

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

Business Book

## *Together Juntos*



## *In Ministry – En el Ministerio*

*1 Corinthians 12:4-27 – 1 Corintios 12:4-27*

*PSWD Conference 2022 – Conferencia PSWD 2022*

### **59<sup>TH</sup> Annual District Conference**

**November 7-12, 2022**

Business on Saturday, November 12

**An In-Person & Virtual Conference**  
Held using internet formats like Zoom,  
and meetings at the University of La Verne, La Verne, CA  
[www.pswdcob.org/distconf](http://www.pswdcob.org/distconf)



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**Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren  
2022 Annual Meeting  
November 7-12, 2022**

**A Conference, held using internet formats like Zoom,  
and meetings at the University of La Verne, La Verne, CA.**

**Welcome to the 2022 Pacific Southwest District Conference**

“Together in Ministry” is our theme for PSW District Conference 2022. In Corinthians 12:4-27, Paul compares the church to a body. He emphasizes the need for the different and unique parts to be valued and celebrated. When we look at the Pacific Southwest District through this scripture, we know that all the churches in the PSWD are different, unique and a valued part of the body of Christ. As we gather for the District Conference in La Verne, we will celebrate the ministries of each church. We will learn more of their gifts and struggles in ministry. As we learn more of each other we can be a true body of Christ by supporting each other with brain power, muscle power, and prayer power as we work “Together in Ministry.”

Peace,

*Cheryl Crane, Moderator*

Cheryl Crane, 2022 PSWD Moderator

Moderator@pswdcob.org

**PSWD District Conference — Business Meeting Agenda**

November 12, 2022 — :830 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 2021 Minutes (p.[45](#))
  - A. Name a Committee to review the 2022 minutes
4. Business Items
  - A. Election of leadership (pp.[17-17](#) & pp.[49-53](#))
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6. Adjournment

**Monday, November 7 - Workshops in Zoom. ....**

- (1) 6:00-7:00pm Pacific / 7:00-8:00pm AZ –  
DC Business preview and conversation with District leadership — Join members of the District Executive Board and DEM Russ Matteson for a conversation around business items on the conference agenda and any other questions you may want to ask about what is happening in the PSWD. (by Board Chair Erik Brummett & Executive Board)
- (2) 6:00-7:00pm Pacific / 7:00-8:00pm AZ  
Sadly Everyone Cannot Be An Armpit — Let's spend some time diving into the infamous body metaphor that Paul presents in 1 Corinthians 12. The church needs more armpits, but sadly everyone cannot be an armpit. (by Jon Chubb, pastor of the Papago Buttes Church of the Brethren in Scottsdale, AZ.)
- (3) 6:00-7:00pm Pacific / 7:00-8:00pm AZ  
Brethren Volunteer Service — What distinguishes this service from other forms of service? Hear the stories of four former BVS volunteers and how their service impacted others as well as themselves. (facilitated by Moderator-Elect Judy Minnich Stout, with additional panelists Jim LeFever, Reba Herder, Dennis Kingery)

**Tuesday, November 8 - Workshops in Zoom**

- (4) 6:00-7:00pm Pacific / 7:00-8:00pm AZ  
Kingian Non-violence (KNV) – Strength To Love — The workshop discusses Dr. Martin Luther King's principles and Christian philosophy of nonviolent conflict reconciliation through a series of sermons he used during the Civil Rights Movement. The goal is to help us see a holistic view of KNV, the power and the strength of applying these principles that will move us closer to the love God intended for all humankind. Although it will be an introduction, it will provide us with a launching path for our churches, families, and communities to consider how the principles of nonviolence and the steps of Nonviolence Conflict Reconciliation to help us grow stronger by doing the will of God for better neighborhood engagement. (by Pastor Thomas Dowdy)
- (5) 6:00-7:00pm Pacific / 7:00-8:00pm AZ  
Los Dones Espirituales / The Spiritual Gifts — Únete conmigo a aprender sobre Los Dones Espirituales. Un don espiritual es una capacidad otorgada a un creyente por la gracia de Dios. En este taller aprenderemos el propósito de cada don espiritual que veremos en las escrituras en 1 de Corintios 12:4-27. (Liderado por el pastor Rigo Berumen, Centro Agape en Acción) / Join me to learn about the Spiritual Gifts. A spiritual gift is a capacity granted to a believer by the grace of God. In this workshop we will learn the purpose of each spiritual gift as seen in scriptures in 1 of Corinthians 12:4-27. (led by Pastor Rigo Berumen, Centro Agape en Acción)
- (6) 6:00-7:00pm Pacific / 7:00-8:00pm AZ  
The Roots of the Church of the Brethren: Anabaptism and Pietism — In 1708, Alexander Mack and seven others re-baptized one another in the Eder River in Schwarzenau, Germany, marking the beginning of a movement that would come to be known as the Church of the Brethren. The seeds of this movement had been planted and taken root before that, though, in two similar, yet distinct movements – Anabaptism and Pietism. The Church of the Brethren blossomed and grew from these seeds, maturing through their influence. In this workshop, we will explore these seeds – Anabaptism and Pietism – and the influence they had and still have on the Church of the Brethren. (by Pastor Erik Brummett)

**Friday, November 11**

8:00 a.m. Registration open until 9:00 a.m.  
8:30 a.m. Check-in opens for Ministers and Leaders Professional Growth Event - Quay Board Room  
9:00 a.m to noon Ministers and Leaders Professional Growth Event - Quay Board Room (childcare if needed/lunch with parents)  
9:00 a.m. Set-up begins for exhibits and main meeting room  
12:00 noon Catered lunch for Ministers and Leaders Event  
1:15 to 5:00 p.m. Ministers and Leaders Event second session  
3:00 p.m. Registration opens / Exhibits open - Abraham Campus Center  
5:15 to 6:45 p.m. Dinner at The Spot - ULV Dining Hall (ticket purchase required)  
6:45 p.m. Singing  
7:00 p.m. Worship - Ludwick Ballroom/Abraham Campus Center

**Saturday, November 12 In Person Workshops (locations on handout)**

8:00 a.m. Registration open until 9:00 a.m., Abraham Campus Center  
8:30 a.m. Business session begins - Ludwick Ballroom, Abraham Campus Center  
10:45 a.m. Break and move to Workshops  
11:00 a.m. Workshops 7-11 - See handout for location  
12:00 noon Lunch at The Spot - ULV Dining Hall (ticket purchase required)  
1:15 p.m. Workshops 12-15 - See handout for location  
2:15 p.m. Break to return to business meeting  
2:30 p.m. Afternoon Business session ending by 5:00 p.m.  
5:00 p.m. Appetizer Social hosted by Eder Financial  
5:45 p.m. Worship with installation of Moderator - Ludwick Ballroom/Abraham Campus Center  
7:00 p.m. District Conference is finished

**Workshops, Saturday Morning, November 12**

- (7) 11:00 am Pacific – Being a peace church in a time of war – Explore how we have been and can continue to be that kind of church as we move into the present and future. With war in Ukraine, and several other wars that have been simmering or active for years, how do Brethren live into this legacy now. Tim McElwee taught Peace Studies at Manchester (IN) University and represented the Church of the Brethren in Washington D.C. for many years. (by Annual Conference Moderator Tim McElwee)
- (8) 11:00 am Pacific – Praying the Ultimate Questions – Come and enjoy an hour of refreshment and introspection into questions concerning the foundation of our life and meaning. This session includes time in silent prayer and the opportunity to share with the group. Grow in your connection to God and others. (by Julia Wheeler)
- (9) 11:00 am Pacific – Sharing Our Ministries – This workshop is an open time to support each other, with time to share about the strengths and struggles of your church's ministries and to hear from others about the ministries in their churches. (bilingual, facilitator: Cheryl Crane)
- (10) 11:00 am Pacific – Passion, Process, and Planned Giving: How to Engage Supporters – How can an organization save for future goals when the monetary needs of today are so urgent? Join us to learn how to establish a repeatable process to successfully engage your supporters on planned and deferred giving arrangements. By using these strategies and products you can position future leadership and ministries for success. (by Dan Radcliff and Steve Mason, staff for Eder Organizational Investing (formerly the Brethren Foundation Inc.))

- (11) 11:00 am Pacific – Sex and Gender 101 – What does it mean to have a sex or a gender? Are they the same? Different? How about sexual orientation? Is that the same as gender? As more and more young people come out as gender nonbinary, transgender, queer, asexual or gender fluid, it can get confusing. This session will help to unpack some of the terminology and concepts in order that we might have more informed conversations and better understand ourselves and others. (Led by Carol Wise, interim pastor of the La Verne Church of the Brethren and former Executive Director of BMC (Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests)).

**2022 Workshops, Saturday Afternoon, November 12 — Description (presenter)**

- (12) 1:15 Pacific – ULV Tour of Ludwick Center for Spirituality, Cultural Understanding and Community Engagement – The Ludwick Center embodies the heart and heritage of the University of La Verne. The Center encourages self-reflection, spiritual development, identity development, and the exploration of one's deepest values, meaning and purpose. The Center invites people to do this inner work in the context of pluralism and diversity, intentionally building relationships across difference in community, and together putting values into practice through community engagement for the sake of the common good. Our tour will provide a glimpse into a place that seeks to be a thriving center for the exploration and development of values, such as diversity, justice, love, community, peacemaking, engagement, and well-being. (by ULV's Zandra Wagoner, Ph.D., University Chaplain and Assistant Professor of Religion)
- (13) 1:15 Pacific – Taller en Español – Conocer para Crecer / Workshop in Spanish . . . . Know to Grow –Para ayudar a las congregaciones a involucrar mejor a sus comunidades y comprometerse con la visión de Jesús en el vecindario, el PSWD ofrece la oportunidad de recibir un informe demográfico y psicográfico de su comunidad, ayuda para digerir la información, asistencia para crear un plan para llegar a su comunidad y seguir hasta el apoyo. Aprenda cómo su congregación puede involucrarse y beneficiarse de esta oportunidad. (Dirigido por Jeff Glass, quien consultará con congregaciones y pastores) / To help congregations engage their communities better and engage the Jesus in the Neighborhood vision the PSWD is offering the opportunity to receive a demographic and psychographic report of their community, help in digesting the information, assistance in creating a plan to reach their community and follow-up support. Learn how your congregation can get involved and benefit from this opportunity. (Led by Jeff Glass who will be consulting with congregations and pastors)
- (14) 1:15 Pacific – Part-Time Pastor; Full-Time Church Sound familiar? – Learn more about the Church of the Brethren Part-Time Pastor; Full-Time Church which offers support, resources and opportunities to pastors and laypersons. Part-Time Pastor; Full-Time Church exists in the Church of the Brethren Office of Ministry to walk with, listen to and advocate for part-time, multi-vocational and not-paid-to-scale pastors empowering them to live and lead well by enriching their journey through intentional relationships and thoughtful wisdom sharing. (Led by Jen Jensen, PTP/FTC Program Manager.)
- (15) 1:15 Pacific – AC Moderator – A Mutual Q&A with the AC Moderator – Join current Annual Conference Moderator Tim McElwee as he poses some questions of those in attendance as well as does his best to answer any questions you may have of him. – (by Annual Conference Moderator Tim McElwee)



## **Together in Ministry / Juntos en el Ministerio**

### **1 Corinthians / Corintios 12:4-27**

“Together in Ministry” is our theme for PSWD District Conference 2022. The scripture for this conference is Corinthians 12:4-27. In this scripture, Paul compares the church to a body. Our district is a body of churches serving Christ in our communities. Just as the body has many different parts. Our churches are very different and have different spiritual gifts. Some churches worship in English and some in Spanish. We are small churches and large churches. We are rural, suburban, and inner city churches. We have many different styles of worship and different gifts in ministry. But in all of these differences we serve the same Lord. Corinthians 12:6 says “There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.” and in verse 18 “But in fact God has placed the parts in the body: every one of them, just as he wanted them to be.” That is exciting! God has made us who we are and wants us to be different and unique to serve a vast and complex world.

In our churches’ differences and similarities, we must work together just as a body’s different parts work together. In verse 26 -27, Paul says “If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.” I believe that is our job as a district. We must suffer or struggle through difficult issues together. Helping each other by sharing ideas, working closely together, and lifting each other up. Many of our churches share similar struggles. By working together we have more resources to share.

As we tackle the struggles together. We are also directed to celebrate together. We can rejoice in the many ministries the churches are providing to their communities. But how can we suffer or rejoice together if we don’t know each other? As we gather for the District Conference in La Verne, we will celebrate the ministries of each church. We will learn more of their gifts and struggles in ministry. As we learn more of each other, we as the Pacific Southwest District can be a true body of Christ as we work “Together in Ministry.”

Peace,

Cheryl Crane

2022 PSWD Moderator

Moderator@pswdcob.org



# Delegates' Dedication

November 12, 2022

Moderator: We gather here today in person and online to conduct the business of the Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren. We are gathered to be the body of Christ.

Delegates: **We are here today representing the Church of the Brethren in Arizona, California, and Nevada. We are the body of Christ. The hands and feet, the eyes and ears, the heart and lungs - all parts of the whole.**

Moderator: Together we are a body that worships, a body that ministers, a body that works, a body that rejoices in the wonder of serving and loving God together

Delegates: **We commit ourselves to work together to deal effectively with the business before us as we seek to minister to a world that needs Jesus.**

Moderator: As the body of Christ, let us lift up each other. Let us listen to each other with the heart and mind of Jesus.

Delegates: **We will gladly listen to each other and support our Sisters and Brothers as we seek to continue the work of Jesus.**

Moderator and Delegates: **Let us dedicate this day to being the body of Christ as we work together doing the work of Jesus.**



## **Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren – 2022**

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

Moderator..... Cheryl Crane, Prince of Peace  
Moderator-Elect..... Judy Minnich Stout, San Diego  
Clerk..... Laura Miller, Papago Buttes  
Board of Administration Chair (ex-officio)..... Erik Brummett, Live Oak  
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.

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

## **Parliamentary Procedure at a Glance**

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

### ● **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 18*).
- 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.”

# District Executive Minister's Report

Russ Matteson

## Joe Vecchio Retires

We knew that it would happen sometime, and 2022 was the year that it did - Joe Vecchio decided that after 29 years as the PSWD Administrative Assistant it was time for him to retire. Joe started in this position at the same time as my first contact with the district as Erin and I finished seminary and accepted a call to come to California as pastors. I can honestly say that until this September I have never known the PSWD without Joe serving in that role. We are losing a 29 year memory of decisions made, actions taken, programs created and ended, and names and memories of who was here when. As a district we have been blessed to have had Joe's consistency, compassion, computer skills, and so much more answering the phones, sending the emails and letters, and caring about our churches and the people who attend them.

I am also grateful that Joe wanted a smooth transition that would give him the opportunity to help train a new Administrative Assistant, work with other things that are happening in the district, and allow him the opportunity to finish well. That transition took place during the months of July and August.

Hopefully by now you have had the opportunity to interact with Kimberly Rouse, the new Administrative Assistant. Kimberly is learning the vocabulary of working with PSWD and the Church of the Brethren, and she is excited to be using her office management skills to support the work of the church. I invite you to join in welcoming her to this district, and ask for your grace and patience as she gets to know us and deepens her understanding of the work we do together for the building up of Christ's church.

