

## MINUTES OF THE 2018 SOUTH/CENTRAL INDIANA DISTRICT CONFERENCE

The 48th District Conference of South/Central Indiana District of the Church of the Brethren met at Grandview Church of the Brethren on Saturday, September 15, 2018. The theme of the conference is Love is a Commandment based on the passage John 12:33-35. Moderator Cindy Dunk called the meeting to order and led in prayer. She then led the delegates in the consecration which is on page 5 in the District Conference (DC) booklet. She went over the rules listed on page 2 of the DC booklet.

Minutes from the 2017 District Conference (page 8 in the DC) booklet were accepted by the delegates.

The agenda was accepted by the delegates.

Moderator then directed the delegates to a time of table talk, discussing “How do we love those we like or agree with?” and then “How do we love those we disagree with or don’t like?” She followed up by asking “did you find question number 1 easy and question 2 more difficult, or were they the same?”

District Board Report presented by Earl Doll was titled “Building Together”. Loon Creek closed and the building was sold to another ministry that is continuing to share God’s message. The Brethren Leadership Institute continues to provide support for pastors and church growth. A conference called “A Conversation on Biblical Authority” was held in Ohio and our district provided leadership. Carol Spicher Waggy is filling in as interim District Executive while our District Executive Beth Sollenberger is working with the Michigan District. These are just a few of the ways that we are continuing the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, together. While the report was being presented members of the board worked together building with giant tinker toys.

Financial Report and recommendation of 2019 Budget (pages 12-22 in the DC booklet) was presented by Treasurer Jim Bates. He began by thanking DeEtta Balsler (former treasurer), Beth Sollenberger and Rachel Gross for their help as he assumed the position of treasurer. The Budget and Reports were approved by the delegates.

Slate and Appointments (page 23-25 in the DC booklet) were presented by Brian Mackie. The slate was approved. There was a point of order called to ask about the appointments. They were recommended by the board and approved by the delegates.

District Executive Minister’s Report (page 26 and 27 in DC booklet) presented by both Beth Sollenberger and Carol Spicher Waggy. First Beth gave thanks for our faith, commitment and good cheer as we worked together. She said that Michigan is a divided place and she covets our prayers as she works to bring unity. She announced that Rachel Gross is retiring in December and asked those attending the conference to be sure to thank her for her service to our district. She also asked for prayer for Grandview’s pastor David Owens, who had a heart attack and was not able to be at the conference. Carol reported the pastoral changes, awarded certificates to pastors who had served 5 years and in 5 year increments. Joe Mason has served 70 years!

She thanked the pastors of all 43 congregations and had all pastors and preachers attending the conference to stand and be recognized.

Moderator Dunk asked and all reports were received by the delegates. She then dismissed the meeting for a morning break.

Moderator Dunk reopened the business at 11:00am.

Ministry Interview Report (page 28 in DC booklet) was presented by Joe Redmon. He thanked churches that allowed them to meet and interview in their facilities and noted that this committee has served thoughtfully and prayerfully.

Brethren Leadership Institute Report (page 29 in the DC booklet) was presented by Erin Huiras. He mentioned Philippians 1:9. He noted that God changes us, God grows us and calls us to new things. He thanked Don Fecher, Tina Ryman, Rachel Gross, Beth Sollenberger, Carol Waggy, Larry Foreman, and Marie Willoughby. Janet Ober Lambert explained Certification by Brethren Administration for Ministerial Leadership (BAML).

Ministry Excellence Project (page 30 in DC booklet) was presented by Beth Sollenberger. She asked that congregations put MEP in their budgets in order to sustain this project. She also noted that October is Pastor Appreciation Month and that congregations could send up to \$150 to the district and it would be matched for Pastor Appreciation.

Historical Committee-no report

Brethren Disaster Ministries (pages 31 and 32 in DC booklet) Cliff Kindy reported that while serving in North Carolina in response to damage from Matthew several years ago, that BDM was kicked out due to Hurricane Florence. He said that 4 people are now associated with the Brethren Church as a result BDM. He noted that it is an evangelistic arm of the church. He urged people to GO! SERVE!. He said that if you can't go and serve, you can recruit people who can. He commissioned each person at the conference to be a recruiter.

