

- 4 Virtual Insight Sessions at 6:30-7:45 p.m. PST
  - www.pswdco.org/distconf/insight has more detail. (Chosen during registration)
    - (5) Spiritual Wellness: Kindling our Hearts to Burn with thy Flame — (by Spiritual Director Erin Matteson)
    - (6) Is your congregation’s virtual front door open? — (facilitated by Russ Matteson)
    - (7) Brethren in the PSWD, 1887-2021: An oral history — (by Moderator Al Clark)
    - (8) Llegando a la comunidad hispanohablante con las redes sociales -/- Reaching the Spanish speaking community with social media — (facilitated by Juan Pablo Plaza & Fernanda Navarrete de Conexión Pasadena)
PSW District Conference
November 7-14, 2021
Schedule
All times are PST: Pacific Standard Time <\> Arizona times are one hour later

Tuesday, November 9

- 4 Virtual Insight Sessions at 6:30-7:45 p.m. PST
  - [www.pswdcob.org/distconf/insight](http://www.pswdcob.org/distconf/insight) has more detail. *(Chosen during registration)*
  - (9) Church Outdoors: And Other Crazy Stuff We Tried During COVID — (panel moderated by Pastor Jeremy Ashworth)
  - (10) DC Business preview and conversation with District leadership — (by Board Chair Nelda Clarke & Executive Board)
  - (11) Titus Coan: Apostle to the Sandwich Islands — (by Pastor Phil Corr)
  - (12) Estudiar Hechos 2 | Acts 2 in Spanish — Este estudio bíblico en español explorará los temas de Juntos que llenan Hechos 2. (by Pastora Florecita Merlos)

Wednesday, November 10

- 4 Insight Sessions at 6:30-7:45 p.m. Pacific *(7:30 p.m. AZ time)*
  - [www.pswdcob.org/distconf/insight](http://www.pswdcob.org/distconf/insight) has more detail. *(Chosen during registration)*
  - (13) “The Will” and “The Skill” of Nonviolence — (by Pastor Sara Haldeman-Scarr)
  - (14) What is Intercultural Competency, and why does it matter to your church? — (by Darla K. Deardorff)
  - (15) The awe-ful apostles — (by Pastor Andrew Sampson)
  - (16) A 75 Minute Romp Through Brethren History — (by Felton Daniels)

Thursday, November 11

- A Travel Day with nothing scheduled.

Friday, November 12

- 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. CEU Workshop for anyone @ $25 with Dr. Dawn Ottoni-Wilhelm, Brightbill Professor of Preaching & Worship at Bethany Theological Seminary
  - [www.pswdcob.org/events/ministers](http://www.pswdcob.org/events/ministers)
- 7:00 p.m. Opening Worship Service with Robert Aguirre and Amanda Bennett, This is a Mask Required, in-person worship time at Glendale CoB. Virtual participants will receive a Zoom link after they register for conference.

Saturday, November 13

- [www.pswdcob.org/distconf](http://www.pswdcob.org/distconf) has an index of web pages covering all aspects of conference.
- Business session #1 from 9:00 a.m. to Noon
- Business session #2 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.
  - includes the Conversation circles on “multi-cultural together” lead by Darla Deardorff during the Saturday afternoon business session.
- 6:00 p.m. Saturday Worship Service with Becky Zapata and Thomas Dowdy. This is a Mask Required, in-person worship time at Príncipe de Paz in Santa Ana. Virtual participants will receive a Zoom link after they register for conference.

Sunday, November 14

- On Sunday morning you are encouraged to worship with a local Church of the Brethren if you are still in the La Verne area.
- [www.pswdcob.org/distconf/worship](http://www.pswdcob.org/distconf/worship) has a list of worship services in Southern California.
Together / Juntos – Acts / Hechos 2

We live in a painfully divided country wracked with a pandemic, climate change, extreme income inequalities, racial injustice, lies, and conspiracy theories. What better time than this to gather to continue the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, together? In our church’s tagline and in Acts 2, “together” does not imply agreement with each other nor unity necessarily; it simply means together in one place. When the disciples gathered to celebrate the Jewish festival of Pentecost, they were uncertain, troubled, and saddened by the suffering and death of their teacher and leader, of their Lord. Of course, they also had been gladdened and reassured by his resurrection and subsequent ascension, but they really did not know what was to come next. They never did. But they were together even though they were worried about the future, divided over leadership, and no doubt more frightened than ever before in their lives. Although we are not faced with all that at district conference, we, too, may not be of the same mind, but we can be together in one place and continue Jesus’s work with a peaceful, simple approach.

If I chose “together” as my theme because I wanted to emphasize a state of being rather than a philosophy or a program of action, then I chose Acts 2 as the text because that chapter by the evangelist we call Luke contains the word “together” translated into English more often than in any other part of the Bible, Hebrew or Greek. In fact, the first sentence in the Greek original of Acts 2 actually concludes with the words “together together.” Troubled by this predicament, English translators have always turned one of these two “togethers” into some other expression, such as “with one accord” (King James) or “in one place” (NIV, RSV, and NRSV). Amazingly, in the Greek original the last word of Acts 2 as is actually “together” as well, although it apparently is never translated this literally. There is much more in Acts 2 than “together,” but clearly the writer wanted us to contemplate what it means to be together.

The logo for the theme together is a detail from a 15th century anonymous French illumination found at the Getty Museum in Brentwood, California. The rich tempera colors and gold leaf illustrate the exact moment in Acts 2 when the sound and fire of the holy spirit descended upon the disciples together at Pentecost, Sisters and Brothers alike. Throughout Acts 2 it is mainly Peter and other male disciples who seem to be speaking, but in this exquisitely detailed painting two women, presumably two of the Biblical Mary’s, sit front and center in prayerful ecstasy. Moreover, with their full beards and relatively plain clothing, the group seems to be modeling Brethren together, continuing the work of Jesus peacefully and simply.

Peace,

Al Clark, 2021 PSWD Moderator
Moderator@pswdcob.org
Delegates’ Dedication
November 13, 2021

Moderator: We are gathered here today in person and online to conduct the business of the Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren. We are in the midst of a devastating pandemic, our lives are affected by galloping global warming, and our country and world are divided into hostile camps, but we are here together to promote peace and justice.

Delegates: We are here today representing the Church of the Brethren in Arizona, California, and Nevada. We have gathered as God’s people, together in person and online, to promote Jesus’s teaching in the Sermon on the Mount to work for peace and justice for all God’s people.

Moderator: We have gathered under the banner of the Pacific Southwest District’s Unity Statement—our Unity Commitment—as we work together to resolve some of the issues facing our district and to stimulate togetherness in our broken world.

Delegates: We commit ourselves to work together to deal effectively with the business before us and to make our district, our denomination, our nation, and our world a better and more equitable place for all of God’s people.

Moderator: As together is modeled in Acts/Hechos 2 by Jesus’s personally selected disciples, we commit ourselves to work together to find common ground and just solutions in the district business before us.

Delegates: We will gladly listen to each other and support our Sisters and Brothers as we all seek to continue the work that Jesus called us to some two millennia ago.

Moderator and Delegates: Let us dedicate this day and the rest of our lives to continuing the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, together.
Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren – 2021
Officers of the District Conference

Moderator................................................................. Al Clark, La Verne
Moderator-Elect......................................................... Cheryl Crane, Prince of Peace
Clerk................................................................. Lois Frantz, Empire
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 Bylaws.
(2) The moderator appoints tellers and timekeeper.
(3) Nominations from the floor must have the prior consent of the nominee (see next page, bottom section).
(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.
The Five Essential Steps Through Which a Motion Passes

- Presentation of the motion:
  “I move that ________________________________.”

- Seconding the motion:
  “I second the motion,” or “I second it.”

- A written copy of the motion shall be given to the conference clerk.

- Stating the question (by the moderator) and discussion of it:
  “It has been moved and seconded that ________________________.”

- 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.’”

- Announcing the result of the vote:
  “The motion is carried (lost) and you have voted to (not to) __________.”

Motions, Who Makes Them and How

- All attendees of the District Conference have the privilege of moving and discussing the business of the Conference.

- 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.

- A motion is seconded without obtaining the floor or rising.

Some Rules of Debate

- All remarks must be addressed to the chair.

- All remarks must pertain to the immediately pending question before the District Conference.

- All remarks must be of an impersonal nature.

- Length and number of speeches are determined by District Conference officers.

Nominations and Voting

- 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).

- 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.

- 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.
Motions Classified and in Ascending Order of Precedence

- Privileged and Incidental Motions: motions that take precedence over any pending question although not related to that question. Not debatable.
  - ADJOURN or RECESS
    Object: to dismiss a meeting or to provide for an intermission – “I move that we adjourn (recess) while (until) ______________.”
  - 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).
  - POINT OF ORDER
    “I rise to a point of order” (state your point).

- Subsidiary Motions: motions that are applied to other motions for the purpose of most appropriately disposing of them.
  - 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.”
  - 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.”
  - POSTPONE TO A SET TIME (second, debatable, amendable, simple majority).
  - 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.”
  - AMEND (second, debatable, amendable, simple majority).
    - “I move to amend the motion by striking out ______________.”
    - “I move to amend the motion by inserting _______ between _____ and ______.”
    - “I move to amend the motion by adding _______ between _____ and ______.”
    - “I move to amend the motion by striking out _______ and inserting _______."
    - “I move to amend by striking out _______ and substituting this (read or state the substitution.”
  - POSTPONE INDEFINITELY (second, debatable, and amendable, simple majority).
    Object: to kill a motion – “I move to postpone this matter indefinitely.”

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

- 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.”
COVID Year 2

As we gathered virtually last November for District Conference, COVID case counts were just beginning to climb and within weeks we found ourselves at the beginning of what was a long four months of pandemic concerns as the second wave started and vaccinations were just becoming available. Most of our congregations were gathering via Zoom or watching services on YouTube, Vimeo, or Facebook Live.

As we approached Easter several congregations began gathering again, many meeting outside or with significant distancing as they were together. The ability to be vaccinated and the hope that one would avoid serious illness by being vaccinated opened the doors of regathering even more. Since Easter I’ve been back on the road most weekends joining churches as they gather for worship. Some of these have been occasions for saying thank you to pastors who are retiring, being present for votes to call and then install new pastoral leaders, and to be part of ordinations, commissioning, and licensing services, many of which had been delayed until we could physically gather as the church. Caution and safety remain central as we seek to follow Jesus and care for each other and our neighbors. Each church is figuring out what works for them as it relates to gathering and worshipping. People are grateful to be together, and to be in the church buildings once again.

It has been a second challenging year for our pastors. I give thanks daily for the gifts that each of them brings to this moment of ministry. They have worked tirelessly to meet the spiritual and other needs of those that God has entrusted to their care. They have figured out how to keep communities of faith connected to each other and Jesus. They help the church to continue reaching out to our neighbors in word and deed, meeting needs that were made more challenging by the pandemic. Thank you pastors, for all that you have done to share God’s care, hope, and love through these last two years.

Relocating the District Office

2021 found the District Office relocating from Pomona to spruced up space at the Glendora Church of the Brethren. We are grateful to Pastor Bob Morris and other leaders from the congregation who worked to clear things out, clean things up, and coordinate the painting, flooring, electrical, heating and cooling, and other work that needed to be done so we could make our office home base there. Feel free to stop by (we are around back, off the alley) and say hello if you are in Glendora.

With the relocation came a change in PSWD’s mailing address for the first time in a very long time. The PO Box in La Verne was the only address I had known for my 30 years of association with PSWD. But if you want to get something to us now, please be sure to send it to: PSWD COB, PO Box 760, Glendora, CA 91740. Our phone numbers and email addresses remain the same.

New Opportunities

In February, leadership groups from six congregations participated in the Future Church Summit that was done by Fresh Expressions US. The District encouraged local churches to participate and has provided coaching for those teams to develop next steps in ministry as they planned for how they might engage the community around them during the months ahead as we moved to a new moment in relation to the pandemic. This was the first Leadership Development event sponsored with funds from the District’s Ministry & Improvement Fund.

The District planned and shared an online Love Feast on Maundy Thursday. The service was done in both English and Spanish, with subtitles in the language that wasn’t being spoken. We used pastors and musicians from throughout the district to provide leadership, from the planning to the production to the participation. And that evening participants could join together in Zoom where they had the opportunity to talk with each other, or to participate by watching the service on YouTube with opportunity to reflect and to share responses in the chat. Special thanks to Pastor Erik Brummett from Live Oak who both sparked the idea and provided most of the post production editing work.

This spring we offered a weekly Bible study that looked at the denomination’s Compelling Vision statement. Over the 13 weeks of study we had a consistent group of 8 to 12 participants via Zoom, representing about 8 congregations. The group formed a good community in our virtual space. The district will look for other opportunities to connect people in this manner in the years to come around other topics of interest.

A multicultural district

It is exciting to be part of a district that is
growing more culturally diverse. This year we are continuing to work at ways that we can work together, include one another, and deepen our connections as followers of Jesus who come from diverse cultural backgrounds. We are grateful to have had the support of Dr. Darla Deardorff, who works to help organizations throughout the world develop their cultural competency and work together with deeper understanding of others. Darla is a member of the Peace Church of the Brethren in Durham, NC. She has worked with the Policy Board and will provide leadership for a special session during our business on Saturday. She will also host an insight session on Wednesday evening.

The work in this area is one of the blessings that God is giving to us in the Pacific Southwest District. As with so many things, we do not know with certainty where it will take us, but we trust that God will make the way known as we faithfully follow and learn. I encourage you to pray that we will be made new in Christ as we continue to journey together.

Pastoral/Congregational Transitions

- **Bakersfield** – In April the congregation called Sandra Millard to serve as their pastor. Sandra has had a career with Youth for Christ in Kern County and is a licensed minister who is a member of the congregation.

- **Centro Ágape en Acción (Los Banos)** – In October they will move into their own church facility, the remodeling work on the property to transform it into a worship space and classrooms having been completed. They have been virtual since the pandemic began, and are looking forward to moving into their ministry center. Pray that they will use this new home to be Christ’s blessing to the community around them.

- **Circle of Peace (Peoria, AZ)** – The congregation is working with a project manager and architect on the design for a new worship center on their existing property. Plans for the new space include seating for 350, outdoor gathering space, and a children’s area. The project is likely to break ground in early 2022.

- **Cristo Sión (Glendora)** – The congregation moved their worship home from Pomona to Glendora and began sharing space with the Glendora congregation. Pastor David Flores was ordained in May. Pastora Rita Flores finished her EPMC course work and is beginning her ordination paperwork.

- **Nueva Visión la Hermosa (Waterford)** – After delays that resulted from the pandemic, Pastora Florecita Merlos began to hold worship and prayer services in August. During the pandemic she had maintained contact with several households that she was reaching out to, and the group is beginning to grow as they gather.

