

DISTRICT CONFERENCE
SALAMONIE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
September 15, 2006

The Meet and East was hosted at the Markle Church of the Brethren at 5:00 p.m. with 59 persons present. The speaker was Kent Ringer from Life Community Church.

The evening worship service began at 7:00 p.m. with songs of praise. Moderator Pam Princell was the speaker. There were 168 in attendance at the worship service (113 were delegates). The offering was \$569.00 for the Student Minister's Fund. The evening business session was called to order with prayer by Moderator, Pam Princell at 8:00 p.m. The rules of the District Conference were read by Secretary, Helen Wenger. The delegates were dedicated and seated.

Several changes to the agenda were approved. On Saturday after the Financial report and budget during Business 2 there will be a 3 minute report by Ernie Barr for Church World Service. After the election a 30 minute segment for a report from On Earth Peace and BBT. The changes in the agenda were approved. Pam explained the break out sessions which will occur during the conference. One session will be in the sanctuary and 2 in the basement and the groups will rotate between the sessions.

Phil Tomson presented the ballot and introduced the people on the ballot. The ballot was adopted.

Rex Miller gave the Indiana Camp Report. He talked about the Capital Campaign goals which include construction of Shambarger Cabin, Quinter-Miller renovations and a new restroom. He reported that a large camp chose to not return, but the time space has been replaced with 3 camps. He talked about the storm damage which occurred on July 2 at the camp. There was a motion to accept the report and it passed.

David Lawrenz presented the report from Timbercrest. He reported that the State Department of Health has made its inspection of Timbercrest and gave a deficiency free report. Timbercrest is now certified to receive Medicare. The Healthcare area of Timbercrest is undergoing renovation. All funds given by the churches go to the charitable gifts fund to help residents pay for their care once their funds have run out. The report was approved.

President Jo Young Switzer gave the Manchester College report. The conference approved the Trustees-at-large. The following people have a five year term ending on Dec. 31, 2011: Mary Ann Merryman, Kenneth D. Metzger, Robert J. Scherer, and Charles J. Winger.

The Bethany Seminary report was given by Amy Ritchie, Director of Student Development. This year Bethany is working on calling a new president. Gene Roop will be retiring at the end of the school year. There are 32 new students this year. The report was accepted. The conference was dismissed for the evening.

Session 2 - Saturday morning, Sept. 16, 2006

There were 173 in attendance at the business session with 141 delegates.

The meeting was called to order by Moderator Pam Princell. The delegates voted on the ballot that was presented Friday night.

Bev Weaver gave the report for On Earth Peace and showed the DVD which presented information from the other Brethren Agencies. Loyce Borgmann presented the BBT report and talked about the areas of ministry it represents such as insurance, pension and Health Savings. A motion was made to accept the report and it was accepted.

In the District Executive Report, District Executive Allen Kahler reported that 105 ordained ministers have been reviewed and recommended for ordination. He recognized the ministers in the District for their service. Two churches have been closed; New Hope and Sugar Creek. The Pleasant Dale Church men's group helped with repairs to the District Office building. Allen went to NYC and Camp Mack as a director. 17 churches trained for the Together Conversations on Being the Church leadership.

Mike Cassidy and Bruce Hostetler gave the Standing Committee report. There are 42 delegates which represent the Districts in the Brotherhood. The purpose of Standing Committee is to: 1 Study queries and make recommendations 2. Prepare the ballot for the National ballot, 3. Work with disputes and unresolved conflicts.

In April the Annual Conference Moderator Belita Mitchell will be in our District to brief the Conference delegates on the business. On April 29 Belita will be speaking at the Sunday morning worship service at Roann and the briefing will be in the afternoon.

Kristen Roop, the District Board chairman gave the Board report. She said that much information for the District is being conveyed electronically. The called District Conference will be October 21 at 9 a.m. at Kokomo.

Stan Miller, the Financial Secretary, for the District said that 2005-2006 has been difficult for the District. The Finance Committee met to suggest how the District can cut costs. Recommendations include: closing the District office building and relocating, reduce the staff to half time, sell the District office building. He asked the delegates to encourage their churches to give more.

He passed out the Financial reports for 2005 and said that there was a \$16,000 loss in 2005 and this is the second year in a row. John Hartsough suggested that we find out the average attendance in the District and divide it with the amount in the District Budget to have an idea of what to suggest to each church what is needed per person. It was also suggested that a letter be sent to the churches to remind them how much is needed to be sent per person. The reports were accepted.

Kristen Roop presented the 2007 District budget. In this budget the District secretary would become a 1/2 time position. This would decrease the budget by \$6,000. Charles Berdel made a motion that a special offering be taken (\$250 per church was suggested) to make up the difference of the budgeted amount for the District Secretary. This motion was adopted. The District Board brought the motion to accept the 2007 budget with an escrow account to be set up to hold the money sent to augment the Secretary's salary. This motion passed.

Ernie Barr gave the report for Church World Service. Next year will be the 60th year for the CROP walk.

The First Break Out Session occurred - Attendees at the conference chose one of the following sessions: How to Make Disciples, How to live out Peace as a Disciple, Conversations on Being the Church Together.

Val Kline gave the Youth report. During the report some of the District Youth sang the NYC theme song as a DVD played showing scenes from NYC.

The afternoon third session began with worship.
The second break out sessions occurred.

During Session 3 the results of the election were given.

Aaron Gross - Moderator Elect

District Board (North Section) - Opal Nees

District Board (Central Section) - Martha Cory

Program and Arrangements Committee - North Section- Bickey Garber

Program and Arrangements Committee - West Section - Flora Williams

Nominating and Personnel Committee - West Section - Carole Seward

Nominating and Personnel Committee - Central Section - Bev Donaldson

Secretary - Helen Wenger

Standing Committee - Jeff Castetter

Kristen Roop and Allen Kahler **led** the ceremony for the Closing of Sugar Creek and the Acknowledgement of Harvest Fellowship in Wabash. The District Board recommended the formal closing of the Sugar Creek Church with a prayer of thanksgiving for its ministry. The motion passed. Bruce Hostetler and Aaron Gross talked about how the Logansport Church helped start the Harvest Fellowship in Wabash. As a fellowship they will be under the guidance of another church. When the fellowship reaches 100 members they can become a congregation.

The Ministry and Interview Commission recommended that Bill House be the new TRIM coordinator and that Tim Hobbs graduated from the TRIM program.

The final breakout session occurred at 3:15 p.m. During the final worship service we were urged to look at things that don't matter and move on.

The meeting was closed with the passing of the gavel to Moderator Elect- Gerry **Longenbaugh**. There was a laying on of hands for Moderator Gerry **Longenbaugh** and Moderator elect Aaron Gross. We were adjourned with prayer.