

# Pre-Conference Schedule

All Annual Conference events will take place in the  
Duke Energy Convention Center.

## Saturday, July 1

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- 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.    **Standing Committee Dinner**  
Location: Room 207
- 6:15 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.    **Standing Committee Meeting**  
Location: Room 211

## Sunday, July 2

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- 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.    **Standing Committee Meeting**  
Location: Room 211
- 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.    **Council of District Executives Meeting**  
Location: Room 208

## Monday, July 3

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- 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.    **Standing Committee Meeting**  
Location: Room 211
- 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.    **Council of District Executives Meeting**  
Location: Room 208
- 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.    **Annual Conference Coordinators Meeting**  
Location: Room 260
- 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.    **Mission and Ministry Board Executive Committee Meeting**  
(closed session)  
Location: Room 212
- 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.    **Retirement Readiness Seminar** (by invitation only)  
Location: Room 201
- 3:00 p.m.    **Annual Conference Onsite Registration Opens**  
Location: Hall B
- 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.    **Brethren Academy Directed Independent Study**  
This gathering is for TRIM and EFSM students who are attending the Ministers' Association Pre-Conference Event with the intent of receiving ministry training credit. Pre-registration required.  
Location: Room 210
- 5:00 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.    **"Meet and Greet" Ministerial Connections Banquet**  
(by invitation only)  
Location: Room 206
- 5:45 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.    **Brethren Ministers' Association Supervised Childcare**  
Location: Room 209

## Monday, July 3 (continued)

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6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.    **Brethren Ministers' Association Pre-Conference Event  
Healing Racial Trauma: The Road to Resilience and  
Beloved Community**  
Presenter Sheila Wise Rowe, M.Ed, author, speaker, Spiritual Director. The focus of the pre-conference event will be her award-winning book, *Healing Racial Trauma: The Road to Resilience*. An in-person and hybrid event with the inclusion of small group conversations and interactions.  
Registration required  
Location: Room 200/205

## Tuesday, July 4

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8:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.    **Standing Committee Meeting**  
Location: Room 211

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.    **Mission and Ministry Board Meeting**  
Location: Room 212

8:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.    **Brethren Ministers' Association Supervised Childcare**  
Location: Room 209

9:00 a.m. - 11:45 p.m.    **Brethren Ministers' Association Pre-Conference Event**  
Location: Room 200/205

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.    **Council of District Executives Meeting**  
Location: Room 208

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.    **Retirement Readiness Seminar (by invitation only)**  
Location: Room 201

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.    **Brethren Ministers' Association Luncheon  
(by invitation only)**  
Location: Room 206

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.    **Mission and Ministry Board and Strategic Leadership Team  
Luncheon with International Guests (by invitation only)**  
Location: Room 203

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.    **Retirement Readiness Seminar Luncheon (by invitation only)**  
Location: Room 204

12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.    **Nominating Committee Luncheon (by invitation only)**  
Location: Room 210

12:00 p.m.    **Exhibit Hall Opens**  
A great place to learn about many of the church's ministries as well as other church-related organizations.  
Location: Hall B

12:00 p.m.    **Silent Auction Opens**  
*Bidding closes at 2:00 p.m. on Friday*  
Location: Hall B

## **Tuesday, July 4 (continued)**

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- 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.    **Brethren Ministers' Association Supervised Childcare**  
Location: Room 209
- 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.    **Brethren Ministers' Association Pre-Conference Event**  
Location: Room 200/205
- 3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.    **Kettering-Lane on Anna Mow: the Biographical Research Process and its Application to Genealogical Research in the Brethren Context**  
Denise Kettering-Lane is currently writing an article about Anna Mow. Denise will be presenting on how she conducted her research on this famous sister and how genealogists can apply her process to their own quest for information. The meeting will also include the annual business meeting of the Fellowship of Brethren Genealogists, led by the president of FOBG, Gerald W. Rhoades.  
Location: Room 260
- 3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.    **Annual Conference New Attendee Orientation Meeting**  
An opportunity for everyone, but especially first-time delegates and those who have not attended Conference recently, to meet with the moderator-elect, secretary, and the director of Annual Conference Office to learn the ropes and ask about this year's logistics.  
Location: Room 263
- 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.    **Table Facilitators Training**  
Location: Room 250
- 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.    **Brethren Academy Directed Independent Study**  
This gathering is for TRIM and EFSM students who are attending the Ministers' Association Pre-Conference Event with the intent of receiving ministry training credit.  
Pre-registration required.  
Location: Room 210
- 4:15 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.    **Choir Rehearsal**  
Location: Hall A Stage
- 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.    **Faith Forward Donor Circle Dinner (by invitation only)**  
Location: Room 206

# 2023 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference Schedule

## Tuesday Evening, July 4

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- 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.    **Early Childhood Services**  
*Godly play, sing and learn*  
Location: Room 234/235
- 6:45 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.    **Gathering and Opening Worship**  
*Living God's Love*  
Preacher: Tim McElwee  
Location: Hall A
- 8:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.    **Delegate Packet Preparation**  
Location: Hall A, back of stage
- 8:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.    **Game Night and Ice Cream Social**  
Location: Exhibit Hall
- 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.    **Junior High Activities**  
*Icebreakers, activity corners.*  
Location: Rooms 230/231
- 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.    **Senior High Activities**  
*Ice breaker, peace/foundations craft project, activity centers.*  
Location: Room 236
- 8:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.    **Young Adult Activities**  
*Welcome, fireworks on the Riverfront, Graeter's Ice Cream.*  
Location: Room 238

## Wednesday, July 5

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- 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.    **Clergywomen's Breakfast**  
Speaker: Dr. Margaret Elwell  
*"Claiming Power or Confessing Privilege: Framing Tough Topics"*  
Complicated issues of race, gender, and class arise when we work to create a more peaceful and just world. How do we get unstuck or not get stuck in the first place? Let's talk about the possibilities and pitfalls of confessing privilege and claiming power.  
Location: Room 206
- 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.    **Outdoor Ministries Association Breakfast**  
Speaker: Garry Pearson  
*"Camp Celebration and Recognition"*  
Come join us to connect with old friends, share with others and leave with new friends who love to be at camp. This breakfast features the roll Call of camps, presentation of the OMA awards and grants, honoring retirees, and updates on new programs and trends in the outdoor ministry. We share a favorite camp song or two!!  
Location: Room 204

