

# Pre-Conference Schedule

All Annual Conference events will take place in the DeVos Place Convention Center and the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel.

## Sunday, June 30

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- 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.    **Standing Committee Dinner**  
Location: Amway Gerald Ford Ballroom
- 6:15 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.    **Standing Committee Meeting**  
Location: Amway Pantlind Ballroom

## Monday, July 1

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- 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.    **Standing Committee Meeting**  
Location: Amway Pantlind Ballroom
- 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.    **Council of District Executives Meeting**  
Location: Amway Grandview A

## Tuesday, July 2

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- 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.    **Standing Committee Meeting**  
Location: Amway Pantlind Ballroom
- 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.    **Council of District Executives Meeting**  
Location: Amway Grandview A
- 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.    **Annual Conference Coordinators Meeting**  
Location: DeVos Grand Gallery A
- 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.    **Mission and Ministry Board Executive Committee Meeting (closed session)**  
Location: Amway Imperial Ballroom
- 3:00 p.m.    **Annual Conference Onsite Registration Opens**  
Location: DeVos Grand Gallery Concourse
- 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.    **“Meet and Greet” Ministerial Connections Dinner (by Invitation Only)**  
Location: Amway Ambassador Ballroom West
- 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.    **Council of District Executives Dinner (by Invitation Only)**  
Location: Amway Gerald Ford Ballroom
- 5:45 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.    **Brethren Ministers’ Association Supervised Childcare**  
Location: Amway Governor’s Room

## Tuesday, July 2 (continued)

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- 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. **Brethren Ministers' Association Pre-Conference Event**  
*"Listening for the Sound of the Genuine" in Preaching*  
Keynote: Frank A. Thomas  
Dr. Thomas will lead us in exploring Howard Thurman's call to "listen for the sound of the genuine" in our preaching. The workshop is based on his books *The Choice: Living Your Passion Inside Out* and *Preaching as Celebration* Digital Lecture Series (based on his first book *They Like to Never Quit Praisin' God.*) This is an in-person and hybrid event.  
Registration required  
Location: Amway Ambassador Ballroom East

## Wednesday, July 3

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- 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **Standing Committee Meeting**  
Location: Amway Pantlind Ballroom
- 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. **Council of District Executives Meeting**  
Location: Amway Grandview A
- 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. **Mission and Ministry Board Meeting**  
Location: Amway Imperial Ballroom
- 8:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Brethren Ministers' Association Supervised Childcare**  
Location: Amway Governor's Room
- 9:00 a.m. – 11:45 p.m. **Brethren Ministers' Association Pre-Conference Event**  
Dr. Thomas will explore one of his own sermons for the the "sound of the genuine" as a model. Participants will reflect on what is genuine in their own preaching. This is an in-person and hybrid event.  
Registration required  
Location: Amway Ambassador Ballroom East
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Brethren Ministers' Association Luncheon** (by invitation only)  
Location: Amway Ambassador Ballroom West
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Mission and Ministry Board and Admin Team Luncheon** (by invitation only)  
Location: Amway Gerald Ford Ballroom
- 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. **Nominating Committee Luncheon** (by invitation only)  
Location: Amway Riverview
- 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: DeVos Place Exhibit Hall C
- 12:00 p.m. **Silent Auction Opens**  
*Bidding closes at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday*  
Location: DeVos Place Exhibit Hall C

## Wednesday, July 3 (continued)

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- 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.    **Brethren Ministers' Association Supervised Childcare**  
Location: Amway Governor's Room
- 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.    **Brethren Ministers' Association Pre-Conference Event**  
Dr. Thomas will share his reflections and help participants develop a plan to insure that the genuine is reflected in their own preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is an in-person and hybrid event.  
Registration required  
Location: Amway Ambassador Ballroom East
- 2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.    **Moderator Meeting with Global Guests (by Invitation Only)**  
Location: Amway Kendall
- 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.    **Global Mission Country Advisory Team (CAT) Meeting**  
Location: Amway Kendall
- 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.    **Fellowship of Brethren Genealogists Annual Business Meeting: Reports and Elections**  
Presenter: Anitra Krauss  
*Genealogical History Restored in an Abandoned Graveyard*  
The first Church of the Brethren Cemetery in Indiana had been neglected and fallen into disrepair. In trying to restore the graveyard, many Genealogical facts were uncovered and history was preserved. Come find out what was discovered and why these efforts are important.  
Location: Amway Pullman
- 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: Amway Vandenberg A & B
- 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.    **Table Facilitators Training**  
Location: DeVos Grand Gallery A
- 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.    **Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership Directed Independent Study Unit**  
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: Amway Lion
- 4:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.    **Choir Rehearsal**  
Location: DeVos Steelcase Ballroom Stage
- 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.    **Faith Forward Donor Circle Dinner (by invitation only)**  
Location: Amway Ambassador Ballroom West

# 2024 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference Schedule

## Wednesday Evening, July 3

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- 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. **Early Childhood Activities**  
Location: DeVos River Overlook E & F
- 6:45 p.m. – 8:15 p.m. **Gathering and Opening Worship**  
*Fully Known, Deeply Loved, Inherently Welcome and Worthy*  
Preacher: Madalyn Metzger  
Location: DeVos Steelcase Ballroom
- 8:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. **Delegate Packet Preparation**  
Location: Back of DeVos Exhibit Hall C
- 8:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. **Game Night and Ice Cream Social**  
Location: DeVos Exhibit Hall C
- 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. **Junior High Activities**  
Location: DeVos Grand Gallery Overlook C & D
- 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. **Senior High Activities**  
Location: DeVos Grand Gallery Overlook E & F
- 8:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. **Young Adult Activities**  
Location: DeVos Grand Gallery Overlook G

