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**Old Business Items:** *None*

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**Pacific Southwest District of the Church of the Brethren**  
**2023 Annual Meeting — November 10-11, 2023**  
**A Conference, held using internet formats like Zoom,**  
**and meetings at the University of La Verne, La Verne, CA.**

**Welcome to the 2023 Pacific Southwest District Conference**

Welcome . . .

As we gather in person and virtually to celebrate another year in the life of the Church, let us give thanks that we can be here in this beautiful space: The University of La Verne, a school which attests to the long-lasting presence of the Church of the Brethren in this corner of the nation. This university is the result of many years of hard work and dedication on the part of our forefathers and mothers. It has changed names and grown in many ways since its founding in 1891.

Our churches were founded when much of this region was farm land and California remains a great agricultural giant. We have had to adapt our institutions to the vagaries of urbanization. We have lost people and we have gained people. We have attracted the marginalized and the struggling souls who have tested our resilience. We have adopted new ways and learned to embrace change.

We come together representing a wide-variety of local churches. We are heritage Brethren as well as speakers of other languages who bring new and fresh cultural perspectives to the table. We are spirited followers of Jesus inspired by our leaders, both lay and clerical. We are here to learn and to be nurtured in the wisdom of our brothers and sisters. We embrace this opportunity to expand our horizons and see through the maze of our complicated lives.

You are invited to mingle and insert yourselves in workshops which will meet your needs. Two joyous worship services are planned and will fill your souls with music, inspiration and wisdom.

There is work to be done but also fellowship to be enjoyed. Don't miss the ice cream social and drop by the hospitality spread offered as the activities wind down. Bienvenidos!

*Judy Stout, Moderator*

Judy Stout, 2023 PSWD Moderator

Moderator@pswdcob.org

**2023 Pacific Southwest District Conference — Business Meeting Agenda**

Saturday, November 11 — 1:45 to 4:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer
2. Roll call and establishing of a quorum
3. Approval of 2023 Agenda and 2022 Minutes (p.[49](#))
  - A. Name a Committee to review the 2023 minutes
4. Business Items
  - A. Election of leadership (pp.[17-17](#) & pp.[53-57](#))
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  - C. 2025 PSWD Budget Parameter (pp.[58-61](#))
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5. Reports
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    3. On Earth Peace (pp.[36](#), [39](#))
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  - D. District Program Committee (p.[16](#))
  - E. Standing Committee Delegate (p.[15](#))
  - F. District Executive Minister (pp.[12-14](#))
6. Consecration of Moderator and other 2024 District Leadership
7. Adjournment

**Friday, November 10**

Ministers & Leaders Professional Growth Event

-9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (registration required)

*Jesus taught them many things by stories...* led by Jonathan Hunter

Dinner in *The Spot*, ULV Campus Café -5:00 to 6:30 p.m. (ticket purchase required)

Worship Service - 6:45 to 8:15 p.m.

6:45 Gathering in Song, Worship begins at 7:00 p.m.

Jonathan Hunter preaching, Shawn Kirchner music leadership

Ice Cream Social - 8:15 p.m.

**Saturday, November 11**

Gathering and Worship - 8:45 to 10:00 a.m.

8:45 Gathering in song, Worship begins at 9:00 a.m.

Jeremy Ashworth preaching, musical leadership from Circle of Peace

Workshop Sessions #1 - 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. (see sessions below)

Lunch featuring a Sandwich Buffet - 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (ticket purchase required)

Workshop Sessions #2 - 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. (see sessions on next page)

Conference Business Session with consecration of moderator - 1:45 to 4:30 p.m.

