

Pre-Conference Schedule

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

Sunday, June 29

- 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. **Standing Committee Dinner**
Location: Imperial E
- 6:15 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. **Standing Committee Meeting**
Location: Imperial D

Monday, June 30

- 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. **Standing Committee Meeting**
Location: Imperial D
- 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Council of District Executives Meeting**
Location: Oak A/B

Tuesday, July 1

- 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. **Standing Committee Meeting**
Location: Imperial D
- 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Council of District Executives Meeting**
Location: Oak A/B
- 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. **Annual Conference Coordinators Meeting**
Location: Bear Creek
- 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Mission and Ministry Board Executive Committee Meeting** (closed session)
Location: Olympia
- 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. **Annual Conference Onsite Registration Opens**
Location: First floor pre-function area outside Guilford Ballroom
- 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. **Brethren Ministers' Association Meet and Greet Dinner**
(by Invitation Only)
Location: Imperial F/G/H
- 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. **Council of District Executives Dinner** (by Invitation Only)
Location: Imperial E
- 5:45 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. **Brethren Ministers' Association Supervised Childcare**
Location: Birch

Tuesday, July 1 (continued)

- 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. **Brethren Ministers' Association Pre-Conference Event**
Presenter: Jeanne Davies
What Disables Us?
We are very excited to have Jeanne Davies, Executive Director of the Anabaptist Disabilities Network, share how we can further be aware of differently abled individuals in our efforts to welcome all people into the life of our congregations. Jeanne's passion is contagious, and we pray will help us be more encouraged and equipped to be as open and inclusive as possible. We don't have all the answers, but we hope you will come learn and grow together.
This is an in-person and hybrid event.
Registration required
Location: Imperial A/B/C

Wednesday, July 2

- 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **Standing Committee Meeting**
Location: Imperial D
- 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Council of District Executives Meeting**
Location: Oak A/B
- 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. **Mission and Ministry Board Meeting**
Location: Cedar B/C
- 8:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. **Brethren Ministers' Association Supervised Childcare**
Location: Birch
- 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. **Ethics for the Set-Apart Minister**
Presenter: Dave Kerkove
Ethics for the Set-Apart Minister will be the focus of this interactive and biblically based training required for all credentialed Brethren ministers every five years. A special emphasis is included on several topics of current social relevancy for ministers.
Pre-registration through the Ministry Office is requested and materials will be provided onsite.
Location: Meadowbrook
- 9:00 a.m. – 11:45 p.m. **Brethren Ministers' Association Pre-Conference Event**
Presenter: Jeanne Davies
Creating Accessible Congregations
This is an in-person and hybrid event.
Registration required
Location: Imperial A/B/C
- 12:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. **Eder Financial – Consultations**
Location: Oyster Bay
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Brethren Ministers' Association Luncheon**
(by invitation only)
Location: Imperial F/G/H

Wednesday, July 2 (continued)

- 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Mission and Ministry Board Luncheon** (by invitation only)
Location: Imperial E
- 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. **Nominating Committee Luncheon** (by invitation only)
Location: Edgewood
- 12:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. **Exhibit Area Opens**
A great place to learn about many of the church's ministries as well as other church-related organizations.
Location: Third floor concourse
- 12:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. **Silent Auction Opens**
Come see all the exciting options and support the ministry of Annual Conference.
Bidding closes at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday
Location: Exhibit Area – Colony B
- 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Brethren Ministers' Association Supervised Childcare**
Location: Birch
- 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Brethren Ministers' Association Pre-Conference Event**
Presenter: Jeanne Davies
Accessible Worship
This is an in-person and hybrid event.
Registration required
Location: Imperial A/B/C
- 1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. **Moderator/Moderator-elect Meeting with Global Guests**
(by Invitation Only)
Location: Olympia
- 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. **Fellowship of Brethren Genealogists Annual Business Meeting**
Location: Pinehurst
- 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 to learn the ropes and ask about this year's logistics.
Location: Auditorium II
- 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Table Facilitators Training**
Location: Auditorium III
- 4:15 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. **Choir Rehearsal**
Location: Guilford Ballroom
- 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. **Faith Forward Donor Circle Dinner** (by invitation only)
Location: Imperial D
- 5:00 p.m. **Cash Buffet at Joseph's Restaurant**
Come fellowship with other conference goers as you enjoy a tasty meal and inspiring music. See more information on pg 4.
Location: Joseph's Restaurant in the Koury Convention Center

2025 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference Schedule

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

Wednesday Evening, July 2

- 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. **Early Childhood Activities**
Location: Augusta A/B
- 6:45 p.m. **Gathering music**
7:00 p.m. **Announcements**
- 7:15 p.m. – 8:15 p.m. **Opening Worship**
Faith Working Through Love
Preacher: Dava Hensley
Location: Guilford Ballroom
- 8:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. **Delegate Packet Preparation**
Location: Biltmore A/B
- 8:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. **Connect in Faith**
As we gather in Greensboro, visit the exhibit area to connect with exhibitors, meet and greet other conference-goers, shop at Brethren Press, enjoy some ice cream treats, and perhaps play a game with friends in the hospitality area sponsored by the Virlina District. Thank you to Eder Financial for providing the ice cream treats.
Location: Exhibit area (Third floor concourse)
- 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. **Junior High Activities**
Location: Grandover
- 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. **Senior High Activities**
Location: Blue Ash
- 8:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. **Young Adult Activities**
Location: Tidewater
- 8:45 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. **Gathering of Western Brethren**
The District Executive Ministers from the “West of the Mississippi” districts invite all from our districts who are at conference to gather to share fellowship, make connections, and build relationships. Stop in and get to know siblings in Christ from across the Western US.
Location: Meadowbrook