## AB 506 - Safely caring for children and youth

This is a new California law that relates to any organization that is serving those under the age of 18. I don't recall seeing much about it when it was passed in 2021, but it is a big deal as the implications of it for churches become more fully known. I attended several webinars provided through our insurance provider to get a better understanding of what the law requires of churches and the work that we are engaged with, and hosted two webinars on this for district churches (one session in English, one in Spanish, both with good attendance). Recordings of these sessions are on the

PSWD YouTube channel.

In summary the bill requires that any organization that works with children or youth needs to ensure that the following three things are in place within the organization:

- 1) That all employees and significant volunteers have received training in child abuse and neglect identification and reporting. There is a free training module available through the state of California.
- 2) That any staff or significant volunteers working with children will have been screened to make certain there is no history of child abuse in their background. The law also requires that this be done using a fingerprint based system (Livescan), more stringent than the systems that most of our churches and the district have been using.
- 3) That the organization have in place documented policies for how they will report incidents and how they will safeguard children, including the expectation that as much as possible there will be the presence of two mandated reporters whenever children are being worked with.

One of the enforcement mechanisms in the law is that insurance providers are allowed/encouraged to ask for the records around this law (proof of training, screening, and policies) in the process of writing liability insurance for the organization. So getting in step with this is important for our California congregations (I also encourage our Arizona and Nevada churches to use this opportunity to put policies and procedures in place).

This is a major undertaking for churches. The district has provided resources in both English and Spanish to churches and continues to work to support congregations as they work at getting into compliance with the legal requirements, and more importantly, putting steps and processes in place that make for the safest possible environment for children we are blessed to serve.

## District Youth Ministry Direction

In June I decided, in consultation with the Executive Board, that the model we were using to try to support Youth in the District was not working. I have questioned this many times over my tenure as District Executive and we have tried many things over the years. A mixture of changes in the lives of youth and their availability, and then the

added pressures of COVID for the last 3 years, makes it a good time to pause and evaluate. My recommendation was that we should: end our current method of doing things; end our employment of Rafael Aranda as District Youth Advisor; and take the next year to work with congregations and youth to determine what, if anything, would be helpful to the work of our local churches and their youth ministry. We are gathering a group to work at what would be helpful and might be meaningful to support churches and youth today and into the future. I expect that this group, in the year ahead, will engage the Policy Board and interested churches in conversation and will make recommendations on how best to serve and support our youth and congregations working with youth in the years ahead.

I do want to express my thanks to Rafael Aranda for his work over the last 2 ½ years with our district youth. Rafael started just before COVID arrived, worked to host a twice a month Zoom District Youth Gathering for a year, and organized two different in person outdoor gatherings. He also invested significant time in working to publicize the 2022 COB National Youth Conference and ways the district was supporting churches to help get youth and advisors there. PSWD had five youth and four advisors from three congregations attend the COB National Youth Conference in July.

### **Pastoral/Congregational Transitions**

- *Circle of Peace (Peoria, AZ)* - Work on the new sanctuary project continues, including the fund-raising campaign which is now in operation. Groundbreaking will take place sometime in 2023. The congregation received a \$250,000 grant from PSWD's Growth from the Ashes Fund.
- *Glendora*- Pastor Bob Morris retired at the end of September. Work is underway to provide interim leadership as they assess next steps towards future leadership. The congregation celebrated 120 years of ministry in Glendora last March.
- *La Verne* - Pastor Dawna Welch resigned at the end of 2021, and Pastor Susan Boyer retired this June. The congregation has formed a search committee and has been evaluating their pastoral leadership structure. Carol Wise has been with the congregation since February serving as the interim lead pastor, and Dena Pence started in July as a part time interim pastor.
- *Modesto* - The congregation celebrated its 100th year of ministry with a party in September.

- *Paradise* - While the congregation was closed in 2019, the district still had ownership of the property. After allowing a company that was working on rebuilding the town use the land as a base of operations for about 1 ½ years, we sold the property this summer to one of the church's long-time neighbors.

- *Pomona Fellowship* - Pastor Lauren Seganos Cohen resigned in August, relocating to Pennsylvania in September. She and her husband both accepted positions at Bucknell University. The congregation continues to rent space from St. Paul's Episcopal and meet in Zoom two Sundays each month.

- *Prince of Peace (Sacramento)* - Matthew Real has been called to serve as the interim pastor. Matt is the director of CPE for Kaiser Hospitals Sacramento and is working part time with the congregation. He is an American Baptist minister.

- *Restoration LA* - they celebrated 100 years of Brethren ministry in their community this April. The Restoration LA congregation is the third manifestation of the Brethren ministry in their location. Originally founded as the Belvedere congregation, then becoming the Bella Vista church, and now for the last 12 years as Restoration LA the church has served the community of East Los Angeles. A new plaque was installed that identifies the history of the ministry.

- *San Diego* - Pastor Sara Haldeman-Scarr has retired as of the middle of August and she relocated to Pennsylvania. The congregation has called Carrie Cesar to be the next pastor and her service began on October 1. Carrie formerly served PSWD as staff for missions development.

- *South Bay (Redondo Beach)* - The congregation continues to search with their partner church Journey Covenant for their next pastoral leader. They also paid off the remodeling loan they had taken from the PSWD, completing payments of the 20 year loan in just over five years.

### **Sabbatical Plan**

The District Board granted me a sabbatical as I began my 8th year as District Executive Minister. Due to family circumstances it did not work for me to take the time as planned, and the Board agreed to allow me to use the sabbatical in early 2023. I will be on Sabbatical from January 25 through March 28, 2023. The key portion of the sabbatical will be



spending six weeks in a Spanish language immersion program in Mexico. I am grateful for the opportunity to have this time away and the time to work on improving my Spanish as I seek to be able to have conversations with members of our Spanish speaking congregations.

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

*Russ Matteson*

District Executive Minister

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## Deceased Ministers

Thomas Deal - 8/9/1938 – 5/9/2022

Clark Youngblood - 12/10/1946 – 9/4/2022

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## Recognition of Ministers' Ordination Anniversaries

### 45 Years

Russell Betz  
James Isaacs  
Donald Shankster

### 40 Years

Philip Corr  
Olga Serrano

### 35 Years

Sara Haldeman-Scarr  
Joseph Vecchio

### 20 Years

Nick Corral  
Elizabeth Rowan

### 10 Years

Thomas Guthrie

### 5 Years

Thomas Dowdy (with COB)

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**Representing 340 years  
of service.**

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**TRIM Supervisor Report.** . . . . . Russ Matteson  
See also Ministry Commission report on page [21](#).

At this time the district has no students formally enrolled in the TRIM program. We are using the courses offered in TRIM to provide Brethren content for Jonathan Chubb (Papago Buttes) as he works to have his ordination transferred to the Church of the Brethren, and for training of Sandra Millard (Bakersfield) who is licensed and doing some coursework to add to other work she comes into ministry with.

*Russ Matteson, TRIM Coordinator*  
[DE@pswdcob.org](mailto:DE@pswdcob.org)

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**MTC: Ministry Training Coordinator: SeBAH and EPMC Report.** . . . . . Gilbert Romero  
See also Ministry Commission report on page [21](#).

In my role as MTC (Ministry Training Coordinator) for the district I find that through the many challenges, our current team makes everything work! I have a wonderful job centered on putting people that have been called to ministry in the Church of the Brethren, into the training programs EPMC: Educación para Ministerio Compartido, and SeBAH: Seminario Biblico Anabautista Hispano. Then I

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

I praise God for the two 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 18 of her 20 experience write-ups. Príncipe de Paz Pastor Richard Zapata has finished his last SeBAH class and is working on his 20 experiences. Iglesia de Cristo Sion Pastor Rita Flores finished EPMC and is working towards ordination.

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

*Gilbert Romero, MTC*  
[MTC@pswdcob.org](mailto:MTC@pswdcob.org)



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## Report of Standing Committee Delegate

Brethren gathered together in Omaha, Nebraska, for the first time in three years to conduct the business of annual conference under the theme of “Embracing one another as Christ embraces us.” COVID kept conference goers masked up while embracing one another in spirit.

Standing Committee met in open sessions for three days prior to the beginning of conference going into the evening hours to attend to the business at hand. Led by David Sollenberger, storyteller, listener, videographer, Sunday School teacher of youth, we kept to the agenda of the meeting with humor, encouragement and compassion. “You get a one-time exemption” was a standard byline of the moderator for outbursts, tardiness, and other miscues. Standing Committee felt the presence of the Holy Spirit as it worked through differences, motions, substitute motions and at times emotional responses.

The task team assigned to have conversations with On Earth Peace completed its work with four recommendations:

- 1) Standing Committee is to ensure clarity of expectations for agencies in the creation of covenants with the agencies including clear and specific provisions to deal with serious concerns when they arise.

- 2) Standing Committee is to bring clarity on how Annual Conference decisions and policy statements are to be received and implemented as well as giving clear guidelines for how judgments regarding compliance are to be impartially examined, appealed, or reviewed.

- 3) Annual Conference is to examine the need for change in the organizational structure of the Church of the Brethren to address the deep dysfunction that exists in the communication processes, organizational structure, and our ability to resolve conflict and division.

- 4) A time of significant intentional confession and repentance is to be a part of the 2023 Annual Conference for the failure in our relationships that have caused intense pain and brokenness.

One item of unfinished business, “Polity Regarding Agencies of the Church of the Brethren,” assigned to Standing Committee the development and management of covenants with agencies. Attempts were made to send the item to Standing Committee or back to Leadership team for further work, and to reject the item of business. In the end, it was approved with more than the required 2/3 vote.

Conference delegates approved Standing Committee recommendation to implement the concerns of the query, “Standing with People of Color,” through a two year study/action process. The presenting district,

Southern Ohio/Kentucky, is to work with On Earth Peace and the Intercultural Ministries team to develop the materials. Standing Committee members are to support and encourage the use of the materials and report back to Annual Conference in 2023 and 2024.

Delegates also approved Standing Committee recommendation that a study committee be formed to examine the theological, philosophical, and practical implications of the query, “Breaking Down Barriers,” along with a feasibility study with recommendations to the 2024 Annual Conference.

Five new items of business were all adopted by the delegates including the new “Integrated Annual Ministry Agreement and revised Guidelines for Pastors’ Salaries and Benefits.” The committee presenting this will offer training in all districts in 2022 and 2023 for the use of this tool. Congregations will start by looking at what they can afford to pay, putting information into a calculation by Eder Financial (formerly known as BBT). The table will then determine the number of hours a minister could be asked to work, with an agreement with the congregation to find others in the church able to care for other tasks needed for the work of the church.

Great debate and attempts to change the amount of the recommended Cost of Living Increase for the pastors’ salary tables gave way to approval of the 8.2% increase recommended by the Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee.

With support and guidance from former Annual Conference Director, Chris Douglas, Rhonda Pittman-Gingrich managed the changes in convention and hotel leadership. New conference secretary, David Shumate, will support Tim McElwee, moderator and moderator-elect, Madalyn Metzger in the coming years.

Music, worship, Bible study, meals, equipping sessions, concerts and drama added to the spiritual health of the gathered body in Omaha. New congregations were celebrated, guests from other countries recognized, reports given, and the growth of the Church of the Brethren around the world highlighted. The Church of the Brethren is focused on Jesus and finding ways to embrace our neighborhoods with service and ministry for Jesus.

Next year the annual gathering of the denomination will be in Cincinnati, Ohio, July 4-9. “Living in Love” will be the theme under the leadership of Tim McElwee.

With thanks for the opportunity to serve,  
Don Shankster

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## District Conference Program Committee Report

### Committee Members:

Cheryl Crane, Moderator, Chair

Judy Stout, Moderator-Elect

Nohemi Flores

Mary Kay Ogden

Cady Laycook

Karen Pierson

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

District Executive Minister: Russ Matteson

### *Invited Guest:*

Board Chair: Erik Brummett

*Web-Registrar:* Juliana Pitruzzello

As COVID continues to affect our lives, we started the year scrambling to find a new venue. The University of La Verne was available and has the necessary spaces we need. We are excited to explore this venue this year and possibly for future years. We met each month on ZOOM or Google Meet to plan the details. We worked to have a hybrid conference; in person and virtual. We explored different ways of having an effective English and Spanish translation. We had small groups working on the workshops and the

worship services. We wanted to have some virtual workshops earlier in the week and decided to have workshops on Monday and Tuesday evenings in addition to the workshops on Saturday. We have planned to use Friday evening worship to share our churches' ministries and planned an early worship time for Saturday evening to conclude the conference. There are always many details to plan: meals, child care, schedules, registration, publicity, etc. I would like to thank an amazing group of people. The program committee and the district staff (Joe Vecchio, Kimberly Rouse and Juliana Pitruzzello) worked with diligence and creativity in planning this conference. Cady Laycock made sure that the committee kept track of its decisions with her wonderful notes as secretary. The Spirit was with us as we concentrated on how to embrace the theme as we planned. It was truly a joy to work with this group.

Cheryl Crane, Moderator

## Nominating Committee Report

### Committee Members:

Judy Minnich Stout, Chair & Moderator-Elect  
 Lillian Hopson  
 Marye Martinez  
 Joanne Wagoner

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

Clerk, Laura Miller  
 Moderator, Cheryl Crane  
 Board Chair, Erik Brummett

#### *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,

Judy Minnich Stout, Moderator-Elect

## Please consider these suggestions:

Dear Nominating Committee, for District Conference Ballot:	
I, _____, suggest that you consider: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: small; margin-top: -10px;"> <span>your name</span> <span>your telephone</span> </div>	
Name:	Email:
Church:	Tele:
Position: <input type="checkbox"/> Moderator Elect <input type="checkbox"/> Nominating Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Program Committee <input type="checkbox"/> District Board <input type="checkbox"/> District Board Youth / Young Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Clerk <input type="checkbox"/> Standing Committee	

## Please consider these suggestions:

Dear Nominating Committee, for District Conference Ballot:	
I, _____, suggest that you consider: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; font-size: small; margin-top: -10px;"> <span>your name</span> <span>your telephone</span> </div>	
Name:	Email:
Church:	Tele:
Position: <input type="checkbox"/> Moderator Elect <input type="checkbox"/> Nominating Committee <input type="checkbox"/> Program Committee <input type="checkbox"/> District Board <input type="checkbox"/> District Board Youth / Young Adult <input type="checkbox"/> Clerk <input type="checkbox"/> 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: 1 <sup>st</sup> _____ 2 <sup>nd</sup> _____
--

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

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

# PSWD Board of Administration

# = second 3 year term, x = appointed to fill an unexpired term ending



**Thanks to all for your gift of service to the district.  
Special thanks to those who have completed  
their term of service as listed by year below.**