Social Hour with appetizers - end of business for an hour (ticket purchase required)

**Workshop Sessions #1 - Saturday, November 11 - 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. Description, (presenter)**

- (1) **The Value and Joy of Disaster Service: Brethren Disaster Ministry & Child Care** —An overview of the process for responding to disasters including training, time lines, covering costs, and working with a team. (by Mary Kay Ogden & Dot Hess (La Verne))
- (2) **Casting our Internets as we fish for people** — Technology is ever-changing and often churches are struggling to figure it out – should we use the Internet and social networking as part of our mission and if so, how can we do that successfully? Come to this seminar to hear what two churches in the District have done to increase their presence online. As we share our stories, we'll invite you think about some easy and tangible steps to bring back to your own communities. There will be time for discussion and Q&A afterwards. (by Jon Chubb (Papago Buttes) & Juan Pablo Plaza (Conexión Pasadena))
- (3) **Do Justice Today: An Exploration of Micah 6:8** — We will explore the biblical context of Micah 6:8 and then spend time imagining what its call looks like in our communities today. (by Amanda Bennett (La Verne))
- (4) **Organizing Against Gun Violence** — Learn about the newly formed Gun Violence Prevention Action Team. Explore ways that you and your congregation can help bring about meaningful

changes to save lives. Resources will be provided. (by Gail Hiesel (La Verne), Linda Himes (La Verne), & Linda Williams San Diego))

- (5) **DC Business & Conversation with District Leaders** – An opportunity to talk about the conference business items and other questions you might have for District Leadership. (by Erik Brummett (Live Oak), Jonas Funderburk (Glendale), & Russ Matteson (District Executive)).

### **Workshop Sessions #2 - Saturday, November 11 - 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Description, (presenter)**

- (6) **The wisdom of Jesus according to James / La sabiduría de Jesús de acuerdo a Santiago**  
This interactive bilingual Spanish English bible study on James is designed to develop a unique understanding coming from the wisdom of a small group experience. This is a chance to delve into James and discover another treasure. The goal of our time together is for each of us to find something new from James to share with others in a way that gives life to the teachings of Jesus! We hope you will like this participatory and dynamic session. / Este estudio del libro de Santiago es una forma interactiva, bilingüe para que el sabio aporte de cada persona en grupos pequeños, promueva un mejor entendimiento de esta carta de Santiago. Esta es una muy buena oportunidad de profundizar en la enseñanza de Santiago para encontrar otro Tesoro. El objetivo de nuestro tiempo conjunto es para que cada una/uno de nosotros encuentre algo nuevo para compartir con otras personas, de forma en que le trae vida a las enseñanzas de Jesús. Esperamos que les gusta esta sesión tan dinámica y con mucho de su participación. (by Carrie & Alfredo Cesar, Gloria Diaz (San Diego))
- (7) **Introducing Dr. Pardis Mahdavi New ULV President**— As the University of La Verne enters the 2023-2024 academic year, it does so under the leadership of Dr. Pardis Mahdavi. President Mahdavi is the 19th president for the University and its first woman of color and president of color. She brings a rich history of innovation and this session will highlight some of the forward initiatives on which the university is embarking and opportunities to engage in our alumni and Brethren communities. (by Dr. Pardis Mahdavi, President and Dr. Eric Bishop, Interim Vice President of Enrollment Management)
- (8) **Loving God with Your WHOLE Self!** — We are told to love God with, heart, mind and soul – our WHOLE selves! But for many the body connection has been lost. In this workshop we will explore the practice of noticing and nurturing our own body's wisdom in order to discover how an embodied spirituality adds to our faith experience. (by Dawna Welch (La Verne))
- (9) **Standing with People of Color** — Part of the Annual Conference study/action process, this time will be filled with conversation and working towards how PSWD might lean into this work in the years to come. – (by Russ Matteson & others)
- (10) **Conversation with the General Secretary (David Steele)** — The General Secretary will provide updates regarding the Mission and Ministry Board and Staff's work and ministry related to their strategic plan, and some general updates on our life together in the Church of the Brethren. – (by David Steele)

## **Be the Hands and Feet of Jesus / Ser las manos y los pies de Jesús** **Micah 6:8 / Miqueas 6:8**

Let us consider how we "do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God." (Micah 6:8), the theme of this year's conference. We read, study and ponder this as individuals, as church families and as our larger district-wide community. At the conference we will have the opportunity to worship and pray together as well as meet in workshops to explore various aspects of this "walk with God". We also have business to conduct as we honor our responsibilities to manage the human, physical and spiritual resources of our regional church family.

