



Top 10 reasons to come to District Conference:

10. Air Conditioning, 'cuz it's way too hot around here.
9. Secretly, doesn't everyone love polity and budget discussions?
8. Even though our theme is Cross Training, you will not be required to do any heavy lifting.
7. Find out who is celebrating their 75th ordination anniversary this year...
6. Friends with the Weather concert!
5. Dan Riccius auctioneering for Jesus at the famous pie auction.
4. Church History with Pastor Doug and Small Church Ministry with Pastor Jan
3. Hear all the latest buzz in the agency and committee reports.
2. Smiles and hugs, camaraderie, delicious food, prayer, worship and singing...
1. Seeking the mind of Christ together, for the glory of God and our neighbor's good.

Whether you are coming because your church sends you as a delegate or coming of your own accord to reunite with people you haven't seen for a while; whether it's your first time at conference or your 51st; whether it's the music or the hugs or the pies or the business you're most excited about... we look forward to seeing you at district conference and pre-conference events, August 18-19.

It may seem a small thing, but the way our denomination is structured aims to be radically egalitarian – everyone who is gathered as a seeker of the mind of Christ has a voice and a place, no matter their background or personal quirks (because God knows we all have those!). We need you, we need each one of us, to be the Body of Christ as fully as we can be.

It is a theological, eschatological act, showing up to these conferences. We proclaim with our presence that God is doing something among us, by the Spirit's power, that enables us to shine Jesus' light into the world together.

Have I laid it on thick enough yet?

Will you come?

I can't wait to see you there!

=)

Blessings,

Laura

(and Samwise, who has been waxing poetic about district conference all morning!)

A way that Laura will be using to stay in touch with the S/C IN District and provide updates is via video!

Her videos are available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@SouthCentralIndianaCoB>

Also look for updates from Laura and other folks in the S/C IN District on our District blog at:

<https://southcentralindianacob.com/blog/>

DISTRICT NEWS ITEMS

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Saturday, August 19, 2023

Creative Financial Centre
2704 S. Goyer Rd., Kokomo, IN 46902

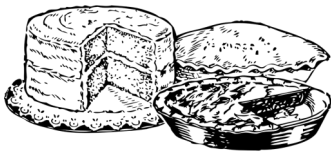
Theme: “Cross Training”

“Then he said to them all: ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.’” - Luke 9:23

Moderator: Mark Stahl

The District Conference booklet was e-mailed to everyone who has registered on Monday, July 24.

If you are registered and did not receive a copy or are a delegate and would like to have a printed copy, please call or e-mail the District Office asap.



There will be a pie auction this year!

Each congregation is encouraged to send their favorite desserts which will be sold to the highest bidder to raise funds for the Brethren Leadership Institute.

AUGUST 2023 - DISTRICT CALENDAR DATES

July 28—August 6—DAA Sarah Out of Office

August 9 - Brethren Leadership Institute Task Team Meeting—12 PM—District Office

August 9 - Shalom Team Meeting - 6:30 pm - District Office & Zoom

August 10 - Ministry Excellence Project Board - 10 AM - District Office

August 10 - Ministry Credentialing Committee Meeting - 7:00 pm - District Office

August 18 - Pre-District Conference Events - 12:30 PM - Kokomo CoB

August 19—District Conference - Creative Financial Centre, Kokomo, IN

DISTRICT OFFICE SCHEDULE DURING AUGUST

August is a very busy time for the District Office staff, with various work and family commitments that have us out of office or in office at different times than normal.

Please call ahead if you plan to stop by the office, and don't hesitate to call, leave messages, text or e-mail. We will respond as soon as possible. Thank you!!

PRE – DISTRICT CONFERENCE CEU EVENT

MINISTRY IN SMALL CHURCHES
A Panel presentation, including:
Jan Largent, Union Grove CoB, Circuit-Rider
for the denomination's
Part-Time Pastor, Full-Time Church program

Friday, August 18, 2023

12:30 - 5:00 pm

Kokomo Church of the Brethren
311 W Lincoln Rd, Kokomo, IN 46902



Increasingly, our churches are small and our pastors are multi-vocational.

This poses challenging shifts to navigate and surprising opportunities to cultivate.

Yoked churches (two churches with one pastor), partnerships between churches, raising up leadership from within, house church, online church, and team ministries are all creative ways of doing church that are happening in our district.

These churches have found ways to thrive even in their smallness!

