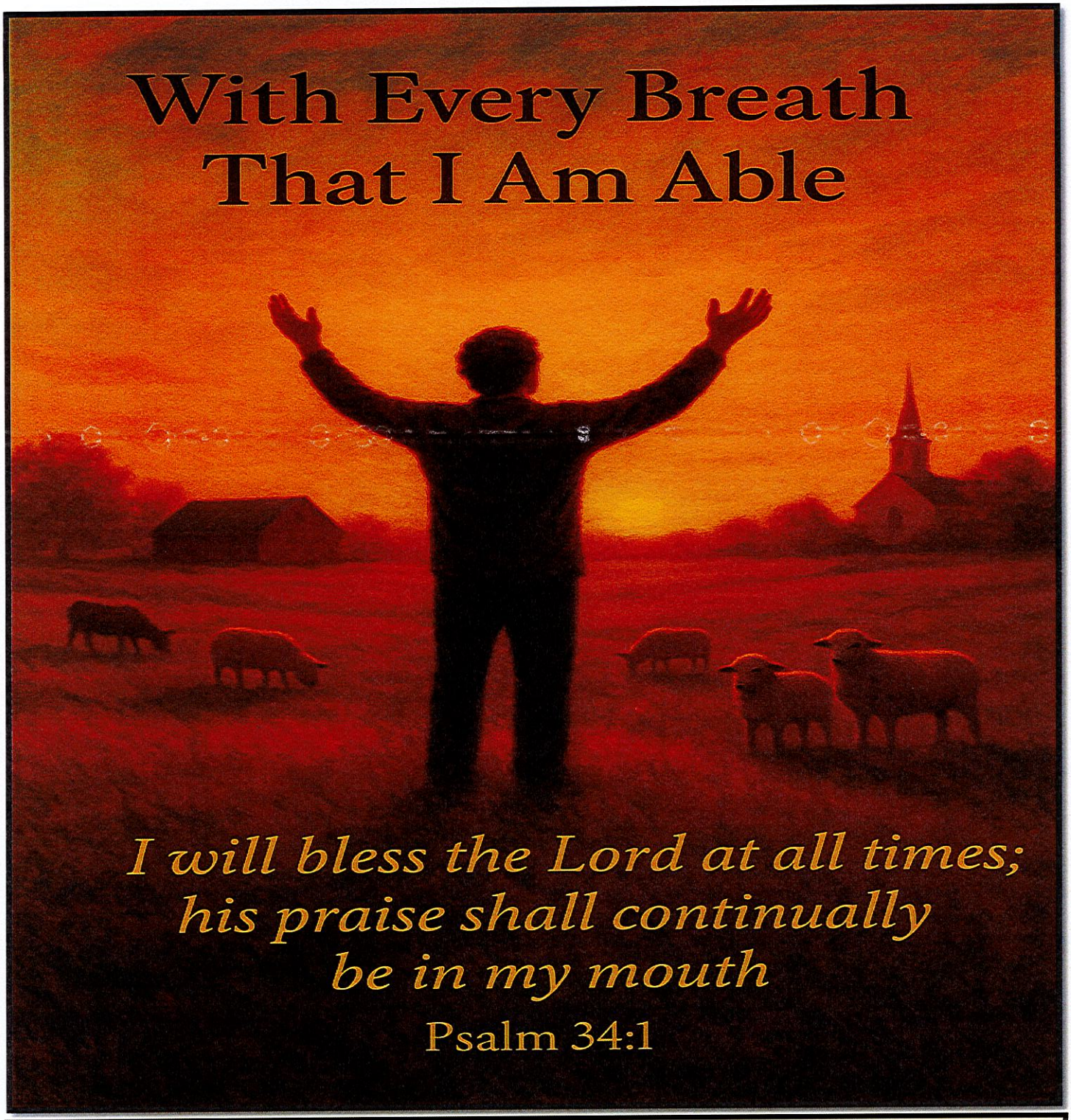

Southern Pennsylvania District
Church of the Brethren
2026 District Conference
September 18-19
Chambersburg Church of the Brethren
260 S. Fourth Street, Chambersburg, Pennsylvania

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General Information

Friday Evening Worship

Friday, September 18, 2026, 7:00 p.m. Friday evening's worship service special guest speaker is Gretchen Sortzi. The service will include special music, a re-licensing service, and a special offering for the African Great Lakes project. Please join us afterwards for an Ice Cream Social.

Registration of Delegates & Non-Delegates

Saturday, September 19, 2026, Registration will begin at 8 a.m.

Delegates are to check in and Non-Delegates are required to sign in

Childcare

Childcare will be provided. Requests are to be made known through the registration form furnished on the Conference Brochure and returned to:

Childcare Coordinator, Reba Baliles, 601-256-1358, mrbaliles@comcast.net. (Parents will be responsible for children during mealtime).

Meals

Advanced meal reservations are required. All meals should be reserved prior to the conference by completing the reservation form on the District Conference Brochure and returned to:

SOPA District Office COB, 3375 Carlisle Road, Suite A, Gardners, Pa 17324.

For more information or questions, please contact SOPA District Office, 717-778-2264, sopadistrict@brethren.org.

Lodging

Lodging at local COB member homes or local hotels/motels is available. Please reach out to:

Housing Coordinator: Jerry Moore, 717-540-2373, jlmoorewv@gmail.com

Inquires

District Administrative Assistant, Linette Quinn (717) 778-2264 or Email: sopadistrict@brethren.org

District Executive: Traci Rabenstein (717) 778-2264 or Email: sopadem@brethren.org

Future Conference Dates & Sites

September 17-18, 2027.....Greencastle COB

Conference Schedule - Friday, September 18, 2026

8:00 - 12:45 Registration and Refreshments

8:30 - 11:30 Seminar on Praise and Worship ~ Gretchen Sortzi

With Every Breath: Understanding Our Congregants through Praise, Worship, and Connection

11:30 -12:45 Lunch & Fellowship

12:45 -1:00 Praise & Worship

1:00 - 1:05 Welcome & Announcements

1:05 - 1:15 Delegate Consecration

1:15 - 1:20 Review & Approval of Agenda

1:20 - 1:35 Cross Keys Village, The Brethren Home Report

1:35 - 1:45 Eder Financial

1:45 - 1:55 Everence Financial

1:55 - 2:20 Children's Aid Society (CAS) Board Meeting

2:20 - 2:30 Break & Fellowship

2:30 - 2:45 Praise & Worship

2:45 - 3:05 Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center (SVMC) Report

3:05 - 3:20 Camp Eder Report

3:20 - 3:30 Time of Affirmation and Prayer for District Agencies

3:30 - 3:40 Standing Committee Report

3:40 - 3:45 Announcements & Instructions

3:45 Adjournment

5:00 Dinner & Fellowship

6:00 Choir Rehearsal (optional) - Mini Fellowship Hall

7:00 - 8:15 PM Worship Service

Re-Licensing Service & Offering, African Great Lakes

8:15 - 9:00 Ice Cream Social

Conference Schedule-Saturday, September 19, 2026

7:30 - 8:00	Prayer Meeting ~ Ali Toms
8:00 - 8:30	Registration and Refreshments
8:30 - 9:00	Praise & Worship
9:00 - 9:05	Welcome & Announcements
9:05 - 9:10	Presentation of District Conference Ballot
9:10 - 9:30	District Conference Elections
9:30 - 9:45	Time to fill out Ballot Nominee Form
9:45 - 10:00	Break & Fellowship
10:00 - 10:15	Praise & Worship
10:15 - 10:20	Introduction of New District Executive
10:20 - 10:50	District Executive Verbal Report
10:50 - 11:20	District Board Report
11:20 - 11:25	District Auditors Report
11:25 - 11:30	Announcements & Instructions
11:30 - 1:00	Lunch & Fellowship
1:00 - 1:45	Breakout Sessions
	Option 1 : *Integrating Praise and Worship into Everyday Life*
	Option 2 : *Social Media & Digital Ministry for Congregations*
	Option 3 : *Aging Faithfully: Spiritual Practices for Seniors*
	Option 4 : *District Finances*
1:45 - 2:00	Praise & Worship
2:00 - 2:45	Review and Approval of 2025/2026 Financial Report
	Approval of District Financial Ministries Allocation (DFMA)
	Review and Approval of Proposed 2026/2027 District Budget
2:45 - 3:00	Church of the Brethren Agency Reporting
3:00 - 3:15	Church of the Brethren Denominational Report
3:15 - 3:30	Complete Conference Evaluation Forms
3:30 - 3:45	Recognition of Outgoing Board Members & Georgia Markey
3:45 - 4:00	Consecration of Newly Elected/ Called Persons
4:00 - 4:15	Conference Acknowledgments/Passing of Gavel
4:15	Adjournment

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
DISTRICT CONFERENCE

September 18 & 19, 2026

District Conference Personnel

CONFERENCE STAFF LIASON..... Traci Rabenstein, District Executive

DISTRICT WRITING CLERK ..... Donna Jones

MODERATOR..... Nicholas Wingert

MODERATOR-ELECT .....Leon Yoder

TIME KEEPER .....Harold Yeager

ON-SITE COORDINATOR.....Marsha Smith

PROGRAM & ARRANGEMENTS COMMITTEE MEMBERS .....
..... Nicholas Wingert, Chair
.....Carol Frace
..... Donna Jones
..... Sandy Shelly
.....Wanda Smith
..... Traci Rabenstein, D.E.

REGISTRAR .....Linette Quinn
..... Carol Wingert

TELLERS..... Wanda Smith, Chair
.....Don Berger
..... Diane Berger
.....Stephanie Berger
.....Deloris Elliott

Chambersburg Church of the Brethren
260 S. Fourth Street
Chambersburg, PA 17201
(717) 264-6957 www.Chambcob.org

Thank you to Chambersburg Church of the Brethren for hosting this year's District Conference.

On Site Committee Coordinators:

Site Coordinator: Marsha Smith

Music Coordinator: Pamela Wert

Technology Coordinator: Garrett Bayer

Food Coordinator: Kim Frazer & Linda Hawbaker

Housing Coordinator: Jerry Moore

Child Care Coordinator: Reba Baliles

Hospitality Coordinator: Terry Gibbons

Registration Coordinator: Linette Quinn & Carol Wingert

Photography: Ron Gordon

SOUTHERN PENNSYLVANIA
DISTRICT
Church of the Brethren

DISTRICT ORGANIZATION & MINISTRY

Create New Testament communities committed to personal transformation thru Jesus Christ.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE
Delegate Body • Final Authority

DISTRICT BOARD
Board of Directors & Officers

District Executive Minister
District Board Secretary

CONFERENCE OFFICERS
Moderator, Moderator-Elect, Clerk

SPECIAL COMMITTEES / TEAMS
Program, Nominating, Standing

DISTRICT TREASURER

MINISTRY
- Licensed & Ordained Ministers
- Educational Tracks for Ministry
- Ministerial Relations & Ethics

NURTURE
- Youth
- Young Adult Ministries
- Women's/Men's Support
- Leisure Ministries / Chaplains

WITNESS & OUTREACH
- Service & Evangelism
- Meat Canning
- Disaster Response (Auction Liaison)
- Refugee Resettlement
- Heifer International
- Peace & Service
- Farm Worker / Prison Ministry

STEWARDS
- Property & Cemeteries (Waynesboro Mack detail)
- Stewardship Education
- Investment Oversight

RELATED MISSION AGENCIES
- BROOK LANE HEALTH SERVICES
- CAMP EDER
- CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY
- ELIZABETHTOWN COLLEGE
- CROSS KEYS VILLAGE– THE BRETHREN HOME COMMUNITY
- PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES *Partnership of 43 bodies*

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT
Support Staff (Clerical, IT, Bookkeeping)

*Transformed by Christ * Together in Community*

2025-2026 SOPA District Board

MINISTRY COMMISSION

John Shelly, (Shanks) Chair
Gerry Godfrey, (Codorus) Vice Chair
Don Kauffman (York Madison Ave.)
Keith Nonemaker (West Shore)
Linda Titzell (Faith Community)

WITNESS & OUTREACH COMMISSION

Beth Nonemaker, (West Shore) Chair
Cindy Barclay, (Huntsdale) Vice Chair
Fred Keener,(Greencastle) Scribe
Kim Geisewite (Sugar Valley
Westley Gingrich (Huntsdale)

NURTURE COMMISSION

Mary Hahn, (West Shore) Chair
Leon Yoder, (Greencastle) Vice Chair
Richard Parady, (Newville) Scribe
Morgan Hahn, (West Shore)

STEWARDS COMMISSION

Ron Bell, (Free Spring) Chair
Jeffrey Rider,(Mt. Olivet) Vice Chair
Leroy Keeney, (Codorus) Scribe
John Gingrich, (Huntsdale)

EX-OFFICIO BOARD MEMBERS:

Nicholas Wingert (Chambersburg)	District Moderator
Leon Yoder (Greencastle)	District Moderator Elect
John Shelly (Shanks)	Standing Committee
Donna Jones (Mt. Olivet)	District Writing Clerk
Jay Finkenbinder (Newville)	District Treasurer Interim (also serving as Bookkeeper)
Traci Rabenstein (Mechanicsburg)	District Executive

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

John Hess (Newville)	District Board Chairperson
John Shelly (Shanks)	District Board Vice Chairperson
John Shelly (Shanks)	District Ministry Commission Chairperson
Mary Hahn (West Shore)	District Nurture Commission Chairperson
Beth Nonemaker (West Shore)	District Witness & Outreach Commission Chairperson
Ron Bell (Free Spring)	District Stewards Commission Chairperson
Nicholas Wingert (Chambersburg)	District Moderator, Ex Officio, without vote
Leon Yoder (Greencastle)	District Moderator Elect, Ex Officio, without vote
Jay Finkenbinder (Newville)	District Treasurer Interim Ex Officio, w-out vote
Traci Rabenstein (Mechanicsburg)	District Executive, Ex-Officio, without vote

Church of the Brethren

Together as the Church of the Brethren

Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ. It is with a deep sense of gratitude that I bring greetings to you during your district conference—gratitude for your ongoing work as the hands and feet of Jesus in your local communities and for the work of denominational staff on your behalf. You will find information about denominational mission and ministries reflected in two resources available to you on the Church of the Brethren website (www.brethren.org). The *Church of the Brethren Annual Report* offers a glimpse of the ministries over the last year, and the *Advocating Generosity* booklet invites you to partner with us in our current ministries. Your conference may have these resources printed and available onsite as well.

We are living in times marked by uncertainty and strain. Across our communities and around the world, we witness conflict, division, economic pressure, and deep human suffering. Public discourse is often shaped more by outrage than understanding, and many feel isolated, overwhelmed, or weary. In such a time as this, the witness of the Church of the Brethren is both urgent and essential.

Bonded to Jesus Christ, we move together toward God's new creation. This shared journey grounds us when the world feels fractured. In our diversity, we celebrate our unity in the person and work of the Savior, praising the God who makes us one. We remember that we are not simply individuals navigating difficult times alone—we are the people of God, formed into one body through Christ.

