



Church of the Brethren Annual Conference Journal

Greensboro, North Carolina, Friday—July 1, 2016



Follow Live Webcast



Enten Eller is helping us to webcast worship services and all of the business sessions of Conference this year. To view

the live broadcasts over the internet, simply open your browser to www.brethren.org/ac/webcasts, and then click on Annual Conference. The broadcast window will appear on the Annual Conference broadcast page. Additionally, recordings of each webcast will be available shortly after each session concludes, so those not able to watch live (or those wanting to review a session) may view the recordings from the links provided.

6/30/2016

- 290 devices logged in for business this afternoon...
- ...which we estimate represents at least 375-400 people online
- ...which means that perhaps 20% of the people participating in business are doing so via the webcast...
- ...or, more significantly, perhaps 35% of the non-delegates following business are coming in from the

AACB Quilt Auction Auditorium IV—3rd Floor

(located near the AACB room in the exhibit area)

Following close of business Saturday

By The Numbers—2016

Registrations as of
June 30, 2016 @ 5:00 p.m.

Delegate:	704
Non-Delegate:	1690
Total	2394

Thursday Worship Offering	\$12,912.54
Attendance	1855



The Journal is a publication of the Annual Conference Office.
Chris Douglas, Director
Eddie Edmonds, Editor

Delegates Call Leadership For The Church

Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford, reporter

In election results, Samuel Kefas Sarpiya was chosen as moderator-elect. He will serve alongside moderator Carol Scheppard at the 2017 Annual Conference, and will be moderator of the 2018 Conference.

Sarpiya, who was born in Nigeria, is pastor of Rockford (Ill.) Community Church of the Brethren and co-founder of the Center for Nonviolence and Conflict Transformation in Rockford. He has worked as a church planter and community organizer, and is passionate about the connection between peacemaking and the gospel of Jesus Christ. He received early training in the principles of Kingian nonviolence of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and has drawn from Jesus' teaching on nonviolence and peace in his work as a pastor. He has impacted the Rockford school systems, has done training for the Rockford police department's command staff and management in nonviolent principles, and has partnered with Nigerian Brethren and Brethren in the United States in developing a mobile library for use among several camps hosting internally displaced persons across Nigeria. Previously, beginning in 1994, he worked with Urban Frontiers Mission and Youth with a Mission, serving as a missionary around the world. He is a graduate of the University of Jos, Nigeria, earning a degree in social work. He graduated from Bethany Theological Seminary with a master of divinity in conflict transformation. Currently he is a doctoral candidate in semiotics and future studies at George Fox University in Portland Ore.

Following are election results for other positions:

- Program and Arrangements Committee: John Shafer of Oakton (Va.) Church of the Brethren.
- Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee: Raymond Flagg of Annville (Pa.) Church of the Brethren
- Mission and Ministry Board, Area 3: Marcus Harden of Miami (Fla.) First Church of the Brethren; Area 4: Luci Landes of Messiah Church of the Brethren in Kansas City, Mo.; Area 5: Thomas Dowdy of Imperial Heights Church of the Brethren in Los Angeles, Calif.
- Bethany Theological Seminary, representing the laity: Miller Davis of Westminster (Md.) Church of the Brethren; representing the colleges: Mark A. Clapper of Elizabethtown (Pa.) Church of the Brethren
- Brethren Benefit Trust board: David L. Shissler of Hershey (Pa.) Spring Creek Church of the Brethren
- On Earth Peace board: Beverly Sayers Eikenberry of Manchester Church of the Brethren in N. Manchester, Ind.



Brethren Press

2016 Annual Conference Merchandise

Available exclusively through
Brethren Press Bookstore.

The 2016 Annual Conference Wrap-up and Sermons DVDs capture the highlights from Greensboro and can be ordered at the Brethren Press bookstore. Take advantage of special promotional pricing this week only on the Wrap-up DVD. The bookstore is also the place to pick up your commemorative "Carry the Light" mug.



