

## District Conference Minutes 2019

The 49th District Conference of South/Central Indiana District of the Church of the Brethren met at on Saturday, September 21, 2019 at the Living Faith Church of the Brethren. Moderator Tom Allbaugh called the meeting to order and led in prayer. He spoke of mission experience and asked us to let the Holy Spirit work through us.

He said that the offering collected today would be used for the Brethren Leadership Institute (BLI).

He led the delegates in consecration (page 5 in DC booklet) and then reviewed the Conference rules (page 2 in DC booklet)

Minutes-motion to accept the minutes (pages 6-9 in DC booklet) was made, seconded and approved by the delegates.

Agenda-motion to accept the agenda was made, seconded and approved by the delegates.

Table Talk-Tom asked that tables engage in table talk and try to come up with one item that they all liked.

District Board Report-Earl Doll gave the District Board Report (pages 11-12 in DC booklet)and members of the board described the function of the district board, the history, viability and vitality, projects, and desire to engage youth. Earl closed the report asking everyone to pray for those who serve. Delegate Tom Brown-Lafayette CoB asked about money received from the sale of the Richmond CoB and Mark Stahl-Kokomo CoB asked about the evaluation of the District Executive Minister. Beth Sollenberger, Kurt Borgmann and Rob Miller answered the delegates questions.

Financial Report-Jim Bates presented the Financial Report (pages 13-22 in DC booklet) and budget proposal (page 23 in DC booklet) Jim mentioned market fluctuations, but that in 13 months we had earned about 5%. He mentioned that when the budget was proposed there was not a recommendation from Annual Conference, but that the board recommended a 3.3% raise increase for District Executive Minister. He also noted that Beth donates her mileage.

The budget is a recommendation from the board and does not need a second. Earl Doll, chairman of the board asked delegates to vote on the recommended budget and it was approved. He presented a recommendation from the board to close the West Eel River congregation and it was approved.

Cindy Dunk presented the slate, appointments for approval and appointments for your information. Moderator asked for delegates to vote on slate and appointments and they were approved.

Break

DE Report-Beth Sollenberger started her report (page 10 in DC booklet) by expressing her gratitude to Carol Wagy, the Michigan District and Rachel Gross and Sarah O'Hara. She then recognized ministers who had served from 5 to 70 years in the church. She acknowledged the support and prayers of SC Indiana people and people from around the world as she battled cancer.

Ministry Interview Committee Report-(page 24 in DC booklet) was presented by Bev Eikenberry. She encouraged us to value what we have as anabaptists and said that she was grateful to serve on the MIC. She stated that BLI is a valuable resource.

Brethren Leadership Institute-Erin Huiras presented the report (page 27 in DC booklet). He explained that the BLI is a 3 year training program. He quoted Romans 10:14. He stated that all instructors are MDIV (or higher).

Ministry Excellence Project-Report-Phil Thomson presented the report (page 43 in DC booklet). It was started in 2009 with a grant from the Lily Foundation and is used to show pastor appreciation. Churches can donate up to \$150 and the MEP matches it so pastors can receive up to \$300. There are 5 churches still providing funds and right now we have about \$127,000 left to be distributed. Phil thanked Beth Sollenberger and Sarah O'Hara for their work on MEP.

Brethren Disaster Ministry-Cliff Kindy presented the report (page 35-36 in DC booklet). He commented on the personal impact serving in BDM has on volunteers. He stated that it is bigger than rebuilding. There are many slots that need filled on work teams. He challenged us to taste BDM. He challenged our district to volunteer.

Standing Committee Report-Kurt Borgmann presented the report (page 25). Highlights to the report include standing committee's review of Appeals Process. He explained that standing committee has made it policy to reaching a 2/3 majority before forwarding any business to the delegate body. He stated that he went through the compelling vision question process twice and said a recommendation or statement will come at the next Annual Conference. He was re-elected to the nominating committee and is now the chair. He expects nominations from our district and volunteered to meet anyone with nominations during the lunch break! He said that AC Moderator-Elect Paul Mundy will be at Manchester for a delegate briefing and to meet with Pastors prior to AC. Someone asked what area we are in and Kurt said we are Area 2.

Moderator Tom explained where the insight sessions would be, encouraged everyone to visit the displays and led in prayer before we dismissed for lunch.

Lunch

Moderator called us back to order at 2:00 and said that we would forego table talk and get right to the dessert auction. He reminded us that proceeds would be for BLI. There would also be a quilt auction to benefit the Women's Camp.

Timbercrest Report-Brian Daniels presented the Timbercrest Report. (page 46-47 in DC booklet) It began as the Mexico Home in 1889. It is still 60% brethren with about 50% Church of the Brethren. There are 300 residents ranging in age from 65 to 104 years of age.

Church of the Brethren Report-Jay Wittmeyer Executive Director of Global Mission and Services presented the report (page 41 in DC booklet) He spoke about Tijuana, and referred to Gilbert Ramero's "Another Way of Believing".

He introduced Paul Shrock who serves on the Mission and Ministry Board. He said they would process the information gathered at AC and that "fruit" would be shared at the AC next year. It will guide in the strategic allocation of resources moving forward.

Jay said that Heifer International had celebrated their 75th anniversary in October. Church of the Brethren is continuing relief in Puerto Rico and is funding relief for Hurricane Dorian. Tom Brown-Lafayette CoB asked about the MOU with selective services. Jay said he did not come prepared to speak on the MOU.

Manchester University-Bekka Houff presented the Manchester report (page 42 in DC booklet). She stated that 625 had attended the celebrating 80 years of Camp Mack event. The ROBOT worship team continues to offer worship services and Powerhouse Regional Youth Conference will have 35 attending Camp Mack in November.

On Earth Peace-Tiffany Byers presented the OEP Report. (pages 44-45 in DC booklet) She said they had a new mission and values statement and 45 years of history. She told of a young boy named Otto who reached out to death row inmates. In the end over 2000 letters were written. She said that OEP develops and walks with leaders and they continue to work for justice and peace.

Camp Alexander Mack Report-James Shively and Todd Eastis presented the Camp Mack report. (pages 39-40 in DC booklet) There are 3 representatives from the South Central District, 3 from the Northern District, 4 at large members and 2 District Executives on the Camp Mack board. The treasurer is a non-voting member. James shared five areas of focus: effective ministry, financial stability and health, facility improvement, building strong programs and a capital development. Todd said "thank you" to all who support Camp Mack, he thanked those who had served at the camp. He shared that there were 5 different groups at camp today. He also said that if you need pulpit supply call Camp Mack! A strong Camp Mack needs strong churches and strong churches need a strong Camp Mack.

Moderator Tom announced that there were 551 emergency kits collected and that we raised \$1505 for BLI and \$370 for the Women's Camp. Thanks to all who contributed. Tom introduced Moderator-Elect Spencer Spaulding. Spencer accepted the gavel, said that he would try to use it effectively and adjourned the meeting with prayer.

