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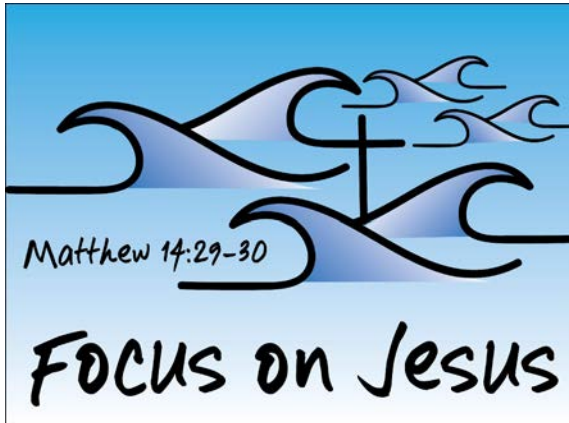
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It's Coming! It's Coming!

November 9-11, 2018

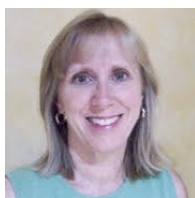
District Conference is coming! You are invited to gather with brothers, sisters, friends and family in Christ from across the PSWD for a weekend of fun, fellowship, worship, and business that will be "Focused on Jesus."



Our worship times will be hosted by three different congregations: Friday night- Church of the Living Savior, McFarland, Saturday night- Restoration Los Angeles, and Sunday morning- the La Verne Church in their sanctuary, a few blocks from Hillcrest. Moderator Karen B. Pierson will preside over our business sessions. From the denomination the Compelling Vision Committee will be present to dialogue with us about what the future of the CoB may look like. We welcome David Steele, General Secretary of the Church of the Brethren.

There will be ice cream Friday night. What will the insight sessions be? What will the youth be doing? What else do you need to know about District Conference? Look inside this issue of New Life for more details.

Looking forward to seeing you this November in La Verne as we focus on Jesus in every aspect of our walk together!



Karen B. Pierson,

District Moderator
 moderator@pswdcob.org
 661-205-5696

Working Conference Schedule

Friday, November 9

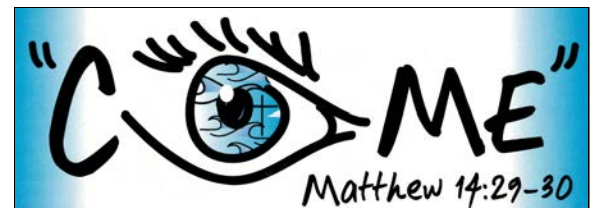
- 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Pre-Conference workshop with Josh Brockway
- 3:00 p.m. - Registration and exhibits open
- 5:30 p.m. - Dinner (pre-purchase required)
- 7:00 p.m. - Opening Singing and Worship (followed by Ice Cream Social)
- 8:30 p.m. - Youth Activities begin

Saturday, November 10

- 8:00 a.m to 10:30 p.m. - Youth Activities
- 8:00 a.m. - Registration and exhibits open
- 8:30 a.m. - Business Session begins
- 11:00 a.m. - Insight Sessions
- 12:00 noon - Lunch (pre-purchase required)
- 1:00 p.m. - Business Session "Compelling Vision Conversation" Listen and be listened to by our national team. (page 4 below)
- 3:15 p.m. - Business continues
- 5:30 p.m. - Dinner (pre-purchase required)
- 7:00 p.m. - Evening Worship with renewal of Licensed Ministers

Sunday, November 11

- 7:30 a.m. - District Board Reorganization Breakfast at Hillcrest
- 9:30-10:45 a.m. - Worship at La Verne CoB and consecration of leadership



New Ministers! New Churches!

June was festive as the pastors of the two new church starts in PSWD were licensed to the ministry and blessed for the work that these churches are doing. The three were approved by the Nurturing and Credentialing Committee and Ministry Commission in April.

