Wrapping up Elections and Appointments

Elections and appointments

**Moderator-elect:** David Steele, Middle Pennsylvania District executive.
**Annual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee:** Shawn Flory Replogle, McPherson, Kan.

**Bethany Seminary trustee, clergy:** Frank Ramirez, Everett, Pa.
**Laity:** Donna Shumate, Sparta, N.C.
**Brethren Benefit Trust Board:** Sara Huston Brenneman, Hershey, Pa.
**Mission and Ministry Board from Area 2:** Dennis Webb, Aurora, Ill. Area 3: Jonathan Andrew Prater, Harrisonburg, Va.
**On Earth Peace Board:** Chris Riley, Luray, Va.
**Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee:** Nancy Bowman, Fishersville, Va.

**Appointments confirmed:**
**Mission and Ministry Board:** Connie Burk Davis of Westminster, Md.
**On Earth Peace Board:** John Cassel, Oak Park, Ill. Michelet Hyppolite, North Woodmere, N.Y.
**Bethany Seminary Board:** Katherine Melhorn, Wichita, Kan. John Neff, Moneta, Va.
**BBT Board:** Carol Hess, Lancaster, Pa. Jerry Patterson, Ashburn, Va. Beth Sollenberger, Goshen, Ind.

Delegate body handles a packed business agenda

Delegates to the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference on June 29-July 3 in Charlotte, N.C., handled a packed business agenda, led by moderator Bob Krouse, pastor of Little Swatara Church of the Brethren in Bethel, Pa.

Assisting Krouse were moderator-elect Nancy Sollenberger Heishman and Conference secretary James Beckwith.

A full Day of Spiritual Renewal prepared for the business sessions. Popular speakers Philip Yancey and Mark Yaconelli led morning and afternoon worship. There were Equipping Workshops, a Concert of Prayer, meal events including the Brethren Press and Messenger dinner with theologian Stanley Hauerwas, and a reception hosted by the Mission and Ministry Board and staff.

**Recognition for the Church of the Brethren in Spain:** The Conference recognized with enthusiasm the Brethren movement taking hold in Spain. The church got started about 10 years ago when Brethren from the Dominican Republic emigrated to Spain to find employment and started churches.

**‘Biblical Inspiration and Authority’ paper still relevant:** “How do you decide in 30 minutes what to do with a...3,000 year old book?” asked moderator Bob Krouse, during the discussion of a query on biblical authority from Virlina District. The action of the 2013 Conference was “that the 1979 Annual Conference statement on Biblical Inspiration and Authority is still relevant and represents the position of the denomination today. We encourage its ongoing study in personal and corporate settings.”

**Resolution Against Drone Warfare is adopted:** Developed by the Office of Public Witness, the document was adopted by the Mission and Ministry Board earlier this year.
Thought to be the first statement against military drones by an American church body, it addresses the use of drones in warfare in the context of a reaffirmation of the Brethren assertion that “war is sin” and cites scripture and previous Conference statements. The resolution calls for action by the church and its members, and by the President and Congress.

Revision to Ministerial Leadership Polity is returned: The Revision to Ministerial Leadership Polity was received with appreciation, but returned to the Mission and Ministry Board “for revision in accordance with Standing Committee concerns, to be brought back to the 2014 Annual Conference.” The Standing Committee of district delegates had spent time discussing the revision. Concerns centered in four areas: lack of mention of the plural non-salaried ministry (free ministry), the mandatory makeup of the cohort for each minister, transition of the new “commissioned minister” status to ordained minister, and what happens if there is a change of call for a commissioned minister.

Proposal on more equitable representation is returned: A proposal from the Mission and Ministry Board responding to a query on equitable representation on the board did not receive the two-thirds majority required to pass. The officers ruled that the decision of the 2012 Conference to refer the concerns of the query to the Mission and Ministry Board still stands and that the board should do further work and bring a different answer to the 2014 Annual Conference. The officers provided an opportunity for delegates to submit recommendations to the board for its further work.

Increased number on Mission and Ministry Board executive committee: A proposal to increase the number of members of the Executive Committee of the Mission and Ministry Board was approved.

Cost of living for pastors: The delegates approved a 1.4 percent cost of living increase to the minimum cash salary table for pastors for 2014.

For more about the 2013 Annual Conference: Go to www.brethren.org/ac2013 for webcasts of business, worship, the La Verne Chancel Choir concert plus photo albums, news stories, more. Order the Conference Wrap-Up DVD ($29.95 plus shipping and handling) and Sermons DVD ($24.95 plus shipping and handling) from Brethren Press, 800-441-3712.

This Wrap Up was produced by Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford, director of News Services for the Church of the Brethren, with help from the Annual Conference News Team: photographers Glenn Riegel, Regina Holmes, Debbie Surin, Alysson Wittmeyer; writers Frances Townsend, Frank Ramirez, Karen Garrett; Conference Journal editor Eddie Edmonds; Brethren Press publisher Wendy McFadden; Donor Communications staff Mandy Garcia; website staff Amy Heckert and Don Knieriem.