We practice what we preach "being the hands and feet of Jesus". Some of this work is messy. It may involve getting down and dirty, walking with those sleeping rough, handing a cup of cold water to our thirsty neighbor, getting dirty rebuilding a damaged house, playing with a traumatized child, even sitting through long but necessary meetings on zoom. Might our "work" include speaking more slowly so someone can understand our words in a strange-sounding tongue, or waiting for the interpreter to do their job, lending a hand to someone unfamiliar with our "Brethren" ways?

One of the first steps of doing justice is learning where and how injustice is happening. Indeed, looking at how others are approaching these issues and being creative with solutions is what we can do better together. Participating in conference is a lively way to walk humbly with God. Coming in person is even more rewarding in that old time fellowship kind of way.

I look forward with great anticipation to being together with you all in November in La Verne. Hasta luego! Dios sea contigo!

Judy Stout, Moderator  
Judy Stout, 2023 PSWD Moderator  
Moderator@pswdcob.org

Be the hands & feet of Jesus.



Micah 6:8 Do justice, love mercy  
and walk humbly with God.

# Delegates' Dedication

November 11, 2023

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.**

## Be the hands & feet of Jesus.



Micah 6:8 Do justice, love mercy  
and walk humbly with God.



## **Pacific Southwest District – Church of the Brethren – 2023**

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

Moderator..... Judy Stout, San Diego  
Moderator-Elect..... Paul Lovelace, Pomona Fellowship  
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)

### **8. The Five Essential Steps Through Which a Motion Passes**

- A. Presentation of the motion:  
“I move that \_\_\_\_\_.”
- B. Seconding the motion:  
“I second the motion,” or “I second it.”
- C. 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 \_\_\_\_\_.”
- D. 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.’”
- E. Announcing the result of the vote:  
“The motion is carried (lost) and you have voted to (not to) \_\_\_\_\_.”

### **9. Motions, Who Makes Them and How**

- A. All attendees of the District Conference have the privilege of moving and discussing the business of the Conference.
- B. 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.
- C. A motion is seconded without obtaining the floor or rising.

### **10. Some Rules of Debate**

- A. All remarks must be addressed to the chair.
- B. All remarks must pertain to the immediately pending question before the District Conference.
- C. All remarks must be of an impersonal nature.
- D. Length and number of speeches are determined by District Conference officers.

### **11. Nominations and Voting**

- A. 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*).
- B. 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.
- C. 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.

## **12. Motions Classified and in Ascending Order of Precedence**

- A. Privileged and Incidental Motions:** motions that take precedence over any pending question although not related to that question. Not debatable.
1. **ADJOURN or RECESS**  
Object: to dismiss a meeting or to provide for an intermission – “I move that we adjourn (recess) while (until) \_\_\_\_\_.”
  2. **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).
  3. **POINT OF ORDER**  
“I rise to a point of order” (state your point).
- B. Subsidiary Motions:** motions that are applied to other motions for the purpose of most appropriately disposing of them.
1. **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.”
  2. **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.”
  3. **POSTPONE TO A SET TIME** (second, debatable, amendable, simple majority).
  4. **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.”
  5. **AMEND** (second, debatable, amendable, simple majority).
    - a. “I move to amend the motion by striking out \_\_\_\_\_.”
    - b. “I move to amend the motion by inserting \_\_\_\_\_ between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.”
    - c. “I move to amend the motion by adding \_\_\_\_\_ between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.”
    - d. “I move to amend the motion by striking out \_\_\_\_\_ and inserting \_\_\_\_\_.”
    - e. “I move to amend by striking out \_\_\_\_\_ and substituting this (read or state the substitution).”
  6. **POSTPONE INDEFINITELY** (second, debatable, and amendable, simple majority).  
Object: to kill a motion – “I move to postpone this matter indefinitely.”
- C. Principal Motion:** a motion made to bring before the Conference, for its consideration, any particular subject.
- D. 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.”