

Mission and Ministry Board

Annual Conference Meeting

June 27-July 2, 2026

Fort Wayne, Indiana

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)

9:20 a.m.	Financial update	
	2026 Financial report Q&A	Ed Woolf <i>Exhibits 1&2</i>
	2025 audit report <i>(Action: Receive report)</i>	Rosanna McFadden <i>Exhibit 4</i>
9:40 a.m.	Ministry Enablement Contribution <i>(Action: Approval)</i>	Kathy Mack <i>Handout</i>
9:55 a.m.	2027 Budget Parameter for Core Ministries Q&A <i>(Recommendation from the Executive Committee)</i>	Ed Woolf <i>Exhibit 3</i>
10:15 a.m.	Call of the Executive Committee	Kathy Mack <i>Handout</i>
10:30 a.m.	Break	
10:50 a.m.	Gathering Song	Tina Hunt
10:50 a.m.	Registered Agent Resolution <i>(Action: Adoption)</i>	Kathy Mack <i>Handout</i>
10:55 a.m.	Future of Annual Conference /Breaking Down Barriers Committee Report	Rosanna McFadden
11:05 a.m.	A Statement of Concern on Voting Rights Protections	David Steele <i>Exhibit 5</i>
11:40 a.m.	Order of the Day Introductions and Reflections from International Guests (Dominican Republic, Nigeria, South Sudan, Venezuela, and Vietnam)	David Steele and Sharon Norton
12:00 p.m.	Mission and Ministry Board and Admin Team luncheon with international guests <i>(By invitation only)</i>	Atrium – Hilton
	Prayer for meal	David Steele
1:30 p.m.	Mission and Ministry Board Open Session	Jefferson B
	Gathering Song	Tina Hunt

- | | | |
|-----------|---|--------------------------------|
| 1:35 p.m. | Revelation 7:9 Awards
Wendy McFadden
Nancy Sollenberger Heishman | Founa Badet |
| 1:40 p.m. | Emergency Disaster Fund Allocation
<i>(Action: Approval)</i> | Roy Winter
<i>Handout</i> |
| 1:50 p.m. | Approve 2027 Budget Parameter for Core Ministries
<i>(Action: Approval)</i> | Kathy Mack
<i>Exhibit 3</i> |
| 2:05 p.m. | Strategic Planning Committee
Mid-ground vision update
<i>(Action: Adoption)</i> | Kathy Mack
<i>Exhibit 6</i> |
| 2:10 p.m. | Annual Conference business overview | David Steele |
| 2:15 p.m. | Governance Monitor report | Rosanna McFadden |
| 2:20 p.m. | Board Member recognition
Barbara Daté
Karen Shively Neff
Joanna Wave Willoughby | Kathy Mack and David Steele |
| 2:40 p.m. | Adjourn for the day

Executive Committee Closed Session
<i>Immediately upon MMB meeting adjournment</i>
<i>(Newly called committee)</i> | Jefferson B |

Wednesday, July 1

- | | | |
|-----------|---|------------|
| 5:00 p.m. | Mission and Ministry Board Dinner
and Closed Session | Harrison C |
| | Board Committees and Appointment Recommendations | |
| | Review of Annual Conference Assignments (if needed) | |