## Wednesday, July 5 (continued)

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- 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.    **New Church Recognition Breakfast** (by invitation only)  
Location: Room 207
- 8:15 a.m. – 11:45 p.m.    **Early Childhood Services**  
*Godly play, sing and learn.*  
Location: Room 234/235
- 8:15 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.    **K – 2nd Grades Children’s Activities**  
*Welcome, Bible study, centers, games.*  
Location: Room 233
- 8:15 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.    **3rd – 5th Grades Children’s Activities**  
*Welcome, Bible study games, visit from Cincinnati Children’s Museum.*  
Location: Room 232
- 8:30 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.    **Junior High Activities**  
*Exhibit Hall scavenger hunt, T-shirt bag craft, New Community Project speaker.*  
Location: Rooms 230/231
- 8:30 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.    **Senior High Activities**  
*Annual conference experience. Ministry speakers: BDM, BVS, Brethren Colleges, New Community Project.*  
Location: Room 236
- 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.    **Business Session**  
Location: Hall A
- 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.    **Annual Conference Blood Drive**  
Location: Exhibit Hall B
- 11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.    **Young Adult Activities**  
*Lunch at Findley Market.*  
Location: Room 238
- 11:50 p.m. – 12:50 p.m.    **African Missions Networking**  
This meeting is for all who have connection to or interest in missions in Africa. Come and meet others who share your passion.  
Location: Room 210
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.    **Multicultural Family Reunion**  
An all-ages reunion for Brethren who identify as or come from multiracial families. This is a time to get to know one another, reconnect, and share experiences and stories. Participants will be responsible for bringing their own lunch. We will meet at Fountain Square. For more information, please contact Joanna Willoughby at [joanna.wave.willoughby@gmail.com](mailto:joanna.wave.willoughby@gmail.com)

## Wednesday, July 5 (continued)

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- 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **El Almuerzo / Latinx Lunch**  
Tiempo de conversación y comunión para todos aquellos que están involucrados en el trabajo con los ministerios latinx (hispanos/as y latinos/a). Ser un tiempo para compartir alegrías, preocupaciones, ideas y retos; así como conocernos mejor y aprender unos de otros. Nota: Este La conversación se llevará a cabo principalmente en español.  
A time for conversation and fellowship for all those who are involved in working with Latinx (Hispanic/Latino/Latina) ministries. It will be a time to share joys, worries, ideas and challenges, as well as get to know each other better and learn from each other. Note: This conversation will be conducted primarily in Spanish.  
Location: Room 204
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Brethren Volunteer Service Luncheon**  
Speaker: Jim Lehman  
“A Year of Living Differently: Celebrating 75 years of Brethren Volunteer Service”  
Jim Lehman, author of *A Year of Living Differently: How Brethren Volunteer Service Changed Our Lives Forever*, may know BVS’s history better than anyone. His book, which is being released by Brethren Press this summer, compiles stories and articles that celebrate BVS’s rich legacy of service around the world and the life-changing experiences of its volunteers. Join us to discover new stories, connect with former and current BVSers, and hear about the future of Brethren Volunteer Service.  
Location: Room 206
- 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Equipping Sessions**
- 1. Living God’s Love in Diversity: The Challenge of Race in Brethren History** (.1 CEU)  
Presenter: Denise Kettering-Lane  
Focus: In 2007, Annual Conference passed a statement “Separate No More: Becoming a Multi-ethnic Church,” which declared, “This is a plea for transformation, calling each of us to more fully and completely follow Christ’s example of loving all peoples – in loving our neighbors.” While the paper is not specifically focused on issues of race, this statement applies to that context. In this session, participants will explore Brethren history, pursuant to race, and learn how Brethren have navigated racial concerns in order to provide local congregations and leaders with historical examples that can help promote living God’s love in diversity.  
Agency/District: Bethany Theological Seminary  
Representative: Denise Kettering-Lane  
Location: Room 252

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Equipping Sessions**

**2. Virtual Brethren Heritage Trip**

Presenter: Nevin Dulabaum

Focus: Join Nevin Dulabaum on this pictorial tour of the places that are part of our Brethren heritage, from Europe to the United States. Learn about the social factors that helped lead to the formation of the Brethren movement, and see some of the hundreds of pictures Nevin has taken of the places that were important to the early Brethren and how those same images inspired the new brand of Eder Financial.

Agency/District: Eder Financial

Representative: Michelle Kilbourne

Location: Room 203

**3. How to Talk About the Next Violent Viral Video (.1 CEU)**

Presenter: Margaret Elwell

Focus: Each time a video of police brutality goes viral, many hope that the shocking images speak for themselves. But the emotional jolt that they create fades. So how do we talk about violent videos from the pulpit and other positions of leadership so that people can hear and respond? And how do we avoid exploitation and other kinds of harm when we talk about violence in current events? Resources will be shared for how to think through key problems in leading congregations and communities to respond to today's violence.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren

Representative: Nancy Sollenberger Heishman

Location: Room 250

**4. The Holy Spirit and Artistic Creativity (.1 CEU)**

Presenter: Joelle Hathaway

Focus: Poets through ages have called on the “muses” and sculptors have written of “freeing” their art from the marble they are working with. Many artists experience being imaginatively empowered by a force outside of themselves. More recently, artists among us often describe their work as “inspired” or that art is “spiritual”. How might Christians understand these claims from within the scriptural vision of the Holy Spirit as the one who animates, sanctifies, beautifies, and perfects the created world? This session will consider the connection between the work of the Holy Spirit and human artistic creativity, exploring the ways in which humans might participate in the Spirit’s ministry in the world through the creative arts.

Agency/District: Bethany Theological Seminary

Representative: Joelle Hathaway

Location: Room 260

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Equipping Sessions**

**5. Supportive Communities Network (SCN): Queer Justice and Collective Liberation** (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Annabeth Roeschley and SCN leaders

Focus: The session will be used to reflect and build toward our future as the Supportive Communities Network (SCN), a robust web of groups/congregations committed to lgbtqia justice and affirmation. This interactive session will draw on collective SCN wisdom and experience and will focus on equipping and resourcing each other as Church of the Brethren congregations and groups moving toward collective liberation. How can we cultivate and maintain an expansive vision of what queer liberation and justice looks like? What do we need to live into this vision? From SCN? From each other? Within and beyond the broader church?