We will explore these possibilities together and hear from Jan Largent, our area's circuit-rider for the denomination's Part Time Pastor, Full Time Church program, and a part-time pastor of a small church herself.

This is a .4 CEU opportunity and a good chance for lay leaders and pastors to join together around what it means to be a vibrant small church.

\$10 fee for those pursuing CEU credit

5:30 PM PASTOR APPRECIATION SUPPER

(reservations requested by July 27, contact the District Office)

7:00 PM - FRIENDS WITH THE WEATHER CONCERT



“[Friends with the Weather](#), a project from the trio of singer-songwriter/multi-instrumentalists [Seth Hendricks](#), [Chris Good](#), and David Hupp, celebrated its debut album release and inaugural performance in September 2016. A proud member of the Earthwork Music Collective, Friends with the Weather's unique sound blends dynamic musicianship, 3 part vocal stylings, and rich lyrical content exploring how we can learn and grow in the midst of challenging times, striving to be sources of love, hope, passion and vision.“

BRETHREN LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE COURSES

BRETHREN BELIEFS AND PRACTICES COURSE

You are welcome to join us for any sessions that interest you. Below are the dates, times, and topics we plan to discuss.

Please RSVP to Laura (scindlaura@gmail.com) to receive the zoom link and the reading list for the class you wish to attend. Suggested donation \$5 per hour, to support BLI students. All Zoom meetings are 7-9pm on Wednesdays.

- ◆ **August 2: Minister, Go and Tell** (*Ministry, Evangelism, Baptism*)
- ◆ **August 16: Be Faithful and Be Different** (*Discipleship, Stewardship, Simplicity*)
- ◆ **TBA: New Vision** (*and some polity... and some ice cream...*) -- 4 hours, in person, available to those who have attended any prior zoom session

NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY

Instructor: Rob Miller - Pastor at Northview CoB

Dates: September 16 & 30, October 14

Location: In person, TBA

| DISTRICT FINANCIAL REPORT as of June 30, 2023 | | |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------|
| | <u>June</u> | <u>YTD</u> |
| <u>Income</u> | | |
| Congregations' Self-Allocation | \$7,838.75 | \$45,287.09 |
| Restricted Income | \$115.00 | \$1,073.00 |
| Other Income | \$69,818.59 | \$113,944.75 |
| Total Income | \$77,772.34 | \$160,304.84 |
| <u>Expenses</u> | | |
| District Expenses | \$14,664.61 | \$71,873.46 |
| Restricted Expenses | \$2,558.97 | \$6,644.83 |
| Total Expenses | \$71,223.58 | \$78,518.29 |
| Net | \$60,548.76 | \$81,786.55 |
| District Fund Balance | | \$1,058,921.81 |

AUGUST DISTRICT PRAYER CALENDAR

August 6 - Join us as we lift up the Brethren Leadership Institute.

August 13 - Join us as we lift up District Conference.

August 20 - Join us as we lift up Pipe Creek CoB and the Atlantic Southeast District.

August 27- Join us as we lift up Pleasant Dale CoB and the Idaho District.

NATIONAL OLDER ADULT CONFERENCE (NOAC)

September 4-8, 2023
Lake Junaluska, NC



NOAC is a Spirit-filled gathering of adults 50 and older who love learning and discerning together, exploring God's call for their lives and living out that call by sharing their energy, insight, and legacy with their families, communities, and the world.

Online registration opens May 1. Past participants will receive an e-mail soon with updated information. For more information: <https://www.brethren.org/discipleshipmin/noac/>

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

- **Mark Charles**, speaker, writer, consultant on the complexities of American history, race, culture, and faith
- **Ken Medema** and **Ted Swartz**
Ken is a singer/songwriter and “sneaky” theologian. Ted is a Mennonite actor and writer.
- **Osheta Moore**, writer, pastor, speaker, and podcaster