- **Papago Buttes (Scottsdale, AZ)** – Pastor Don Shankster retired at the end of April. The congregation has called Jonathan Chubb to serve as their pastor. Jon is a commissioned minister who is in the process of transferring his ordination to the Church of the Brethren. Jon began his service at the end of May.

- **Pasadena / Conexión Pasadena** – Pastor Elizabeth Rowan will retire at the end of 2021, having served there for 20 years. That will also mark the end of the English language ministry at this site. During the last two years, Elizabeth and the congregation have fostered the beginnings of a new ministry in Spanish that is led by three licensed ministers, Juan Pablo Plaza and Adriana Rios (a married couple), and Fernanda Navarrete. Conexion gathered people online during the pandemic, began to meet outdoors soon after Easter, and in September moved into the refreshed Chapel in the church building.

- **Pomona Fellowship** – The sale of their property was completed in April and the congregation moved all they were taking with them out and into storage by the end of May. They are currently meeting twice a month in Zoom, and twice a month in space they rent from an Episcopal church in Pomona. While Pastor Lauren Seganos Cohen was on maternity leave, Ron Faus served as the interim for preaching and worship from July through September.

- **Prince of Peace (Sacramento)** – Pastor Mary Fleming retired at the end of August, having served the congregation for 16 years. I am working to place an interim for preaching and pastoral care while the Leadership Team works to figure out future direction for the congregation.

- **San Diego** – Pastor Sara Haldeman-Scarr has announced that she will retire at the end of August 2022. The congregation has formed a vision committee and is working with me towards finding new pastoral leadership for after Sara’s retirement.

- **South Bay (Redondo Beach)** – Jim Stewart retired as pastor of the joint congregation, Journey South Bay, in February. Jim was the founding pastor of the Journey Evangelical Covenant congregation,
and his ordination was recognized by the PSWD, commissioning him for his term of service. The joint congregation has formed a search committee and is working with a search consultant to find pastoral leadership. They have an interim pastor who is local to the area serving them at this time.

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

**Russ Matteson**
District Executive Minister

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**Deceased Ministers**
John H. Gingrich - 9/17/1941 – 12/7/2020

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**Recognition of Ministers’ Ordination Anniversaries**

60 Years
Elvis C. Cayford

50 Years
Glenn J. Frazier
John Grindler Katonah

40 Years
Don Booz

35 Years
Ron E.H. Faus
Carol A. Wise

15 Years
Jeremy Ashworth

5 Years
Robert Aguirre
Erik Brummett
Lauren Seganos Cohen

Representing 250 years of service.

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**TRIM Supervisor Report** . . . . . . Russ Matteson
See also Ministry Commission report on page 20.

The District has one TRIM (Training in Ministry) student at this time. Jody Romero, pastor of Restoration LA, has completed his course work in Ministry, History, and Theology through the program. This spring into summer he completed his Supervised Ministry experience, having weekly meetings with me via Zoom to reflect on his ministry work with special focus on some areas where he wanted to further develop his ministry skills. This is now complete and Jody will begin his ordination paperwork.

The District also uses the courses available in TRIM to provide training to other licensed and commissioned ministers who are needing to complete courses to learn more about the Church of the Brethren history, theology, polity, and practices. And some of our ministers take TRIM courses for professional growth as areas of interest are offered.

**Russ Matteson, TRIM Coordinator**  
DE@pswdcob.org

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**Youth Advisor Report** . . . . . . Rafael Aranda

Hi PSWD, My name is Rafael Aranda and I am the District Youth Advisor for Pacific Southwest District. I have been married for 7 years to Estefany Aranda and have 3 beautiful children Nathaniel 7, Naason 5, and Noelle 3. My wife has been in ministry since she was born and when I met her I integrated into Principe de Paz church in Santa Ana. I am a Youth Leader at our church, play the Bass, and help in the Pastoral Ministry as Executive Director to the pastors Richard and Becky Zapata. I came on board as district youth advisor in 2020, the year of the pandemic. It was a rough year to say the least. Since then we had District Youth Zoom Calls until mid summer, because the youth were tired of sitting in front of a computer everyday all Day. It was a blessing to have youth from our district join and have devotion time as well as spend time together as that was our new normal. We have now had a District youth bonfire at Huntington Beach since the re-opening and are planning other events before the end of this year. I look forward to seeing what God is going to do with our youth, and it has been a blessing being part of such a great community. I encourage those of you reading this to reach out to me if you have a youth group or have a youth in your church to join us in what is coming next. Look forward to what God has in store!

**Rafael Aranda, District Youth Advisor**  
Youth@pswdcob.org
MTC: Ministry Training Coordinator: SeBAH, EFSM, EPMC Report . . . . . . . . . Gilbert Romero
See also Ministry Commission report on page 20.

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 Bíblico Anabautista Hispano. Then I follow-up with calls and emails encouraging the licensed ministers as they move through the training, and keep them connected to resources.

I praise God for the three licensees from “Cristo Genesis” who are on their second unit of the EPMC program. Pastor Luz of the Las Vegas “Iglesia Cristiana Elohim” church plant is doing well in EPMC, about to start unit four this fall. Pastors Rigo & Margie Berumen of the Los Banos “Centro Agape en Acción” fellowship are doing well in EPMC, about to start unit four this fall. Pastor Florecita Merlos of the Waterford “Nueva Visión La Hermosa” church plant has finished SeBAH, and has finished 8 of her 20 experience write-ups. “Príncipe de Paz” Pastor Becky Zapata has finished SeBAH and been ordained. Pastor Richard Zapata is working on his last SeBAH class and his 20 experience write-ups. “Iglesia de Cristo Sion” pastor David Flores has completed EPMC and been ordained. Pastor Rita Flores is on her last EPMC Unit.

Thank you for letting me work with these students during these trying times. Be blessed.

Gilbert Romero, MTC
MTC@pswdcob.org

Report of Standing Committee Delegate

Standing Committee Delegate Report July, 2021
For two years our denomination has been operating under the theme of “God’s Adventurous Future” with moderator Paul Mundey. Last year’s Annual Conference was the first ever cancelled. This year’s annual conference was the first following a pandemic since 1918; the first back to back two-year term of a moderator since 1895. Additionally, we are experiencing the first schism in the denomination since 1926.

In the midst of this, our moderator, Paul Mundey, reminded us in Zephaniah 3:17 that God is with us and God will rescue. This year’s annual conference and standing committee were like no other. Instead of microphones for debate, questions, and dialogue, there were “chat boxes.” Instead of table conversations, there were “chat rooms.” Instead of a conference hall, we listened to our computers.

In Standing Committee, General Secretary, David Steele, talked about the amount of his time in the last five years that he spent talking to individuals and groups about the issue of human sexuality that has brought dissension and division with some churches choosing to leave the denomination.

The Nominating Committee brought two ballots to this year’s Annual Conference. One that was not used last year and one for this year, minus the position of moderator-elect. The committee also raised some discussion points for Standing Committee regarding nominations from the floor of Annual Conference. Standing Committee seeks to maintain transparency as well as trust in any recommendations to be brought to Annual Conference. Concern was shared about the lack of due process and/or vetting of nominees from the floor which can lead to confusion among delegates. Thank you for the many nominations for the conference ballot.

Standing Committee approved suggested changes in the “Appeal” section of the “Ethics in Ministry Relations” polity. One change was to give 60 days instead of 45 days to make an appeal. It also emphasized the need to use Matthew 18:15-20 to fully exhaust all other means of resolution before being heard by Standing Committee. A proposal to establish a “Listening Session Process” was also adopted.

Several District Executives, including our Russ Matteson, joined Standing Committee and gave voice to their common challenges such as: older members, older facilities, church plants, pastoral placements, multiple cultures in districts, finding “theologically mature” pastors, division and separation. (We are blessed to have Russ as our DE providing support for new churches, tech support in this year of COVID and a district conference that ran smoothly.)

Standing Committee also heard a report from a task team that was asked to have a conversation with On Earth Peace regarding their joining the Supportive Communities Network. OEP accepted the offer for a conversation, gave lengthy, heart-felt responses to the first of five questions provided by the task team. Initial concern was understanding vs power dynamics. Standing Committee believed there was enough progress to continue the conversation for another year to wrestle with the other four questions.

Annual Conference business included three Bible study sessions with Dr. Michael Gorman on Revelation. A plenary session with Todd Bolsinger
deal with “Doing Church in Unchartered Territory.” Our own, Richard Zapata, preached on Thursday evening, sharing from his experience of being rescued off the coast of Malibu.

Four new fellowships were introduced — three from PSWD.

Matt Gwynn spoke of the work of OEP in turning “opposers” into friends, understanding racism, undoing oppression.

Bethany president Jeff Carter, said the seminary is growing, now online, graduating students in Nigeria, and returning to in-person classes this fall.

Friday afternoon and Saturday, delegates worked in small groups reflecting on questions from the Compelling Vision team. Then delegates were given four options affirming the vision. With 82% affirming the vision in some way, we were challenged to embrace it, study it, and live it. Go into your neighborhood.

Reports from our agencies and committees gave a wealth of information including work done on our behalf in the name of Christ around the world. The Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee noted they are working on a five-year evaluation that includes making a new paradigm for calculating pastoral salary packages.

The gavel was passed from Paul Mundey to David Sollenberger, our new moderator for this year. Next year’s Annual Conference will be in Omaha, Nebraska, July 10-14, 2022. Following the commissioning of Dave as moderator and Tim McElwee as moderator-elect, Dave had to drive across the country to join a group singing “Don’t stop thinking about tomorrow.” He also gave his theme from Romans 15:5-6, “Embracing one another as Christ embraces us,” for this next year.

See you in Omaha, Don Shankster,
PSWD delegate to Standing Committee

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**District Conference Program Committee Report**

**Committee Members:**
- Al Clark, Moderator, Chair
- Cheryl Crane, Moderator-Elect
- Robert Aguirre
- Cady Laycock
- Annali Topf

**Ex-Officio Members of the Committee:**
- Board Chair: Nelda Rhoades Clarke
- District Executive Minister: Russ Matteson
- District Youth Advisor: Rafael Aranda

**Web-Registrar:** Juliana Pitruzzello

District Conference 2020 was entirely online, and the Program Committee this year was never certain that the conference in 2021 could be face-to-face. Therefore, we decided early during our monthly meetings to make the conference hybrid, with the insight sessions entirely virtual, starting Sunday and ending Wednesday, so that Thursday could be for travel. Annali Topf, Karen Pierson, and Russ Matteson developed a superb group of sixteen insight sessions. Since we wanted to make the conference multicultural, we included both English- and Spanish-language insight sessions and worship messages. Since we wanted to share as much varied music as possible, we included musicians from several congregations, music inviting people back from breaks in the business sessions, and traditional music on Sunday morning. Robert Aguirre put together a fine musical offering with help from Cheryl Crane and other Program Committee members. Although Hillcrest would provide excellent large meeting space, the retirement community was not able to cater food or allow many smaller rooms, so we decided to have exhibitors around the inside perimeter of the meeting hall and to bring lunches in boxes. This also will make everyone safer during Covid-19 as will the fact that Friday and Saturday dinners will be on everyone’s own. Karleen Daniels worked on food arrangements as well as children’s activities. The pandemic restrictions also dictated individually wrapped cold treats instead of scoops with toppings for the ice cream social, gifting the added advantage of being able to make them multicultural. To allow for a broad investigation of the conference theme, “Together,” we reached out to four preachers for the two worships and to two teacher-pastors for the insight sessions. To allow more people to participate, we also elected to charge one fee per congregation, as piloted so successfully in 2020. Joe Vecchio and Juliana Pitruzzello worked hard to prepare registration materials, the business book, and Zoom. Finally, to offer everyone an enlightening communal discussion on “multi-cultural together,” we arranged for participants to be able to engage in the conversation circles led by Darla Deardorff either face-to-face or virtually. Russ Matteson was key to arranging for these circles, and, indeed, to everything that Program Committee accomplished. Cady Laycock made sure that the committee kept track of its decisions with her wonderful motes as secretary. We tried to make the best of several difficult limitations, and we believe that we have created a conference that will take the best of both the virtual and face-to-face formats to allow more people to enjoy and learn from the conference.

Al Clark, Moderator
Nominating Committee Report

Committee Members:
Cheryl Crane, Chair & Moderator-Elect
Susan Price
Lillian Hopson
Joanne Wagoner

Ex-Officio Members with vote:
Clerk, Lois Frantz
Moderator, Al Clark
Board Chair, Nelda Rhoades Clarke

Ex-Officio Member without vote:
District Executive Minister: Russ Matteson

As Moderator-elect, I was charged with being the chair for the Nominating Committee. It was such a privilege to work with this dedicated team. As we prayerfully considered the needs for leadership in the district and the gifts that each person could share with the district, we set out making many, many phone calls and contacts. In this time of COVID there are many stresses on people’s lives. It was difficult to find people willing to answer the call to leadership in the district at this time, and we are grateful to all those who gave prayerful consideration to being called. We completed the ballot in July and are pleased to present the ballot of leaders who have accepted God’s call to leadership in the Pacific Southwest District. Please be in prayer for the leadership of the district. When you receive a call for service, are you ready to trust that God has a job for you and that He will guide you and support you to use the gifts he gave you for His glory?