Agency/District: On Earth Peace and Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests

Representative: Matt Guynn

Location: Room 264

**6. Come to the Peace Table!**

Presenter: Joan Daggett and Jeff Lennard

Focus: At The Peace Table, there's room for all! Enjoy the compelling stories and find inspiration in the beautiful artwork within Shine curriculum's new story Bible, *The Peace Table*. We'll explore ways to share these ancient stories with children and families. Whether you are a grandparent, parent, or teacher, you'll leave with ideas and practices to share with your children as you gather around The Peace Table.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren

Representative: Jeff Lennard

Location: Room 263

**7. Innovative, Adaptable, Fearless: Changing your Culture to Empower Disciples** (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Brian Messler

Focus: We can often feel "stuck" in ministry. We do the things that are comfortable, expecting that they will have the same impact from generation to generation. While the meaning of ministry is crucial to maintain, the mode in which we do it changes. Come and learn about how one congregation decided to change the mode of ministry by changing its culture in order to empower innovative, adaptable, and fearless disciples to share the transformative power of Jesus in their community. You will leave with a renewed sense of passion and hope for the days yet to come for your congregation.

Agency/District: Atlantic Northeast District

Representative: Brian Messler

Location: Room 251



## Wednesday, July 5 (continued)

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12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Equipping Sessions**

**8. The Bible and the Birds and the Bees** (.1 CEU)

Presenter: David Radcliff

Focus: The birds and the bees, along with every other part of God's earth, are jeopardized by human consumption, pollution and lack of concern for what God has lovingly created. Join a discussion of how scripture can guide us toward healing God's earth and preserving a livable planet for our neighbors and for future generations, while helping others around us see the connection between faith and creation care.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren

Representative: David Radcliff

Location: Room 202

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. **Asia Missions Networking**

This meeting is for all who have connection to or interest in missions in Asia. Come and meet others who share your passion.

Location: Room 210

1:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. **Early Childhood Services**

*Godly play, sing and learn.*

Location: Room 234/235

1:45 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. **National Underground Railroad Freedom Center Tour**

Advanced purchase tickets required

Location: Convention Center Entrance by Murals

2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. **Business Session**

Location: Hall A

4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. **Worship with Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests & Supportive Communities Network**

Location: Room 250

4:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. **Northern Ohio District Gathering**

Location: Room 262

4:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. **Choir Rehearsal**

Location: Room 264 (*not on the stage*)

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. **Discipleship Ministries Dinner**

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Sarah Griffith Lund

*"Breaking the Silence about Mental Illness with Children & Teens"*

Being able to be honest and real about the challenges youth face can help parents, teachers, youth pastors provide stability to children facing mental health issues, remove barriers of stigma and shame, and allow them to flourish. Our youth need to know they are not alone. Come for education and inspiration, as well as the chance to meet others who care deeply about our young people. Rev. Dr. Sarah Griffith Lund is the senior pastor at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Indianapolis and serves on National Staff of the UCC as Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice.

Location: Room 206

## Wednesday, July 5 (continued)

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- 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.    **Early Childhood Services**  
*Godly play, sing and learn.*  
Location: Room 234/235
- 6:45 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.    **Evening Worship**  
*Bearing the Fruit of God's Love*  
**Preacher: Sheila Wise Rowe**  
**Location: Hall A**
- 8:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.    **The Walking Roots Band Concert**  
The Walking Roots Band (TWRB) is an acoustic, Americana, folksy, blue-ish-grassy, roots music group based in Harrisonburg, VA. Steeped in Anabaptist hymn-singing traditions, the band's original folk music and reclaimed hymns are supported with lush vocal harmonies. The music speaks of hope, whether through sacred words written hundreds of years ago or in the honest voice of one of the band's songwriters. TWRB doesn't make music full-time, but when they are able to tour, perform, record, or even just get together to practice and arrange new music, they are thankful for the fans, family, and friends who make it all possible.  
Location: Hall A
- 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.    **Junior High Activities**  
*Activity corners.*  
Location: Rooms 230/231
- 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.    **Senior High Activities**  
*Activity centers.*  
Location: Room 236
- 8:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.    **Young Adult Activities**  
*Attend The Walking Roots Concert together.*  
Location: Room 238

## Thursday, July 6

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- 6:45 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.    **Group Run/Walk** (gather at 6:45 to leave promptly at 7:00)  
Location: Gather outside front entrance to Convention Center
- 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.    **Brethren Disaster Ministries and Children's Disaster Services Volunteer Breakfast**  
This breakfast is open to all current and past BDM & CDS volunteers and supporters, and those interested in becoming volunteers. Pre-registration by June 5, 2023 is necessary to reserve a seat for this free event by contacting the BDM or CDS office (800-451-4407; [bdm@brethren.org](mailto:bdm@brethren.org); [cds@brethren.org](mailto:cds@brethren.org)). During the conference a limited number of spaces may be available for those who have not pre-registered—please make a BDM or CDS staff member aware of your interest.  
Location: Room 204
- 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.    **Annual Conference Blood Drive**  
Location: Exhibit Hall B

