



Church of the Brethren Annual Conference

JOURNAL

Wednesday • July 3, 2019 • Greensboro, North Carolina

Candlelit Peace Vigil

Stand in solidarity with those impacted by family separation policies. Sponsored by the Office of Peacebuilding and Policy. North Lobby, immediately after worship.

Free Books!

Thanks to a generous donation Brethren Press will be giving away \$250 worth of free books for a congregational library daily Wednesday through Saturday. Enter your church's name at the Brethren Press Bookstore.

FYI Meal Tickets

Make sure you bring meal tickets to the meal event. V and GF stickers inform the servers you want vegetarian or gluten-free meals.

Registration Info

As of 7 p.m., July 2, 2019

Delegates - 670

Non-delegates - 1296

Total - 1296

Blackwood Brothers Quartet

The Blackwood Brothers Quartet will present a concert Wednesday night at 8:30 p.m. following worship. The concert is free to registered Conference participants. A one-day registration is \$50 and covers the concert.

Annual Conference Moderator Preaches at Opening Worship

“Compelled...Upheld...Propelled...by Christ” is the title of tonight’s sermon by Annual Conference moderator Donita Keister at tonight’s opening worship service. Based on 2 Corinthians 5:11-21, Donita noted, “The mission of Christ is strengthened as we proclaim him in his fullness. As we strive to carry out the mission of Christ, scripture guides us through the inevitable struggles of life together so that our vision and focus can be clearly on that mission. We are compelled by his love, upheld through his power of ongoing transformation, and propelled into the ministry of reconciliation, taking the testimony of this good news of Christ to our broken world. Our challenge is to allow the mystery and miracle of Christ’s power of love, transformation, and reconciliation to move us away from the conflict and strife that hinders the mission of Christ.” Donita is currently associate pastor for Children and Pastoral Care at the Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren, Mifflinburg, Pa. She has degrees in accounting and computer programming, and built a baking business. She and her husband Brian, married 38 years, share five daughters and seven grandchildren.



First Things First — Where to Eat?

Rooms, meeting hall, breakout rooms — and meals — it’s all here under one roof at the Sheraton. Joseph’s Restaurant serves breakfast (6 a.m. - 11 a.m.), lunch (11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.) and dinner (5 p.m. to Midnight), including local specialties like Deep Fried Catfish, Oven Braised Country Steak, and 7 Spice Fried Chicken. Skylite Café also serves three meals; their slogan: “This is not Fast Food; It’s Great Food served Fast!” The Bar Down Under concession features a Continental Breakfast, box lunches, and evening snacks, Wednesday through Saturday. Café Espresso features bagels, muffins, and danishes in the morning along with Starbucks Coffee, box lunches, and dessert in the evening. In addition to room service (4137), Mancini’s Pizza (4236) delivers via Joseph’s Restaurant. For details see the fliers at hotel registration or see menus at the venues.

Compelling Vision Updates

Keep up with compelling vision updates during the important work at Annual Conference. Go to www.brethren.org/compellingvision.

BBT Memorial Tribute

The annual Memorial Tribute, prepared each year by Brethren Benefit Trust and honoring Pension Plan members and denominational leaders who have passed away in the previous year, is scheduled for Thursday, July 4 at 11:10 a.m. in the Guilford Ballroom. Note: BBT will not hold its annual fitness challenge this year in support of the compelling vision process.

BackPack Beginnings

Annual Conference is partnering with BackPack Beginnings as our Witness to the Host City as we did in Greensboro in 2016. Please leave items at the counters of registration desks 5 or 6 near the escalator going up to the exhibit area, Wednesday night or anytime Thursday. Cash donations can be left at the Conference Office in the Sawgrass Room on the third floor.

Young Adult Activities

The Young Adult Activities have agreed to come to the Biltmore Room following worship to help with packet stuffing. They will then go to their regular activities room after packets are completed.

Help Wanted: Auctioneer

The Association of the Arts needs an auctioneer for the Quilt Auction Saturday afternoon. Stop by their exhibit to volunteer.

Wendy McFadden Preaches Thursday

Wendy McFadden, of Elgin, Ill., will focus on Romans 8:18-25 and Psalm 36:5-6 in her message “Proclaim Christ as Redeemer” during Thursday morning worship. Wendy said she enjoyed the opportunity to read books “I would not have read otherwise,” and to consult with seminary professor Steve Schweitzer as she prepared for her message. Wendy, claiming “I’m not a wordy person when I speak,” said she discovered that “the whole idea that God will redeem all of creation is not something that’s talked about a lot.”

Wendy and her husband Dan have been married 35 years, and share three adult children. She is publisher of Brethren Press and communications for the Church of the Brethren. She has written her popular column in *Messenger* for the past 21 years. A graduate of Bethany Theological Seminary, she is a member of Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren, where she sings in the choir and serves as church clerk. She currently takes weekly Hebrew classes (for fun) at the local synagogue.



People Worth Knowing: Karen Stutzman

Just so you know, your input matters in the Conference evaluations. One of the things you asked for was features on people who help with worship! Our first “People Worth Knowing” features Karen Stutzman of Winston-Salem, N.C. She is the children’s choir director. This is Karen’s first time providing music leadership at Annual Conference. She plays the piano, and can sing several parts, but she prefers mezzo-soprano. She describes herself as “crazy” for balancing three jobs. She is music director at a United Methodist congregation, music director and voice/piano teacher at Creative Drama Children’s Theater, and a group exercise instructor at the Clemmons YMCA. She and Paul, her husband of 15 years, met in the Bridgewater (Va.) College choir. They share two children, Kaylee, 11, and Joshua, 8, who sang a duet for the theme song the last time Annual Conference was in Greensboro. When working with children she especially enjoys “helping them to find joy in singing, telling the story, and leading those older than them in worship.”