## ***Policy Board:***

Chair: Erik Brummett (Live Oak)  
Vice-Chair: Jeremiah Irizarry (Empire)  
Recording Secretary: Clerk: Laura Miller (Papago Buttes)  
2022Erik Brummett (Live Oak)  
x2022Nick Corral (Cristo Genesis)  
#2023David Flores (Cristo Sion)  
#2024Jonas Funderburk (Glendale)  
2024Gail Heisel (La Verne)  
#2022Dot Hess (La Verne)Section Rep. S.CA-E  
2024Bill Himes (La Verne)  
2022Jeremiah Irizarry (Empire)  
2024Andrew Kauffman (Circle of Peace)Section Rep. AZ  
#2024Richard Keeling (Bakersfield)Section Rep. Cen.CA  
2023Jim Lefever (Glendale)Section Rep. S.CA-W  
2023Bob Morris (Glendora)  
2022Deborah Oseguera (Centro Agape en Acción)Youth / Young Adult  
#2023Norma Sexton (Prince of Peace, Sacramento)Section Rep. N.CA  
#2023Julia Wheeler (La Verne)  
2022Elena Yoder (Circle of Peace)Youth / Young Adult  
2022Richard Zapata (Príncipe de Paz)  
*Ex-Officio with vote*  
Moderator: Cheryl Crane (Prince of Peace, Sacramento)  
Moderator-Elect: Judy Minnich Stout (San Diego)  
Clerk: 2024 Laura Miller (Papago Buttes)  
Treasurer: Karin Heckman Nelson (La Verne)  
*Ex-Officio without vote*  
District Executive Minister: Russ Matteson  
Standing Committee Delegate: Don Shankster (Papago Buttes)  
*Invited to meetings without vote*  
Mission & Ministry Board members residing in PSWD: Lauren Cohen

## ***Executive Board: (Members chosen each year by the Policy Board)***

Chair: Erik Brummett (Live Oak)  
Vice-Chair: Jeremiah Irizarry (Empire)  
Ministry Chair: Norma Sexton (Prince of Peace)  
Stewards Chair: Dot Hess (La Verne)  
Moderator: Cheryl Crane (Prince of Peace)  
Moderator-Elect: Judy Minnich Stout (San Diego)  
District Executive Minister (ex-officio without vote): Russ Matteson

## ***Stewards Commission: (Members chosen each year by the Policy Board)***

Stewards Chair: Dot Hess (La Verne)  
Elected Member, Vice Chair: Jonas Funderburk (Glendale)  
Elected Member: Andrew Kauffman (Circle of Peace)  
Elected Member: Bob Morris (Glendora)  
ex-officio members: Secretary: District Executive Minister, Moderator, Treasurer

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

*Ministry Chair:* Norma Sexton (Prince of Peace)

Elected Member, *Vice Chair:* Julia Wheeler (La Verne)

Elected Member, *Secretary:* Gail Heisel (La Verne)

Elected Member: David Flores (Cristo Sion)

Elected Member: Jeremiah Irizarry (Empire)

ex-officio members: District Executive Minister; Moderator

***Congregational Vitality Task Group:*** (Members chosen each year by the Policy Board)

*Chair & Moderator-Elect:* Judy Stout (San Diego)

*Policy Board member:* Nick Corral (Cristo Genesis)

*Policy Board member:* Bill Himes (La Verne)

*Policy Board member:* Jim Lefever (Glendale)

*Policy Board member:* Elena Yoder (Circle of Peace)

*Policy Board member:* Richard Zapata (Principe de Paz)

ex-officio members: District Executive Minister; Moderator

Invited guests: Board Chair

***Board Appointments:*** Page [24](#)

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## **Board of Administration Report**

At the beginning of the current term, we welcomed everyone, both new and ongoing members, and reorganized the board, commissions, committees, and task groups.

Having our policy and executive boards in place, we began our work in January 2022. In April 2022, we held our first in-person policy board meeting since January 2020. The pandemic, as we are too well aware at this point, forced us to move our meetings online.

Our work together this year began with current moderator, Cheryl Crane sharing with us her theme for this year's District Conference, Together in Ministry. We engaged in conversations regarding our priorities for 2022, many of which surrounded the difficulties of doing worship during a pandemic, as well as the blessings and challenges of online worship, while noting the importance of gathering in-person to interact with one another. Such a conversation lends itself to discussing church attendance, facility needs, and demographics.

This helped set the pace for our year together, as we have strived to continue supporting our congregations through established ways, such as the Ministry and Improvement Fund, and new ways, such as technology grants and Jesus in the Neighborhood grants.

One of our main focuses has been how to navigate ourselves into the new normal brought on by COVID, while being available to help and support our congregations to do the same. The technology grants are an important aspect of this, as our congregations recognize the value of streaming and/or recording and uploading services to sites such as YouTube but needed

the technology and equipment to do so and to do it well.

Another emerging focus, born out of Annual Conference's adoption of the Compelling Vision in 2021, has been to provide congregations with Jesus in the Neighborhood grants. These grants are to encourage congregations to both see and be Jesus in their neighborhoods through creative and imaginative outlets, such as a community cookout or movie night, to reach out to their neighbors, get to know them, and build relationships with them. Along with this, we have discussed working with Jeff Glass and the demographic resources of Percept to help congregations know and understand the make-up of the neighborhoods that surround them.

Recognizing the effects of the pandemic on our pastors and ministers, as well the weight, burden, and burn-out many of our pastors feel, pandemic or no pandemic, we worked to expand awareness of ministry resilience grants, so that our pastors could access resources to help and support them in providing themselves with self care. We are able to provide financial support, as well as a list of therapists, coaches, and spiritual directors for pastors and ministers to utilize.

At our April meeting, we engaged in a conversation/activity as to how to better promote the variety of grants and funds available to congregations, pastors, and ministers. Some suggestions included more useful organization, overcoming barriers e.g. language, and helping congregations identify their needs.

We want to thank Rafael Aranda for his 2 ½ years of service as district youth advisor, as we have entered into a time of conversation to discern how we can best

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

support youth ministry programs at both the congregational and district level. Other items we have acted on:

- The sale of the property in Paradise
- Circle of Peace's Growth from the Ashes fund request for their building project.
- Ministerial loan funds.
- The affiliation process of "Cristo Jesús es mi Esperanza" church.
- Approving a Growth from the Ashes fund request from Centro Agape en Accion.
- District spending levels to keep in mind when preparing the 2023 budget.

- Determined the job description, salary range, and benefits for AA position, upon Joe's retirement.
- Providing funding to help youth and advisors attend National Youth Conference.
- Accepted the resignations, from the policy board, of Mario Cabrera and Deborah Oseguera.
- Various board appointments
- Russ' sabbatical changed to 2023 due to personal reasons.

Erik Brummett, Board Chair

## **Ministry Commission Report**

### **Ministry Commission:**

Norma Sexton, chair

Julia Wheeler, vice-chair

Gail Heisel, secretary

David Flores

Jeremiah Irizarry

*ex-officio*: District Executive Minister; Moderator

It's been a privilege to serve another 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 By-Laws, 2018 ed.) This encompasses the ordained, commissioned and licensed ministers in our District. This year we expanded the scope of grants to pastors available through the Ministry & Improvement Funding program. Previously the \$500 grants were intended to be used by a pastor for the hiring of a leadership coach. However, very few pastors sought this funding. This was expanded to increase funding up to \$1000 and include the use for a spiritual director or therapist. With the expansion of Ministry Resiliency Grants we saw greater usage by our pastors.



In response to concerns of Pastors with families, this year's Pastor-Spouse retreat was expanded to include children. This event was held at the Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove. Leadership was provided by Julie Wheeler and Cheryl Crane. Also, David Flores provided musical entertainment on his guitar. Activities included group sand castle building and creating a 'quilt' of gifts and talents.

Praise God for the blessing of the abundance of ministers in training in our District! We celebrate the graduations from Bethany Theological Seminary of Amanda Bennett and Julia Wheeler. Amanda received her ordination in June following her ordination interview by the Nurturing & Credentialing Committee (NACC). This sub-committee hopes to soon receive ordination paperwork for review & in-person interviews for Julia and several other licensed ministers that have completed their courses of study. We currently have 16 persons licensed and engaged in training programs. I appreciate the service of the persons on the NACC that perform the licensing and ordination interviews of applicants and annual reviews of licensed ministers. I want to recognize the service as chair of NACC by Peggy Redman 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 [14](#).

**SeBAH and EPMC Report.** . . . . . Gilbert Romero  
See Ministry Training Coordinator report on page [14](#).

**NACC: Nurturing & Credentialing Committee:**

2023 Peggy Redman, Chair

x2022 Becky Zapata

#2024 John Katonah

#2025 Susan Boyer

2026 Gary Pierson

**Ex-Officio:**

Ministry Commission Chair, District Moderator

Invited Guest: District Board Chair

*ex-officio* without vote on all district committees:

District Executive

**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 met 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

**Stewards Commission:**

Dot Hess, chair

Jonas Funderburk, vice-chair

Andrew Kauffman

Bob Morris

*Ex-officio* members: District Executive Minister,  
Moderator, Treasurer

Creating and maintaining an effective budget is a daunting task when unexpected and unprecedented events occur – COVID and high inflation. We continue to work to meet the needs in our churches, and of your church leadership.

PSWD strives to empower our congregations and plant new fellowships even as personnel and living

costs increase. District giving, at such a time, strives to keep up.

We have provided loans to construct new worship facilities. We have provided grants of up to \$20,000 for infrastructure repairs, for program growth and enhancement, leadership and pastoral support in light of expanded on-line opportunities. 17 requests for these funds have been filled for our churches (and camps).

We are working to make sure that, as the district receives properties, we determine maintenance costs until a future is determined; either for sale or a new church plant.

Dot Hess, 2022 Stewards Chair



**Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren  
Giving to the District by Congregations, Individuals and Groups  
January 1 to December 31, 2021**

Church ID #	Name of Church	General Fund
32-010	Bakersfield	\$250
32-021	Centro Agape en Acción (Los Banos)	
32-025	Church of the Living Savior (McFarland)	\$1,000
32-028	Circle of Peace (Peoria, AZ)	\$4,200
32-270	Cornerstone Community (Reedley)	
32-040	Empire	\$1,000
32-070	Glendale	\$750
32-080	Glendora	
32-082	Iglesia Cristiana Elohim (Las Vegas)	\$100
32-083	Iglesia de Cristo Genesis (Los Angeles)	
32-037	Iglesia de Cristo Sion (Glendora)	
32-150	Imperial Heights (Los Angeles)	
32-090	Laton	
32-100	La Verne	\$5,000
32-120	Live Oak	\$2,000
32-190	Modesto	\$1,890
32-197	Nueva Visión La Hermosa (Waterford)	
32-205	Papago Buttes (AZ)	\$400
32-220	Pasadena	
32-035	Conexión Pasadena	
32-250	Pomona Fellowship	\$1,650
32-290	Prince of Peace (Sacramento)	
32-322	Príncipe de Paz (Santa Ana)	
32-280	Restoration Los Angeles	
32-300	San Diego First	\$1,000
32-330	South Bay (Redondo Beach)	\$7,000
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>\$26,240</b>

	Individual Giving	\$1,627
	Marion Nine Trust	\$450
<b>Sub-Total</b>		<b>\$2,077</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>\$28,317</b>



## 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 [18-17](#) above.

### ***Financial Appointments***

***Treasurer:*** (authorized signatory) Karin Heckman Nelson (La Verne)

***Other Authorized Signatory:*** (yearly appointment) Mary Kay Ogden (La Verne)

### ***Historical Committee***

*District Bylaws, Article III.K.2.*

*This Committee is being reorganized.*

*Ex-Officio: Moderator, District Executive Minister*

### ***Ecumenical Council Representatives***

Arizona Faith Network: Doug Doser (Papago Buttes)

Judicatory Representative to all Ecumenical Councils: Russ Matteson, District Executive Minister

### ***District Disaster Response Coordinator (BDM)***

Network Co-Chairs: Lyndall & Lois Frantz (Empire)

### ***Children's Disaster Services (CDS)***

Network Co-Chairs: Kathy Davis (La Verne) & Mary Kay Ogden (La Verne)

### ***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:*

2023 Linda Davis (Living Savior, McFarland)

2022 Susan Price (Empire)

2024 Janelle Keeling (Bakersfield)

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

2022 Becky Zapata (Príncipe de Paz)

#2023 Karen Pierson (Living Savior)

#2024 Bob Morris (Glendora)

#2025 Eric Bishop (La Verne)

2026 Shawn Carothers (Circle of Peace)

*Alternates for District Executive Minister:*

#2024 Bob Morris (Glendora)

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

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

# University of La Verne

## University of La Verne Welcomes YOU to campus!

### Religious Life on campus:

**Common Ground** builds bridges across religious, spiritual, and philosophical diversity to strengthen our communities and build a better world. Common Ground encourages University of La Verne students, faculty, and staff to learn about various religious, non-religious and spiritual perspectives, engage in interfaith cooperation, act together for the common good, and contribute to the University's broader mission to affirm diversity and promote inclusivity.

**Catholics in Action (CIA)** builds relationships among Catholic students, faculty and staff. CIA sponsors regular mass, rosary meditations, and Lectio Divina contemplation, as well as opportunities to build community.

**Cru** is a community of students passionately connecting the people of the University of La Verne, the surrounding community, and the world to Jesus Christ. National Cru Organization.

**Hillel** (Jewish) ensures everyone at the University of La Verne, whether Jewish or not, has an opportunity to explore Judaism and Jewish culture; all persons are welcome to all events and meetings of University of La Verne Hillel.

**The Muslim Students Association** builds relationships among the Muslim students and tightens the bonds among them, encourages them to achieve high levels in their education, clarifies the stereotypes and misconceptions about Islam inside and outside the University, and educates people about Islam and its values.

### My Last District Conference Briefing *by Julia Wheeler*

It is time for me to bid adieu to the University after over 20 years of service as Church Relations liaison. I have represented the University at various functions such as District, Annual, National Youth, and National Older Adult Conferences. In addition, I have accompanied many Brethren students through the process of application to graduation. Finally, I leave you with one tale from the trail, from my many trips up the west coast to see Brethren along the way.

My usual Brethren "hotel" was at Pat and Owen Wright's ranch in Oregon. This time, however, they would be gone but invited me to stay over anyway since I was well-acquainted with their house. So, I had the run of the place.

All went well until the morning.

I was dressing and getting ready for the next leg of my trip when I remembered something I needed from my car. Barefooted and in my p.j.s, I headed out to my car when I heard the door "click" behind me. Car keys but no house key were in hand! My stomach dropped to the bottom of my tender feet. I searched the garage and front stoop for a "hide-a-key" to no avail. I walked the perimeter of the barn-like house, and no window or door was open. I had left the second-floor bathroom window open, but it must have been 25 feet up. They must have a painter's expanding ladder – but where? There was a patch of trees about a quarter of a mile away. Barefooted I went and *praise GOD*; there was the colossal ladder I was looking for! I must have made a sight, cherry-picking through dirt and gravel barefooted only in my nightclothes. Under the window, with a fight, I unlocked the ladder to its full position. Now, could I lift it, and would it reach the window? The answer was yes and yes! Sweating, straining, and falling into the bathroom window and on my knees to kiss the floor in gratitude! The next day I preached at PNWD Conference, and no one was the wiser!

**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?
- 4.The Academy was founded in a hotel building.
- 5.It was closed for a year in 1901- 1902
- 6.I.W. Lord was once president.
- 7.During one period of time, faculty members took a 10% salary cut and were debt collectors of students who owed money to the school.
8. In what decade did La Verne College change its name to the University of La Verne? The 60s, 70s, or 80s?
- 9.How many students did La Verne have in 1930? 59 or 172?
- 10.The first woman to serve on the Board of Trustees was elected in the 50s. True or False?
- 11.Which president helped devise a five-year financial plan for the Shah of Iran?
- 12.A male once ran for Homecoming Queen. True or False?
- 13.What is the inscription on the cornerstone of Founder's Hall?
- 14.Name the former side-arm Kansas City Royals pitcher who is a La Verne alumnus.
- 15.The first edition of the Campus Times was in which year? 1919 or 1931?
- 16.Who's dog is honored by a plaque in front of Woody Hall? What was the dog's name?
- 17.Which faculty member published, *A Sex Manual for Puritans*?