## Thursday, July 6 (continued)

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- 8:15 a.m. – 11:45 p.m. **Early Childhood Services**  
*Godly play, sing and learn.*  
Location: Room 234/235
- 8:15 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. **K – 2nd Grades Children's Activities**  
*Visit from the Cincinnati Children's Museum, Bible study, games.*  
Location: Room 233
- 8:15 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. **3rd – 5th Grades Children's Activities**  
*Visit to National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Smale Park, Carol Ann's Carousel.*  
Location: Room 232
- 8:30 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. **Junior High Activities**  
*Bus trip to Cincinnati Museum Center, paint a Peace Pole, Office of Peacebuilding & Policy speaker.*  
Location: Rooms 230/231
- 8:30 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. **Senior High Activities**  
*Devotions, Omnimax Theater/Children's Museum field trip, service project.*  
Location: Room 236
- 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. **Business Session**  
**Location: Hall A**
- 11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Young Adult Activities**  
*Reds Hall of Fame and Museum and lunch.*  
Location: Room 238
- 11:50 p.m. – 12:50 p.m. **Latin America and Spain Missions Networking**  
This meeting is for all who have connection to or interest in missions in Latin America and Spain. Come and meet others who share your passion.  
Location: Room 210
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Bethany Theological Seminary Lunch**  
Speaker: Jeff Carter and panel  
"Bethany's BOLD Future"  
It's an exciting time at Bethany, with six years of continuous enrollment growth, a sustained commitment to longstanding core values, and a spirit of innovation that leads to new programs and avenues for learning. Join us for a panel discussion touching on what's new in the theopoetics program, how Afrofuturism is being incorporated in the Bethany curriculum, and our exciting new Bethany BOLD initiative — funded by a \$1M grant from the Lilly Endowment. The panel will include the most recent additions to the teaching faculty: Dr. Maggie Elwell, assistant professor of peace studies and director of Bethany BOLD; Dr. Joelle Hathaway, assistant professor of theological studies and director of the theopoetics program; and Dr. Tamisha Tyler, visiting assistant professor of theology and culture and theopoetics. President Dr. Jeff Carter, will moderate the conversation.  
Location: Room 206

## Thursday, July 6 (continued)

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### 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Womaen’s Caucus Luncheon**

Speaker: Bobbi Dykema

“Who is Mentoring Who?”

We are excited to offer our annual luncheon! Come for fellowship, our annual report and a panel of young voices. While everyone agrees that pastoral ministry is a difficult calling, it is not always clear what structures and support systems would be most beneficial to help pastors navigate their unique challenges. How best might we support one another in walking the path of shared ministry, both providing and receiving the encouragement necessary to fulfill calling with healthy and authentic practices? We will hear the voices of younger women who are living the reality of ministry, sharing their challenges and their hopes for what might be in front of them. We will have the opportunity to explore and learn together.

Location: Room 204

### 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Equipping Sessions**

#### 1. **Effectively Working Toward Racial Justice: Does “Helping People to Become Christians” Promote Racial Justice?** (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Chad Brennan

With our national research, we find that one of the most common responses by Christians to the question, “How can we make racial progress?” is “Helping people to become Christians.” As Christians, we have the joy and responsibility of sharing our faith with others, but “helping people to become Christians” can become a barrier to racial justice if we are not careful about what we mean by that phrase and are not taking a truly “Christian,” biblical approach to pursuing racial justice. In this workshop, we will explore those realities. Our time will be interactive and provide opportunities for small group dialogue and Q&A.

Agency/District: Annual Conference

Representative: Rhonda Pittman Gingrich

Location: Room 262

#### 2. **The Roadmaps of New and Renewed Congregations** (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Stan Dueck

Focus: Church planting and revitalization are not simple recipes that are guaranteed. Instead, it is a roadmap with observable signs. When you follow a roadmap, there is considerable variation and change. You change speeds. You may get gas, then stop, let some people off, and take others on. You may take one route versus another. Unlike the predictability of recipe-following, there is variety. Join us to interact and celebrate with leaders of new churches and renewed congregations who will share their stories and the signs that highlight the roadmap of their respective ministries.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren

Representative: Stan Dueck

Location: Room 251

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Equipping Sessions**

- 3. Toolbox for Caring for Your Pastor: Money and Beyond**  
Presenter: Angela Finet  
Focus: Join members of the Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee to open a virtual toolbox of ideas and resources (including the Annual Shared Ministry Priorities Agreement and the Integrated Annual Ministry Agreement) for supporting healthy pastor/parish relationships. Participants will leave with a variety of take-home tools. This equipping session is designed for both clergy and laity to attend.  
Agency/District: Annual Conference PC&BAC  
Representative: Nancy Sollenberger Heishman  
Location: Room 263
- 4. Creativity in Worship and Faith-Formation with The Walking Roots Band (.1 CEU)**  
Presenters: Seth Crissman, Greg Yoder, Jackson Maust, and Lauren Yoder  
Focus: The Walking Roots Band began writing new music for old hymn texts in 2012. Since then, they have traveled and performed their “reclaimed hymns,” new songs for worship, and original folk music for audiences of all ages and backgrounds—in church settings, in schools, and in the broader community. In 2021, the band helped launch The Soil and The Seed Project, which creates music, art, and Little Liturgies to nurture faith. In this session, attendees will sing “reclaimed hymns,” get a hands-on look at The Soil and The Seed Project resources and learn how cultivating cultures and practices of creativity can enrich and strengthen the worship life and faith-formation habits of their congregations. The Soil and The Seed Project is a ministry of VMMissions that creates music, art and Little Liturgies that follow the liturgical year to help us welcome the seed of the Good News as it takes root in our lives. It is a gift to the church, given freely to any individual or community who wants it (not sold).  
Agency/District: Church of the Brethren  
Representative: Josh Brockway  
Location: Room 250
- 5. Building a Culture of Philanthropy (.1 CEU)**  
Presenter: Dan Radcliff  
Focus: According to the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy, religious organizations are one of the largest receivers of donated funds in the United States. Individuals and churches can build a culture of Philanthropy by identifying a point of passion, engaging the community through storytelling, and encouraging participation toward a cause.  
Agency/District: Eder Financial  
Representative: Michelle Kilbourne  
Location: Room 202

## Thursday, July 6 (continued)

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12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Equipping Sessions**

### 6. **The Crisis in Your Community: Practical Steps from Kingian Nonviolence** (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Matt Guynn, Marie Benner-Rhoades and team of OEP facilitators

Focus: What is the crisis where you are and what might active nonviolent discipleship lead you to do about it? Are you hungry to get involved in dynamic and creative ways in the concerns and conflicts of your community? Join us to explore nonviolence as an active force based in agape love. This session will describe core values and steps for approaching the crisis or conflict in your community from the work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and will offer an invitation to ongoing involvement through On Earth Peace's "1000 Brethren" Kingian Nonviolence Training Project. Session leadership will be provided by a team of On Earth Peace facilitators. *This same session will be repeated on Thursday at 8:30pm.*

