



I have been thinking a lot about formation lately. In some ways, Jesus's message of forgiveness, love, mercy, and peacemaking is as foreign a language now as it was in his day. Jesus ran across people all the time in the Gospels who didn't (perhaps simply couldn't) understand what he was getting at. I imagine Jesus was faced with confused looks every day of his public ministry. There were those who heard it and didn't understand but were attracted to it. And there were those who heard it and didn't understand and were repulsed or angered by it. Even the apostles, those who walked every day with him, often didn't get it. Those who were more likely to get it were people like Zacchaeus or the Samaritan woman, those who felt it in their own lives, reaching into a deep need, and then lived it out and passed it on like bread among those who were starving.

In our world, so many things form us into consumers, competitors, national citizens, even fighters and fear-ers. So much of the information we consume forms us into people who are suspicious and self-protecting or tribe-protecting. We are well-versed in the language of winner-take-all. How much of what we consume on a daily basis is forming us into radically trusting, loving, peace-making people who lead with mercy and forgiveness, who put faith in the abundance of God? How often are we learning and speaking the language of "there's more than enough love to go around"? How are we allowing God to form us into citizens of the realm of reconciliation?

If we are to live out and pass on the Gospel like bread among those who are starving, we need to be consistently molded by God, by Jesus, by the Spirit. We need to practice speaking this language that sometimes sounds foreign in our day to day lives, foreign in comparison to primary languages of fear and competition that the world seems filled with these days. And we need to practice it with each other, helping each other find spaces of non-coercion and dignity affirmation, and having patience with ourselves and others when we stumble over these words of Jesus because they feel too foreign or too strange.

We are called to something different that sometimes feels radically foolish in the power struggles of daily life – we are called to openness, vulnerability, trust, and love. Remember my mantra for the hard days? Yeast, salt, light, mustard seeds... How are we being formed in that kind of kingdom logic? How are we creating spaces for God to form our churches in that kind of kingdom logic? I'm not being rhetorical here! Go ahead – take a moment to answer for yourself and your church.

These are the kinds of questions the Brethren Leadership Institute task team is asking as we consider robust apprenticeship models for training ministers and lay leaders. These are the kinds of questions your district board will be asking in our upcoming retreat, as we look for ways to connect congregations and honor our distinctive role as Church of the Brethren in central and southern Indiana. These are the kinds of questions I know many of you are asking within your congregations as you address poverty, addiction, and brokenness in your own towns and communities.

Keep molding us, God. We want to be like Jesus.

Laura

Look for updates from Laura and other folks in the S/C IN District
on our District blog at:

<https://southcentralindianacob.com/blog/>

To subscribe to the blog and get new articles by email,
click the brown gear icon at the top of the website.

Also, follow South/Central Indiana District on Facebook
to see current information and upcoming events.

MESSAGE FROM THE MODERATOR

Ecclesiastes 3:1 "There is a time for everything. And a season for every activity under heaven"

October is a wonderful time of the year. In our rural area, the farm machinery is on the move. The hay has been baled, the soy beans are in hues of yellow to brown, just awaiting the monster combines for harvest. The corn is drying down. The fields are ripe with pumpkins. The apple trees are full of fruit. It's time for the harvest.

As October 1st is World Wide Communion Sunday, I hope you have the opportunity to avail yourself of the blessing of communion. Within our congregation we celebrate communion with the SOP, made with a more sturdy homemade bread, fresh vegetables, and pies for desert. Though good, the food isn't the star attraction of this gathering. For some congregations silence is the order of the meal, we are less formal. To take communion alone is a blessing, to take communion with other like minded brothers and sisters in Christ is an awesome experience. Yes we have the foot washing before the meal, we have the bread and cup after, but the time with my brothers and sisters in Christ is a building up time for all of us.

