

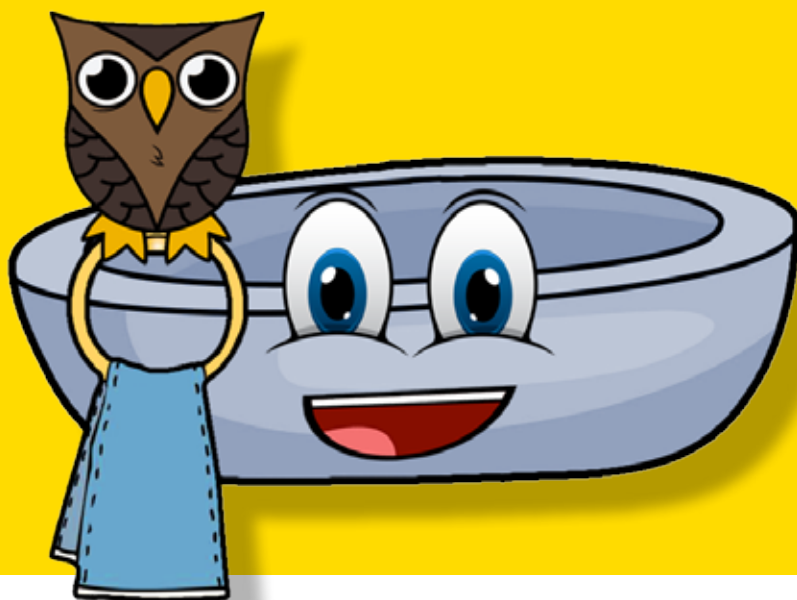
BRETHREN MASCOTS

You've probably seen or heard of the San Diego Chicken, or the Phillie Phanatic, or Mr. Met, or the Philadelphia Flyers' googly-eyed Gritty, all lovable mascots from the world of pro sports. In the college ranks, you have Wisconsin's Bucky Badger, Ohio State's Brutus Buckeye, Virginia Tech's HokieBird, the Oregon Duck, and many others. (Bethany Theological Seminary doesn't compete interscholastically, but if it ever did, the Thundering Theologians has a nice ring to it.)

That got us thinking: If the Church of the Brethren were to have any mascots wandering the Annual Conference sidelines, what might they be? Imagination can be a dangerous thing, but we let our brains run wild to come up with a few possibilities. What (or who) would you add to the list? Send your ideas to messenger@brethren.org. —Walt Wiltschek

TUBBY THE FEETWASHING BASIN AND HIS (OR IS IT HER?) FAITHFUL SIDEKICK, THE TOWEL OWL

They come from humble origins, but they're always on hand when something's afoot. And nothing reminds us to love our neighbor like a bird that keeps asking, "Who?"



THE POTLUCK PLATYPUS

Like the meals beloved in so many congregations, this aquatic mammal is composed of parts that don't seem to go together naturally but end up producing a delightful result. It's a match made in heaven, or at least in Australia.



SIR SCOOPS -A-LOT

The patron saint of ice cream-loving Brethren everywhere, his head and torso naturally feature three scoops for the triple dip of believers baptism. And what is the cone made of, appropriate for sometimes-indecisive Anabaptists? Waffle, of course.

C.O.C.O. THE PEACEFUL PANDA

The C.O.'s are a double reminder of the denomination's long history of conscientious objection in the face of war, lifted up by Ted Stuebaker and countless others. And why a panda? Well, they reportedly can have a temper, but those bamboo-munching mammals generally seem rather peaceful, right?



HEATHER HEIFER

Yes, **Heifer International** is an independent organization these days, but Brethren created it (thanks, Dan West!), and we don't let anyone forget that. We're (humbly) proud of this piece of our heritage of serving others, so we might as well milk it for all it's worth.

FOAMHEADS

Milwaukee baseball games feature the popular sausage races, which have been emulated in numerous other ballparks. What if Annual Conference featured a race between adorable, foam-headed Alexander Mack, John Kline, Sarah Major, and Anna Mow? In whatever order they finished the race, they would have, of course, kept the faith.