**We REALLY 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. We have scholarships for any level: Undergrad, Masters, and Doctorate. Our scholarships are VERY generous. It is a good time to be Brethren on the campus! Please inquire! The University of La Verne's welcome is wide for our Brethren students.

**For any questions, please contact:**

Zandra Wagoner, Ph.D.

University Chaplain [zwagoner@laverne.edu](mailto:zwagoner@laverne.edu)

Office: (909) 448-4446

[www.laverne.edu](http://www.laverne.edu)

# HILLCREST

2705 Mountain View Drive, La Verne, California 91750-4313  
(909) 392-4000



## MISSION STATEMENT

To serve and enrich the lives of older persons

## VISION STATEMENT

To be the Premier Destination for Vibrant Community Living

## CORE VALUES

Integrity  
Respect  
Service  
Stewardship  
Teamwork

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Executive Committee:** Jon Blickenstaff, Chair; Christine Meek, Vice Chair; Dale Stanley, Secretary; DeWayne McMullin, Treasurer; and, Don Kurtz, Past Chair.

**Directors:** Thomas Allison, Jackie Doud, Kathy Duncan, Dot Hess, Gilbert Ivy, Robert Johnston, Dan Lane, Linda Saddlemire, Barbara Smythe, Susan Tenorio, and Mike Welch

**Ex-Officio with vote:** Matthew Neeley, President and Chief Executive Officer; Russ Matteson, District Executive Minister

## HILLCREST'S WELCOME ROOM

The Diversity Equity and Inclusion Subcommittee of the Ethics Committee maintains several initiatives to assure that all residents enjoy the sense of belonging. While these initiatives may change over time, one that is being offered is the Hillcrest Welcome Room. In this room, residents and associates from various backgrounds are participate in creating a quarterly exhibit that celebrates a selected group. Welcome Room exhibits may include cultural, historical, and other significant elements that honor and highlight the selected group. Exhibits may include art, artifacts, pictures, monographs, and historical memorabilia intended to increase respect and to broaden the understanding of visitors.



## PHILANTHROPY NEWS

- Total funds raised for the Good Samaritan & Benevolent Funds and Endowments in fiscal year ending June 30, 2022: \$88,352.
- As of June 30, 2022, Woods Health Services Capital Campaign has raised approximately \$4.4 million toward the Woods remodeling project.
- Resident volunteer support at the Hillcrest Thrift Store and Gift Shop generated \$28,741 to the Good Samaritan Fund.
- Luck of the Draw Annual Fundraiser \$104,525.



## Hillcrest's Exciting New Neighborhood—Hawthorne Homes

The Hillcrest campus is comprised of over 30 developed acres and has the ability to grow! Hillcrest is the only Life Plan Community that is currently able to build new homes in the San Gabriel Valley.

**Exterior Details include** designer selected exterior color palette. composition shingle roof with solar. two-car garage, hose bib, drain and GFI outlet, gas service for BBQ, HardiePlank siding, and stone veneer.

**Interior Details include** premium vinyl planking, 2" Faux Wood Blinds, ceiling fans, Cable outlets and landline phone jacks in living room, kitchen and bedrooms, voice activated hub, emergency call system, plentiful electrical outlets some with USB enabled locations. Two floor outlets in the living room. Clerestory ceiling windows, solar tubes, large dual pane windows for enhanced lighting" Light dimmers will be provided for all lights" Levered door handles" Raised panel hollow core interior doors, Bull nose corners, 6" base boards, 2.25" door casing, and 4.5" crown molding.

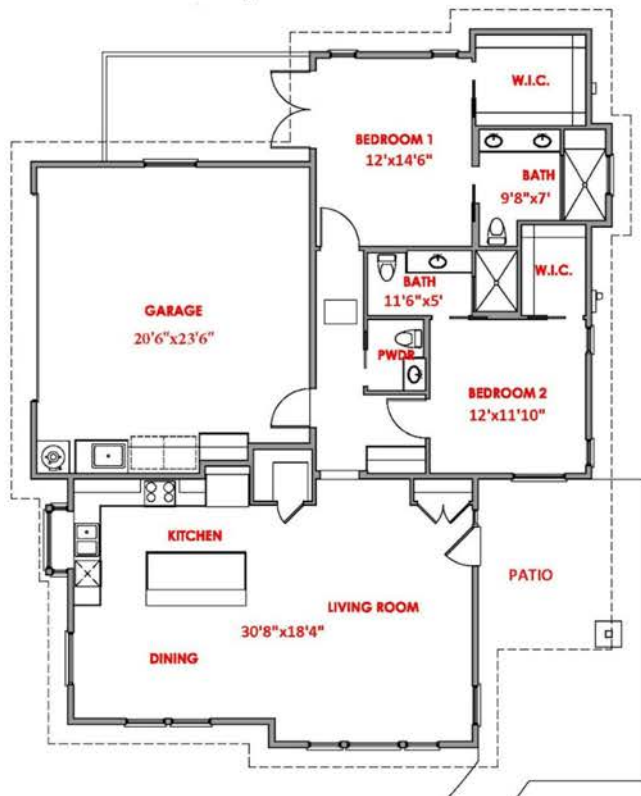
**Kitchens include** open concept,. choose from 3 cabinetry styles in 3 colors which will include pull out and rotary shelves, soft closing drawers and doors. stainless steel appliances, under mounted sink with garbage disposal, task lighting, pantry, and trash storage.

**Great Rooms include** ceiling fans, In-wall TV height cable connection, entry closet, and desk space.

**Master Suites include** spacious walk-in closets with single and double poles, choose from 3 tile options for showers, cabinetry to match the home throughout, comfort-height toilets, reversible bathroom door swings or pocket doors.

**Laundry Rooms include** side by side washer and dryer, choose from 3 options / configurations

### Sample Floor Plan



### Sample Elevations



### NEW RESIDENTS WELCOMED

Hillcrest residents live days filled with accomplishments, fun-filled activities and community involvement. Listed are some of the highlights of fiscal year ending June 30m 2022 that have brought our mission and vision statements to life:

- Hillcrest welcomed over 53 new residents. Of the 53 new residents, 14 moved into our new neighborhood, Hawthorne Homes.
- Net Entrance Fees received for residents with a continuing care contract were \$12,691,429 which includes \$5,588,776 from new residents moving into Hawthorne Homes.

## 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, and Nature Camp. We also rent the camp to groups such as family reunions when time slots are available.



Camp Peaceful Pines is rustic and only open three months of the year due to severe weather in the winter and road closures. It is a cozy & inviting place, with a multitude of projects going on at any given time. 2022 saw the completion of new metal roof in the lower restroom. Current projects include replacement of all the west side cabin roofs! Funds for these projects were funded by the PSWD.

**S'MORES !!!**



Volunteer superintendents, leaders, directors, counselors, nurses, construction workers, day laborers, families and friends all contribute to making Camp Peaceful Pines a viable spot for enjoying the great outdoors, while taking time for reflection & spiritual growth in a Christian community setting. The churches & other groups who donate annually to the camp budget help to defray the ongoing costs of running our camp.

These costs include USFS fees, fuel costs, insurance, garbage, upkeep and maintenance of the facilities, leadership stipends, upgrades to cabins & other amenities.



More information about specific camps and dates can be found on the web at

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

**Camp Peaceful Pines**  
2301 Woodland Ave.  
Modesto CA 95351



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

*Donations can be made on the  
Camp website.*

*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, 2022 Board Chair



# Camp La Verne

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

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

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

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

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

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](http://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](mailto:campmanager@camplaverne.org)

Thanks to your generosity we have completed re-roofing the Manager's House. It looks great!! Our next major improvement will be repairing the Lodge. If you are able to help, please send your check to Camp La Verne, PO Box 355, La Verne CA 91750-0355

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, as you gather for your District Conference!

By the time you read this report the ministries of Church of the Brethren Benefit Trust will have become the ministries of Eder Financial. That's right, this agency of the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference has changed its name and internal operations so that the one thing that does not change for years to come is our steadfast service to your pastors, church staff members, and district and camp staffs.

Just like Church of the Brethren Benefit Trust, Eder Financial provides retirement and insurance services to employees of the denomination. It manages funds for congregations and organizations, as well as a benevolent fund for pastors and employees of congregations, districts, and camps. It offers help to denominational members with end-of-life financial decision making through the deferred gift financial instruments, which it writes and administers. It offers resources and seminars to help members and others within the denomination ask the right questions to ensure a fruitful retirement and appropriate insurance benefits along the way. One more distinctive of which we are proud is that our funds are invested in a socially responsible manner. Our screens prohibit investments in areas that are counter to Church of the Brethren statements, and we advocate for companies in which we invest so that their decisions might better honor God's creation.



Our new logo tells the Eder Financial story –

- The cross is representative of our organization being grounded in faith as disciples of Jesus Christ.
- “Eder” is from the Eder River, where the Brethren movement began in Schwarzenau, Germany, in 1708. This name honors the movement and the ideals that led to the creation of our original ministry-focused, not-for-profit organization that serves people and organizations of like mind.
- “Financial” indicates that we are rooted in products and services that help members and organizations become sound stewards of their own financial resources.
- “Bold” describes how we provide our values-based services, based on the teachings of Jesus, through helpful products, concierge customer service, and competitive fees. Our investment screens are based on Brethren values, and our engagement in advocacy implores companies to weigh their strong business practices with being caretakers of God's creation and people.
- “Balanced” is the manner in which we partner with those we serve to help them achieve their objectives.
- “Trusted” signals that we look out for the best interests of those we serve by being proactive and maintaining confidentiality.

Why the change? In 2021, Church of the Brethren membership fell below 100,000 members for the first time. Two years into the articulation of the Church of the Brethren's Compelling Vision discernment process, there continued to be real division within the denomination. Within our own organization, this raised questions about how to best serve those for whom we were created. With so many factors to consider and the care of our members and client institutions at the forefront of our minds, we decided to boldly reinvent our organization and its ministries. While attempting to honor the past, our Board affirmed five strategic outcomes for our ministries, centered on growth, marketing, our employees, the location from which we do our work, and our identity.

In January 2022 we became a "work-from-home" organization, which allows us to hire new staff from anywhere in the country. We continue to maintain a minimal footprint at the Church of the Brethren General Offices for occasional use by our various teams. Another aspect of change was the announcement of a new organizational structure that brings more staff to the decision-making table for better ideas, collaboration, planning, and coordination, which now gives us better bench strength, business continuity, and succession planning.

Eder Financial is overseen by a 12-member board of directors. They may serve up to two four-year terms. Board members have organizational, financial, or accounting backgrounds and experience.

A little about what we offer our members and clients, which might include *you*:

- A robust and competitive retirement plan that allows members to build their savings with plenty of options. Employees can select from more than 30 investment offerings and receive fiduciary-level investing advice through our partner, Edelman Financial Engines.
- Several options for extra insurance including dental, vision, life (basic and supplemental), accidental death and dismemberment, short- and long-term disability, accident, Medicare supplement, pet insurance, and long-term care. All of this is now coordinated by the online web portal that was launched in fall 2021.
- Investment options for congregations and related denominational organizations that have from \$10,000 to more than \$10 million to invest. Our staff is focused on quality customer service, and a web portal allows clients to find resources, manage the transfer of funds, and generate customizable reports.
- A benevolent fund that helps employees of churches, districts, and camps who find themselves with extraordinary financial needs. The Plan is meant for employees who meet minimum tenure, as well as several other requirements related to annual income and overall net worth. In 2021, the Church Workers' Assistance Plan distributed regular grants to 47 individuals, totaling \$274,821. During the peak of COVID, special grants totaling \$426,000 were issued to 128 people.
- Deferred Gifts 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 planning process. We would be glad to illustrate to you how Eder Financial can help establish and manage such gifts.

We believe the strategic steps we are in the process of implementing will allow us to continue serving you and others within the Church of the Brethren, while at the same time building relationships that enable us to serve individuals beyond the denomination. Our desire is to remain a reliable voice in helping your congregation, district, camp, or related Brethren organization manage its pension, insurance, organizational investing, and deferred gifts. We exist to serve you so that you can, in turn, more effectively live out your life in faithful service to Jesus Christ.

*Danna Rhodes*

Board Chair

*Nevin Dulabaum*

President

## On Earth Peace 2022 District Conference Greetings



*The aim of "On Earth Peace,"...is to clarify the issues that a Christian Church must face now regarding violence, . . . in search for a better way to settle human conflicts. [We can]...do something in the name of Christ by endeavoring to implement the message that came when Christ was born, "On Earth Peace and Good Will among [all]." --OEP Founder M.R. Zigler*

The Church of the Brethren has powerful Annual Conference statements on many issues and topics. But how equipped are we to act on issues like violence, social division, white supremacy, war, militarism, and the violation of human rights? On Earth Peace believes that the Church of the Brethren would be strengthened by developing a shared methodology for addressing these problems.

Let us equip ourselves as followers of Jesus to be able to live a commitment to active nonviolence! An approach called Kingian Nonviolence, based on the theology and work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the leadership of the Civil Rights movement, was codified by Church of the Brethren member, David Jehnsen. Kingian Nonviolence includes values and practices for interpersonal conflict and community leadership. Seeing this as a path to implement the values and teachings of Jesus, OEP has moved to institutionalize this approach in our ministry. Dr. King's teachings are a faithful and constructive place to stand, helping us to act nonviolently on any issue of violence.

Are you willing to come on a journey to see how Jesus' words and teachings can live in our times, as Dr. King did in his? On Earth Peace is lifting up a big goal of training 1000 Brethren in Kingian Nonviolence. This would transform the Church of the Brethren's approach to violence, equity, justice, and peace.

- Attend a 2-hour introductory training in Kingian Nonviolence (offered monthly) or schedule one for your district.
- Schedule a 16-hour training to help orient district members to nonviolence as they form teams to work together on an area of violence or injustice.

*Three more invitations:*

- *Apply for a \$500 youth community engagement mini-grant for your congregation or district.*
- *Share about our paid internship program with young adults aged 18-24 or college/graduate students of any age. In 2022 we are especially recruiting for a Dunker Punks Podcast Organizer, a Youth and Young Adult Organizer, and a Church and Community Groups Organizer.*
- *Help us develop relationships with 50 new congregations in 2022 to financially sustain our ministries for the denomination and the world.*

Contact me at [OEP@OnEarthPeace.org](mailto:OEP@OnEarthPeace.org) with questions about programs or how to connect with On Earth Peace.

Matt Guynn, Director of Church and Community Organizing





# A World of Possibilities

**S**ince 1905, Bethany Theological Seminary has followed the example of Jesus by preparing others for lives of ministry and service. Our innovative learning community is grounded in an Anabaptist and Radical Pietist witness. We provide students with exceptional opportunities for advanced biblical and theological study that values both faith formation and academic freedom. We empower students to answer their call from God and to lead through spiritual engagement, faith-filled thought, and transformative practice.

## CLEARING A PATH TO MINISTRY

We do everything we can to make seminary education accessible and affordable for all qualified students. Over the last decade, we have made remarkable progress in reducing the amount of student debt at the Seminary. Our concerted efforts to increase scholarships, provide affordable housing, and offer financial guidance have been effective in dramatically reducing student borrowing and in encouraging a diverse and vibrant student body to pursue ministry and service with confidence and without unnecessary financial burdens.