Agency/District: On Earth Peace

Representative: Matt Guynn

Location: Room 252

### 7. **Global Mission: Walking Alongside the Church in Haiti**

Presenters: Romy Telfort and Vildor Archange

Focus: Meet guests from Haiti and learn how you and your congregation can support the Church of the Brethren in Haiti and the Haiti Medical Project. In the midst of natural disasters and gang violence, the church in Haiti continues to be faithful and to serve the people of Haiti to improve lives and bring hope.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren

Representative: Eric Miller

Location: Room 260

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

### **Brethren Chaplains Gathering**

Topic: Ministering in Anxious Times

Speaker: Kelly Burk

Focus: Despite a wide-range of geographical backgrounds, theological beliefs, spiritual care practices, and diverse settings, many chaplains and clergy agree that there is an increase in anxiety in the persons with whom we minister. Many Biblical texts acknowledge the presence of anxiety in our lives and offer wisdom for living with less anxiety. Anxiety is often present in end of life conversations, in our response to the increase of gun violence on our school campuses and communities, and in times of grief and trauma. The Chaplain Networking session will be led by a panel of chaplains who have expertise in providing accompaniment and spiritual care interventions to mitigate symptoms of distress when anxiety is present.

Location: Room 209

## Thursday, July 6 (continued)

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- 1:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.    **Early Childhood Services**  
*Godly play, sing and learn.*  
Location: Room 234/235
- 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.    **Business Session**  
Location: Hall A
- 4:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.    **Choir Rehearsal**  
Hall A Stage
- 4:45 p.m.                    **Public Witness for Gun Violence Prevention**  
Join the Church of the Brethren Gun Violence Prevention Action Team to pray and to encourage and support those touched by gun violence. We will take action together in order to be inspired when we go home. Through this witness, we hope to support and strengthen the work of local gun violence prevention organizing groups in Ohio as well as build a network of Church of the Brethren gun violence prevention advocates. Location and details will be available at Conference.
- 4:45 pm – 5:45 pm        **Moderator’s Reception for People who Identify as LGBTQ+**  
Location: Room 201
- 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.    **Brethren Press and Messenger Dinner**  
Speaker: Jennifer K. Scarr  
“Tell Me Stories”  
We’ve been telling each other Bible stories for hundreds of years. Even as the medium has morphed from spoken word to the page to the digital age, we return captivated over and over again by the story of God. Come, listen to a few Bible stories you maybe haven’t heard before and see how God continues to use ancient stories to inspire people of faith today.  
Location: Room 205
- 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.    **Brethren Revival Fellowship Dinner**  
Speaker: Ken Leininger  
“A Heavenly Home”  
We will walk through the book of Revelation noticing the heavenly place Jesus Christ is preparing for His followers.  
Location: Room 206
- 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.    **Early Childhood Services**  
*Godly play, sing and learn.*  
Location: Room 234/235
- 6:45 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.    **Evening Worship**  
*Responding in Love to the Needs of Others*  
Preacher: Deanna Brown  
Location: Hall A

8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.    **Equipping Sessions**

- 1. Shaping the Future We Want: Worldbuilding and Speculative Fiction as Eschatology for the Church** (.1 CEU)  
Presenter: Steven Schweitzer and Tamisha Tyler  
Focus: This session will explore the role of Speculative Fiction and Worldbuilding in the church's understanding of Eschatology. Focused on the writings of Octavia Butler and elements of Afrofuturism, participants will engage with the question, "how can the church position itself to be a part of a future where all people thrive?"  
Agency/District: Bethany Theological Seminary  
Representative: Lori Current  
Location: Room 263
- 2. Engaging in Domestic Disaster Response to Serve Locally and Nationally**  
Presenter: Jenn Dorsch-Messler  
Focus: Come learn from experienced Brethren Disaster Ministries and Children Disaster Services volunteers and staff who have dedicated their time and gifts to serve families who have experienced disasters. They will share stories and resources from recent deployments and projects that will provide lessons learned as well as provide updates on the two programs and where other volunteers and supporters can connect. From this session, attendees will learn how to engage volunteers, donors and supporters in their congregations and districts to respond to disasters locally through partnerships or nationally with Brethren Disaster Ministries and Children's Disaster Services.  
Agency/District: Church of the Brethren  
Representative: Jenn Dorsch-Messler  
Location: Room 262
- 3. Exploring Racial Righteousness** (.1 CEU)  
Presenter: Josh Brockway  
Focus: Undoing racism is a matter of discipleship. Yes, anti-racism is a matter of justice and it is a matter of right relationship with others and with God. In this session we will explore the complexities of racism through the lens of discipleship, first beginning with our own internal work of uncovering our biases and then by interrogating how these biases play out in our relationships with others. Participants will receive a basic introduction to implicit bias as well as resources to understand the complex nature of racism in contemporary understanding.  
Agency/District: Church of the Brethren  
Representative: Josh Brockway  
Location: Room 251



## Thursday, July 6 (continued)

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8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.    **Equipping Sessions**

### 4. **Thriving Pastors and Thriving Congregations** (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Jen Jensen

Focus: An increasing number of congregations are being served by ministers in part-time capacities. This structure creates both opportunities and tensions around congregational roles and tasks. Incorporating recent research on resilience in leadership published by the Seattle School of Theology and Psychology, Jen Jensen will offer resources for congregational leaders to use to consider how to build resilience and care for themselves, for their pastors, and one another to create a healthy balance enabling congregations to fully thrive.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren

Representative: Nancy Sollenberger Heishman

Location: Room 250

### 5. **The Crisis in Your Community: Practical Steps from Kingian Nonviolence** (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Matt Guynn, Marie Benner-Rhoades and team of OEP facilitators

Focus: What is the crisis where you are and what might active nonviolent discipleship lead you to do about it? Are you hungry to get involved in dynamic and creative ways in the concerns and conflicts of your community? Join us to explore nonviolence as an active force based in agape love. This session will describe core values and steps for approaching the crisis or conflict in your community from the work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and will offer an invitation to ongoing involvement through On Earth Peace's "1000 Brethren" Kingian Nonviolence Training Project. Session leadership will be provided by a team of On Earth Peace facilitators. *This same session will be repeated on Thursday at 12:30pm.*