Thursday, July 3

- 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. **Clergywomen’s Breakfast**
Speaker: Hannah Smith
“Behind the Pulpit: Examining the Lived Experiences of Women Ministers in the Church of the Brethren”
Though women have made inroads into occupations traditionally dominated by men, they represent a significant numerical minority in religious ministry. In 2022, only 19.3 percent of members of clergy nationwide were women while, within the Church of the Brethren, the statistic is higher at 29.27 percent. This may reflect the openness to women in ministry roles which began at the 1922 annual meeting. We will learn from the lived experiences of 21 Brethren clergywomen who participated in a study conducted by Hannah Smith, a 2025 Elizabethtown College graduate with a sociology major and dual minors in religious studies and women and gender studies. Come and celebrate her findings of the Spirit’s stirrings in the clergy sisters among the Brethren!
Location: Imperial D
- 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. **New Church Recognition Breakfast** (by invitation only)
Location: Imperial C
- 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. **Eder Financial – Consultations**
Location: Oyster Bay
- 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. **Annual Conference Blood Drive**
Location: Heritage A/B
- 8:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. **Early Childhood Activities**
Location: Augusta A/B
- 8:15 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. **K – 2nd Grades Children’s Activities**
Location: Victoria B/C
- 8:15 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. **3rd – 5th Grades Children’s Activities**
Location: Victoria A
- 8:30 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. **Junior High Activities**
Location: Grandover
- 8:30 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. **Senior High Activities**
Location: Blue Ash
- 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. **Business Session**
Location: Guilford Ballroom
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Brethren Volunteer Service and FaithX Luncheon**
Voices for Service
Join us for an engaging luncheon as current Brethren Volunteer Service and FaithX volunteers share their unique experiences, challenges, and triumphs while serving communities around the world. Hear firsthand how service transforms lives and creates lasting change.
Location: Imperial A

Thursday, July 3 (continued)

- 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Church World Service Luncheon**
Speakers: Roberta Smith, Zach Wolgemuth
How You Make a Difference in Partnership with Church World Service
Come learn the latest updates on Church World Service's work around the world and on the ground.
Location: Imperial D
- 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Brethren Chaplains' Gathering**
Presenter: Jody Gunn
Brethren chaplains offer a valuable and essential ministry in a variety of settings amidst an ever-changing social landscape. Come and network with fellow chaplains, offering support and sharing resources for the journey ahead.
Location: Oak A/B
- 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Equipping Sessions**
- 1. Toolkit Takeaway: Practical Tips for Care for Church Workers** (.1 CEU)
Presenter: Loyce Borgmann
Focus: When church leaders and workers flourish, congregations flourish. In this session, attendees will learn about the many ways Eder Financial helps congregations care for their pastors and other church staff. A panel of Eder Financial staff will help attendees gain a clear understanding of the resources that Eder Financial makes available to clergy and church employees.
Agency/District: Eder Financial
Representative: Loyce Borgmann
Location: Arrowhead
 - 2. Be SMART: Evidence-Based Solutions for Gun Violence Prevention** (.1 CEU)
Presenters: Members of the Gun Violence Prevention Action Team
Focus: An estimated 54% of gun owners don't lock their guns securely, yet research shows that safe gun storage is a key factor in reducing gun death and injury. The Gun Violence Prevention Action Team invites both gun owners and non-gun owners to join us in discussing how you and your congregation can participate in and encourage this simple, evidence-based solution in your communities, using the framework and resources from Be SMART.
Agency/District: On Earth Peace/Church of the Brethren Gun Violence Prevention Action Team
Representative: Mandy Park
Location: Pinehurst

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

3. Anabaptism at 500 and Pietism at 350: Remembering Our Histories (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Denise Kettering-Lane

Focus: In this session, we will discuss the two major anniversaries of the 500th Anniversary of Anabaptism and the 350th Anniversary of the publication of Pia Desideria. This session will equip attendees to speak to these anniversaries in their congregations.

Agency/District: Bethany Theological Seminary

Representative: Lori Current

Location: Meadowbrook

4. Walking by Faith: Caring For Immigrants in Our Community, and Our Call to Embody Love (.1 CEU)

Presenters: Nathan Hosler, Founa Badet, Hannah Nelson

Focus: I was a stranger and you welcomed me (Matthew 25:35, NRSVue) Our goals: Striving to be a safe referral space, as we continue to be intentional. Every challenge is an opportunity for us to collectively be problem solvers.

Empower Our Denomination: Our voices together will be our Call To Action because Together We Rise! For decades, the Church of the Brethren has publicly committed to welcoming immigrants to the United States as part of the biblical call to welcome strangers. How can the church uphold that commitment and how can churches and members stay safe under renewed threats of deportation? In this session, Intercultural Ministries and the Office of Peacebuilding and Policy will give an overview of current immigration policy, give examples of advocacy and direct service from the denomination, from congregations, and from individuals around immigration, and share resources on legal rights and what support is available.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren Office of Peacebuilding and Policy, Intercultural Ministries, Brethren Disaster Ministries

Representative: Hannah Nelson

Location: Auditorium III

5. How Ableism Fuels Racism: Dismantling the Hierarchy of Bodies in the Church (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Lamar Hardwick

Focus: A Black autistic pastor and disability scholar helps the contemporary church understand the connections between ableism and racism and how to dismantle both in attitudes and practices.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren Discipleship and Leadership Formation/Anabaptist Disabilities Network

Representative: Nate Polzin

Location: Sand Piper

Thursday, July 3 (continued)

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

6. Bible Study (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Karen Shively Neff

Focus: Faith Working Through Love

Agency/District: Program and Arrangements Committee

Representative: Rhonda Pittman Gingrich

Location: Tanglewood

7. Service, Sacrifice, Compassion, and Love: Ethics in Star Trek and the Church (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Steve Schweitzer

Focus: While the Star Trek universe has always been concerned with ethics, its more recent series have pushed classic questions and issues in new directions. With examples across the decades (TOS, TNG, Voyager) and particular attention on newer iterations (Discovery, Strange New Worlds, Picard, Lower Decks, and the Kelvin timeline films), we'll explore how Star Trek continues to be relevant as the Church engages with wider cultural conversations about actions, meaning, and values that require attention in our present context.