## CULTIVATING THE PASTORATE

This year we are introducing a revised Master of Divinity program that will provide robust preparation to students who are called to specific career paths including:

- Congregational Leadership
- Chaplaincy
- Spiritual Direction and Care
- Family Ministry
- Teaching
- Conflict Transformation and Mediation

Our residential students form a strong community, living in newly renovated houses in our "Bethany Neighborhood." They gain practical experience while studying Bible, History, Ministry, Peace, and Theology.

## INNOVATING IN THE CLASSROOM

Bethany's professors are highly attuned to student needs and interests, so they are regularly designing new courses, and even launching new degree programs. We continue to invest in classroom technology so that our faculty and students can connect with one another from anywhere in the world for robust conversations seeded with a variety of perspectives. We foster creativity and innovation so that we remain on the leading edge of seminary education. This learning environment prepares our vibrant and diverse students to minister, serve and lead.



## There's a Place for You at Bethany!

**B**ethany Theological Seminary is committed to helping all qualified students to answer their call from God and receive an exceptional education without taking on additional educational or consumer debt. As many seminaries have struggled with enrollment, our vibrant community has grown — and we have room for more students, both studying from a distance or joining our on-campus community and living in our “Neighborhood” of houses a few steps from campus.

In recent years the Seminary has dramatically reduced total student borrowing, even as enrollment has grown. Participants in our Pillars and Pathways Residential Scholars program receive reduced tuition, free housing, living stipends, work opportunities, and a course in Conscious Financial Living with a goal of helping students earn Bethany degrees without taking on additional student or consumer debt.



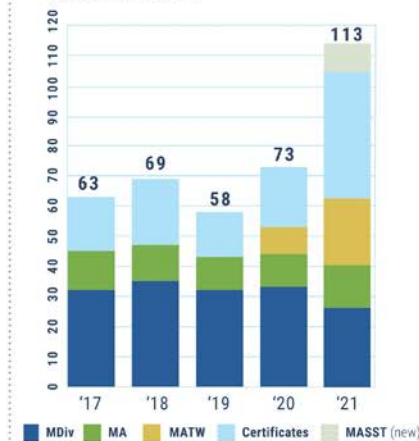
Currently supported: **13** students  
Goal: **24** students

### “THE NEIGHBORHOOD” AT-A-GLANCE:

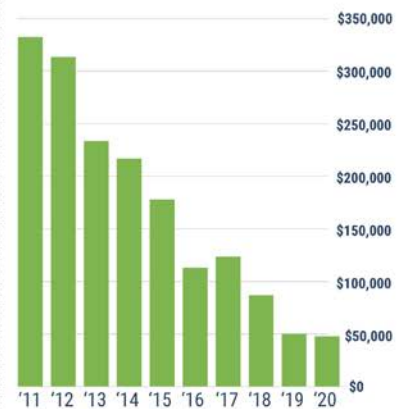
- Bethany has **seven** houses with capacity for up to **24** students, living in community.
- Cost per student: **\$9,000** (tuition, housing, living stipend, and books)

### 5-YEAR ENROLLMENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Historical Headcount



### TOTAL AMOUNT BORROWED BY ALL STUDENTS, PER YEAR





an Anabaptist and Radical Pietist witness, Bethany Theological Seminary  
with-filled thought, and transformative practice — so that the world flourishes.



“When I was considering graduate school programs, I didn’t want to put additional financial burdens on my parents. I have lived in community for most of my life, so that was

an attractive aspect of the Neighborhood as well. Bethany has been a wonderful choice for me.”

/SUSUYU LASSA, MASST 2022



“I consider The Neighborhood a type of ‘deep community’ that allows students to build something bigger than themselves. It’s nice to put work into something and see it grow.”

/PHIL COLLINS, MDIV STUDENT



“I follow each student’s financial journey closely to ensure that they have the resources needed to make smart financial choices now and in the future.”

/TERRI MITCHELL, FINANCIAL AID AND ENROLLMENT ASSISTANT



“At Bethany, we believe that financial concerns should not be an obstacle to students answering a call from God to ministry and service. Providing an education that is exceptional, accessible, and affordable is our core mission.”

/REV. DR. JEFF CARTER, PRESIDENT

## Making Seminary Affordable

### 85 PERCENT TUITION DISCOUNT

Thanks to the generous support of alumni and friends, and the careful investment of our resources, Bethany is very affordable.

### GENEROUS FINANCIAL AID

Most students pay only the base tuition of \$1,100 per semester, qualifying for enough financial aid to cover the remaining costs.

### TYPES OF AID AVAILABLE

Academic Excellence Scholarship  
Church Covenant Grant  
Pillars and Pathways Residential Scholarship  
Need-based grant  
Federal Work-Study  
Federal Stafford Loans  
International student aid



An exceptional biblical and theological education,  
**accessible and affordable for all.**

## 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
- Learn more at [bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy](http://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy)

Bethany's impact is possible because of the generosity of our friends.

**Make a gift today at [bethanyseminary.edu/donate](http://bethanyseminary.edu/donate)**

### BETHANY QUICK FACTS

- **643** 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.
- We have expanded our educational partnership in Nigeria, hiring a full-time staff member to help build relationships with EYN and other denominations.
- In May, **15** students graduated with degrees from Bethany and another **5** completed training through the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership.
- This year, **114** students were enrolled at Bethany, pursuing master's degrees or certificates.
- Pillars and Pathways Residential Scholars serve more than a dozen non-profit organizations in the surrounding community, completing **312** volunteer hours per semester.
- Financial support from alumni and congregations during **2021** totaled **\$587,415.39**.





# Church of the Brethren

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Pacific Southwest District:

As you prepare for and participate in District Conference this year, I hope you will think of it as both a joyous gift as well as a solemn responsibility. I consider it a gift and a responsibility because it provides us the opportunity to celebrate Christian community beyond our home congregation and it encourages us to nurture and challenge one another on our faith journeys as we strive to better understand who God is calling us to be. District Conference enables us to laugh together, to pray together, to think well together, to see the divine in one another, and to gather together before God to seek the leading of the Holy Spirit. I'm delighted that you are investing your time, energy and gifts in District Conference this year and on behalf of the Annual Conference officers it is a pleasure to thank you for that commitment. I hope it will be an inspiring and rejuvenating experience for you.

In a similar way I look forward with hope and anticipation to gathering together in Cincinnati next summer for our 236<sup>th</sup> recorded Annual Conference. We will have important work to do as we carefully and prayerfully deliberate together. Annual Conference will also provide time for listening, learning, and discernment. We will be blessed through challenging and meaningful worship services. We will be intentional about preserving time for good conversation, soul-soothing music, and biblical inspiration.

Wilbur Hoover, a former pastor and mentor of mine, once defined the church as "people grouped together so they can live out their faith better than they could alone." I think Wilbur was right. We belong together. We need each other. We need each and every one of us if we are to fulfill the new commandment Jesus gave us: that we love one another (John 13:34). When we meet for worship on Sunday mornings in our home congregation, when we gather for District Conference, and when we assemble as the Body of Christ at Annual Conference we contribute to and benefit from being the church.

Let's be the church as we gather together in Cincinnati on July 4-8, 2023. Let's listen anew to Jesus's call to inclusive love and costly discipleship. Let's unite at Annual Conference in God's presence so we can live out our faith more fully than any of us could alone.

It will be a pleasure to greet you then and there!

Tim McElwee

2023 Annual Conference Moderator

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

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





# Church of the Brethren

May 2022

Greetings to you in the name of Christ our Savior, Redeemer, and Lord!

Once again I want to express my gratitude 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 that in mind, as you gather in person or virtually for your District Conferences, I have invited our Mission and Ministry Board and staff to hold you and your work and ministries in our prayers.

For a more comprehensive report about the work of the Mission and Ministry Board and staff, I would point you to the Annual Report found at <https://www.brethren.org/about/annualreport/>. In addition, we are planning to report at many of your district conferences or be available for questions and conversations.

In these days, uncertainty and disruption are prominent in many of our congregational and district circles. One cannot deny the challenges that we face as a denomination—challenges that are manifest in the recent splits in which congregations have left or are leaving us; the ongoing disputes regarding sexuality, Biblical authority, and the calls for greater accountability; and the echo chambers of misinformation that continue to fuel mistrust. Yet these challenges and others that seem to gather the most attention only serve to mask the pressing reality that our membership continues to decline. While it is much easier to blame others or claim that the issues named above cast a shadow that discourages outsiders from darkening our doorways, I would simply ask: What are you doing to be Jesus in your neighborhood? If we Brethren are known by the manner of our living, what is your living saying to those in your local community? Who are your neighbors? What are their needs? Do you really know?

As a former pastor, I know that it was rare for the people in the communities where I served to look to the district or denominational stage. What made the most significant impression was the local congregation's invitation and hospitality; their engagement, service, and mission in the local community; and their efforts at supporting missions beyond their local setting. If it is our purpose to find fault and scrutinize those who do not live up to our standards and understanding of Scripture, then we will surely have little problem finding that which we seek, given the sinful and imperfect nature of each of us. Meanwhile, our neighbors will miss out on learning to know about the transformative power of Jesus.

In the context of the Mission and Ministry Board's Strategic Plan, the Board has identified priorities for our staff's work. Among them: develop a prominent, comprehensive, sustained framework for equipping evangelism; and develop a program about healing and reconciling relationships within the church and transforming conflict, including the intentional construction of a network of members who understand the dynamics of conflict and who are called to serve in a ministry of bringing healing to our brokenness. In naming these priorities, the Board is

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recognizing that to be Jesus in our neighborhoods and to do that together, we must first begin healing the brokenness within our own body. In addition, our staff needs to help provide the tools and resources to support and guide our congregations in their effort to engage their communities in mission and service.

It is important to acknowledge that no program will fix us. Healing our brokenness and the brokenness in our relationships will take time, and it is an effort we must make together. This is not a pass to dismiss the tough issues that we face, but an invitation to commit to finding ways to come together, setting aside our assumptions about the other and learning to know one another—learning about their families, jobs, interests, retirement, etc. It is also an invitation to gather with others in your district to study and discern scripture together around those tough issues, to pray together, and to open yourselves to the leading of the Holy Spirit.

My friends, it is my hope and prayer that you will join me in efforts to heal the brokenness between us and focus more on loving each other to death. May we also give our full attention to our call and work to be disciples of Jesus in our communities and world. I believe loving each other to death—as well as those in our communities—allows for the transforming power of Jesus to be set free in our neighborhoods.

I invite you to join me in our common efforts at being Jesus in our neighborhoods.

Your servant in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Steele', with a stylized, cursive script.

David Steele  
General Secretary





## Church of the Brethren

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

*“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9 (NIV)*

In 2021, Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) weathered an unusual combination of the COVID-19 pandemic, the volcano eruption in DR Congo, and the Haiti earthquake responses, along with a major Afghan resettlement effort and the typical responses to hurricanes and tornados. Throughout yet another challenging year for disaster ministries, volunteers and staff refused to be discouraged and moved forward with courage to bring hope, healing, and God’s love to those impacted by disasters.

The challenges have continued in 2022 with the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the resulting humanitarian and refugee crisis. The Church of the Brethren is providing significant assistance to people impacted by the war, both in Ukraine and in the surrounding countries hosting refugees (especially Poland, Romania and Moldova), through partnerships with Church World Service CWS), International Orthodox Christian Charities, and others. Assistance is focused on the most vulnerable people who are not being served by the larger relief agencies.

Special Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) funding in 2021 included COVID-19 pandemic grants to two US congregations, as well as global grants to Brethren in Venezuela, Nigeria, and Mexico and to partners IMA World Health (for India) and CWS. A grant to CWS supported a special resettlement program for Afghans evacuated during August’s historic airlift.

BDM’s domestic programs continued to navigate the complexities of serving disaster survivors in the midst of the pandemic, bolstered by flexible volunteers who were willing and able to serve under challenging conditions. COVID-19 protocols remained in place, with a focus on caring for housing hosts, partners, survivors of all ages, and volunteers.

To accommodate pandemic protocols and fewer numbers of volunteers, BDM’s Rebuilding Program maintained only one open project site at a time. The Coastal NC site in Bayboro, N.C., continued to assist Hurricane Florence (2018) survivors through April 2021. From May to September 2021, volunteers returned to Dayton, Ohio, to repair and rebuild homes damaged in the 2019 Memorial Day tornados. Through an innovative partnership program, BDM also worked on homes intended for purchase by renters displaced due to the tornados. The Bayboro project reopened in October, more than two years after Hurricane Florence, and continued to serve survivors there until mid-April 2022. After closing the North Carolina project, a new Rebuilding project opened in Waverly, Tenn., in response to a destructive and deadly August 2021 flash flooding event. The Waverly project and short-term projects in Kentucky, responding to winter 2021 tornadoes, will continue.

In 2021, BDM supported the Northern Plains district’s efforts to repair homes damaged in the August 2020 Derecho and sponsored a short-term two-week response to repair homes damaged in the Spring 2019 flooding near Omaha, Neb. By the end of the year, 829 Rebuilding Program volunteers had served 53 families in four states.

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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



After a year with no volunteer deployments, Children's Disaster Services (CDS) was able to serve a one-year record total of 13,728 children in 2021. A large focus centered around the refugee and migrant crises at the southern US border and with the historic Afghanistan evacuation. A Critical Response Childcare (CRC) team responded to the Surfside, Fla., building collapse in June. Natural disasters warranted the deployment of additional CDS teams, with the major response being to Hurricane Ida in Louisiana in August and September. Overall, CDS deployed 75 volunteers for 134 days in 2021.

The Church of the Brethren continued to support mission points, Global Brethren churches, and partners through EDF grants. The Nigeria Crisis Response (NCR), in collaboration with EYN (Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) and Mission 21, remains the largest global program. Even amidst ongoing, and often increasing, violence and insecurity, NCR maintains its focus on sponsorship of four camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs), food distributions, medical assistance, livelihood training centers for widows and orphans, seeds and fertilizer, new wells for drinking water, education assistance for orphan children, trauma workshops, training of one-on-one counselors, and home repairs for the most vulnerable.

The August 2021 earthquake in Haiti led to support for the L'Eglise des Freres d'Haiti (the Haiti Church of the Brethren) relief and rebuilding program in Saut Mathurine, where a previous joint Hurricane Matthew (2016) response project had resulted in the building of homes (which survived the earthquake) and an active and growing Brethren congregation. BDM is also supporting a CWS response to the earthquake in a neighboring impacted community.

Another major effort is the ongoing funding for Hurricanes Eta and Iota recovery in Honduras through Proyecto Aldea Global (Project Global Village) and CWS. Additional EDF grants supported relief and recovery through sister churches in DR Congo and Rwanda (Mt. Nyiragongo volcano eruption), the South Sudan Church of the Brethren mission, and partners in Burundi, Ecuador, Indonesia, Lebanon, Myanmar, Timor-Leste, and Yemen.

The 2021 BDM programmatic expenses were \$1,451,818. This includes expenses from EDF allocations that support specific programs such as \$217,810 for US responses (Rebuilding, CDS, etc.); \$146,460 for the Nigeria Crisis Response; \$427,226 for all other global responses; and \$84,800 for the domestic and global COVID-19 Pandemic Grant programs.