In a culture that often elevates independence, self-interest, and going it alone, we choose a different way. We choose interdependence and community. The church is called to embody a life together that resists isolation and fear, offering instead belonging, mutual care, and shared purpose.

The early church in Acts 4 gives us a vision for faithful living in uncertain times. They devoted themselves to teaching, fellowship, prayer, and the breaking of bread. Their life together was marked by a radical generosity, gladness, and awe—and even amid uncertainty, God was at work, adding to their number and strengthening their witness. This was not a perfect community, but a faithful one, shaped by devotion to Christ and love for one another.

The Apostle Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians that the church is one body with many members, carefully arranged by God. Each part matters. Each person belongs. God's

1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, Illinois 60120 847-742-5100 800-323-8039 Fax: 847-742-6103

desire is that there be no division within the body, but that the members have the same care for one another. When one member suffers, all suffer together; when one is honored, all rejoice together. This shared life calls us to notice one another, to bear one another's burdens, and to celebrate one another's gifts.

Let us live out this calling together within the Church of the Brethren. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, may we seek to follow Jesus faithfully, trusting that every expression of the church—local and trans-local—has a role in God's reconciling and renewing work. May our faith legacy live on as we risk adventuresome acts of radical discipleship reflecting Christ's body at work in the world: united, compassionate, and alive with hope. Together, let us venture forth boldly serving others and bearing witness to the God who makes all things new.

With gratitude for our shared journey in Christ,

David A. Steele
General Secretary

Resources located at www.brethren.org/annualreport for the *Church of the Brethren Annual Report* and www.brethren.org/greatthing for the *Advocating Generosity* booklet.

Church of the Brethren

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ of the Southern Pennsylvania District,

I am grateful to send you greetings as you prepare for your District Conference. Each year, we hear reports and process business of the work being undertaken by our local congregations, districts, agencies, and denomination. Sometimes that work seems routine. And yet, with each new year comes new opportunities to think creatively and pray that God will continue to renew our church and grow our ministries.

I am excited to welcome each of our sisters and brothers who will gather together for the 240th recorded Church of the Brethren Annual Conference in Daytona Beach, Florida, July 28 – August 1, 2027. We will return to our typical Wednesday-through-Sunday format, while meeting later in July than usual. Ocean Center in Daytona Beach lives up to its name, located only 400 feet from the Atlantic Ocean. But most importantly, we will experience the great cultural diversity present among our brothers and sisters in the Atlantic Southeast District.

The Hartford Institute for Religion Research reported in late April 2026 that, for the first time in two decades, Christian congregations were growing overall. If we look worldwide, we see many of our congregations in the Global Church of the Brethren and other denominations growing and thriving. What do we need to do in our North American Church of the Brethren congregations to see growth and renewal?

Much of my ministry over the past three decades has focused on the youth of the church. I have seen young children who listened intently to a Sunday School teacher become young adults who volunteered at their district summer camp teaching other children about Jesus. I have served alongside youth at Annual Conference senior high activities, Christian Citizenship Seminar, FaithX, and National Youth Conference who have gone on to become leaders in our denomination. This is where we see growing faith continue in our church.

May we be energized and encouraged as we anticipate gathering together next summer in Daytona Beach, continuing to support the growing faith of those in our congregations, districts, and denomination.

Your Brother in Christ,
Dennis Beckner
2027 Annual Conference Moderator

Church of the Brethren Annual Conference
1451 Dundee Avenue · Elgin, IL 60120
www.brethren.org/ac · annualconference@brethren.org
Annual Conference exists to unite, strengthen and equip the Church of the Brethren to follow Jesus.

SOPA District Executive Minister's Report

Report to the 2026 Southern PA District Conference

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

I want to begin by expressing my deep gratitude to Georgia Markey, who faithfully served this district for three years as Interim District Executive. In her written report last year, she noted an effort "being cultivated to bring back some of [the] lost connectedness with our District and District agencies," and she worked intentionally to create opportunities for those groups to strengthen their relationships with one another.

Thanks to Georgia's leadership and dedication, that work has provided a strong foundation upon which we can continue building opportunities to live into our shared calling as the Church together. I am deeply appreciative of her commitment and the groundwork she laid during her service.

In her closing remarks, Georgia reflected on 1 Timothy 4:12, offering both a challenge and an encouragement to all of us: to *"set an example"* regardless of age or position in life, and to model a Christ-like witness as we seek to *"walk with boldness and truly be the Church."*

The question I have been asking myself is: How do we do that? How do we *"walk with boldness?"* As I reflect on the past decade of our district journey and look towards the future of where we might go, I believe the roadmap we might follow is one where restoration, rebuilding, and revival are the key markers.

In my opening remarks at my installation service on April 12, 2026, I stated that we should speak honestly of where we have been. We have experienced loss in a way that was maybe spoken about but not acted on until 2020 when we had the first few congregations decide to leave our community. From that time, we have seen 18 of our sister congregations make the decision to move on to either join another denomination or do ministry as an independent church. Those moments of departure have been painful, disorienting, and deeply personal.

Let me take time to name each congregation who has left our community: Upton, Bunkertown, Falling Springs, Upper Conewago, Brandts, Dry Run, Lakeview, Trinity, Bermudian, Yorkanna, Pleasant Hill, Pleasant View, Ridge, Three Springs, Shippensburg, Tuscarora, New Fairview, and Buffalo Valley (to be confirmed at our 2026 District Conference). We have been mourning the loss of these congregations and their members, people who we may still see at the grocery store, when we pump gas, or maybe our neighbors, and we remember with love the years of service and ministry we shared together as the Church. Those stories and memories shared will remain a part of who we are, and we entrust them into God's keeping.

RESTORATION

Let us lift our eyes above our circumstances and look to God, the **Master Restorer**, who lovingly heals broken hearts, restores what has been lost, and makes all things new. God's vision of restoration is not merely about returning us to where we once were; it is about transforming us from the inside out. He renews our hearts, repairs relationships, and promises the ultimate restoration of creation. As we turn to the inspired Word of God, we discover countless examples of His restoring grace. From beginning to end, Scripture tells the story of a God who restores, redeems, and renews, inviting us to move from a place of survival into a life marked by revival and hope.

Look at Nehemiah 1 & 2 and Haggai 1. When the Jewish remnants returned to Jerusalem, they found a district in ruins because of the vast majority of their global community remained scattered in Babylon. Nehemiah describes the exact emotional state of a depleted district: *"The remnant there in the province... is in great trouble and shame. The wall of Jerusalem is broken down"* (Nehemiah 1:3). Similarly, Haggai 1 speaks to congregations that became discouraged, turned inward, and neglected the collective identity of the district because the loss felt too overwhelming.

Nehemiah did not try to rebuild the city alone, nor did he wait for the departed to return. Nehemiah 3 shows that every remaining family took responsibility for the specific section for the wall "next to" their own home. **Restoration can happen when we stop mourning the missing pieces and begin to collaborate on shared ministry footprints.**

In Haggai 2:3, the people wept because the new temple looked like "nothing" compared to the former glory before the split. God corrected their perspective in Haggai 2:4: *"Take courage, all you people of the land... Work, for I am with you, says the Lord of hosts."* **We find restoration by celebrating our current identity rather than comparing ourselves to what once was our "glory days" where we were mighty in number. Smaller numbers do not mean a smaller calling.**

As the remaining remnant built, critics mocked their smaller capacity (Nehemiah 4:3). Nehemiah responded by putting a trowel in one hand and a sword in the other (Nehemiah 4:17). **We must actively guard our pulpits, leadership meetings, and district events against bitterness or cynicism regarding those who walked away.**

Because the remnant was thin and spread out across a large district, Nehemiah set up a trumpet system: *"The work is great and widely spread, and we are separated on the wall, far from one another. In the place where you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there"* (Nehemiah 4:19-20). **The time has come for us to strengthen our community in some of the ways we used to and in new ways.**

REBUILDING

The trumpet call of Nehemiah was not simply about gathering people together; it was about reminding them that they belonged to something larger than themselves. The wall was rebuilt one stone at a time, one family at a time, and one act of faithfulness at a time. Rebuilding is often less dramatic than restoration. Restoration renews vision; rebuilding requires perseverance.

Nehemiah understood that restored hearts needed renewed purpose. After the people were gathered, they organized their work, shared their resources, and accepted responsibility for the future of their community. The task before them was not to recreate the Jerusalem of yesterday but to faithfully steward the Jerusalem God had entrusted to them today.

The same challenge stands before us. We cannot rebuild our district by longing for a previous season or by waiting for circumstances to become ideal. **We rebuild whenever congregations partner together in ministry, when leaders mentor emerging leaders, when churches share resources rather than compete for them, and when we choose cooperation over isolation.**

In Haggai's day, God challenged the people to move beyond discouragement and put His house back at the center of their priorities. They had become focused on preserving their own homes while neglecting their shared calling. **The Lord's message was clear: when God's people unite around God's purposes, He provides what is needed for the work.**
Likewise, rebuilding in our district is not primarily about structures, budgets, or attendance figures. **It is about renewing our commitment to be the Church together.** Every congregation, regardless of size, has a section of the wall to build. Every pastor, deacon, leadership team, and church member (regardless of age) has gifts to contribute. Every act of service, every prayer offered, every disciple nurtured, and every neighbor loved becomes another stone laid in the work God is accomplishing among us.

Rebuilding requires patience because God's most significant work is often accomplished slowly. Yet the promise remains the same as it was in Nehemiah's day: *"The God of heaven will give us success, and we His servants are going to start building..."* (Nehemiah 2:20).

REVIVAL
But Nehemiah's story does not end when the wall is completed.
Once the rebuilding was finished, the people gathered around the Word of God. In Nehemiah 8, Ezra opened the Book of the Law, and the people listened, wept, confessed their sins, and renewed their covenant with God. The rebuilt walls provided security, but it was the renewed hearts of the people that brought true revival.

This distinction is important for us. Rebuilding and revival are not the same thing. We can repair structures, reorganize ministries, and increase participation, yet still miss the deeper work God desires to accomplish. **Revival occurs when the Holy Spirit awakens God's people to a fresh love for Christ, a renewed hunger for Scripture, and a deeper commitment to God's mission.**

Revival cannot be manufactured by strategy alone. It is a gift of God's grace. Yet throughout Scripture we see that **God often sends revival to people who humble themselves, seek His face, and faithfully prepare the ground for what He desires to do.**

I believe we are living in a moment of invitation. We can choose to focus on what has been lost, or we can embrace what God may be doing among those who remain. We can define ourselves by decline, or we can be defined by discipleship. We can measure success by numbers alone, or we can measure faithfulness by our willingness to follow wherever Christ leads.

The message of Nehemiah and Haggai is ultimately a message of hope. God does some of His greatest work through a remnant. He specializes in taking what appears small, weak, or broken and using it for His glory. **The same God who restored Jerusalem, strengthened the remnant, and revived His people is still at work among us today.**

As we move forward together, may we seek restoration for our wounds, commit ourselves to rebuilding God's work, and pray earnestly for revival. May we walk with boldness, not because of our strength, but because of God's presence. For the Lord who declared, *"I am with you"* to the people of Haggai's day continues to speak those same words to His Church today. And where God's presence abides, restoration, rebuilding, and revival are always possible.

Submitted with hope and a commitment to advancing God's Kingdom,
Traci Rabenstein, District Executive Minister

BOARD CHAIR COMMENTS

"Crossing Over"

When I was on sabbatical last April/May, one of the many things I did was to attend (on-line) the "LEAD" Conference, which was held at the Ephrata COB. "LEAD" stands for: Listen; Equip; Adapt and Disciple. And the conference included many good speakers and meaningful worship services.

Michaela Alphonse, Pastor of the Miami, First COB, preached at worship on Friday evening. In her sermon, she talked briefly about Joshua and the Israelites, as they were getting ready to cross over the Jordan River. You can read the whole story in the book of Joshua, chapter three. The Lord directed Joshua to have the priests carry the Ark of the Covenant into the Jordan, then all the people were to follow them across the water. But there was one tiny problem: at that time, the river was at flood stage! Still, the priests and the people followed Joshua's (and God's) instructions. And the very moment the feet of the priests touched the water's edge, the Jordan stopped flowing! And everyone was able to cross over on DRY ground!

Our Southern Pa. District is in a time of "crossing over." I want to thank Georgia Markey for her service as our interim District Executive. During her time in this role, she went "above and beyond" what she, or anyone else, expected. And now we have been transitioning to our new full-time District Executive, Traci Rabenstein. Like the priests at the Jordan River, Traci has "jumped in with both feet," even though sometimes, the water seemed difficult and deep. Her experience and good work is helping our District navigate a path forward.

On a different topic, I want to address the Mission Agencies of our District. Some of you will remember that we have already voted to change only our LEGAL relationship with Cross Keys Village/ The Brethren Home Community (CKV/TBHC). This was done to protect our District from future liability/lawsuits. Now, for this Conference, in the proposed District Budget for 2027, you will see some financial changes for some of our Mission Agencies. Despite all this, our District intends to maintain, and even build on, a strong connection with CKV/TBHC, Camp Eder, Children's Aid Society

and The Young Center at Elizabethtown College. Once again this year, they are an important part of our Conference. And we will continue to find ways to work together in the future. (Individuals and congregations can contribute to each of these Agencies at any time!)

I want to take a moment to thank the following persons: Moderator Nicholas Wingert, for his creativity; Administrative Assistant Linette Quinn, for keeping the District Office "humming along;" Treasurer/Bookkeeper Jay Finkenbinder, Jr. for all his "number crunching;" and, of course, the entire District Board.

Keep Traci and all our District leaders in your prayers. And may our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ continue to "lead" us as we get ready to "crossover" into another year of ministry and service.

John F. Hess,

Southern Pa. District Board Chair

From The District Moderator

Greetings to everyone who will gather for the 2026 Southern Pennsylvania District Conference. I hope that our time together will strengthen us both spiritually and relationally as we worship, discern, and serve together. Our theme this year is **"With Every Breath That I Am Able,"** based on Psalm 34:1: *"I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth."*

Every breath we take is a gift from God and an opportunity to offer praise, gratitude, and service. In a world that often pulls our attention in many directions, this theme calls us to center our hearts on God and to remember that our lives are meant to be a continual testimony to God's faithfulness. Whether through worship, prayer, fellowship, or service, we are invited to honor God with every breath that we are able.

Throughout this conference, we will gather to worship, conduct the business of the church, learn together, and strengthen the bonds that unite us as brothers and sisters in Christ. As we seek God's guidance for the future of our district, may we do so with hearts full of gratitude and voices ready to proclaim God's goodness.

Our worship services, insight sessions, and fellowship opportunities have been planned to encourage and inspire us as we live out our faith in our congregations and communities. I pray that you will leave this conference renewed in spirit and encouraged for the work God has called you to do.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to **Chambersburg Church of the Brethren** for hosting this year's District Conference. Hosting an event of this size requires many hours of preparation, dedication, and hospitality, and we are grateful for their willingness to serve. I also want to thank our District staff, Board members, volunteers, worship leaders, musicians, and all who have worked diligently to make this conference possible.