Standing Committee Report (pages 33 and 34 in DC booklet) Kurt Borgmann reported that this was his 3rd year on the standing committee, and that he will serve 3 more years. He explained the situation that led to Beth being recruited to serve in Michigan. He described the nomination process and encouraged us all to nominate for the next Annual Conference noting that 18 of 23 districts were represented in this years nominations received by nominating committee. Submit nominations, then it is up to the nominating committee to contact and ask if nominees are willing to serve. He brought attention to page 34 paragraph 2 and noted that seeking 2/3 support compels us to work together! He said that it encourages conversation not competition. He would be happy to talk with anyone who has questions or comments.

District Executive Evaluation Report (not in DC booklet or on agenda) Robb Miller explained that the DE evaluation was still in process. A survey had been sent to three

levels; District Board members, Pastors and Congregational Board chairs and district members. The district board met to receive the results, but there was an error in the reporting. Robb is waiting to receive the updated report and the committee will meet on the 17th to discuss the results. As of now, there is a lot of information, but not a lot of answers.

Timbercrest Report (page 39 and 40. in the DC booklet) was presented by Paul Shrock. He said that since David Lawrenz's retirement there had been missteps and mistakes in leadership. The current CEO voluntarily resigned. He reported that they are in the process of recruiting new leadership, but that the facility is caring for their residents even as they move forward in their search for two new leaders. He asks that we pray for the board during this difficult transition. He answered questions by Kurt Borgmann and Wayne Grumbling.

Moderator Dunk asked that the reports be accepted, and the delegates accepted the reports that were presented.

There was a brief explanation of the lunch procedures and the insight sessions after lunch. Moderator Dunk prayed for the meal and dismissed us for lunch.

After lunch Rachel Gross asked for all to return conference evaluations, and expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to serve as Administrative Assistant.

Moderator Dunk called the conference back to order. There was a time of table talk about practical love. She asked "to whom should we give the proceeds from the upcoming dessert auction?" She instructed the delegates to write the name of an organization/ministry on the paper provided and a drawing would be held from the names submitted.

Dessert Auction and congregational videos. Erin Huiras served as auctioneer of the many delicious desserts that were auctioned off. During breaks in the auction, videos were played from all of the SC Indiana congregations.

BDM and Global Mission and Services Office will be the recipients of the funds collected from the Dessert Auction.

Compelling Vision Report presented by Samuel Sarpiya. What does Christ call us to be? Success is dependent on all COB congregations. Samuel suggests that there is more that holds us together than what divides us. He explained that the "vision" will not be forced upon on you but will draw you in . He hopes that the vision will be so Christlike, so compelling . . . He asked what about forming a compelling vision gives you hope? Our district will be able to see the full presentation on Saturday 11/10/18 at Anderson COB from 3-5pm or on Sunday 11/11/18 at Timbercrest from 2-4pm.

Camp Mack Report (pages 35 and 36 in DC booklet) presented by Gene Hollenberg and Board Chairman Aaron Alexander. Gene said he would be happy to come to

churches, to preach, do children's stories or to lead singing and to talk to adults about Camp Mack. He encouraged us to raise money to send children to camp. He concluded his report by stating that Camp Mack is strong when the church is strong.

Manchester Report (pages 37 and 38 in the DC booklet) presented by Amy Beery. She thanked everyone for support for students, resources and especially for prayers.

A video was shared for the 4 agencies of the COB.

Bethany Theological Seminary Report (page 41 in DC booklet) presented by Amy Beery. 18 students graduated in May. They are working on the Brethren Neighborhood which is several houses offered to students to encourage relationship and community. She discussed the Pillars and Pathways Program which allows students to graduate debt free.

Brethren Benefit Trust (BBT) Report (pages 42 and 43) presented by Jean Bednar. There are brochures on the tables. We offer online access, we are a pension, insurance, asset management, investment and education ministry. There is a BBT newsletter.

On Earth Peace (page 48 in DC booklet) No report presented.

Church of the Brethren, Inc. (pages 44 and 45 in the DC booklet). No report presented.

Moderator Dunk announced that \$1461 was received from the dessert auction and that 136 buckets were received. She thanked Grandview COB for hosting the district conference, the Program and Arrangements committee, Beth, Carol, Rachel and her table help. She prayed for the buckets that would aid victims of disasters and for the new leadership. She passed the gavel to Moderator-elect Tom Allbaugh and asked him to adjourn the meeting.

Tom stated that the theme for next year would be commitment; to life, church, SC District and to Church of the Brethren.

Meeting was adjourned by Moderator-elect Tom Allbaugh