The celebration on June 3 was at the Los Banos start, where pastors Rigo and Margie Berumen are leading a growing group that is currently in the mid-40's in worship each week. The group is reaching out to the community and has recently adopted the name Centro Agape en Acción, speaking to their desire to be a place where God's love is put into action by the people that God is gathering. They have been in ministry in Los Banos for 18 months. The sermon was delivered in Spanish by Executive Minister



Licensing of Pastor Luz Roman, Russ Matteson District Executive Minister, and Samuel Sarpiya Annual Conference Moderator

The district is working with leadership of both congregations to try to find full-time space for them to use for worship and ministry. All three pastors, along with leaders of their congregations, will be training through Educación Para Ministerio Compartido (EPMC). Funds supporting this new church planting are coming from the proceeds of the sale of the Lindsay church property in late 2017.



Church Leaders pray with licensees Rigo & Margie Berumen



Celebration Lunch at Centro Agape en Acción, Los Banos

Russ Matteson, and Ministry Training Coordinator Gilbert Romero led out in the time of prayer for the pastors and the congregation. Following worship a celebration lunch was enjoyed by all.

On June 10 the new work in Las Vegas, Iglesia Cristiana Elohim, celebrated the licensing of their pastor Luz Roman, and the first baptisms held by the group. The sermon was preached by Florecita Merlos, a licensed minister in the Principe de Paz congregation and a SeBAH student, who has gotten to know Pastora Luz through the Church of the Brethren Church Planting Conference and the PSWD Spanish Speaking Leaders meeting. Also joining in the celebration was Annual Conference Moderator Samuel Sarpiya, who made a visit to see one of the new "Living Parables" happening in the District.



Getting ready for the first baptism at Iglesia Cristiana Elohim, Las Vegas

Ministry Updates

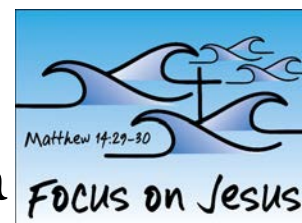
- **Robert Aguirre** finished his service with the **Cornerstone Reedley** congregation in late January. Robert had served four years as the pastor, and he is currently exploring other ministry options. Members of the congregation are covering preaching at this time.
- **Jeff Glass** completed his work as interim pastor at **Pomona Fellowship** in May. The congregation is working with the District Executive Minister on the next steps in calling leadership.
- **Modesto** continues its search for a pastor with assistance from **Dave Shetler**, Executive Minister of Southern Ohio District, who PSWD has asked to serve Modesto during their search.

District Conference Information

November 9-11, 2018

Hillcrest in La Verne, California

www.pswdcob.org/distconf/reg
Details on the web



Reserve your motel early !

No Special Conference Arranged Rooms. As has been the case for the last several years, there is a large event at the Fairgrounds the same weekend, so there is competition for rooms. Below is a list of the hotels we have recommended in the past and we encourage you to contact them or another hotel of your choosing, or use other travel apps which might have a better price, to make your District Conference reservations soon. 54th Auto Club NHRA Finals are the same weekend, so reserve your room early! Please note there is no housing available at Hillcrest during District Conference.

Motel Possibilities	Miles	Phone
Extended Stay America, 601 W Bonita Ave, San Dimas CA 91773	2.8	909-394-1022
Best Western, 501 W Bonita Ave, San Dimas CA 91773	2.8	909-592-0500
Red Roof Inn, 204 Village Ct, San Dimas CA 91773	3.3	909-599-2362
Holiday Inn Express, 485 W Arrow Hwy, San Dimas CA 91773	3.1	909-305-2323
Double Tree, 555 W Foothill Bl, Claremont CA 91711	3.5	909-626-2411

RV Parking: You can explore the suitability of the Fairplex KOA – 2.7 miles from Hillcrest
<http://koa.com/campgrounds/los-angeles/>

On-Line Registration Goes Live: Friday, September 1, two plus months before conference. Wednesday, October 25, about two weeks before conference, registration for meals and age level events closes, which allows us time to finalize counselors, nursery care, and more. Prices also go up for web & onsite registration.