## Thursday, July 4

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- 7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. **Clergywomen's Breakfast**  
Speakers: Britnee Linton, Jennifer K. Scarr,  
Audrey Hollenberg-Duffey  
*"Holy Ramblers: How 3 Pastors navigate the struggles and  
joys of being women in ministry"*  
Being a woman in ministry can have its downsides, but the  
good news is it has some pretty cool stuff too. Audrey  
Hollenberg-Duffey, Britnee Linton, and Jennifer K. Scarr  
became fast friends studying together at Bethany Theological  
Seminary. When graduation rolled around, they decided to  
keep meeting together once a month. Come and hear how  
10 years of monthly Skype calls helped these three women  
survive and thrive.  
Location: Amway Ambassador Ballroom East
- 7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. **New Church Recognition Breakfast** (by invitation only)  
Location: Amway Governor's Room
- 7:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. **Annual Conference Blood Drive**  
Location: DeVos Grand Gallery B
- 8:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. **Early Childhood Activities**  
Location: DeVos River Overlook E & F

## Thursday, July 4 (continued)

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- 8:15 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.    **K – 2nd Grades Children’s Activities**  
Location: DeVos River Overlook C & D
- 8:15 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.    **3rd – 5th Grades Children’s Activities**  
Location: DeVos River Overlook A & B
- 8:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.    **Junior High Activities**  
Location: DeVos Grand Gallery Overlook C & D
- 8:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.    **Senior High Activities**  
Location: DeVos Grand Gallery Overlook E & F
- 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.    **Business Session**  
**Location: DeVos Steelcase Ballroom**
- 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.    **Brethren Volunteer Service Luncheon**  
Speaker: Chelsea Goss Skillen  
*“The Times They Are a-Changin’”*  
In the 1960s, when hundreds of BVS volunteers were sharing their lives as a message of peace, the song “The Times They Are a-Changin’” reflected the counter-cultural values of BVS. While this message of peace and service remains a focus for BVS, the times...they really are changing! Join us in fellowship as BVS director Chelsea Goss Skillen speaks about the innovative ways that BVS staff are adapting to the changing times, while still staying true to the BVS ministry that we all love.  
Location: Amway Ambassador Ballroom East
- 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.    **Almuerzo de líderes Hermanos de habla hispana/Spanish Speaking Brethren Leaders Luncheon**  
Palabras de apertura del Secretario General, David Steele; La Moderadora de la Conferencia Anual de 2024, Madalyn Metzger; El Director Ejecutivo de la Formación de Discipulado y Liderazgo, Nate Polzin. Terminaremos con una sesión de preguntas y respuestas dirigida por la Directora de Ministerios Interculturales, Founa Augustin Badet. La Banda, “Bittersweet Gospel”, brindará música a abrir y cerrar nuestra reunión. Opening remarks by General Secretary David Steele; 2024 Annual Conference Moderator, Madalyn Metzger; Discipleship & Leadership Formation Executive Director Nate Polzin. We will finish with a Question and Answer session led by Director of Intercultural Ministries, Founa Augustin Badet. The Bittersweet Gospel Band will provide gospel music to open and close our gathering.  
Sala de Reunión/Location: Amway Vandenberg A
- 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.    **Global Mission Networking**  
Open to all, this time of conversation is an opportunity to meet with international guests and others with interest and connections to global mission. Conversations will be organized by region (Latin America, Africa, etc.) and/or country (India, etc.) Light refreshments will be served.  
Agency/District: Church of the Brethren  
Location: Amway Kendall

## Thursday, July 4 (continued)

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12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. **Leading Spiritual Care in a Post-Pandemic World: The Calling of Chaplains**  
Presenter: Becky Baile Crouse  
Today's Spiritual Care Department faces an increasingly weary workforce and complex patient dynamics. Supporting physicians and nurses reeling from compassion fatigue alongside diverse patients and families with layers of grief, trauma and inequities requires highly trained chaplains. Today's chaplains need to be adept at intervening as allies to combat systemic racism and provide resources for renewal. Bridging the divide between religious and cultural views and finding common ground for all are vital for respect and inclusion. Many chaplains themselves experienced tremendous change and challenge throughout the pandemic. What will the new normal be as we move into these uncharted waters in healthcare? What are our strategies and creative ideas to continue to mentor, hire, and train chaplains for this calling? Join us to reflect on the ministry of chaplaincy in 2024.  
Location: Amway Nelson

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

**1. The Brethren Experiment: the next 300 years at Germantown Church of the Brethren**

Presenter: Richard Kyermaten

Focus: On December 25, 1723, the earliest members of the Schwarzenau Brethren movement held the first Brethren adult baptisms in North America. The Germantown Church of the Brethren spent 2023 celebrating this monumental anniversary that signifies the beginning of this historic congregation. But what's next for the "mother church"? What might that say about what is next for the denomination? A panel of Germantown Church of the Brethren members and friends will explore the future at the "mother church", including urban ministry, intercultural ministry, as well as being the keepers of a rich Schwarzenau Brethren history.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren

Representative: Shawn Flory Replogle

Location: Amway Berkey

**2. Update on Church of the Brethren in South Sudan: Hope and Hopelessness in the Newest Nation**

Presenters: Roger Schrock, Fletcher Farrar and Gordon Hoffert

Focus: The Church of the Brethren has had work in "New" Sudan for 40-plus years. We all need to know the situation so we will know how to pray for our sisters and brothers there.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren

Representative: Gordon Hoffert

Location: Amway Pullman

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

**3. Love God with All Your Mind** (.1 CEU)

Presenters: Alvis Prettker, Audri Svay, Caleb Kragt  
Focus: We're often eager to be the "hands and feet" of Jesus, or to practice our faith with "both heart and hands". What does it mean to love God with all our mind? Panelists Alvis Prettker, Audri Svay, and Caleb Kragt will address that topic from several angles: how we as pastors or church leaders cultivate the life of the mind in our congregations with Christian education and otherwise; how we as individuals practice love of God with our minds engaged through academic study, reading or writing literature in a variety of forms, prayer and meditation, and beyond; and how our witness as followers of Christ to our broader society is affected by tending to the life of our minds as Christians (or the neglect thereof).