Your time in relationship with your brothers and sisters in Christ, and then time spent with God through the bread and cup of communion is a wonderful way to start your fall season. This is a time to take stock of what is really important. Remembering the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and the gift of redemption; And the life He lived showing us a yet better way of living.

As you progress through October, take time to really live the season. Take time to notice colors in the leaves, the cool nights, the brisk clear mornings, the harvest of the season. Take time to love your neighbor. Take time to spend with God through Christ's grace for us. Take time to appreciate your Christian brothers and sisters. Get into each others lives. Take the time to bless and be blessed.

To Love and be Loved, isn't that the most meaningful expression of who Christ is in us?

Agape from your Moderator,
Bruce Dunk
Lower Deer Creek COB

DISTRICT NEWS ITEMS

DISTRICT FINANCIAL REPORT as of August 31, 2023

	<u>August</u>	<u>YTD</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Congregations' Self-Allocation	\$1,000.42	\$54,381.74
Restricted Income	\$1,880.00	\$6,905.00
Other Income	-\$14,885.48	\$134,570.35
Total Income	-\$12,005.06	\$195,857.09
<u>Expenses</u>		
District Expenses	\$12,381.99	\$97,948.74
Restricted Expenses	\$3,454.55	\$10,370.11
Total Expenses	\$15,836.54	\$108,318.85
Net	-\$27,841.60	\$87,538.24
District Fund Balance	\$1,063,506.82	

OCTOBER DISTRICT PRAYER CALENDAR

October 1 - Join us as we lift up Roann CoB and the Mid-Atlantic District.

October 8 - Join us as we lift up Rossville CoB and the Missouri & Arkansas District.

October 15 - Join us as we lift up Salamonie CoB and the Northern Plains District.

October 22 - Join us as we lift up TurnPointe Community CoB and the Northern Ohio District.

October 29 - Join us as we lift up Timbercrest Senior Living Community.

DISTRICT CHURCH UPDATES

- **Anderson** - Is currently in the search process to fill a new part-time ministry position, Leader for Growth and Community Engagement. For more information about this position, go to: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1a7uN41DD7o8pDfI0J_cp-3b6B-cfDeIsJr6gRs4bj5s/edit?usp=sharing
- **Eel River Community**—Is seeking to fill a part-time position on their ministry team.
- **Mexico** - Matt Myers resigned effective August 27. The congregation is beginning the search process.
- **Peru** - Pastor Phillip Troxell passed away on September 8. The congregation is beginning the search process.
- **TurnPointe Community** - Pastor Mike Shroyer is taking a leave of absence. The congregation is in search for an interim.



We extend our sympathy to the family of **Phillip Troxell** who passed away on September 8. Phillip was ordained in the Church of the Brethren in April 2023 and served as pastor at Peru CoB. He was an active member of the District Board and BLI Task Team.

OCTOBER 2023 - DISTRICT CALENDAR DATES

October 5 - Ministry Credentialing Committee - 7:00 pm - District Office

October 12 - Shalom Team - 6:30 pm - District Office & Zoom

October 26 - Ministry Credentialing Committee - 7:00 pm - District Office

October 29 - Installation of Gwen Gustafson-Zook at Manchester CoB - 9:30 am

OCT 7TH



10 AM- 2PM

CAMP MACK FESTIVAL

Wagon Rides
Food
Music
Activities
Online Auction



ICE CREAM SOCIAL
2PM



For more info: <https://www.campmack.org/retreats-and-events/#family>

PASTOR APPRECIATION GRANTS THROUGH THE MINISTRY EXCELLENCE PROJECT

The Ministry Excellence Project offers Pastor Appreciation Grants to all the churches in the South/Central and Northern Indiana Districts. To recognize pastors during pastor appreciation month (October), the project offers a matching grant of up to \$150 for each pastor. Thus if the sponsoring church sends in a \$150 donation to the project; the project will send back a \$300 pastor appreciation grant for that church's pastor.