PSWD Conference 2018

Saturday, interspersed with Business

*** Insight Sessions:** Interesting, informative, and imaginative Insight Sessions are planned for the hour before lunch on Saturday with an additional session on business being available during lunch. Several choices will be offered, some in Spanish and some in English, featuring exciting testimonials and inspired reporting from district and denominational agencies. This mix of sessions with a Focus on Jesus provides opportunities to interact and explore meaningful and important issues. *Make your choices when registering for District Conference on-line.*

*** Business** will bring reports from local, district and national church leaders. Action items will include: Adding Nevada to PSWD, Closing the Lindsay congregation, 2019

District Budget, and more. Be ready to call new leaders to the district's boards, commissions and committees. Your church has at least 4 delegates to consider and vote. Come be a part of the larger body as we work together. The conference Business Book will be available by October 1.

*** Compelling Vision Conversation for the Church of the Brethren** will happen right after Saturday Lunch. Share with national Church of the Brethren leadership and each other in developing a Compelling Vision for the church. Followed by the afternoon Business Session.

Are you intrigued? Reserve the dates now, and plan to be *surprised, renewed, and enriched* as we gather!

Compelling Vision Conversation at District Conference 2018

by Rhonda Pittman Gingrich (Chair, Compelling Vision
Process Team) – RPGingrich@yahoo.com

“Where There Is No Vision, the People Perish”

(Prov. 29:18a KJV)

The Church of the Brethren stands at a crossroads. Recent decades have been defined by paralyzing conflict. In response to the ongoing conflict, at the 2017 Annual Conference, the delegate body affirmed a report from the Leadership Team and the Council of District Executives regarding “The Authority of Annual Conference and Districts regarding the Accountability of Ministers, Congregations, and Districts.” That report concluded with this assertion: “To stay on the journey together, it is also crucial that the church discern the compelling vision that this body of Christ is called to pursue.”

Leadership at both the denominational and district levels has affirmed calling a team to guide the denomination through a process of conversation and discernment in an effort to arrive at a compelling vision rooted in our shared commitment to live as Christ’s disciples. It is an invitation to place our trust in God’s Spirit and engage in a visioning process to discern what God is calling us to do together with the fervent hope that our commitment to one another and to serving our God as the body of Christ might be renewed through this shared journey and a sense of shared mission. For as Eugene Peterson says in his paraphrase of Proverbs 29:18: “If people can’t see what God is doing, they stumble all over themselves; But when they attend to what (God) reveals, they are most blessed.”

Conversations began at Annual Conference this summer, and will continue in districts and with various constituency groups through the fall and winter, and culminate at Annual Conference in 2019. We are committed to engaging as many people as possible in the process, providing opportunities for individuals to give voice to their passions and concerns, listen to one another, and work together to identify common threads and themes that might point to a shared and compelling vision.

As we embark on this journey together, it is our prayer that: our relationships with one another will be strengthened and deepened, transcending points of disagreement; we will be able to celebrate the ongoing presence and activity of God’s Spirit at work among us; we will be open to what God is calling us to do together as Christ’s disciples; the vision ultimately articulated will lay claim to our hearts and our minds, our imaginations and our spirits, shaping our identity and inspiring our ministry at the congregational level, the district level, and the denominational level; and

we will wholeheartedly embrace the challenge set before us by that vision, affirming contextual creativity as we actively seek to embody that vision.

In the Pacific Southwest District, a two-hour block of time has been set aside at District Conference for participants to engage in a guided conversation as part of the compelling vision process. Whether or not you are planning to attend all of District Conference, we hope you will join us for the conversation, scheduled from 1:00-3:00 on Saturday afternoon at Hillcrest (you will need to register selecting a “Vision conversation only” registration to reserve a seat at a discussion table). During that session participants can expect to spend most of the time actively engaged in small group conversations around a series of questions. We hope you will join us on this journey.

www.brethren.org/news/2018/compelling-vision-process-team.html

www.brethren.org/news/2018/compelling-vision-team-lays-out-road-map.html

Christology is the focus of our Pre-Conference Event

As District Conference gathers to *Focus on Jesus*, the pre-conference event for ministers and other leaders will give it’s attention to a workshop focused on Christology, the study of the nature and work of Jesus as revealed in the scriptures. The event, which will provide ministers with 0.6 CEUs in area 1 Biblical Studies, will examine general understandings of Jesus as well as the ways Brethren have approached this in our history and today.