Respectfully Submitted,
Cheryl Crane, Moderator-Elect

Please consider these suggestions:

Dear Nominating Committee, for District Conference Ballot:
I, _________________________________ _______________________, suggest that you consider:

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<th>Name:</th>
<th>Email:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Church:</td>
<td>Tele:</td>
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<td>Position:</td>
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</table>
- Moderator Elect  
- Nominating Committee  
- Program Committee  
- District Board  
- District Board Youth / Young Adult  
- Clerk  
- Standing Committee |

Please consider these suggestions:

Dear Nominating Committee, for District Conference Ballot:
I, _________________________________ _______________________, suggest that you consider:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>Email:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Church:</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
- Moderator Elect  
- Nominating Committee  
- Program Committee  
- District Board  
- District Board Youth / Young Adult  
- Clerk  
- Standing Committee |
Nominations from the Floor at District Conference

I, ________________________________, am willing to allow my name to be placed on the year 20___ ballot as a nominee for the following position of service:

Nominated by: 1st

2nd

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

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<th>Age (optional):</th>
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<th>Vision Statement:</th>
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</table>

Address:

Telephone:

Email:
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)

2021 Christi Bowman (Living Savior, McFarland) died 2/19/2021, position now vacant
2022 Erik Brummett (Live Oak)
2023 Mario Cabrera (Príncipe de Paz)
#2021 Nelda Rhoades Clarke (Papago Buttes) Section Rep. AZ
#2022 Nick Corral (Cristo Genesis) started 12/11/2020, filling Cheryl Crane’s unexpired term
2021 Jaime Farrar (Modesto)
#2022 David Flores (Cristo Sion)
2021 Jonas Funderburk (Glendale)
#2022 Nick Corral (Cristo Genesis) started 12/11/2020, filling Cheryl Crane’s unexpired term
2021 Eddie Hernandez (Modesto) moved to Idaho, resigned 10/21/2020, position now vacant
#2022 Dot Hess (La Verne) Section Rep. S.CA-E
2021 Jilina Trinity Hong (Glendale) Youth / Young Adult
2022 Jeremiah Irizarry (Empire)
2021 Richard Keeling (Bakersfield) Section Rep. Cen.CA
2023 Jim Lefever (Glendale) Section Rep. S.CA-W
2023 Bob Morris (Glendora)
2021 Deborah Oseguera (Centro Agape en Acción) Youth / Young Adult
#2023 Norma Sexton (Prince of Peace, Sacramento) Section Rep. N.CA
#2023 Julia Wheeler (La Verne)
2021 Elena Yoder (Circle of Peace) Youth / Young Adult
2022 Richard Zapata (Príncipe de Paz)

Ex-Officio with vote
Moderator: Al Clark (La Verne)
Moderator-Elect: Cheryl Crane (Prince of Peace, Sacramento)
Clerk: 2021 Karen Cosner (Modesto) moved to Pennsylvania, resigned 12/31/2020
Clerk: x2021 Lois Frantz (Empire) started 12/31/2020

Ex-Officio without vote
District Executive Minister: Russ Matteson
Treasurer: Karin Heckman Nelson (La Verne)
Standing Committee Delegate: Don Shankster (Papago Buttes)

Invited to meetings without vote
Mission & Ministry Board members residing in PSWD: Thomas Dowdy & Lauren Cohen

Executive Board: (Chosen each year by the Policy Board)
Chair: Nelda Rhoades Clarke (Papago Buttes)
Vice-Chair: Dot Hess (La Verne)
Ministry Chair: Norma Sexton (Prince of Peace)
Stewards Chair: Bob Morris (Glendora)
Moderator: Al Clark (La Verne)
Moderator-Elect: Cheryl Crane (Prince of Peace, Sacramento)
District Executive Minister (Ex-Officio without vote): Russ Matteson
Ministry Commission: (Members chosen each year by the Executive Board)

Ministry Chair: Norma Sexton (Prince of Peace)
Elected Member, Vice Chair: Jeremiah Irizarry (Empire)
Elected Member, Secretary: Erik Brummett (Live Oak)
Elected Member: David Flores (Cristo Sion)

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

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

Stewards Chair: Bob Morris (Glendora)
Elected Member, Vice Chair: Jonas Funderburk (Glendale)
Elected Member, Secretary: Christi Bowman (Living Savior) died 2/19/2021, position now vacant
Elected Member: Jim Lefever (Glendale)

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

Board Appointments: Page 24 below

Board of Administration Report

At the January meeting of the Board members were reminded that their responsibilities include reviewing the actions of the Executive Board, providing leadership for task groups, and to be the sole authority over the District Executive's employment. The Board of Administration defines the directional course of the District, including recommending the budget to the District Conference and sets priorities.

Priorities for the year were set to include addressing issues of COVID-19 and transitioning to a new normal, making the Ministry and Improvement Funds available to congregations, building support teams for Church Projects to firm up church planting work, and working to make our district a multi-cultural district, not just having various cultural groups within the district.

In looking at how the district could help congregations as they continued to face the pandemic and what a new normal might look like, it was recognized that some churches needed help with live streaming their services. In working with a professional from Circle of Peace Church a most effective way to help this happen, grant up to $2000 per congregation depending on their current capabilities. The Board of Administration voted to offer this to congregations with funding coming from the Ministry and Improvement Fund undesignated funds.

The Board of Administration also is responsible for keeping the Bylaws updated. The Executive Board brought several suggestions for changes to the Board of Administration. These recommendations were finalized and are being brought to this District Conference for a vote.

The Board has looked at ways to make our district a multi-cultural district beginning with a discussion in small groups of the Board about what it would mean to be a multi-cultural district and what might be next steps to move that way. Efforts are being made to bring more district activities to the District bilingually. This is both in written and in person situations. An effort is being made to not just bring information translated into Spanish but to also bring information in Spanish and translate to English.

The Executive Board has begun working with the District Executive on what his sabbatical will look like in 2022. He is entitled to 9 weeks of sabbatical time. A portion of this would be used in Spanish language immersion learning and a portion would be a spiritual retreat along with a time of renewal.

Finally, again this year one of our Board members died. Christi Bowman from the Church of the Living Savior (McFarland, CA) died on February 19 after a short illness. Christi was serving her third year on the Board of Administration and served on the Stewards Commission and was their secretary. Her presence and gifts are missed.

Nelda Rhoades Clarke, Board Chair
Ministry Commission Report

Ministry Commission:
Norma Sexton, chair
Jeremiah Irizarry, vice-chair
Erik Brummett, secretary
David Flores

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

It is a privilege to serve again this year as chair of the Ministry Commission. A great big ‘THANK YOU’ is due to my commission members listed above. “The Ministry Commission gives counsel and guidance to all ministerial matters in the District” (from the District Bylaws, 2018 ed.) This encompasses the ordained, commissioned and licensed ministers in our District.

God is at work as demonstrated by the recognition of four new ministries/fellowships at an event prior to Annual Conference. Three of those ministry sites are here within the Pacific Southwest District! Los Banos, Pasadena and Waterford. The ministers serving in these locations are following God’s call to gather the lost sheep and shepherd them into faithfulness.

As the pandemic continued our commission created a Bilingual Virtual Love Feast celebrated on Maundy Thursday, April 1, 2021. This event drew 45 persons on the Zoom platform and was also available online which drew many attendees and subsequent viewings of the recorded version. Many thanks to the contributors and editors of video submissions and the breakout room hosts.

Following last year’s cancellation of the Pastor-Spouse Retreat due to the pandemic we were able to provide this opportunity to our ministers this year! 28 persons met at the Serra Retreat Center in Malibu for a 5 day experience of rest and retreat guided by Melissa Hofstetter with several creative writing and art sessions led by Steven Homestead.

Praise God for the blessing of the abundance of ministers in training in our District! We currently have 16 persons licensed and engaged in training programs. The Ministry Commission is pleased to support these ministers in training by approving grants requested for tuition. I appreciate the service of the persons on the Nurturing and Credentialing Committee (NACC) that perform the licensing and ordination interviews of applicants and annual reviews of licensed ministers. I want to recognize the service of Peggy Redman as chair of NACC, and of Gilbert Romero as our Ministry Training Coordinator.

Norma Sexton, 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 13.

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

NACC: Nurturing & Credentialing Committee:
2023 Peggy Redman, Chair
#2021 Don Shankster
x2022 Becky Zapata
#2024 John Katonah
#2025 Susan Boyer

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. In the past we meet twice a year, in the fall and in the spring. Covid moved us to Zoom meetings last year, which still continues. Now we can do interviews in a more flexible manner. Our meetings include interviews for those entering the licensed ministry, an annual progress review of all licensed ministers in their movement towards ordination, especially their education requirements, and interviews of those who have completed their training and are ready to receive a call to ministry as a commissioned or ordained minister. At our Fall Meeting we make recommendations based on our annual progress review. Ministry Commission then reviews 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.

Peggy Redman, NACC Chair
Stewards Commission Report

Of course, the Stewards (Stewardship) Commission exists to provide support and resources to all the congregations in our district and to manage funds for district programs, services, and salaries for our devoted staff. We also manage loans made by the district in support of congregations. The Stewards also manage all the investments and all the properties owned by or leased to the district.

This term (2021), our first PSWD Stewards meeting was January 3rd. We welcomed a new district treasurer, Karin Heckman Nelson. We have been meeting the first Sunday of the month, except for holy days (Easter and Annual Conference Sunday / Independence Day)! Christi Bowman, Church of the Living Savior (McFarland, CA) attended our first meeting and agreed to be secretary once again. Then we learned Christi was ill. We enlisted the prayers of everyone on our team. Christi went home to be with the Lord on February 19, 2021. During our March Stewards meeting, we opened the agenda with a remembrance of Christi and the contribution she had made to our team. She is missed by so many.

This has been a challenging year for Stewards. We were already small in number at the outset. But, everyone has been cooperative and has taken the extra work in stride. To that end, Moderator Al Clark has been a welcomed and vital contributor to our deliberations.

This term the Stewards have decided most of the Ministry Improvement Fund (MIF) grant requests for the facilities repairs and renovations portion of MIF. So far, we have not turned down any requests, although, at times we have asked for additional documentation and/or contractors’ estimates in order to substantiate project parameters. (At times, Stewards have recused themselves when requests involved their own congregations. Consequently, the Executive Committee has processed some MIF facilities requests.) The grant process for MIF facilities improvements actually began in 2020. To date, Circle of Peace (Peoria AZ), Church of the Living Savior (McFarland CA), Live Oak (CA), Glendale (CA), Glendora (CA), Pasadena (CA), San Diego (CA), Papago Buttes (Scottsdale AZ), and Imperial Heights (CA) have been recipients of MIF facilities improvement grants. Each congregation is entitled to receive up to $20,000 in facilities improvement grants. Any congregation that has not yet requested and/or received their total $20,000 allotment is invited to contact Russ Matteson, the District Office or me. Loans are also available to congregations from the District.

Brethren Benefit Trust (BBT), our own denomination’s insurance, pension, and investment group, had previously been entrusted with the management of a portion of the district’s own substantial financial assets. We continue in that relationship. The stock market has been working generally in our favor. However, because the stock market is unpredictable, in February, we decided to “pull” about $733,000 out of BBT invested funds, and to place them in CDs or our money market account for safer keeping and to hedge against a stock market downturn.

In 2020, due to Covid19, in order to relieve congregations of some financial pressure, the Stewards agreed to suspend district loan repayments. At our May 2021 meeting, we decided it was time to resume those repayments. So, we sent notification to congregations that repayments would be required to begin again July 1st.

We appreciate the space that the Pomona Fellowship Congregation provided for lease to the district for several years. However, due to the sale of their property, the district office needed to move. In February and March, improvements were made at the Glendora (CA) Church of the Brethren to accommodate both the district office and the Cristo Sion congregation. The district provided funds to the Glendora congregation in order to make improvements to the building, upgrading the electrical system, installing HVAC, and repairing and repainting interior space. Through rent reduction to the district, Glendora is repaying the district for those improvements. In April, the district office moved into space in Glendora.

In 2019, the district purchased a large property in Los Banos CA so that Centro Agape en Acción would have a more adequate place to meet. Throughout 2021, many changes and improvements have been done to the facility in order to prepare it for use. Jim LeFever (Glendale CA), an architect by profession and member of the Stewards Commission, donated his time and talents to design the interior space which will be used for worship, study, and fellowship. Shortly, Centro Agape en Acción will be entering a mortgage relationship with the district for the half of the property they will occupy. Businesses in the other half of the building lease from the district generating additional income for the district.

Stewards Commission:

Bob Morris, chair
Jonas Funderburk, vice-chair
Christi Bowman, secretary (until her death in February)
Jim LeFever

Ex-officio members: District Executive Minister, Moderator, Board Chair, Treasurer
Of course, our District Executive Minister, Russ Matteson, provides a great deal of expertise to the Stewards Commission. We would be at a great loss without his input and his day to day administration.

I thank you for the trust you have placed in the members of the Stewards Commission to manage the assets of the district on your behalf.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Morris, 2021 Stewards Chair

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Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren
Giving to the District by Congregations, Individuals and Groups
January 1 to December 31, 2020

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<th>Church ID #</th>
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<td>Bakersfield</td>
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<tr>
<td>32-021</td>
<td>Centro Agape en Acción (Los Banos)</td>
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<td>32-025</td>
<td>Church of the Living Savior (McFarland)</td>
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<td>Imperial Heights (Los Angeles)</td>
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<tr>
<td>32-090</td>
<td>Laton</td>
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<tr>
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<td>32-120</td>
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<tr>
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*Sub-Total* | $26,838

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<th>Individual Giving</th>
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<td>Children’s Disaster Services (CDS)</td>
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*Sub-Total* | $2,690

**GRAND TOTAL** | **$29,528**
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, 2020, 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 entity 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.

Suchan & Associates
An Accountancy Corporation
Rancho Cucamonga, California
October 13, 2021
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 17-16 above.

### Financial Appointments

**Treasurer:** (authorized signatory) Karin Heckman Nelson (La Verne)
**Other Authorized Signatories:** (yearly appointment) Ferne Schechter (La Verne), Mary Kay Ogden (La Verne)

### Historical Committee

*This Committee is being reorganized.*

*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 2019-August 2021

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 Janelle Keeling (Bakersfield)
- 2022 Susan Price (Empire)
- 2023 Linda Davis (Living Savior, McFarland)

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

**Alternates for District Executive Minister:**

- 2021 Karen Shankster (Papago Buttes)
- 2022 Becky Zapata (Príncipe de Paz)
- 2023 Karen Pierson (Living Savior)
- 2024 Bob Morris (Glendora)
- 2025 Eric Bishop (La Verne)

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

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

### Congregational Vitality Task Group

Cheryl Crane, Chair (Prince of Peace, Sacramento)
Elena Yoder (Circle of Peace)

*ex-officio members: District Executive Minister; Moderator; Board Chair*
Hallelujah! Praise God that the world is opening up! The University has returned to campus in a hybrid model for the first semester. We are grateful for the continued love and support many of you have shown through the pandemic.

**We’ve Hired a New Provost**

I am very pleased to share that Kerop Janoyan, Ph.D., is our new provost and has begun his work on campus this spring. Recently, Dr. Janoyan was dean of the Graduate School at Clarkson University in New York. He also served as a professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. In addition, he recently served as interim dean of the university’s School of Health Sciences and director of distance learning. In his new role as provost and vice president of academic affairs, Dr. Janoyan will oversee key areas of the University of La Verne, including academic affairs, student affairs, regional campuses and online programs, campus health and safety, the library, athletics, housing, institutional research, and the office of the registrar. Dr. Janoyan has deep roots in Southern California. Born in Iraq, he attended school in the United Kingdom, Cyprus, and Italy before coming to the U.S. with his family and enrolling in the Glendale public schools for his secondary education. He completed his bachelor’s, master’s, and Ph.D. programs in civil engineering at UCLA. He speaks three languages.

