



Church of the Brethren Annual Conference Journal

Greensboro, North Carolina, Thursday—June 30, 2016



Talented Brethren Provide Music Leadership



Talented Brethren musicians are providing leadership at this year's conference. Among these leaders are (left to right), Jonathan Emmons, Deborah Wass, and Shawn Kirchner.



Dr. Jesse Hopkins is serving as the Conference Choir Director.

Children's Activity Pages

Activity pages for children in grades K-5 are available before each worship service. Pick up the pages, crayons, and pencils where worship bulletins and Conference Journals are located. Please return the crayons and pencils to the baskets after each service so they are available for the next service. The packets are sponsored by Congregational Life Ministries with resources provided by other Church of the Brethren related agencies.

By The Numbers—2016

Registrations as of
June 29, 2016 @ 4:30p.m.

Delegate: 703
Non-Delegate: 1604
Total 2307

Wed. Worship Offering \$9,986.49
Attendance 2,043



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

Friday Afternoon Designated As "Jubilee Time"

The Program and Arrangements Committee has designated Friday afternoon as "Jubilee Time." Following a morning only Conference Business session, the afternoon is filled with a variety of activities for conference goers to enjoy. Among the exciting choices of things you may choose to do: Service projects, tours of the Civil Rights Museum in downtown Greensboro, (see article on page 2), equipping workshops on Bible study, spiritual practices and music and worship, ice cream social in the exhibit area and mini-concerts there, the play "Twelve Baskets and A Goat" by Ted and Company, (sponsored by Brethren Benefit Trust and Council of District Executives), and Intergenerational Activities for kids and their families. You can read about all of the various choices on pages 31-35 in the Conference Book.



Eddie Edmonds

Annual Conference Blood Drive (an easier way to donate blood)

Although "Count Dracula" would disagree, there is a much preferred way to donate blood, "The Gift of Life", at this conference. Every donor will receive a Red Cross Lunch Cooler for their donation.

Thursday and Friday
8:00am—5:00pm
Cedar Room
(second floor)
Koury Convention Center

Come meet a live calf at a special Friday afternoon Jubilee Gathering!

Brethren Press is pulling out all the stops to celebrate our new book *The Seagoing Cowboy*. The Jubilee festivities include a live calf on location, a booksigning with author Peggy Reiff Miller, and Andy Murray singing his song *Cowboy Dan*. Don't miss this special afternoon of fun, and pick up copies of *The Seagoing Cowboy* to share with family and friends.



Silent Auction In Progress

The Association For The Arts in the Church of the Brethren is offering, at silent auction, Nigerian Women's outfits donated by the Nigerian Women's Choir. The proceeds will be added to the Quilt Auction proceeds and will assist in would hunger relief.



Eddie Edmonds

Insight Session Change

Cancellation: Insight Session at 9:00pm "Pastoral Support Toolbox: Tools and Methods for Healthy Pastor/Parish Relationships" has been cancelled.

Worship and Business Sessions Translated



Erick Flores.

There is English to Spanish oral translation available for all worship services and business sessions. The equipment is operational at the table near the stage. Also if you are bi-lingual and willing to help with oral translation, we are still in need of translation volunteers. You can see Erick to sign up for a session.

“A Biblical Basis for Inclusion: A Pastor’s Journey”

An Insight Session on Thursday at 9pm may be of help for those feeling that the church has been put in an impossible position. Our conversation about LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning) believers has been framed to make one feel as though a choice must be made between upholding biblical authority and seeking justice for marginalized persons. This Insight Session introduces the resource, “A Biblical Basis for Inclusion: A Pastor’s Journey” sees a more promising way to frame the question and follow the leading of the Spirit. This study is based on the example found in Acts 10, 11, and 15.

2016 Conference Cup Series

For many years Brethren Press has offered a mug/cup commemorating the theme of the conference.

Available in the Conference Bookstore while supplies last.



Eddie Edmonds

Do you know what year this was started?

AACB Needs Quilters

We have thread, needles and quilts...now, we need you! Stop by the AACB exhibit and stitch with us. The quilts are auctioned off at the close of business Saturday. You may also enter your bid in the Nigerian Outfit silent auction.



Nigerian Outfit silent auction.

Civil Rights

By Frank Ramirez

According to the Christian folk song, “It only takes a spark to get a fire going.” There were certainly many bright lines shining in the darkness during the epic Civil Rights movement of the 50’s and 60’s, the spark lit by four young college students in at the Woolworth’s lunch counter on February 1, 1960, set off a chain reaction across the country. Directly emulating the example of non-violence by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Ezell Blair, Jr., David Richmond, Franklin McCain, Joseph McNeil each took a seat at the segregated lunch counter and asked to be served a cup of coffee.

They were refused, so they peacefully sat at the counter until closing. In the weeks and months that followed other college students joined them, taking turns to insure that their peaceful protest continued, and when the college term ended local high school students continued the protest until Woolworth’s and other businesses integrated their services.

In the meantime the movement spread by word of mouth until there were non-violent sit-ins conducted at lunch counters across the country. In some instances nonviolence was met with violence, but in the long run the movement was successful.

That original lunch counter is preserved in its original position as one of the major exhibits at the International Civil Rights Center & Museum, located at 134 South Elm Street, Greensboro in the original Woolworth’s building. In addition a guided tour is offered at the museum that allows visitors to see photographs and artifacts that illustrate the larger struggle for Civil Rights. Photographs of lynchings are paired with other photographs of celebrating white mobs who are not at all ashamed at being present and photographed. There are many exhibits that demonstrate how racism and prejudice reigned in American society, as well the stories of many African-Americans who transcended that racism while serving others.

Casual racism, embedded in stereotypes, jokes, and attitudes held by many people in our society, and violent racism, typified by the nine murders at the Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston last year, are very much alive in our world. That’s one reason a visit to the International Civil Rights Center & Museum in Greensboro, North Carolina, only a few minutes drive from the Sheraton Convention Center serves as an important reminder of where we’ve been, how far we’ve come, and how far there is still to go. **(Bus trip Friday afternoon. Purchase tickets in the AC office)**

PASSPORT

The 2016 Annual Conference invites you to take a journey this week through our Exhibit Area. Located on the third floor of the Sheraton/Koury Center over 37 exhibitors provide opportunity to learn and participate in the work of our denomination. One ice cream bar will be awarded for completed passports. Additional ice cream may be purchased for \$4.



ICE CREAM SOCIAL—FRIDAY 2:00-3:30 in EXHIBIT AREA

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. After Conference is over, the page will offer a Wrap Up of Annual Conference in pdf format to print and share with your congregations. Delegates are invited to purchase the Conference wrap up videos from Brethren Press: the Annual Conference Wrap Up DVD (\$29.95, save \$10 off the price by ordering before July 2) and the Annual Conference Sermons DVD (\$24.95). Use the order form in the delegate packet.

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