

South/Central Indiana District Conference
September 10-11, 2004
Mexico Church of the Brethren

The 34th Annual Conference of South Central Indiana District Conference was held at the Mexico Church of the Brethren. The Conference officers were: Moderator: David Donaldson, Moderator Elect: Ed Jackson, Secretary: Helen Wenger, Conference Coordinator: Sally Schrock, Time keeper: Cy Howell. The theme of the conference was "Love One Another" taken from John 13:34-35.

The opening worship service Friday evening, September 10 began with a hymn sing lead by song leader, Cy Howell. The Speaker was Pastor Chris Bunch from "The Jar" new church start in Muncie, Indiana. The worship leader, David Donaldson read the first scripture John 4: 23-24 and Ed Jackson read the second scripture John 13:34-35. The evening message centered around the Feetwashing Service and was used as a model to illustrate what being the "Servant Church" and loving everyone (even the unlovely) is like. During the worship service an offering of \$600 was collected for the Ministry Scholarship program at Bethany Seminary.

Following the worship service an installation service for Allen Kahler, our new District Executive was held David Donaldson lead the service with Gale Burkholder assisting in the laying on of hands and giving the dedication prayer. Allen said that "as we go forward , we can learn to love each other, as God love us." He also gave the benediction.

There were a total of 244 persons present on Friday evening, including 195 delegates.

David Donaldson, the Moderator, called the evening business meeting to order. He introduced guests to the conference from various organizations within the church. Dave and Marcia Shettler represented the General Board, Dan Ulrich represented Bethany Theological Seminary, and Jim Hardenbrook is the Annual Conference Moderator for 2004-2005.

In the Moderator's thoughts, Dave Donaldson said he is humbled to serve as Moderator and will follow parliamentary rules, but also will be fair. He thanked those who usually give oral reports, but this year gave written reports, so that the focus could be on worship, reconciliation, and unity.

On p. 5 of the Conference booklet was the prayer of dedication for the delegates which was read by the delegate body. The rules of the conference were read by the conference secretary, Helen Wenger.

Bill Eberly made a motion to approve the printed agenda, Pam Princell seconded the motion and it passed.

Kris Seward presented the ballot of persons to serve the District. She introduced each person on the ballot and made the motion to accept the ballot. Barb Wood seconded the motion and it passed.

It was announced that there would not be the live re enactment of the first Brethren baptisms in the morning. Markita Tilman, the on site coordinator reminded those who had not purchased meal tickets to do so. Also, in home lodging is available.

The evening session was dismissed with prayer by Dave Donaldson and then a reception in the fellowship hall was held for Allen Kayler and his family.

Saturday, September 11, 2004

Saturday morning began at 8:30 a.m. with devotional thoughts given by Jim Hardenbrook, Annual Conference Moderator. He invited us all to Peoria, IL for the 2005 Annual Conference. The theme is from Hebrews 12:2 - Fixing Our Eyes on Jesus. He also invited us to attend the first national missions conference April 1-3 in Goshen.

The Saturday morning business meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by David Donaldson. Ed Jackson conducted the election of persons on the ballot (p.6 in the conference booklet). Ed led the delegates in prayer before marking their ballots.

Action items include:

1. The approval of the Manchester College trustees : Richard Robins and D. Randall Brown for a 5 year term expiring Dec. 31, 2009. These appointments must receive a 2/3 majority vote. Luther Ebberly made the motion to approve the trustee appointees. Bonnie Gossage seconded the motion and it passed.

2. Gale Burkholder presented for approval and introduced the persons for District Appointments.

The following persons were approved:

Auditing Committee- Susan Frantz 1st term through 2007

Shalom Team (Formerly Discipleship and Reconciliation) 5 year term

Ann Bach 1st term 2009

John Bunch 1st term 2009

Robin W. Mayer 2007

Dr. Gerald Miller 2005

Kevin Seward 2008

Ethics Committee- 5 year term

Gayle Hildreth 1st term 2009

Indiana Camp Board 3 year term

Helen Wenger 2007 - District Member

Karen Harter 2007 - At Large

Ministry Interview Committee 5 year term

Joan Deeter 2nd term 2009

Timbercrest Board 3 year term

Harriet Finney 1st term, 2007

Tim McElwee 1st term 2007

Youth Camp Council

Alexandria Green and Emily Hooker

Bruce Hostetler made the motion to accept the appointments, the motion was seconded and passed.