**Lewis Center for Wellbeing and Research**

In addition to offering classes, workshops, topical lectures, and peer support groups revolving around physical fitness, nutrition, cooking, mental and emotional health, lung health, the Lewis Center’s mission is to become a regional hub for contemporary research around well-being theories and practices. Toward that end, this year rang in seven inaugural Well-Being and Research Faculty Fellows. Seven faculty members from different disciplines across the university have come together as a cohort to engage in shared research, learn from one another, and advance their collective knowledge of well-being. A sampling of the projects:

*This study will examine direct and indirect pathways between personal and economic circumstances and health and well-being for those roughly falling within the Millennial generation and the upper end of Generation Z.*

*This study seeks to develop an innovative way to deliver evidence-based mental health services through a virtual reality platform.*

*This project concerns the social determinants of health and will measure the impact of a health community on behaviors and attitudes related to improving public health.*

For more details on the cohort, please visit [laverne.edu/well-being/faculty-research-fellowship](laverne.edu/well-being/faculty-research-fellowship)

The Center has also selected the recipients of its first Inclusive Well-Being Fellowships for students. Twelve student fellows received training in well-being, social justice, and interfaith practices, which they will then share with their peers through campus programs.
Now it’s time for some fun! Try your hand at this trivia quiz and come to the ULV exhibit booth to claim your prize when you can answer at least 5 correctly!

1. What year was the University of La Verne founded?

2. The college was once named Palmera College. True or False?

3. Which one of the following is false?
   a. The Academy was founded in a hotel building.
   b. It was closed for a year in 1901-1902
   c. I.W. Lord was once president.
   d. During one period of time, faculty members took a 10% salary cut and were debt collectors of students who owed money to the school.

4. In what decade did La Verne College change its name to the University of La Verne? The 60s, 70s, or 80s?

5. How many students did La Verne have in 1930? 59 or 172?

6. The first woman to serve on the Board of Trustees was elected in the 50s. True or False?

7. Which president helped devise a five-year financial plan for the Shah of Iran?

8. A male once ran for Homecoming Queen. True or False?

9. What is the inscription on the cornerstone of Founder’s Hall?

10. Name the former side-arm Kansas City Royals pitcher who is a La Verne alumnus.

11. The first edition of the Campus Times was in which year? 1919 or 1931?

12. Who’s dog is honored by a plaque in front of Woody Hall? What was the dog’s name?

13. Which faculty member published, A Sex Manual for Puritans?

I need your help!

Our Brethren students enjoy a 20 percent discount off their first-year tuition plus an award of a Brethren scholarship in subsequent years. If you know of any interested Brethren students, 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! The University of La Verne’s welcome is wide for our Brethren students.

For any questions, please contact:
Julie Wheeler, Director of Church and Interfaith Relations
jwheeler@laverne.edu
Office: 909-448-4686, Cell: 909-720-9832
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 42 new residents joined the Hillcrest family.
• Net Entrance Fees received for residents with a continuing care contract were $7,436,800.20.
• Hillcrest received full forgiveness on a COVID Paycheck Protection Program loan in the amount of $1,824,100.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Executive Committee: Don Kurtz, Chair; Christine Meek, Vice Chair; Barbara Johnson. Secretary; Linda Saddlemire, Treasurer; and, Kathy Duncan, Past Chair.
Directors: Thomas Allison, Jon Bloclenstaff. Jackie Doud, Curtis Frick, Dot Hess, Gilbert Ivy, Johnson, Dan Lane, Leroy Lapp, DeWayne McMullin, Dale Stanley, 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, 2020: $99,417
• As of June 30, 2021, Woods Health Services Capital Campaign has raised approximately $4.3 million in cash and pledges toward the Woods remodeling project.
• Resident volunteer support at the Hillcrest Thrift Store and Gift Shop generated $33,116 to the Good Samaritan Fund.
CELEBRATING HILLSCREST’S REMARKABLE ASSOCIATES

Twenty-one associates have celebrated 25+ years at Hillcrest. The strength of any community is its people. At Hillcrest this includes both residents and associates. Hillcrest values its culture of kindness and together we all make Hillcrest a place we want to be, to live, to work, and to serve together. A familial sentiment is commonly expressed by residents and associates alike regardless of tenure. In this sense, Hillcrest is truly remarkable.

At the February 21, 2018 meeting of the Board of Directors, Hillcrest’s Mission Statement and Vision Statement were approved. In addition to those two statements, the Board of Directors approved “Remarkable Every Day!” as our Associate Commitment Statement to be used to inspire and motive associates. “Remarkable Every Day” stories will be shared in the associate newsletter.

REMARKABLE EVERY DAY!

In addition to Hillcrest being blessed with associates with over 25 years of service, we are also blessed with associates with talents in the arts. Hillcrest is fortunate to celebrate these talents by listening to their voices, reading their poetry, looking at their photography and other creative pursuits. We do this in The Gallery at Hillcrest, in our monthly resident newsletter, and our quarterly associate newsletter.

THE ME INSIDE I SEE

By Anitra Harvey, Southwoods Lodge Supervisor
An associate for 20 years

"Why do you hide?" I wonder, why can't your light shine bright? Is it because you are unfinished or because you have lost sight. How beautiful you are, how wonderfully made, how when you speak they listen, even when they are afraid. They see your input matters and what you say is true but the seed that's being planted didn't come from them, but you. Why don't you trust your instincts, that voice within that screams, this is not in your best interest, this is not what it seems? Why second guess your greatness, the power you hold within, it is meant to be released, soaring in the wind. Your intellect is unique, specific to only you, Don't shy away from extraordinary for it is destined to be you. "When will you reveal yourself" I wonder, when will you finally feel free, to let go of your doubts and be the me inside I see?
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.

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.

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. 2021 saw the completion of the kitchen renovation that provides quality facilities and food preparation for all the camps. In 2021 a new metal roof was installed in the upper restroom. Current projects include replacement of Cabin 11 and a new roof for the lower restroom.

More information about specific camps and dates can be found on the web at www.CampPeacefulPines.org

Camp Peaceful Pines
2301 Woodland Ave.
Modesto CA 95358

www.CampPeacefulPines.org
or search for us on Facebook and Instagram

Camp is located via Highway 108 adjacent to Sonora Pass at 6,000 feet

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

Garry Pearson, 2021 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 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

Due to county restrictions this summer and Camp La Verne’s dedication to providing a safe camping experience, we will not be hosting our scheduled physical camp’s this year. While this saddens us, we’ve been thrilled to bring you our first ever Virtual Camp Experience! Still available for viewing: www.camplaverne.org/virtual-camp-2020.html

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

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

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

Camp La Verne is under a Special Use Permit from the San Bernardino National Forest. In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, Camp La Verne is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. To file a complaint of discrimination: write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
Greetings to the moderator, delegates, and members of Pacific Southwest District!

We thank those of you who have entrusted us by using our pension, insurance, and organizational money management services; or who have attended one of our many workshops that are designed to help people be more knowledgeable stewards of their financial resources. Whether we’re joining you in person or electronically for this year’s conference, we are grateful for the opportunity to serve you. Service to you is why Annual Conference created Brethren Pension Plan, Brethren Insurance Services, Brethren Foundation Funds, and BBT to coordinate it all.

Surprise, adaptability, and pain has been the collective reality within the United States this past year due to COVID-19, and those of us within the Church of the Brethren were not exempt from life changing profoundly, from the loss of friends and relatives to changes in the workplace and in life in general, which might have included financial challenges. In the midst of adapting to the pandemic, your phone calls, text messages, and emails to Church of the Brethren Benefit Trust and its affiliates (Brethren Benefit Trust Inc., Brethren Foundation Funds Inc., and Brethren Foundation Inc.) were answered in a timely manner as our team didn’t miss a beat in transitioning to working from home. Some meetings took place over Zoom, while others simply were simply postponed until meetings could once again occur in person.

As we plan to be able to travel this fall and attend district conferences that are held in person, anticipating at this writing in early May of the new normal to which we all will need to adapt, we want to take a moment to describe how we have responded to the pandemic and strengthened our ministries over the past year.

**BRETHREN PENSION PLAN**

With uncertainty in the economy and a stock market that late in 2020 seemed to be tenuous, many pastors, church workers, and district staff members who participate in Brethren Pension Plan wonder how they should invest their contributions. We have three solutions. First, Ed Shannon is our retirement specialist who works individually with members and presents sessions to groups on how people can prepare for a meaningful retirement. We also have a partnership with Edelman Financial Engines, which allows members three tiers of advice on how they should invest their retirement funds, from a free service to fee-based financial planning services. Finally, we have five options called Target Date Funds that are easy to use; pick the fund with the name that best corresponds to when you want to retire, and the asset allocation will automatically change over your career to first help you grow your funds and then help you preserve those contributions when you are nearing retirement. We also provide a robust website where members can look at their account balances from the previous business day, change their asset allocation, and perform retirement scenario planning. Brethren Pension Plan started in 1943, and decades later the robust plan serves more than 4,400 members with assets of $455 million.

**CHURCH WORKERS’ ASSISTANCE PLAN**

When the pandemic hit in March 2020, it became clear rather quickly that some pastors and other employees of churches, districts, and camps within the denomination were experiencing financial difficulty. A new component to the Church Workers’ Assistance Plan was quickly created to address extraordinary needs in a streamlined manner. In 2020, 50 members of the ministers’ group received these new grants, totaling $218,435. This is in addition to 42 individuals who received $290,304 in regular Church Workers’ Assistance Plan grants last year.

**BRETHREN INSURANCE SERVICES**

With uncertainty about the future of medical insurance in the United States, BBT in 2020 began working on some concrete steps to eventually be able to offer medical insurance to pastors and church, district, and camp employees. The Brethren Medical Plan has excluded these employees since 2007 when the Annual Conference voted to end that coverage to these staff members. By forging new partnerships and adopting new methodologies, BBT is working to offer this coverage as an option, not a mandate. We will be able to report at your conference how that initiative is progressing.
In the meantime, BBT currently offers a number of insurance products to the members of the ministers’ group and employees of agencies and other Brethren-related organizations. These include dental, vision, life (basic and supplemental), accidental death and dismemberment (basic and supplemental), disability (short- and long-term), accident, Medicare supplement, and long-term care. BBT offers medical reimbursement and dependent care accounts for members who use one or more of its insurances. We also provide pet insurance. As of Dec. 31, 2020, Brethren Insurance Services had 2,359 insurance contracts with its members.

ORGANIZATIONAL MONEY MANAGEMENT THROUGH BRETHREN FOUNDATION FUNDS
Helping organizations manage their funds is a service that has been offered to Brethren congregations, districts, and organizations for more than 30 years! With fantastic staff focused on great customer service and a web portal that allows clients to find resources, manage the transfer of funds, and generate customizable reports, BFFI manages assets of organizations from $10,000 to more than $10,000,000. This ministry is structured to ensure that clients have numerous investment options, many of which are compliant with Brethren Values Investing guidelines. Assets under management as of May 2021, was $206 million. Inquire how BFFI can help your organization reach its investment goals.

WE MANAGE YOUR CHARITABLE GIFTS
Brethren Foundation is the BBT ministry that manages deferred gifts and offers charitable gift instruments for Church of the Brethren members who want to leave some of their assets with one or more Brethren organizations as part of their end-of-life decision making process. Assets under management on 4/30/2021 were $4,744,228 with nearly 120 deferred gift donors. We would be glad to illustrate to you how BFI can help establish and manage such gifts.

BRETHREN VALUES INVESTING
The majority of BBT’s assets under management are invested in a Brethren Values Investing manner, in accordance 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 with companies in which BBT owns stocks, and with other initiatives, which affect how companies interact with shareholders and with others in the global community. Lastly, we offer a Community Development Investment Fund to asset management clients and Pension members, which is used to invest monies in higher-than-normal risk areas to help stimulate economic growth in inner-city communities and redevelopment areas.

BBT WAS CREATED TO SERVE YOU
We feel blessed that despite the pandemic and the economic upheaval it caused, the assets we manage for members and clients are at an all-time high. Our resolve is to move forward beyond the pandemic boldly, with a plan to strengthen the foundation of BBT’s operations; to seek business beyond those we currently serve; to ensure that the right staff are in the right positions; to move permanently into a more nimble office situation for our staff; and to look at our identity to ensure that it reflects the ideals and beliefs that we hold and in which we operate, as we strive to serve people and organizations through the management of their financial resources. The future of this organization remains strong, and its service to the Church of the Brethren is unwavering.

Building financial security
Bettering the world
Together.

That is today’s, and tomorrow’s, BBT.

Donna Rhodes
Board Chair

Nevin Dulabaum
President
Greetings!

The Church of the Brethren is called a historic peace church. On Earth Peace sees the possibility of our beloved denomination claiming a call to be a living peace church - a people spiritually formed and practically equipped to respond with agape love, power, and creativity to the crises and opportunities in our times. This update invites you and your congregation to this vision and lets you know how you can get involved.

The entire Christian story is one of breaking through barriers - between people and God, and between people and other people! Sometimes those barriers are in the heart - hardness of heart, prejudice, hatred, apathy. Sometimes they are practices or policies that continue to leave some at the side and prevent full flourishing for all people (in our congregations, and in the communities where we do ministry). A church alive in Christ’s power knows it has the call and power to dismantle barriers and open way for all of God’s people to experience agape love and flourishing life.

A church that comes alive in Christ’s way of peace with justice. . .

- equips people spiritually and biblically to hear and act on God’s call to seek peace
- handles conflict and decisionmaking in healthy ways
- develops leaders who are ready for the task of community engagement
- analyzes and addresses the ways it informally or formally discriminates or otherwise prevents full participation of all people
- works to include and celebrate all people, on their own terms
- connects faithful discipleship to active engagement with the problems of the world
- inspires members to acts of transformational love

Are you interested in this vision?

What value or resources does On Earth Peace offer my congregation or district?

- We provide training and leadership development in an approach called Kingian Nonviolence Conflict Reconciliation, which offers a connection to the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Our interns support and develop Learning Action Communities on a variety of justice issues. (Find them on Facebook by typing “OEP” into the search bar.)
- We consult with congregations & districts to build capacity to work for peace and reconciliation
- We provide community engagement mini-grants and webinars for youth groups
- Since the pandemic started, we’ve published more than 70 Read Aloud videos which families and churches are using to support children’s peace formation
- We provide many community-building and educational events - see current and past events listed at www.OnEarthPeace.org/events
Quick Facts

What is On Earth Peace?
OEP is a 46-year-old 501c3 nonprofit ministry that equips and walks with individuals and communities who work for justice and peace.

Who works with OEP?
We have 4 long-term staff and about 20 interns; a board of 12 members, of whom 25% are elected through the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference; and an internal Anti-Racism Transformation Team which helps us grow toward being a fully multi-racial and multi-cultural organization.

What is OEP’s relationship with the Church of the Brethren?
We are an agency of the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference. Through our agency responsibilities and opportunities, we seek to embolden the Church of the Brethren to become a living peace and justice denomination.