Agency/District: Bethany Theological Seminary

Representative: Lori Current

Location: Auditorium II

8. Faith and Love in Community: Church Stories from Honduras and the Dominican Republic (.1 CEU)

Presenters: Jenn Hosler, Arely Cantor, Mario Cantor, Francisco Santo Bueno

Focus: Come and learn from two Church of the Brethren groups (bodies or communions) in Latin America and how they share the love of Christ in their communities. *Viviendo en Amor y Fe* (Living in Love and Faith) is the growing Church of the Brethren body in Honduras, with congregations in and near the capital city, Tegucigalpa. *Comunidad de Fe* (Community of Faith) is one of two Church of the Brethren bodies in the Dominican Republic; most of its members are of Haitian descent. Francisco Santo Bueno (*Comunidad de fe*, Dominican Republic), Mario Cantor (*Viviendo en Amor y Fe*), and Arely Cantor (*Viviendo en Amor y Fe*) will share about their churches and answer questions. This session will help us live into our global Brethren identity of one body with many parts, around the world. We are a global church, committed to mutuality and learning from one another as we live out our faith in Jesus, rooted in the Church of the Brethren tradition.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren Global Mission

Representative: Jenn Hosler

Location: Pebble Beach

Thursday, July 3 (continued)

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

9. Growing Up Anxious (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Becky Ullom Naugle

Focus: Many youth and young adults are experiencing anxiety these days for a variety of reasons. Join others in ministry with youth and young adults to listen and learn! What does scripture and our tradition say about feelings of worry and anxious feelings? What resources might be helpful as we walk with those experiencing anxiety? What resources might be helpful in managing our own worry so that we might better serve others? Leave this session encouraged that you are not alone in this struggle and with a new set of resources for your ministry.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren Youth/Young Adult Ministries

Representative: Becky Ullom Naugle

Location: Auditorium IV

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

Location: Augusta A/B

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

4:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. **Global Mission Networking**
Are you interested in the global Church? Do you want to connect with Global Church of the Brethren Communion partners? Everyone who is interested in connecting our global churches with our local U.S. churches is invited to this networking meeting. It is recommended for Mission Advocates and Country Advisory Team (CAT) members and all who have a heart for mission. We will have a brainstorming session on how to better connect Brethren around the world, across continents, languages, and geographic borders.
Location: Pinehurst

4:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. **Choir Rehearsal**
Location: Guilford Ballroom

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. **Discipleship & Leadership Formation/Anabaptist Disabilities Network Dinner**
Speaker: Lamar Hardwick
Disability, Theology And Ministry
Dr. Lamar Hardwick, also known as The Autism Pastor, is a pastor, advocate and scholar. His new book, *How Ableism Fuels Racism: Dismantling the Hierarchy of Bodies in the Church*, helps congregations work towards more effective ministry with people with disabilities.
Location: Imperial D

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. **Early Childhood Activities**
Location: Augusta A/B

Thursday, July 3 (continued)

6:45 p.m.

Gathering music

7:00 p.m.

Announcements

7:15 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.

Worship

Cowbell Service: Love is Patient

Preachers: Tony Price, Becky Baile Crouse, Josiah Ludwick

Location: Guilford Ballroom

8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Equipping Sessions

1. The Question of Leadership: Why it Matters (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Jeff Carter

Focus: What does it mean to lead in today's church and world? The American protestant church is in steep decline. The Church of the Brethren is experiencing schism. The pandemic accelerated the already changing patterns of religious life. Resources are scarce. Furthermore, Brethren are naturally suspicious of leaders: called, elected, or self-proclaimed. Values, such as humility, consensus, and the priesthood of all believers, lead to a flat hierarchy and a communal pragmatism. We celebrate leaders such as Dan West, Sarah Major, M.R. Zigler, and Anna Mow, but in their day, they stirred controversy by the manner of their leading. So, what does it mean to lead in today's church and world? I believe leadership begins by asking the first question and having the willingness and curiosity to pursue the second question. It is a way of thinking that results in effective doing. And yes, it is something we do together.

Agency/District: Bethany Theological Seminary

Representative: Lori Current

Location: Auditorium II

2. The Blessing of Peace: Nonviolence Reflections on Acts 15

(.1 CEU)

Presenters: Sara Haldeman-Scarr, Matt Guynn

Focus: On Earth Peace continues its effort to train 1000 members of the Church of the Brethren in Kingian Nonviolence Conflict Reconciliation, a values-rooted approach to conflict and violence that offers faith grounding for peace leadership and has a special Brethren connection. In this session, we will introduce key tools from the Kingian Nonviolence perspective and use them to explore the Jerusalem Council conflict in Acts 15. The Kingian Nonviolence framework will provide insight into struggles within the early church about the role of Gentiles and offer tools for today's conflicts. As we close, you will learn how to pursue additional training as an individual, congregation, or district.

Agency/District: On Earth Peace

Representative: Matt Guynn

Location: Auditorium IV

Thursday, July 3 (continued)

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

3. Bible Study (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Fausto Carrasco

Focus: Faith Working Through Love: Love is Patient

Agency/District: Program and Arrangements Committee

Representative: Rhonda Pittman Gingrich

Location: Tanglewood

4. Roadmap to Retirement (.1 CEU)

Presenters: Mike Leiter, Mark Watson

Focus: A lot of planning goes into taking a road trip, and retirement is one of the biggest trips of your lifetime, so let's plan! This session will reveal the pieces that are needed to make a secure and happy retirement. Attendees will leave with a checklist of items to plan their retirement journey.

Agency/District: Eder Financial

Representative: Loyce Borgmann

Location: Arrowhead

5. Digital Discipleship Resources (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Josh Brockway

Focus: The internet has dramatically changed how we engage and understand information. While we still read text, images and sound now accompany the information we take in. In this session we will explore new digital resources available produced by the Discipleship and Leadership Formation team of the Church of the Brethren. We will preview new content as well as introduce how to access and download resources for local use.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren Discipleship & Leadership Formation

Representative: Josh Brockway

Location: Auditorium III

6. Many Hands Make Weighty Work Light: A Shared Ministry Model (.1 CEU)

Presenters: Mary Jessup, Laura Lipscomb, Tara Hornbacker

Focus: At the same time that many congregations are finding fewer available persons arriving to fill traditional solo pastoral positions, some congregations are enthusiastically reviving an historic practice of calling leaders from within their midst. This renewal of the priesthood of all believers is an invitation to embrace both known and previously unrecognized spiritual gifts essential for a strong and vibrant congregation. A panel of leaders from congregations using a shared ministry team model will offer insights, wisdom, and guidance for others seeking to follow God's call into a multi-voiced and multi-gifted ministry.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren Ministry Office

Representative: Nancy Sollenberger Heishman

Location: Pinehurst

Thursday, July 3 (continued)

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

7. Continuing to Build Bridges in a Fractured World (.1 CEU)

Presenters: Janet Ober Lambert, Audrey Hollenberg-Duffey
Focus: We all intuitively know that there are ongoing fractures in our world. Forming and maintaining beloved community has become increasingly difficult. This has not only impacted church programming, but the very work and mission of the church. In this equipping session, we will explore barriers to cultivating beloved community. We will also consider ways to create and deepen relationships within our congregations. This conversation is a part of the ongoing work of the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership, in partnership with Bethany Theological Seminary's initiative, to help ministers know how to provide leadership during such fractured times. While this equipping session is a continuation of last year's conversation, attendance at the previous equipping session is not necessary to participate this year.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren Ministry Office and Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership
Representative: Nancy Sollenberger Heishman
Location: Auditorium I