Agency/District: On Earth Peace

Representative: Matt Guynn

Location: Room 252

### 6. **Brethren Global Communion**

Presenter: Eric Miller

Focus: Come learn about the Brethren Global Communion which is composed of independent Church of the Brethren bodies around the world. Meet leaders from Churches of the Brethren in Brazil, Haiti, Nigeria, and Uganda. Learn how you and your church can engage with and support our global sisters and brothers.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren

Representative: Eric Miller

Location: Room 203

## Thursday, July 6 (continued)

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8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.    **Equipping Sessions**

### 7. Mindful Decision Making

Presenter: Marissa Witkovsky-Eldred

Focus: When tasked with making a group decision, each person involved will bring unique emotions, beliefs, and judgements to the table. Often, this can lead to long conversations or conflict over which decision is best. Join Brethren Volunteer Service to explore a more productive, focused, and mindful way to solve problems and make decisions within your congregation or organization. We will discuss the 6 Thinking Hats model of decision making to learn how to encourage collaboration and enable constructive thinking.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren

Representative: Marissa Witkovsky-Eldred

Location: Room 260

### 8. How Do Ministers Get Paid?

Presenter: Deb Oskin

Focus: Do W-2s and 1099s confuse you? What's the difference between an employee and an independent contractor—and why does it matter? Finally figure out what your minister's designated housing exclusion is all about! You'll learn how to use that designated housing exclusion, employee pension contributions, and health insurance to lower your minister's taxable income, and the importance of setting up an accountable reimbursement plan for your minister's business expenses. Finally, Deb will share a few tips on how to double check the W-2 to make sure it was prepared correctly. Handouts will be available for download at [OskinTax.com/Presentations](http://OskinTax.com/Presentations)

Agency/District: Eder Financial

Representative: Michelle Kilbourne

Location: Room 202

8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.    **Junior High Activities**

*Parables of Jesus Escape Room.*

Location: Rooms 230/231

8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.    **Senior High Activities**

*Activity centers.*

Location: Room 236

8:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.    **Young Adult Activities**

*Meet the Moderator Elect.*

Location: Room 238

## Friday, July 7

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6:45 a.m. – 7:30 a.m.

**Group Run/Walk** (gather at 6:45 to leave promptly at 7:00)

Location: Gather outside front entrance to Convention Center

## Friday, July 7 (continued)

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- 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.    **Brethren World Mission Breakfast**  
Speaker: Bwambale Sedrack  
*"The Emerging Church of the Brethren in East Africa"*  
The purpose of Brethren World Mission is to help the Church of the Brethren fulfill the Annual Conference mandate to become a world church. The most rapid growth in the international Church of the Brethren is in the Africa Great Lakes region. The 2023 Brethren World Mission Breakfast will focus on church growth in this region including in the countries of Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, DRC, Kenya, and Tanzania. Join us and share in the excitement!  
Location: Room 205
- 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.    **Bethany Theological Seminary Breakfast**  
(by invitation only)  
Location: Room 206
- 8:15 a.m. – 11:45 p.m.    **Early Childhood Services**  
*Godly play, sing and learn.*  
Location: Room 234/235
- 8:15 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.    **K – 2nd Grades Children's Activities**  
*Field trip to Highfield Discovery Gardens at Glenwood Gardens.*  
Location: Room 233
- 8:15 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.    **3rd – 5th Grades Children's Activities**  
*Visit to Cincinnati Children's Museum, Bible study activities, service project.*  
Location: Room 232
- 8:30 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.    **Junior High Activities**  
*Visit to National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Smale Park, Youth and Young Adult Ministry speaker.*  
Location: Rooms 230/231
- 8:30 a.m. – 4:45 p.m.    **Senior High Activities**  
*Coney Island Sunlite Water Adventures, Smale Park.*  
Location: Room 236
- 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.    **Business Session**  
Location: Hall A
- 11:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.    **Young Adult Activities**  
*Contemporary Arts Center and lunch.*  
Location: Room 238
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.    **Intercultural Leaders Luncheon**  
Join us for a time of sharing and encouragement across cultures. We invite leaders from across cultural contexts and ministries who share a passion in seeing the Church of the Brethren reflect the heavenly vision of all nations and all peoples gathered around the throne of God (Rev 7:9).  
Location: Room 208

## Friday, July 7 (continued)

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- 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Bridgewater College Luncheon**  
Speaker: Tyler Bradley  
"State of the College"  
Join Bridgewater College leadership for an update on the State of the College.  
Location: Room 205
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Elizabethtown College Luncheon**  
Speakers: Micah Bidgood Enders and Mark Clapper  
"One Student's Elizabethtown College Educational Experience Through Words and Music"  
Featuring insightful stories and memorable melodies, you are invited to enjoy this special luncheon celebration of one student's Elizabethtown College educational experience!  
Hosted by the College's Executive Director of Legacy Planning and Engagement Mark Clapper '96 and featuring the words and music of current Etown student Micah Bidgood Enders '25, this event promises to be a captivating component of Conference!  
Location: Room 207
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Juniata College Luncheon**  
Speakers: Jim Watt and David Meadows  
"Juniata Reflections"  
Enjoy the opportunity to visit with others who have a connection to or interest in the College. Together, we will share in fellowship and storytelling about the Juniata experience. Vice President Jim Watt and David Meadows, Exec. Director of Career Development & Alumni Engagement, will bring greetings and updates from campus. All are welcome. We hope you'll join us!  
Location: Room 200
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Manchester University Luncheon**  
Speaker: Megan Sarber  
"Manchester University Updates"  
Join Director of Alumni Relations, Megan Sarber '07, and other university representatives for an update on campus happenings. Enjoy networking and sharing memories of our beloved Manchester.  
Location: Room 204
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **McPherson College Luncheon**  
Speaker: Erik Vogel  
"Celebrating Success at McPherson College"  
McPherson College is experiencing unprecedented growth and opportunity this year. With the expectation of receiving a matching gift of \$500 Million toward endowments, MC intends to grow campus spaces and programs in the next years that will continue its student-centered focus and draw from its three pillars of Scholarship, Participation, and Service. Join the MC Luncheon to connect with fellow Bulldogs, enjoy fellowship together, and learn about the new opportunities available on campus through this extraordinary financial support.  
Location: Room 206

## Friday, July 7 (continued)

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### 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **University of La Verne Luncheon**

Speaker: Eric Bishop

“Update on University of La Verne”

ULV is on an exciting trajectory with a new president coming on board, a new College of Community Health and Well-Being and other developments happening across campus. Please join us for a Lunch n’ Learn to hear all about it!