Leadership for the workshop will come from Josh Brockway, Director of Spiritual Life and Discipleship for the Church of the Brethren. Josh holds a Ph.D. from American University in Patristics and his dissertation focused on the writings of John Cassian, a monk and theologian of the 4th and 5th centuries. Josh provided major shaping of the 2015 Congregational Ethics paper passed by Annual Conference, and has a passion for the relational nature of belief and practice by individuals and the church community. Josh is an engaging presenter that will challenge participants to think deeply about the subject at hand.



Josh Brockway
Photo by Regina Holmes

Registration for this event is \$25 and includes lunch at Hillcrest during the event. Registration for this will occur as part of the process of registering for the conference. If you need childcare for this event, please indicate that in registration so that we can make plans to provide for this need. Registration and Childcare close October 25.

www.pswdcob.org/events/ministers



On-Site Project for District Conference

This year we're continuing last year's craft project at PSWD District Conference to benefit many people through Inland Valley Hope Partners. Help turn "T-shirts to Bags." Pick your times when you register for District Conference.

Anyone who can cut with scissors, and tie knots qualifies to help with this service project. We have enough T-shirts and materials from last year, we just need you to sign up for an assembly time slot during registration. If you want to use your own sewing scissors, please bring them. T-shirts need to be cut first, then tied.

Hope Partners needs these reusable bags to pack groceries, clothes, household items, school supplies, etc. needed for those who come to Hope Partners for help.



University of La Verne made 178 bags

Questions?

Call Moderator Karen B. Pierson 661-792-6447

www.inlandvalleyhopepartners.org

Service Offering Supports New Church Outreach Efforts

Those coming to conference are invited to bring school supplies (like those listed below) as our 2018 Service Project Offering at District Conference. These supplies will be divided between the Las Vegas and Los Banos new church starts for them to share with students and families that their ministries come into relationship with. These items will be collected and blessed during the offering time in worship on Friday evening. If you cannot be there in time for Friday worship, there will be places to put the items you bring on Saturday.

Possible items include:

- #2 Pencils
- Colored Pencils
- Glue sticks
- Backpack - plain solid colors, not red or blue
- 5 inch Blunt Tip or Point Tip Scissors
- Pencil Box or Pencil Pouch
- Wide Ruled 1 Subject Notebook
- Loose Leaf Filler Paper, Wide Rule
- Crayons (16 or 24 packs)
- Small Travel Packs of Tissues
- Antibacterial Hand Sanitizer
- Eraser
- 12 inch Ruler
- Folders

2018 District Conference Come Worship with us

Come, let's focus on Jesus together at District Conference in worship!

Friday evening's worship and music will be led by McFarland Church of the Living Savior. Moderator Karen B. Pierson will be speaking on what God has taught her as she is "Focusing on Jesus," Matthew 14:29-30.

Saturday evening's worship and music will be led by Restoration L.A. (Los Angeles), with the message being given by Pastor Jody Romero.

Sunday morning we will gather at the La Verne Church of the Brethren, where worship and music will be led by the La Verne congregation, and the message given by Pastor Susan Boyer.

Three different styles of worship, but worshipping the same God and Savior, all part of the same body, the body of Christ.

Come, let's focus on Jesus together at District Conference in worship!