8. DR Congo Church of the Brethren: Church Growth and Survival Through Disasters and Violence

Presenters: Ron Lubungo, Faraja Dieudonné, Roy Winter, Sharon Norton

Focus: Join Ron, Dieudonné, and US church staff to hear the story of growth through service in the Eastern DR Congo. In an area with deep poverty, natural disasters, and hundreds of violent militia groups, the Eglise des Freres au Congo (Church of the Brethren in the DR Congo) continues to grow. The capture of the city of Goma, forcing church members to flee their homes in January 2025 added to recent challenges including the eruption of Mount Nyiragongo in March 2023, flooding from torrential rains, and years of violence. Brethren Disaster Ministries, the Global Mission office, and the Global Food Crisis Fund have partnered with and supported the Congolese church through many of these challenges. Participants will learn about the Congolese church, discover how local congregations can support their ministry, and be inspired by the church's perseverance and growth through adversity while stretching their resources to serve the most vulnerable local and displaced people in their community.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren Global Mission
Representative: Roy Winter
Location: Sand Piper

Thursday, July 3 (continued)

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

9. 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

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren Ministry Office

Representative: Nancy Sollenberger Heishman

Location: Pebble Beach

10. Resilient Roots: Nurturing a Faith That Lasts

Presenter: Joan Daggett

Focus: Children of all ages have spiritual lives and a growing awareness and understanding of God. How can we best walk alongside them as their faith grows and matures, both at church and at home? What in our Anabaptist/Pietist tradition informs how we nurture faith in children? In this workshop we will share what we are learning from research about faith formation of children and youth and will provide opportunities for participants to share and exchange ideas. Whether you are a teacher, parent, pastor, or grandparent, you'll leave with ideas and resources to share with the children and youth in your life.

Agency/District: Brethren Press/Shine Curriculum

Representative: Joan Daggett

Location: Meadowbrook

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

Location: Grandover

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

Location: Blue Ash

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

Location: Tidewater

Friday, July 4

7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.

Outdoor Ministries Association Breakfast

Speakers: Doug Ruby, Sally Ruby

A Sacred Space for Faith Expressions

One of the gifts that our camps and outdoor ministries provide for us is the creation and provision of a space that wraps us in love. Because of that embrace, these are spaces that allow and encourage us to explore how we express and live out our faith. Join us as Doug and Sally Ruby share about the sacred spaces they have experienced, observed, and helped to create for others over a lifetime of embracing outdoor ministry opportunities.

Location: Imperial C

Friday, July 4 (continued)

- 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. **Brethren Disaster Ministries and Children’s Disaster Services Volunteer/Supporter Breakfast**
This breakfast is open to all current and past BDM & CDS volunteers and supporters, and those interested in learning more about our ministry. This is an opportunity to receive updates on our work; meet or reconnect with others in the BDM family; and hear first-hand accounts from our disaster leaders, volunteers, and partners. *Attendees must register with Brethren Disaster Ministries to participate in this free meal by contacting the BDM/CDS offices at 800-451-4407; bdm@brethren.org; or cds@brethren.org. Pre-registration by June 10 is necessary to reserve a seat. 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: Imperial D
- 7:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. **Annual Conference Blood Drive**
Location: Heritage A/B
- 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. **Eder Financial – Consultations**
Location: Oyster Bay
- 8:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. **Early Childhood Activities**
Location: Augusta A/B
- 8:15 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. **K – 2nd Grades Children’s Activities**
Location: Victoria B/C
- 8:15 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. **3rd – 5th Grades Children’s Activities**
Location: Victoria A
- 8:30 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. **Junior High Activities**
Location: Grandover
- 8:30 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. **Senior High Activities**
Location: Blue Ash
- 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. **Business Session**
Location: Guilford Ballroom
- 11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m. **Hope in Recovery (Recovery Support Group)**
Presenter: Laura Hamilton
Join us for “*Hope in recovery*,” a meeting focused on sharing stories of resilience, strength, and hope. We’ll explore how recovery has transformed our lives and how we continue to find hope in our journey.
Location: Bear Creek
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Intercultural Ministries Luncheon**
One Hour Of Sharing
Everyone is Welcome! Join us for an hour with great music, food and fellowship as we gather and build deeper relationships.
Location: Imperial A/B

Friday, July 4 (continued)

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Bethany Theological Seminary Luncheon**

Speaker: Jeff Carter

What Makes the Brethren Relevant Now?

Join President Jeff Carter and members of the Bethany Theological Seminary for a generative conversation about the importance of Brethren faith, testimonies, and values — now and in the future. The conversation will touch on the ways the unique tradition of the Church of Brethren continues to shape Bethany's approach to theological education, even as the student body and faculty become more ecumenical.

Location: Imperial D

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

1. **Widening the Imagination of Your Church for a Hopeful Future** (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Stan Dueck

Focus: Church leaders can struggle to envision a hopeful future for their congregations. Imagination is crucial for fostering creativity and innovation; however, it requires a spark to ignite it. Our brains are powerful engines of creativity, yet our experiences and current perspectives can limit our imaginative potential. In church settings, we frequently encounter statements like, "Well, that's how we've always done it." Such mindsets can hinder innovation. In this session, we will explore the following topics: 1) What blocks imagination, creativity, and critical thinking 2) Takeaway practical resources for creative thinking 3) Leadership support.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren Discipleship & Leadership Formation

Representative: Stan Dueck

Location: Auditorium III

2. **Building Beloved Community in the Way of Jesus: How the Gospel Calls Us to Challenge Divisive Myths** (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Jonathan Wilson-Hartgrove

Focus: Jonathan is a spiritual writer, preacher, and community-cultivator. He serves as Assistant Director for Partnerships and Fellowships at Yale University's Center for Public Theology and Public Policy. Jonathan lives in Durham, North Carolina. He is an Associate Minister at the historically black St. John's Missionary Baptist Church. His message will help us be better equipped to apply the teachings of Jesus in our relationships with our neighbors of every race and nationality in our congregations and districts. Jonathan comes at the invitation of the Standing with People of Color committee as a part of our study/action process initiated by the 2022 Annual Conference.