May our time together be filled with worship, fellowship, and a renewed commitment to bless the Lord with every breath that we are able.

God Bless,

Nicholas Wingert

Nicholas Wingert
2026 District Moderator

Southern District of PA Church of the Brethren
Conference Moderators 1924-2027

1924	John H. Keller
1925	C. L. Baker
1926	John H. Keller
1927	C. L. Baker
1928	M. A. Jacobs
1929	
1930	C. L. Baker
1931	C.E. Grapes
1932	H. M. Stover
1933	H. M. Stover
1934	J. E. Trimmer
1935	H. M. Stover
1936	J. E. Trimmer
1937	G. Howard Danner
1938	L. K. Zeigler
1939	C. E. Grapes
1940	J. E. Trimmer
1941	C.E. Grapes
1942	N. S. Sellers
1943	C. E. Grapes
1944	S.C. Godfrey
1945	George L. Detweiler
1946	N. S. Sellers
1947	O. J. Hassinger
1948	Jacob L. Miller
1949	Robert I. Cocklin
1950	George L. Detweiler
1951	B. N. King
1952	George L. Detweiler
1953	M. Guy West
1954	Robert Knechel
1955	David J. Markey
1956	Howard Whitacre
1957	Joseph Long
1958	Paul Newcomer
1959	M. Guy West
1960	Robert I. Cocklin
1961	J. Vernon Grim
1962	Murray Lehman
1963	Fred R. Clayton
1964	M. Guy West
1965	Jacob L. Miller
1966	Glenn E. Kinsel
1967	William L. Gould
1968	Samuel H. Flora Jr.
1969	Earl K. Ziegler
1970	Harvey S. Kline
1971	Murray P. Lehman
1972	Merlin G. Shull
1973	Curtis W. Dubble
1974	Cyrus G. Bucher
1975	Donald E. Miller
1976	Forrest B. Gordon
1977	Elmer Q. Gleim
1978	Jimmy R. Ross
1979	Norman F. Reber
1980	Glenn M. Stouffer
1981	Warren M. Eshbach
1982	E. Gerald Thompson
1983	Floyd H. Mitchell
1984	Donald E. Miller
1985	H. Roger Miller
1986	John R. Shenk
1987	Harold E. Yeager
1988	Donald Fogelsanger
1989	Elmer Q. Gleim
1990	Howard A. Miller
1991	L. Gene Bucher
1992	John S. Kipp
1993	Eli E. Mast
1994	John Henry
1995	Janice Custer
1996	Harold E. Yeager
1997	Robert L. Jacobs Jr.
1998	Woody Johnson
1999	Marvin Gibble
2000	Donna Lerew
2001	Larry M. Dentler
2002	R. Edward Weaver
2003	Richard Godfrey
2004	Terry Smith
2005	Kenneth Geisewite
2006	Paul Holtry
2007	Marvin Gibble
2008	Wilmer Horst
2009	John Shelly
2010	Eli E. Mast
2011	Harold E. Yeager
2012	Ruth Duncan
2013	Larry M. Dentler
2014	Jay Finkenbinder Jr.
2015	Traci Rabenstein
2016	Christian Elliott
2017	Marla Abe
2018	Don Hubbell
2019	Harold E. Yeager
2020	John F. Hess
2021	Ray Lehman
2022	John Shelly
2023	Terry Smith
2024	John Hess
2025	Eric Reamer
2026	Nicholas Wingert
2027	Leon Yoder

Delegate Consecration Responsive Reading

"With Every Breath That I Am Able"
Psalm 34:1

(Delegates Body Standing)

Leader:
God of grace, you have called us together for service, discernment, and faithful witness.

Delegates:
With every breath that we are able, we will praise and serve the Lord.

Leader:
You have entrusted us with the work of listening, praying, and seeking your will.

Delegates:
Give us wisdom, humility, and hearts open to your Spirit.

Leader:
When decisions are difficult, and the path is uncertain—

Delegates:
Guide us with your truth and steady us with your peace.

Leader:
May our words reflect kindness, compassion, and faithfulness.

Delegates:
May our actions honor Christ and strengthen the Church.

Leader:
As we gather in conference and community—

Delegates:
We consecrate ourselves to your service.

Leader:
Let our worship rise with every prayer, every conversation, and every act of love.

Delegates:
With every breath that we are able, we will bless the Lord at all times.

All:
God of life and hope, consecrate us for your work.
Fill us with courage, unity, and joy,
that in all we do and say,
Your name may be praised. Amen.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE REGISTERED DELEGATES 2026

Black Rock
Mark and Mary Robinson
Paul and Jeanne Wah

Carlisle
Dale Miller
Douglas Miller

Chambersburg
Megan Carbaugh
Linda Gorman
Robin Faust-Hambright
Renee Preso

Codorus
Eric Ritenour
Ken Gordon
Gerry Godfrey
Leroy Keeney

Faith Community
Lynn Titzell

Farmers Grove

Free Spring
Terry Smith
Ron Bell
Dee Bell

Gettysburg
Ian Irvin
Chris Swartz
Maria Wagner

Greencastle
Fred Keener
Dwight Hawbaker
Larry Kendle

Hanover
Mark Bowyer
Paul Bollinger
Ed Morris

Huntsdale
Darlene Stouffer
Clarence Stouffer
Cindy Barclay

Knobsville
Robert Bilger

Mechanicsburg
Eric Seibert
Ron Atland
Cheryl Noll
Ken & Marlene Zook

Mount Olivet
Eugene Jones
Jeff Rider
John Kipp

New Freedom

Newville
John Hess
Jay Finkenbinder Jr.
Bobbi Jo Shoop

Rouzerville
Paul Swope
Jay Graybill

Shanks
John and Sandy Shelly
Ben Haldeman

Sugar Valley
William Mauck
Kim Geisewite
Connie Overdorf

Waynesboro
Andrew Paterno
Stephanie Behnke
Allison Mcferren

West Shore
Beth Nonemaker
Keith Nonemaker
Mary Hahn

West York
Richard Godfrey
Don and Vivian Hubbell

Wolgamuth
Daniel Felix
Jay Gerber
William Tomes

York First
Joel Gibbel
Cheryl Weyant
Kim Witkovsky
Rebecca Wolf

York Madison Avenue
Keith Hollenberg
Donald Kauffman
Barbara Strawbridge

York Second

SOUTHERN PENNSYLVANIA CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

2025 District Conference Minutes

September 19-20, 2025

A Seminar on "Prayer In The Church" was led by Eric Reamer from 9:00 AM until 12:00 Noon, Friday, September 19, 2025.

The 2025 District Conference of the Southern Pennsylvania District Church of the Brethren was called to order by Moderator Eric Reamer at 1:15 PM at the Hanover Church of the Brethren in Hanover, Pennsylvania.

The conference theme was "Prayer Changes Things, Me, You" – Hebrews 4:14-16.

Assisting Moderator Reamer were Moderator-elect, Nicholas Wingert; Time Keeper, Chris Elliott; Writing Clerk, Donna Jones.

I. WELCOME, PRAYER AND OPENING REMARKS—Eric Reamer
II. CONSECRATION OF DELEGATES—Nicholas Wingert
III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA—Eric Reamer
A. Moved to approve-John Shelly, Shanks; Seconded-Geraldine Godfrey, Codorus
The Agenda was approved.
IV. REVIEW OF THE NOMINATION/DISCERNMENT PROCESS—Eric Reamer
V. THE BRETHREN HOME FOUNDATION BOARD MEETING
A. Called to order by Karl Lehman—Chairman, Cross Keys Village/The Brethren Home Community. Also present were Beverly Asper, President & CEO of the Brethren Home Foundation and Cross Keys Village/The Brethren Home and Michael Kovacs, Vice-President of the Brethren Home Foundation.
B. Invocation—Linda Titzell
C. Approval of 2024 Minutes—Moved-Don Hubbell, West York; Seconded-John Shelly, Shanks. Minutes were approved
D. Beverly Asper presented the unaudited Financial Report.
E. Michael Kovacs presented the Development Report.
F. Beverly Asper presented the Corporate Legal Restructuring issue which would change our relationship from agency/membership to partnership.

G. Keith Hollenberg, York Madison Avenue, made a motion to place the issue as an item of business; seconded by Geraldine Godfrey, Codorus.

H. Discussion on Resolution:
Chris Elliott, Knobsville: If we would decide against this change and the continuing situation would be as it has been, I'm not saying this as any prophetic word, but what if there was an end of Church the Brethren as we know it, how would that, would that be a problem?

Karl Lehman: The current relationship is that you are the members so, I'm not a lawyer, but if Dave wants to respond more clearly on that.

Dave Marshall, attorney for the Foundation: So as I understand your question, if we

would do nothing to change the situation today and if, God forbid, if for some reason the Church of the Brethren ceases to exist, from a corporate and legal perspective that membership interest that is held by the District in the Foundation entity would cease to exist. I believe there are other members within the Foundation… well maybe not. If that entity ceases to exist it doesn't automatically terminate the Foundation. I think as a practical matter under the Pennsylvania Non-Profit Corporation law, if nothing else changed that entity would have to be reconstituted from a non-profit perspective, with a different church membership, maybe the successor, is probably what would happen if there was a successor church to it. I would think that that's... That's an interesting legal question as opposed to just a practical one of if the entire membership ceases to exist. I think that in a very, very worse case scenario the Attorney General of Pennsylvania who has authority over non-profit organizations would probably be the one to make a decision if there had to be one made outside the scope of here.

Georgia Markey, Interim District Executive: To add to the Attorney's comments, it would take a piece of time for this District to either dissolve or become integrated into any of the other districts in the denomination so there would be sufficient time for any of our agencies to make changes they have in structure.

Mark Bowyer, Hanover: What advantage, if any, has there been in the present relationship for us as members?

Karl Lehman: I guess that, I don't know if advantage is the right word, but we were formed by the District as a mission and the mission has been to care for aging persons not just of the District but caring for aging persons of the world. The benefit is the same as probably anything else where you give a donation and you believe that you are doing good in the world, so the return on investment, if you want to call it that, is seeing aging persons receiving care in a loving and Christian environment. Our benefit has been the support both monetarily and through volunteers and through the thought process of all those who are in the District.

Beverly Asper: From an advantage to be admitted over someone else or to have access to a home, there's none of that type of advantage. For fair housing and all other types of discriminatory reasons there's really no benefit to the membership at Cross Keys Village.

Mark Bowyer: I probably used the wrong word. Second question. Would we cease to be members under the new relationship?

Karl Lehman: There would be no members. It would be a non-profit corporation operated by the Board of Directors. The By-laws as they have been presented in there would continue the organization on into the future through the processes that have been established there.

Mark Bowyer: So this would be the last vote that we would take as it were as members.

Karl Lehman: Correct. We would continue coming to Southern Pennsylvania District Conference but instead of having a legal meeting we would have a presentation of what

are we doing, how are we doing that, how do we interact, what can we do for you, what can you do for us, things like that. We would have a normal presentation.

Dave Marshall: Maybe this will help from a legal structuring, just to give a picture of it collectively, maybe this will help. Right now the District is a member in the Foundation legal entity. The Foundation legal entity is the sole member of the Brethren Home Community which is where the operations of the CCRC are. What we are talking about doing here for the corporate re-organization of Cross Keys and for the future relationship of the District is the District's membership interest in the Foundation legal entity would cease but that legal entity would then sign the Covenant agreement with the District so that from a cultural, a spiritual, and an advisory perspective, nothing would change. Brethren Home Community and Cross Keys as a corporate structuring system would do would be to create a brand new non-profit parent entity that would sit on top of the system. The Foundation would be under that and then the Brethren Home Community/ Cross Keys entity would come out from under the Foundation entity and be directly under the new parent entity. When we are talking about a corporate restructuring, that's what it looks like. Moving forward it would take the District out of being a member of the Foundation and the parent would replace the it as a member of the Foundation. The Covenant Agreement that we have talked about would be entered into to keep the District involved in the operations and like we said, the spirituality, the history, to continue all that.

Beverly Asper: Thank you, Dave. We did provide in the e-mail link that went out to provide information, so that everyone would know, to show where we would head into in the future and it also shows our current relationship on there, too.

Georgia Markey: One question, I guess, drawn from the last conversation was that should any member of a congregation or any body within the congregation would question the Brethren Home's operation, let's say, of staffing or things you did as a ministry, what would that relationship be? My understanding is that the District or any of its congregations would have no say in this. This takes them out of that operation mode. Can I get an answer on that?

Karl Lehman: So operationally, the members currently do no really have a part in the operational structure of Cross Keys. Cross Keys is owned by the Foundation, the Foundation has the members in it, so you would have certain rights as members but not in the operational side of that. The recourse, if you want to call it that, is the same as anyone else which is that you can always go to the organization, Cross Keys Village itself, and ask questions and if you disagree with something you can certainly make your voice heard. If you believe that it is something that is wrong or that we are doing wrong, there are avenues in the state of Pennsylvania to report issues or to register complaints. So there are avenues but it is not currently nor would it become a situation where a member could say "We need to hire this person or I don't like the way they're mowing the lawn out there. We need to change the maintenance crew." We don't have that ability today nor would we have that in the future. Does that answer the question?

Beverly Asper: I think, functionally, the membership has governing authority as part of our Board. So no Board member has power in and of themselves, the Board collectively has power to govern any non-profit anywhere. As Board representation from

the membership on our Board that's how you would have continued governance oversight of the organization, not operational oversight but governance. We are saying we would like, Karl has asked already for names for our Board. We want to have that continued presence of members on our Board so that would continue if that makes sense. It's not like we are asking for you not to have any involvement. We want that to continue. It's this legal piece that we'd like to simply break, for your sake and ours. I would be devastated if we were in a law suit that spread it's way over the camp. I'm all about camps. That would be devastating. That could happen right now. A lawsuit that would get placed on us because of how we acted or performed during Covid 19, a class action lawsuit would spread across all of the members, the camp, everybody. We just want to end that risk to you. It's pretty simple. Not end the governing arrangement that we have.

Darlene Stouffer, Huntsdale: Understanding what you just said that you don't want to spread that risk and you were at worst case scenario sued, who would indeed be responsible for that liability?

Dave Lehman: There is a number of ways this could play out but generally speaking, the worst case as we are saying; Let's say that the Brethren Home/Cross Keys Village has a terrible tragic incident in the operation of it's nursing facility. Plaintiff's lawyers these days will try to go after anyone with a legal connection to the entity where the incident occurred. Under the current structure, that means if the incident occurred at Cross Keys at the Brethren Home Community entity, the Plaintiff's attorney would sue that entity. They would sue the Foundation entity which is the sole member of the Brethren Home Community and they would and could go after the membership and the members in the Foundation. So you are working your way up the legal chain. That's how in a worse case scenario, that's how this gets visited upon the District. With the membership interest structure that the District has in the Foundation, that's the legal connection that any attorney needs to draw the District in. When Bev is talking about the purpose of this is to remove the District from that legal chain, in order to do so we have to break the membership interest. Again what we're trying to get across here is if we break that legal interest, that doesn't mean we're breaking the relationship with the District. That's what the Covenant Agreement does. The Covenant Agreement in and of itself doesn't grant that type of legal ownership or control interest that could be used to manipulate the District into a lawsuit. Does that help?