Applications for the grant were sent to church board chairs on September 1. If your church would like to participate in this grant and still needs an application, please contact the S/C IN District Office as soon as possible.



2023 PASTORAL COMPENSATION INFORMATION

All information and documents pertaining to 2023 updates for Pastoral Compensation can be found at:

<https://www.brethren.org/ministryoffice/compensation/>

This information was also e-mailed recently to pastors, church offices, board chairs, and treasurers for reference as you prepare 2024 budgets.

Does your congregation have a ministry or event you'd like to share about with the rest of the District?

Call or e-mail the District Office and we'll get it in the next newsletter!

NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS APPROVED AT 2023 DISTRICT CONFERENCE

- Moderator-Elect—Tim Troyer (Huntington)
- District Board: Doug Veal (Wabash) -North Section; Dan Kochensparger (Andrews) - East Section; Paul Schrock (Northview) - South Section
- Auditing Committee: DeEtta Balser (Eel River Community)
- Camp Mack Board: Kathy Denney (Nettle Creek), Jim Bates (Lafayette)
- Grants and Loans Committee: Jim Gaier (Wabash) - North Section; Paul Schrock (Northview) - South Section; John Sonafrank (Kokomo) - Central Section; Earl Doll (Hickory Grove) - East Section; Fred Roop (Lafayette) - West Section
- Indiana Youth Camp Council: Ayla Cashdollar, Kandence Fox
- Ministry Credentialing Committee: Steve Crain (Lafayette) - West Section
- Program and Arrangements: Bruce Mohler (Pipe Creek) - Central Section
- Shalom Committee: Erin Huiras (Liberty Mills)

TIS THE SEASON! (FOR NOMINATING LEADERS IN THE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN)

Whether you've been elected to a denominational leadership position, or have no idea how to even nominate someone, join us on zoom for an informative, active session: **Thursday, October 26, at 8pm Eastern.**

Nominations are made [online](#), with or without consulting your nominee first. But, the nomination can only move forward if the person you nominated fills out the [nominee information form](#) - and over half of the nominees never do!

Open offices: Moderator-elect, Program and Arrangements Committee, Mission & Ministry Board Areas 4 & 5, Bethany Theological Seminary Board of Trustees-Colleges, and On Earth Peace Board.

Check out the nominations process video and FAQs at <https://www.brethren.org/ac/nominations/> ... and/or come to our Nominations Party on Thursday, October 26th at 8pm Eastern. Just think - instead of putting "nominate people" on your to-do list and never getting around to it, come to a zoom party with friendly folks and you'll have time to make those nominations!

The zoom link for the event is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84129492000>

Hope to see you there,
The Womaen's Caucus Steering Committee

**IN CASE YOU MISSED ONE OF THEM IN AN EARLIER NEWSLETTER,
HERE ARE LINKS TO SOME UPCOMING EVENTS THAT YOU CAN STILL SIGN UP FOR:**

- ♦ **KINGIAN NONVIOLENCE TRAINING - NOVEMBER 10-12, 2023**, organized by the South/Central Indiana District, contact Mark Cripe (mark_cripe@yahoo.com) or go to <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeDwgPxRqBNvaOueq7IZya2oZfK2JWKpl7WJtgNuk9ZdS1Grw/viewform> to register.
- ♦ **CHILDREN'S DISASTER SERVICES TRAINING - OCTOBER 27-28, 2023**, Skyridge Church of the Brethren, Kalamazoo, MI - go to www.childrensdisasterservices.org for registration information.
- ♦ **Brethren Heritage River Cruise—August 22-30, 2024** - Schwarzenau, Germany – Visit the Founding Location of the Church of the Brethren - Wood Travel Partners -Joshua Wood—Jwood@dreamvacations.com -(765) 274-3986 or <https://travefy.com/website/x6fx26s3ndfv6nuxbarxnn-ywtar32qsqrm3q2>

UPCOMING BRETHREN ACADEMY COURSES

Introduction to Pastoral Care

January 16-19, 2024
Instructor: Debbie Eisenbise

This overview will emphasize the importance of formation as a pastoral caregiver, self-differentiation, scope of care, family and congregational systems, confession and forgiveness, death and grief, active listening, and prayer.