3. Approval of Written Reports on p.13-34 of the conference booklet. These reports included:

A greeting from Annual Conference Moderator, Jim Hardenbrook, Standing Committee Report, General Baor Representative Report, S?C Indiana District Youth Report, Companeros en Ministerio, Auditing Committee report, Financial Reports, New Community Project, Bethany Theological Seminary Report, Camp Mack and Indiana Camp Board Report, Emergency Response/Service Ministries, Brethren Witness/Washington Office Report, and Mutual Aid Association Report.

Anne Meyers asked for a clarification on what reports should be included in the conference booklet. She questioned whether Mutual Aid or Companeros en Ministerio should be included. She urged the conference officers to look at the

criteria of which agencies should be included in the booklet.

Paul Schrock presented the report on the Income and Expenses of the S/C Indiana District for 2003. He explained what an in and out items is- it is money put in for a specific use, but it isn't part of the budget. A comment from the floor indicated more clarity would be appreciated on what this kind of item is. Leon Gross made the motion to accept the report, Barb Wood seconded the motion and it passed.

Stan Miller, the Financial Secretary presented the proposed 2005 District Budget. The 2005 budget is less than the 2004 budget because of the new District Minister's salary package. Everything else is about the same. Church contributions are not keeping up with the needs of the budget.

For IRS purposes - Allen Kahler's package is Housing allowance Line item #13 \$10,000 and Salary Item #12- \$41,709. John Bunch made the motion to accept these line items, Pam Princell seconded the motion and it passed. Rosemary Bolinger made the motion to accept the 2005 District Budget. Pam Princell seconded the motion and it passed.

Lois Meyers read a challenge to the churches of the S/C Indiana District from the West Manchester Church. West Manchester Church of the Brethren has voted to double their giving to the General Board for next year. They challenge each person and congregation to take steps that will double their giving in 2005.

Duane Grady announced there will be a Spirituality Retreat Nov. 14-16 at Camp Mack.
March 5 There is a regional Christian Education training event at Manchester Church of the Brethren and April 23 is a Cross Cultural Event at Richmond.

John Bunch said churches would be receiving an appeal for funds during September to help support disaster relief in Florida. Volunteers to help work will be called soon.

Matt Guynn of On Earth Peace said there will be a Mediation training event at Camp Mack Nov. 11-13.

Wendy Hutchinson announced that April 16-17 will be Regional Youth Conference at Manchester College.

Oct. 9 is "Green Thumb" Day at Camp Mack. Rex Miller, Executive Director of the Camp, said this is a day to come plant plants.

Mark Shettler of Bethany Seminary said this is the 10 year the Seminary has been located in Richmond, IN. Also, being celebrated this year is the **100th** year of Ministry Education. A calendar of events for the year is available. There is a financial campaign "Inspired by the Spirit—Education for Ministry" which is the base for ministry education in the next decade. The purpose of the campaign is to remind congregations how persons can be called to ministry as well as gain financial support for Bethany.

Ed Jackson announced the election results:
Moderator — elect: Pam Princell
Standing Committee Delegate: Mike Cassidy
District Board (Central Section): Phil Tomson
District Board (South Section): Carol Pfeiffer

Program & Arrangements (East Section): Jan Vogleman
Nominations and Personnel Committee (South Section): Valarie Kline

District Board will meet for their retreat at the Marion Church of the Brethren on Oct. 30 at 9:00 a.m.

Dave Donaldson dismissed us for lunch with prayer.

Saturday afternoon

The afternoon worship began with a Devotional led by Rev. Kurt Borgmann of the Manchester Church of the Brethren.

A video presentation of the re enactment of the first baptism by Alexander Mack and his followers in Germany was given. Participants in the re enactment were: Allen and Cheryl Kahier, John Wrightsman, Chuck Bell, Ron and Harriet Firmey and Duane Grady and Beverly Weaver.

Rev. Todd Wenger of the Mexico Church of the Brethren led the afternoon worship. The afternoon was closed with the commissioning of the 2004-2005 District Board, the 2005 Moderator, Ed Jackson, the passing of the gavel and Laying on of Hands. Moderator Ed Jackson gave an overview of his vision for 2005. We were dismissed with closing comments from our District Executive, Allen Kahler and a prayer.