Darlene Stouffer: That doesn't answer my question. Who would be legally liable, if that is approved, going forward?

Karl Lehman: If we pass this Resolution, it would stop at the Brethren Home Foundation.

Beverly Asper: It would stop at the Brethren Home Foundation if we vote "yes" today. It stops there and it does not pass to you as members.

Paul Bollinger, Hanover: I've heard you say you are interested in names for being on the Board. Are there a minimum number of Board members that would be Church of the Brethren? Has that thought been considered or are there issues with doing that?

Karl Lehman: There currently is a requirement for five. We would remove the requirement because it would tend to indicate the membership requirement sort of thing.

We don't have a specific number. What we do on the Board when we are seeking new members is we have what we call a "skills matrix". So we are looking for people that have various types of skills that will help the Board operate efficiently and keep the organization strong. It's a wide variety of skills. We have one attorney; we have nurses; we have teachers; we have many different skill sets that are there that we would continue doing. One of the things we would seek is people who come with our Brethren heritage but we would not have a number that's required.

Keith Hollenberg, York Madison Avenue: For my understanding you are saving the members of our District a lot of headaches, potential headaches, legal headaches and for that as one delegate of this body, I'm willing to trust and trust the Brethren Home.

Bill Mauck, Sugar Valley: We've been talking about liability in the membership. How does this affect, if there was any, any influence that we lose by dropping this membership? I understand at the Home level you want to keep those ties, but what is lost in a "yes" vote as far as the District's ability to work at the higher level?

Karl Lehman: I think in any relationship like this it truly takes both sides working hard for that relationship to have the proper result. As we mentioned, during Covid a lot of those relationships have kind of simmered maybe. We shut the Nursing Home down, we discontinued a lot of open volunteerism. We hope we saved some lives in that process but it did reduce our connection to you and to the open world. We have worked very hard to reopen and reconnect with everybody but we certainly want to reopen and reconnect with the District. When we started down this path and talked about the liability, one of the very first things that came from the Board was "How do we make sure that our relationship with the Church of the Brethren and the Southern Pennsylvania District remains vibrant and really returns to what it should be"? The Covenant that you see there is kinda the result of that. But the Covenant is only words on a paper and it's going to take all of you giving us names for Board members and getting involved in activities there and interacting with the Administration, interacting with the Board. It takes effort on your side and it will take effort on our side. We are making a Covenant that we are going to do our part to revitalize that relationship.

Beverly Asper: You said "What about the connection to the Community, but what about the connection to the Foundation"? We spent a lot of time thinking through how to deepen the connections to the District and to the church members. In the Covenant agreement, one of the things we would like to do from the Foundation perspective is building and deepening relationships with the Pastors. We're putting in here that we are committing to meet with your Pastors every year and to talk about what are the needs of the church people and how can Cross Keys and the Foundation support and how can you support us. How can we work together. There is a lot of good relational connections in this document, in this Covenant, that don't exist today and that, I believe, enhance that relationship without the legal risk. There's a lot in here about where we'd like the see the relationship go.

Michael Kovacs: I think it's a unique scenario. I think this a relationship that is going to grow and deepen. We're not turning our backs. I know what the relationship has been between Cross Keys and the District and we're looking to make it way, way better.

Gerry Godfrey, Codorus: I'd like to move the question. I'd like also to say that we, as the Southern Pennsylvania Board, heard this presentation two months ago. We've had maybe more time than what some of the delegates here have had to contemplate all the "where as's". It is something we have been able to look at and hearing the word "Covenant" many times this afternoon, which is something that the Board suggested that that language is used, I think, is very much what we as Church of the Brethren appreciate about what is moving forward.

Karl Lehman: The question has been called to vote. You need to bring out your green sheet. Make sure it has your name on it. We need a second to the question.

Jeff Rider, Mount Olivet: Second.

Vote was taken and question was passed.

Karl Lehman: Okay, we're ready to vote. The Green sheet has your name on. You need to sign and you need to say "Yes" or "No". Then the tellers will collect your papers.

Jeff Rider: Two-thirds vote or simple majority?

Karl Lehman: It's a simple majority. There was actually quite a discussion about that. Once we went back to the by-laws, it appears that it is a simple majority vote.

After the ballots were counted, it was announced that the Resolution passed by an overwhelming vote.

VI. BIBLE STUDY ON PRAYER—Geraldine Godfrey—Colossians 1:9-12

VII. CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY MEETING

A. Called to order—Don Kauffman, Vice-Chairman, CAS Advisory Board

B. Prayer—Linda Titzell

C. Approval of 2024 minutes—moved-Jay Finkenbinder, Newville; seconded-John Shelly, Shanks. Minutes approved

D. Motion to accept Financial Report—Darlene Stouffer, Huntsdale; seconded-Ron Bell, Free Spring. Report accepted.

E. Program Review by Eric Chase, President/CEO

1. Video of new Werner Early Learning Child Care Center

Eric Reamer: "Based on what we just did with the Brethren Home, is there any consistency there with CAS? Can you clarify that for us?"

Eric Chase: "I checked our By-laws and yes, we are in that same situation. Our Board will have to look into it."

VIII. SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY MINISTRY CENTER—Audrey Hollenberg-Duffy, Director

A. Became Director in April 2025

B. Presented Ian Irvin with his certificate for completing ACTS courses.

IX. CAMP EDER REPORT—Becky McCulloch, Camp Administrator

A. Presented Financial Report.

B. They are interviewing for the Program Coordinator position

C. The 47th Annual Fall Festival is scheduled for October 18

X. PRAYER FOR DISTRICT AGENCIES—Eric Reamer

XI. PRAYER/CONSECRATION OF AGENCY LEADERS—Leon Yoder

XII. BIBLE STUDY ON PRAYER—Audrey Hollengberg-Duffy—2 Chronicles 5-7

XIII. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT—John Shelly

A. Looks at business for Annual Conference.

B. Next year's Annual Conference will be held at Fort Wayne, Indiana. The Moderator will be Don Fitzkee.

Eugene Jones, Mount Olivet: On page 103, the fourth paragraph states: "Another major function of Standing Committee is to serve as the judicial body of the church, hearing any appeals relating from broken relationships between Districts, Congregations, and individuals. There were no appeals presented this year, although Standing Committee did have a Listening Session with Bridgewater Church of the Brethren from the Shenandoah District. This session was a first for Standing Committee with this process being adopted in 2021." Are you privileged to tell us what that was about?

John Shelly: Whenever there is a controversial item, Standing Committee cannot make any… What's the way to say this, Nancy? We deal with issues and items but we can't give a verdict. We can listen to both sides and they have to work it out among themselves. Bridgewater had brought a concern. They brought it to Annual Conference and we had a Listening Session in the evening to talk about what their situation was. So we listened.

Eugene Jones: You won't tell us what the concern was?

John Shelly: I think it was something about the Bridgewater College trying to…or the Bridgewater Church trying to ordain a homosexual. Is that right... Nancy do you want to talk to this? You are probably more familiar with this than I am.

Nancy Heishman, Director of the Office of Ministry: The Bridgewater Church is in a process of conversation with their District related to the fact that the Pastors have performed same gender weddings. It has nothing to do with ordaining anyone but it has to do with their decision, in coordination with congregational approval, to perform same gender weddings which is in violation of District polity. So they had conversation about that. There was no decision made. It was simply a listening session, like John was saying.

John Shelly: Right. We can't make a decision.

Eugene Jones: I understand. But this was Bridgewater performing these weddings?

John Shelly: This was a couple of their Pastors wanting to do this.

Eugene Jones: Okay. Thank you.

John Shelly: Am I correct, Nancy?

Nancy Heishman: Yes

XVI. DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MINISTRY—Nancy Heishman

A. Serves as the liaison from the Office of Ministry to Search Committees that are working to fulfill the call of leadership for District Executive ministers.

B. I want to say how much I have appreciated the work of the Search Committee. They are not

done yet as you know. It is an arduous task but they have confidence, as I do, that God will provide the leadership that is needed. I am thankful to Ian who is the Chair, and Leon as the Board Chair and the rest of the members of the committee who report tomorrow a bit so I am thankful for that. I also want to express thanks to Georgia for continuing to serve as Interim on your behalf.

C. Reminder of the part-time pastor/full-time work program to provide resources for pastors who are part-time.

XIV. BIBLE STUDY ON PRAYER—Fred Keener—Matthew 26:36-46

XVII. PRESENTATION OF DISTRICT CONFERENCE BALLOT and PRAYER—Eric Reamer

XVIII. ELECTION RESULTS

A. Moderator-Elect—Linda Titzell

B. District Board—Eastern Zone—Geraldine Godfrey, Don Kauffman
Central Zone—John Gingrich, Mary Hahn
At Large—John Shelly

C. Program & Arrangements—Western Zone—Sandy Shelly
Central Zone—Carol Frace

D. Nominating & Personnel—Western Zone—Alesia Bennett

XV. DISTRICT EXECUTIVE SEARCH COMMITTEE—Ian Irvin, Chairman

A. Encouraged delegates to submit names of persons who would be qualified and interested in the position.

XVI. INTERIM DISTRICT EXECUTIVE VERBAL REPORT—Georgia Markey

A. A special thank-you to Linette Quinn for her work in the office.

B. Have been able to fill the position in Churches where a Pastor was needed, except one.

C. Knobsville has sistered with a church in Middle PA. Both very small congregations. The Pastor is pastoring them. This summer he had a picnic with both churches together. It is exciting that that is working. Knobsville will be celebrating their 70th anniversary.

D. Georgia and the Executive Committee met with the heads of District Agencies. Each agency shared what they did. Congregations don't know what's going on in the agencies and many don't understand the relationship.

E. National Youth Conference is to be scheduled for July 18-23, 2026, at the YMCA in Estes Park, Colorado.

F. Need a good information flow. Newsletter has been coming out through the internet. Some still want a paper copy. Need to let office know if you want a hard copy.

G. It is 5-year time for ordained persons to be reordained. Current background checks need to be on file in the District office.

H. Annette Boyer has retired as bookkeeper. Jay Finkenbinder is serving as treasurer and also as the bookkeeper. Need to find someone as treasurer so he isn't signing his own checks.

I. At Georgia's request, the congregation sang "Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore"

XIX. DISTRICT BOARD REPORT

A. Leon Yoder, Board Chairman, welcomed us aboard "Brethren Airlines SOPA 747" to continue the "flight plan". Georgia Markey & Linette Quinn are the pilot and co-pilot.

B. Linette Quinn, Administrative Assistant

1. Answers the phone, process mail, e-mail, whatever is needed at the office. The District Conference, the Board retreat are some of the bigger things we work on.

C. District Ministry Commission—John Shelly, Chairman

1. Supports, encourages, empowers the Ministers of our District and those considering entering the ministry.

2. Worked with Elizabethtown College regarding the "Christian Leadership

Scholarship Grant" established to provide a need-based scholarship with a preference to a student who is a member of a congregation from the Southern PA District.

D. Nurture Commission—Beth Nonemaker, Chairman
   1. Women's Spring Luncheon—Speaker-Moderator Dava Hensley—held at Huntsdale and attended by 57 women.
   2. Outdoorsman Day at Camp Eder attended by about 25.
   3. Women's Camp attended by 35 on Monday and 13 Tuesday. They are considering holding the Camp on Friday and Saturday next year.
   4. State Park—Chaplaincy program
      a. Gifford Pinchot and Codorus State Parks

E. Witness and Outreach Commission—Kim Geisewite, Chairman
   1. Mission project to build a house for retired minister in the Dominican Republic took place in February.
   2. Chicken canning project canned 9,720 two-pound cans of chicken thighs over 4 days. Cans were distributed to Mid-Atlantic District, Southern PA District and Shady Grove Ruritan Club in North Carolina (for relief due to Hurricane Helene).
   3. A District-wide picnic/vesper service was held at Little Buffalo State Park in July with about 60 people attending representing approximately 60% of our churches.

F. Stewards Commission—Ron Bell, Chairman
   1. Held a clean-up day at Miller Meeting House cemetery.
   2. Reviewed auditors' responsibilities. Have been able to reduce the amount budgeted for them.

G. Leon Yoder made a special note that Linette has requested that she do her work on a volunteer basis rather than being reimbursed. He wanted to publicly thank her for that generous gift. We had been paying Annette many years for doing bookkeeping and Jay Finkenbinder has requested the same privilege of doing that on a volunteer basis. Their work is a gift and doing it voluntarily is a gift and Leon wanted to publicly thank them for that.

Terry Smith, Free Spring: I would like to see a page in the Conference Booklet that recognizes who these folks are that serve on our Board. I think that would be a great addition to our Conference Booklet. Thank you for the Board's work.

XX. DISTRICT INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT

A. No exceptions were found

B. Mary Robinson, Black Rock, moved to accept the report. Seconded by Don Hubble, West York. The Report was accepted.

XXI. DISTRICT 2024/2025 FINANCIAL REPORT—Jay Finkenbinder

A. DFMA showed 85% of budgeted amount was received.

B. For 2024 Total Income was more than budgeted. Total Expense was more than budgeted. End of the year there was a loss.

C. Stated that all activity reflected in the report is considered ministry.

D. Keith Hollenberg, York Madison Avenue, moved to accept the report. Geraldine Godfrey-seconded. The report was accepted.

XXII. PROPOSED BUDGET & DISTRICT FINANCIAL MINISTRIES ALLOCATION

A. Total 2026 Budget $257,912. A decrease of $56,295.00 from 2025

B. Last year there was a discussion about having a balanced budget. So whatever our expenses were, to work at that in income, to be a balanced budget.

C. The Board recommended and moved to approve the budget; Geraldine Godfrey, seconded

D. Discussion on the Proposed Budget

Leon Yoder, Greencastle: In year's past the agencies amount would be reduced by how much the DFMA income missed the 100%. There was discussion on the Board that if we reduced the amount that went out to the agencies and then just said that's the fixed amount and we'll figure out where to get the money. It's not clear on that proposed budget. Is that going to be the actual amount the agencies now receive, that reduced amount, or is that still dependent on the percentage?

Jay Finkenbinder: I can give you my opinion of what has been done. In the book, every time you saw a blue streak, that wasn't to make the document look pretty, it has a significance to it. All those are discretionary funds and it's been traditional that quite some years ago that all the things in blue have traditionally been that whatever income we receive, we pay those out in whatever proportion that is. It's generally been left up to the District Board to manage that. Whether that happens to the full amount or whether it happens to some percentage. I would assume we would do the same thing this year.

