

Mission and Ministry Board

Spring Meeting

March 13-15, 2026

Modesto, California

Agenda



Church of the Brethren

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN MISSION AND MINISTRY BOARD

VISION

Jesus in the Neighborhood

Together, as the Church of the Brethren, we will passionately live and share the radical transformation and holistic peace of Jesus Christ through relationship-based neighborhood engagement. To move us forward, we will develop a culture of calling and equipping disciples who are innovative, adaptable, and fearless.

MISSION

The Mission and Ministry Board is called by the Church of the Brethren to extend the church's witness around the world. It leads out in God's mission, serving as a bridge between the local and the global and creating opportunities for service and partnership.

The Mission and Ministry Board supports congregations in their task to create joyful communities of faith that proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, cultivate discipleship, respond to human need, and make peace.

The Mission and Ministry Board cares for the whole fabric of the community, building up the Church of the Brethren as a distinctive part of the body of Christ, cherishing its unique heritage, and strengthening its witness.

CORE VALUES

Christ-likeness: Reflecting the love and heart of Jesus.

Servant leadership: Serving the church with both humility and boldness.

Discernment: Seeking the leading of the Holy Spirit through prayer, scripture, and the gathered community.

Community: Cultivating relationships and building up the body of Christ.

Stewardship: Caring for all God's gifts and the resources of the Church of the Brethren.

Simplicity: Living simply so that we have room in our lives for God and for others.

Hospitality: Following Jesus' example of respecting all people and inviting them into his fellowship.

Peacemaking: Acting as instruments of reconciliation and justice.

Church Of The Brethren Mission And Ministry Board 2025-2026

*Michaela Alphonse <i>At Large</i> kaylaa930@yahoo.com	(2027)	Robert Jackson <i>At Large</i> robertbjackson2@gmail.com	(2028)	Karen Shively Neff neff3559@bellsouth.net	(2026)
Daniel Butler <i>At Large</i> bagona@yahoo.com	(2030)	*Josiah Ludwick <i>Chair-Elect</i> jludwick@brethren.org	(2029)	*Colby Patton chzplz01@gmail.com	(2029)
Edward Cesar-Fincher <i>At Large</i> edwardlcesar@gmail.com	(2029)	*Kathy Mack <i>Chair</i> kmack@brethren.org	(2027)	Eric Ramirez eric_ramirez65@hotmail.com	(2030)
Barbara Daté paxdate@gmail.com	(2026)	Sarah Mason levsarmason@gmail.com	(2030)	Janice Shaw-Morgan jshaw301@msn.com	(2029)
*Joel Gibbel joelgibbel@gmail.com	(2027)	Rosanna Eller McFadden 2rosannatim@gmail.com	(2027)	Joanna Wave Willoughby <i>At Large</i> joanna.wave.willoughby@gmail.com	(2026)
Tina Hunt tmh4957@gmail.com	(2028)	Deirdre Moyer d1m0301@gmail.com	(2028)		

* *Executive Committee Member*

Ex Officio Board Members

David Steele
General Secretary
dsteale@brethren.org

Annual Conference Officers

Don Fitzkee
Annual Conference Moderator
moderator@brethren.org

Dennis Beckner
Annual Conference Moderator-Elect
moderatorelect@brethren.org

David Shumate
Annual Conference Secretary
acsecretary@brethren.org

CODE Representative

Pete Kontra
Ex Officio
District Executive, Atlantic Northeast
pkontra@ane-cob.org

Agency Representatives

Nevin Dulabaum
President, Eder Financial
ndulabaum@eder.org

Marie Benner Rhoades and
Matt Guynn (Alternating)
Co-Executives, On Earth Peace
mrhoades@onearthpeace.org
mguynn@onearthpeace.org

Jeff Carter
President, Bethany Theological Seminary
president@bethanyseminary.edu

Board Committees and Assignments 2025-2026

Executive Committee Members

Chair:	Kathy Mack (2027)
Chair-elect:	Josiah Ludwick (2029)
Member:	Michaela Alphonse (2026)
Member:	Joel Gibbel (2026)
Member:	Colby Patton (2026)
Ex-Officio:	David Steele, General Secretary
Ex-Officio:	Don Fitzkee, Moderator

Finance and Sustainability Committee

Rosanna McFadden, chair
Joel Gibbel
Robert Jackson
Daniel Butler
Staff: Traci Rabenstein, Ed Woolf, and Shawn Flory Replogle

Board Development Committee

Josiah Ludwick (chaired by MMB chair-elect)
Barbara Daté
Colby Patton
Staff: Shannon McNeil Smith

Facilities Stewardship Committee – 3-year term

Joel Gibbel, chair (2026)
Deirdre Moyer (2027)
Daniel Butler (2028)
Karen Shively Neff
Staff: Shawn Flory Replogle