What do you do?
We work with churches and community groups, and youth and young adults. We work with both individuals and groups to develop leadership and support/inspire/equip for faithful, effective work that builds a reconciled world and seeks justice for all people.

What does that look like?
Here are some examples from 2021 so far:
- Leaders in 8 countries are developing skills in through our Kingian Nonviolence Level One Trainer Certification program.
- Youth groups in three states are developing projects and building skills through our Community Engagement Mini-Grants
- Brethren and Quaker racial justice workers in a 12-week racial justice accountability program practiced new skills and made plans for their community work

What do you mean by Kingian Nonviolence?
Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King said, “There is a power in love that our world has not discovered yet. Jesus discovered it centuries ago....that love has within it a redemptive power.” His six principles of nonviolence and the six steps of a campaign were grounded in the love Christ embodied. Many are choosing to act out of that transformative love by learning more about Kingian Nonviolence. Kingian Nonviolence Conflict Reconciliation helps individuals and groups address issues of conflict, violence, and injustice with lessons from the black-led freedom struggle. It builds from the work of the Rev Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his many colleagues in the movement for civil and human rights. This approach has a particular Brethren connection: David Jehnsen (Living Peace CoB, Columbus, OH) is co-author of the curriculum.

What is your funding source?
We receive the bulk of our funding from individual donors. We also receive funding from congregations who add us to their annual budget or send periodic special offerings. Please consider becoming an individual or congregational supporter.

To learn more about how you can support or be involved in our work, contact Matt Guynn, director of church and community organizing, at mguynn@OnEarthPeace.org
MASST SETS SAIL

For students who hear a clear call and are following a specific path to practical ministry, Bethany has launched a new master’s degree program that links spiritual formation with a focus on social change.

The Master of Arts in Spiritual and Social Transformation (MASST) degree program launches in the fall of 2021 and will significantly broaden the Seminary’s offerings to students who want to focus and specialize their ministries. The program is designed to serve individuals pursuing careers in non-profit leadership, social services, or spiritual direction. This new program is uniquely positioned to link Bethany’s Brethren heritage to the interests and needs of current students. According to Academic Dean Steve Schweitzer, MASST is a natural outgrowth of Bethany’s mission and draws on the strengths of the Seminary’s stellar faculty. The program is also a thoughtful response to trends across theological education in the U.S., and it is only the second master’s program in the United States to focus on spiritual and social transformation in this combination and integrative way.

Students in the MASST program can choose from five “Paths” or concentrations of courses, including Non-Profit Leadership (in partnership with Eastern Mennonite University) and two programs in Spiritual Practices and Direction (in association with Oasis Ministries). Other focus areas are History as Argument and Meditation and Public Theology and Witness. All concentrations will benefit from Bethany’s existing strengths, and students will learn alongside those who are seeking certificates, other M.A. degrees, and the M.Div.

As is true for all Bethany degree programs, MASST students will have access to generous financial aid, including the Pillars and Pathways Residential Scholarship, which allows students to earn a graduate degree without taking on additional student or commercial debt.

HELPING STUDENTS ANSWER THEIR CALL

Bethany remains focused on keeping Seminary education accessible and affordable for all. As we celebrated commencement — honoring graduates from both 2020 and 2021 — we were happy to note that our Pillars and Pathways program is helping many of our students earn Bethany degrees without taking on additional student or consumer debt. The Class of 2021 included seven individuals who earned the Master of Divinity degree, as well as eight individuals who earned the Master of Arts or Master of Arts in Theopoetics and Writing degrees. In addition, 11 people earned certificates from the Seminary, including the first cohort of four students who completed their studies at the Technology Centre in Jos, Nigeria. The class includes alumni who will seek ordination in the Church of the Brethren as well as those who minister through writing, social justice advocacy, and additional graduate study.

A RETURN TO IN-PERSON LEARNING

Bethany students and faculty will return to face-to-face classes in fall 2021. After a year of courses held via videoconferencing due to concerns about the Covid-19 pandemic, the Seminary will allow vaccinated students and faculty to gather in person for the August intensive and fall semester courses. Bethany continues to invest in robust technology, and some students will still join classes via Zoom, but the Seminary looks forward to having faculty back in the classroom, meeting in person with residential and connections students.

“We will continue to follow health and safety guidelines in order to protect everyone in the Bethany community,” notes President Jeff Carter. “Our priority is to provide an exceptional educational experience to our students, and we believe in-person classes are a great benefit to students and professors alike.”
Bethany At-a-Glance

DEGREE PROGRAMS
→ Master of Divinity
→ Master of Arts
→ Master of Arts: Theopoetics and Writing
→ Master of Arts in Spiritual and Social Transformation

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS
→ Certificate of Achievement in Theological Studies
→ Certificate of Achievement in Biblical Peacemaking
→ Certificate in Intercultural Biblical Interpretation
→ Certificate in Just Peace and Conflict Resolution
→ Certificate in Theopoetics and Theological Imagination

BETHANY ACADEMY FOR MINISTERIAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS
→ Education for a Shared Ministry
→ Training in Ministry
→ Educación para un Ministerio Compartido
→ Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispano-de la Iglesia de los Hermanos

BETHANY QUICK FACTS
• 726 licensed or ordained pastors in the Church of the Brethren are graduates of Bethany Theological Seminary.
• 10 OF 24 Church of the Brethren District Executives are Bethany graduates.
• 22 students graduated with degrees or certificates from Bethany in May 2021 and another 4 completed training through Bethany Academy for Ministerial Leadership.
• 10 percent of our financial support in 2020 came from districts and congregations.
• 4 graduates from Nigeria earned the Certificate in Biblical Peacemaking in 2021 — the first cohort to earn Bethany degrees while taking courses at the Technology Centre in Jos.

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT CONFERENCE
• Current students: 3
• Financial support during fiscal year 2021 (as of June 30, 2021):
  $236,456.74 FROM 47 DONORS
2021 District Conferences

Dear Sisters and Brothers and of the Pacific Southwest District,

Grace and Peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. On behalf of the Annual Conference Officers, I want to make sure you know that I thank God regularly for you and your good work on behalf of the Gospel, in whatever form that takes. As you gather for your district conference, whether it be in person or by computer, please know that my prayers are with you, that your worship, study, and work together will strengthen your faith and energize your witness for Christ.

At the time of this writing, I am praying that what some have called our long “covid nightmare” might indeed be behind us, and we can return to what we fondly call, a “real Annual Conference” in Omaha next summer. Not that our virtual gathering in June/July 2021 wasn’t real. Whenever the Church of the Brethren gathers, even with 2 or more, we know God is present. But we proved that we Brethren can adapt, are flexible, creative, and are deeply committed to being the people of God regardless of the circumstances in which we find ourselves and our church.

Our work with the Compelling Vision has reminded us of the ways we already have been Jesus in our neighborhoods and to a hurting world and challenged us to do that more boldly. We will gather in Omaha facing questions about how we live that out as a people who for some 300 years have been committed to sharing Christ with the world through both talk and action. We will explore what it means to live in harmony with one another, respecting each other’s gifts and perspectives, while committed to a saving Christ who calls us to another way of living. Our theme will be “Embracing one another, as Christ embraces us.” I hope it motivates us to consider how to better embrace each other, as we walk together, committed as Paul’s letter to the Romans instructs, to “live in harmony with one another.” (Romans 12:16 NIV). As we do so, we affirm our common commitment to proclaiming the One in whom we live and move and have our being, the One who guides and undergirds our life together, Jesus the Christ.

I have had the privilege of sharing the sights and sounds and inspiration that is our Annual Conference gatherings for the past 30 years, and have seen the impact those gathering, in the name of Christ and for the work of the church, have had on us as a church family. Annual Conference is indeed a large part of what holds us as Brethren together and guides our ministry. We are indeed emerging into God’s adventurous future, with all the promise and potential that brings.

Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together

1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, Illinois 60120  847-742-5100  800-323-8039  Fax: 847-742-6103
Please join those who share this faith tradition known as the Church of the Brethren next summer, as we worship God, embrace our brothers and sisters in the faith, and hopefully return to the kind of large, safe gatherings that have energized us to be more faithful and courageous disciples for our Lord Jesus Christ.

Between now and then, please pray that our gathering will be an opportunity to recall God’s promises, recount our shared stories, bolster our unity, and commit our hearts as Christ’s witness in neighborhoods and a world of desperate need.

David Sollenberger
2022 Annual Conference Moderator
District Conference 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Greetings to you in the name of Christ our Savior!

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 in person or virtually to worship, sing praises, pray, and accomplish the tasks set before you by your District Moderator.

Our staff have been working hard shifting our programming and events from in-person to virtual. What we have learned over the past year is that while there is something special about in-person events, the virtual world has opened up new opportunities for connecting with those who may not have the time or the resources to travel. I would encourage you to visit the webinar archives at www.brethren.org, where you can access a number of excellent resources to support your ministries. Going forward, we will offer hybrid opportunities for our events where it makes sense to do so.

The Mission and Ministry Board has been laying the groundwork to live into their new strategic plan. Considerable work has been done by the board’s Executive Committee to evaluate Church of the Brethren programs and ministries – the first step toward the board’s prioritization of our ministry and programming work. By the time you meet for your district conferences, more information will be available about the board’s priorities.

As congregations have adjusted their ministries and events out of concern for the health and safety of their members and neighbors, some of the most difficult times were those in which we could not gather in community together to worship and celebrate new life, affirm relationships, or grieve the loss of loved ones. There is little doubt that the pandemic has taken a toll on our families and friends, our communities of faith, and our pastoral and congregational leadership. Yet we have also discovered a new virtual medium for ministry that has opened up new possibilities of being church. It is my hope that each of us will embrace this new evangelism tool to share the light and hope of Christ both near and far.

In this past year I have appreciated the opportunities to deepen my relationships with many dedicated church leaders. Despite the challenges that we face in the church in general, those I work most closely with – our Mission and Ministry Board, our district...
executives, and our staff—continue to give me hope. Even though all things “Elgin” are often misrepresented in some segments of the church, I see Jesus present and central in all our work and ministry together.

I am grateful for the many ways your district and local congregations faithfully strive to live out the Gospel— to simply try to do what Jesus did. The vital ministries of our Church of the Brethren congregations—small to large—are at the heart of our Church. We should never diminish the essential role that each unique part of the body plays in our common ministry together.

With gratitude and hope,

David Steele
General Secretary
Dear Brothers and Sisters,

_We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, Colossians 1:3 (NIV)_

Indeed, we at Brethren Disaster Ministries are thankful for the overwhelming support we received in 2020 as we stepped out in faith to meet the challenges of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic along with other disasters, including a record-breaking Atlantic hurricane season. Our staff, volunteers and supporters took to heart the messages of adaptability, innovation, and fearlessness in order to meet disaster survivors where they were and walk with them toward recovery.

BDM responded to the COVID-19 pandemic through two new grant programs funded through the Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) designed to help U.S. congregations and churches, and Global Brethren churches and trusted partners, to meet the needs of the vulnerable members of society affected by the restrictions put in place to stop its spread. The grant program for U.S. congregations and districts provided 44 grants spread across 11 districts. The global grant program supported critical humanitarian programs in seven global Brethren communions, four Church of the Brethren mission points, and three partners. These programs, in DR Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Sudan, Spain, and Venezuela, provided distributions of food, hygiene, and safety supplies to marginalized and impoverished people, many of whom depended on daily labor for survival and were overwhelmingly impacted by pandemic restrictions. The pandemic grant programs are continuing in 2021 as long as funds are available.

The pandemic created difficulties deploying volunteers for the Rebuilding Program and Children’s Disaster Services, but also brought opportunities for creativity and dedicated detailed planning to meet those challenges. The Rebuilding site in Tampa, Fla., serving Hurricane Irma survivors, closed as scheduled in March. Out of concern for the safety of volunteers, survivors, and partners, and in compliance with local COVID-19 regulations, the sites in North Carolina and Puerto Rico (responding respectively to Hurricances Matthew and Florence, and Hurricane Maria) also closed in March. Both were nearing their scheduled end and were not reopened.

The diligent efforts of BDM Rebuilding staff and leaders led to the development of COVID-19 protocol and mitigation efforts so that new sites could open safely. The Dayton, Ohio, site, serving survivors of the 2019 Memorial Day tornadoes, opened in July but was paused at Thanksgiving, and is planned to reopen in May 2021. The Coastal NC (Bayboro, N.C.) site opened in September and is assisting Hurricane Florence survivors who have been waiting two years or more to have their homes repaired. Through the end of the year, a total of 296 volunteers served on these projects following strict protocol involving wearing face coverings, social distancing, and rigorous hygiene measures, allowing volunteers to do amazing work without a single person contracting the coronavirus while on site. We praise God for the work and protection!

Although the last few weeks of scheduled volunteers for the Puerto Rico project were cancelled due to pandemic restrictions, the local leadership and contractors completed all homes scheduled

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Brethren Disaster Ministries, 601 Main Street, P.O. Box 188, New Windsor, Maryland 21776-0188
410-635-8731  800-451-4407  Fax: 410-635-8739
for repairs before the official end of the project in June. Even though the official project celebration was postponed until the fall of 2021, we already celebrate the positive impact on the survivor families and the volunteers who served them, as well as the partnership and relationship with the Puerto Rico district during our collaborative response to Hurricane Maria!

In 2020 Children’s Disaster Services celebrated 40 years of serving over 100,000 children and their families after disasters. Unfortunately, CDS was not able to deploy volunteers in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic. Undaunted, and determined to continue to serve children, CDS developed the Individual Kit of Comfort (IKOC), a pouch containing multiple activities for children in non-congregate sheltering that encourages creative play and helps begin the healing process. The kits were assembled by volunteers around the country. Over 2,500 were distributed to children through American Red Cross operations to California, Colorado, Louisiana, Missouri, and Texas, and through Partnerships with Native Americans (PWNA) to tribal communities hit hard by COVID-19. All but two of CDS’ scheduled volunteer trainings had to be postponed but there is hope that these can begin again later in 2021.

The Nigeria Crisis Response continued to be the largest global response as the Church of the Brethren worked with its two main partners, EYN (Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) and Mission 21. In the midst of the two-fold challenges of the pandemic and ongoing violence in many places, EYN persists in providing both relief and recovery programs for internally displaced persons and those who have been able to either settle in safer areas or return to their homes. Programs center around agriculture, safe drinking water, food and medical assistance, livelihood training, home repairs, education, and trauma and peacebuilding, as well as the strengthening of EYN leadership.

In eight other countries, EDF grants supported responses by partners, Global Brethren Churches, and Church of the Brethren mission points. Two of the largest grants to partners were in response to the major explosion at the port in Beirut, Lebanon, which caused widespread destruction and displacement of people. Church World Service received grants to assist with flooding in Kenya and their continued response to 2019’s Hurricane Dorian in the Bahamas. Brethren in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Venezuela were also supported in flood responses. The largest combined response of 2020 supported relief programs by several partners for survivors of the devastating Hurricanes Eta and Iota which struck Central America in November. Support for relief and recovery programs in this area will be continued in 2021.