Terry Smith, Free Spring: Point of order. It's not just tradition, it's polity.

Jay Finkenbinder: Terry brought up a point of order. A point of order means we have done something a certain way for a long time. It was part of polity sometime ago. It's a good many years that all those in blue get paid the percentage that we receive. An example of that would be if you go to Camp Eder--2026 budget is $24,000. If we receive 85% next year, we would pay $20,400. Actually, the District Board typically gives advice to the DE which then gives advice to the bookkeeper of how to cut those checks. Traditionally, we've paid about 15% the first couple quarters simply because we're not sure what the total amount received is going to be and then we do that math one time at the end of the last quarter to get it right.

Leon Yoder: That answers the question and if it's appropriate I would have an amendment to propose. I would like to move that on page 100, the blue lines for account 900, 901, 902, 903, the agencies that are doing significant ministry for us, I would like… It's polity that the blue lines would be reduced like that, but I don't think it's polity which lines have to be blue. I am making an amendment to remove the blue from those so that those agencies get the 3,000; the 12,000; the 24,000; the 24,000; that is listed rather than being reduced. That's my amendment.

Eric Reamer: We have that amendment. Do we have a second for that amendment?

Fred Keener, Greencastle: Seconded

Leon Yoder: I feel like what we give for ministry and I agree that the whole ministry is all of that chart, that when we commit to do these, I was instrumental in suggesting the reduction of those from, for example, Camp Eder and Children's Aid Society from 30,000. We say we usually only get 85%. I think the reason we can do that, even though we have operated in a deficit, is that if you notice the numbers on the total investments, when those were contributed, they came from bequests and such, from people who are concerned about ministry in the District. In order that the District be in a position where they can continue to do ministry even if the income is not there for a time or two or three, whatever, the rainy day thing. Well, it's raining. We have investments that our total worth is over a million dollars and if we can't continue to support our agencies in these actually fairly small amounts, that would be a shame.

As Board Chair I would hate to stand before the Lord and say, "Well, the rapture came and all

them investments were in the investments instead of being used for your kingdom."

(Adjourned for lunch during which time a full Love Feast service was conducted.)

Eric Reamer: We will begin our afternoon session.

Terry Smith, Free Spring: When we started talking about changing anything here, I used the word "polity" and I should have used the word policy. It is still a matter of the Board having brought it to District Conference and District Conference making changes.

Eric Reamer: Okay. That gives me an opportunity to discuss where we were in terms of Leon's discussion. Ever since I have been on the Board and for a number of years, it has been the Board's policy to disperse funds to those items listed in blue on the budget. It has been practice that the Board will dispense those monies consistent with the percentage, equivalent to the percentage, of the District Financial Ministries Allocation that is received. So for example, as Jay mentioned this past year we received 85% of the total amount of the DFMA. It has been Board policy that 85% then would be paid of that money. If there was that in the budget that was $10,000 then they would receive $8,500 because they would receive 85%. That has been Board policy. What we were determining at lunch time, is apparently that was brought before District Conference and that was approved by District Conference as a policy that the Board would follow. It is not reflected anywhere in our plan of organization or our polity manual but it is a policy that was sanctioned by District Conference. If we are going to change that then that would be something that you would need to change based on a recommendation or an amendment from the floor.

Geraldine Godfrey, Codorus: When we as a Southern Pennsylvania Board really worked hard through making this budget and working harder when we came up with the DFMA, this was something where we feel it might take a year or two to see how we can actually conform to the budget that we make up. I would be strongly in favor of keeping the budget the way it is and how we have brought it to the District Conference.

Darlene Stouffer, Huntsdale: I happen to be old enough that this policy that you're mentioning was made when I was on the Board back in the 1990's. I thought it would be helpful if you realized how long that this comparing the actual giving of 85%, when I was on the Board and Stewardship back in the 1990's it happened to be, Jay, 93%. I think it's helpful to see and to know some of that history. I do appreciate, as Gerry said, the effort on part of the Board because it always looks like we're never quite there yet, whether it be in the '90's or now 20 years later, every Stewardship, every Board, has worked with the monies that come. I thought it might be helpful for those who don't have that history, to know how long that policy has been in place.

Leon Yoder: I would like to move to amend our motion that is now on the floor to approve the budget in the following way. I move that all line items in the budget be fulfilled without regard to the percent of DFMA collected.

John Shelly: I am going to call a point of order. You have an item on the floor that you have to take care of before you can take a look at this amendment. You have to pass the budget and then go back and amend it.

Eric Reamer: I was thinking this was an amendment to the motion of passing the budget.

John Shelly: I think you have to pass the budget and then amend it.

Eric: I think we have the motion on the floor to approve the budget. This is an amendment to the very structure of that budget and how we would carry out the dispensing of those funds. I think I'm going to rule that we are okay to do it this way.

Eric Reamer: We have a motion now. Do we have a second? We have a second by Fred Keener. Now we move into discussion on this amendment, not the budget in general but this amendment that we have to approve.

Jay Finkenbinder: I think the exact way that motion is written would not be the intent that Leon has in mind. He's meaning the discretionary funds, not all lines on the budget. We can't pay every line on the budget the way it's presented because there would be things that we don't have expenses for.

Leon: I would like to change my amendment to reflect discretionary funds.

Eric Reamer: All discretionary line items in the budget be fulfilled without regard to DFMA collected. Does that make sense?

Leon Yoder: Yes

Eric: The motion now reads "I move that all discretionary line items in the budget be fulfilled without regard to the percent of DFMA collected." Fred, that okay since you seconded?

Fred Keener: Yes

Eric Reamer: Now we move to questions or discussion.

Leon Yoder: Just because something has been around for a long time doesn't mean that's always the way we've done it. It just means we've done it for that long. It has been an item that has bothered me since I came into this District. That we can tell ministries that they don't know what they are going to get until the end of the year. When I was Board Chair at Camp Eder, we had some years that were extremely lean that we had to take out short-term loans to pay the staff. The District those years was so busy those years trying to figure out what percentage to give that we took out loans while we were waiting for the District to give us the part that we were hoping we could get. It just didn't seem right. I think that we need to be faithful. In that same length of time, many of the ministries have received bequests. While I was there Camp Eder received a bequest. At the same time from the same individual this District received a bequest. Not a few dollars, a large bequest and we still have that. As far as I know that was given back in 2016, nine years ago maybe. I don't know of anything it has ever been used for except to just earn money. Let's use the funds that we have been given to do ministry and don't worry about how much came in because we do have the money. It is still in the investments.

Georgia Markey: I come with information for the amendment or for any of it. I will not speak for the Agency heads, but I do know with the action that has been happening particularly with

the Brethren Home and Cross Keys Village and with CAS. I do know that those agencies recognize the fact that the District is not in the best of financial situation, set aside what is in our investments. They are not worried about what we pay them. That does not apply...I have not heard that from Camp Eder. I just give you that information that I have heard across my lines for two of our agencies "FYI".

Jeff Rider, Mount Olivet: Point of clarification. Is this going to get rid of it forever and ever or is it just for this budget year?

Eric Reamer: My interpretation would be that it would be changing the policy that the Board would be operating under from this time forth until it would be altered again.

Jeff Rider: Two-thirds or half?

Eric Reamer: This would be a simple majority, I believe. We are not amending polity. We are simply amending a policy that the Board has been following. I can't tell you what that percentage was when it was done because we don't know what year it was done. We don't have any minutes in front of us, but I don't see any reason why it wouldn't just simply be a majority.

Georgia Markey: The history that I am aware of goes back to when Bob Jacobs was our treasurer, which would have been around 2001, 2002. He gave us a formula to pay these items. It has been in place that long.

Eric Reamer: I think we are ready to vote. We are voting on the amendment that has been submitted by Brother Leon. I think we need to do a paper ballot. Simply mark "Yes" if you are in favor of that amendment, "No" if you are not in favor of the amendment.

The vote was 25-Yes, 34-No. The amendment did not pass.

Eric Reamer: We are back to the motion to approve the budget that is before us. Any further discussion or question on that?

Stephanie Behnke, Waynesboro: Just a question why the only lines that are in blue that were decreased were the Young Center, the Brethren Home, Camp Eder, and Children's Aid Society and why the other ones were not? I guess my question is why did the Board choose to reduce the amount?

Jay Finkenbinder: The Board chose to reduce them to tighten up the budget, the overall budget.

Stephanie Behnke: I get that but why not the others then?

Beth Nonemaker, West Shore: My understanding is that the way the Board works the budget is that each Commission submits what the Commission decides. Those Agency ones are not under any of the Commissions and, therefore, the Board decided those amounts.

Jay Finkenbinder: But the Board approves the whole budget so they can change…

Stephanie Behnke: That's fine, I just wanted some clarification on why those specific ones were changed and not the others.

Nicolas Wingert: It was a decision the Board members made in order to balance the budget.

Leon Yoder: Just for the record, when the Board approved that, that was presented that those were reduced with the condition that they be paid in full. That's what was in the proposal that the Board accepted in the first place, but when it came into the budget those blue lines stayed there. That's why I made my amendment. Because that was the original intent. If you take the percentage, that reduction, those agencies would have received very close to the same thing they received last year because they were reduced from last year because of the percentage. So the discussion was that those were reduced because that is what they are going to get.

Mark Bowyer, Hanover: The current policy of using what's paid in to determine what's paid out, is that fixed or inflexible or can the Board not decide from year to year to follow that or not. Is it just assumed that that will be followed unless something changes?

Eric Reamer: I think because it was decided by District Conference then the Board up until now has felt bound by that policy. It is not written in our polity document but the Board has felt bound by that. By refusing the amendment it seems that the District Conference has affirmed that policy. Could that policy be changed in a subsequent year? Sure.

Jim Dubois, Mechanicsburg: In light of the comments that Leon just made, could I introduce an amendment that we increase the budget lines of items 900, 901, 902, and 903, back up to match the 2025 amounts.

Eric Reamer: You are perfectly welcome to make that amendment. You are suggesting that we amend the budget by increasing line items 900, 901, 902, and 903 to their current 2025 numbers.

Jim Dubois: Yes

Eric Reamer: Is there a second?

Stephanie Behnke: Second.

Eric Reamer: Would you like to speak to your amendment?

Jim Dubois: Yes. I would. He proceeded to tell the Biblical parable of the man who fills his silos and goes to bed thinking he will be set for a long time but his life was taken that night and also, quoted from the musical "Hello Dolly" that money is like manure. It's not worth anything unless it is spread around encouraging young things to grow.

Jeff Rider: If we listen to some of the reports that have happened yesterday and you hear the percentages of what we are giving to what some of these agencies are working with on their own. They don't need our money. We are giving it out of will. They don't necessarily need it. When we met at the Brethren Home, Beverly Asper said "I know the position the District

is in and I know the funds that are already set back for this fund. You don't need to do this." I took that into consideration when I voted upon this at District Board. We need to look at the overall picture. As the Brother from Mechanicsburg said, you can't keep it. Where is it being kept?

Geraldine Godfrey: I will speak against the amendment because as we sat in Board in reducing those numbers we felt that the needs of those agencies, as Jeff just said, that they were doing a lot of different fund raising ways and we've seen those numbers on our Boards and with those reports. We felt this was a way we could bring our budget to a little bit more of a possibility of reaching the budget. I thought that we deliberated in many good ways to bring this budget to you.

Josh Tomes, Wolgamuth: As I look through the budget and I see what's been changed this year and it's been brought as in balance as it is by the generosity of multiple people being willing to not be paid for their services and to hear how much discussion we're having about reducing funding. I think this is a great opportunity to go back to your congregations and speak about what the District is doing with our money. As I look at this budget I don't see a whole lot of fat. I don't see a lot of waste. I don't see much of that at all. I know how much good we do with our money. When we make a budget at the church and we have to deal with how much we are sending the District, that's always a talking point but I don't think we always talk about "what is that money going to?". I think we should go back to our congregations and stress the point of sending that to the District each year.

Jay Finkenbinder: Just a point of information. If you raise the budget by 16,000 and if you use the concept that the Board was instructed to come back to finance that, instead of $101.06, you would be adding $6.27 to that to have a balanced budget. Just so you are aware of what that would mean.

Eric Reamer: You are referring to the DFMA.

Jay Finkenbinder: We haven't talked about page 97 yet, but maybe it would be time to talk about it slightly. At last year's District Conference there was a couple people spoke to the District Board should have a balanced budget. Whatever expenses there are, cut them as tight as you can cut them but fully fund them with DFMA. To do that, we are going from last year of $93 per member to $101.06. That's going to be a motion we are going to talk about after we approve a budget. What I am trying to explain is that if we add that $16,000 divided by the 2,552 members, that equals $6.27 that really ought to be added to $101.06.

Eric Reamer: We're not necessarily saying we're doing that. That's our next item of business. Any further discussion? We will be voting now. The amendment is to increase line items 900, 901, 902, and 903 to their 2005 budget levels instead of the 2026 budget levels which would add a total of $16,000 to the budget.

A show of hands vote was taken. The amendment did not pass.

Eric Reamer: We are back to the original motion again on the floor to approve the budget, as proposed, before us.

John Shelly: I move the previous question.

Eric Reamer: Question has been moved. We will now vote on the motion that is in front of us. That motion is simply to approve the budget that has been presented to us. Brought to us by the Stewards Committee and received a proper second already.

A show of hands vote was taken. The motion passed and the budget was approved.

Eric Reamer: The next item of business is the approval of the District Financial Ministries Allocation number.

E. Discussion on the Proposed DFMA

Jay Finkenbinder: The total membership is 2,552. At last year's District Conference someone made the statement "I don't want to be making up what is short, we want a full budget. To have $257,905.12 divided by 2,552 that equals a little bit more that $101.06. If you look at that number 257,905, it's slightly different than the 257,912. It's a rounding issue. That's why it's off by just a little bit. That comes to you from the Board and can be seconded and chopped up if needed.

Eric Reamer: We have a motion to approve the DFMA for 2026 at $101.06 per member. We need a second. Linda Titzell-second. Is there any discussion. It looks like we're ready to vote.

Jay Finkenbinder: My only comment would be, every church has to take that very serious. In order to get where we're coming close to having that figure at the end of the day each of the churches have try to meet their DFMA.

A show of hands vote was taken and the motion passed.

XXIII. DENOMINATIONAL REPORT—Traci Rabenstein

A. She is the Executive Director of Mission Advancement for the Church of the Brethren
   1. Her office oversees the interpretation and education of our mission and ministries, as well as encourage financial support of that engagement and work at relationship building with our donors and our congregations
   2. Also she does the data management for the organization.

B. In his letter to the Churches, David Steele, General Secretary, noted the 2025 budget for the Mission and Ministry Board includes a nearly $500,000 reduction.

C. Third Thursday webinars provide an opportunity for church leadership with tools to grow in those leadership abilities. The next webinar is scheduled for October 16 at 7pm. It does give opportunity for CEUs.