We are called to love God and to step out boldly in faith to serve our neighbors. The staff and volunteers of Brethren Disaster Ministries are truly grateful to each of you for both supporting and working alongside us to answer that call as "co-workers in God's service" (1 Corinth. 3:9).

We ask for your continued prayers and support as we serve survivors of both natural and human-caused disasters on their journey of recovery.



Roy Winter, Executive Director for Service Ministries

*On behalf of BDM staff: Lisa Crouch, Jenn Dorsch-Messler, Sharon Franzén, and Kim Gingerich*

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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





# Brethren Volunteer Service Annual Report

## Sharing God's Love Through Acts of Service

Working for Peace

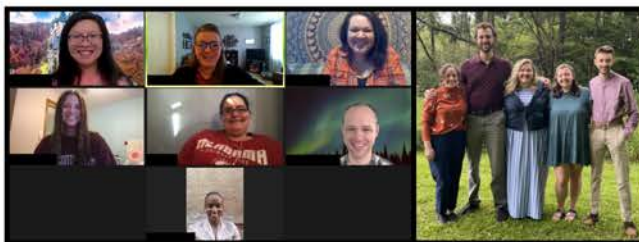
Caring for Creation

Advocating Justice

Serving Human Needs

### BVS ended 2021 with 14 volunteers:

- who served in 5 countries: El Salvador, Japan, Northern Ireland, Ireland, and the U.S.;
- placed in 11 U.S. states and Washington, D.C.;
- 26 volunteers served throughout the year.



Unit 328, Winter 2021, volunteer group photo taken over Zoom (left), and Unit 329, Summer 2021, at Camp Inspiration Hills

### In 2021:

- BVS hosted two orientation units. The winter unit was held virtually due to COVID-19. The summer unit was held at Camp Inspiration Hills in Burbank, Ohio.

### Partners in Service Award

The World Friendship Center in Hiroshima, Japan, is the recipient of BVS's 2022 Partners in Service Award. The award recognizes an individual, project, or congregation that has demonstrated exceptional commitment in partnering with BVS to share God's love through acts of service.

The World Friendship Center has been serving and advocating for peace since 1965 and has been a BVS project since 1982. BVSers have been serving as co-directors, managing and operating international guest services since 1982. English classes are taught and peace is promoted through a variety of community based peace activities, classes, and stories from Hibakusha (atomic bomb survivors). Through their efforts, peace is encouraged and bridges of international understanding are built. BVS is proud to recognize the World Friendship Center for its non-wavering commitment to peace.

The Partners in Service Award will be presented on July 11 at the Annual Conference Brethren Volunteer Service Luncheon in Omaha, Nebraska.



From left to right: Malachi Nelson (Unit 329), Kathy Edmark (Unit 319), Roger Edmark (Unit 319), and Matthew Bateman (Unit 328) at the World Friendship Center in Hiroshima, Japan. Photo courtesy of World Friendship Center.

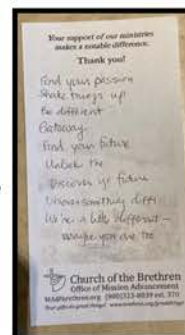
### New BVS promotion campaign: 'We're a little different. Maybe you are too.'

**we're a little different. maybe you are too.**

Learn more about  
Brethren Volunteer Service  
[brethren.org/bvs](http://brethren.org/bvs)

Soon after I came back to the BVS office as the interim director, I was asked if BVS wanted to place an ad in the church's monthly magazine, *Messenger*. I didn't have much time to make a decision nor come up with an ad. So, one Monday I texted my daughter (a former BVSer), her friend, and my wife. Could they put their heads together and help me out? They started with a phrase I gave them, "Find your passion." Then came a progression of their thinking. My wife took notes and kept the paper (right). And finally, "We're a little different. Maybe you are too." This all happened in 10 minutes.

The BVS team has become captivated by this phrase. Right away it seemed to fit and its simplicity tells the BVS experience. We in BVS are a little different. We always have been. Is what you gain from your volunteer experience unique to BVS? No. Many others gain the same thing from their service years. And yet, the Church of the Brethren, who forms the foundation of BVS, and following Jesus, the reason we do what we do... yes, we're a little different. Maybe you know of others who are different too. Invite them to join us. —Dan McFadden





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## BVS Update: Coming Back from COVID

For the past two years, BVS has been in a constant state of transition. During 2020, BVS had to transition from doing in-person orientations to virtual orientations. After a virtual orientation for Unit 328 in January, 2021 saw BVS switching back to an in-person orientation for Unit 329 in July. Changes were made to the orientation to reflect the changing times, and the numbers were much smaller, but the spirit of BVS remained strong. Our successful return to in-person orientation bodes well for the future.

The pandemic forced BVS to make creative changes, some that will continue through the near future and some that have inspired other ideas. For orientation, speakers are now invited from all across the country and the world to lead sessions virtually. This allows for more variety and diversity in the orientation session topics. With the first virtual unit came monthly group support calls on Zoom. It gives all the volunteers a chance to strengthen their BVS identity while getting to know volunteers from outside their unit on a regular basis. These changes have given BVS the ability to move into the modern era and improve connection with a wider range of people.

BVS does not look the same as it did back in 1948. Then again, neither does the world. Change is part of nature. Despite all the transitions BVS goes through, its simple goal will remain: "Sharing God's love through acts of service." Whether virtual, in person, or a mixture of both, BVS will continue to strive toward this goal. These times of change have proven that nothing can stop BVS.



*Claire Horrell (Unit 328) with her second photography seminar at El Centro Arte para la Paz in Suchitoto, El Salvador (left), and Erika Clary (Unit 329) posing with her National Youth Conference mailing at the Church of the Brethren General Offices in Elgin, Illinois (right).*

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## FaithX Update

"Step Out: Seeking New Paths," based on Isaiah 43:19, was the 2021 FaithX season theme. This theme encourages participants to seek new paths in their faith and step out into their own faith journey. Eighty-six youth and adults participated in 7 workcamps around the country during the 2021 summer months. As they studied this theme, they were able to have fun, make friendships and memories, and serve their local communities in a new and meaningful way. Due to the unique challenges of COVID, these participants served in areas closer to their homes, allowing them to step out in their own communities and find new and exciting ways to serve in their own backyards. These trips were coordinated by BVS assistant coordinators, Chad Whitzel and Alton Hipps. Zech Houser is currently working on summer 2022 programs with the theme "Boundless Faith," empowering participants to go beyond the easy answers and see their faith as a bold adventure into the unknown.



*Alton Hipps (Unit 325) and Chad Whitzel (Unit 325) with FaithX participants in Susquehanna Valley, Pennsylvania.*

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## FaithX Welcomes Zech Houser!



BVS welcomed one new staff person after the resignation of Hannah Shultz. Zechariah Houser was named coordinator of short-term service, and his role includes BVS

recruitment and coordination of the FaithX ministry (formerly workcamps). Zech began on August 9, 2021, and since then has become a valuable member of the BVS team. BVS is very grateful to have Zech on board as he plans the 2022 FaithX program.

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*Brethren Volunteer Service*  
1451 Dundee Ave.  
Elgin, IL 60120  
[brethrenvolunteerservice.org](http://brethrenvolunteerservice.org)  
[bvs@brethren.org](mailto:bvs@brethren.org) | 847-429-4384



BVS is a ministry of the Church of the Brethren

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

**November 13, 2021  
Virtual on the web Zoom Conference**

**I. Call to Order**

Opening song.

The Pacific Southwest District was called to order and led in prayer by Moderator Al Clark at 9:02 a.m.

**II. Roll Call and Establishing of Quorum**

Roll was called with 64 delegates from 20 congregations in attendance establishing a quorum so that we can conduct the business of the Pacific Southwest District at this 58th District Conference.

**III. Dedication of the Delegates**

Moderator Al Clark invited the delegates to join him in reciting the Delegates' Dedication on page 7 of the Business Book. He ended the dedication with prayer.

**IV. Introduction of Leadership**

Moderator Al Clark introduced the leadership: Nelda Rhodes Clarke, District Board Chair; Cheryl Crane, Moderator-Elect; Lois Frantz, Clerk; Judy Minnich Stout, Timekeeper; Russ Matteson, District Executive Minister; Joe Vecchio, Administrative Assistant and Technical Advisor; Jeremiah Irizarry, Tech Support.

**V. Approval of Agenda**

**Approval of the Agenda, page 2 in the 2021 Business Book, was moved by Eric Brummett (Live Oak)/David Flores (Iglesia de Cristo Sion). Passed.**

**VI. Approval of the Minutes**

A. **Approval of the minutes of the 2020 meeting, pages 45-48 in the Business Book as found to be accurate by the review committee, was moved by Muir Davis (La Verne)/Linda Gordon (Circle of Peace), passed.**

B. The following persons volunteered to certify the accuracy of the 2021 Minutes. Tim Brayton (La Verne), Linda Gordon (Circle of Peace) and Muir Davis (La Verne).

**VII. Conversation Tables**

Al Clark invited the attendees to meet in Breakout Rooms for conversation to get to know one another. Joe Vecchio sent the attendees out.

**VIII. Business Item: Exhibit A. Presentation of Ballot (See pages 49-53 in the 2021 Business Book)**

A. Cheryl Crane, Nominating Committee Chair, introduced the Ballot.

B. The moderator asked for nominations from the floor. There were none.

C. **Motion to approve the ballot as a slate, Doris Dunham (Bakersfield)/ Bob Morris (Glendora), passed.**

D. The following persons were elected to the PSWD 2022 positions:

1. Moderator-Elect: Judy Minnich Stout, San Diego-SE

2. Clerk: Laura Miller, Papago Buttes-AZ

3. Nominating Committee: Marye Martinez, Modesto-NC

4. Program Committee, District Conference: Nohemi Flores, Iglesia de Cristo Sion-SE

5. Program Committee, District Conference: Mary Kay Ogden, La Verne-SE

## 6. District Board of Administration:

- a. Andrew Kauffman, Circle of Peace-AZ, Arizona Representative
- b. Richard Keeling, Bakersfield-CC (incumbent), Central California Representative
- c. Jonas Funderburk, Glendale-SW (incumbent), At-Large Representative
- d. Gail Heisel, La Verne-SE, At-Large Representative
- e. Bill Himes, La Verne-SE, At-Large Representative
- f. Deborah Oseguera, Centro Agape en Acción, Youth & Young Adult Representative
- g. Elena Yoder, Circle of Peace, Youth & Young Adult Representative

**IX. Introduction of Guests and New Pastoral Leadership**

- A. Guests: Shannon McNeil, Church of the Brethren, Inc.; Lauren Seganos Cohen, Mission & Ministry Board; Lori Current, Bethany Seminary; Nevin Dulabaum, Brethren Benefit Trust; Matt Guynn, On Earth Peace; Barbara Daté, Center for Dialogue & Resolution; and Darla Deardorf, Executive Director of Association of International Education Administrators.
- B. New Pastoral Leadership: Bakersfield, Sandra Millard; Papago Buttes, Jonathan Chubb.
- C. Pastor of Iglesia La Esperanza en Cristo Jesús, Lucio Velazquez.

**X. Recognition of Ordination Anniversaries** (See page 13 in the 2021 Business Book)

Norma Sexton shared that we have a combined total of 300 years of leadership from the ministers being recognized today. Certificates of recognition have been mailed to pastors. Norma led the attendees in prayer for those recognized.

**Song:** Recording from Bob Morris, Pastor of Glendora Church of the Brethren.

**XI. National Youth Conference Video and Support**

Russ shared a video about NYC and shared the dates for next year's conference: July 23-28, 2022. Ministry and Improvement grants can provide up to 60% of the registration for participants. Registration opens in December 2021 and closes in March 2022.

**XII. Business Item: Exhibit D. 2021 Bylaws Revisions** (see pages 58-62 in the 2021 Business Book)

- A. Nelda Clarke and Russ Matteson explained the changes to the bylaws.
- B. Motion comes from the Policy Board so no second is required.
- C. **Al Clark called for the vote of all changes. Sixty-one delegates voted aye, no nay votes. Passed unanimously.**
- D. Summaries of the proposed & passed revisions are in Exhibit D from the Business Book.
  1. Complete 2021 PDF posted at: [www.pswdcob.org/ministries/dc-committees](http://www.pswdcob.org/ministries/dc-committees)
  2. (Article II.E.1.c. and II.E.2.c.) 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.
  3. (Article II.H.) brings the clarity to allow for virtual participation for the conduct of District business at conference by indicating virtual attendees count towards the quorum.
  4. (Article II.E.3.c. and Article III.F.2.&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.
  5. (Article II.I.2. and Article III.B.) 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.

6. (Article III.F.) 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.
7. (Article III.F.5.) clarifies the role and meeting expectation of the Board of Administration, including clarity around virtual and hybrid meetings.
8. (Article III.K.) 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.
9. (Article VI. and Article II.I.1.) 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.

**XIII. Reports From Annual Conference Agencies** (See pages 31-44 in the 2021 Business Book)

- A. Brethren Benefit Trust (BBT): Nevin Dulabaum, President of BBT showed a video and spoke about the commitment of BBT to manage funds for churches, camps, Districts, and others.
- B. On Earth Peace - Matt Guynn shared that their emphasis is based upon principles of Kingian Non-Violence. The Agency has many programs and events including Read Aloud videos for children, and upcoming web events around "Are Prisons Obsolete," and "Children as Peace Makers."

**XIV. Program Committee Report** (See page 15 in the 2021 Business Book)

Al Clark reported that although it was difficult to switch to an all virtual District Conference, the process went fairly well. District Conference 2022 is planned for Hillcrest Homes. Al asked us to think about what things we will want to continue in an online format? He asked attendees to list their ideas on the Evaluation Form for Conference.

**XV. Policy Board Report** (See pages 18-24 in the 2021 Business Book)

- A. Ministry Commission, Norma Sexton chair (See pages 20 in the 2021 Business Book)  
The Ministry Commission met every other month. They hosted a Virtual Love Feast, and the Pastor and Spouse Retreat. The Commission affirmed the Credentials of 16 licensed ministers and there is a potential for four (4) or five (5) more ordinations this year. Ministry and Improvement Funds supported pastors.
- B. Stewards Commission, Bob Morris chair (See pages 21-23 in the 2021 Business Book)  
Ministry and Improvement Funds (area 2) highlights: San Diego First received funds to upgrade their Heating and Cooling System; Pasadena Conexión received funds for remodeling their chapel; Circle of Peace received funds for roof repairs and parking lot lighting; Papago Buttes received funds for upgrading their irrigation system; Imperial Heights received funds for structural repair; and Glendora received funds for painting the exterior.
- C. Congregational Vitality Task Group, Cheryl Crane chair.  
Three churches received Ministry Partnership Funds for Mission Congregations. These congregations have half of their congregation that are below the poverty line and received between \$3,000 and \$10,000. Restoration LA received \$10,000, Cristo Genesis received

\$10,000, and Cristo Sion received \$7,500. Funds were also available for helping with ministry opportunities such as creating a labyrinth, creating a children's program, church coaching, bible study, upgrading Live Streaming capabilities, and starting up or expanding programs.

**XVI. Business Item: Exhibit C. Policy Board Budget Recommendations** (See pages 54-57 in the 2021 Business Book) Stewards Commission Chair Bob Morris presented related business items:

A. The 2022 Operating Budget and the 2022 Church Planting Budget were presented.

**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. (56 Yea, 0 No, 0 abstained) Passed.**

B. 2023 Operating Expense Maximum.

1. The recommendation for 2023 (See page 55 in the 2021 Business Book) of \$478,000 is a \$5,280 increase over the 2022 budget. 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.

