

**Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren
2021 Annual Meeting
November 7-14, 2021**

**A Conference, held using internet formats like Zoom,
and meetings at Hillcrest in La Verne, California.**

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 (pp.[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

Saturday, November 13

- 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.