Agency/District: Bethany Theological Seminary and Brethren Journal Association  
Representative: Lori Current  
Location: Amway Thornapple

**4. Intergenerational Connections Through Service**

Presenters: Jenn Dorsch-Messler and Carolyn Neher  
Focus: Join Brethren Disaster Ministries staff in exploring why intergenerational service is important and vital to your church community and each individual no matter their age. Participants will explore types of opportunities for intergenerational service and how connections can be made with those being served and among the group that is serving. The session will conclude with a small service project to be completed by participants of all ages while getting to know each other.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren  
Representative: Jenn Dorsch-Messler  
Location: Amway Winchester

**5. 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: Amway Heritage Hill

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

**6. Beyond the Pride Banner: Embracing Expansive Language for God** (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Liz Ullery Swenson

Focus: "There's a huge difference between "all are welcome" and "this was created with you in mind." – Dr. Crystal Jones  
It is a great achievement for a congregation to engage in the discernment and theological work to become an open and affirming congregation, one that welcomes the full participation of LGBTQIA+ people in the life of the church. Joining the Supportive Communities Network (SCN) is a meaningful act of public witness. But once the statement is crafted and the banner has been hung, what's next? The language we use in worship, the theology we preach, the lyrics in the songs we sing, and the words we use to pray matter. Liz Ullery Swenson and SCN leaders will help us explore ways to take the next step in embodying God's expansive diversity.

Agency/District: On Earth Peace and Supportive Communities Network

Representative: Annabeth Roeschley

Location: Amway Grand View B/C

**7. Building Bridges in a Fractured World** (.1 CEU)

Presenters: Audrey Hollenberg-Duffey and Janet Ober-Lambert

Focus: We all know intuitively that something has fractured in our world. Having authentic conversations and deep relationships with others has become increasingly difficult. Whether caused by political polarization, time apart during the pandemic, the move toward online communication, or other dividing forces, the separation we are experiencing is a threat to the work and mission of the church. In this equipping session, we will explore some of Audrey Hollenberg-Duffey's Doctor of Ministry work and the ongoing work of the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership, in partnership with Bethany Theological Seminary's "Building Bridges" initiative, to help ministers know how to provide leadership during such fractured times. We will explore some of the reasons for our fractured world, why it is so concerning in the church, and how we might work to build bridges in our own congregations.

Agency/District: Bethany Theological Seminary

Representative: Lori Current

Location: Amway Haldane

**8. Bible Study** (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Jan Orndorff

Focus: Matthew 5:1-16 (CEB), Revelation 7:9-10

Agency/District: Program and Arrangements Committee

Representative: Rhonda Pittman Gingrich

Location: Amway Grand View A



## Thursday, July 4 (continued)

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- 1:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.     **Early Childhood Activities**  
Location: DeVos River Overlook E & F
- 2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.     **Business Session**  
**Location: DeVos Steelcase Ballroom**
- 4:30 p.m.                     **Cupcakes with Carter**  
Join Bethany President Jeff Carter at the coffeehouse stage area for a Q&A session to learn about updates around campus and enjoy a cupcake to celebrate Bethany's 30th anniversary in Richmond, Indiana.  
Location: DeVos Place Exhibit Hall C - Coffeehouse Stage
- 4:45 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.     **Northern Ohio District Gathering**  
Location: Amway Heritage Hill
- 4:45 p.m. - 5:45 p.m.     **Choir Rehearsal**  
Location: DeVos Steelcase Ballroom Stage
- 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.     **Discipleship and Leadership Formation Dinner**  
Speaker: Lorenzo Watson  
*"(W)holistically Engaged- The Church in the Community"*  
Jesus' restoring work is happening all around us. Lorenzo Watson, executive director of the Christian Community Development Association, will introduce us to vision and principals of church-based community development. Discipleship and Leadership Formation will connect congregational leaders to CCDA resources through our denominational membership.  
Location: Amway Ambassador Ballroom East
- 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.     **Womaen's Caucus Dinner**  
Speaker: Heidi Ramer  
*"Her Words, My Voice"*  
Heidi Ramer's mother, Karen, was raped for the first time in 1979. She was sexually assaulted at least twelve more times by the same man over the next three years and emotionally tormented by him for the next twenty. After harboring her secret for years, she eventually sought help through counseling and her faith. After Karen's untimely death in 2001, Heidi's father handed her a canvas bag full of handwritten journals. In that bag, Karen left a story that needed to be told. Her Words, My Voice merges the journal entries of a victim of sexual assault with her daughter's journey of self-discovery to share an authentic, inspiring story of survival, hope, faith, and unwavering love. We know there are many others who carry the trauma of sexual abuse; their own stories or the stories of those they know and love. Womaen's Caucus is here to walk with you...to stand with you. We invite you to join us in building a healthy culture in which to heal. We encourage you to read Heidi's book prior to the dinner.  
Location: Amway Ambassador Ballroom West

## Thursday, July 4 (continued)

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6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.    **Early Childhood Activities**  
Location: DeVos River Overlook E & F

6:45 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.    **Evening Worship**  
*Affirmation ... It Can Change the World!*  
Preacher: Greg Broyles  
Location: DeVos Steelcase Ballroom

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

### 1. Agape Love in Action: 1000 Brethren for Kingian

**Nonviolence** (.1 CEU)

Presenters: Rhonda Baker, Clara West McGilly and Matt Guynn

Focus: On Earth Peace is in the process of training 1000 Church of the Brethren people in Kingian Nonviolence Conflict Reconciliation, as a way for us to propel our historic peace commitments into a powerful present and prepare for an unknown future. Kingian Nonviolence is agape love in action, providing a theological and values-rooted discipline for Christians to engage in constructive conflict and to address issues of division, violence, and injustice. This session offers participants a snapshot of key elements of Kingian Nonviolence, grounded in stories from individuals, congregations, and districts that have participated in training in Kingian Nonviolence Conflict Reconciliation. Participants will learn how to move forward in training or leadership development in their congregations or districts.

Agency/District: On Earth Peace

Representative: Matt Guynn

Location: Amway Grand View B/C

### 2. Understanding Your Cultural Bias (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Founa Augustin Badet

Focus: Our focus will be on increasing awareness of the biases we all have when it comes to our own culture and that of others. The function will be to learn about our own blind spots so we can more effectively and lovingly interact with people from outside our own cultural context.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren

Representative: Founa Augustin Badet

Location: Amway Berkey

### 3. Leadership Development for Emerging African Churches

(.1 CEU)

Presenters: Chris Elliott and Expert Bukene

Focus: As the Church of the Brethren expands globally, there is a growing demand for contextual training for pastors and other church leaders, particularly in Africa. How are we (the US church) engaged in this process? What are some of the joys and pitfalls?