D. Information on denominational programs are available on the Brethren.org website

E. Change of date for 2026 Annual Conference. It will be Sunday to Thursday, June 28 through July 2 in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

XXIV. BIBLE STUDY ON PRAYER—Chris Elliott—Acts 4:23-31

XXV. OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS AND MODERATOR RECOGNIZED

XXVI. CONSECRATION OF NEWLY ELECTED AND CONTINUING PERSONS—Leon Yoder

XXVII. PASSING OF THE GAVEL

A. 2026 Moderator Nicholas Wingert
   1. 2026 District Conference will be hosted by Chambersburg COB, September18-19.
   2. Conference adjourned.

Parliamentary Procedures in Brief and Rules of the Meeting

Parliamentary Procedures in Brief

In order that the delegate body may participate readily in the parliamentary aspects of the business sessions, the following summary of the more common kinds of action may be helpful.

I. When you want to bring before the Conference for its consideration a particular subject or item of business:

a. The proper motion is **Main Motion** – A **Main Motion** requires a second, is debatable, is amendable, and requires a majority vote to pass (or two-thirds vote if previously agreed on by Conference action).

b. Form: "I move that ..." or "I move the adoption (acceptance, approval) of this report."

II. When you want to modify or in some way appropriately dispose of a matter of business, you may: (motions listed in ascending order of precedence)

a. **Move to lay on the table, or take from the table** (second, not debatable, not amendable, simple majority).

i. *Object:* To lay aside business in such a manner that its consideration may be renewed later.

ii. *Form:* "I move that this matter be laid on the table" or "I move to take from the table..."

b. **Move the previous question** (second, not debatable, not amendable, two-thirds vote required).

i. *Object:* To stop debate on the immediately pending question.

ii. *Form:* "I move the previous question."

Please note that merely calling "question" from the floor is not the same as a motion for the previous question, and does not obligate the Moderator to take a vote.

c. **Move to postpone to a set time** (second, debatable, amendable, simple majority).

i. *Object:* Unlike tabling, the business is considered at a later time without needing to be "taken from the table."

ii. *Form:* "I move that this matter be postponed to..."

d. **Move to commit, refer, or recommit** (second, debatable, amendable, simple majority).

i. *Object:* To place the business in the hands of a few for later reporting to the Conference (for major changes).

ii. *Form:* "I move that this matter be referred to a committee of ... to be named by ... with instruction..."

e. **Move to amend** (second, debatable, amendable, simple majority).

i. *Object:* To change or modify, to "amend" (for minor changes).

1) *Form:* "I move to amend the motion by striking out..."

2) *Form:* "I move to amend the motion by inserting ... between ... and ..."

3) *Form:* "I move to amend the motion by adding ... after ..."

4) *Form:* "I move to amend the motion by striking out ... and inserting ..."

5) *Form:* "I move to amend the motion by striking out ... and substituting this (read or share the substitution)."

6) When you want to take an action governing the conduct of business, you may introduce: **Privileged and incidental motions** – motions that take precedence over any pending question although not related to that question (not debatable).

1) Move to adjourn or recess.

a. *Object:* To dismiss a meeting or to provide or an intermission.

b. *Form:* "I move that we adjourn (recess while ... or until ...)."

2) Raise a question of privilege.

a. *Object:* To get the attention of the Moderator at once, to ask a question, or to attend to some matter that cannot wait.

b. *Form:* "I rise to a question of privilege."

3) Rise to a point of order.

a. *Object:* To raise the question as to whether there has been a breach of order.

b. *Form:* "I rise to a point or order ..."

Rules of the Meeting

1) All questions, with their answers, for discussion shall be read by the Clerk, after which the Moderator shall declare same the business of the meeting.

2) No one shall speak more than twice on the same question. The first speech shall be limited to three minutes and the second speech to two minutes.

3) The Moderator shall decide when a question shall be put to passage, but anyone from the voting body may move the "previous question."

4) All appeals from the ruling of the Moderator shall be decided by the voting body.

5) The **Worshipful Work process** will be interspersed with parliamentary Procedures as we process the various business items and ministry shared during this District Conference.

6) The ballot is prepared by the Nominating & Personnel Committee and is submitted to the District Board for approval after which it becomes the ballot of the District Conference. All elections by the District Conference shall be by majority vote.

7) All queries and business for the District Conference must come through the District Board.

2026 District Conference Business Items

Business Item No. 1

District Conference Ballot

The District Conference Ballot is recommended to this Delegate Body upon proper motion of the District Board at their regular meeting held on July 18, 2026, at the Rouzerville Church of the Brethren. (Pgs. 41-43) (Biographical Info. Pgs. 44-61)

Business Item No. 2

District Independent Accountant's Review Report for the Fiscal Year 2025

The District's Independent Accounting Firm of Boyer & Ritter conducted their review of the 2025 District Financial Records and have submitted a written report of their findings. The Accountant's Report, as prepared by Boyer & Ritter, indicates the 2025 District Financial Records, based on their review, have not found any material modifications that should be made to the Financial Statements contained in their report, and as listed in this conference booklet, for said report to be in conformity with the modified cash basis of accounting as described in the written Financial Statements. Said report is presented here for the District Conference Delegates' review, acceptance, and filing. (Pgs. 94-97)

Business Item No. 3A-3B

2027 District Financial Ministries Allocation Proposed Plan (Budget):

The Southern Pennsylvania District Board special meeting in regular session on July 18, 2026, at Rouzerville COB, upon proper motion recommend to the 2026 District Conference Delegate Body, a total 2027 District Financial Ministries Allocation (Budget) of $245,256.00 (2026 Budget $ 257,912.00) (Pgs. 77-79)

2027 District Financial Ministries Allocation Proposed Plan (Fair Share):

The Southern Pennsylvania District Board meeting in regular session on July 18, 2026, at the Rouzerville COB, upon proper motion recommend to the 2026 District Conference Delegate Body, a 2027 District Financial Ministries Allocation of $104.14 per member. (2026 Fair Share $101.06 per member) (Pg. 79)

2026 – 2027 Ballot Summary, Ballot Sample, Nomination Biographical Information

2026 – 2027 Ballot Summary

- **District Moderator Elect – Elect One**
  To serve as Moderator in 2028

- **District Board –3-year term, Elect Eight**
  (1 – Eastern Zone, 1 – Central Zone, 3 – Northern Zone, 2 – Western Zone, 1 – At Large)

- **Program and Arrangements – 3 year term, Elect Two,**
  (1 – Eastern Zone, 1 – Northern Zone)

- **Nominating and Personnel – 3 year term, Elect Two**
  (1 – Central Zone, 1 – Northern Zone)

SOPA District Conference Ballot Summary 2026

Moderator-Elect
2-year term – 2028 - Elect 1
Keith Hollenberg
Colin Scott

District Board – Central Zone
3-year term – 2029 – Elect 1
John Hess
Sherry Jones

District Board – Eastern Zone
3-year term – 2029 – Elect 1
Leroy Keeney (Incumbent)
Linda Titzell (Incumbent)

District Board – Northern Zone
3-year term – 2029 – Elect 3
Ron Bell (Incumbent)
Bill Mauck
Terry Smith

District Board – Western Zone
3-year term – 2029 – Elect 2
Paul Swope
Phil Turner

District Board – At Large
3 year term – 2029 – Elect 1
Eric Miller
Josh Tomes

Nominating & Personnel – Western Zone
3 year term – 2029 - Elect 1
Dan Felix
William Tomes

Nominating & Personnel Northern Zone
3 year term – 2029 - Elect 1
Ken Geisewite
Donna Jones (Incumbent)

Program & Arrangements Eastern Zone
3 year term – 2029 Elect 1
Millie Baker
Brandon Grady

Program & Arrangements Northern Zone
3 year term – 2029 Elect 1
Kim Geisewite
Wanda Smith (Incumbent)

Southern Pennsylvania District
2026 Ballot – Page 1
September 18-19, 2026
Incumbents*

MODERATOR-ELECT
2 year term – 2028, Elect 1

Keith Hollenberg ☐ yes ☐ no
Colin Scott ☐ yes ☐ no

DISTRICT BOARD
3 year term – 2029

Central Zone – Elect 1
John Hess ☐ yes ☐ no
Sherry Jones ☐ yes ☐ no

SAMPLE BALLOT

Eastern Zone - Elect 1
Leroy Keeney* ☐ yes ☐ no
Linda Titzell* ☐ yes ☐ no

Northern Zone – Elect 3
Ron Bell* ☐ yes ☐ no
Bill Mauck ☐ yes ☐ no
Terry Smith ☐ yes ☐ no

Western Zone – Elect 2
Paul Swope ☐ yes ☐ no
Phil Turner ☐ yes ☐ no

At Large District Board – Elect 1
Eric Miller ☐ yes ☐ no
Josh Tomes ☐ yes ☐ no

Southern Pennsylvania District
2026 Ballot – Page 2
September 18-19, 2026

SAMPLE BALLOT

PROGRAM AND ARRANGEMENTS
3 year term – 2029

Eastern Zone – Elect 1

Millie Baker ☐ yes ☐ no
Brandon Grady ☐ yes ☐ no

Northern Zone – Elect 1

Kim Geisewite ☐ yes ☐ no
Wanda Smith* ☐ yes ☐ no

NOMINATING AND PERSONNEL – Western Zone
3 year term – 2029

Central Zone – Elect 1

Dan Felix ☐ yes ☐ no
William Tomes ☐ yes ☐ no

Northern Zone – Elect 1

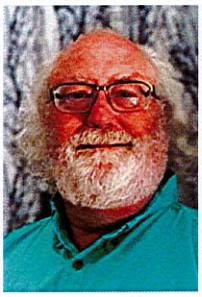
Ken Geisewite ☐ yes ☐ no
Donna Jones* ☐ yes ☐ no

2026 District Conference Ballot-Biographical Information

(Listed alphabetically, by category)

MODERATOR ELECT

2-year term – 2028 – Elect 1



NAME: Keith E. Hollenberg

HOME ADDRESS: 863 Iron Ridge Road, Spring Grove, PA 17362

PHONE: 717-854-1885 **E-MAIL:** keith.hollenberg@gmail.com

CONGREGATION: York Madison Avenue Church of the Brethren

List local congregational, District or National responsibilities, past or present to which you have served or are currently serving. (Please indicate past/present)

I've been a pastor in the Church of the Brethren for 36 years, currently serving the York, Madison Avenue congregation. In the past, I have served on District Board, served on the National Jr. High Task Force, preparing worship materials for Jr. High Youth Sunday. I served for several years on the leadership team planning the Regional Jr. High/Sr. High Youth Retreat at Elizabethtown College. Along with my wife, I served as co-music coordinator for Annual Conference in Peoria, Ill., as well as a musician at other Annual Conferences. I have served on the Annual Conference Press Team as a photographer for many years.

Describe the gifts God has given you to continue the work of Jesus; particularly through the position to which you have been nominated?

I am a pastor at heart, not by occupation. God has gifted me to be a preacher, teacher, and a leader in worship. My gifts align more with discerning vision and direction, rather than detail-oriented tasks. Since we are all a part of the body of Christ (Romans 12), I believe there is a place for both dreamers and doers. I am also an artist at heart. Music and photography are my chosen mediums to express the artistic gifts within me.

How do you foresee implementing the gifts above to the position which you are being nominated?

If called, I will do my very best to "trust in the Lord with all my heart and lean not on my own understanding. I will acknowledge Jesus in all my ways and trust that he, through the presence of the Holy Spirit, will direct my path" and the path of our District.

Share your understanding of the benefits of being a part of a judicial body?

The District of Southern Pennsylvania is made up of the members and churches in the Southern PA District. We elect persons to serve at the district level as representatives of our District as a whole. We look to the District leadership for guidance and direction, for answers to questions our local churches may have, for assistance with circumstances which may arise. Our District is guided by our District Executive. Our D.E. brings leadership and wisdom to our District, much as our pastors bring leadership and wisdom

to local congregations – in the form of a servant-leader. The D.E. and local pastors are not "in charge". We lead by serving and with the District as partner in ministry, we help to discern the will and direction of God.

What is your vocation?
I am a bi-vocational Pastor; serving York, Madison Avenue congregation and working as a Motorcoach Operator for Bailey Coach in Nashville, PA.

List the intercultural experiences you have been a part of during the past 5-8 years (e.g. Work camps, seminars, cross-cultural consultation, etc.) Madison Avenue is a multi-cultural congregation, with membership from various cultural backgrounds. In the past, I have attended many cross-cultural events. I do meet occasionally with a pastor for times of conversation and support who comes from a different culture than my own.

NAME: Colin Scott

HOME ADDRESS: 5517 Partridge Court, Harrisburg, PA 17111

HOME PHONE: 717-645-4711 **E-MAIL:** CwScotty03@hotmail.com

CONGREGATION: Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren

List local congregational, District or National responsibilities, past or present to which you have served or are currently serving. (Please indicate past/present)
National: Mission and Ministry Board, member (2017-2025), chair (2023-2025)

District: Southern PA District, board member (2014-2020), Church Development and Revitalization Commission (2014-2015), Nurture Commission (2015-2020), Southern PA District Youth Cabinet, youth member (2002-2004)

Local Congregation (Mechanicsburg): Coordinator of Youth Ministry (2019-present), Youth Advisor (2017-2018), Youth Sunday School Teacher (2016-2022, presently as needed), Child Protection Monitor (2023-present), Church Leadership Team, member (2014-2016), Christian Education Team, chair (2015-2016), Pastoral Seach Committee (2021-2024), Church Growth/Vitality Team (2015-2016, 2023-2024).
Local Congregation (Harrisburg First COB): Brethren Community Ministries (aka, bcmPEACE) Board of Directors, member (2017-2022, 2026-present), Vice-chair (2021-2022).

Describe the gifts God has given you to continue the work of Jesus; particularly through the position to which you have been nominated?
I believe that God has blessed me with gifts for leadership and administration, understanding organizational structures, and practical problem solving. God has given me a heart for service, a passion for youth and young adult ministry, and a temperament for discerning and encouraging the spiritual gifts in others.

What is your vocation? Attorney for the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission.

Share your understanding of the benefits of being a part of a judicial body?

I understand the responsibility and accountability inherent in being a member of a judicial body. I know the importance of good governance practices and the trust that others place in those called to serve and lead. I believe judicial bodies ought to: listen carefully to all sides of an issue, consider the dignity of those who will be impacted by a decision, act according to conscience, and, at time, know when to refrain, or forbear, from taking action. A major benefit of service as part of a body is finding support and new perspective by confronting challenges as part of a community.

Share your understanding of Matthew 28: 19-20 within the work of the local Church and District?
In the Great Commission, Jesus instructs us to meet people wherever they are in their faith journey, to walk alongside them, to listen attentively, and to share our own stories vulnerably. Only through learning and understanding who Jesus is, centering our relationship with Him, building relationships with others, and living out Christ's example for others to witness can we fulfill our call to make disciples.

