

**DISTRICT CONFERENCE MINUTES**  
**August 24-25, 2008**  
**Anderson University**

David Shumate, the Annual Conference Moderator, was the speaker for the Friday evening worship service which began at 7:00 p.m.

After the worship service, Moderator Aaron Gross called the business meeting to order. There were 133 delegates in attendance and 100 non-delegates. The officers of the conference were introduced - Aaron Gross, Moderator; Gary Yoder, Moderator-elect; Helen Wenger, secretary; and Ed Johnson, time-keeper. The rules of the conference were read by the secretary and the delegates were dedicated. The agenda for the conference was adopted.

Jerry Longenbaugh, chair of the nominating committee presented the ballot and introduced the people on the ballot.

Three reports were given. Robert Barcus reported for Manchester College. The college has been working on the General Education program which can be completed in 3 years and save about \$50,000 for the students. The college is planning to offer a graduate program in Education. Manchester now has 25 Fulbright Scholars. There are 360 plus freshman students enrolled for the fall. Manchester College received a grant for \$100,000 from WalMart to identify and enroll first generation college students and a \$600,000 grant to study the Northern Eel River watershed project.

The delegates approved the Manchester College Trustees at large:

Continuing At-Large member (Second five year term) until 2013 - Elvin Zook

Continuing District Representative (Second five year term) 2013 - Robert Barcus

Proposed new At-Large Trustees for five year terms beginning 2009: Sara Edgerton, Marsha Link, Larry Rowland, and John Zeglis.

Anne Meyers reported for Timbercrest and said this was the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year for Timbercrest to be in North Manchester, Ind. She talked about the improvements to the Healthcare unit. There are 12 new homes in the neighborhood which brings the total to 80 units. Uncompensated care which was \$347,000 last year comes from donations from the congregations.

The delegates approved the Timbercrest Board members: the members of the board serve 3 year terms. David Cox will serve until 2011, Jan Fahs-Brown until 2009, and Tim Ogden will complete a one year term vacated by Barb Flory.

Rex Miller, Executive Director for Camp Mack, gave the presentation for Camp Mack. Camp Mack is in the process of a Capital Campaign. The delegates approved Kate Gandy for a three year at-large term on the ICB. Youth Council appointments are: Taylor Ludlow for a two year term and Hunter Keith for a one year term.

Gary Yoder lead a prayer for the three agencies. Bickey Garber led us in a few minutes of Brethren History Trivia throughout the Conference.

Allen Kahler, our District Moderator, said he placed about seven pastors this year and recognized those who have served in the district through the years. He recognized various churches in the district for their unique ministries this year. He talked about the Lilly Grant. This is a matching grant.

Allen announced that he has been elected vice chairman of the council of district executives.

Harvest Fellowship has moved into a school instead of meeting in homes.

Allen introduced Ruben Deoleo who is the new Cross Cultural Consultant from the Congregational Life Team. He also announced that Christiana Singh has been hired to be the consultant for the District Youth Ministry.

We took a minute to recognize Dee Grindle for her work as our District Secretary. Leslie Pettit is now filling this position on a part time basis.

The District also gave a wedding gift to Allen and Shannon who were married in May.

Jeff Castetter gave a review of Standing Committee business this summer. Standing Committee reviews business before it goes to the Annual Conference delegates and makes recommendations.

Old business included the restructure of the Association of Brethren Caregivers with the General Board and Annual Conference committee. This new entity will be known as the Church of the Brethren Mission and Ministry Board. He also gave us an overview of the new business items.

Phil Tomson gave the District Board report. He thanked the board members for their hard work and excellent attendance. He recognized those leaving the board: Eric Braun, Gail Burkholder, Martha Cory, and Jay Carter. Bill House will complete Martha Cory's term. We do need a Financial Secretary.

The following board appointments were approved:

Auditing committee (3 years) Jason Kreighbaum

Ethics Committee (3 years) - Donna Stiver

Indiana Camp Board (3 years) - Helen Wenger

Ministry Interview Committee (5 year term) - Joe Redmon

Nominating Committee (3 year term) - Jay Carter

We still need a North Section person for Nominating and Personnel committee.

DeEtta Balser gave the financial reports. The assets of the District decreased by \$7,500 last year with a total loss of \$8,000. Church allocations are higher for this year. The office expenses are running in the red. The churches in the district are the only ones who can make a difference in the financial situation of the District. This can be accomplished with special offerings or an increase in budget giving.

Ron Finney explained the opportunities the Lilly grant gives us to encourage Pastoral Excellence and the issues that impact them and their families.

Phase I is complete and the breakout session will deal with how to move to Phase 2.

Two agencies of the Church of the Brethren reported to conference. A DVD presentation talked about the ministry of each of the five agencies. Loyce Borgmann represented BBT and Amy Ritchie talked about her experience at Bethany Theological Seminary.

DeEtta Balsler presented the proposed 2009 Budget for the District. There is a decrease of \$6,755 from 2008 because the office secretary position is part time. The budget passed.

Gerry Longenbaugh of the Nominating committee presented the following motion from the committee:

It was recommended that the personnel section of the constitution be suspended for two years to use the slate system of selecting persons for service. At that time (2010) the conference will decide if it would like to make the changes permanent. This motion required a 2/3 majority vote to pass. The motion passed.

Three persons were recognized for completing the TRIM program: Jeff Tomson, Aaron Gross, and Chuck Bell.

The offering Friday night at conference was \$860.75 which will go toward church planting.

Baskets made and donated by different churches for the silent auction totaled \$957.50 which will also go toward church planting.

Erin Huiras has volunteered to serve on the Nominating and Personnel committee from the North Section and the conference approved this.

The Youth who attended Youth Conference during District Conference joined the delegates and shared their excitement about the experiences they've had this weekend.

The election results are:

Moderator-elect - Mike Cassidy

District Board representative - North Section - Brad Yoder

District Board representative - East Section - Bob Ewert

Program and Arrangements - Central section- Janet Shoue

Program and Arrangements - South Section - Bev Nicholson

The gavel was passed to the moderator for next year - Gary Yoder. His vision for the coming year is to focus on Community and how to get churches together.