2. **Action Item: The Policy Board recommends to the District Conference that the expense maximum for the 2022 Operating Budget be \$478,000. Passed.**

**XVII. Standing Committee Delegate Report** (See pages 14-15 in the 2021 Business Book)

Don Shankster shared his thanks to all who sent in nominations for the Annual Conference ballot and noted that there is still time for more nominations for the 2022 ballot. Annual Conference 2022 will be held July 10 - 14, 2022, in Omaha, NE.

**XVIII. District Executive Minister Report (DEM):** (See pages 11-14 in the 2021 Business Book)

Russ Matteson shared that he has learned much since starting the job of DEM but has more to learn. Ministry for churches and pastors during the pandemic has been difficult and taxing but pastors have found ways to support each other and keep the community healthy. Russ stated that we are continuing to grow as a multicultural community. He shared pictures of the new church in Los Banos, Centro Agape en Acción. They have met for three weeks now with an attendance of approximately 60. He said the sanctuary will seat 150 congregants.

**XIX. Story Circles:**

Darla Deardorff explained that the story circle ideas were developed with UNESCO to create intercultural competence. She then explained the concepts for the Story Circles. Joe Vecchio then sent the attendees out into groups to begin the process of learning to listen to each other to develop a greater understanding of each other. This was followed by a time of sharing about the experience as a whole group.

**XX. Passing the Gavel**

Moderator Al Clark stated that it was a pleasure being moderator during this past year - Working Peacefully, Simply Together passed the gavel to Cheryl Crane. Cheryl Crane thanked Al Clark for his service as moderator.

**XXI. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Lois Frantz, clerk

*In May 2022 the draft copy of the minutes was examined and given preliminary approval by committee member Tim Brayton (La Verne) and the Conference Officers. As of August 26, Linda Gordon (Circle of Peace) and Muir Davis (La Verne) were not able to review the minutes.*

# Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren

## November 2022 – November 2023 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 1Two year term

	Paul Lovelace, Pomona Fellowship - SE

### Nominating Committee

Vote for 1Three year term

	Brenda Dickson, South Bay - SW

### Program Committee, District Conference

Vote for 1Three year term

	Karen Pierson, Church of the Living Savior - CC (incumbent)

### District Board of Administration

#### Youth & Young Adult Representatives

Vote for 2One year term

	Cooper Sampson, Modesto - NC
	Elena Yoder, Circle of Peace - AZ (incumbent)

### District Board of Administration

#### At-Large Representatives

Vote for 3Three year term

	Erik Brummett, Live Oak - NC (incumbent)
	Jay Irizzary, Empire - NC (incumbent)
	Fernanda Navarrete, Pasadena - SW

### Southern California East and Nevada

Vote for 1Three year term

	Richard Zapata, Principe de Paz - SE (incumbent)

## 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](http://www.pswdcob.org)

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



**Paul Lovelace:**

*Age:* 69

*Congregation:* Pomona Fellowship

*Vocation:* Retired Vocational Instructor

*Church Experience:*

Most recently I have been a church board member as well as a deacon. I am the primary sound technician for Sunday mornings and am called on as a substitute preacher several times a year. Participation in both vocal and instrumental music for worship is very important to me. This year, 2022, I am the Annual Conference Delegate for my congregation. In the more distant past, I had the privilege of being on the District

Board, including being the board Chair.

*Vision Statement:* My congregation, Pomona Fellowship Church, is currently seeking God's call to us for where and who we should be. I think this is the current challenge for most congregations. How is God calling us to be Christ's church in a world that is not listening for God's voice. With Christianity being most visibly represented by radical evangelical churches that often make people feel Christianity is about judgement instead of about love. My hope is that by working together, the churches of the PSWD will find creative ways of expressing God's love through service and sharing the gospel of Christ's love for all.

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



**Brenda Dickson:**

*Congregation:* South Bay

*Age* 78

*Vocation:* Retired

*Church Experience:*

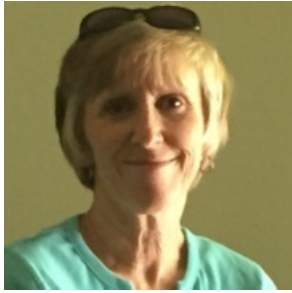
I am currently on South Bay's Nominating Com-

mittee and Pastoral Search Committee. Hopefully we will have found the pastor God has for us by PSWD District Conference this year.

*Vision Statement:* To find the delegates God will use to lead PSWD into a period of growth and productivity.

## Ballot Background Information, Exhibit B

**Program Committee, District Conference** (vote for 1): The three year term begins immediately. The Committee is responsible for planning the District Conference program, obtaining leadership, and making all necessary arrangements for the conference, in cooperation with on-site representatives.



**Karen Pierson**

*Congregation:* Church of the Living Savior  
*Age:* 65

*Vocation:* Retired from Teaching

*Church Experience:*

Glendora Church of the Brethren is where I grew up and became a member. Gary and I moved to

McFarland in 1980. I've been an active member of the McFarland congregation ever since. District wise, I've served on the board for several terms on different commissions: nurture, ministry, program committee, board vice chair, district moderator.

*Vision Statement:* That people would see Jesus by our actions of love for each other, our community, and the world.

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

**PSWD Board of Administration Section Reps:** . . . . Vote for 1 in each section (three year term)

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



**Richard Zapata:**

*Age:* 58

*Congregation:* Príncipe de Paz

*Vocation:* My passion involves church planting, church growth and Hispanic ministries

*Church Experience:* 14 years as a Hispanic CoB pastor, policy board member

*Vision Statement:* To see more families committed to Jesus and to their communities .

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**PSWD Board of Administration: At-Large Representatives.** . . . . . Vote for 3 (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.



**Jay Irizzary:**

*Age:* 42

*Congregation:* Empire

*Vocation:* Information Technology

*Church Experience:*

“Waterford CoB: IT:

Webmaster; Sound Technician; Board Member: Outreach Commission Chair, Financial Secretary; Newsletter Editor; Sunday Worship Counter;

Backup Office Assistant. ● Empire CoB: IT: Webmaster / Live Stream Producer; Church Board Member / Board Chairman & Assistant Moderator: Worship Commission; Mariners Co-President. ● PSWD CoB: Board Vice Chair; Policy Board Member / Executive Board member; Ministry Commission. ● Brethren Volunteer Service: Information Services Tech Support BVSer, Church of the Brethren (Brethren Service Center).

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

## Ballot Background Information, Exhibit B



**Erik Brummett:**

*Age:* 36

*Congregation:* Live Oak

*Vocation:* Pastor

*Church Experience:*

I currently serve as pastor of Live Oak Church of the Brethren. I have been in ministry with them since early 2016. While pastoral ministry can be a roller coaster, it is a roller coaster I love and enjoy. I have served on the district policy board for 3 years now. My third year saw me serve district board chair, which has me also serve as the chair of the executive board. My first two years saw me serve on the ministry commission. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time working with the policy board, ministry commission and executive board. It has been a lot of fun to be able to get to know so many people across our district and hear about the life of their congregations and how they and the district can best support one another. It was an honor to be asked to serve on the district policy board and just as much as honor to be asked to serve as its chair. To be asked to do so again fills me with pride and joy.

*Vision Statement:* So much has changed for the world, the US, and the church over the last 3 years. The pandemic began shortly after I was called to serve on the district policy board. Our congregations, our worship services, our commission meetings, our board meetings, all went online. The church was forced to adapt to a world gone virtual. And we had to keep adapting and pivoting as things got worse, then better, then worse. It was exhausting. But we learned things about ourselves, our friends. Our family, our neighbors, our churches, and our nation that I suspect many of us would have preferred not to learn. And in that, I think we forgot a lot of things. My vision is that we would simply remember. Remember how to love one another. Remember how to have peace with one another. Remember how to live with one another. Remember how to be Christ to one another. Remember how to be the church. Remember how to continue Jesus' work.

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**Feranda Navarrete:**

*Age:* 28

*Congregation:* Pasadena

*Vocation:* Serve people.

For instance, help them in their spiritual and emotional process.

*Church Experience:*

I am currently working on a new church plant project in Pasadena CA. Our ministry is focused on the Hispanic community and is called Conexión Pasadena.

*Vision Statement:* My vision is to be part of a community that moves in the love of Christ, compassion and service to others..



**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.



**Cooper Sampson:**

*Age: 16*

*Congregation: Modesto*

*Vocation: Student*

*Church Experience:*  
None

*Vision Statement:* For church, I do not.

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**Elena Yoder:**

*Age: 19*

*Congregation: Circle of Peace*

*Vocation:* I am a 19-year old who is grateful for the opportunity to always learn and grow.

I enjoy being a part of the journey God has put me on and constantly work on showing that in my daily life.

*Church Experience:* I attend the Circle of Peace Church of the Brethren and am involved in New Community Project. I love outreach and spend time at Camp Blue Diamond volunteering in the summer times.

*Vision Statement:* I love to work on 4 things: spreading kindness, breaking borders, sharing hope, and embracing the moment. Each of these have contributed to who I am as a person and where I am going in the future. I am committed to living out each of these through my words and actions.

## **Pacific Southwest District 2023 Operating Budget and Church Planting Support Budget, and 2024 Operating Expense Maximum**

In the pages that follow you will find the proposed 2023 PSWD Operating Budget, the 2023 Church Planting Support Budget, and the recommended 2024 Operating Expense Maximum from the Policy Board. The Policy Board took time at their April meeting to review the income and expenses of the last several years and they reaffirmed the decision of the 2016 Policy Board to work to keep the annual operating deficits at or below \$300,000. The expectation is that over the flow of the years the earnings on our investments will be significant enough to cover the deficit and also increase the asset base.

The District overall is in a good financial position. Investments we hold at with Eder Organizational Investing (formerly the Brethren Foundation) are still over \$4 million at the time of this report and while 2022 has been a tough year for the financial markets, over the last several years we are 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.

### **2023 PSWD Operating Budget**

In the spreadsheets that follow is the proposed 2023 District Operating Budget. The Policy Board is recommending a budget expense of \$459,191. This is a decrease of \$12,000 from the 2022 District Operating Budget, and \$19,000 less than the 2023 Operating Expense Maximum set at last year's District Conference.

In this budget are salary increases for staff that follow the denominational COLA recommendations, as well as anticipated increases to health insurance. The most significant reduction in cost for the budget comes in the cost of personnel and is the result of two changes: ending the District Youth Advisor position, and the change in the Administrative Assistant position with Joe Vecchio's retirement.

### **2023 District Operating Budget Notes**

#### ***Commitments***

Ministry Partnership Funds – Key in this area are funds 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 2023.

District Empowering Ministry – We are seeing a savings in budget of \$8000 here as we continue to mix physically gathered meetings with hybrid or virtual gatherings. Commitments to building funds for the 2026 Youth Conference and money to support activities for youth, even in this time of transition, are included.

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. Funds here also support the training of our Spanish speaking pastoral leaders.

Youth Ministry – While there is no funding for a District Youth Advisor in 2023, there is money through the Ministry & Improvement Fund to support the work of individual congregations in their work with youth. The district is bringing together a group from across the district to discuss how to best support churches and their youth at a district level. This conversation will be an active one with that group and the Policy Board in 2023 and may result in budget changes for 2024 and forward.

### 2023 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 were used up in early 2022, and the Ministry & Improvement Fund resources started to be used. The Policy Board is recommending a 2023 budget of \$78,180 across the four church plants that are in operation.

**Action Item:** The Policy Board recommends to the District Conference the adoption of the 2023 Operating Budget and the 2023 Church Planting Support Budget as presented.

### 2024 Operating Expense Maximum

The recommendation for 2023 of \$478,000 is a \$19,000 increase over the 2023 budget. The Board will work hard to keep focused on priorities and to bring back a strong plan that prioritizes needs and works to be fiscally responsible.

**Action Item:** The Policy Board recommends to the District Conference that the expense maximum for the 2024 Operating Budget be \$478,000.

#### Pacific Southwest District Church of the Brethren Income & Expense Summary - Proposed 2023 Budget

		2018 Actual	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Budget	2023 Proposed
Contributions Income	4100	29,222	37,496	29,527	26,317	34,400	34,400
Interest and Other Income	4200	107,784	81,290	89,690	91,905	153,100	118,850
Participation Income	4600	21,983	39,136	2,713	10,118	16,100	12,100
<b>Total Operating Income</b>		158,989	157,922	121,930	128,340	203,600	165,350
Congregational Development Ministry	5005	36,540	30256	49,108	32,251	46,500	46,750
Pastoral Leadership & Support	5300	31,014	32685	8,641	23,096	28,200	28,800
District Empowering Ministry	5500	63,922	68871	19,366	10,802	42,600	34,250
Partnership & Property Ministry	5700	42,708	54854	10,501	18,156	18,250	17,900
Service Ministries	6300	5,471	6434	0	5,822	6,500	6,800
District Operating Ministry	6500	296,880	296429	293,132	334,696	329,671	324,691
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>		476,535	489530	380,748	424,823	471,721	459,191
<b>Operating Deficit</b>		-317,546	-331,608	-258,818	-296,483	-268,121	-293,841

# Budget

# Exhibit C

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT OF THE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN											
2016-2022, District Budget Overview											
Power Church Report Levels				PC	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
1	2	3	4	Line #	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Proposed
INCOME				4000							
MINISTRY INCOME				4010							
CONTRIBUTIONS INCOME				4100							
Individuals				4110	1,667	838	2,610	2,790	2,077	2,100	2,100
Congregations				4120	30,520	27,714	32,471	26,637	24,240	32,000	32,000
Church Closure Contritribution				4125	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Groups				4126	100	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal Temp Restricted Income				4700	2,087	0	0	0	0	0	0
CDS Children's Disaster Rapid Response				4135	0	670	416	100	0	300	300
Other Income				4140	475	0	2,000	0	0	0	0
Subtotal Contributions Inc.				4100	34,849	29,222	37,496	29,527	26,317	34,400	34,400
INVESTMENT INCOME				4200							
CHECKING/MONEY MKT INCOME				4210	1	0	11,216	25,162	6,336	18,000	3,300
NOTES REC. INTEREST/FEES				4301	72,326	107,784	66,908	34,309	31,453	74,800	55,100
Investment Property Income				4400	0	0	0	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
MISC. INCOME				4550	27,923	0	3,165	220	24,116	30,300	30,450
Subtotal Investment Income				4200	100,250	107,784	81,290	89,690	91,905	153,100	118,850
PARTICIPATION INCOME				4600							
DIST CONF INCOME				4610	12,002	14,962	34,969	1,850	6,075	10,000	9,000
EVENTS INCOME				4630	3,335	7,021	4,167	863	4,043	6,100	3,100
Subtotal Participation Income				4600	15,337	21,983	39,136	2,713	10,118	16,100	12,100
TOTAL INCOME					150,436	158,989	157,922	121,930	128,340	203,600	165,350
EXPENSES				5000							
MINISTRY INVESTMENTS				5001							
CONGREGATIONAL DEV MIN				5005							
WEB SITE DEVELOPMENT				5020	715	801	1,088	2,241	1,871	1,500	1,750
Ministry Partnership Funds				5180	25,675	35,739	29,168	46,866	30,380	45,000	45,000
Cong Minister Support Grants				5100	91,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal Congregational Dev Min				5005	117,390	36,540	30,256	49,108	32,251	46,500	46,750
PAST'L. LDRSHP & SUPPORT				5300							
TRIM (TRAINING IN MIN)				5310	220	230	1,641	245	477	1,500	1,000
SEBAH & EPMC				5315	4,137	9,849	2,784	3,020	2,649	2,900	3,100
BETHANY THEO. SEMINARY				5320	0	0	4,300	4,400	5,565	5,000	5,000
PASTORS' RETREAT				5325	10,710	17,446	14,387	606	12,930	14,800	16,000
MINISTER'S WORKSHOP				5330	4,221	2,120	2,180	0	1,225	2,500	2,200
OTHER DISTRICT WORKSHOPS				5335	744	1,369	1,273	300	0	500	500
MINISTER'S ETHICS TRAINING				5336	0	0	5,421	70	0	0	0
PROF. GROWTH SUBSIDY				5338	583	0	700	0	250	1,000	1,000
TEMP RESTRICTED EXPENSES				7943	583	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subtotal Past'l. Ldrshp & Support				5300	21,198	31,014	32,685	8,641	23,096	28,200	28,800
DISTRICT EMPOWERING MINISTRY				5500							
DISTRICT CONFERENCE				5520	17,967	19,088	42,885	1,945	2,089	13,000	10,000
MINISTRY COMMISSION				5540	1,644	708	3,370	546	458	2,000	2,750
STEWARDS COMMISSION				5560	0	220	0	0	3,237	1,000	1,000
BD OF ADM & WORK GROUPS				5600	13,092	16,570	14,305	2,589	1,271	8,100	7,000



