



Church of the Brethren Annual Conference Journal

Grand Rapids, Michigan, Saturday, July 2, 2011

“Annual Conference exists to unite, strengthen and equip the Church of the Brethren to follow Jesus”

INFORMATION UPDATES

HEARING ADDED TONIGHT

Although it does not appear in the Conference Booklet, the **Congregation Ethics Guidelines Committee** has added a Hearing tonight from 9:00-10:00pm in the Atrium Room of the Amway Grand Hotel.

CONGRGATIONAL LIFE MINISTRIES

repeats its very successful “Living Room Chats” program this year in their very “homey” exhibit, *Mi Casa es Su Casa*.

No need to call ahead, just stop on by and visit:

Sunday: 4:30-5:30pm Intercultural Conversation with Darla Kay Deardorff and Ruben Deoleo and 5:45-6:45pm Spiritual Direction and Coaching for Leaders with Stan Dueck and Joshua Brockway.

FIRST AID

is located just outside of Hall B. Health professionals who are willing to volunteer are asked to sign up in the First Aid office.

THE REST AREA

is located in the Exhibit Hall. Cots are available if you want to lie down for a time of rest.

THE PRAYER ROOM

this year is in Grand Gallery Room E. Anita Smith Buckwalter, pastor of the Lansing, Michigan Church is serving as Conference Chaplin.

MEAL TICKETS

Please purchase meal tickets for the various scheduled meal events in the concourse area, near registration.

CONFERENCE CAFÉ IN THE GRAND GALLERY

The Conference Café will offer lunch and dinner in the Grand Gallery. Seating will be available inside or you may choose to sit outside overlooking the river. A various selection of entrees including: Design a Dog, Quesadilla Station, Caesar Salad, Chef Prepared Pasta, Grab and Go (assorted cold sandwiches) and Build Your Own Hamburger or Chicken Sandwich from the Patio Grill., will be offered for around \$10. Drinks and desserts will be extra. Cash and credit cards will be accepted.

CONCESSIONS

Concessions will have a coffee cart open in the Grand Gallery at 8:00am and Hall C Concessions will be open daily at 11:30am for light snacks and beverages.

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE SPEAKS SUNDAY



Photo by Glenn Riegel

Craig H. Smith has a heartfelt desire to assist individuals and church leaders realize and embrace Kingdom success in their life, leadership, and organization. Craig is Founder and President of Exit 7 Coaching, which is devoted to the motivation, empowerment, and transformation of persons and organizations. Craig is an ordained minister who presently serves as a District Executive in the Church of the Brethren.



MODERATOR PREACHES OPENING WORSHIP

Robert Earl Alley retired from nearly 40 years of full-time pastoral ministry on May 1, 2009. He had served the Bridge-water (VA) Church of the

Brethren (CoB) for 20 years (1989-2009). From 1981 to 1989, he served the Everett (PA) CoB. His first pastorate was a new church plant, Fellowship CoB near Martinsburg, WV (1971-81). Alley will preach during the opening worship service Saturday evening. His message, titled “A Tale of Two Tables,” is based on Mark’s Gospel, chapter 6, verses 30-44.

ANNUAL 5K FITNESS CHALLENGE



Join over 100 other Brethren for the Annual 5k Fitness Challenge on Sunday, July 3. Start time is 7am sharp. The fee is \$20 for individuals and \$55 for families of four or more. This registration fee covers a T-shirt and post-race refreshments. Stop by the BBT booth to sign up and to obtain directions to the starting line. Please register by 10:00pm on Saturday, although registrations will still be accepted between 6:00 and 6:30am on Sunday prior to the start of the event.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE

The Memorial Tribute is scheduled for Sunday afternoon at the close of business. Plan to be part of this time to remember church leaders who have passed away during the previous year. This tribute honors those who were members of the Brethren Pension Plan as well as denominational leaders.



POP-IN FOR POPCORN

Join Bethany Seminary faculty, students, and supporters for popcorn and conversation Sunday afternoon/evening. The event will be in the Ambassador East Ballroom of the Amway Grand and will be open from 4:30 to 6:50pm. Come and see a really unique popping machine (maybe even have your picture taken beside it) and enjoy popcorn on us.

2 Days to Grand Rapids

By Maddie Dulabaum



Biking is not my forte. I've never had the drive to go out at 6 am just to pedal somewhere. So riding 130 miles from Elgin, IL, to Annual Conference in two days on a tandem bike with my bicycling-fanatic father and seven other bikers was a challenge.