Agency/District: Standing with People of Color Committee

Representative: Bruce Rosenberger

Location: Auditorium II

Friday, July 4 (continued)

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

- 3. Weaving Together Service and Advocacy** (.1 CEU)
Presenters: Nathan Hosler, Hannah Nelson
Focus: How can we turn the issues we are personally passionate about into tangible service and activism? In this interactive session, staff from the Office of Peacebuilding and Policy and Brethren Volunteer Service will give insight on how to identify needs in your local community and how to advocate around those issues at the local, state, and national level. Staff will give examples of faith-based activism, provide helpful resources, discuss what brings activists hope, and help you brainstorm ways you can get more involved with the issues that matter the most to you.
Agency/District: Church of the Brethren Office of Peacebuilding and Policy
Representative: Hannah Nelson
Location: Pebble Beach
- 4. Bible Study** (.1 CEU)
Presenter: Jon Chubb
Focus: Faith Working Through Love: Love is Kind
Agency/District: Program and Arrangements Committee
Representative: Rhonda Pittman Gingrich
Location: Tanglewood
- 5. Pivoting from the Past to the Future: Interim Ministry in Times of Transition** (.1 CEU)
Presenters: Christy Dowdy, Tara Hornbacker, Enten Eller, Debbie Eisenbise
Focus: Perhaps your pastor has resigned, your attendance numbers have changed markedly since Covid, or you've made the decision to sell your building. While the future of each congregation is unique for every setting, congregations moving through transitions have the opportunity to experience this season as a time of transformation and growth. This session will address leadership and congregational involvement in transitional seasons, changing expectations, and the value of intentional interim ministry. Discerning the best steps forward during a season of change is an intentional process. Whether you are a pastor interested in interim ministry, or a member of a congregation that is facing change, come to learn from those who have experienced interim ministry and have some tools and guidelines to share. Follow-up Zoom meetings for those who wish to continue the conversation are planned for the Fall of 2025. This session is presented by the Church of the Brethren Interim Ministry working group.
Agency/District: Atlantic Northeast District and Church of the Brethren Ministry Office
Representative: Christy Dowdy
Location: Auditorium IV

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

6. Engaging Queer and Trans History: Activist and Spiritual Practice (.1 CEU)

Presenters: Annabeth Roeschley, SCN Leaders

Focus: How and why does history matter as we do ministry today? How might we faithfully engage the complex histories of lgbtqia+ people in the church and church-related institutions? And how does this help us move toward reparative justice, healing, and repair? Drawing on the nearly 50-year archive of the Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests (BMC), this seminar highlights its significance—not just for historians and archivists but for lgbtqia-affirming communities at large. We will share details and photos from BMC’s archival process, offer exciting ways to engage this living archive, and discuss how queer and trans archival work is a crucial part of activism and spirituality today. Bring your questions and curiosities for the Q&A!

Agency/District: On Earth Peace and Supportive Communities Network

Representative: Annabeth Roeschley

Location: Meadowbrook

7. Conversations Under the Palaver Tree

Presenter: Sharon Norton

Focus: The Global Mission Office invites you to share and hear stories of personal or family experiences in Brethren global mission, whether in Africa, Latin America, or Asia. We will tell stories about how Brethren values have been expressed in transformative ways as we have responded to God’s call to share the good news of Jesus with all of creation. You will be guided in your storytelling and story-listening, as a way to increase our joy, which is our strength in difficult times. Bring a friend who may not know these stories!

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren Global Mission

Representative: Carole Davenport

Location: Pinehurst

8. Bring on the Donors (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Daniel Radcliff

Focus: If you are a board member who’s looking to more effectively and consistently connect your donors to your mission and ministries, this session is for you. Attendees will leave with practical fundraising processes, recommended documentation, and planned giving insights to help improve donor engagement.

Agency/District: Eder Financial

Representative: Loyce Borgmann

Location: Arrowhead

Friday, July 4 (continued)

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

9. Leadership in a Multi-Vocational Reality (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Bill Ludwig

Focus: The dynamics of pastoral leadership have been changing over the last five years. Yet the demands of pastoral ministry remain the same, even when many of our pastoral leaders are part time, multi-vocational or both. We often ask ourselves how we develop leaders to function in this reality. What if we took it a step further and ask how we develop leaders that thrive? We don't just need our leaders to function, we need them to thrive. Part-Time Pastor; Full-Time Church has been sharing lessons learned over the last 5+ years across our denomination. During this session we invite Bill Ludwig, the human exclamation point, and pastor of 5 Stones Community Church in Ashland, Ohio, to share insights from the Brethren Church surrounding the dynamics and demands of pastoral leadership. Participants will leave equipped with tools and other information that will enable them to thrive in the place God has planted them. Agency/District: Church of the Brethren Part-Time Pastor; Full Time Church
Representative: Richard Wehrle
Location: Sand Piper

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

Location: Augusta A/B

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

4:30 p.m. **Cupcakes with Carter**
Join Bethany President Jeff Carter for a Q&A session to learn about updates around campus and enjoy a cupcake.
Location: Meadowbrook

4:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. **Choir Rehearsal**
Location: Guilford Ballroom

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. **Womaen's Caucus Dinner**
Speakers: Denise Kettering-Lane, Laura Stone, Lindsey Wenger, and Jennifer Keeney Scarr
Collective Trauma and CoB Culture
We're learning how our bodies carry trauma - but how does our church body carry trauma? Learn from this panel about collective trauma in the Church of the Brethren: immigration, conflict, oppression, and more. You are welcome to come for the presentation without buying a meal. We'll continue the conversation in our Saturday equipping session and hope you can attend both events.
Location: Imperial A/B

Friday, July 4 (continued)

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. **Brethren Revival Fellowship Dinner**

Speaker: Bob Kettering

Living in End Times

How do Christians of our day live in end times in light of Bible prophecy and the final words of Jesus to His disciples regarding His second coming in Acts 1:6-8?

Location: Imperial D

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. **Early Childhood Activities**

Location: Augusta A/B

6:45 p.m.

Gathering music

7:00 p.m.

Announcements

7:15 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.