Karen B. Pierson,

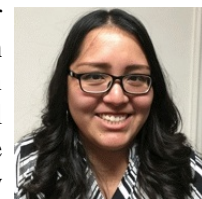
moderator@pswdcob.org

District Conference Youth

an event for grades 6-12

District Conference will be on November 9-11, 2018 at Hillcrest in La Verne! Join us for a great weekend of fellowship fun and activities with youth from all over California, Nevada, and Arizona! Register for conference for \$30 which includes all meals on Saturday, and Sunday breakfast. Our time together will include catching up with friends and more events just for the Youth!

On-site housing will be available for High-School Youth. Bringing more than 3 youth from a congregation? your church needs to register an adult advisor who will be present at all youth events through the weekend, including the Friday & Saturday overnight sleepovers.



Nohemi Flores

Questions? Call or email Nohemi Flores, Youth Advisor at (909) 643-4726
Youth@pswdcob.org

Visit: www.pswdcob.org/distconf/reg/youth for updated information as it becomes available.

District Conference Meals

Dining opportunities during conference will include lunch and dinner Friday, and lunch and dinner on Saturday served in Hillcrest's Maury Smeltzer Lounge. Sign up for these meals when you register.

Children up to age 10 have reduced prices for meals. Registered, Non-Served Infants/toddlers can purchase à-la-carte items (milk, applesauce, jello, etc.)



As always everyone is welcome in the Hillcrest Dining Room for breakfast, lunch and dinner and the Hillcrest café for lunch on a Pay-as-you-go basis.

Two Part Delegate Registration

- 1) Congregation fills out an on-line "Delegate Credential Card" for each delegate, but does not register them for District Conference. No cost for the Delegate Credential Card.
- 2) Each delegate registers online: You are responsible for completing your \$75 registration by the October 25, 2018 deadline (meals & lodging extra).

Registration Cost

includes Saturday evening's simple meal.

1. \$75 delegates (meals & lodging extra)
2. \$35 adults (meals & lodging extra)
3. \$30 youth grades 6-12 (activity fee included)
4. \$30 children grades K-5 (activity fee included)
5. Children under 5 are free (lodging & food extra)
6. \$0 Compelling Vision Conversation Only (conference meal tickets are not available with this option)

Children's meal discount:

- Under 10 reduced price, Nursery à-la-carte.

Childcare & Children's Activities

These 3 options are only available until October 25th so we can plan for enough volunteers based on registrations.

- (1) Friday workshop & all worship services
Nursery: infants through 6 year olds
 - All meals times are with parents, so pickup your child.
 - \$0 registration / activity fee = FREE for the weekend.
- (2) Saturday business & insight sessions
Nursery: infants through Pre-K, age 6 in option (3)
 - Saturday 8:15 a.m. – 5:15 p.m. (lunch with parents).
 - All meals times are with parents, so pickup your child.
- (3) Saturday Children's Activities
K through 5th grade, includes 6 year olds
 - Saturday 8:15 a.m. – 5:15 p.m. including lunch.
 - \$30 registration activity fee = \$30 including Saturday lunch (other meals can be reserved at half price)
 - Activities may include: Exploration of the conference theme, Bible stories, games, crafts.

Advanced Registration by Web / On-Line:

- Opens September 1 at 9:00 a.m.
- Changes October 25 at midnight.
- Saves you money!
- More choices in activities and insight sessions.
- Reserve special conference meals.

After October 25 Web & On-Site Registration:

- Your options are limited and more expensive.
- On October 25 the *price increases* \$25 for individuals and \$50 for families.
- On October 25 meal registration and age group activities close and will not re-open.
 - NO nursery or childcare registrations
 - NO youth activity registrations
 - NO meal availability

Activities Included in Registration:

Youth activities, Friday after worship through Sunday morning, includes 3 meals Saturday & breakfast Sunday. (Friday meals are *extra*)

Children's Saturday activities (K-5). During Business and Insight Sessions. Lunch is included.

Saturday Nursery Care (infant-pre-K). During Business and Insight Sessions. *Lunch is not included*, parents pick up their children for lunch.

Meal tickets & Activities are *not available with late registration*.

