

# S/C Indiana Church of the Brethren District Conference Minutes September 24, 2022

The 2022 South Central Indiana District Conference was held in the Quinter-Miller Auditorium at Camp Alexander Mack, Milford, Indiana.

This year's Moderator is Christy Huiras and the conference theme is "*Come Alive*" "*I'll breathe my life into you and you'll live.*" *Ezekiel 37:14a (MSG)*

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Following the Singing/Gathering Music and Worship, Christy began the business of this conference with the Consecration of Delegates, Introductions, and Review of the Rules of District Conference.

## **2021 Minutes and 2022 Agenda**

For the Minutes from 2021 and the 2022 Agenda, it was moved and seconded for each to be accepted. Both motions approved.

## **District Board Report**

Glen Miller, District Board Chair, reviewed the history and originations of the district. He summarized the information from his report, which appears in Conference book. There were no questions.

## **District Financial Reports**

Treasurer Jim Bates reported on the District Financial Reports. His reports show the 2021 year-end and current year financials as of July 31, 2022. The proposed budget for year 2023 is on page 27 of the conference book.

He asked conference delegates to remind their local Treasurer to contact Jim regarding their planned giving.

## **Recommendation of 2023 Budget Glen Miller**

It was explained that on the proposed budget, the clergy salary amount assumes 15-years' experience and a M.Div. degree. He noted that \$50,000 from the proceeds from the sale of the Greenwood property has been allocated as a supplement to the budgeted clergy salary amount, if needed.

A motion to accept the proposed budget was made and seconded, no questions were asked and the budget was approved.

## **Presentation of Business Items Glen Miller, Board Chair**

### **1. Closing of Grandview & White Branch Congregations**

A motion from the board: To disorganize the Grandview and White Branch congregations.

First, Grandview:

Discussion regarding the Grandview congregation's decision included questions regarding whether Grandview had been given adequate support. Regarding the property, it would be difficult to justify the money it would require to take the issue to court. The Board had decided that it would not be prudent to spend the money knowing that the

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likelihood of a successful outcome would be slim. Another person asked about results of the Grandview congregation's vote. Glen explained that the vote was unanimous. One person against the move is now deceased. The motion to disorganize passed. All rose to recite a message of sadness and a blessing on the Grandview congregation.

Next, White Branch:

It was asked if Grandview and White Branch plan to remain independent. Answer: Grandview will be independent. White Branch is joining the Covenant Brethren Church.

In response to a question about what happens to a Pastor of a church that leaves the Church of the Brethren, Paul Schrock stated that is not relevant to the question on the floor. The Board's motion to disorganize White Branch passed. All rose to recite the message of sadness and a blessing on the White Branch congregation.

### **2. Indiana Camp Board Operating Procedures updates**

The Board moves to accept the Indiana Camp Board Operating Procedures Change as it appears in the District book. The change affects the term length for district representatives to the Camp Board – from three (3) years to five (5) years. It was asked if the current nominees were informed of this change, but that is not necessary, as it will not affect current nominees. The motion was approved.

### **Presentation and Approval of Slate & Appointments**

Rachel Gross presented for approval the Slate and Appointments for Approval. She introduced the Moderator-Elect, Bruce Dunk, the District Board representative (Central Section), Samantha Griffin (Marion Cob) and the District Board representative (West Section), Jenny Lantz (Pike Creek CoB). There was a description of the duties of the Nominating & Personnel Committee for the purpose of clarification. To fill the opening on Nomination & Personnel for the East Section, they asked for nominations from the floor. Richard Reasoner from the Bethel Center COB volunteered for this position. The Slate and Appointments were approved.

*At 10:35, Conference attendees were given a 15-minute break for refreshments provided by Timbercrest. Conference Business resumed at 10:50*

Moderator Christy Huiras stated that the District Board Report had not been approved, so at this time, that vote was held and passed.

### **Interim Co-District Executives' Report Kay Gaier & Anna Lisa Gross**

Co-DEs Anna Lisa Gross and Kay Gaier spoke on the information as presented in their report, in the Conference book. Anna Lisa recognized, celebrated, and thanked those observing Ordination anniversaries. Kay Gaier spoke of the joys and all the positive things occurring here in the district as her time comes to a close with her term ending October 15. Moderator Christy Huiras thanked Kay and Anna Lisa for their work this year.

### **Brethren Volunteer Service**

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Report in the conference booklet, page 43-44

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Ministry Credentialing Committee**

Steven Crain - Report in conference booklet, page 28

#### **Brethren Leadership Institute**

Marie Willoughby - Report in conference booklet, page 31

#### **Ministry Excellence Project**

Phil Tomson - Report in conference booklet, page 51-53

#### **Brethren Disaster Ministries**

Cliff Kindy - Report in conference booklet, page 41-42

### **Standing Committee**

Aaron Gross - Report in conference booklet, page 29-30

### **Annual Conference Moderator Greeting**

Tim McElwee, the 2023 Annual Conference Moderator, spoke about next summer's Annual Conference and said that at this point, he knows of no queries for next summer's Annual Conference. There are two proposals from the Standing Committee. He encouraged all to attend the next conference in Cincinnati, July 4-8. The theme will be *Living God's Love*, from Ephesians 5:1-2.

**Pastoral Benefits and Compensation Advisory Committee** Reported via Zoom

**Church of the Brethren, Inc. Report** Nancy McKrickard

Report in the conference booklet, page 47-48.

*12:15-1:15 Break for Lunch in the John Kline Welcome Center*

### **Insight Sessions**

"I Was in Prison and You Came to Visit Me"

Presenter, Rachel Gross, on the Death Row Support Project

"Connecting with Your Community: Thoughts from Inhabit 2022

Parish Collective Conference", Doug Veal

"Learning More about the New Pastoral Compensation Calculator & Guidelines"

**Pie Auction**, Erin Huiras, Auctioneer. As always, the pie auction was great fun and raised \$988 to benefit Brethren Leadership Institute.

### **Brethren Agencies' Reports**

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### **Bethany Theological Seminary**

Gaby Chacón - Report in the conference booklet, page 35-38

### **Eder Financial (formerly BBT)**

Donna Rhodes - Report in the conference booklet, page 39-40

### **On Earth Peace**

Bev Eikenberry & Video talk from Matt Guynn

Report in the conference booklet, page 54

## **Reports**

### **Manchester University**

Hannah Brubaker - Report in the conference booklet, page 49-50

### **Timbercrest**

Christy Huiras - Report in the conference booklet, page

### **Camp Mack**

Jim Shively and Gene Hollenberg - Report in the conference booklet, page 45-46

## **Passing of the Gavel**

Christy Huiras passed the Moderator's Gavel to Mark Stahl, as is the tradition.

Mark Stahl thanked all those whose work made the Conference possible. He announced the theme for 2023 will be *Cross Training*, based on Luke 9:23, "*Then he said to them all: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.'*"

## **Prayer for Blessing for New Leadership**

Anna Lisa Gross invited Mark Stahl, new Moderator; Bruce Dunk, new Moderator-Elect; and representatives of their families and/or churches and the Co-DEs to the front for a laying on of hands as she prayed a blessing on the new leaders.

## **Closing and Adjournment**

Moderator Mark Stahl closed with a benediction and the Conference adjourned at 3:50 pm.