Worship

Just as Christ

Preacher: Lupita Ortiz Cruz

Location: Guilford Ballroom

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

1. Bible Study (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Anne Mitchell

Focus: Faith Working Through Love: Love is Not Envious, Boastful, or Arrogant

Agency/District: Program and Arrangements Committee

Representative: Rhonda Pittman Gingrich

Location: Tanglewood

2. La Iglesia discipuladora, retornando a las raíces bíblicas, simples y reproducibles de la Gran Comisión (The Discipling Church, Returning to the Simple, Reproducible Biblical Roots of the Great Commission) (.1 CEU)

Presenters: Joel Pena

Focus: La iglesia necesita "volver a centrarse en hacer discípulos" dijo el escritor y conferencista Alan Hirsch quien planto Iglesias en Australia donde noto que la red que había creado no estaba logrando los niveles esperados de participación de los miembros de la comunidad. Esta experiencia le enseñó que no centrar la iglesia en torno al discipulado fomenta inadvertidamente el "consumismo religioso" y, por lo tanto, el discipulado debería convertirse en "la actividad central de todas las cosas". Acompañenme a analizar 4 grandes movimientos de Jesús que impactaron al mundo trayendo miles y millones de personas a Jesús. Analicemos algunas de las características distintivas y comunes en cada uno de estos. Serán 50 minutos que traerán luz a nuestras vidas y congregaciones.

English translation will be provided.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren Intercultural Ministries

Representative: Founa Badet

Location: Auditorium III

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

3. Love in Context: Biblical and Historical Reflections on the Meaning of Love (.1 CEU)

Presenters: Denise Kettering-Lane, Dan Ulrich

Focus: In our current culture, talk about love is often relegated to feelings, particularly romantic feelings. However, this understanding frequently misses the deeper meaning and context that have been ascribed to Christian love across time. This session will equip pastors and congregational leaders to speak with more depth about the New Testament meaning and use of the word love as well as explore how Brethren have understood the concept love throughout our history.

Agency/District: Bethany Theological Seminary

Representative: Lori Current

Location: Meadowbrook

4. Reading the Signs of the Times: Faithful Response to Political Violence and Authoritarianism (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Matt Guynn

Focus: Join us to share experiences from our local communities and the national context, using group reflection to analyze what is happening in the United States in July 2025. Explore the principles of the “Authoritarian Playbook”—actions commonly taken by authoritarian governments as they strive to consolidate power—and consider whether or how they resemble our current politics. People of faith can play special roles as persuaders, connectors, non-cooperators, and more. Together we will explore five actions from the Faith Leaders Playbook for resisting authoritarianism, identifying places you feel called to act in our current political environment. Join us to pray for commitment, courage, and creativity.

Agency/District: On Earth Peace

Representative: Matt Guynn

Location: Auditorium I

5. South Sudan – Relaunch!

Presenters: Sharon Norton, Athanasus Ungang

Focus: Come see photos by Donna Parcell and hear reflections from Global Mission staff, Athanasus Ungang, and the group who visited South Sudan earlier this year. Our church’s mission point has matured and diversified and is in a new phase of peacebuilding to include planting local Church of the Brethren congregations. This came as a request from local people who seek to be identified as Church of the Brethren because of the legacy of our commitment to service and peace in the name of Christ in their country. Prayer support is needed for this new phase, so being at this session can help inform your prayer.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren Global Mission

Representative: Sharon Norton

Location: Sand Piper

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

6. Jesus in the Neighborhood: Christian Community Development (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Lorenzo Watson

Focus: Hear from Lorenzo Watson, President of the Christian Community Development Association about asset-based community ministry. Christian community development seeks the flourishing of each community using the resources and knowledge of those that live in the community. CCDA as an organization supports and connects congregations and nonprofits across the country. Attendees will receive memberships to CCDA as part of the Church of the Brethren's partnership with the association. Agency/District: Church of the Brethren Discipleship & Leadership Formation

Representative: Josh Brockway

Location: Auditorium IV

7. So, You're Board?! (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Nevin Dulabaum

Focus: Being a board member of a church or non-profit organization is an important role full of legal responsibilities. Do you know what those responsibilities are? Do you know what business practices would be good for your organization to follow? Do you know how to minimize risk and, in turn, potential organizational liabilities? This session talks about the roles, responsibilities, and expectations of efficient boards. Attendees will leave with a resource detailing eight steps boards should take to legally protect themselves and their church or organization.

Agency/District: Eder Financial

Representative: Loyce Borgmann

Location: Arrowhead

8. Finding Creative Ways To Dismantle Racism (.1 CEU)

Presenter: James Washington

Focus: Our goals and our intentions are to provide as much education to people about the effects of racism in our communities and to educate people on how racism can destroy our community. We want to encourage all people to claim an antiracist identity. And through that we will engage our participants. They will be able to learn what racism is, how it looks, how to handle it positively, how to dismantle racism and how to claim an anti-racist identity. The entire purpose is to educate, empower and improve the quality of life for all people in our community, our churches, and in the world.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren Intercultural Ministries

Representative: Founa Badet

Location: Auditorium II

Friday, July 4 (continued)

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

9. Building a Culture of Sabbath in your Congregation

(.1 CEU)

Presenters: Angela Finet and Heidi Gross

Focus: Brethren Press publishes a Bible study series designed for small groups called Covenant Bible Studies. The latest in this series is *Sabbath: God's Call to Peace*. Join its author, Angela Finet, to hear what she was surprised (and not so surprised) to learn as she researched sabbath. The focus of the session will be on considering your own congregation's practices and what strategies your congregation might pursue in order to create and deepen a culture of sabbath for leadership and membership alike.

Agency/District: Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee and Brethren Press

Representative: Nancy Sollenberger Heishman

Location: Pinehurst

10. The Church of the Brethren Response to 2024 Hurricanes Helene and Milton (.1 CEU)

Presenters: Andy Hamilton, Dan Rudy, Carolyn Neher, Jenn Dorsch-Messler

Focus: In the fall of 2024, Hurricanes Helene and Milton caused widespread destruction and loss of life across many of the southwest U.S. states, from Florida to Virginia. The Church of the Brethren response came from many individuals, churches and districts, as well as the Brethren Disaster Ministries network. This session will provide a panel discussion of leaders from several Church of the Brethren Districts and Brethren Disaster Ministries staff to reflect on what the response looked like, lessons they learned, and to hear updates on where the recovery is now. Participants will hear from those who responded to learn more about what the needs could be and what they could do to respond to disasters in their own district or to support disaster response in other areas of the country.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren Brethren Disaster Ministries

