# Pre-Conference Schedule

All Annual Conference events will take place in the
Grand Wayne Convention Center and the attached Hilton hotel.

## Thursday, June 25

5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. **Standing Committee Dinner**
Location: Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren

6:15 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. **Standing Committee Meeting**
Location: Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren

## Friday, June 26

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. **Standing Committee Meeting**
Location: Anthony Wayne A

8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. **Council of District Executives Meeting**
Location: Jefferson C

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. **Nonviolence, Hope, Courage, and Strategic Defiance**
Presenters: Sherri Bevel, Stephen Niamke, Rhonda Baker
Focus: Join On Earth Peace for a pre-Conference training open to members of the Church of the Brethren and interested members of the public. This year, millions of people have stood with their immigrant neighbors, raised their voices against abuses of power, and found new ways to use love as a force for public good. Join us for a weekend of strategic nonviolence analysis, skill-building, and spiritual power. This training is meant to help Christians and people of goodwill build spiritual and practical grounding for the work ahead. Prepare your spirit, mind, and body for whatever is coming next as we read the signs of the times, build and refine our nonviolence tools, and generate ideas for creative ways forward. Full description, leadership, and registration can be found on the On Earth Peace website: www.OnEarthPeace.org/events
Location: Jefferson A

## Saturday, June 27

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. **Standing Committee Meeting**
Location: Anthony Wayne A

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. **Council of District Executives Meeting**
Location: Jefferson C

9:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. **Nonviolence, Hope, Courage, and Strategic Defiance**
See description above
Location: Jefferson A

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. **Annual Conference Coordinators Meeting**
Location: The Gallery

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. **Mission and Ministry Board Executive Committee Meeting** (closed session)
Location: Nuckols (Hilton)

## Saturday, June 27 (continued)

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| 3:00 p.m. | **Annual Conference Onsite Registration Opens**<br>Location: Grand Wayne Lobby |
| 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. | **Council of District Executives Recognition Dinner**<br>(by Invitation Only)<br>Location: Atrium (Hilton) |
| 5:45 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. | **Brethren Ministers' Association Supervised Childcare**<br>Location: Farnsworth (Hilton) |
| 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. | **Brethren Ministers' Association Pre-Conference Event**<br>Presenter: Russell Haitch<br>Focus: Artificial intelligence has been moving fast, yet many experts say we are still in stages—the first drops of rain before the downpour. People will draw the line at different points, yet more and more of us are on speaking terms with machines. What does it mean for ministry and for the future of humanity? Christian theology offers crucial insights for charting a path through this new territory. Join us for learning and conversation on what happens when artificial intelligence meets ancient biblical wisdom.<br>Sessions Include: Boomers and Doomers: A lively look at the optimism and anxiety surrounding AI—and how it affects the church. In the Image of God: How to keep humanized machines from mechanizing us. For the Road Ahead; Tool kits and first aid for ministry in an AI world. CEUs are available. Anyone with an interest in this topic is welcome to register and attend. Registration required<br>Location: Harrison A/B |

## Sunday, June 28

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| 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. | **Mission and Ministry Board Meeting**<br>Location: Jefferson B |
| 8:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | **Brethren Ministers' Association Supervised Childcare**<br>Location: Farnsworth (Hilton) |
| 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. | **Brethren Ministers' Association Pre-Conference Event**<br>See description above<br>Registration required<br>Location: Harrison A/B |
| 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon | **Nonviolence, Hope, Courage, and Strategic Defiance**<br>See description on page 10<br>Location: Jefferson A |
| 9:00 a.m. or TBD | **Standing Committee Worship with Local Congregations**<br>Location: Meet in the Hilton Lobby to carpool |
| 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. | **Brethren Ministers' Association Luncheon** (by invitation only)<br>Location: Harrison C/D |
| 12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. | **Mission and Ministry Board Luncheon** (by invitation only)<br>Location: Atrium (Hilton) |

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. **Nominating Committee Luncheon** (by invitation only)
Location: Harrison E

12:00 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: Hall A and Harrison Lobby

12:00 p.m. **Silent Auction Opens**
Bidding closes at 2:00 p.m. on Wednesday
Location: Exhibit Area – Hall A

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. **Equipping Sessions**

1. **Faithful Stewardship: Building Financial Sustainability for Your Church** (.1 CEU)
   Presenter: Loyce Borgmann
   Focus: Treasurers play a vital role in sustaining the ministry God has entrusted to the Church. How can you move beyond simply "keeping the books" to dreaming boldly, planning wisely, budgeting faithfully, and analyzing effectively? This session will guide you through four key pillars of financial sustainability—rooted in stewardship and mission—so your congregation can thrive today and prepare for tomorrow. You'll leave with practical tools and spiritual insights to help your church align its finances with its calling.
   Agency/District: Eder Financial
   Representative: Loyce Borgmann
   Location: Jefferson C

2. **Equipping the Called: What Comes After That Tap on the Shoulder? Equipando a los llamados: ¿Qué sucede después de ese toque en el hombro?** (.1 CEU)
   Presenters: Janet Ober Lambert, Arlyn Morales
   Focus: It is one thing to tap someone on the shoulder and tell them they have gifts for ministry. It is another thing to help guide that person toward available resources and support. This session is designed to help those doing the tapping: district leaders, ministry commissions, calling cohorts, local church pastors, and anyone who recognizes the gifts and graces for ministry in another sibling in Christ. We will explore the options for ministry training in the Church of Brethren, with a focus on the program of the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership.
   Exploraremos las opciones de formación ministerial en la Iglesia de los Hermanos, centrándonos en el programa de la Academia de los Hermanos para el Liderazgo Ministerial. Information will be presented in both English and Spanish. La información se presentará tanto en inglés como en español.
   Agency/District: Bethany Theological Seminary
   Representative: Lori Current
   Location: Anthony Wayne B