The total 2020 program expenditures were $349,021 for U.S. responses, including the Rebuilding Program and CDS ($127,469 of that amount supported the Puerto Rico hurricane response); $287,548 for the Nigeria Crisis Response; $166,000 for all other international responses; and $422,612 for the domestic and global COVID-19 Pandemic Grant programs.

BDM was grateful for sufficient EDF reserves given by faithful and generous financial giving which enabled us to boldly respond to and walk with those affected by disasters and/or the COVID-19 pandemic 2020. Our Rise Up! appeal at the end of the year brought a heartwarming response that allows responses to continue. How precious you all are to us and to God who loves us all!

Roy Winter, Executive Director for Service Ministries
On behalf of BDM staff – Sherry Chastain, Lisa Crouch, Jenn Dorsch-Messler and Sharon Franzén


Brethren Disaster Ministries, 601 Main Street, P.O. Box 188, New Windsor, Maryland 21776-0188
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Brethren Volunteer Service Annual Report

Sharing God’s Love Through Acts of Service

Working for Peace  Caring for Creation  Advocating Justice  Serving Human Needs

BVS ended 2020 with 20 volunteers:

- who served in 6 countries: El Salvador, Japan, Northern Ireland, Ireland, Nigeria, and the U.S.;
- placed in 13 U.S. states and Washington, D.C.;
- 54 volunteers served throughout the year.

In 2020:

- BVS hosted three orientation units this past year. One was hosted in Newmanstown, Pa., and two were hosted virtually via Zoom due to COVID-19 restrictions.

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 2021 award goes to Harrisburg First Church of the Brethren and bcmPEACE in Harrisburg, Pa.

Since receiving their first BVS volunteer in 1960, Harrisburg First Church of the Brethren and bcmPEACE have hosted nearly 60 BVS volunteers. They began their partnership with BVS in hopes of being helpful to the migrant community in the area and continue to host BVSers to serve their community today.

The Partners in Service Award is usually presented at the Annual Conference Brethren Volunteer Service Luncheon each July. However, this year it will be acknowledged at the BVS Networking Session on July 1 as part of the 2021 virtual Annual Conference.

New European Coordinator: Sara Cook

Sara Cook began working with BVS as the European coordinator in January 2020. Sara is based in Northern Ireland where she served with BVS from 2001 to 2003 as a part of unit #246. Since her time as a BVSer, Sara has worked to support Northern Ireland’s peace process. Her work has included facilitating dialogue encounters between former security forces, paramilitaries, and those bereaved or injured by conflict-related violence. In recent years, Sara has also supported the work of international women peacebuilders and the resettlement of Syrian refugees.

As European coordinator, Sara will continue Kristin Flory’s work of supporting BVSers based in Europe, with a current focus on projects in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Though the COVID-19 pandemic brought challenges soon after Sara began her work, she is “really enjoying working with current volunteers based in Belfast.” She says, “BVS changed my life. My peacebuilding work, my life in Northern Ireland, and so many of my perspectives and values are due to my time as a volunteer with BVS. It’s a privilege to work with current BVSers as they serve with BVS.”
BVS During COVID-19

In March 2020, along with the rest of the world, BVS was forced to shift all of its programming to a virtual format in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The first pivot was the annual volunteer mid-year retreat becoming an online experience. Volunteers and BVS staff gathered virtually for a day of fellowship, games, and respite.

BVS staff then got to work at shifting its 2020 orientations to a virtual format. Instead of a three-week, in-person orientation, the summer unit #325 and fall unit #327 were hosted via Zoom. Volunteers and BVS staff met weekly in the month preceding orientation for pre-orientation, a time of connection and project discernment. Volunteers then traveled to their project sites and attended orientation virtually for 14 days, which doubled as a quarantine time. BVS staff will carry some of the changes from this year forward as they continue to seek innovative ways of training volunteers.

Amidst the programming changes, BVS also experienced a transition in staff. In addition to the usual turnover in staff volunteers, in July 2020, Jocelyn Siakula resigned from her role as orientation coordinator, a position she had held since 2015. Pauline Liu, unit #319, stepped into the role of interim volunteer coordinator following Jocelyn’s departure. Pauline served with L’Arche Kilkenny in Ireland as a live-in assistant during her BVS term in 2018-2019. She remotely joined the BVS team in May 2020 as the orientation assistant before taking on the role of interim volunteer coordinator. Pauline holds a B.A. in Psychology with a minor in Leadership Studies from the University of Colorado Boulder, and recently completed a master’s degree in Educational Psychology – Human Relations at Northern Arizona University.

Workcamp Ministry Name Change

In November, the workcamp ministry changed its name to Faith Outreach Expeditions (FaithX). This name change came from a several-year process of determining the future for the short-term service program. In the new name, the word “faith” expresses that these experiences are a place for theological exploration, discernment, and spiritual growth. The word “outreach” speaks to the experience of becoming the hands and feet of Christ to the world. The word “expeditions” emphasizes the sense of adventure and fun that we hope all participants experience while serving.

The breadth of the new name speaks to the hope of expanding short-term service opportunities beyond the summer programming for youth and young adults. Additionally, for those outside the Church of the Brethren, or those not as familiar with the short-term service program, this name encompasses the program’s mission and goals. The name Faith Outreach Expeditions speaks to the spiritual component of the program, the emphasis on service, and the sense of adventure that is promoted as participants travel to new places and try new things.

FaithX Update

Chad Whitzel and Alton Hipps (at right) are serving as the FaithX coordinators in the BVS office. They began their work in August of 2020 and are part of the first group of volunteers to live in the newly-purchased Elgin BVS house located near the general offices.

The 2021 theme is “Step Out: Seeking New Paths,” and Chad and Alton are working to plan eight in-person and virtual FaithX experiences for the 2021 summer season.

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

BVS is a ministry of the Church of the Brethren
Minutes of the  
Fifty-Seventh Annual District Conference  
Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren  

November 14, 2020 Virtual on the web Zoom Conference  

I. Call to Order  

- Opening song: “Blest Be The Tie That Binds.”  
- The 2020 Pacific Southwest District Conference was called to order and led in prayer by  
  Moderator Mary Kay Ogden at 9:35 a.m.  

II. Introduction of Leadership  
Moderator Mary Kay introduced the leadership, Al Clark, Moderator Elect; Karen Cosner, Clerk;  
Paul Lovelace, Parliamentarian; Sharon Maldonado, Time Keeper.  

III. Roll Call and Establishing of Quorum  
The roll was called with 62 delegates from 20 congregations in attendance establishing a quorum  
so that we can conduct the business of the Pacific Southwest District at this the 57th District  
Conference.  

IV. Dedication of the Delegates  
Mary Kay invited the delegates to join her in reciting the Delegates’ Dedication on page 6 of the  
Business Book. She ended the dedication with prayer.  

V. Approval of Agenda  
Approval of the Agenda, page 3 in the 2020 Business Book, was moved by Norma Sexton  
(Prince of Peace)/Cady Laycook (South Bay), passed.  

VI. Approval of the Minutes  
A. Approval of the minutes of the 2019 meeting, pages 45-49 in the 2020 Business Book,  
as found to be accurate by the review committee, was moved by Maren McCourt  
(Modesto)/Janet Short (Pomona Fellowship), passed.  
B. The following persons volunteered to certify the accuracy of the 2020 Minutes. Norma  
Morris (Glendora), Tim Brayton (La Verne), Linda Davis (Church of the Living Savior,  
McFarland).  

VII. Recognition of Projects and Welcome to Pasadena Project  
A. Iglesia Cristiano Elohim in Las Vegas whose pastor is Luz Roman.  
B. The Waterford project has taken the name Nueva Vision la Hermosa (Beautiful New Vision).  
Florecita Merlos is the pastor.  
C. In Los Banos at Centro Agape en Acción, Rigo and Margie Berumen are the pastors.  
D. New work is beginning in Pasadena to begin a Spanish speaking community. Pasadena  
pastor Elizabeth Rowan introduced Juan Pablo Plaza and Adriana Rios who have been  
licensed, are students at Fuller Seminary, and have an interest in starting a ministry. Fernanda  
Navarrete, another Fuller student is also licensed and working with them. They greeted the  
audience and thanked the District for our support.
VIII. Business Item: Exhibit A. Presentation of Ballot (See pages 51-55 in the 2020 Business Book)
A. Al Clark, Nominating Committee Chair, introduced the Ballot while pictures were shown on the screen.
B. The moderator asked for nominations from the floor. There were none.
C. Motion to approve the ballot as a slate, Barbara Der Boghossian (Glendale)/Christi Bowman (Living Savior), passed.
D. The following persons were elected to the PSWD 2021 positions:
   1. Moderator-Elect: Cheryl Crane, Prince of Peace
   2. Standing Committee Delegate: Don Shankster, Papago Buttes
   3. Standing Committee Alternate: Sara Haldeman-Scarr, San Diego
   4. Nominating Committee: Joanne Wagoner, La Verne
   5. Program Committee, District Conference: Annali Topf, Pasadena
   6. Program Committee, District Conference: Cady Laycook, South Bay
   7. District Board of Administration:
      a. Norma Sexton, Prince of Peace, Northern California Representative
      b. Jim Lefever, Glendale, Southern California West Representative
      c. Mario Cabrera, Principe de Paz, At-Large Representative
      d. David Flores, Cristo Sion, At-Large Representative
      e. Bob Morris, Glendora, At-Large Representative
      f. Julia Wheeler, La Verne, At-Large Representative
      g. Trinity Hong, Glendale, Youth & Young Adult Representative
      h. Deborah Oseguera, Centro Agape en Acción, Youth & Young Adult Representative
      i. Elena Yoder, Circle of Peace, Youth & Young Adult Representative

IX. Policy Board Report (See pages 18-25 in the 2020 Business Book)
A. Ministry Commission, Norma Sexton chair (See pages 20-21 in the 2020 Business Book)
   1. The NACC (Nurturing and Credentialing Committee) met several times since the Ministry Commission report was submitted for this conference. They conducted six licensing interviews, two ordination interviews and one commissioning interview, all of the licensing celebrations have taken place.
   2. For the future NACC plans to have interview sessions more frequently due to the use of virtual interviews.
   3. In the past we have commemorated ministers’ ordination anniversaries at 25 years. This year with Board approval we will begin to commemorate anniversaries beginning at 5 years.
B. Stewards Commission, Board Chair Nelda Clarke, in Joel Price’s absence. (See pages 21-24 in the 2020 Business Book)
   1. The Commission dispersed $35,000 in COVID-19 support funds.
   2. They deferred loan payments with four of our five church loans and have offered interest free loans to our churches.
   3. Los Banos is getting ready to renovate their facility and hope to worship in the space by February 2021.
   4. We are working on plans to sell the lots where the former Paradise COB stood.
   5. The 2019 Audit is completed. (See pages. 20-23 in the 2020 Business Book.)
C. Congregational Vitality Task Group, Cheryl Crane chair.
   1. $45,000 was allocated to all mission projects and projects that improved outreach.
D. Policy Board Report, (See page 19 in the 2020 Business Book)
The Policy Board experienced two deaths this year, Cindy Slaughter and Larry Woodruff.
X. Ministry Anniversaries (See page 12 in the 2020 Business Book)
The ministers were recognized by Norma Sexton while pictures were shown on the screen. Norma led us in prayer for the ministry anniversaries.

XI. Standing Committee Report (See page 14 in the 2020 Business Book) Don Shankster (Papago Buttes) shared the report:
A. There will be an Annual Conference June 30 to July 4, 2021 in Greensboro, NC.
B. The Nominating Committee is working on having ballots in Spanish.
C. There are several positions open and nominations are due by the end of December.
D. There was a question with concern for On Earth Peace and their direction. Don shared that the Standing Committee is discussing how to proceed in working with On Earth Peace. The Annual Conference Officers have issued a statement with regard to recent action by On Earth Peace.
E. On January 6th and January 16th at 10:00am, there will be a zoom session with David Sollenberger and Jim Beckwith concerning the state of the denomination.
F. All items that were on the agenda for the 2020 Conference will be on the 2021 agenda.
G. Questions:
   1. There was a question about the tensions within the denomination. Several churches have decided to withdraw from the denomination.
   2. Is there any more information about On Earth Peace (OEP)?
   3. How is OEP related to the denomination. They need to follow the guidelines.

XII. Program Committee Report (See page 15 in the 2020 Business Book) Mary Kay Ogden (La Verne) was able to have one in-person meeting in Glendora this year. The committee decided to go to a virtual Conference in May due to concerns around the pandemic. She concluded her report by reading the last paragraph of her report. “As you read this report and experience district Conference, we hope our expectations as a committee and your expectations as delegates, participants, and attendees have been met. I want to thank all of the Program Committee members and staff for their commitment in planning a quality conference amid these challenging times. Blest Be The Tie That Binds.”

XIII. Business Item: Exhibit C. Policy Board Budget Recommendations (See pages 56-59 in the 2020 Business Book) Board Chair Nelda Clarke presented the budget related business items:
A. The 2021 Operating Budget and the 2021 Church Planting Support Budget were presented.
   1. Increases were primarily in a small salary increase and health insurance.
   2. Question: How does the income from investments cover expenses? Why is there not a line item that explains this? Investments do not always cover the expenses, we use earned income to balance the budget.
   3. The Policy Board recommends a budget of $84,180 across the four church plants that are in operation.

   Action Item: The Policy Board recommends to the District Conference the adoption of the 2021 Operating Budget and the 2021 Church Planting Support Budget as presented. Passed.

B. 2022 Operating Expense Maximum. The recommendation for 2022, (See page 57 in the 2020 Business Book), of $475,000 is a $8,271 increase over the 2021 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 2022 Operating Budget be $475,000. Passed.
XIV. **Reports From Annual Conference Agencies** (See pages 32-44 in the 2020 Business Book)

A. Bethany Seminary:
   1. In a recorded video message President Jeff Carter shared that they had 13 students who received graduate degrees this year. This fall in person classes were replaced with video conferencing. They hope to reopen face to face in the fall. Students will also be able to join virtually. One of their key programs is “Pillars and Pathways” which reduces debt to the students. He thanked the District for its students, its financial support and its prayers.
   2. Gail Connery, Executive Director gave an update: Bethany has 86 students this fall: 30 for the first time, 34 Master of Divinity, 14 Master of Arts, 10 Master of Arts Theopoetics and Writing, and 28 in the certificate program. 15 students are living in the neighborhood. She offered her thanks to the District for our support.