List the intercultural experiences you have been a part of during the past 5-8 years (e.g. Work camps, seminars, cross-cultural consultation, etc.)
I participated in international FaithX trips (formerly Work Camps) to China (2019), Spain (2023), Ecuador (2024), and Belfast (2026). While on the Mission and Ministry Board, I meet with Hispanic and Haitian leaders across the denomination on multiple occasions and completed Kingian Nonviolence Training. Moreover, serving on the Brethren Community Ministries board and attending the first two L.E.A.D. conferences (facilitated by the denomination) have provided meaningful intercultural encounters.

DISTRICT BOARD – Central Zone
3-year term – 2029 - Elect 2

NAME: John E. Hess

HOME ADDRESS: 11 Mount Rock Road, Newville, PA 17241

HOME PHONE: 717-226-6897 **EMAIL:** jf.ba.6164@gmail.com

CONGREGATION: Newville Church of the Brethren

List local congregational, District or National responsibilities, past or present to which you have served or are currently serving. (Please indicate past/present) Past: Local Church Moderator; teacher – ACTS classes; SVMC Board; District Ministry Commission; District Moderator; Writer – Living Word Bulletin Series; Writer – Guilde for Biblical Studies. Present: Treasurer – local Magisterium; Teacher – Senior Center Bible Study; District Board Chair

Describe the gifts God has given you to continue the work of Jesus; particularly through the position to which you have been nominated? Very organized, good planner.

What is your vocation? Pastor – Newville COB

Share your understanding of the benefits of being a part of a judicial body. On the District Board no one person runs everything. Everyone uses their various gifts and we try to listen to one another as we make decision for our District.

Share your understanding of Matthew 28: 19-20 within the work of the local Church and District? We are called to make Disciples in the local community and our District can help our churches do that so people can continue to grow in their walk with Jesus.

List the intercultural experiences you have been a part of during the past 5-8 years (e.g. Work camps, seminars, cross-cultural consultation, etc.) Annual Conference; L.E.A.D. Conference at Lititz COB.

NAME: Sherry Jones

HOME ADDRESS: 15 Helena Lane, Carlisle, PA 17015

HOME PHONE: 717-386-4507 **EMAIL:** sherrybrunner71195@yahoo.com

CONGREGATION: Mechanicsburg Church of the Brethren

List local congregational, District or National responsibilities, past or present to which you have served or are currently serving. (Please indicate past/present) Leadership Team (Chair of Christian Education) present. VBS Director – present.

Describe the gifts God has given you to continue the work of Jesus; particularly through the position to which you have been nominated? God has given me the gifts of taking on leadership roles and responsibilities whenever given the opportunity.

What is your vocation? I am called to serve for my congregation, District, etc, in any way I can help represent positively.

Share your understanding of the benefits of being a part of a judicial body. To being in a position of sharing opinions and thoughts, and helping make those decisions while making sure everything is done correctly.

Share your understanding of Matthew 28: 19-20 within the work of the local Church and District? I am a follower of Jesus who has been baptized and have been called to be a leader of the church so my role is to teach others his words just as he has taught us.

List the intercultural experiences you have been a part of during the past 5-8 years (e.g. Work camps, seminars, cross-cultural consultation, etc.) Nothing I can relate at this time.

DISTRICT BOARD – EASTERN ZONE

3 Year Term – 2029 – Elect 2

NAME: Leroy Keeney (Incumbent)

HOME ADDRESS: 2965 Starfire Drive, York, PA 17403

HOME PHONE: 717-741-3292 **EMAIL:** jdallis@comcast.net

CONGREGATION: Codorus Church of the Brethren

List local congregational, District or National responsibilities, past or present to which you have served or are currently serving. (Please indicate past/present)
Presently serving on the District Board and Stewards Commission.
Codorus COB – Have served as Annual Conference Delegate a number of times, Served as Board Chair, and Preaching. Team Cahir, Pastoral Search Team, various committees and teaching.

Describe the gifts God has given you to continue the work of Jesus; particularly through the position to which you have been nominated? The ability to work with people to reach a common goal.

What is your vocation? Education Administration

Share your understanding of the benefits of being a part of a judicial body. Create the opportunity to research a situation and reach a consensus for the betterment of all.

Share your understanding of Matthew 28: 19-20 within the work of the local Church and District? With God's guidance and support, be able to reach out to the needy.

List the intercultural experiences you have been a part of during the past 5-8 years (e.g. Work camps, seminars, cross-cultural consultation, etc.) Life is an intercultural experience that demands constant attention.

NAME: Linda S. Titzell (Incumbent)

HOME ADDRESS: 1497 Shoemaker Drive, New Oxford, PA 17350

HOME PHONE: 717-877-7577 **E-MAIL:** LandLTitzell@gmail.com

CONGREGATION: Faith Community

List local congregational, District or National responsibilities, past or present to which you have served or are currently serving. (Please indicate past/present)
I have served as a chaplain, Director of Pastoral Care, Senior Pastor, Associate Pastor, and Pastor of The Faith Community at Cross Keys Village, The Brethren Home Community. I received a Master of Divinity Degree from Bethany Theological Seminary in 2006, completing my studies in December 2005. Prior to CKV-TBHC, I was active in the

Mechanicsburg COB, serving as a deacon, Sunday School Teacher, first female moderator of the church, choir member, and working with Rev. Jerry Greiner after I received the call to ministry in 1997. I am currently serving on the District Board.

Describe the gifts God has given you to continue the work of Jesus; particularly through the position to which you have been nominated?
My first career was at PA Blue Shield, now Highmark Blue Shield, where I worked for 34 years in a variety of positions, beginning my career as a secretary and retiring in 2004 as a Director in Customer Service. Throughout my business career I had many opportunities to hone my management skills and my communication skills. As an adult, I earned a business degree at HACC, completed a 4-year business management degree through Elizabethtown College, and earned a master's degree from College of St. Francis in Health Services Administration. I work well with others and am successful in gathering and working together as a team. My second career as a Pastor and Chaplain, I grew in my faith, my love for the Lord, and in my ability to share the Gospel with all people. I have valued and cherished my lifetime of serving others.

What is your vocation? I served 15 years as a senior pastor of The Faith Community of TBHC on the campus of CKV-TBHC. I have served as a chaplain for 22 years at CKV-TBHC, in addition to being the previous Director of Pastoral Care and Senior Pastor on the campus.

Share your understanding of the benefits of being a part of a judicial body?
It is very important to me to be part of the body of Christ. To me this means being a member of my church but also of the greater church body. It is important for me to be connected with fellow believers and congregations so that we can grow in Christ together. Guidelines and principles are necessary so that we are all moving forward together and have the same understanding of what is expected of the local congregation as it works in conjunction with the District, and in turn, the COB office in Elgin. We all need to be "on the same page" as we serve in our churches and unite people in our mission to win souls for Jesus Christ. We are not meant to do this alone; I cannot do this alone. I need and seek direction and guidance from others, and that is available to me through the greater church.

Share your understanding of Matthew 28: 19-20 within the work of the local Church and District?
Go and do. Go out with joy and in the knowledge that God is always with me. That God will give me the courage and strength that I need to do the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, together - with my sisters and brothers in Christ. That God gives me what I need for the task He has for me. That when I am asked to do something for the church or the District that I can do this as time and personal stamina allows, because God knows my abilities and skills better than I do. That I have a personal responsibility and duty to share my abilities and skills as they are needed, to further God's kingdom, all for His honor and glory. That as a pastor more is expected of me. That I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

List the intercultural experiences you have been a part of during the past 5-8 years (e.g. Work camps, seminars, cross-cultural consultation, etc.)
I have worked with a diversity of team members and CKV residents. I have sought every opportunity to broaden my knowledge of other cultures through the many educational events that have been offered through SVMC, the District, Brethren Academy, and Bethany. I served on the Board and Executive Committee of Children's Aid Society with many opportunities for intercultural experiences. I have volunteered in the kitchen for the Provide-A-Lunch program through the Hanover Council of Churches (HACC), serving a warm lunch meal to those who choose to come in. Through the membership of The Faith Community in the HACC I am a member of the HACC Board. I am passionate in prayer and knowledge of the needs of our COB sisters and brothers around the world.

DISTRICT BOARD – NOTHEREN ZONE

3 year term 2029 – Elect 3

NAME: Ronald Bell

HOME ADDRESS: 19 Bell Lane, Mifflin, Pa 17058

PHONE: (717) 348-3173 **EMAIL:** welsh2@outlook.com

CONREGATION: Free Spring Church of the Brethren

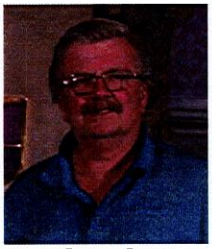
List local congregational, District or National responsibilities, past or present to which you have served or are currently serving. (Please indicate past/present)
Church Board Member, past member of the District Program and Arrangements Committee, Sunday School Teacher, Church Search Committee. I have several multiple terms on the District Board and I am currently serving as District Stewards Chairperson.

Describe the gifts God has given you to continue the work of Jesus; particularly through the position to which you have been nominated? God has given me the ability to be patient when working with people. He has allowed me to be a leader when needed and to also know when to step back and allow others to take the lead. I will be able to implement these gifts as a member of the board, providing leadership, patience and discernment when required.

What is your vocation? Paramedic, retired.

Share your understanding of Matthew 28: 19-20 within the work of the local Church and District?
Mathew 28: 19-20 tells us to go and make disciples of everyone and baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and to teach them to obey everything that He has commanded us and He will be with us. This means anyone we meet no matter where they are.

List the intercultural experiences you have been a part of during the past 5-8 years (e.g. Work camps, seminars, cross-cultural consultation, etc.)
As a paramedic I was privileged to work with Asians, Eastern Europeans, and African Americans in various stressful situations. There were times when it was necessary to console them.



NAME: William "Bill" Mauck

HOME ADDRESS: 1690 E. Winter Road, Loganton, PA 17747

PHONE: 570-419-0844 **EMAIL:** wvmauck@yahoo.com

CONGREGATION: Sugar Valley Church of the Brethren

List local congregational, District or National responsibilities, past or present to which you have served or are currently serving. (Please indicate past/present)
Past – SOPA District Board (6 years), Stewards Commission, multiple Annual Conference Delegate appointments as recent as 2026. Associate Pastor(01-24), Lead Pastor (24 – to date), Youth Leader for 10 years (90's), Church Treasurer, Church Board, Church Deacon (many and multiple years)

Describe the gifts God has given you to continue the work of Jesus; particularly through the position to which you have been nominated? Administratively, I managed 5 Departments and as many as 80 people over 43 years, familiar with working through structure in an organization. At 68, I'm still trying to discern God's gifts. Egocentric thinking is not a strong point for me. I try to focus on helping meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of others.

What is your vocation? Banking/Finance and IT (43 years), retired.

Share your understanding of the benefits of being a part of a judicial body. As a member you have a unique position to help guide the body to the benefit of all members. Understanding that "to the benefit of all" presents its own challenges.

Share your understanding of Matthew 28: 19-20 within the work of the local Church and District? Our responsibility, our "job", our desire, whether individually, as a church, a District or Denomination, is to make decisions that further the word of Christs salvation for all.

List the intercultural experiences you have been a part of during the past 5-8 years (e.g. Work camps, seminars, cross-cultural consultation, etc.) Individual interactions within the community of Jewish and Muslim faiths, as well as Agnostics. Nothing as structured as this request suggests. BTW, we have a huge Amish population, so I suppose that qualifies.

NAME: Terry G. Smith

HOME ADDRESS: 31244 Rt. 35 N., McAlisterville, PA 17049

PHONE: 717-463-3311 **EMAIL:** tgsmitty67@gmail.com

CONGREGATION: Free Spring Church of the Brethren

List local congregational, District or National responsibilities, past or present to which you have served or are currently serving. (Please indicate past/present) Past – SOPA District Moderator 2004, 2023. District Board Member – multiple terms, District Board Chairperson – multiple years. Present: Pastor at Free Spring COB – 31 years.

Describe the gifts God has given you to continue the work of Jesus; particularly through the position to which you have been nominated? God has granted me the gift of working with people of all ages. Years of service in public and parochial schools and with the Southern Pennsylvania District of the COB have been of great benefit in my years of service.

What is your vocation? Retired Teacher / Administrator, 46 years in school service, Pastor

Share your understanding of the benefits of being a part of a judicial body. One learns to listen carefully and weigh opinions, polity and policy with Holy Spirit led discernment. Determine what is best for the glory of God and the good of the District.

Share your understanding of Matthew 28: 19-20 within the work of the local Church and District? Jesus' great commission directs us as congregations and the District to be missional, to reach out in evangelism and teaching and to be proactive in helping those in need.

List the intercultural experiences you have been a part of during the past 5-8 years (e.g. Work camps, seminars, cross-cultural consultation, etc.) Other than Covid year of 2020, annual Disaster Response Mission Trips to North Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky. Going again in September, 2026 to North Carolina.

DISTRICT BOARD – WESTERN ZONE

3 year term 2029 – Elect 3

NAME: Paul Swope

HOME ADDRESS: 3 Easy Street, Thurmont, MD 21788

HOME PHONE: 240-439-7061 **EMAIL:** easy_21788@msn.com

CONGREGATION: Rouzerville Church of the Brethren

List local congregational, District or National responsibilities, past or present to which you have served or are currently serving. (Please indicate past/present) Presently – Pastor at Rouzerville COB

Describe the gifts God has given you to continue the work of Jesus; particularly through the position to which you have been nominated? God has given me a heart for people, a willingness to listen, and the strength to stand for truth.

What is your vocation? Retired Systems Technician from State Farm Ins, 32 years of service.

Share your understanding of the benefits of being a part of a judicial body. It enables one to build unity within the District membership with a focus on safeguarding local congregations.

Share your understanding of Matthew 28: 19-20 within the work of the local Church and District? The purpose for which local congregations exist is to build the body of Christ. As congregations grow, so should their outreach, both locally and worldwide. The District may help local congregations through research, informative presentations, and the combining of smaller efforts to meet needs on a broader scale.

List the intercultural experiences you have been a part of during the past 5-8 years (e.g. Work camps, seminars, cross-cultural consultation, etc.) Through my secular career with State Farm Ins., I have encountered people of diverse backgrounds with opportunities to share my faith.

NAME: Phil Turner

HOME ADDRESS: 220 S. College Ave., New Oxford, PA 17350

HOME PHONE: 717-624-3706**EMAIL:** philbilly54@embarqmail.com

CONGREGATION: Gettysburg Church of the Brethren

No additional information provided.

DISTRICT BOARD – AT LARGE

3-year term – 2028 – Elect 2

NAME: Eric Miller

HOME ADDRESS: 1747 Deer Ford Way, York, PA 17408

HOME PHONE: 717-472-3212 **EMAIL:** erictmiller@yahoo.com

CONGREGATION: York First Church of the Brethren

No additional information provided.