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren

Representative: Chris Elliott

Location: Amway Pullman

## Thursday, July 4 (continued)

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

### 4. Bible Study (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Connie Burkholder

Focus: Jeremiah 1:4-10, 2 Samuel 9:1-10a

Agency/District: Program and Arrangements Committee

Representative: Rhonda Pittman Gingrich

Location: Amway Grand View A

### 5. You're Invited to Shine Everywhere!

Presenters: Joan Daggett and Shana Boshart

Focus: In 2023, Shine Curriculum received a five-year grant to help churches, parents, and caregivers share their faith and values with their children. Our project, Shine Everywhere, gives us the opportunity to create a community of families and churches who discover and practice the everywhere habits that grow faith in our children. Join us to learn more about Shine Everywhere and how you and your church can become involved. Take home some practical faith-building activities and practices you can share with your church and family!

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren

Representative: Jeff Lennard

Location: Amway Winchester

### 6. Envisioning Better Politics as Followers of Jesus (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Dan Ulrich

Focus: How might the virtues of Jesus inform the political choices we make as his followers? In this equipping session, we will explore Matthew's answer to that question, focusing on several virtues Jesus prioritizes in his interpretations of scripture. They include humility, integrity, justice, mercy, and love.

Agency/District: Bethany Theological Seminary

Representative: Lori Current

Location: Amway Haldane

### 7. 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](https://OskinTax.com/Presentations)

Agency/District: Eder Financial

Representative: Michelle Kilbourne

Location: Amway Heritage Hill

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

**8. Working Together—Church/Camp Partnerships** (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Gene Hollenberg

Focus: Across the denomination, churches and districts have supported and sustained the camping ministry with their donations of time, money, and experience. But it doesn't have to be a one-way street. Church of the Brethren camps have been responding to the needs of congregations in many areas: leading Vacation Bible School on the church site, providing pulpit supply for congregations, creating activities for communities surrounding the local church, and assisting with leadership training. In this session, Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director at Camp Mack and representatives of the Outdoor Ministries Association of the Church of the Brethren will share a model for beginning, developing, and increasing capacity for church/camp partnerships. With time for brainstorming and leadership support, participants should walk away with ideas of how the ministries of the church AND the camp can grow. This session will be beneficial for both church and district leaders.

Agency/District: Outdoor Ministries Association

Representative: Ben Bear

Location: Amway Thornapple

**9. Part-Time Pastor; Full-Time Church—From Weary to Wholehearted: Addressing Clergy Burnout** (.1 CEU)

Presenters: Callie Swanlund and Richard Wehrle

Focus: Luke 5:15-16 tells us, "Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed." Jesus made rest and renewal a priority in his ministry, and pastors who are currently serving congregations should also take time for practices of rest and renewal. In this session we will discuss the book, *From Weary to Wholehearted: A Restorative Resource for Overcoming Clergy Burnout*, with author Callie Swanlund. This session will equip pastors and lay leaders with practices that will sustain pastors as they lead in their ministry settings. The Rev. Callie Swanlund is a retreat leader, spiritual companion/ministry coach, and writer who helps others know their belovedness and find their Spark. She leads individuals and groups in the work of Dr. Brené Brown as a Certified Daring Way Facilitator. Her film, *How2charist: Digital Instructed Eucharist*, has reached Christians and curious individuals around the world. She lives with her partner and two children in Philadelphia.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren

Representative: Richard Wehrle

Location: Amway Nelson

## Thursday, July 4 (continued)

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- 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.    **Junior High Activities**  
Location: DeVos Grand Gallery Overlook C & D
- 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.    **Senior High Activities**  
Location: DeVos Grand Gallery Overlook E & F
- 8:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.    **Young Adult Activities**  
Location: DeVos Grand Gallery Overlook G

## Friday, July 5

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- 7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.    **Brethren Disaster Ministries and Children’s Disaster Services Volunteer/Supporter Breakfast**  
Speaker: Roy Winter  
“This breakfast is open to all current and past BDM & CDS volunteers and supporters, and those interested in becoming volunteers. Attendees must register with Brethren Disaster Ministries to participate in this free meal. Pre-registration by June 10, 2024 is necessary to reserve a seat by contacting the BDM/CDS offices (800-451-4407; bdm@brethren.org; cds@brethren.org). During the conference a limited number of spaces may be available for those who have not pre-registered, although this is not guaranteed. Please make a BDM or CDS staff member aware of your interest.  
Location: Amway Ambassador Ballroom East
- 7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.    **Outdoor Ministries Association Breakfast**  
Speaker: Barbara Wise Lewczak  
“*Celebrating 100 Years of Outdoor Ministries*”  
We will be remembering the simple beginnings of our camps and marveling at how far we’ve come. There will be a special focus on the stories of Camp Harmony and Camp La Verne as they celebrate their centennials this year!  
Location: Amway Vandenberg A
- 8:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.    **Early Childhood Activities**  
Location: DeVos River Overlook E & F
- 8:15 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.    **K – 2nd Grades Children’s Activities**  
Location: DeVos River Overlook C & D
- 8:15 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.    **3rd – 5th Grades Children’s Activities**  
Location: DeVos River Overlook A & B
- 8:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.    **Junior High Activities**  
Location: DeVos Grand Gallery Overlook C & D
- 8:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.    **Senior High Activities**  
Location: DeVos Grand Gallery Overlook E & F
- 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.    **Business Session**  
**Location: DeVos Steelcase Ballroom**
- 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.    **Annual Conference Blood Drive**  
Location: DeVos Grand Gallery B

