



Church of the Brethren Annual Conference

JOURNAL

Thursday • July 4, 2019 • Greensboro, North Carolina

Blood Drive Begins

Annual Conference Blood Drive will take place Friday and Saturday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Cedar Room of the Convention Center. Sign up at the table in the registration area.

Giant Jenga, Free Tote Bags and More!

Brethren Benefit Trust invites you to stop by their booth to talk with staff about the status of your pension account, insurance offerings for pastors, and how Brethren Foundation can work for your congregation. Also, pick up a free tote bag. Play a game of giant Jenga!

At Loose Ends?

Are you a non-delegate at loose ends or looking for a place to visit on your way home? As many will remember from the last time Annual Conference took place in Greensboro, the city was one of the centers of the Civil Rights movement. The International Civil Rights Center and Museum is located in the old F.W. Woolworth building where the "Greensboro Four" sit-in movement began. The museum celebrates the nonviolent protests of the 1960 lunch counter sit-ins that were an important catalyst in the civil rights movement. Information available online.

Ready?

Ready, the 2019 Advent Devotional (written by Frank Ramirez) is available for pre-order (with discount!) at Brethren Press. Also available is *25 Days to Christmas*, by Christy Waltersdorff, illustrated by Mitch Miller.

Jonathan Prater Preaches Tonight

"Pedicures, Preparation, and Proclamation" is the title of Jonathan Prater's message, based on Romans 10:5-15. "As followers of Jesus," Prater notes, "we are called to live our lives as proclamation of the Gospel. We are the chief heralds of God's saving work, telling the world of His unending grace." With this in mind, we also need to examine our hearts, desires, and motivations for evangelism and prepare ourselves for the task of carrying



the light of Christ." He is the lead pastor of Mt. Zion/Linville (Va.) Church of the Brethren. Jonathan and his wife Jessica share twin 9-year-old sons, a 7-year-old foster son and a 1-year-old foster daughter. Jonathan reports "In my spare time I co-host the '2 Preachers Talking Podcast' and enjoy singing and playing music and fishing."

Special Events at Brethren Press

There are two special book-signing events Friday at Brethren Press Bookstore. Alann Schmidt of Fort Littleton, Pa., will be signing copies of his book *September Mourn: The Dunker Church of Antietam* from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. on Friday. Schmidt, an ordained Church of God pastor, co-authored the book with Terry Barkley. A former park ranger at Antietam Battlefield, he is responsible for the redesigned Dunker exhibit at the park museum. Schmidt's Insight Session on the Dunker Church is Friday night at 8:30 p.m. in the Augusta Room.

Also on Friday, pastor José Humphreys of Metro Hope Covenant Church in East Harlem, N.Y., the speaker at Thursday's Discipleship Ministries Dinner, will sign copies of his *Seeing Jesus in East Harlem* from 3- 4 p.m. By combining spiritual formation with activism, vivid narrative with exhortation, and realism with hopefulness, his book offers pastors and church planters a thoughtful look at discipleship in a complex world.



Organ Recital

If you've enjoyed the work of organist Jonathan Emmons both in Greensboro and at many other Annual Conferences consider attending his recital Friday, July 5, at 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Guilford Ballroom. His recitals include a mix of sacred and classical organ compositions as well as informative commentary.

Schedule Change

Thursday evening Insight Session "Amazing Grace," scheduled from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m., and the "Songs of Lament" scheduled from 9:30 to 10:30 p.m., have both been moved from the North Lobby to Auditorium III.

Lost and Found

Have you misplaced something over the course of Annual Conference? There's a Lost and Found Box in the Annual Conference office. Stop in and check! (By the way, to avoid losing your Conference book, write your name on the inside.)

Compelling Vision

Just a reminder — updates on the compelling vision process are at www.brethren.org/compellingvision. Add it to your favorites.

Calling All Quilters

We are ready for you to stitch on the quilts for Conference to be auctioned off for hunger on Saturday afternoon. We have thimbles and needles. All we need is your loving stitches!

Help With Love Feast

Eric Reamer requests volunteers to help set up and serve Love Feast at the final business session Saturday afternoon. To help out just contact ericreamer65@gmail.com.

Joel Peña Preaches Friday morning

Joel Peña will share what his experience in Venezuela taught him "about the real inner peace we all are searching to have on a daily basis. We have to admit that we experience more stress than peace and if we want God's peace we must trust God's purpose." Come to hear the message "Proclaim Christ as Peace" based on Romans 5:1, Philippians 4:6-7, and Proverbs 3:5-6. Joel is originally from Venezuela and is currently the lead pastor of Alpha & Omega Church of the Brethren, Lancaster, Pa. He majored in accounting at the University of the Andes in Merida. He and his wife Mary Jane, married almost 15 years, share four children. He loves to play guitar, volleyball, and chess.



People Worth Knowing: Todd Hammond

You may have seen Todd Hammond, head messenger since 1996, on the Annual Conference stage, but not known who he is or what exactly he's doing. Todd describes what he does as "Head Gofer! "Whatever they tell us!" More specifically, he said, "There's a constant stream of things from the Conference officers to the Conference Office and vice versa. And more importantly, we get presenters who are required for business items where they're supposed to be when they're supposed to be there." He's like a stage manager at a theater. "I make sure they get into the on-deck circle. " The job is much easier than it used to be, thanks to cell phones. "It used to be we had to go out and find people. The denominational staff sat in one area, the General Board in another, and so on. We'd go looking for faces in the crowd. Now I can text them."



Todd and Andi (his wife of thirty-five years) share three adult children. He interests include endurance running, bicycling, and an amateur historian.

Mason and Parcell Highlight Nigeria

Carol Mason and Donna Parcell headline Brethren Press/Messenger Dinner Friday at 5: p.m. The two provide a somber look into the suffering of Nigerians who survived the brutal insurgency of Boko Haram. An upcoming book from Brethren Press will feature firsthand accounts and photographs.