



# Annual Conference 2021

## Online, June 30 - July 4



**Come and Adventure With Us!** When I chose the Annual Conference theme about two years ago, I never dreamed we'd need to 'live into it' so literally. Whether it's continuing division in church and society, the widening wound of racism, or a relentless, menacing pandemic, we're not traversing even terrain. But as we travel such troubling territory, are we just lamenting, or do we also navigate with adventure and hope? Mind you, we need raw honesty: this is a yucky time bringing much death, distress, and despair; we're in exile, and it's hard to sing the songs of Zion (Psalm 137). But I believe God provides a way when there appears to be no way (Isaiah 43:15-16) trailblazing a path

through the wilderness. Our upcoming online 2021 Annual Conference is part of God's way forward during this hard time. Frankly, it will be a different conference, but it will be a great conference! For starters, think of the unprecedented access persons have to the 'Big Meeting' this year; wherever persons can access the Internet, they can connect to Annual Conference. So, yes, 'own' your regret; it's deeply disappointing we're not meeting in person. But also anticipate God's provision: we are about to experience a historic, life-changing Annual Conference marked by insightful Bible teaching, practical resourcing, Spirit-led envisioning, and God-honoring worship, providing a wide-open door to persons from across the U.S. and the globe. So, be expectant, joining me in prayer for a blessed, anointed event, anticipating — despite our pain — God's adventurous future!

—Paul Munday, *Annual Conference Moderator*

Registration opens  
March 2, 2021 at noon Central time  
[www.brethren.org/ac](http://www.brethren.org/ac)

Questions? Call or email:  
847-429-4366 | [annualconference@brethren.org](mailto:annualconference@brethren.org)

Photos by Glenn Riegel | Tod Bolsinger photo courtesy of murdocktrust.org



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

# How will the Online Conference work?

Covision, the company that provided the iPad technology at the 2019 conference will be hosting our platform for the 2021 Online Annual Conference.

The platform is simply a website that you'll click on. It will ask you to enter the same email address that you registered with as well as a password emailed to you the week before Annual Conference begins. Once on that website, you can click to participate in Business Sessions, Insight Sessions, Networking Groups, Concerts and more! Delegates will have table conversations in online groups.

It will be important for all participants to have reliable WiFi service and if they are a Delegate to have their own computer or tablet.

There will be training sessions offered at various times in June so that you will be able to learn how to use this online platform.

If you have questions feel free to contact us at [annualconference@brethren.org](mailto:annualconference@brethren.org) or 847-429-4366.

## Registration fees

### Why do we have to pay for Annual Conference if it's online?

Non-delegate and Delegate fees to "attend" Annual Conference online pay for the creation and management of the online platform, the salaries of Annual Conference staff, office and warehouse rental, etc. The Annual Conference budget does not receive money from the denominational budget or anywhere else, but is only funded by registration fees. Thus, the registration fees are critical to being able to offer an online Annual Conference this year.

Registration allows you to participate in Business, Insight Sessions, Networking Groups, Concerts and more. Worship Services are free and will be available to everyone, registered or not.

**Non-Delegates fees:** Full Conference: \$99, daily \$33

**Delegate fees:** Full Conference: \$305

Registration opens **March 2** at [www.brethren.org/ac](http://www.brethren.org/ac)



## Annual Conference schedule at a glance

*Subject to change*

### Morning Business Sessions

*Thursday and Saturday*

10:00 am – 12:00 noon (Eastern)

7:00 am – 9:00 am (Pacific)

### Morning Business Sessions

*Friday*

10:00 am – 12:15 noon (Eastern)

7:00 am – 9:15 am (Pacific)

### Insight Sessions and Networking Groups

*Thursday, Friday and Saturday*

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm (Eastern)

9:30 am – 10:30 am (Pacific)

### Organ Concert – Robin Risser Munday

*Friday*

2:00 pm – 2:30 pm (Eastern)

11:00 am – 11:30 am (Pacific)

### Afternoon Business Sessions

*Thursday, Friday and Saturday*

3:00 pm – 5:00 pm (Eastern)

12:00 noon – 2:00 pm (Pacific)

### Networking Groups

*Thursday, Friday and Saturday*

5:30 pm – 6:30 pm (Eastern)

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm (Pacific)

### Worship

*Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday*

8:00 pm – 9:00 pm (Eastern)

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm (Pacific)

### Worship Sunday morning

10:00-11:00 am (Eastern)

7:00-8:00 am (Pacific)

### Fernando Ortega Concert

*Wednesday*

9:15 pm – 10:30 pm (Eastern)

6:15 pm – 7:30 pm (Pacific)

### Insight Sessions

*Thursday, Friday and Saturday*

9:15 pm – 10:15 pm (Eastern)

6:15 pm – 7:15 pm (Pacific)

# Featured speakers and leaders



**Wednesday Evening, June 30**  
**A Future Grounded in Jesus**  
*Revelation 1:1-9*  
Preacher: Paul Munday

**Thursday Evening, July 1**  
**A Future Informed by Scripture**  
*2 Timothy 2:10-17*  
Preacher: Richard Zapata



**Friday Evening, July 2**  
**A Future Sharpened Through Risk**  
*Matthew 14:22-33*  
Preachers: Chelsea Goss and Tyler Goss



**Saturday Evening, July 3**  
**A Future Dependent on Prayer**  
*Ephesians 3:14-20*  
Preacher: Beth Sollenberger



**Sunday Morning, July 4**  
**A Future Filled with Promise**  
*Revelation 21:1-6*  
Preacher: Patrick Starkey

The Worship Services will also include musicians, Josh and Elizabeth Tindall.