## Friday, July 5 (continued)

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- 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. **Bethany Theological Seminary Luncheon**  
Speaker: Jeff Carter and panel  
*"Bethany's BOLD Future"*  
Join President Jeff Carter and guests for an exploration of Bethany Theological Seminary's next chapter. This is an opportunity to learn about the Seminary's commitments and future plans in three key areas: Strengthening the connection to Brethren heritage and witness, increasing generosity in student financial aid, and empowering all students to think globally and act locally to address issues of community concern. Enjoy a delicious lunch and find out what all Annual Conference attendees can do to help Bethany and the Church flourish.  
Location: Amway Ambassador Ballroom East
- 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 Rosa Parks Circle. For more information, please contact Joanna Willoughby at [joanna.wave.willoughby@gmail.com](mailto:joanna.wave.willoughby@gmail.com)
- 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. **Equipping Sessions**
- 1. Estudio Bíblico presentado en español/Bible Study**  
**Presented in Spanish** (.1 CEU)  
Presentante/Presenter: Becky Zapata  
El Foco/Focus: Juan 15:9-13, 2 Crónicas 30:18-21  
Agencia/Agency: Program and Arrangements Committee  
Representante/Representative: Rhonda Pittman Gingrich  
Sala de Reunión/Location: Amway Grand View A
  - 2. Lift Our Brethren Voices to End Gun Violence: Practical Ideas for You and Your Congregation** (.1 CEU)  
Presenters: Mandy Park, Rhonda Baker, Gerald Rhoades and Sandi Evans Rogers  
Focus: Are you concerned about the escalating issue of gun violence in our country? Do you long to make a meaningful difference and want to connect with other Brethren in addressing this challenge? Join like-hearted others to learn more. This equipping session will provide you with:
    - 1) connections with others who are interested in taking action,
    - 2) ideas to encourage action and continue action already started in both small groups and in your congregation as a whole (suggested resources will be provided),
    - 3) an understanding of how Kingian Nonviolence can lay the foundation for the work,
    - 4) ways to continue connecting and sharing ideas.Agency/District: On Earth Peace  
Representative: Mandy Park  
Location: Amway Winchester

## Friday, July 5 (continued)

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

### 3. **The Joy of Their Giving**

Presenter: Dan Radcliff

Focus: This is to help your board members more effectively and consistently connect your donors to your mission and ministries. Learn about practical fundraising processes, recommended documentation, and planned giving insights.

Agency/District: Eder Financial

Representative: Michelle Kilbourne

Location: Amway Pullman

### 4. **Standing With People of Color: Becoming the Beloved Community** (.1 CEU)

Presenters: Panel

Focus: Come join us as several Persons of Color share their personal experiences of life in the Church of the Brethren. The conversation that follows will help participants become equipped to be allies with those who are marginalized as we seek to be the Beloved Community - Peacefully, Simply, Together. Come ready to deeply listen and consider how you may be led to respond.

Agency/District: Annual Conference

Representative: Bruce Rosenberger

Location: Amway Haldane

### 5. **The Church of the Brethren in India**

Presenters: Cornelius Solomon, Solanky Ashokkumar Maganlal, and Bhagat Sanjaykumar Dhirajlal

Focus: Come learn about the oldest Church of the Brethren outside of the United States, the Church of the Brethren in India and learn how your congregation can connect to the Indian Church. Representatives from the Church of the Brethren in India will lead the discussion.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren

Representative: Eric Miller

Location: Amway Thornapple

### 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: Amway Nelson

## Friday, July 5 (continued)

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

**7. For My Neighbor's Good: A Brethren Curriculum for Relational Evangelism** (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Nate Polzin

Focus: The focus will be on learning how to invite others into a relationship with Jesus without memorizing a script or having a set of leading questions. Instead, we will learn how to tell our own faith story, relate to people where they are and prepare our congregations to welcome guests. The function is to more effectively follow Jesus into the neighborhood and make disciples there.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren

Representative: Nate Polzin

Location: Amway Berkey

**8. Serving Well: A Conversation with BVS & FaithX**

Presenters: Chelsea Skillen, Marissa Witkovsky-Eldred, Virginia Rendler

Focus: Many Church of the Brethren members and congregations share a deep commitment to service, but are we serving well? Discover the art of serving well – an approach that helps us not only be more effective, but also truly engaged and respectful in our interactions with organizations and individuals. Join the Brethren Volunteer Service staff to learn tools for serving well and see how you (or your congregation) can get involved with service ministry. We'll go beyond theory by giving you the chance to chat with FaithX and BVS volunteers about their experiences, and what they've learned about community connection, servant leadership, and serving well.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren

Representative: Virginia Rendler

Location: Amway Heritage Hill

1:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. **Early Childhood Activities**

Location: DeVos River Overlook E & F

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

Location: DeVos Steelcase Ballroom

4:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m. **Death Row Support Project Celebration**

Join us for a reception celebrating the work of the Death Row Support Project, and especially founder Rachel Gross, over the last 45 years! All are welcome to drop in, greet Rachel, and meet other interested folks. Light refreshments will be served.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren

Location: Amway Governor's Room

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

Location: DeVos Steelcase Ballroom Stage



## Friday, July 5 (continued)

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- 4:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.    **Worship with Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests & Supportive Communities Network**  
Spiritual sustenance for lgbtqia+ justice and healing. Join us in word, prayer and song. Allies welcome!  
Location: Amway Haldane
- 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.    **Brethren Press and Messenger Dinner**  
Speaker: Audri Svay  
*"The Power of Words to Form Identity"*  
What words do you use to describe yourself to others? What labels do others place on you? Words have the power to affect who we are, where we belong, and what we are capable of. The right words can alter perceptions; the wrong words can damage lives. Words shape our identities. Come hear how we harness language to create and to confine.  
Location: Amway Ambassador Ballroom East
- 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.    **Brethren Revival Fellowship Dinner**  
Speaker: John Shelly  
*"The Advantage"*  
Everyone seems to be looking for an advantage, an edge. For the Christian, Jesus Christ is the Advantage (John 10:22-38).  
Location: Amway Ambassador Ballroom West
- 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.    **Early Childhood Activities**  
Location: DeVos River Overlook E & F
- 6:45 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.    **Evening Worship**  
*What Really Matters: People or Issues*  
Preacher: Brandon Grady  
Location: DeVos Steelcase Ballroom
- 8:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.    **Equipping Sessions**  
**1. Our Stories, Our Voices**  
Presenters: Bobbi Dykema, Anna Lisa Gross, Sandi Evans Rogers  
Focus: Do you carry stories of sexual abuse and violence - from your personal experience, people you care about, and/or from your faith community? Though the Church of the Brethren seeks to heed Jesus' call for right relationship and humility, abuse of power occurs in our denomination. Whether you have read Heidi Ramer's book *Her Words, My Voice*, have heard Heidi speak (at AC or otherwise), come to this session to learn about ways that our ethics process can be part of accountability and healing. Our ethics process isn't perfect, but what can we learn together that can help us use it most faithfully and effectively? District and Office of Ministry leaders will help us consider the complexities of the process. And we'll treat your experiences - as those who are impacted by abuse and who care for abusers - with compassion.  
Agency/District: On Earth Peace  
Representative: Bobbi Dykema  
Location: Amway Berkey