This course fulfills a required Ministry Skill unit (Preaching, Worship, Pastoral Care) and fulfills the Bethany Theological Seminary Experience. The deadline to register for this course is **December 5, 2023**.

Questions may be directed to the Coordinator for English-Language Training Programs, Audrey Holtenberg-Duffey at holleau@bethanyseminary.edu or 765-983-1810.

From Reformation to Today

January 24 - March 19, 2024
Instructor: Josh Brockway, PhD

In order to understand Christian faith and practice also means we must attend to time and place. Simply stated, the study of the past helps us comprehend what God has done and continues to do among us. This course will focus on the history of Christianity from the 1500s up to the present day

TRIM students will receive one credit in Biblical/Historical/Theological Studies upon completion. EFSM students may create a Learning Unit for the course. **The deadline to register for this course is December 19, 2023**.

Questions may be directed to Academy Director, Janet Ober Lambert at oberlja@bethanyseminary.edu or 765-983-1820.

Persons interested in taking an Academy course for CEUs or Personal Enrichment may register in one of two ways:

- 1) Mail the registration form, available for the district office, with payment to Brethren Academy, 615 National Rd. W., Richmond, IN 47374.
- 2) Register and pay online at <https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/brethren-academy-course-listings/brethren-academy-course-registration-annual-trim-payment/> There is a 3% service charge when registering online.



PART-TIME PASTOR FULL-TIME CHURCH

NEWS



“A Balm for my Soul”

In the most recent A Resting Place video, Connie Burkholder leads a calming video about seeking peace in God’s creation.

The creation of A Resting Place videos began with an understanding that it can be hard for pastors to remember to take a moment for themselves, to find a balm for their soul.

Do you need a healing balm for your soul today? Watch Connie’s video on Facebook, Instagram, or Vimeo and then share it with someone who also needs to take a moment to rest.



@ptpftcbrethren

ARE YOU A PART-TIME OR MULTI-VOCATIONAL PASTOR? WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR STORY!

What does ministry look like in your context?

Thinking of your current context...

Can you name 3 challenges that you experience on a regular basis?



Can you name 3 blessings?

Do you feel supported in your call? If not, how can we support you?

Ways to Connect

Richard Wehrle | Program Manager
rwehrle@brethren.org
847-429-4365
brethren.org/ministryoffice/
part-time-pastor



Welcome Richard!

Richard Wehrle has been hired by the Church of the Brethren as program manager for Part-Time Pastor, Full-Time Church. He is pastor of Midland (VA) Church of the Brethren. In addition to serving as a pastor, he has worked as a truss design project manager for Alliance Structural Engineers of Reston, VA for the past 13 years. He also has been homeless outreach coordinator for Serving our Neighbors of Manassas, VA.

WHAT CAN PTPFTC DO FOR YOU ?

Part -Time Pastor Full-Time Church offer grants and assistance for the following:

- District pastoral events
- CEU credit courses and programs
- Self care opportunities

Email officeofministry@brethren.org for questions and more information



2023 South/Central Indiana District Conference Report

By Mark Stahl, 2023 District Moderator

The 52nd Annual District Conference of the South/Central Indiana District Church of the Brethren was held on Saturday, August 19, 2023 at the Creative Financial Centre in Kokomo, Indiana. Ninety-nine persons attended with 68 serving as delegates and 24 congregations represented.

Pre-conference activities were held on Friday, August 19, 2023 at the Kokomo Church of the Brethren. Friday afternoon, Jan Largent from the Union Grove CoB and a Circuit-Rider for the denomination's *Part-Time Pastor, Full-Time Church* program led a Continuing Education Unit event on *Ministry in Small Churches* which was well-attended and very informative. A Pastor Appreciation Supper followed with good food and fellowship. An awesome concert by *Friends with the Weather* capped off the day.