PACIFIC SOUTHWEST DISTRICT OF THE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN													
2016-2022, District Budget Overview													
Power Church Report Levels					PC	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
1	2	3	4		Line #	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Budget	Proposed	
					<u>NURTURING/CREDENT.COMM</u>	5630	3,232	12,152	6,128	11,101	0	9,500	7,000
					<u>RESOURCE MATERIALS</u>	5650	0	0	0	185	274	500	500
					<u>INTER-CULTURAL MINISTRY</u>	5660	0	1,213	108	500	261	1,500	1,500
					<u>NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE</u>	5670	0	13,741	2,500	2,500	2,500	5,000	2,500
					<u>Youth Activity &amp; Cabinet Expense</u>	5680/7	2,117	230	575	0	712	2,000	2,000
					<b>Subtotal District Empowering Min</b>	5500	38,052	63,922	69,871	19,366	10,802	42,600	34,250
					<b>PARTNERSHIP &amp; PROP. MIN</b>	5700							
					<u>DENOMINATIONAL ASSESSMENT</u>	5710	1,494	1,369	1,342	1,430	1,280	1,500	1,500
					<u>STANDING COMMITTEE</u>	5720	2,316	2,923	2,304	306	306	3,000	3,000
					<u>UNIVERSITY OF LA VERNE</u>	5725	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
					<u>ECUMENICAL COUNCILS</u>	5730	300	500	0	250	250	500	500
					<u>COUNCIL OF DIST EXECS</u>	5740	779	450	405	385	360	450	450
					<u>PROPERTY &amp; LEGAL</u>	5800	117,751	33,466	46,803	4,130	11,960	8,800	8,450
					<b>Subtotal Partnership &amp; Prop. Min</b>	5700	126,640	42,708	54,854	10,501	18,156	18,250	17,900
					<b>SERVICE MINISTRIES</b>	6300							
					<u>DISASTER RESPONSE</u>	6310	3,265	5,167	5,137	0	5,822	6,000	6,500
					<u>CHILDREN'S DISASTER SERV</u>	6320	100	304	195	0	0	500	300
					<u>Other Dist Service Opportunity</u>	6350	0	0	1,102	0	0	0	0
					<b>Subtotal Service Ministries</b>	6300	3,365	5,471	6,434	0	5,822	6,500	6,800
					<b>DIST. OPERATING MINISTRY</b>	6500							
					<u>OFFICE SPACE &amp; UTILITIES</u>	6520	28,860	16,338	16,956	17,357	20,907	19,140	19,200
					<u>EQUIPMENT &amp; MAINTENANCE</u>	6600	5,834	5,238	0	650	6,038	2,000	2,000
					<u>SUPPLIES/PRNTG/PUBLICAT'N</u>	6650	6,436	4,760	5,324	4,937	5,188	5,700	4,500
					<u>POSTAGE AND MAILING</u>	6670	1,618	1,616	1,804	1,703	1,084	1,800	1,800
					<u>INSURANCE</u>	6680	13,309	13,843	14,205	15,750	16,280	16,400	17,300
					<u>AUDIT AND PROF. FEES</u>	6700	17,465	20,735	17,678	26,039	41,925	32,000	32,500
					<u>STAFF SALARIES</u>	7000	163,100	171,704	169,594	180,016	185,043	186,979	172,590
					<u>STAFF BENEFITS &amp; RCWF</u>	7100	26,032	27,269	28,955	32,643	31,846	33,402	40,801
					<u>STAFF TRVL-PROF GROWTH</u>	7500	25,161	33,796	38,301	11,178	24,653	28,950	30,700
					<u>NEW LIFE/PUB ETC &amp; Misc.</u>	7750	2,984	1,581	3,613	2,859	1,732	3,300	3,300
					<b>Subtotal Dist. Operating Ministry</b>	6500	290,799	296,880	296,429	293,132	334,696	329,671	324,691
					<b>Subtotal Ministry Investments</b>	5001	597,444	476,535	490,530	380,747	424,823	471,721	459,191
					<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		597,444	476,535	490,530	380,747	424,823	471,721	459,191
					<b>EXCESS INCOME\EXPENSES</b>		(447,008)	(317,546)	(332,608)	(258,817)	(296,483)	(268,121)	(293,841)

<b>Approval of DBA for Pasadena Congregation</b>
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**Background**

For many years the congregation at Pasadena made an annual decision to continue in operation. In 2019 they began to explore the possibility of working to launch a Spanish language congregation alongside the English language congregation. They had begun a relationship with a husband and wife team who were at Fuller Seminary and came from Columbia who were interested in doing this work. Juan Pablo Plaza and Adriana Rios were soon joined by a classmate from Chile, Fernanda Navarrete, and as the pandemic began they started the work of building a Spanish language congregation using the name Conexion Pasadena.

2020 and 2021 were very challenging for the small and aging Pasadena congregation and by the fall of 2021 they turned over the operation of the church facility and the finances to the pastoral team of the Spanish language group. The English language group ceased meeting in late 2021 and the work of the congregation continues with the Spanish language church.

In addition, the pastoral team is operating in the United States with R-1 Visas which allow them to provide leadership for a church. Those Visas are connected to their work as part of the Pasadena Church of the Brethren, and so it is important that the Pasadena congregation continues to exist.

The District Executive Board had provided approval for the Spanish language group to use the name Conexion Pasadena. However, due to the needs related to the visas and ongoing commitments of the Pasadena congregation with tenants, it has been determined that it would be best to have this group be the continuation of the Pasadena congregation and file a DBA (Doing Business As) for the name Conexion Pasadena. Bank accounts will have the DBA added so checks can be written to the Pasadena COB or to Conexion Pasadena.

**Action of the the Pasadena COB leadership team:**

The Leadership Team of the congregation, meeting on September 6, 2022, voted to ask the District to approve the name Conexion Pasadena as the DBA for the Pasadena COB.

**Action of the Pacific Southwest District Executive Board:**

The Executive Board of the Pacific Southwest District, meeting on September 9, 2022, approved the request for consideration by the Pacific Southwest District Conference on November 12, 2022.



# Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren

## Locations / Dates / Moderators of District Conferences

1964.	La Verne.	August 28-30.	R. Truman Northup
1965.	Modesto.	October 15-17.	Marvin Belcher
1966.	Forest Home.	October 14-16.	Leland A. Nelson
1967.	Fresno.	October 13-15.	Lowell K. Brubaker
1968.	Long Beach.	October 11-13.	R. Truman Northup
1969.	Bakersfield.	October 10-12.	Edward K. Ziegler
1970.	Phoenix First.	October 9-11.	Jerry Davis
1971.	Modesto.	October 15-17.	Harold D. Fasnacht
1972.	La Verne.	October 13-15.	Duane Wyles
1973.	Fresno.	October 11-13.	Paul E. Miller
1974.	Pasadena.	October 11-13.	John W. Hunter
1975.	Empire.	October 10-12.	Ida S. Howell
1976.	Long Beach.	October 15-17.	Marvin A. Belcher
1977.	McFarland.	October 7-9.	D. Eugene Lichty
1978.	University of La Verne.	October 13-15.	Norman N. Glick
1979.	Modesto.	November 9-11.	Arthur M. Baldwin
1980.	Phoenix First.	October 24-26.	LaVon Rupel
1981.	Fresno.	October 16-18.	C. Wayne Zunkel
1982.	Pomona Fellowship.	October 15-17.	Barbara Enberg
1983.	Empire.	October 14-16.	Irven Stern
1984.	South Bay.	November 9-11.	Galen Snell
1985.	McFarland.	November 8-10.	Dwayne Brubaker
1986.	Imperial Heights.	October 17-19.	Robert E. Keim
1987.	Prince of Peace, Sacramento.	October 16-18.	Jerry Davis
1988.	Long Beach.	October 7-9.	W. Donald Clague
1989.	Modesto.	November 3-5.	Richard L. Landrum
1990.	Phoenix First.	October 12-14.	Sherlo Shively
1991.	Glendale (CA).	October 11-13.	Harold J. Forney
1992.	Waterford.	November 13-15.	Donald E. Fancher
1993.	La Verne.	October 8-10.	Myrna L. Wheeler
1994.	Fresno.	November 11-13.	Pat Royer
1995.	County of San Diego.	October 6-8.	Lowell Brubaker
1996.	Modesto.	October 11-13.	Milton H. Ewert
1997.	Pomona Fellowship.	October 10-12.	Peggy Redman
1998.	South Bay / Imperial Heights.	September 18-20.	Jerry Davis
1999.	Phoenix First.	October 8-10.	Karen Walters
2000.	Sacramento / Live Oak.	October 13-15.	Belita Mitchell
2001.	Bakersfield.	October 5-7.	Sherlo Shively
2002.	La Verne.	October 4-6.	George Sparks
2003.	Community Brethren, Fresno.	September 19-21.	Bill Wagoner, Honorary; Myrna Wheeler, Acting
2004.	Pomona.	October 29-31.	David Hurlbut
2005.	Modesto.	October 7-9.	R. Jan Thompson
2006.	Papago Buttes.	October 27-29.	Joe Schechter
2007.	La Verne.	October 12-14.	Mary Kay Ogden
2008.	Community Brethren, Fresno.	November 7-9.	John Price
2009.	Sacramento.	November 6-8.	Jim Martinez
2010.	Hillcrest, La Verne.	November 12-14.	Felton Daniels
2011.	Hillcrest, La Verne.	November 11-13.	Karen Walters
2012.	Hillcrest, La Verne.	November 9-11.	Jack Storne
2013.	Scottsdale, AZ.	November 8-10.	Jim LeFever
2014.	Hillcrest, La Verne.	November 7-9.	Erin Matteson
2015.	Hillcrest, La Verne.	November 13-15.	Eric Bishop
2016.	Modesto.	November 11-13.	John Price
2017.	Hillcrest, La Verne.	November 10-12.	Sara Haldeman-Scarr
2018.	Hillcrest, La Verne.	November 9-11.	Karen Pierson
2019.	Scottsdale, AZ.	November 8-10.	Bob Morris

**Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren**  
**Locations / Dates / Moderators of District Conferences**

2020. . . . .	Virtual on the web.. . . .	November 9-15. . . . .	Mary Kay Ogden
2021. . . . .	Virtual on the web.. . . .	November 7-14. . . . .	Al Clark
2022. . . . .	University of La Verne. . . . .	November 11-12. . . . .	Cheryl Crane
2023. . . . .	_____ . . . . .	November 10-12. . . . .	Judy Minnich Stout

# Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren

## PSWD Board of Administration Chairs District Executive Ministers

	Board Chair	Executive Minister
1964 – 1965. . . . .	Jacob T. Dick. . . . .	Glen H. Bowlby
1966 – 1967. . . . .	Arthur M. Baldwin. . . . .	Glen H. Bowlby
1968. . . . .	Herbert W. Hogan. . . . .	Glen H. Bowlby
1969 – 1971. . . . .	Herbert W. Hogan. . . . .	R. Truman Northup
1972 – 1973. . . . .	Forrest V. Groff. . . . .	R. Truman Northup
1974 – 1977. . . . .	J. Calvin Keeling. . . . .	R. Truman Northup
1978 – 1981. . . . .	W. Donald Clague. . . . .	R. Truman Northup
1982 – 1983. . . . .	S. Loren Bowman. . . . .	R. Truman Northup
1984 – 1985. . . . .	Marlin Heckman. . . . .	Irven & Pattie Stern
1986 – 1989. . . . .	James Walters. . . . .	Irven & Pattie Stern
1990. . . . .	Janice Fralin. . . . .	Irven & Pattie Stern
1991. . . . .	Roger Richer. . . . .	Irven & Pattie Stern
1992. . . . .	Todd Hammond. . . . .	Irven & Pattie Stern
1993. . . . .	Gregg Moser. . . . .	Irven & Pattie Stern
1994. . . . .	R. Jan Thompson. . . . .	Glenn Stanford ( <i>interim</i> )
1995. . . . .	R. Jan Thompson. . . . .	Gene Hipskind
1996. . . . .	Tom Bryant. . . . .	Gene Hipskind
1997 – 1999. . . . .	Jonathan Shively. . . . .	Gene Hipskind
2000 – 2001. . . . .	Ernest Snyder. . . . .	Gene Hipskind
2002. . . . .	Sara Haldeman-Scarr. . . . .	Gene Hipskind
		Richard Hart ( <i>interim</i> )
2003. . . . .	Sara Haldeman-Scarr. . . . .	Richard Hart ( <i>interim</i> )
		Dean Kieffaber ( <i>interim</i> )
		Bryan Boyer
2004 – 2006. . . . .	Paul Lovelace. . . . .	Bryan Boyer
2007. . . . .	Jim Davis. . . . .	Bryan Boyer
2008. . . . .	Bill Johnson. . . . .	Bryan Boyer
		Richard Hart ( <i>interim</i> )
		Mary Kay Ogden ( <i>interim</i> )
		Randy Yoder ( <i>interim</i> )
		Don Booz ( <i>December</i> )
2009. . . . .	Myrna Wheeler ( <i>through July</i> ). . . . .	Don Booz
	Thomas Dowdy ( <i>began in August</i> ). . . . .	Don Booz
2010. . . . .	Thomas Dowdy ( <i>through January 9</i> ). . . . .	Don Booz
	Don Fancher ( <i>began January 9</i> ). . . . .	Don Booz
2011 – 2013. . . . .	Don Fancher. . . . .	Don Booz
2014. . . . .	Marye Martinez. . . . .	Joe Detrick ( <i>interim</i> )
2015 – 2016. . . . .	Marye Martinez. . . . .	Russ Matteson
2017 – 2021. . . . .	Nelda Rhoades Clarke. . . . .	Russ Matteson
2021 – 2022. . . . .	Erik Brummett. . . . .	Russ Matteson