WOW Weekend of Wonder PSWD Women's Retreat

May 18-20, 2018 ECCO Retreat Center, Yosemite

For several years I have wanted to attend one of these district women's retreats, but circumstances had never previously allowed me to. Happily, this year the stars finally aligned and I was able to go... and I am so glad I did. Located a short distance away from the awe-inspiring Yosemite National Park, the ECCO Retreat Center provided clean, comfortable rooms, delicious food (even for those of us who have special needs), and wonderful meeting spaces all on a beautiful tree-lined lake.



Led by Jennifer Keeney Scarr, we were engrossed in an intensive series of sessions focused on Jesus' Third Way, a Path of Nonviolent Resistance. Using various women of the Bible as examples, we learned how to fight oppression, injustice, and abuses of power in both our personal lives and in the world around us without resorting to violence. A path so powerful that it can impact the very hearts of our oppressors and be a force for positive change.



District Moderator Karen B. Pierson presents a quilted pillow to Pastor Jennifer Keeney Scarr, retreat speaker

Of course, it wasn't all study, study, study. There was singing, and s'mores, and the beautiful mountains and waterfalls of Yosemite. Time that allowed me to get to know some wonderful women... and make some amazing new friends.

I came away from this year's retreat refreshed, inspired, and just genuinely more ready to handle the rigors of my everyday life. I definitely am planning on going again, and in fact, am one of several who have been industriously

doing research into different facilities so the next retreat can be just as impressive. Hope to see you there!

Heather Serra, San Diego Church of the Brethren
www.pswdcob.org/events/wow



(back row L-R) Linda Williams, Kathy Aker, Colleen Klee, Dot Hess, Sara Haldeman-Scarr, Heather Serra, Lucile Leard, Cindy Slaughter. (front row – L-R) Joanna Bisson, Lisa Stamatis, Jennifer Keeney Scarr, Karen Pierson (District Moderator)

What's up with Youth?

Pray for NYC

54 youth and advisors from across PSWD will head to Colorado to participate in National Youth Conference (NYC) from July 21-26. The group will travel together on one very full bus for a through the night trip to be at this quadrennial gathering of Brethren youth. Pray that the time at NYC will be a faith deepening and life transforming experience for those in attendance. Pray for safety and sanity as they travel to and from the conference. Pray that they will return home and make a difference in their churches and communities.

www.pswdcob.org/nyc

District Youth Cabinet Applications

Each year 3 to 5 youth are selected to serve on the PSWD Youth Cabinet and work with the District Youth Advisor to plan the youth time at District Conference and other youth opportunities throughout the year. If you know a youth who has a heart for the church and is looking for leadership opportunities, encourage them to apply. Youth need to be in grades 8 through 12 during the 2018-19 school year.

Application information is available at www.pswdcob.org/youth and the application must be received by July 31 to be considered. This is a great opportunity for youth to share their gifts and passions with the wider church.

www.pswdcob.org/youth

New Life

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Renewal in Malibu

Second week of June in Malibu, CA

The mid-June weather was glorious along the Malibu coast as 26 pastors/ministers and spouses gathered for four days of renewal. Time was filled with worship, guided retreat time, meditation and movement time, and open space to rest, read, journal, visit, and explore.

Leadership this year was provided by Macrina Wiederkehr, a Benedictine retreat leader and writer, who invited the group to slow down and open to living the spiritual life more deeply. Exercises included a time of Visio Divina - holy looking - where the group was invited

to go out and really see what was around them and to notice the intricacies of God's creation. Wiederkehr also shared about how all Christians can work to live more deeply by taking intentional time during the day to pause and pray.

The opening worship was led by District Conference Moderator Karen B. Pierson around the theme "**Focus on Jesus.**"

Musical leadership was provided by Richard and Becky Zapata, co-pastors of the Príncipe de Paz congregation. The retreat is supported by the PSWD Ministry Commission which values this time for pastors (and spouses) to connect and find time for renewal and rest.



Discover more about
District Conference
November 9-11, 2018
within this newsletter

Karen B. Pierson
Moderator