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

**2. Strangers No More: Ministry with Immigrants, Refugees and Other Newcomers**

Presenter: Panel

Focus: Panelists from across our denomination will share inspiring stories and practical strategies for welcoming refugees, immigrants, asylum seekers, and other newcomers. Hear firsthand experiences which address the unique challenges and joys that come with building an inclusive community and join in a dialogue that transcends borders to foster shared responsibility and solidarity. You will leave with ideas and a better understanding of how your congregation can expand its commitment to loving your neighbors as yourselves by providing or partnering in welcoming newcomers. "For through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then, you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone." Ephesians 2:17-20

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren

Representative: Roy Winter

Location: Amway Nelson

**3. A Multidimensional, Multicultural Approach to Ethics** (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Dennis Webb

Focus: Ministers and laity alike are navigating an increasingly diverse and complex world and reaching across differences in values, norms, and expectations in the midst of ministry contexts. This resource, focusing on scripture and utilizing case studies, equips disciples of Christ to have important conversations about the choices and assumptions we make together in the midst of a beautiful but sometimes confusing cultural landscape. Participants will gain skills in intercultural competency while reflecting on timely ethical questions.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren

Representative: Nancy Sollenberger Heishman

Location: Amway Thornapple

**4. 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: Amway Grand View B/C

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

- 5. Viviendo de Manera Sencilla en un Mundo Complejo (Living Simply in a Complex World)** (.1 CEU)  
Presentante/Presenter: Joel Peña  
Foco: Definiremos que es una vida simple en el contexto actual y hablaremos acerca de los beneficios de vivir una vida simple. ¿Qué beneficio traerá a las personas que asistan? Conocer y practicar el movimiento de la simplicidad beneficiará nuestras vidas y nuestras familias trayendo paz mental, financiera y espiritual. Escrituras: Mateo 6:33  
We will define what simple living is in the current context and talk about the benefits of living a simple life. What benefit will it bring to the people who attend? Knowing and practicing a lifestyle of Simplicity or Minimalism will benefit our lives and our families by bringing mental, financial and spiritual peace.  
Agencia/Agency: Church of the Brethren  
Representante/Representative: Nate Polzin  
Sala de Reunión/Location: Amway Winchester
- 6. Conversation with CEO of Heifer International**  
Presenter: Surita Sandosham  
Focus: Come hear from the CEO of Heifer International and learn more about the work of Heifer International and how your congregation can support the work ending hunger and poverty around the world.  
Agency/District: Church of the Brethren  
Representative: Eric Miller  
Location: Amway Pullman
- 7. Bible Study** (.1 CEU)  
Presenter: Andy Duffey  
Focus: Ephesians 4:1-6, 1 Peter 4:8-11  
Agency/District: Program and Arrangements Committee  
Representative: Rhonda Pittman Gingrich  
Location: Amway Grand View A
- 8. What is Grief, if not Love? Trauma and Grief in the Marvel Cinematic Universe: Opening Conversations** (.1 CEU)  
Presenter: Steve Schweitzer  
Focus: Recent MCU movies and streaming shows have dealt with trauma and grief in direct and helpful ways (set in the context of dealing with “the Blip” and its aftermath). Rather than dismissing or ignoring such pain, the MCU has made such conversations more accessible and more honest. We will explore some examples and what we can learn about both the reality of trauma and grief and ways forward in having difficult conversations around these topics.  
Agency/District: Bethany Theological Seminary  
Representative: Lori Current  
Location: Amway Haldane

## Friday, July 5 (continued)

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

**9. Tools for Community Development** (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Lorenzo Watson

Focus: Service projects and soup kitchens are not the only way for congregations to minister in their communities.

Christian community development principals and resources can help us as disciples of Jesus engage the network of assets and relationships in our community for lasting change.

Join us to learn more about community development and connect to the Christian Development Association through the Church of the Brethren denominational membership.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren

Representative: Josh Brockway

Location: Amway Heritage Hill

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

Location: DeVos Grand Gallery Overlook C & D

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

Location: DeVos Grand Gallery Overlook E & F

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

Location: DeVos Grand Gallery Overlook G

## Saturday, July 6

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7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

**Brethren World Mission Breakfast**

Speaker: Expert Bukene

*"Church Growth in East Africa"*

Expert Bukene from Burundi will share the exciting ways the Lord is blessing and expanding the Church of the Brethren in Burundi, with an estimated 6,000 members in 50 congregations, and reaching out to plant the Church of the Brethren in Kenya and Tanzania.

Location: Amway Ambassador Ballroom East

7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.

**On Earth Peace Breakfast: Celebrating 50 Years**

Speakers: Marie Benner-Rhoades and Matthew Guynn

*"Legacy & Hope: Resisting War, Making Peace, and Pursuing Justice"*

Join On Earth Peace in celebrating our 50th Anniversary! We will reflect on the theme of "Legacy & Hope." The breakfast will include an opportunity to share memories from OEP's 50 years. Peacemaker Awards will be presented in recognition of recipients' impact on the work of On Earth Peace and in the faithful and persistent call for justice and peace.

Location: Amway Ambassador Ballroom West

8:15 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.

**Early Childhood Activities**

Location: DeVos River Overlook E & F

8:15 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.