Saturday's activities began with conference registration and breakfast provided for by Central Section congregations and members of the Program & Arrangements Committee. This year's Singing/Gathering Music was led by the Kokomo CoB Praise Team followed by a worship service with Moderator-Elect, Bruce Dunk, serving as the Worship Leader and Moderator, Mark Stahl, preaching on *Cross-Training* from Luke 9:18-27. As part of our worship, an offering for the Ministerial Excellence Project received \$960.

As usual, this year's conference business included attendees sitting at round tables to listen to a variety of reports on how God has been at work in our District this past year as well as reports from our beloved denomination, denominational agencies, and denominational affiliations. Opportunities for Table Talk, (a time for folks to discuss current business items which included the 2024 Budget and new District leadership before a vote was taken, to celebrate Christ's work in our congregations, and to plan ways to share Christ's work in our District with those back home), were significantly increased from past conferences. (See the 2023 District Conference minutes for complete coverage of this year's business agenda.)

Timbercrest donated cookies for a mid-morning break and a catered boxed lunch was served by members of the Kokomo CoB. The afternoon Pie Auction for the Brethren Leadership Institute brought in \$1,500.

This year's conference ended with prayers of blessings for new leadership as 2024 Moderator, Bruce Dunk, and 2024 Moderator-Elect, Tim Troyer, sat in the center of the room while persons gathered around them for the laying on of hands and prayers led by Mark Stahl and DEM Laura Stone. Mark Stahl then passed the Moderator's gavel on to Bruce Dunk who offered some closing remarks and brought our conference to an end.

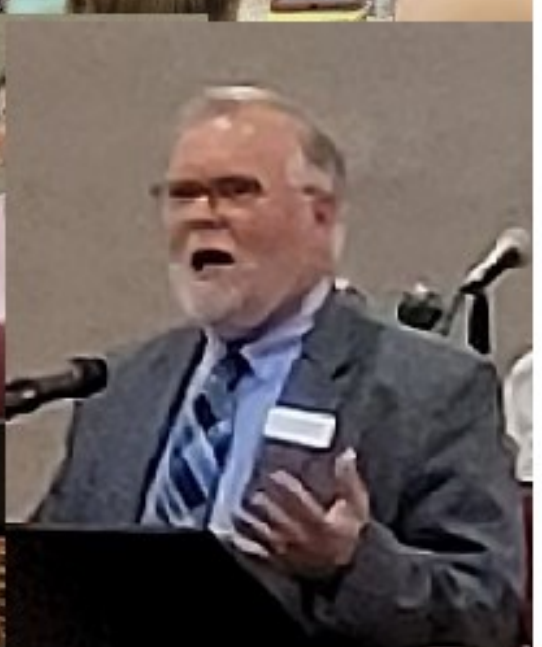


Sarah @ Registration
Kokomo Praise Team Singing
Worship Center
Moderator Mark Stahl Preaching





Lots of Reporting



Pie Auction

Dan Riccius, Auctioneer





**Passing the Gavel to our
New Moderator, Bruce Dunk,
& Laying on of Hands**





Peacefully, Simply, Together.

SOUTH/CENTRAL INDIANA DISTRICT OFFICE, CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
260.274.0396

LAURA STONE, DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MINISTER

scindlaura@gmail.com, 574.306.8768

Usual work days: Wednesday—Sunday

SARAH O'HARA, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

scindcob@gmail.com

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

District Website: www.scindcob.org

Denominational website: www.brethren.org



<https://www.facebook.com/SouthCentral-Indiana-District-205091192857321/>

South/Central Indiana District
Church of the Brethren
PO Box 32
North Manchester, IN 46962



Church of the Brethren

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«CITY» «STATE» «ZIP»