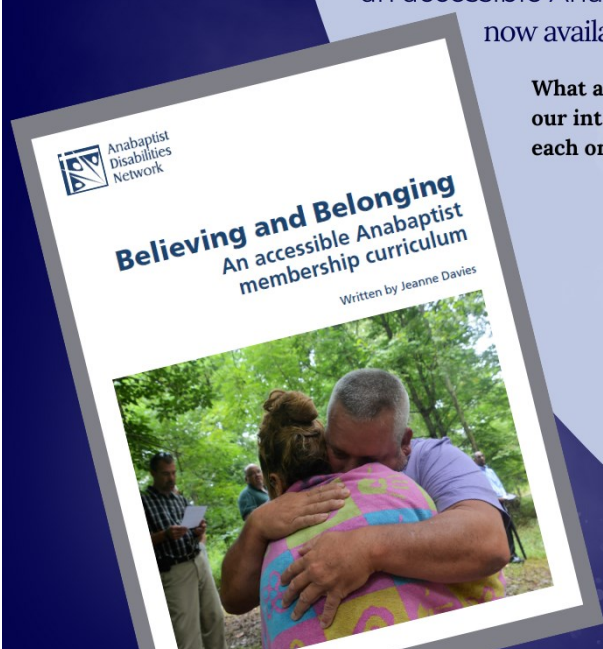
Note: Timbercrest is planning to host online viewing of NOAC for Timbercrest residents and S/C IN District folks who are not able to travel to Lake Junaluska.

More details about plans for this will be available in upcoming newsletters.

from Anabaptist Disabilities Network:

Believing and Belonging

an accessible Anabaptist membership curriculum
now available at BrethrenPress.com



What a beautiful way to prepare people for baptism. This book will help not only our intellectually disabled friends and family as they prepare for baptism, but also each one of us as it strengthens our connections to the Story and to each other.

Michelle Hershberger
Bible and Youth Ministry Professor, Hesston College
Author of *God's Story, Our Story*

This curriculum will help churches welcome people with disabilities, fully visible and with voice, into full fellowship in the body of Christ.

Joan L Dagget
Project Director for Shine: Living in God's Light

An accessible Anabaptist membership curriculum that manages to be age-appropriate, informative, and engaging for everybody.

Keith Dow, PhD
Manager of Organizational & Spiritual Life for Christian Horizons

Gets to the core of what it means to be a Christian, while also teaching the history and principles of the Anabaptist traditions.

Bill Gaventa, M.Div.,
Disability Ministry Consultant, Educator, Author

**Reaching Higher and Deeper
Camp Mack Summer Spiritual Retreat**

August 18 – 20, 2023

Cost of the retreat is \$160 per person.

Linens can be provided for an additional \$10 per person



Join us, under the leadership of Dr. Cheryl Thomas and camp program staff, as we explore and play together at this year's Summer Retreat, *Reaching Higher and Deeper*. Bring your Bibles, outdoor clothes, and yearning for the sanctuary of Camp Mack. We will play and pray, listen and share. Greater spiritual maturity is our goal, obtained by exploring the Word of God and understanding who we are in Christ, as well as who Christ is.

This special retreat begins on **Friday, August 18th** at 7:00 pm and ends after lunch on **Sunday, August 20th**. Your package includes all activities and materials, Friday and Saturday evening snacks; breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Saturday; breakfast and lunch on Sunday, and two nights lodging. Participants will stay **in Ulrich Lodge or Wampler Lodge** with private rooms for singles or couples. Bathrooms are shared. The retreat ends after lunch on Sunday.

Register Online or call the camp office at 574-658-4831

NOMINATIONS FOR DENOMINATIONAL OFFICES NOW OPEN

The Nominating Committee of Standing Committee is requesting your help in nominating persons for denominational offices to be elected next summer in Grand Rapids. Every member of the Church of the Brethren is encouraged to nominate Brethren for the 2024 election at Annual Conference.

Offices Open for Nomination for the 2024 Ballot

- **Moderator-elect** (one person, 3-year term) Ineligible (past four moderators): Donita Keister, Paul Munday, David Soltenberger, Tim McElwee
- **Annual Conference Program & Arrangements Committee** (one person, 3-year term) Ineligible (member completing a term in 2024): Nathan Hollenberg Church of the Brethren
- **Mission and Ministry Board** (one person, 5-year term) **from Area 4:** Missouri-Arkansas, Northern Plains, Southern Plains*, Western Plains Districts not represented on MMB the past 5 years are shown in italics. *no representation for the past 10 years Church of the Brethren
- **Mission and Ministry Board** (one person, 5-year term) **from Area 5:** Idaho, Pacific Northwest, Pacific Southwest. Districts not represented on MMB the past 5 years are shown in italics. *no representation for the past 10 years
- **Bethany Theological Seminary Board of Trustees – Representing the Brethren Colleges** (one person, 5-year term) The board requests nominees who are aware of the dramatic changes taking place in higher education, especially seminary education; or those who are aware of the issues of division in the denomination and changes in the larger church; or persons of color who can help the seminary have conversations about diversity; or persons who have corporate or executive leadership experience.
- **On Earth Peace Board** (one person, 5-year term) The board requests nominees who can help OEP “develop and walk with leaders and communities who work for justice and peace.” To participate in the board’s “values-based consensus” decision making process, each board member must complete a specialized 2.5-day training program in anti-racism, for which OEP covers costs.