About 30 miles out of Grand Rapids I lost all my energy and couldn't continue at the group's pace. My dad and I fell behind. It was horrible watching everyone else slowly become spots on the horizon. When we caught up to the rest of the group, we told them that, if they wanted to, they should go on without us and we'd meet them at the hotel. One by one the group determined "we started as a team and would finish as a team." Even though it took longer to get here, everyone decided to ride together, with us leading the way. It was amazing how much more fun it was riding as a group.

We stopped in a little town outside Grand Rapids and got ice cream. Then we missed a turn coming into downtown, and had to collectively find a different route. But the best part of the ride was crossing the bridge before the Amway Grand in a single file line, being greeted by a small group of people. We ended as a team, which was probably the most satisfying thing about this trip.

Photo by Eric Thompson

QUILTERS NEEDED!

Quilters needed—No experience necessary! We happily guide new quilters at the AACB display in the exhibit hall. Each year the quilts are auctioned off at the close of business to benefit projects that alleviate hunger around the world. "Conference quilter" stickers for the first 1,000 quilters...seriously!



CHILDREN'S WORSHIP PACKETS AVAILABLE

Congregational Life Ministries of the Church of the Brethren are providing Children's Packets at each of the worship services. If you have children, please pick these packets up from the baskets on the usher tables.



**CONFERENCE
BOOKSTORE**
Gulley, Alexander, and Brock to
sign books at the
Brethren Press bookstore.

Philip Gulley will sign books in the Brethren Press Bookstore on Saturday evening, 8:45 to 9:45pm, including the brand-new release, *The Evolution of Faith: How God Is Creating a Better Christianity*. Gulley is the author of a number of other titles, including *If the Church Were Christian*, *If Grace Is True*, and the *Harmony* series of novels. He has become the voice of small-town American, and hosts the PBS show, *Porch Talk with Phil Gulley*.

Pentecostal peacemaker and justice-seeker, Paul Alexander is the featured speaker at the Brethren Press/Messenger dinner on Sunday evening. Alexander is professor of Christian Ethics and Public Policy at Palmer Seminary of Eastern University, and the author of *Peace to War: Shifting Allegiances in the Assemblies of God*. He will sign books in the Brethren Press bookstore on Monday from 12:30 to 1:30pm.

Reverend Dr. Rits Nakashima Brock, director of Faith Voices for the Common Good, will sign books in the Brethren Press Bookstore on Sunday from 3:00 to 4:00pm. She is the author of a number of award-winning books, including *Saving Paradise: How Christianity Traded Love of This World for Crucifixion and Empire*, which *Publishers Weekly* chose as a best book of 2008. Nakashima Brock is the featured speaker at the Global Ministries dinner on Monday.

Alan Flory is signing copies of his children's book, *God Made Me!* In the Brethren Press Bookstore, Sunday from 2:00 to 3:00pm. Alan is an educator and entertainer and has written over fifty contemporary Christian songs.

Do free books sound enticing? Through a generous donation, Brethren Press will be giving four \$250 gift certificates for use within the bookstore at this year's Annual Conference. Stop by and enter for your chance to win FREE books for your church library. One winner will be selected each day of conference.



WHAT IS VIOLENCE?

What is Violence? **On Earth Peace** is interested in how delegates define violence. We have a short survey for delegates to

share with us about the impact of violence in their communities. Please come to the On Earth Peace booth and take a few minutes to fill out the survey and get a free gift from On Earth Peace.

On Earth Peace ministers of reconciliation offer their assistance during business and throughout the Conference, facilitating communication and navigating misunderstandings. Look for them in the "MoR Observer" areas of the conference floor, or contact Leslie Frye at 620-755-3940.

A complementary ministry is also available from staffed trained in pastoral care, available to provide a listening presence to hear frustrations and attend to emotions. This ministry will be available in the Prayer Room following business sessions, or contact Josh Brockway at 404-840-8310.

WI-FI

Brethren Benefit Trust is sponsoring free Wi-Fi access in the DeVos Place Convention Center during conference. A user name and password is required: Username is brethren benefit (two words with a space between them) and password is trust (all lower case).



The Journal is a publication of the Annual Conference Office, Chris Douglas, Director
Eddie H. Edmonds and Alice W. Edmonds, Editors.

Conference Statistics

Registrations: Delegate: 862
Non-Delegate: 1,932
Total as of 10am Saturday: 2,794