

DISTRICT CONFERENCE MINUTES
September 21-22, 2007

The 2007 District Conference was held at the Living Faith Church of the Brethren near Flora, IN on September 21 - 22, 2007. The officers for the conference were: Gerald Longenbaugh (Moderator), Helen Wenger (Clerk) with the appointment of Paul Schrock (Parliamentarian), Rob Bonner (Time Keeper) and Val Kline as head of the tellers.

The conference was called to order by Gerald on Friday evening at 8:15 pm. The rules of the Conference were read by the clerk, Helen Wenger. The agenda as accepted as printed.

The ballot was presented by Gerald who functioned as chair of the Nominating Committee. Paul Schrock asked that biographical information be passed out for persons who had been added to the ballot after the booklet was printed.

Reports:

Rex Miller gave the report for Camp Mack and said the theme this year is On the Way. Next year's theme will be Handle with Care.

Anne Meyers gave the report for Timbercrest. She reported that Timbercrest is deficiency free on the Health Department inspection. The Health Care area of Timbercrest is being renovated. They are projecting that the completion date will be in October. More duplexes are being added to the campus and the front of the building is being updated.

Steve Crane, the campus pastor, gave the report from Manchester College. He said that Allison Bryant is the 23rd Fulbright Scholar from Manchester. She will be teaching English in Argentina. Manchester has the most Fulbright Scholarships of any college in Indiana. The Friday evening meeting was adjourned.

The Saturday morning meeting was called to order at 9 am. The people on the ballot were introduced and accepted as presented. It was announced that the Nominating Committee will possibly bring a motion to the conference next year to have a slate of officers to accept rather than a ballot.

The Pastors of the District were recognized by the District Executive, Allen Kahler, for their years of service. He announced that there are 12 churches (about 1/4 in the district) who are looking for pastors. It costs about \$50,000-\$80,000 for a full time pastor. The District is looking at securing a grant from Lilly of \$50,000 for ways to assist pastors with education, insurance or other expenses.

Jeff Castetter gave the Standing Committee report.

The following appointments were approved by the delegates;

Auditing Committee - Bev Dierks - 2010

Pam Long - 2009

Ethics Committee - Dave Cox -2012

Financial Secretary - 5 year term to be appointed by District Board

Indiana Camp Board - 3 year term - Carole Seward

Manchester College - 5 year term

Trustee at large (continuing) - Samuel Gunnerson

New Trustees - terms to 2012

Jose Cardenas , Kyle Hupher, Ruthann Knechal Johansen, Eugene F. Roop

Ministry Interview Committee - 5 year term- Barb Wood
Shalom Team - 5 year term - Robin Wentworth Mayer
Timbercrest Board - 3 year term
Harriet Finney Tim McElwee
Camp Mack Youth Council
Taylor Ludlow - 2 year term
Samantha Green - 1 year term

In the District Board report, chairman Phil Tomson thanked Living Faith for hosting the conference. The District Board will meet in retreat in October. They will be working on ways to bring the District back together and ways to help eliminate the District debt. Pray for the board as they work this year. Members of the board who are completing their term are: Todd Reish, Jim Miller, Kristen Roop and Mike Cassidy. He thanked those persons who were willing to let their names be put on the ballot. Stan Miller the Financial Secretary gave the financial reports. He said on the balance sheet - cash went up \$8,000 from last year. There is less operating expenses and there was \$5,000 increase in self assessments. Even so, there was \$17,000 net loss for 2006. In the escrow account for Dee's salary 36 churches contributed with a total of \$4,000.. In 2007 we have a decrease in the cash accounts of about \$10,000.

De Etta Balsler presented the 2008 proposed budget. She said that if we are to continue as a District, we need to support it. The supported motion brought by the finance committee proposed that Dee's salary be cut to half time. There was a supported motion to accept the proposed budget. Phil Tomson said that \$35/member would meet and exceed the budget. After much discussion, Jeff Castetter from Christ Our Shepherd made the motion to table the motion to accept the 2008 budget until later in the day. This passed and this item will be dealt with again at 2:30 pm.

Phil Tomson presented the Board's motion to approve the name change of the Markle Church to Turnpointe Community. This passed.
Phil also presented the Board motion to approve the merger of the Eel River and West Manchester Churches. This passed.

In the Denominational reports:
Loyce Borgmann said that BBT is discontinuing the Brethren Medical Plan; however, there are resources to help find insurance for ministers.
Amy Ritchie and Jennifer Kreighbaum talked about the transition from President Gene Roop to Ruthann Johanson.

During the breakout time there were two sessions: Discipleship and the Youth Heritage Team report on 300th anniversary activities.

Aaron Gross and Jonathan Crandall lead the afternoon worship.
There was a report on the National Jr. High Conference and a video about the District Churches and what they celebrate.

During the final business session it was announced that the children put together 154 school kits with the supplies brought by churches in the district.

As part of the Program and Arrangements report - Gerald said that the 2008 District Conference will be at Anderson University. There will be activities for all ages. We have

been able to secure Byram Hall and the support staff for \$585. He also reminded us to fill out the evaluation sheets.

The motion to take the 2008 proposed budget off the table passed. There was a motion to approve the budget as presented. Corky Cordess made an amendment to the motion to restore the Secretary's salary to \$23,400. This was seconded by John Hartsough. De Etta reminded us that if this motion passes, the next two lines also need to be changed.

Greg Cunningham from Kokomo challenged the District to get the local giving amount to the District in the summer so the Finance committee knows what money there is to work with for 2009.

The motion to approve the 2008 budget as amended passed.

Election results are:

Moderator elect - Gary Yoder

District Board - South section - Bill Bowman

District Board - West section - Pam Oliver

Program and Arrangements - East Section - Sharon Fry

Nominating and Personnel - South Section - John Wenger

The business meeting was adjourned.

Aaron Gross was installed as the new Moderator for the District. He announced the theme for 2008 - Building on the Rock - Ephesians 2: 119-120.

The Offering was designated for Bethany Seminary and the TRIM program.