**Tod Bolsinger**  
Guest Speaker

Tod Bolsinger (PhD, Fuller Theological Seminary) is the vice president for Vocation and Formation and Assistant Professor of Practical Theology at Fuller Theological Seminary. He is the author of *Canoeing the Mountains* and a frequent speaker, consultant and blogger. He also serves as an executive coach for corporate, nonprofit, educational and church organizations in transformational leadership.

Tod will be featured in the Moderator's Forum, several Insight Sessions and Networking Groups.



**Michael J. Gorman**  
Bible Study Leader

Michael Gorman holds the Raymond E. Brown Chair in Biblical Studies and Theology at St. Mary's Seminary & University in Baltimore, Maryland. He is the author of nearly twenty books and scores of articles, including several books on Paul; books on Revelation, the Gospel of John, and the atonement; volumes on biblical interpretation; and short books on topics in Christian ethics.

Michael's Bible studies will open every business session and he will also be featured in several Insight Sessions, Networking Groups and a Peace Seminar.

## Ortega and Munday in Concert

**Fernando Ortega**

Gospel Music Association Dove Award and Billboard Latin Music Award winning artist Fernando Ortega will present a pre-recorded concert Wednesday evening, July 1 at 9:15 pm (Eastern), 6:15 pm (Pacific). Classically trained and musically complex, he writes and sings distinctively earthy songs, hymns, and spirituals that defy genre boundaries.



**Organ Recital**

Organist Robin Risser Munday will present a pre-recorded organ recital Friday, July 3 at 2:00 pm (Eastern), 11:00 pm (Pacific).

# 2021 Annual Conference Offerings

## Wednesday Evening

### Church Rebuilding in Nigeria with EYN

Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) has been hit hard by the violence of the terrorist group Boko Haram. In addition to lives lost and homes fled, the violence has devastated EYN's church buildings. At least 1,668 churches or church branches have been burned or abandoned, affecting nearly 70% of the EYN properties. The church is the center of community for EYN members, functioning as a safe space for many faith and community activities. It is difficult for a community to fully recover without their local church. A special program is raising funds to help bring life back to destroyed EYN churches. Support given to the Church Rebuilding Fund will be passed on as grants for EYN congregations seeking to rebuild and repair their buildings.

## Thursday Evening

### Church of the Brethren Core Ministries

At worship on Thursday evening, an offering is gathered and blessed for the mission and ministry of the Church of the Brethren. Through your generous gifts to our Core Ministries, you strengthen and expand our work with international mission and Brethren Volunteer Service. You support the training of fearless and compassionate disciples through youth and young adult ministries, intercultural ministries, and Discipleship Ministry events and initiatives. You invest in local missions and evangelism, leadership formation for vital congregations, and the ongoing work to plant new congregations and renew established ones. Your offering is part of another way of living, the Jesus way, that witnesses to the world through faith, hope, and love. Thank you for partnering in this life-changing work for the glory of God and our neighbor's good.

## Friday Evening

### Children's Activities

Our children are a precious gift and we want to encourage families to bring their children to Annual Conference. That means we need volunteers to coordinate children and youth activities. These volunteers come to Annual Conference and spend their entire week leading and watching over our children. We have tried to keep the fees for Children's and Youth Activities as modest as possible so this offering will help cover basic expenses of the volunteers who come to care for our Annual Conference children. Next year, for the first time, through our partnership with Outdoor Ministries Association, we will have some camp staff assisting with each age level of children's activities.

## Saturday Evening

### Translation

Financial resources are needed to provide both written translation of documents for business sessions and for worship services, as well as for the live, verbal translation that takes place in each of our worship and business gatherings. How we provide hospitality and welcome at Conference is important. Your gifts this morning will help to pay the expenses of translation for Hispanic Brethren, so we can all reach out in a welcoming way to those whose first language is Spanish.

## Sunday Morning

### Upgrading Children's Activities Furniture and Supplies

New children's tables and chairs, cribs, pack-n-plays, changing tables, (and shipping containers to withstand all of the moving we do with them each year), toys, etc. have not been purchased for over 30 years and need to be upgraded. Offerings received this morning in worship will allow the purchase of much needed furniture and supplies for our children at Annual Conference.

## Annual Conference registration opens March 2 - noon Central time at [brethren.org/ac](http://brethren.org/ac)

In coming weeks more information will be added at [www.brethren.org/ac2021](http://www.brethren.org/ac2021)

- Insight Sessions (most available for ceu credits)
- Networking Groups - times for Q&A with presenters
- Details on Worship, Business and the Ballots

Once you've registered, watch for weekly emails with additional important information!