**“Inspiration 2017”
National Older
Adult Conference
Lake Junaluska, North Carolina
September 4-8, 2017**

Lake Junaluska, North Carolina will be the site of the Church of the Brethren’s fourteenth National Older Adult Conference (NOAC) to be held September 4-8 2017. Every other year, this state sees 900 Brethren age 50 and up gather for a week of learning, sharing, serving, and enjoying each other and the loveliness of nature. Time and again participants have shared in their evaluations that they come to NOAC for “inspiration”. Picking up on this affirmation, next fall’s conference will be “Inspiration 2017.”

So, here at Annual Conference, you may see people sporting shirts or carrying bags imprinted with the question, “got inspiration?” Stickers, save the date cards, copies of the Messenger wrap-up of the 2015 conference, and free promotional videos are available on the Congregational Life Ministries table in the Church of the Brethren display area.

While registration doesn’t open until February 2017, making plans now enables families, fellowship groups, and friends to coordinate plans for travel and lodging. Make sure “Inspiration 2017” is on your calendar. (And visit us on Facebook at Church of the Brethren NOAC.)



The Memorial Tribute, honoring Pension Plan members and denominational leaders who have passed away in the previous year, is scheduled for Saturday at 11:10 a.m. morning.

**MODERATOR’S DAUGHTER
IS SOLOIST**

The soloist on the anthem during worship both on Friday Evening and Sunday morning is Kim Shahbazian. Sister Kim is the daughter of Moderator Andy Murray.

PASSPORT ICE CREAM SOCIAL
Those not able to turn in their passport on Friday there is a second opportunity Saturday between 1:00 and 2:00 pm in the Exhibit Area.

**The Battle of Guilford Courthouse
By Frank Ramirez**

**“Another such victory would ruin the British Army”
Spoken by Charles James Fox, member of the House of Commons,
having heard about the Battle of Guilford Courthouse.**

More people think of the Civil War than the Revolutionary War when they think about the Southern states, but some of the most important battles for independence were fought hundreds of miles south of the more famous battles in the north. While in Greensboro or on your way home you may wish to visit the site of one of the important defeats suffered by George Washington that led ultimately to the surrender of the British Forces.

In 1781 the strategy of the British Army was to inspire an uprising on the part of Southerners loyal to the British crown. A few British victories might also cause Southerners to reconsider what connection they had to those they might consider the hotheads in the North.

The most strategic battle took place on March 15, 1781. The British forces under General Cornwallis were outnumbered two to one, yet after some of the hotly contested fighting of the war Washington was forced to retreat, having lost 79 soldiers, with 185 wounded and over a thousand missing. But the British, having reported the deaths of five officers, 88 soldiers, with 74 wounded and only 26 missing in action, lost in effect one fourth of their forces. The victory failed to inspire local insurrection against the confederation of colonies, and only a matter of months later the British surrendered, effectively ending the war and resulting in American independence.

The battlefield is located north of the Sheraton Convention Center, at 2332 New Garden Road, Greensboro, North Carolina, 27410. There is an audio tour to accompany one’s drive, hike, or bicycling around the National Park site.

For more information call 336-274-9199 or go to www.sitinmovement.org.

Disabilities Ombudsman

This year for the first time, Congregational Life Ministries is sponsoring Rebekah Flores as Disabilities Ombudsman at Annual Conference. She is here to provide support for those with physical and/or intellectual disabilities, a listening presence for caregivers, information and advocacy to make Annual Conference a worthwhile and beneficial experience for all.

A member of the Highland Avenue congregation (Illinois / Wisconsin District), she serves as an Anabaptist Disabilities Network Field Associate for the Church of the Brethren. She is available to provide information about physically navigating Annual Conference, advocate for assistance, and provide a listening ear. She is also helping to facilitate an insight session and two Mutual Help Groups. (Mutual Help Groups are listed in the Annual Conference booklet and meeting daily in the Olympia and Bear Creek rooms.)

Contact Rebekah at 847-977-0795 or stop by the Church of the Brethren exhibit Congregational Life Ministries display for her business card and schedule.

**Follow Annual Conference Online
www.brethren.org/news/2016/ac**

Plan to follow events at Annual Conference at www.brethren.org/news/2016/ac. This news index page features links to news stories, photo albums, webcasts, worship bulletins and sermons, and more.

Look for a full review of the 2016 Annual Conference in the next regularly scheduled issue of Newline, to appear on July 5.