Representative: Jenn Dorsch-Messler

Location: Pebble Beach

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

Location: Grandover

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

Location: Blue Ash

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

Location: Tidewater

Saturday, July 5

- 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. **Brethren World Mission Breakfast**
Celebrating 25 Years of Brethren World Mission
This year's Brethren World Mission breakfast celebrates 25 years of support for global Church of the Brethren missions. In this quarter century BWM has contributed more than one million dollars to Brethren global mission projects. The program will include messages from global leaders and churches who have received support from BWM.
Location: Imperial A/B
- 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. **On Earth Peace Breakfast**
Speaker: Sandi Evans Rogers
Which Question Are You Asking: How Does Gun Violence Affect Our Beloved Community? or How Can Our Beloved Community Affect Gun Violence?
Join On Earth Peace for breakfast to learn about our gun violence prevention initiative. We will present challenges and evidence-based solutions for gun violence prevention as well as discuss what role the unique voice of the Church of the Brethren might play in the larger gun violence prevention movement in the U.S.
Location: Imperial D
- 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Eder Financial – Consultations**
Location: Oyster Bay
- 8:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. **Early Childhood Activities**
Location: Augusta A/B
- 8:15 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. **K – 2nd Grades Children's Activities**
Location: Victoria B/C
- 8:15 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. **3rd – 5th Grades Children's Activities**
Location: Victoria A
- 8:30 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. **Junior High Activities**
Location: Grandover
- 8:30 a.m. – 4:45 p.m. **Senior High Activities**
Location: Blue Ash
- 8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. **Business Session**
Location: Guilford Ballroom
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Bridgewater College Luncheon**
Speaker: Tyler Bradley
State of the College
Join Bridgewater College leadership for an engaging discussion and update on the state of the College.
Location: Imperial C

Saturday, July 5 (continued)

- 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Elizabethtown College Luncheon**
Speakers: Hannah Smith, Mark Clapper
Behind the Pulpit: The Lived Experiences of Women Ministers in the Church of the Brethren
All are welcome to this special gathering of food, fellowship, and enrichment! Featuring the honors-level research of Elizabethtown College alumna Hannah Smith '25, explore the lived stories of women ministers within the Church of the Brethren and learn about their experiences serving in a traditionally male-dominated occupation. Hosted by the College's Executive Director of Legacy Planning and Engagement Mark Clapper '96, this event promises to be an insightful and fascinating component of your Annual Conference experience!
Location: Imperial G
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Juniata College Luncheon**
Speaker: 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: Imperial E
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **Manchester University Luncheon**
Speaker: Megan Sarber
University Update
Join the alumni office for good food and fellowship as we connect over our shared love and support of Manchester University. We will share an update on the University strategic initiatives.
Location: Imperial A/B
- 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. **McPherson College Luncheon**
Speaker: Karrie Rathbone
The Role of McPherson College in the Future of Liberal Arts Education
The Natural Sciences serve as a foundational pillar in shaping the educational journey of Health Science majors. These disciplines are instrumental in equipping future health professionals with the critical knowledge and skills necessary for their careers. By integrating rigorous scientific study with practical applications, programs in the Natural Sciences are fostering a diverse array of health professions. This rich variety of programs not only reflects the complex nature of healthcare but also prepares students to meet the evolving demands of the industry and to provide comprehensive care in diverse communities.
Location: Imperial F

Saturday, July 5 (continued)

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

1. Bible Study (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Marty Doss

Focus: Faith Working Through Love: Love Never Fails

Agency/District: Program and Arrangements Committee

Representative: Rhonda Pittman Gingrich

Location: Tanglewood

2. Next Steps to Build Community within the Church of the Brethren in the face of Racism and Injustice (.1 CEU)

Focus: Join the Standing with People of Color committee to identify the faces of racism in the church and society so that we can together name both the problems and the possibilities. Working with Jesus's call to cultivate Beloved Community, we will explore next steps in dismantling racism and confronting racial injustice through the power of the Holy Spirit. We will learn about the new role of Church of the Brethren Racial Justice Advocates and discern our gifts and strengths to sustain the ongoing work. While the work of the Standing with People of Color Committee is concluding its three-year mandate from Annual Conference, this equipping session will set in place next steps to carry the work forward. Leadership for this Equipping Session will be provided by people from various congregations and districts who have been active in raising awareness of racial justice concerns and responding to the teachings of Jesus regarding those who are marginalized.

Agency/District: Standing with People of Color Committee

Representative: Bruce Rosenberger

Location: Auditorium II

3. Hope-Filled Feisty Faith (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Dan Ulrich

Focus: Among the many stories of faith in the Gospels, the Canaanite woman's dialogue with Jesus in Matthew 15:21-28 evokes especially strong responses. Whether you have found that story inspiring or troubling, this session will invite you into a deeper engagement with the experiences of Jesus, the Canaanite woman, and Jesus' disciples. As we reflect on the words of the text and on artists' ways of imagining it, we can find inspiration to pray and witness with persistence, courage, and wit despite our hardships and discouragements.

Agency/District: Bethany Theological Seminary

Representative: Lori Current

Location: Auditorium III

Saturday, July 5 (continued)

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

4. Tending to Collective Trauma (.1 CEU)

Presenters: Laura Stone, Denise Kettering-Lane,
Anna Lisa Gross

Focus: What spiritual, theological and creative resources do we have to tend to collective trauma in our contexts? We'll continue the conversation we began at our Friday meal event and encourage you to participate in both events (but we'll make sure you can catch up even if you can only attend one.)

Agency/District: On Earth Peace

Representative: Anna Lisa Gross

Location: Pinehurst

5. How Do We Pay Our Pastor? (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Deb Oskin

Focus: Do W-2s and 1099s confuse you? Do you know the difference between an employee and an independent contractor—or why it even matters? You'll learn how to use the designated housing exclusion, employee retirement contributions and health insurance to lower your minister's taxable income, plus the importance of setting up an accountable reimbursement plan for minister business expenses. You'll also get a few tips on how to double-check the W-2 to make sure it was prepared correctly. Handouts will be available for download.

Agency/District: Eder Financial

Representative: Loyce Borgmann

Location: Arrowhead

6. For My Neighbor's Good—Revised and Expanded (.1 CEU)

Presenter: Nate Polzin

Focus: For My Neighbor's Good is a relational evangelism curriculum for Brethren that was introduced last year. Feedback from groups who used it and other revisions have made this resource even more valuable for Sunday School classes, small groups, and others within the church who want to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with their community. Come and get some ideas to help your church invite others to know Jesus—not by memorizing canned answers to scripted questions or knocking on strangers' doors—but by doing what you already love to do and inviting Jesus into those activities. We will also share ideas about how to involve the whole church in evangelism, even the shy members! This is non-scary evangelism training, but it does involve some work and a change of mind-set.