**K – 2nd Grades Children's Activities**

Location: DeVos River Overlook C & D

## Saturday, July 6 (continued)

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- 8:15 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.    **3rd – 5th Grades Children’s Activities**  
Location: DeVos River Overlook A & B
- 8:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.    **Junior High Activities**  
Location: DeVos Grand Gallery Overlook C & D
- 8:30 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.    **Senior High Activities**  
Location: DeVos Grand Gallery Overlook E & F
- 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.    **Business Session**  
**Location: DeVos Steelcase Ballroom**
- 11:45 a.m. – 1:45 p.m.    **Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build #1**  
The bed build will take place in the back of the Exhibit Hall.  
Pre-registration prior to Annual Conference is required.
- 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.    **Multicultural Gathering & Leaders Luncheon**  
*“What It Means To Be People Of Color In the Church of the Brethren Today”*  
Everyone is welcome to join this lunch celebrating the many different cultures from which Brethren originate. In addition to the meal, several speakers will share their perspective and experience in the Church of the Brethren. The Bittersweet Gospel Band will be providing worship music in addition to the speakers.  
Location: Amway Ambassador Ballroom East
- 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.    **Bridgewater College Luncheon**  
Speaker: Erin Skinner  
*“State of the College”*  
Engage with Bridgewater College leadership as we discuss the current State of the College.  
Location: Amway Vandenberg A
- 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.    **Elizabethtown College Luncheon**  
Speakers: Mark Clapper and Kevin Shorner-Johnson  
*“Reimagining Anabaptist Heritage Through a Master’s Program in Musical Peacebuilding”*  
Featuring the fascinating story of how Elizabethtown College embraced and reinterpreted Anabaptist heritage to build one of the leading Master’s programs in the country in musical peacebuilding, Dr. Kevin Shorner-Johnson will take you along on the journey of how the College’s program drew upon its Anabaptist heritage of presence, witness, humility, and “lived walks of faith” as practices of a peace tradition to become a leading voice in translating the field of peacebuilding into practices of social emotional learning, trauma-informed education, and diverse cultures. Hosted by the College’s Executive Director of Legacy Planning and Engagement Mark Clapper ‘96, this event promises to be a captivating component of your Annual Conference experience!  
Location: Amway Governor’s Room

## Saturday, July 6 (continued)

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- 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. **Juniata College Luncheon**  
Speakers: 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. All are welcome. We hope you'll join us!  
Location: Amway Gerald Ford Ballroom
- 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. **Manchester University Luncheon**  
Speaker: Mike Leckrone and Stacy Young  
*"State of the University"*  
Hear about what's new at Manchester University from President Stacy H. Young '96. Enjoy connecting and reminiscing about our beloved Manchester with fellow alumni.  
Location: Amway Vandenberg B
- 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. **McPherson College Luncheon**  
Speaker: Michael Schneider and Billy Jamison  
*"Building the Bridge"*  
Receiving future estate commitments totaling more than \$1.5 billion has raised expectations for McPherson College. So, how do you manage these expectations, especially when the timing of these gifts is uncertain? You start Building the Bridge. Learn about the long-term vision for McPherson College and the role our alumni and other supporters can play in helping construct a remarkable future for McPherson College.  
Location: Amway Ambassador Ballroom West
- 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. **Global Mission Advocates Network Meeting**  
This meeting is for all who have been or are interested in becoming a Global Mission Advocate in order to promote and invigorate mission efforts of the Church of the Brethren at congregational and district levels. Two goals are to hear about past experiences from people who have held the Advocate position and to discuss ideas about how the Mission Advocates should be resourced and supported as we begin the program anew in 2024. Enjoy light refreshments.  
Agency/District: Church of the Brethren  
Location: Amway Kendall
- 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. **Equipping Sessions**
- 1. Treasuring the Church Treasurer**  
Presenter: Jan Fahs  
Focus: An effective church treasurer is a hidden gem within most churches. Join the board chair of Eder Financial (and an experienced church treasurer) for tips and strategies for mining the best treasurer for your church.  
Agency/District: Eder Financial  
Representative: Michelle Kilbourne  
Location: Amway Pullman

## Saturday, July 6 (continued)

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

### 2. **Inside-Out Preaching: Bring Your Best Self to Your Toughest Preaching Problems** (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Dawn Ottoni-Wilhelm and Katie Shaw Thompson

Focus: Join us for a brief introduction to homiletic peer coaching; a uniquely inductive, affirming, and non-coercive approach to preacher formation and sermon formation. Utilizing a trained coach-facilitator and a cohort of colleagues, we will explore a process of Spirit-led discernment to reflect on your own gifts and growing edges. This session is designed for preachers of all levels but open to anyone with interest in the topic.

Agency/District: Bethany Theological Seminary

Representative: Lori Current

Location: Amway Haldane

### 3. **Responding to International Disasters**

Presenter: Roy Winter

Focus: Nearly every week our news sources report new disasters, crises, and violence somewhere in the world. Join this session to learn how Brethren Disaster Ministries decides which disasters to develop a response to and which to leave to other organizations. Those attending will learn about BDM partners and the Emergency Disaster Fund grant request process, using the current global responses as examples. International Guests will join the session to report on disaster ministries in their context. Participants will be asked to give input and suggestions into this process. Attendees will leave with the ability to share about the global response in their congregations.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren

Representative: Roy Winter

Location: Amway Heritage Hill

### 4. **Toolbox for Caring for Your Pastor: Money and Beyond**

(.1 CEU)

Presenters: Angela Finet and Andy Hamilton

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/congregation relationships. Participants will leave with a variety of take-home "tools," and there will be time for sharing your ideas and questions. This equipping session is designed for both clergy and laity to attend, and an online option is available.