Strategic Planning Committee

Joanna Wave Willoughby, chair
Tina Hunt
Deirdre Moyer
Karen Shively Neff
Sarah Mason
Staff: David Steele

Revelation 7:9 Committee

Michaela Alphonse, chair
Joanna Wave Willoughby
Colby Patton
Edward Cesar-Fincher
Eric Ramirez
Staff: Founa Badet

Governance Monitor – 2-year term
Rosanna McFadden (2026)

Brethren Faith in Action Grant Oversight – 3-year term
Joanna Wave Willoughby (2026)

Mission and Ministries Planning Council – 2-year term
Michaela Alphonse (2026)

Program Feasibility Committee – Appointee: 4-year term
Ed Woolf (2026)

HEAR Scholarship Committee –
Deirdre Moyer (2027)

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Meeting Schedule and Agenda

All times Pacific Time

Friday, March 13th

8:00 a.m. **Carpool to Modesto Church of the Brethren**

8:30 a.m. **Executive Committee closed session**
(Includes General Secretary and Moderator)

Prayer for the meal Kathy Mack

12:30 p.m. **Lunch**

2:00 p.m. **Mission and Ministry Board open session**

Gathering song Michaela Alphonse

Welcome and introductions Kathy Mack

2:40 p.m. Consent Agenda

- Approve meeting agenda
- Approve MMB minutes
 - October 16-19, 2025, meeting
 - October 16-19, 2025, closed session meeting
 - November 24, 2025, videoconference
 - January 21, 2026, email action
 - October 27, 2025, GFI minutes
 - November 24, 2025, GFI minutes
 - November 24, 2025, EDF minutes
 - December 19, 2025, EDF minutes
 - February 17, 2026, EDF minutes
 - February 18, 2026, EDF minutes

Opening prayer Joel Gibbel

2:45 p.m.	General Secretary's report	David Steele
3:00 p.m.	Financial update Q&A	Ed Woolf <i>Exhibits 1-2</i>
3:30 p.m.	Finance and Sustainability Committee report (Action: Receive 2024 Audit Report)	Rosanna McFadden <i>Exhibit 3</i>
3:40 p.m.	Break	
3:55 p.m.	Mission and Ministry Board closed session <i>(Ex-officios Included)</i>	
5:30 p.m.	Prayer for meal	Joanna Willoughby
5:30 p.m.	Dinner	
6:30 p.m.	Carpool to DoubleTree	

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Saturday, March 14th

8:00 a.m.	Carpool to Modesto Church of the Brethren	
8:30 a.m.	Mission and Ministry Board open session	
	Gathering song	Michaela Alphonse
	Welcome and introductions	Kathy Mack
9:15 a.m.	Opening worship	Robert Jackson
9:35 a.m.	Executive Committee report	Kathy Mack
9:45 a.m.	Closed Session report	Kathy Mack
9:55 a.m.	Resolution – “Walking Together” (Action: Approval)	Founa Badet and Committee <i>Exhibit 4</i>
10:25 a.m.	Break	
10:45 a.m.	Prayer	Sarah Mason
10:45 a.m.	Bethany Theological Seminary report	Jeff Carter
11:00 a.m.	Facilities Stewardship Committee report	Joel Gibbel
11:10 a.m.	Board Development Committee report	Josiah Ludwick
11:20 a.m.	Brethren Faith in Action report	Joanna Willoughby
11:30 a.m.	Brethren Historical Committee appointments (Action: Affirmation)	Kathy Mack <i>Exhibit 5</i>

11:35 a.m.	National Youth Conference update	Becky Ullom Naugle
11:45 a.m.	The New Table update	Kathy Mack and Pete Kontra
12:00 p.m.	Prayer for the meal	Janice Shaw-Morgan
12:00 p.m.	Lunch	
1:00 p.m.	Tour of Modesto Church of the Brethren	
1:30 p.m.	Gathering song and prayer	Michaela Alphonse
1:35 p.m.	Annual Conference Moderator's report	Don Fitzkee
1:55 p.m.	Breaking Down Barriers Committee Report	Rosanna McFadden
2:05 p.m.	Strategic Planning Committee report	Joanna Willoughby <i>Exhibit 6</i>
2:15 p.m.	Council of Districts Executive's report	Pete Kontra
2:30 p.m.	Revelation 7:9 Committee report	Michaela Alphonse
2:40 p.m.	Break	
3:00 p.m.	Ministry Sharing	Church of the Brethren Staff
4:25 p.m.	TBD	
5:30 p.m.	Prayer for the meal	Karen Neff
5:30 p.m.	Dinner	
6:30 p.m.	Carpool to DoubleTree	

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Sunday, March 15th

Church Visits

3:00 p.m. Arrive back at Modesto Church of the Brethren

3:30 p.m. Sunday morning debrief

Governance Monitors' report

Rosanna McFadden

MMB Meeting evaluation

Kathy Mack

Adjournment

5:30 p.m. **Carpool to Dinner**