For more information about the nomination and election process or to fill out a nomination or nominee form, go to: <https://www.brethren.org/ac/nominations/>

WrapUp

Church of the Brethren Annual Conference 2023 ■ Cincinnati, Ohio

Viviendo el amor de Dios
Viv Lanmou Bondye A
Rayuwan Kaunar Allah
Living God's Love

Ephesians 3:1-2
Languages: Spanish, Creole, Hausa, English

Elections and appointments

Annual Conference moderator-elect:

Dava Cruise Hensley, Roanoke (Va.) First Church of the Brethren

Program and Arrangements Committee:

Gail Heisel, La Verne (Calif.) Church of the Brethren

Pastoral Compensation and Benefits

Advisory Committee: **Lori Hurt**, Boones Mill (Va.) Church of the Brethren

Mission and Ministry Board – Area 2:

Tina Hunt, Mansfield (Ohio) Church of the Brethren; Area 3: **Deirdre Moyer**, Eden (N.C.) Church of the Brethren; *affirmed:* **Meghan Home Mauldin**, Mill Creek Church of the Brethren, Tryon, N.C.; **Robert Jackson**, Lower Miami Church of the Brethren, Dayton, Ohio

Bethany Theological Seminary trustees –

representing laity: **Mark Gingrich**, Open Circle Church of the Brethren, Burnsville, Minn.; *clergy:* **Jennifer Hosler**, Washington (D.C.) City Church of the Brethren; *affirmed:* **Susan Stern Boyer**, La Verne (Calif.) Church of the Brethren

Eder Financial Board: **Dennis Kingery**,

Prince of Peace Church of the Brethren, Littleton, Colo.; *board/constituency-elected:* **Russ Matteson**, Pacific Southwest District, representing the Ministers' Association and Council of District Executives; **Eunice Erb Culp**, Indiana; **Audrey Myer**, Pennsylvania.

On Earth Peace Board: **Audrey Zunkel-**

DeCoursey, Living Stream Church of the Brethren; *affirmed:* **Jennifer K. Scarr**, Bridgewater (Va.) Church of the Brethren



Moderator Tim McElwee (center) presides over the 2023 Annual Conference, with moderator-elect Madalyn Metzger (left) and secretary David Shumate (right). Photo by Glenn Riegel

Resolution lamenting Doctrine of Discovery leads Annual Conference business agenda

Delegates approved “With Actions and in Truth: A Lament on the Doctrine of Discovery.” The doctrine is a rationale for historical colonialism by Europeans around the world, which originated in a series of Christian writings and papal decrees particularly from the 15th century. The resolution was brought by the Mission and Ministry Board. It addresses injustice in the church’s history with Indigenous people, even if indirect, and encourages Brethren to learn the history, name the wrongs, recognize ways in which we have benefitted, and take time to lament that wrong. The church is called to develop relationships with Indigenous communities and seek ways to bring healing and reparation to Native people. Delegates spent more than the scheduled time discussing the resolution, ultimately passing it by a large margin.

Silent confession and repentance: Following a decision last year by the Standing Committee of district delegates, the Conference observed a time of silence for “confession and repentance concerning our mistreatment of one another in our discussion of human sexuality.” The time began with the reading of a statement from Standing Committee, continued with several minutes of silence, and concluded with these words: “We know our God hears us and will help us move forward together, and that fruit will be born out of this time of confession, for the prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.”

Calling leadership: A Standing Committee request for a study committee to research the process of nominating and calling church leadership was approved. The request named the challenges around assembling the ballot that is voted at Annual Conference. Named to the committee were Eric Bishop, Erika Clary, and Emmett Witkovsky-Eldred.

Process for nominations from the floor: Delegates approved a new two-step process for nominations from the floor, brought by Standing Committee. The change requires those making nominations to first state reasons why the ballot for a particular position is inadequate. Delegates must approve their willingness to accept a new nomination based on the reason offered.

