

DISTRICT CONFERENCE MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 21, 2013

The 43rd District Conference of South/Central Indiana Church of the Brethren met at the Manchester Church of the Brethren in North Manchester, Indiana on Saturday, September 21, 2013. At 9:00 a.m. Moderator Guy Studebaker called the Business Meeting to order following the morning worship service. The theme of District Conference was "... take your mat and walk. (Mark 2:9)" Moderator Guy Studebaker opened by welcoming all in attendance, making announcements, stating the rules of Conference, introducing Conference officers at the head table, and conducting the Consecration time and seating of delegates. Officers of District Conference included Moderator Guy Studebaker, Moderator-Elect Kay Gaier, Secretary Bev Donaldson (substituting for Robin Owens), Conference Coordinator Carrie Bush, and Time-keeper Mary Riccius. There were 115 delegates and 47 non-delegates in attendance. Offering collected during the worship service (\$812) and baskets auction monies (\$1197) will go to the Ministry-in-Training Endowment Fund.

Minutes of the 2012 District Conference and the Agenda for the 2013 District Conference were both accepted by the delegate body.

The District Board Report was presented by all members of the District Board. Using an exercise mat, each member reported and thanked various congregations in the district for hosting District Board meetings throughout the year.

Jonathan Shively, Executive Director of Congregational Life Ministries Church of the Brethren, shared about the Vital Ministry Journey which included how various congregations are ministering in their communities.

Beth Sollenberger presented the District Executive Minister Report found on page 9 in the District Conference Booklet. Several questions were raised about the Roann Church issue. Beth shared information about that situation. Result of mediation is a court date Nov. 19-20, 2013 in Wabash Circuit Court at 9:00 am. Report was accepted.

The Financial Report located on pages 13-18 of DC booklet was presented by DeEtta Balser. After a few questions, the report was accepted.

Standing Committee Report was given by Mike Cassidy who shared the workings of Standing Committee and several items of new business for 2014 Annual Conference to be held in Columbus, Ohio. Report accepted.

Peter Michael presented the Ministry Interview Committee Report. The purpose of this committee is to interview candidates to be licensed and ordained. When there is a shortage of good leadership, the standards go down. Plans are in process to work with congregations on how to go about "CALLING" good leadership. Report accepted.

Chuck Bell, TRIM Coordinator, gave special recognition to TRIM Graduate, Erin Huiras, who is now the Associate Pastor at the Liberty Mills Church of the Brethren. Pastor Erin began TRIM program in 2001; graduating 2013.

The Disaster Response Coordinator, Cliff Kindy, shared the main areas this group has been helping: Pulaski County, Indiana, and Holson, Indiana. They will be helping Binghamton, NY in Oct. 13-19, 2014. They are searching for a District Child Care Program Coordinator. Report is located on pages 26-27 of the District Conference Booklet. Report was approved.

The 2013-2014 Slate located on page 6 of the District Conference Booklet was approved.
The Appointments for Approval as listed on page 7 of DC booklet were accepted.

Jim Chinworth informed delegates of the 2014 NYC to be held in Fort Collins, Colorado. He challenged delegates to encourage and support youth to attend NYC.

Business Session resumed 2:00 after lunch, Breakout Sessions, and worship.

The Brethren Agencies Report: Delegates viewed a video summarizing the workings of the agencies. Jonathan Shively, Executive Director of Congregational Life Ministries Church of the Brethren, summarized the activities of this agency -involved in Older Adult Conference, discussed concerns of Syria today, emergency disasters, medical efforts in Haiti, BVSers, new church conferences growing, and completion of TRIM degree-Erin Huiras. On Earth Peace report was presented by Lizz Schallert. OEP is working to stop violence and promote peace; working from a faith perspective; and continue to support the Church of the Brethren peace tradition.

DeEtta Balsler presented the 2014 Budget (located on page 19 in District Conference Booklet.) A decrease in staff salary was discussed. Leslie Pettit's hours will be decreased to 12 hours per week. Churches are not sending their self-allocations to the District. Letters of encouragement have been sent to churches as reminder to send in their share. 2014 Budget was accepted.

Timbercrest Report was presented by David Lawrenz. Timbercrest Report is located on pages 39-40 of District Conference Booklet.

Rex Miller, Executive Director of Camp Mack, presented the Camp Mack Report. This report is located on pages 30-33 in the District Conference Booklet.

Walt Wiltschek, Director of Church Relations, presented the Manchester University Report located on page 36 in the District Conference Booklet.

Ministry Excellence Report located on page 37 of DC Booklet was presented by Beth Sollenberger. \$150 in matching grants will be given to churches for Pastor Appreciation Month October 2013. Churches will match \$150 for a total of \$300 to be given to their Pastors.

3:25-Passing of the Gavel & Installation of Moderator-Elect Pastor Kay Gaier. The theme for 2014 District Conference is "Released by Grace; Freed to Love" based on Philipians. Pastor Kay encouraged us to strive to be and become a better church.

DEM Beth Sollenberger thanked the Manchester COB for hosting District Conference and for their hospitality. She also thanked Bev Donaldson who substituted today as DC Secretary for Robin Owens.

Closing prayer—Beth Sollenberger
3:35—Dismissed; invited to go eat ice cream

Submitted by Bev Donaldson
(substituting for Robin Owens, Secretary)