

Church of the Brethren
South/Central Indiana District
DISTRICT CONFERENCE
September 12-13, 2003

MINUTES

The thirty-third annual district conference of the South/Central Indiana congregations of the Church of the Brethren assembled for its annual business meeting at Camp Mack. Conference officers were Allen Kahler - Moderator, Dave Donaldson - Moderator Elect, Dwight Beery - Secretary, and Leslie Pettit - Coordinator. Timekeepers were Karen Harter and Kay Mavronicles.

In the opening worship service, Rev. Christopher Bowman, Annual Conference Moderator, brought the evening message, "Loving God and Neighbor - in Jesus' Name," based on Mark 12:28-34 and I John 4:7-21. Allen Kahler served as worship leader. Rob & Brenda Schwarze presented music and led singing.

The 233 persons present Friday evening included 148 registered delegates (of 214 eligible) from fifty congregations. The evening offering (\$1,087.68) was designated for our district's Ministerial Scholarship Fund.

Following worship, Moderator Allen Kahler opened the business meeting at 8:30 p.m. Secretary Dwight Beery read the conference rules. The agenda was approved after two items were reversed in order, the "Statement from District Board to District Conference" was identified as an action item, and the "Denominational Name Study Committee" report was converted into a 2:00 p.m. Saturday Order of the Day.

The conference approved the following appointments, by a unanimous voice vote:

- Auditing Committee (to be appointed by the District Board)
- Discipleship & Reconciliation Cmte.....John Kreps, 1st, 2006
- District Conference Director.....Sally Schrock, 1st, 2006
- History Committee.....Glen Miller, 1st, 2006
- Indiana Camp Board.....Richard Harshbarger, 1st, 2006
- Ethics Committee.....Wendy Metzger
- Manchester College.....Robert G. Barcus, 2008 (new)
 - Trustee appointments
 - Becky Ball Miller, 2008 (renewal)
 - Harriet Hamer Cassell, 2008 (renewal)
 - Carolyn Moldenhauer Hardman, 2008 (renewal)
 - Rufus King Jr., 2008 (renewal)
 - Philip C. Wright, 2008 (renewal)
 - Elvin G. Zook, 2008 (new)
- Ministry Interview Committee.....Janet Hildreth, 1st, 2008
- Timbercrest Board
 - Don Apple, 1st, 2006
 - Janet Hildreth, 1st, 2006
 - Robin Lahman, 1st, 2005
 - Wilbur McFadden, 1st, 2004
 - Rosalyn Neuenschwander, 2nd, 2004
 - Paula Shively, 2nd, 2005

Youth Camp Council
Logan Reese, 1st, 2005
Nick Carter, 1st, 2004

The following individuals were elected in a ballot vote:

Moderator-Elect Ed Jackson
Standing Committee of A/C..... Bruce Hostetler
District SecretaryHelen Wenger
District Board
 North Section Gale Burkholder
 East SectionEric Braun
Program and Arrangements Committee
 North Section Barbara Burkholder
 West Section Vicky Fry
Personnel & Nominations Committee
 Central Section..... Mary Donaldson
 West SectionKris Seward

The District Advisory Board, facilitated by Jim Dougans, presented a report.

After announcements, brother Allen closed the evening session with prayer. A campfire and popcorn followed.

The Saturday morning worship was presented by Kokomo pastor Robin Wentworth-Meyer.

District Board report was presented by board chair Gale Burkholder. It included recognition of Board Members and Staff, an introduction of Stan Miller, Financial Secretary, recognition of the Discipleship and Reconciliation Committee, recognition of the Ethics Committee, Introduction of Les Cooper who gave a three-minute report on Small Church Event planned for 2004, a report on a new emphasis of the Board for 2004, and introduction of newly appointed District Youth Advisors, Mike and Kelly Mullen.

Indiana Camp Board report was presented by Camp Mack's director, Rex Miller, and board chair, Jim Bates. Jim was finishing six years in the position. The delegate body approved the amended articles of incorporation entitled, "Articles of Acceptance of Camp Alexander Mack, Inc." as restated this year (2003).

Timbercrest - Church of the Brethren Home, Inc. report was presented by Anne Myers, Director of Fund Raising and Public Relations.

Manchester College report was presented by trustee Carol Horn and director of church relations Wendy Hutchinson.

Bethany Seminary report was presented by Chuck Bell. David Doudt was recognized for his graduation from the EFSM program.

District Ministers report was presented by Ron and Harriet Finney, with special emphasis on Healthy Congregations/Healthy Leaders training. New pastors were introduced, licensed and ordained ministers were recognized, and Ernie Barr was recognized for his service on IPCUM. Ron and Harriet Finney were recognized for their ten-years as S/C IN District Ministers.

Indiana Partners for Christian Unity and Mission (IPCUM) report was presented by our representative to that group, Ernie Barr.

After lunch, the afternoon devotional was presented by Aaron Gross.

The following statement from District Board to District Conference was presented as an action item:

"We of the South/Central Indiana District of the Church of the Brethren affirm our call to engage in Christ-centered ministry that seeks to be in right and loving relationship with all of God's children. Moreover we assert that 'right and loving relationship' includes holding one another accountable to the standards of moral behavior found in Scripture. Therefore, in accordance with Scripture and in solidarity with the 1983, 1992, and 2002 actions of the Church of the Brethren's Annual Conference concerning homosexuality, we will not support actions, policies, positions, or ceremonies that in any way promote homosexuality as an acceptable Christian lifestyle blessed by God."

David McFadden moved that the last sentence be replaced by "Therefore, we affirm and will uphold the 1983, 1992, and 2002 actions of the Church of the Brethren regarding human sexuality." The amendment was not approved. The original statement was approved.

In a 2:00 p.m. Order of the Day, Shirley Spire gave a report from the Denominational Name Study Committee. We provided feedback both verbally and by filling out a survey.

Bruce Hostetler presented a celebration of work of the Roann Church of the Brethren and "The Jar." Joel Redmon presented a celebration of Lower Deer Creek Church of the Brethren's 175th anniversary.

Financial Reports were presented by treasurer David Doudt and Financial Secretary Stan Miller. These reports were approved. The auditor's report was presented by DeEtta Balser for herself and Jerry Schall.

2004 District Budget of \$135,345 was approved. This was \$13,285 below the 2003 budget.

Written reports were distributed to delegates in the conference booklet.

Standing Committee report was presented by Louise Baldwin-Rieman and Martha Cory.

Moderator Kahler thanked those who helped with the conference for their hard work. The gavel and cup were presented to Dave Donaldson, the new moderator. Hands were laid on Dave, and the new moderator-elect, Ed Jackson from the Anderson congregation. Brother Dave Donaldson gave the new moderator's challenge and closed the conference with prayer.