Eder articles of organization: Delegates approved restated and amended articles of organization for Eder Financial.



Photo by Donna Parcell

[Brethren.org/news/coverage/annual-conference-2023](https://www.brethren.org/news/coverage/annual-conference-2023).

Order Wrap-Up and Sermon DVDs at [Brethrenpress.com](https://www.brethrenpress.com).

This Wrap Up produced by News Services with the 2023 Press

Team: Jan Fischer Bachman, Karen Garrett, Keith Hollenberg,

Wendy McFadden, Russ Otto, Donna Parcell, Frank Ramirez,

Glenn Riegel, Laura Sellers, and Frances Townsend.

(continued on page 2)

Church of the Brethren Annual Conference 2023 ■ Cincinnati

Love



Preachers (from left): Moderator Tim McElwee, Sheila Wise Rowe, Deanna Brown, Jody Romero, and Audri Svay.

Photos by Glenn Riegel and Keith Hollenberg



(continued from page 1)

Ministers continuing education: Since 2002, ministers have been required to do continuing education. The Conference adopted a 2023 version of the document that clarifies guidelines, adds financial responsibility and leadership as a focus area, and pro-rates the number of continuing education units needed.

Standing Committee actions: The district delegates approved the inclusion of “Polity, Position, Policy, and Practice” in the next revision of the *Standing Committee Manual*, and approved review of the Special Response Process “A Structural Framework for Dealing with Strongly Controversial Issues” to be carried out in 2024.

Interim reports: Delegates received progress reports from two Annual Conference study committees—“Standing with People of Color” and “Breaking Down Barriers: Increasing Access to Denominational Events”—and two Standing Committee subcommittees working on implementation of last year’s polity changes related to agencies.

Anniversaries: The Conference celebrated the 100th anniversary of *Ekklesiyar Yan’uwa a Nigeria* (the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) and the 75th anniversary of Brethren Volunteer Service.

Gun violence: On Earth Peace and a Gun Violence Prevention Action Team organized a walk and prayer vigil in downtown Cincinnati. Three TV stations aired reports on the event.



Photo by Donna Parcel

At right: Annual Conference director Rhonda Pittman Gingrich with elected members of the Program and Arrangements Committee: Nathan Hollenberg, Jacob Crouse, and Beth Jarrett.

Photo by Glenn Riegel



Photo by Keith Hollenberg



Photo by Glenn Riegel

By the numbers

1,393 total registration including 441 delegates and 952 nondelegates.

\$29,330.17 received in offerings including \$14,431.72 for Core Ministries offerings that highlighted Global Mission, Brethren Volunteer Service, and Discipleship and Leadership Formation; \$8,556.23 for Annual Conference operating expenses; \$6,342.22 for Annual Conference translation.

\$12,698.11 given for Fount House, this year’s “Witness to the Host City.”

\$12,895 raised by the silent auction with one-third of the proceeds supporting Annual Conference and two-thirds supporting Brethren Disaster Ministries.

\$3,740.80 raised by the quilt auction of the Association for the Arts in the Church of the Brethren, benefiting the Nigeria Crisis Fund.

120 units collected by the blood drive.

5.3 percent increase approved for the Minimum Cash Salary Table for pastors.

1 project, 1 fellowship, and 1 congregation welcomed:

- *Madtown Church of the Brethren* in Madison, Wis., a project of Illinois and Wisconsin District.
- *East Dayton (Ohio) Fellowship* in Southern Ohio and Kentucky District.
- *Gordonsville (Va.) Chapel*, a congregation in Shenandoah District.

Photos by (from left) Glenn Riegel, Donna Parcel, Laura Sellers, Keith Hollenberg.



Peacefully, Simply, Together.

SOUTH/CENTRAL INDIANA DISTRICT OFFICE, CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
260.274.0396

LAURA STONE, DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MINISTER

scindlaura@gmail.com, 574.306.8768

Usual work days: Wednesday—Sunday

SARAH O'HARA, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

scindcob@gmail.com

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

District Website: www.scindcob.org

Denominational website: www.brethren.org



<https://www.facebook.com/SouthCentral-Indiana-District-205091192857321/>

South/Central Indiana District
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PO Box 32
North Manchester, IN 46962



Church of the Brethren

«FIRST» «LAST»
«ADDRESS»
«CITY» «STATE» «ZIP»