

UPDATE
Missouri/Arkansas District
Church of the Brethren
July 15, 2014



Our Youth are Soon to Reach Colorado: Five youth and 2 adults from Missouri will travel to Ft. Collins, Colorado to attend National Youth Conference to be held at Colorado State University. They will join with over 2,000 other Brethren youth from across the country to participate in a week long experience as they feel both called by Christ and blessed for the journey of following Christ. Becky Baile Crouse is the driver and chaperone for the group. **Please pray daily for them** as they travel and experience the thrill of being with so many other youth. (July 19–24)

TAKE A STAND, LEND A HAND



Reflections and Attitudes of Acceptance

Camp Hammond Mill Coming Soon: “TAKE A STAND, LEND A HAND: Reflections and Attitudes of Acceptance” is the theme for our district camp this year. Jessica Wilson and Marie Froman have been working hard to prepare the program of events for this camp. Dates of camp are August 3-9. The cost is again \$85 for the week. (You can't beat that price anywhere!!) Registration forms should be available at each congregation. If you have questions call or email Tommie Leet or Brian Maddux.

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And print out the flier at the end of this UPDATE to post on the wall of your church.



Andy Murray Chosen as Moderator Elect of Annual Conference: At the conclusion of the 2014 Annual Conference in Columbus, OH, Moderator Nancy Heishman passed the gavel to David Steele as he became the Moderator for the 2015 Annual Conference. Andy Murray was elected as the moderator elect. Nancy Heishman was our guest speaker at the 2013 Missouri/Arkansas District Conference. David Steele will be with us for this fall's conference on Sept. 19-20, and we anticipate Andy Murray may be with us in 2016.

One business item transacted at the conference was the passing of the new Ministerial Leadership Paper which governs the credentialing of our pastors. Among those changes is establishment of a new, additional category of set-apart ministry: the commissioned minister. These ministers will be called, trained and commissioned to serve one particular congregation or ministry setting. With training that does not need to be as rigorous as for an ordained minister, it is expected to be a helpful option for leaders of small congregations who do not have the time and finances to pursue a seminary education.

A second change the paper makes to existing polity is that more guidelines are laid out for community participation during all parts of a minister's calling, training, and ongoing life. Mentors, small groups of people supporting licensed ministers, and ongoing peer groups called cohort groups for ordained clergy, are all described in the guidelines.

Query on Climate Change is returned, Conference declares the church is not of one mind on the issue: The response to the query on Guidance for Responding to the Changing of Earth's Climate was defeated in a close vote, and the query was returned to the district and congregation where it originated. The response had been formulated by staff of the Office of Public Witness working with a study committee appointed by that office.

This query originally was adopted by the 2011 Annual Conference and referred to the Advocacy Office of the Global Mission Partnerships--now the Office of Public Witness--for a response. In 2012, the Conference received a report from the working group formed by the Advocacy Office and additional time to prepare a thorough answer was granted.

By 2013, a congregational study resource was developed and additional feedback was being collected from those using it. The Annual Conference received an interim report and granted another year to revise the study resource and prepare a statement on climate change to present to the 2014 Annual Conference for adoption.

On the business floor during this Annual Conference, much debate was heard, both for and against the statement. Some of those who spoke to the document doubted the validity of scientific conclusions on climate change, or expressed the opinion that global warming is not caused by human activity. Others said solutions such as restricting use of fossil fuels are harmful to those who earn their living through the coal and oil industries, and may harm the poor who cannot afford more expensive forms of energy. Other speakers were concerned about the church calling for support for political legislation for this kind of issue.

On the other side of the debate, a number of speakers supported the scientific consensus on climate change and expressed concerns about the detrimental effects of global warming on the worldwide human population, saying that it inevitably will lead to starvation and loss of land in poorer regions of the globe as sea levels rise. Speaking as a scientist herself, one speaker said that caring for the earth is a faith issue and biblical mandate.

After the motion to adopt the answer to the query failed, the moderator declared that the query had become a new item of business and turned to the delegate body for a motion to answer it.

The delegates adopted a motion to return the query to the originating district and congregation with gratitude, declaring that the church is not of one mind at this time.

-- The 2014 Conference, by the numbers: 2,524 total registration including 719 delegates and 1,805 non-delegates, 115 units of blood collected by the Conference Blood Drive from 123 presenting donors with the help of 26 volunteers, \$5,100 raised for hunger at the Quilt Auction of the Association for the Arts in the Church of the Brethren (AACB), 514 downloads of the new Annual Conference app, and 20,875 diapers collected by the Witness to the Host City service project for a YMCA/YWCA shelter in Columbus. Also received in the offering of goods for the shelter: 1,750 hygiene kits and “more socks than we can count.”

(More business items will be included in the next issue of UPDATE.)

“To be concerned so absurdly with the interests and needs of others...that’s the incredible wondrous Christ that Paul wanted the Philippians to see.”