Location: Room 201

### 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Mismatched: A Mixed Orientation Couple Shares Their Story**

Presenters: Nancy Sollenberger Heishman and Irvin Heishman

A mixed orientation couple (he’s gay; she’s straight) shares their story of life and love amid the church’s failure to give “strong support” to such couples as recommended in the 1983 Annual Conference statement on Human Sexuality.

Agency/District: Southern Ohio/Kentucky

Location: Room 203

### 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Equipping Sessions**

#### 1. **Standing with People of Color: Advocating for Racial Justice** (.1 CEU)

Presenters: Robert Jackson, Christy Schaub, Bruce Rosenberger and Josh Brockway

Focus: Attend this session to consider how five core terms about racism and discipleship apply to your own ministry setting, to hear stories from racial justice advocates in the church, and to connect with others who support the work of racial justice in congregations and districts. This session is part of the work of the Standing with People of Color Study/Action Process established by the 2022 Annual Conference which intends to help the church begin to express solidarity with all people of color, to offer sanctuary from all forms of violence, to identify and dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions, to live out those findings by being Jesus in the neighborhood.

Agency/District: Annual Conference

Representative: Matt Guynn

Location: Room 252

#### 2. **Why Peacemakers Have to Start with Violence** (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Margaret Elwell

Focus: Why does peacemaking need to begin with facing violence? In this equipping session, learn how to use storytelling to engage violence’s tragic choices and moral quandaries. Resources will be shared for weaving stories to create robust concepts and visceral understandings of violence as a necessary step in peacemaking.

Agency/District: Bethany Theological Seminary

Representative: Margaret Elwell

Location: Room 251

12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Equipping Sessions**

**3. Ministry with Those in Prison, and with Victims of Crimes** (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Rachel Gross and SueZann Bosler

Focus: Jesus offers the Good Samaritan, who provided aid to a crime victim, as an example for us of what it means to love our neighbor. And in his description of the final judgement (Matt. 25:31-46) it is the ones who visited persons in prison who were commended and blessed. If you feel drawn to either of these forms of ministry, this session will provide practical help. SueZann Bosler, whose father, Bill Bosler, was pastor of the Miami First Church of the Brethren when he was murdered in the church parsonage, will talk about how to reach out to crime victims and their families. Rachel Gross, who has matched over 10,000 outside correspondents with persons on death row, and who has also visited women in her local county jail, will talk about ministry to those in prison.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren

Representative: Bob Gross

Location: Room 260

**4. Stories from the Wissahickon: Baptisms and a 300th Anniversary** (.1 CEU)

Presenters: Bill Kostlevy and Shawn Flory Replogle

Focus: This year is the 300th Anniversary of the first Brethren baptisms in North America, on Christmas Day, 1723, in the Wissahickon Creek near Germantown, Pennsylvania. The Germantown Church of the Brethren has a full calendar of events planned during this year leading up to a special Christmas Day remembrance. Church historian and former director of the Brethren Historical Library and Archives, Bill Kostlevy, will present the history of those first baptisms, the “mother church”, the Brethren-related historical figures buried in the Germantown cemetery, and why this matters to Church of the Brethren congregations and individuals today. There is a rich story for congregations and individuals to connect to. Germantown’s historical treasures are our stories, and have something to say about the future of the Church of the Brethren. Kostlevy will be joined by Shawn Flory Replogle, executive director of Organizational Resources, who will introduce the denomination’s connection to the historical site through the Germantown Trust and share more details about the local congregation’s planning and calendar of events to celebrate this special 300th anniversary.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren

Representative: Jen Houser

Location: Room 262

## Friday, July 7 (continued)

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12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Equipping Sessions**

### 5. Centennial Celebration! 100 Years of Church of the Brethren in Nigeria

Presenters: Joel Billi and Roy Winter

Focus: Celebrate with and learn from leadership of Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) as part of their Centennial Celebrations. Learn about the Nigerian church, how they are overcoming violence and persecution to grow the church while promoting peace. Updates will be shared on the state of the church and the Nigeria Crisis Response. Learn about ways to support church building and the crisis response in Nigeria.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren

Representative: Roy Winter

Location: Room 263

### 6. She Shekels

Presenters: Panel

Focus: Several women from Eder Financial share their financial insights and wisdom about articulating their dreams, financing their futures, and making a difference in the world around them.

Agency/District: Eder Financial

Representative: Michelle Kilbourne

Location: Room 202

### 7. Compelled into New Ways: Are We New Wine or Old Wineskins?

Presenter: Bobbi Dykema

Focus: Powerful terms like radical transformation, innovative, adaptable, and fearless, found in the Compelling Vision, call our denomination into a renewed life in Christ *but* conflict with Robert's Rules of Order, and queries of recent decades intended to define acceptable and unacceptable practices. Church of the Brethren leaders of all levels – denominational, district, congregational – function within this tension as they are expected to live into the Compelling Vision while simultaneously being monitored for compliance with rules and policies. What is the personal cost to such leaders? Join a time of discussion and examples of how this tension hampers effective leadership, exploring new ways to support leaders.