Agency/District: Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee

Representative: Nancy Sollenberger Heishman

Location: Amway Berkey

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

**5. Connecting Local Action to Global Advocacy: Practicing Embodied Faith to Restore Creation** (.1 CEU)

Presenters: Nathan Hosler and Cornelius Raff

Focus: Join us to explore the connection between local action and global impact for us as people of faith. Through real-life examples and engaging in discussions, we'll navigate the challenges and opportunities of advocating for positive change on both a community and global scale. The session will connect with the work of the Brethren Creation Care Network and also equip participants on how their actions can contribute to larger system changes rooted in their faith and our Brethren values. In a world of crises where the consequences of climate change become increasingly visible and devastating, we are called to not only act within our local community but also to shape policies and advocacy on a global scale. Whether you're well-versed in climate advocacy or just interested, this session provides a space to share experiences, learn from one another, and envision a world where faith-inspired actions drive positive change in climate and environmental policies.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren

Representative: Nathan Hosler

Location: Amway Nelson

**6. Dementia and Congregational Care** (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Heddie Sumner

Focus: Faith strengthens us as we cope with challenges, providing support and a sense of self. How can we help members of our congregations with dementia stay engaged and connected to their faith? How can we support their caregivers? In this session, pastors, lay ministers, and others will learn the importance of maintaining one's faith and spirituality while walking the path of dementia - as both a person with dementia and a caregiver. Attendees of this session will develop a better understanding of various dementias, learn tips for communication with persons with dementia, and learn how to better connect with congregational members in all stages of dementia. We will explore how the meanings and emotions of faith are still present in later stages of dementia, and the role that faith leaders play in maintaining faith connections. The presentation will also provide information on how to access educational resources on the types of dementia and support resources for caregivers, with examples of some of these resources available at conference.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren

Representative: Emily Hunsberger

Location: Amway Grand View B/C



## Saturday, July 6 (continued)

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

### 7. **A Country Divided: Political Violence in these United States** (.1 CEU)

Presenters: Matt Guynn and Marie Benner-Rhoades

Focus: Many now fear violence coming from the right or the left. Whether it's elections, school boards, social issues, or interpersonal conflict, the actual or perceived threat of emotional or physical harm haunts church and society.

What responsibilities does our Christian faith have in this environment? We have a uniquely Brethren DNA of radical discipleship, following Jesus in how he lived and how he engaged people, following him even to the cross.

Participants in this session will join in naming the threat of violence around us and will practice speaking up or planning responses for situations that threaten violence, using the rooting of our nonviolent faith. On Earth Peace will introduce resources for helping to understand and creatively respond to political violence in our communities.

Agency/District: On Earth Peace

Representative: Matt Guynn

Location: Amway Thornapple

### 8. **Bible Study** (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Rebecca Dali

Focus: Micah 6:8, Zechariah 7:8-10, Galatians 6:2, 6-10

Agency/District: Program and Arrangements Committee

Representative: Rhonda Pittman Gingrich

Location: Amway Grand View A

1:45 p.m. – 3:45 p.m. **Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build #2**

The bed build will take place in the back of the Exhibit Hall.

Pre-registration prior to Annual Conference is required.

1:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. **Early Childhood Activities**

Location: DeVos River Overlook E & F

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

Location: DeVos Steelcase Ballroom

4:30 p.m.

### **Gun Violence Prevention Action and Vigil**

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 Michigan as well as build a network of Church of the Brethren gun violence prevention advocates. We will gather near the DeVos Place Monroe Street exit doors and walk to Rosa Park Circle, a few minutes away.

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

Location: DeVos Steelcase Ballroom Stage

## Saturday, July 6 (continued)

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- 4:45 p.m.                    **Association for the Arts (AACB) Quilt Auction**  
Auction of quilts to benefit the Global Food Crisis Fund.  
Location: Exhibit Hall Coffeeshouse Stage
- 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.      **Mission and Ministry Board Dinner and Meeting** (by invitation only)  
Location: Amway Gerald Ford Ballroom
- 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.      **Global Mission Dinner**  
Speaker: Surita Sandosham  
*"Celebrating 80 Years of Heifer International"*  
Heifer International CEO Surita Sandosham will keynote the Global Mission dinner. Come and learn more about the work started by the Church of the Brethren 80 years ago!  
Location: Amway Ambassador Ballroom West
- 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.      **Part-time Pastor; Full-time Church Dinner**  
Speakers: Richard Wehrle and Callie Swanlund  
*"Multi-Vocational Ministry: Restorative Practices to address Clergy Burnout"*  
The demands of multi-vocational ministry are endless, and many of the pastoral leaders in the Church of the Brethren are either part-time or multi-vocational, yet pastors know that there is no such thing as part-time pastoral ministry. Pastors who are considered less than full-time are still expected to meet the needs of their congregations whenever they arise, balance the needs of their family, and in many cases seek additional sources of income by holding down an additional job. Through all of this, pastors are also tasked with taking care of their own personal needs, developing patterns of rest and renewal in their schedules. During this session we will discuss ways that pastors can reclaim and make these rhythms of rest and renewal a priority in their ministry, so that they may be able to fully face the unique challenges of pastoral ministry.  
Location: Amway Ambassador Ballroom East
- 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.      **Early Childhood Activities**  
Location: DeVos River Overlook E & F
- 6:45 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.      **Evening Worship**  
*Learning to Lean*  
Preacher: Leonard Dow  
Location: DeVos Steelcase Ballroom
- 8:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.      **Friends With The Weather Concert**  
Friends with the Weather is a project from the trio of singer-songwriter/multi-instrumentalists Seth Hendricks, Chris Good, and David Hupp. Friends with the Weather's unique sound blends dynamic musicianship, 3-part vocal stylings, and rich lyrical content exploring how we can learn and grow in the midst of challenging times, striving to be sources of love, hope, passion and vision.  
Location: DeVos Steelcase Ballroom

## **Saturday, July 6 (continued)**

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- 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.    **Junior High Activities**  
Location: DeVos Grand Gallery Overlook C & D
- 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.    **Senior High Activities**  
Location: DeVos Grand Gallery Overlook E & F
- 8:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.    **Young Adult Activities**  
Location: DeVos Grand Gallery Overlook G

## **Sunday, July 7**

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- 7:00 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.    **Annual Conference Coordinators Breakfast**  
(by invitation only)  
Location: Amway Gerald Ford Ballroom
- 8:15 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.    **Early Childhood Activities**  
Location: DeVos River Overlook E & F
- 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.    **Closing Worship**  
*Mindset Matters*  
**Preacher: Cindy Laprade Lattimer**  
**Consecration of the Moderator**  
Location: DeVos Steelcase Ballroom

## **Church of the Brethren Annual Conference**

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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**

- 2025 – Greensboro, North Carolina – July 2-6 (*Wednesday to Sunday*)  
2026 – Fort Wayne, Indiana – June 28-July 2 (*Sunday to Thursday*)