Agency/District: Church of the Brethren Discipleship & Leadership Formation

Representative: Nate Polzin

Location: Pebble Beach

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

- 7. A Study Bible 500 Years in the Making: Introducing the Anabaptist Community Bible Anabaptism at 500 Project**
Presenter: John Roth
Focus: The Anabaptist movement emerged in the 16th century when a group of young people gathered around Scripture and were transformed as they asked new questions about its meaning for their day. Over the past 500 years, the Bible has continued to sustain and renew Anabaptist faith communities, including the Church of the Brethren. Rooted in this tradition, the *Anabaptist Community Bible* is an invitation to read Scripture together, with fresh eyes, as a living text that continues to transform our lives. This interactive workshop will introduce participants to this new study Bible, offering specific suggestions for how its unique resources might aid in sermon preparation, structure Sunday School discussions, integrate visual art into worship planning, and offer fresh approaches to Bible study.
Agency/District: Anabaptism at 500 Project and Brethren Press
Representative: John Roth
Location: Meadowbrook

- 8. From North Carolina to Uganda: Empowering Churches to Address Food Insecurity—and more! (.1 CEU)**
Presenter: Jennifer Hosler
Focus: Come learn about the Global Food Initiative (GFI), the primary way that the Church of the Brethren addresses hunger and food insecurity around the world. GFI has been part of our denominational ministry for over 40 years, empowering our siblings in Christ to meet their nutritional needs, farm sustainably, feed children, and create livelihoods. Through the power of grantmaking, donations support food security and hunger-related initiatives around the world. GFI also funds local church projects in the United States, through congregations seeking to make community gardens or to address hunger in their communities. Join this session to hear about GFI grants, which fund change from North Carolina to Uganda, from Louisiana to Venezuela. Learn about how GFI enables positive change in their communities and churches, both in the United States and around the world. Be equipped with knowledge and tools to help your congregation or ministry apply for its own GFI grant.
Agency/District: Church of the Brethren Global Mission
Representative: Jennifer Hosler
Location: Sand Piper

Saturday, July 5 (continued)

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

9. Unpacking Privilege: A Journey of Reflection and Understanding

Presenters: Chelsea Goss Skillen, Marissa Witkovsky-Eldred, Rachel Johnson

Focus: Join BVS and FaithX staff as we explore the concept of privilege and its impact on our lives and the communities we serve. Through a guided activity and group conversation, participants will reflect on their own experiences and gain deeper insights into how privilege shapes our perspective. Used as an exercise during BVS orientation, this session encourages us to think more broadly about what constitutes privilege and is designed to create a safe space for dialogue. We hope this session fosters greater awareness as we work together toward a more inclusive world.

Agency/District: Brethren Volunteer Service

Representative: Chelsea Skillen

Location: Auditorium I

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

Location: Augusta A/B

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

Location: Guilford Ballroom

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

Location: Guilford Ballroom

4:45 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. **Brethren Mennonite Council Worship for LGBTQIA+ and Allies**

Join friends and allies for BMC's annual lgbtqia-affirming worship service as we sing, pray, and affirm the belovedness of all God's children.

Location: Auditorium II

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. **Mission and Ministry Board Dinner and Meeting**

(by invitation only)

Location: Imperial C

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. **Global Mission Dinner**

Speaker: Sharon Norton

The Tree's Leaves Are For the Healing of the Nations
(Rev. 22:2, CEB)

This image of the tree of life having leaves for the purpose of healing nations is a powerful metaphor to consider when we think of the global church. Sharon Norton, the new Executive Director, Global Mission, will share her reflections on this passage as it relates to our identity as a church in mission. Other international guests will give greetings from their churches and speak a few words of encouragement.

Location: Imperial D

Saturday, July 5 (continued)

- 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. **Part-Time Pastor; Full-Time Church-Dinner**
Speakers: Macho Lara, Erica Lara
Rooted in Jesus; Living into God's Calling for Your Ministry
The work of pastoral ministry is at best demanding and at times overwhelming; yet it is a special blessing to be called by God into this vocation. Those who are called to part-time or multi-vocational leadership know these truths well. That doesn't account for spending meaningful time with family or leave much room for caring for your own needs. What if we were to reevaluate the ways we spend our time, especially in relation to ministry. God has called set-apart ministers to use their spiritual gifts for ministry, but God also knows our capacity and does not call us beyond that which we are equipped to handle. Macho and Erica Lara are multi-vocational church planters and pastors of The Table NYC in Sunnyside Queens, New York City. They will inspire those who are gathered to live into their calling, not beyond. Join us for a time of fellowship and affirmation as we explore being rooted in our identity in Christ and the calling God has placed on our lives.
Location: Imperial A/B
- 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. **Early Childhood Activities**
Location: Augusta A/B
- 6:45 p.m. **Gathering music**
7:00 p.m. **Announcements**
7:15 p.m. – 8:15 p.m. **Worship**
The Consistency of Joy: Humility + Love
Preacher: Gennifer Brooks
Location: Guilford Ballroom
- 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. **Rockingham Male Chorus Concert**
From the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, the chorus is a group of volunteer musicians from a variety of careers who welcome the opportunity to travel and sing the gospel of Christ.
Location: Guilford Ballroom
- 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. **Junior High Activities**
Location: Grandover
- 8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. **Senior High Activities**
Location: Blue Ash
- 8:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. **Young Adult Activities**
Location: Tidewater

Sunday, July 6

- 7:00 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. **Annual Conference Coordinators Breakfast**
(by invitation only)
Location: Imperial C
- 8:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. **Early Childhood Activities**
Location: Augusta A/B
- 8:30 a.m. **Gathering music**
8:45 a.m. **Announcements**
- 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. **Closing Worship**
There is No Fear In . . . There is No Failure In . . .
Preacher: Dave Kerkove
Consecration of the Moderator
Location: Guilford 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

2026 – Fort Wayne, Indiana – June 28-July 2 (*Sunday to Thursday*)

2027 - Daytona Beach, Florida - July 28-August 1 (*Wednesday to Sunday*)