B. CoB Inc:
   1. Shannon McNeil, Mission Advancement staff for the Church of the Brethren, showed the video “Living Letters” for her report. She was asked if Volunteers for BVS were still having virtual orientation for the summer and fall and the answer was yes.

XV. **Table Talk:**
The group was encouraged to share the following questions within their group.
1. What will you take back to the congregation from conference?
2. Was there any thing learned in the church during covid19 that has kept relationships strong?

XVI. **District Executive Minister Report:** (See pages 10-13 in the 2020 Business Book)
Russ Matteson shared that it is good to be with all of you. It has been exciting. On page 12 are the anniversaries of the ministers and the list of five ordained ministers who died this year: Michael Fletcher, Gene Hipskind, Gene Palsgrove, Karl Pohlhaus and William Wash. He offered his thanks to pastors for their creativity, resourcefulness, and compassion in this difficult time. Elizabeth Rowan offered her thanks to Russ for his support. It has been a challenging time as the virus surges ahead. There have been many conversations about how to be faithful as a congregation at this time.

XVII. **Passing the Gavel**
Moderator Mary Kay Ogden thanked the conference for their attendance, attention and support. She symbolically passed the gavel to Al Clark. Russ Matteson performed Consecration of Moderator, Al Clark and Moderator Elect, Cheryl Crane. Al thanked Mary Kay for being a wonderful mentor. She has led us into a wonderful conference. Thanks to Russ Matteson and Joe Vecchio for their support and help. Theme for next year is “Together/Juntos” and will feature an illuminated manuscript of Pentecost

XVIII. **Adjournment**
The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Karen Cosner, clerk

*In February 2021 the draft copy of the minutes was examined and given preliminary approval by the committee: Norma Morris (Glendora), Tim Brayton (La Verne), Linda Davis (Church of the Living Savior, McFarland).*
**Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren**  
**November 2021 – November 2022 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**

| Judy Stout, San Diego - SE |

### Clerk

Vote for 1  
**Three year term**

| Laura Miller, Papago Buttes - AZ |

### Nominating Committee

Vote for 1  
**Three year term**

| Marye Martinez, Modesto - NC |

### Program Committee, District Conference

Vote for 2  
**Three year term**

| Nohemi Flores, Cristo Sion - SE |
| Mary Kay Ogden, La Verne - SE |

### District Board of Administration

#### Youth & Young Adult Representatives

Vote for 2  
**One year term**

| Deborah Oseguera, Centro Agape en Acción - NC (incumbent) |
| Elena Yoder, Circle of Peace - AZ (incumbent) |

### District Board of Administration

#### At-Large Representatives

Vote for 3  
**Three year term**

| Jonas Funderburk, Glendale - SW (incumbent) |
| Gail Heisel, La Verne - SE |
| Bill Himes, La Verne - SE |

### Arizona Representative

Vote for 1  
**Three year term**

| Andrew Kauffman, Circle of Peace - AZ |

### Central Calif. Representative

Vote for 1  
**Three year term**

| Richard Keeling, Bakersfield - CC (incumbent) |

### Brethren Hillcrest Homes Board Nominees

Vote for 0  
**Three year term**

| Nominees not requested in 2021 |

### Camp La Verne Trustee Nominees

Vote for 0  
**Three year term**

| Nominees not requested in 2021 |

### 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.
Ballot Background Information, Exhibit B

Pacific Southwest District - Church of the Brethren
Background Information for the 2020 - 2021 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.

**Judy Minnich Stout:**
- **Age:** 75
- **Congregation:** San Diego
- **Vocation:** Retired teacher / volunteer
- **Church Experience:** Board Chair San Diego Church of the Brethren
- **Vision Statement:** I believe Jesus is the center of our faith; community is the center of our life; and reconciliation is the center of our work.

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

**Laura Miller:**
- **Age:** 63
- **Congregation:** Papago Buttes
- **Vocation:** I’ve worked as a court reporter and as a church secretary.
- **Vision Statement:** As Church, we are all welcome to share our commitment as a community of love and to care for all of God’s creation. By praying, reflecting, and listening to each other, we can forge our bond as God’s holy people, spreading his love to the ends of the earth.

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.

**Marye Martinez:**
- **Congregation:** Modesto
- **Vocation:** Retired Educator
- **Church Experience:** Member of the Modesto Church of the Brethren over 30 years. Lead Deacon for over 15 years. Served on the PSWD Board for over 5+ years. Board Chair. Active in running SERRV Shop at our local church as well as bringing SERRV to District Conference.
- **Vision Statement:** To be inclusive throughout the District. Maintain communication between individual members and individual churches so all are aware of our District’s workings and how and what they can be involved in to help our District grow.
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.

Nohemi Flores:  
Congregation: Cristo Sion  
Vocation: Student, Advisor and Translator / Interpreter  

Church Experience:  
Local: Sunday School Teacher, Music Director, Worship Leader, Preacher, Secretary and Pastor’s Assistant.  
District: District Youth Advisor, Policy Board Member, Licensed Minister, and Delegate.  
Denomination: Annual Conference coordinator of Spanish translation / interpretation and IMAC (Intercultural Ministries at Annual Conference).  
Other: Worked as a member of a community garden and giving out food for the needy.

Vision Statement: For we are all members working with Jesus as the head. Through the challenges and rewards of life, I have found a daily devotion of prayer of thanksgiving, scripture, and songs of praise to be the key to a complete life in God, Jesus, Holy Spirit.  
For by the grace of God, we have come to know Him. Ecclesiastes 12:1 NKJV  
Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, “I have no pleasure in them.” To God be the glory. Amen.

Mary Kay Ogden:  
Age: 75  
Congregation: La Verne  
Vocation: Retired  

Church Experience:  
Served as a volunteer with Children’s Disaster ministries, Moderator in 2019-2020 for PSWD Have served as Moderator of my local church and on the personnel commission.

Vision Statement: Continue to support the denomination in its ministries throughout the world.

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 in each section (three year term)

Arizona 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.

Andrew Kauffman:  
Age: 39  
Congregation: Circle of Peace  
Vocation: School District Superintendent  

Church Experience:  
I was born into the Church of the Brethren. I’m the son of a retired pastor/District Executive. I attend Circle of Peace as regularly as I can, either in person or online (COVID). I live in rural Western Arizona, about an hour and forty minutes from Circle of Peace.  
I worked for four summers at Camp Mack in Northern Indiana through college and three years full-time after college. I’ve volunteered my time during the summers there since then as I’ve been able.

Vision Statement: In a world that is constantly in conflict and misunderstanding, I believe that the Church of the Brethren has something important to teach. I have been blessed to know another way of living and pray that we can continue to increase the spread of Jesus’ message.
Central California 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.

Richard Keeling:
Age: 34
Congregation: Bakersfield
Vocation: Teacher
Church Experience: I grew up in the Bakersfield Church of the Brethren and have served it in many capacities. Starting as an acolyte and usher, I am currently in my third term as moderator after having served for three years as board chair. I have worked with the district policy board for the last several years serving out the term of someone who resigned, and have found it both enjoyable and spiritually fulfilling. I have presented at District Conference to promote the district’s Ministry Partnership Funds and look forward to continuing outreach to help strengthen bonds between the district and local churches.

Vision Statement: I look forward to a future where our local churches are widely represented at the district level and can engage in dialogue with each other about Christ’s love and the blessings and challenges that our local congregations have faced. It is important for us to see beyond our local congregations and to reach out to other like-minded believers for support and affirmation of the ways in which we are trying to reach our communities. Only by working together and understanding that we are a small part of a larger community can we create a future where we are all learning and growing together in Christ’s love and mercy.

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.

Jonas Funderburk:
Age: 60
Congregation: Glendale
Vocation: Administrative Assistant and bookkeeper
Church Experience: I have served one 3 year term on District policy board and have been treasurer for my local congregation for 40 years.

Vision Statement: My vision is to promote unity between differing viewpoints so that Christ’s mission can be fulfilled.

Gail Heisel:
Age: 61
Congregation: La Verne
Vocation: High School Counselor
Church Experience: My most recent position at the local level was on the Personnel Commission and prior to that I served on the Gifts Discernment Committee. I have served multiple times over the years as both an Annual Conference and a District Conference delegate.

Vision Statement: My vision for the PSWD is that we continue the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply and together. “Together” does not mean that we will always be in agreement, but we must treat each other with respect regardless of differing theological perspectives.
William K Himes:
Age: 68
Congregation: La Verne
Vocation: I am a retired educator. I was a classroom, secondary Life Science teacher for nearly forty years.

Church Experience: I am currently the chairperson of the Peace and Justice Commission at the church and a member of the committee on anti-racism in the congregation. I try to take advantage of the service opportunities offered to me by the church. I cook meals for the homeless, make elder visits (pre-pandemic), usher at church services. I am active with anti-racism groups and immigrant rights organizations including the work of On Earth Peace.

Vision Statement: I believe in the two commandments Jesus gave us. I love God and appreciate the wonders of God’s many creations. I believe in the service of humankind especially those who have been marginalized by our society. I believe Christ meant us to be his body, his arms and legs to continue the work he set in motion by his example. I believe this is the best way to spread his love.

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.

Deborah Oseguera:
Age: 17
Congregation: Centro Agape en Acción, Los Banos CA
Vocation: Full time student

Church Experience: I have always helped around my church, even as a kid. Although my church is not big I love to help around and serve.

Vision Statement: In the years that have passed and now we need to lift others up with the presents of God. I want a more in-depth relationship with Him and want to give Him my all.

Elena Yoder:
Age: 18
Congregation: Circle of Peace
Vocation: I am a swim lessons instructor, lifeguard, and senior in high school.

Church Experience: I attend the Circle of Peace Church of the Brethren and serve as a greeter and welcomed every so often! I also attend Camp Blue Diamond, and this year volunteered as the lifeguard for a few weeks. In the future I hope to be able to work there in the summer!

Vision Statement: I am a strong believer in the importance of resilience. It is a firm foundation that I see echo across my faith, and through my life. Resilience can be found in all aspects of life and I stand by the fact that it can help us fuel our purpose through Christ. By helping others and spreading love, our resilience minds and spirits can make an impact.
Pacific Southwest District
2022 PSWD Operating Budget and Church Planting Support
Budget, and 2023 Operating Expense Maximum

In the pages that follow you will find the proposed 2022 PSWD Operating Budget, the 2022 Church Planting Support Budget, and the recommended 2023 Operating Expense Maximum from the Policy Board. 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. That year they also began to bring to the District Conference a proposal to set an Operating Expense Maximum for the following year.

The District overall is in a good financial position. Investments we hold at the Brethren Foundation (over $4 million at the time of this report) continue to perform well, generally producing growth that exceeds the deficit reflected in the operating budget. This provides the resources needed for us to carry out the ministry and program that is the work of the Pacific Southwest District.

2022 PSWD Operating Budget

In the spreadsheets that follow is the proposed 2022 District Operating Budget. The Policy Board is recommending a budget expense of $472,720. This is an increase of $6,000 from the 2021 District Operating Budget, and $2,280 less than the 2022 Operating Expense Maximum set at last year’s District Conference.

In this budget are salary increases for staff in line with denominational recommendations, as well as anticipated increases to health insurance. Most of the budget increase over 2021 can be found in these costs.

Other areas may have increased while some have decreased. In other areas, like our legal expenses, the expense line has been assigned to a different area of the budget and so the decrease in one area is offset by an increase in another (most legal is now in Operating Ministry - Audit and Professional Fees).

The anticipated deficit for 2022 is $299,120, a decrease from the 2021 budget, and in line with the optimal operating deficit that the Board had articulated in 2016.

2022 District Operating Budget Notes

Commitments

Ministry Partnership Funds – These funds work 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. This is where the highest portion of this budget is expended. $45,000 is marked for this work in 2022.

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 Faith Development & NYC – Summer 2022 will have the quadrennial COB National Youth Conference. We have reserved funds from each year’s budget to plan for our support of getting youth to this mountain top event. The 2022 budget reflects a commitment of $5,000 to this work, adding to the $7,500 already set aside. 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.
2022 Church Planting Support Budget

The Policy Board set aside the funds (approximately $123,000) from the sale of the New Harvest Lindsay church property and the Ministry & Improvement Fund approved at District Conference 2019 included $225,000 to be used for Church Planting Support. The funds from Lindsay will have been used by the end of 2021, and the Ministry & Improvement Fund resources will start to be used in 2022. The Policy Board is recommending a 2022 budget of $84,180 (the same amount as in 2021) across the four church plants that are in operation.

Action Item: The Policy Board recommends to the District Conference the adoption of the 2022 Operating Budget and the 2022 Church Planting Support Budget as presented.

2023 Operating Expense Maximum

The recommendation for 2023 of $478,000 is a $5,280 increase over the 2022 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 2023 Operating Budget be $478,000.

Pacific Southwest District Church of the Brethren
Income & Expense Summary - Proposed 2022 Budget

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<th>2018 Actual</th>
<th>2019 Actual</th>
<th>2020 Actual</th>
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## Budget Exhibit C

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

### 2016-2022, District Budget Overview

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<td>564,231</td>
<td>597,444</td>
<td>476,535</td>
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<td>(317,546)</td>
<td>(332,608)</td>
<td>(290,947)</td>
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**2021 Bylaws Revisions**

**Exhibit D**

**Action Item:** The Policy Board recommends to the District Conference the adoption of the proposed revisions to the PSWD Bylaws.

It is good from time to time to take a moment and review the bylaws of the organization to see if there are items missing or if circumstances have changed that would warrant updating the organizational guidelines. The pandemic, with the increased reliance on the ability to connect using technology, certainly provided an impetus to look at the bylaws. While virtual meetings are not specifically mentioned in the current bylaws, California corporate law does allow for virtual meetings unless they are prohibited by the bylaws. It is still good practice to update the documents to clearly specify that virtual meetings are an acceptable way of gathering for business.

While we were preparing to make updates to clearly allow for virtual meetings, it seemed prudent to consider several other revisions to the bylaws. Some proposed changes update the bylaws to meet current practice, others address concerns that have been raised about the expectations on certain positions, and others address the size of the Board and Program Committee.

These proposed bylaw changes will update our current practices and set us in a good position as we move forward to use district resources well and meet the administrative needs of the Pacific Southwest District.

Those attending district conference may propose changes to the proposed revisions by moving to amend a specific proposal. In business we will present the sections in order listed, giving opportunity for questions on discussion of each section as we move through the proposal.

At present the plan is to vote on the proposals as a complete unit, unless the delegates desire to break the proposals into specific sections for individual consideration.

Boxes have current text from: [District Bylaws, 2018 ed.](#) With [strikeout text](#) and [new text](#).

Our spelling experts have suggested that both “By-Laws” and “Bylaws” are appropriate spellings, so we have used “Bylaws” throughout the new version.