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. **Equipping Sessions**

3. **Brethren Practices in Changing Times** (.1 CEU)
   Presenter: Joshua Brockway
   Focus: This session will present key practices of the Brethren tradition as profound lived responses to this chaotic moment in the United States and in the wider Church. These practices, rooted in the best of the Anabaptist and Radical Pietist traditions are embodied ways of following Jesus that center our relationships with one another and the Holy Spirit.
   Agency/District: Discipleship and Leadership Formation
   Representative: Joshua Brockway
   Location: Jefferson A

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. **Equipping Sessions**

1. **Bethany's Success and Lessons for the Church** (.1 CEU)
   Presenters: Jeff Carter, Steve Schweitzer, Lori Current
   Focus: Bethany Theological Seminary has seen success in its enrollment, financial stability, and connections to both the Church and the world. Seminary leadership will discuss key factors that contribute to that success: embracing innovation, acting from a generous spirit, and leveraging gifts already present. We believe that rather than beginning with what do not have, we base our work on what God has already given us as a blessing. The practical way these shifts in perspectives can change outlook and outcomes in ways that are relevant to congregations and other ministry contexts will be addressed.
   Agency/District: Bethany Theological Seminary
   Representative: Lori Current
   Location: Anthony Wayne B

2. **Paying Your Minister Correctly: What Every Treasurer Must Know** (.1 CEU)
   Presenter: Deb Oskin
   Focus: Clergy compensation is not the same as paying other employees, and mistakes can lead to serious tax issues for both your minister and your church. This session gives church treasurers clear practical guidance on IRS rules for clergy, including their unique tax status, housing allowance exclusions, accountable business expense plans, benefits, and accurate W-2 preparation. Join us to simplify the process, stay compliant, and avoid costly errors at tax time.
   Agency/District: Eder Financial
   Representative: Loyce Borgmann
   Location: Jefferson C

2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. **Equipping Sessions**

**3. Responding to Trauma** (.1 CEU)
Presenter: Jon-Erik Misz
Focus: Nearly 70% of adults have experienced trauma at some point in their lives. This can impact the mental health and wellbeing of individuals and communities. The goal of this session is to provide an understanding of what trauma is, how it impacts individuals, and how churches can provide trauma-informed congregational care. The session will be facilitated by Jon-Erik Misz, a licensed clinical social worker and board member of the Anabaptist Disabilities Network.
Agency/District: Anabaptist Disabilities Network
Representative: Jeanne Davies
Location: Jefferson A

1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. **Moderator/Moderator-Elect Meeting with Global Guests** (by Invitation Only)
Location: Nuckols (Hilton)

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. **Community Observer Training**
Location: Anthony Wayne A

3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. **Fellowship of Brethren Genealogists Annual Business Meeting**
Networking is what it's about. Time to share and hear great genealogy stories. Join us for the Fellowship of Brethren Genealogist annual meeting. We will share short officer and financial updates about the association. Then we will spend time talking about our research. Come with your brick walls and success stories.
Location: Allen County Public Library, Room C

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: Anthony Wayne A

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. **Table Facilitators Training**
Location: Anthony Wayne B

4:45 p.m. – 5:45 p.m. **Choir Rehearsal**
Location: Convention Hall B/C

4:15 p.m. – 5:35 p.m. **Supportive Communities Network Briefing**
Come get updates from the Supportive Communities Network (SCN) and discuss Annual Conference Business through an SCN lens. We'll give an overview of where and how to connect with LGBTQIA+ affirming friends and receive support through SCN this week. SCN is a network of churches and allied groups part of the Brethren Mennonite Council for LGBT Interests. SCN membership is not required to attend this session – bring your presence or questions!
Location: Jefferson A

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. **Faith Forward Donor Circle Dinner** (by invitation only)
Location: Harrison C/D/E

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. **Opening Gathering Dinner**
Come meet, greet and eat with other conference goers. Questions on table tents will encourage conversation and fellowship. All tickets must be purchased in advance.
Location: Atrium (Hilton)

# 2026 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference Schedule

All Annual Conference events will take place in the Grand Wayne Convention Center and the attached Hilton hotel.

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. **Early Childhood Activities**
Location: Calhoun C/D

**6:45 p.m.** **Gathering Music**
**7:00 p.m.** **Announcements**
**7:15 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.** **Opening Worship**
***The High Cost of Living***
**Preacher: Don Fitzkee**
**Location: Convention Hall B/C**

8:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. **Delegate Packet Preparation**
Location: Anthony Wayne B, behind curtain

8:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. **Connect in Faith**
Location: Exhibit Area, Hall A

8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. **Hearing: Review and Evaluation Committee**
Are you interested in the future of our denomination? Do you have questions for the Review and Evaluation Committee? Do you have ideas for ways that the Church of the Brethren can alter the patterns of our life together to be more faithful to Jesus? You are invited to come and engage in conversation with your Review and Evaluation Committee. The committee is made up of Ilexene Alphonse, Lupita Cruz-Ortiz, Chris Douglas, Anna Lisa Gross, and Daniel Rudy.
Location: Anthony Wayne A

8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. **Junior High Activities**
Location: Hamilton (Hilton)

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

8:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. **Young Adult Activities**
Location: Farnsworth (Hilton)

8:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. **Community Observer Training**
Location: Jefferson C