-- *Annual Conference moderator Nancy S. Heishman, preaching for worship.*

[Preaching the Lively Word: Text and Context in Today’s Pulpit:](#)

What a joy to attend the Pre-Conference Event sponsored by the Brethren Ministers’ Association on July 1st and 2nd! Dr. Thomas G. Long was the keynote speaker of this meeting. Dr. Long is the Bandy Professor of Preaching at Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, GA. His is a Presbyterian minister, teacher, author, and has served as the senior homiletics editor of the *New Interpreter’s Bible*.

Dr. Long's presentations were in three sessions entitled "Disruption, Enchantment and Wisdom: The Emerging Languages of Preaching," "The Churches at the Four Corners: Insights on Preaching from the New Testament Churches" and "Puzzles, Riddles, and Paradoxes: Preaching and Parables of Jesus." Each session was fast paced full of illustrations and food for thought. There were about 200 participants in this pre-conference event.

In addition to this meeting, I selected to partake in the Independent Study Unit taught by Chris Bowman. This is one of my TRIM courses. Twelve persons from nine different states were there and we were to evaluate Dr. Long's sermon on Wednesday evening of conference, video tape a three minute sermon of our own and write a five page book review of Dr. Long's Book—*"Accompany Them with Singing: The Christian Funeral."* A highlight of conference was reconnecting with my friend Purvi Satveti who preaches at the Naperville, IL Church of the Brethren. She and I were roommates back in 2006 at our orientation into the TRIM program. We will be reviewing each other's three minute sermon for this course before September 1st.

I was able to attend the Clergy Women's Breakfast and the Congregational Life Ministries Dinner thanks to the MO/AR District. Steve and I appreciated that. I served as delegate for Broadwater on Thursday (where I enjoyed sitting at the round tables) getting to know other Brethren folk, and enjoying our discernment of the Scriptures and various issues together. Seeing video presentations about courageous disciples in our midst, the glorious singing of 3,000 + persons, the dramatic and humorous antics when giving delegates instructions, the parade of giving items to the local YMCA and women's shelter, the organ's meditative and rousing accompaniments-- we enjoyed and were inspired.

We left conference early Friday morning due to prior commitments at home with the songs of the faithful in our hearts. *Marie and Steve Froman, Broadwater COB*

Minute for Missions:

Dominican Republic

Mission History: Mission in the Dominican Republic was founded following Hurricane David in 1979 through the efforts of Puerto Rican Brethren who came to the aid of Dominican families in the Viajama community. Numerous Puerto Rican and US Brethren offered support and guidance throughout the past 30 years. Today, there are approx.650 members in 21 congregations.

Active evangelism and church planting continue with energy and vitality--most churches have at least one daughter church or preaching point. A Theological Program helps fill the leadership needs of a growing church. Two cycles of theological students, numbering 36 students, have graduated over a period of 10 years.

A micro-loan program, which supports community economic development, reaches 500 participants in 17 Dominican Brethren churches.

Support the Dominican mission.

The micro-loan program is undergirded by the Global Food Crisis Fund. Special gifts have aided a variety of projects including vacation Bible school, church construction, and the Rotating Student Loan Fund (enabling emerging leaders to access university education).

Did You Know?: While looking through some files and boxes searching for information about the Deepwater Church of the Brethren, some old minutes of the **Middle District** of Missouri were discovered. In the minutes of the 1906 District Meeting, a list of the 13 churches of the Middle district was found. These churches included: (The underlined ones exist today.)

Centerview	Clear Creek
Deepwater	Mineral Creek
Mound	Mound Valley
<u>Osceola</u>	Prairie View
Smith Grove	<u>Spring Branch</u>
<u>Turkey Creek</u>	Walnut Creek
<u>Warrensburg</u>	

And did you know? The Middle District of Missouri and the Northern District of Missouri joined together in 1961 to become the District of Missouri. Then around 1990 the Missouri District joined the Southern Missouri Arkansas District to become the Missouri/Arkansas District. This is how we stand today with 13 churches and three inactive groups. (Carolyn Schrock)

Coming Events

National Youth Conference, Fort Collins CO	July 19-24
MO/ARK District Camp at Hammond Mill	August 3 – 9
Shalom Team Training – Spring Branch	August 16
Warrensburg 100th Celebration	August 30 - 31
MO/ARK District Conference at Windermere	Sept 19 - 20
Pastor Spouse Retreat – Spring Branch Church	October 24- 25

Please print out the following flier for your church bulletin board:

TAKE A STAND, LEND A HAND



CAMP HAMMOND MILL

August 3-9, 2014

Reflections and Attitudes of Acceptance

Sunday—Just As I Am

Monday—Looking Inside and Outside of Me

Tuesday—Wonderfully Made

Wednesday--Do I Like the Skin I'm In?

Thursday—There is no "I" in TEAM

Friday--What's Humility Got to Do With It?

Saturday-Wrappin' It Up

CRAFTS

BIBLE STUDY

MUSIC

SWIMMING

GOOD FOOD

FELLOWSHIP

"Come and see. Come and see. I am the Way and the Truth said He.
Follow me. Follow me. Come as a child, O come and see."

Any questions?

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