The proposed revisions in Sections 1 & 2 address the work of the Moderator and Moderator-elect. The primary change allows the Moderator to name the Moderator-elect to serve in the moderator’s place on district committees. This will allow for more even distribution of work between these two positions and over the course of the term of service.

(Section 1)

1. **Article II, Section E.1.c - Duties of Moderator**

14 II.E.1.c. **Duties.** The moderator prepares the agenda for District Conference, in cooperation with the officers of District Conference; becomes familiar with parliamentary procedure; presides at the business sessions of the District Conference; appoints tellers and timekeeper; chairs the District Conference Program Committee; serves on all District committees (and can ask the moderator-elect to represent the moderator on a District Committee) and on the Policy Board and the Executive Board as an ex-officio member, with the exception of The Shalom Team; studies the needs and program of the District and makes reports and recommendations to the District Board of Administration; and may deliver a moderator’s address at the annual District Conference; and is an ex-officio member (without vote) on the Board of Directors of Brethren Hillcrest Homes.
(Section 2)

Article II, Section E.2.c - Duties of Moderator-elect

33 II.E.2.c. Duties. The moderator-elect performs all the duties of the moderator when the moderator is unable to serve; may assist at the moderator’s request in presiding over a portion of the business session; may assist the moderator by representing the moderator on a District Committee if asked; contacts local leaders and congregations in the interest of the District program; represents the moderator on inter-church agencies and serves as an ex-officio member of the Policy Board and the Executive Board; chairs the Nominating Committee; and serves as a member of the District Conference Program Committee.

Section 3 brings the clarity to allow for virtual participation for the conduct of District business at conference by indicating virtual attendees count towards the quorum.

(Section 3)

Article II, Section H - Quorum

38 II.H. Quorum. A quorum consists of fifty percent of the total elected delegates representing fifty percent of the churches of the District. The condition of a quorum are met if at least fifty percent of the churches of the District are represented and at least fifty percent of the delegates of those churches are represented. Delegates are counted towards quorum with either in-person or virtual participation, if those systems are open for all who wish to participate.

Section 4 removes the Clerk from participation as minute taker at the Executive Board meetings. The clerk served in this by request, and these changes across three sections of the bylaws removes that expectation and suggests that the vice-chair of the Executive Board may be the minute taker in those meetings.

(Section 4)

Article II, Section E.3.c - Article III, Sections F.2 & F.4 Recording Executive Board Minutes

9 II.E.3.c. Duties. The Clerk serves on the Nominating Committee; records the minutes of the District Conference, and in cooperation with the District Executive Minister(s) prepares the minutes for publication and distribution to the local congregations; forwards to the Annual Conference secretary any queries passed to Annual Conference by the District Conference; assists in the interpretation of the minutes of the District Conference; serves as an ex-officio member of the Policy Board; and records the minutes of the Policy Board. The Clerk may be requested by the Executive Board to attend its meetings as the recorder.

33 III.F.2. The Vice Chair. The Vice Chair performs all duties and has all authority of the Chair when the Chair is absent and performs other duties as may be assigned by the Policy Board or Executive Board. The vice-chair may serve on a commission but not as a commission chair. The Vice Chair may be requested to record the Executive Board minutes.

43 III.F.4. The Recording Secretary. The Clerk functions as Recording Secretary, recording all Policy Board proceedings and may act as recorder for Executive Board meetings. The clerk also performs other duties as may be assigned by the Executive Board.
Sections 5 and 6 reduce the size of the Program Committee and the Board of Administration. The proposal is to bring the Program Committee back to three elected members (this was increased to 5 in 2012), and remove a few ex officio members from the group. The Board of Administration will have four fewer elected members (from 17 down to 13). It has been a challenge to recruit a full board over the last few years, and based on the numbers of churches in the district this representation was deemed to be appropriate. The voting membership of the Board will be between 17 and 20 people, depending on how many Youth/Young Adult representatives are called to serve. No one who has been called to serve will be removed, and the terms of members will be adjusted if there are vacancies, in consultation with those elected to serve.

Section 7 also works at workload concerns, specifically for the Board Chair who had been expected to serve on every district committee. This expectation would be removed with the proposed changes. Additionally, the Treasurer is being given voting privileges on both the Board of Administration and the Stewardship Commission.

Section II, Section I.2 - Program Committee

26 II.I.2. District Conference Program Committee. The District Conference Program Committee consists of seven five members: Moderator, Moderator-elect, and five three persons elected by the District Conference. The Moderator shall chair the Program Committee. An elected member serves for three years and may serve two successive terms. Terms are staggered so that one member or two members are elected each year. The Board Chair is an invited guest without vote; the President of Pacific Southwest Women, or her representative; and the District Youth Coordinator, in years when this or a similar position is filled, serve ex officio. The committee is responsible for planning the conference program, obtaining leadership, and making all necessary arrangements for the conference, in cooperation with on-site representatives.

Section III, Section B - Board of Administration Membership

1 III.B. Membership. The Policy Board consists of seventeen (17) thirteen (13) regular members (3 year terms) and up to three (3) youth / young adult members (1 year terms) elected by the District Conference with one regular member from each section and the remaining members at-large. Board members elected as sectional representatives need to reside in the section they represent. The Moderator, Moderator-elect, Treasurer and Clerk serve as ex-officio members with vote. The Executive Minister(s), Treasurer and Standing Committee delegate(s) serve as ex-officio members without vote. General Board member(s) Mission & Ministry Board member(s) residing within the District are invited to attend Policy Board meetings.

Section III, Section F - Board of Administration Organization and Chair

23 III.F. Organization. The Policy Board is organized annually, under the direction of the incoming Moderator, following election by the District Conference. The Policy Board selects from its elected members a chair, vice chair and the chairs of the Stewards and Ministry commissions. Some members of the Policy Board, excluding the Moderator, Clerk and the Board Chair, are assigned to commissions. The Executive Minister(s), Board Chair and Moderator are ex-officio members of all commissions. The Treasurer meets with the Stewards Commission.
29 III.F.1. **The Chair.** The chair performs all duties ordinarily pertaining to the office and other duties that may be assigned by the Policy Board and these Bylaws and serves on the Nominating Committee, and as ex-officio member is an invited guest without vote on all committees of the Board and the District Conference Program Committee.

37 III.F.3. **The Treasurer.** The Treasurer accounts for all District funds received and disburses same as authorized by the Executive Board;
   a. Makes written reports available to meetings of the Board;
   b. Makes written reports available to meetings of the Policy Board and the Executive Board;
   c. **Is an ex-officio member with vote of the Policy Board and Stewards Commission;**
   c. d. Serves as Chief Financial Officer of the corporation.

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**Section 8** clarifies the role and meeting expectation of the Board of Administration, including clarity around virtual and hybrid meetings.

(Section 8)

**Article III, Section F.5 - Board of Administration Organization - Meetings**

1 III.F.5. **The Policy Board meets** at least 3 times 4 times per year;
   a. At District Conference to organize and elect officers,
   b. In retreat to define the “vision” for the year, and
   c. Once to b. Three meetings to define and review the “vision” overall district direction and program and to review the actions of the Executive Board.
   c. Meetings may occur in-person, virtually, or in a hybrid format. Members are counted towards quorum with either in-person or virtual participation, if those systems are open for all who wish to participate.

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**Section 9** removes the standing nature of two committees, and instead indicates that committees can be called into being for a purpose and then released when their work is done.

(Section 9)

**Article III, Section K - Board of Administration - Board Committees**

11 III.K. **Board Committees.** The board can appoint committees and task groups as needed (such as a Historical Committee or a Shalom Team as described in the 2002 Annual Conference paper) to assist with the work of the District. When the assignment is completed, the committee or task group is dismissed.
   1. **The Shalom Team.** As described in the 2002 Annual Conference paper
   2. **Historical Committee.** The Historical Committee consists of three members. The committee is concerned with all matters of historic interest to the District and collects, preserves, writes and, as authorized, publishes such materials.
   3. **Other Committees.** Other committees may be appointed to assist with the work of the District. When the assignment is completed, the committee is dismissed.
Section 10 updates the listings to include all Church of the Brethren related corporate entities within the boundaries of the district, and updates the bylaws as it relates to appointments to Boards to reflect the current understandings of these separate entities.

Article VI - Relationships with Other Organizations

1. Article VI. Relationships With Other Organizations

The District favors membership in, or relationship with, other organizations which further the purposes of the District. Such other organizations as Brethren Hillcrest Homes, Casa de Modesto, Camp La Verne, Camp Peaceful Pines, and University of La Verne are separate corporate entities under the control of governing boards which are free of direct ownership and control by the District, and which are solely responsible for their actions and dealings.

A. Brethren Hillcrest Homes. The District Conference may elect nominees for the Brethren Hillcrest Homes Board of Directors in accordance with the policy of Hillcrest.

B. Camp La Verne. The District Conference may elect nominees for the Camp La Verne Board of Directors in accordance with the policy of Camp La Verne.

C. University of La Verne. The District Conference may elect nominees for the Board of Trustees of the University of La Verne in accordance with the policy of the University of La Verne.

Article II, Section I.1 - Nominating Committee

II.I.1. Nominating Committee presents to the District Conference a ballot for each vacancy within the following positions:

g. Brethren Hillcrest Homes Board of Directors nominees (three-year term)

h. University of La Verne Board of Trustees nominees (three-year term)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Location / Conference</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Moderator</th>
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<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>La Verne</td>
<td>August 28-30</td>
<td>R. Truman Northup</td>
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<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>Modesto</td>
<td>October 15-17</td>
<td>Marvin Belcher</td>
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<td>1966</td>
<td>Forest Home</td>
<td>October 14-16</td>
<td>Leland A. Nelson</td>
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<td>1967</td>
<td>Fresno</td>
<td>October 13-15</td>
<td>Lowell K. Brubaker</td>
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<td>Long Beach</td>
<td>October 11-13</td>
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<td>1969</td>
<td>Bakersfield</td>
<td>October 10-12</td>
<td>Edward K. Ziegler</td>
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<td>1970</td>
<td>Phoenix First</td>
<td>October 9-11</td>
<td>Jerry Davis</td>
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<td>1971</td>
<td>Modesto</td>
<td>October 15-17</td>
<td>Harold D. Fasnacht</td>
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<td>1972</td>
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<td>October 13-15</td>
<td>Duane Wyles</td>
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<td>1973</td>
<td>Fresno</td>
<td>October 11-13</td>
<td>Paul E. Miller</td>
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<td>1974</td>
<td>Pasadena</td>
<td>October 11-13</td>
<td>John W. Hunter</td>
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<td>1975</td>
<td>Empire</td>
<td>October 10-12</td>
<td>Ida S. Howell</td>
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<td>1977</td>
<td>McFarland</td>
<td>October 7-9</td>
<td>D. Eugene Lichty</td>
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<td>1978</td>
<td>University of La Verne</td>
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<td>Norman N. Glick</td>
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<td>Modesto</td>
<td>November 9-11</td>
<td>Arthur M. Baldwin</td>
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<td>October 24-26</td>
<td>LaVon Rupel</td>
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<td>Fresno</td>
<td>October 16-18</td>
<td>C. Wayne Zunkel</td>
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<td>1982</td>
<td>Pomona Fellowship</td>
<td>October 15-17</td>
<td>Barbara Enberg</td>
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<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Empire</td>
<td>October 14-16</td>
<td>Irven Stern</td>
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<td>1984</td>
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<td>November 9-11</td>
<td>Galen Snell</td>
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<td>1986</td>
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<td>October 17-19</td>
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<td>October 16-18</td>
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<td>W. Donald Clague</td>
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<td>November 3-5</td>
<td>Richard L. Landrum</td>
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<td>October 12-14</td>
<td>Sherlo Shively</td>
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<td>Glendale (CA)</td>
<td>October 11-13</td>
<td>Harold J. Forney</td>
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<td>1992</td>
<td>Waterford</td>
<td>November 13-15</td>
<td>Donald E. Fancher</td>
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<td>October 8-10</td>
<td>Myrna L. Wheeler</td>
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<td>Fresno</td>
<td>November 11-13</td>
<td>Pat Royer</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995</td>
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<td>October 6-8</td>
<td>Lowell Brubaker</td>
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<td>October 11-13</td>
<td>Milton H. Evert</td>
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<td>Peggy Redman</td>
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<td>September 18-20</td>
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<td>Belita Mitchell</td>
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<td>Bakersfield</td>
<td>October 5-7</td>
<td>Sherlo Shively</td>
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<td>2002</td>
<td>La Verne</td>
<td>October 4-6</td>
<td>George Sparks</td>
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<td>2003</td>
<td>Community Brethren, Fresno</td>
<td>September 19-21</td>
<td>Bill Wagoner, Honorary: Myrna Wheeler, Acting</td>
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<td>2004</td>
<td>Pomona</td>
<td>October 29-31</td>
<td>David Hurlbut</td>
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<td>October 7-9</td>
<td>R. Jan Thompson</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>Papago Buttes</td>
<td>October 27-29</td>
<td>Joe Schechter</td>
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<td>Mary Kay Ogden</td>
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<td>November 7-9</td>
<td>John Price</td>
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<td>November 6-8</td>
<td>Jim Martinez</td>
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<td>Felton Daniels</td>
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<td>Jack Storne</td>
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<td>November 8-10</td>
<td>Jim LeFever</td>
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<td>Erin Matteson</td>
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<td>Eric Bishop</td>
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<td>John Price</td>
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<td>Karen Pierson</td>
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<td>2019</td>
<td>Scottsdale, AZ</td>
<td>November 8-10</td>
<td>Bob Morris</td>
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<td>2020</td>
<td>Virtual on the web</td>
<td>November 9-15</td>
<td>Mary Kay Ogden</td>
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<td>Virtual &amp; Hillcrest, La Verne</td>
<td>November 7-14</td>
<td>Al Clark</td>
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<tr>
<td>2022</td>
<td>Arizona</td>
<td>November 11-13</td>
<td>Cheryl Crane</td>
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Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren

PSWD Board of Administration Chairs
District Executive Ministers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board Chair</th>
<th>Executive Minister</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1968. . . . . Herbert W. Hogan.</td>
<td>Glen H. Bowlby</td>
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<tr>
<td>1993. . . . . Gregg Moser.</td>
<td>Irven &amp; Pattie Stern</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995. . . . . R. Jan Thompson.</td>
<td>Gene Hipskind</td>
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<tr>
<td>1996. . . . . Tom Bryant.</td>
<td>Gene Hipskind</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009. . . . . Myrna Wheeler (through July).</td>
<td>Don Booz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010. . . . . Thomas Dowdy (began in August).</td>
<td>Don Booz</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011 – 2013. . . . Don Fancher (began January 9).</td>
<td>Don Booz</td>
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