Agency/District: On Earth Peace

Representative: Bobbi Dykema

Location: Room 250

1:45 p.m. – 4:45 p.m. **Early Childhood Services**

*Godly play, sing and learn.*

Location: Room 234/235

## Friday, July 7 (continued)

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- 1:45 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. **Wolf Holocaust & Humanity Center Tour**  
Advanced purchase tickets required  
Location: Convention Center Entrance by Murals
- 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. **Business Session**  
Location: Hall A
- 4:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. **Choir Rehearsal**  
Location: Hall A Stage
- 4:45 p.m. **Association for the Arts (AACB) Quilt Auction**  
Auction of quilts to benefit the Nigeria Crisis Fund  
Location: Stage in Exhibit Hall B
- 4:45 pm – 5:45 pm **Moderator’s Reception for Parents or Families with LGBTQ+ Members**  
Location: Room 201
- 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. **Mission and Ministry Board Dinner and Meeting**  
(by invitation only)  
Location: Room 207
- 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. **Global Mission Dinner**  
Speaker: Joel Billi  
“Celebrating 100 years in Nigeria”  
Join our celebration of 100 years of the EYN and Church of the Brethren Mission in Nigeria. Begun in 1923, the EYN is now an independent church and the largest Church of the Brethren body in the world. Hear from guests about the Centennial celebrations held earlier this year in Nigeria and about the history and state of the church in Nigeria. The story of growth and faithfulness in the face of adversity is an inspiration.  
Location: Room 206
- 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. **Early Childhood Services**  
*Godly play, sing and learn.*  
Location: Room 234/235
- 6:45 p.m. – 8:15 p.m. **Evening Worship**  
*Seeing and Loving Like God*  
Preacher: Jody Romero  
Location: Hall A
- 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. **Equipping Sessions**
- 1. Global Mission: Faithfully Brethren**  
Presenter: Marcus Inhauser  
Focus: The Church of the Brethren in Brazil holds fast to Brethren faith and practice in a country where many religious leaders have been swept up in nationalism and politics. Come hear from one of the most passionately Brethren church leaders of our time talk about the value of Brethren witness to the world.  
Agency/District: Church of the Brethren  
Representative: Eric Miller  
Location: Room 251



## Friday, July 7 (continued)

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8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.    **Equipping Sessions**

### 2. Effectively Board (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Nevin Dulabaum

Focus: Is your church board doing what it should be doing? Are the meetings of your church board effective? This session will talk about the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of church boards. Attendees will leave with a handout offering ideas related to board functionality that they can take back to their congregation.

Agency/District: Eder Financial

Representative: Michelle Kilbourne

Location: Room 202

### 3. Learnings from Community Peacemaker Teams' Journey to Dismantle Institutional Racism and Oppression

Presenter: Julie Brown

Focus: Community Peacemaker Teams (CPT) builds partnerships to transform violence and oppression, placing teams at the invitation of local peacemaking communities that are confronting situations of lethal conflict. CPT has been working to understand and shift internal patterns of racism and oppression since 2009 when they commissioned Mennonite Central Committee to do an anti-racism audit of the organization. In this session, members of CPT from different areas of work will share their experiences and concrete examples of the challenges of becoming an anti-racist, anti-oppression organization. (This is offered as a virtual-only session.)

Agency/District: On Earth Peace

Representative: Julie Brown

Location: Zoom only

### 4. Global Mission: South Sudan and Uganda

Presenters: Athanasus Ungang and Bwambale Sedrack

Focus: Come learn about how you and your church can be inspired by and support the work of the church in South Sudan and Uganda. Athanasus Ungang Country Director for South Sudan and Bwambale Sedrack, President of the Church of the Brethren in Uganda will share their inspiring experience of work sharing the Gospel and being Jesus in the neighborhood, including church-planting, agriculture, peace and reconciliation, and outreach to an orphanage. You will be blessed by their stories of faith and growth!

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren

Representative: Eric Miller

Location: Room 252

8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.    **Equipping Sessions**

**5. Making a Difference in the City: Reflections on An Urban Ministry Experience** (.1 CEU)

Presenters: Daniel Poole and Joshua Brockway

Focus: This equipping session will focus on the variety of ministry and social agency approaches to the myriad of social needs present for people who are economically and otherwise marginalized residents of the city. This presentation will draw upon the experiences gained while leading a group of Bethany Seminary and Brethren Academy students through an immersion course based in Atlanta. This course, A Place of Refuge: An Immersion Course in the Heart of Atlanta, is a special educational opportunity that represents a partnership between Bethany Theological Seminary, the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership, and the Church of the Brethren. The course involves an exploration of the collective impact that results when the three main sectors – non-profit, public, and government – advocate for the voiceless through collaborative efforts.

Agency/District: Bethany Theological Seminary, The Brethren Academy, and the Church of the Brethren

Representative: Daniel Poole

Location: Room 203

**6. Demystifying Clergy Taxes** (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Deb Oskin

Focus: Clergy taxes are completely different from any other kind of taxes! Come learn which taxes are paid on which types of clergy income, and how to calculate and pay those taxes. In addition, learn how to use housing exclusion, pension contributions, unreimbursed business expenses, and health insurance to lower taxable income and reduce those taxes. Handouts will be available for download at [OskinTax.com/Presentations](http://OskinTax.com/Presentations)

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren

Representative: Nancy Sollenberger Heishman

Location: Room 263

**7. What is the Role of Camp for all Ages & Stages? What Challenges, Joys & Experiences Does Camp Provide?**

Presenter: Garry Pearson

Focus: What are the local, regional and state opportunities for camps and campers? Finding staff, volunteers, resource leaders, and directors is an ever-increasing challenge. How do new government regulations affect your camp? How can camp facilities be upgraded or replaced over time?

Agency/District: Outdoor Ministries Association

Representative: Garry Pearson

Location: Room 260

## Friday, July 7 (continued)

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- 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.    **Junior High Activities**  
*Glow party.*  
Location: Rooms 230/231
- 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.    **Senior High Activities**  
*Activity centers tournament finals.*  
Location: Room 236
- 8:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.    **Young Adult Activities**  
*Game night.*  
Location: Room 238

## Saturday, July 8

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- 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 a.m.    **Annual Conference Coordinators Breakfast**  
(by invitation only)  
Location: Room 207
- 8:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.    **Early Childhood Services**  
*Godly play, sing and learn.*  
Location: Room 234/235
- 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.    **Closing Worship**  
*Loving the Least in the Family of God*  
Preacher: Audri Svay  
Consecration of the Moderator  
Location: Hall A

## Church of the Brethren Annual Conference

1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120

Phone: 847-742-5100 or 800-323-8039, ext. 364 or 366

Email: [annualconference@brethren.org](mailto:annualconference@brethren.org)

Website: [www.brethren.org/ac](http://www.brethren.org/ac)

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### The Mission of Annual Conference:

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

## Future Conference Locations

2024 – Grand Rapids, Michigan – July 3-7 (*Wed to Sun*)

2025 – Greensboro, North Carolina – July 2-6 (*Wed to Sun*)