NAME: Josh Tomes

HOME ADDRESS: 683 Deer Road, Boiling Spring, PA 17007

HOME PHONE: 171-586-0945 **EMAIL:** joshua.tomes@gmail.com

CONGREGATION: Wolgamuth Church of the Brethren

List local congregational, District or National responsibilities, past or present to which you have served or are currently serving. (Please indicate past/present) I have served my congregation in a variety of leadership and ministry roles. Currently as Servant Leadership Team Chair, Deacon, Licensed Minister, Sunday School Teacher, and District Conference Delegate. In the past, I have served as an Auditor, District Conference Delegate, and on the Gifts Discernment Team. These opportunities have allowed me to support the life of church through leadership, teaching, pastoral care, and representation within the wider denomination.

Describe the gifts God has given you to continue the work of Jesus; particularly through the position to which you have been nominated? Through my vocation, I have had the opportunity to work with people from a wide range of cultural, religious, political, and socioeconomic backgrounds. These experiences have taught me to listen carefully, engage respectfully, and seek understanding even when perspectives differ from my own. I strive to evaluate situations fairly, build relationships across differences, and serve as a peacemaker when conflicts arise. Above all, I bring a deep love for God, a commitment to Christ's Church, and a desire to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit and Scripture in both discernment and service.

What is your vocation? Optometrist

Share your understanding of the benefits of being a part of a judicial body. As Christians, we are called to live out our faith in community, and community inevitably involves navigating disagreement, conflict, and difficult questions. Serving on a judicial body provides an opportunity to prayerfully discern the Holy Spirit's leading in matters that affect the life and witness of the Church. It requires listening with humility, seeking understanding, and approaching complex issues with both grace and wisdom. Through

this process, we not only address specific concerns but also strengthen our relationships with one another and our shared commitment to Christ and His Church.

Share your understanding of Matthew 28: 19-20 within the work of the local Church and District? I believe the Great Commission is at the heart of the Church's calling. Jesus' command to make disciples is more than an invitation to membership or agreement with a set of beliefs; it is a call to a lifelong relationship with Christ that shapes eery aspect of our lives. The work of both the local church and the district should be centered on nurturing disciples who are growing in faith, obedience, and love. As we help one another follow Christ more faithfully, the Church becomes a visible witness to God's kingdom in a world that is longing for hope and direction.

List the intercultural experiences you have been a part of during the past 5-8 years (e.g. Work camps, seminars, cross-cultural consultation, etc.) As an optometrist, I regularly serve patients from a wide variety of cultural backgrounds, including Hispanci, Haitian, Nepali, Bhutanese, and African American communities. In addition, I have volunteered with OneSight, participating in fourteen vision clinics alongside colleagues from around the world. These experiences have taken me to Native American reservations and large cities across the United State, a Syrian refugee camp in Jordan, and communities in Tanzania, Thailand, Mexico, Peru, and Columbia. Through these opportunities, I have gained a greater appreciation for the diversity and commonalities of God's people and the importance of listening, learning, and serving across cultural boundaries.

Program and Arrangements – Eastern Zone

3-year term - 2029 - Elect 1

NAME: Mildred "Millie" Baker

HOME ADDRESS: 26 Faith Drive, New Oxford, PA 17350

HOME PHONE: 814-934-0303 **EMAIL:** millieblsw@gmail.com

CONGREGATION: Hanover Church of the Brethren

List local congregational, District or National responsibilities, past or present to which you have served or are currently serving. (Please indicate past/present) Past: Pastor Diehls Crossroads (2001-2008/2014-2021); Middle PA District – Calling & Credentialing, Ministry & Education Teams (2021). Present: Hanover COB Church Board, Pulpit Supply, Children's Stories, VBS Co-Director, and currently filling a term on the SOPA Program and Arrangements Committee

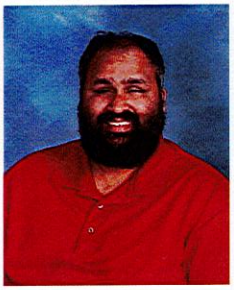
Describe the gifts God has given you to continue the work of Jesus; particularly through the position to which you have been nominated? Speaking, teaching, writing, working on teams, Program Development and leading.

What is your vocation? Retired Pastor & Clinical Social Worker (still volunteer)

Share your understanding of the benefits of being a part of a judicial body. Working in a team using gifts of all to discern God's will for small and large groups – teams vs District Congregations.

Share your understanding of Matthew 28: 19-20 within the work of the local Church and District? All things work together for good for those who love the word – this includes carrying out Jesus' directive to spread the work and make disciples, keeping vision strong, not deter if conflicts over politics.

List the intercultural experiences you have been a part of during the past 5-8 years (e.g. Work camps, seminars, cross-cultural consultation, etc.) Volunteering at New Hope Ministries – case work as well as teaching classes and advocating numerous mission trips and work camps.



NAME: Brandon Grady

HOME ADDRESS: 3866 Glenville Road, Glenville, PA 17329

HOME PHONE: 717-797-6920 **EMAIL:** pastorbrandon121@gmail.com

CONGREGATION: Black Rock Church of the Brethren

List local congregational, District or National responsibilities, past or present to which you have served or are currently serving. (Please indicate past/present) Current Pastor – Black Rock COB (8.5 years) Previous: Director of Caregiving Ministries: Black Rock COB (4 years), Choir Director Madison Avenue COB (2 years), Pastor – Ambler COB, ANE District (3 years). District Board (215-2018). Denominational: Annual Conference Delegate (3 times), Worship Leader, Annual Conference (3 times), Breaking Down Barriers Study Committee (assigned by 2022 Delegate body, 3 years), National Youth Conference and Annual Conference Speaker (once each), Anabaptist Disabilities Network Board (3 years).

Describe the gifts God has given you to continue the work of Jesus; particularly through the position to which you have been nominated? I have a heart for worship planning. Of course I love music, all styles of worshiping God! But more than that, I love making things come alive, being a vehicle/facilitator of the Spirit in the sacred space of community as God's people gather. I love the leading of the Spirit in being flexible, but I love planning. I love planning individually, but love also coordinating with others. At Black Rock, I plan my service and sermons well ahead, say three months or so, because I realize it's not just about me in a worship context. My cardinal rule is, I want to do what I can do, so others in charge of different aspects of worship can do what they're called to do. I really think of Ephesians 4, each of us has been called and has a role in being the church. And each of us works together to support one another in the call and claim! Therefore, as I coordinate and plan, either myself or with others, I truly feel my commissioned work is empowering and equipping God's work and workers as we all share in creating a Godly experience as much as possible for all to share and be welcomed into!

What is your vocation? I love what I do. I really do! Sunday mornings are not a job, they're a joy fro me! I feel truly blessed to have what I have and want to always give the Lord my very best. I want to, with God's help, do as I often say, what I can, while I can, with what I have! I am far from perfect, and praise God for that! I want to serve him as best I can and allow myself to be open to his leading in everything I do!

Share your understanding of the benefits of being a part of a judicial body. The District does great work! I do think it's important for us to think about overseeing one another as Jesus, our ultimate presider and judge, leads all of us. The District helps guide pastors and congregations in order that we might remain both blessed, and bonded as servants of Christ. I'm so excited for the new direction of our District, and feel a renewed vigor as we together serve God and are the church, even in these divided times!

Share your understanding of Matthew 28: 19-20 within the work of the local Church and District? It is up to us to go out and make disciples as best we can. But the first thing to making disciples, is being disciples ourselves. I always think about this. How can I expect others to be excited about a walk with Jesus, if I'm not excite3d about one myself! It's as simple as that.

List the intercultural experiences you have been a part of during the past 5-8 years (e.g. Work camps, seminars, cross-cultural consultation, etc.) I've attended several continuing Education Events about reaching out to different people in different aspects of the church. Plus, how amazing is it to interact in a sighted world every day. Really, I'm crossing cultures constantly as I live in the world. Truly God has blessed me with blindness. I truly do not feel like I'd have the heart for music and scripture and the love for where God has me if I had just been sighted all my life!

Program and Arrangements – Northern Zone

3-year term - 2029 - Elect 1

NAME: Kim Geisewite

HOME ADDRESS: 2290 E. Winter Road, Loganton, PA 17747

HOME PHONE: 570-725-3767 **EMAIL:** kimgeisewite@gmail.com

CONGREGATION: Sugar Valley Church of the Brethren

List local congregational, District or National responsibilities, past or present to which you have served or are currently serving. (Please indicate past/present) Local (past), Board Chair (2yrs), Board Member (past and present), Sunday School teacher/substitute (past and present), Deacon Board Chair (past), Deacon, Ladies Aid, Meal Coordinator/Organizer, Financial Secretary (present), Church Treasurer (past), Delegate to District Conference (present), Delegate to Annual Conference (past), District: Member of District Board (6yrs), Served on Witness Commission – 1 yr as Chair and currently ending term, District Nominating and Personnel Committee (past), District Program and Arrangements Committee (past), District Meat Canning Committee (present).

Describe the gifts God has given you to continue the work of Jesus; particularly through the position to which you have been nominated? I believe God has given me the gift of the ability to organize events and projects within the Church. I have used these gifts to plan and execute a Senior Citizen Luncheon Program at Sugar Valley as well as public dinners and fund raising projects in our congregation. I interact with people well and enjoy being with people.

What is your vocation? Retired Elementary School Teacher and Pastor's wife. I have also served as a municipal tax collector and a grandma!

Share your understanding of the benefits of being a part of a judicial body. The work of the church requires the body to be made of many parts, each having their own God given gifts and talents. When we listen to each other and use those gifts and talents, God makes good things happen! Although one person may have several gifts and talents, it takes the body working together to accomplish the work of Jesus.

Share your understanding of Matthew 28: 19-20 within the work of the local Church and District? Matthew 28: 19-20, "The Great Commission", as I understand it gives all believers the hob of letting our "light" shine wherever we go, with whomever we interact, with whatever work we do – whether it be in the local church, the District, or in our day to day interactions with all people. We all are ministers of the saving grace of Jesus.

List the intercultural experiences you have been a part of during the past 5-8 years (e.g. Work camps, seminars, cross-cultural consultation, etc.) I interact with my Amish neighbors on a regular basis. I have served on a BDM worksite in the past and promoted a building project in the Dominican Republic last year.

NAME: Wanda J. Smith

HOME ADDRESS: 31244 Rt. 35 N., McAlisterville, PA 17049

HOME PHONE: 717-463-3311 **EMAIL:** wandajsmith01@gmail.com

CONGREGATION: Free Spring Church of the Brethren

List local congregational, District or National responsibilities, past or present to which you have served or are currently serving. (Please indicate past/present) Free Spring COB (past) – served as a deacon and primary teacher. (Present) – Served on the Board Nurture Commission and Program and Arrangements Committee, teach Junior Church and Sunday School Class for Jr/Sr High.

Describe the gifts God has given you to continue the work of Jesus; particularly through the position to which you have been nominated? I take God's work very seriously and with His guidance, I am able to plan and seek out the best ways to serve Him.

What is your vocation? Retired Bank Teller – 25 years.

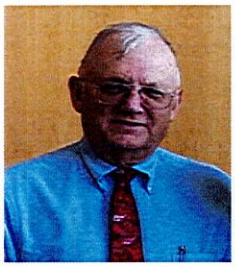
Share your understanding of the benefits of being a part of a judicial body. I appreciate working with others and learning how we can come together with using our gifts.

Share your understanding of Matthew 28: 19-20 within the work of the local Church and District? We are to share God's love and His teachings to our communities and He will give us the strength that we will need to continue His work.

List the intercultural experiences you have been a part of during the past 5-8 years (e.g. Work camps, seminars, cross-cultural consultation, etc.) I have been on several Brethren Disaster Relief trips to North Carolina, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

Nominating & Personnel – Central Zone

3-year term - 2029 - Elect 1



NAME: Daniel L. Felix, D. Ed.

HOME ADDRESS: 295 S. Locust Point Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

HOME PHONE: 717-796-1958 **EMAIL:** djfelix1@verizon.net

CONGREGATION: Wolgamuth Church of the Brethren

List local congregational, District or National responsibilities, past or present to which you have served or are currently serving. (Please indicate past/present) Served on the District Board, Church Development & Revitalization Commissions (2016), Sunday School Teacher, Deacon, Deacon Chair. Member of the Wolgamuth Church Servant Leadership Team.

Describe the gifts God has given you to continue the work of Jesus; particularly through the position to which you have been nominated? I believe God has given me the gift of relating well to children. But he also gave me the ability to teach and organize a presentation for students. I am able to talk with anyone who will give me the time. Not sure what my role will be but believe God will help me to do it.

What is your vocation? Retired Educator / Elementary School Teacher/Principal/College Professor supervising future Teachers.

Share your understanding of the benefits of being a part of a judicial body. My understanding of being part of a judicial body is to be more aware of what items of business are at the surface for the organization. A benefit of that is to anticipate what will be coming in the near future. Also, it gives me an opportunity to contribute to the solutions of any problems, or to know how a specific problem was dealt with.

Share your understanding of Matthew 28: 19-20 within the work of the local Church and District? My understanding of Matthew 28: 19-20 is to spread the word about Jesus, either myself or by providing support for others to do the spreading. As a teacher/educator, I tried to do that through the way I conducting myself in the public schools. Although, retired I still have many opportunities to spread the word of Jesus.

List the intercultural experiences you have been a part of during the past 5-8 years (e.g. Work camps, seminars, cross-cultural consultation, etc.) I am not sure I have been involved in any intercultural experiences. The closest thing would be when I volunteer at the Central PA Food Bank in Harrisburg and Project Share in Carlisle. Not sure that would be considered intercultural experience. If not, I do not have such experiences in my life at this time.

NAME: William Tomes

HOME ADDRESS: 729 Pennsylvania Ave., York, PA 17404

HOME PHONE: 717-586-1049 **EMAIL:** tomesbill@aol.com

CONGREGATION: Wolgamuth Church of the Brethren

No further information provided.

Nominating & Personnel – Northern Zone

3-year term - 2029 - Elect 1

NAME: Kenneth E. Geisewite

HOME ADDRESS: 2290 East Winter Road, Loganton, PA 17747

HOME PHONE: 570-295-1853 **EMAIL:** kengeisewite@gmail.com

CONGREGATION: Sugar Valley Church of the Brethren

List local congregational, District or National responsibilities, past or present to which you have served or are currently serving. (Please indicate past/present) Pastor (retired), Associate Pastor (present), Sunday School Teacher (present), member of the local ministerium, District Conference Delegate (past), Annual Conference Delegate (past), District Board Member and Chair (past), District Conference Moderator (past), Mission in Ministry Board Member (past), Standing Committee Member (past).

Describe the gifts God has given you to continue the work of Jesus; particularly through the position to which you have been nominated? I am good at communicating with others and know many people in the District.

What is your vocation? Retired – Dept. of Transportation Traffic Control Specialist and Pastor.

Share your understanding of the benefits of being a part of a judicial body. To help direct the future endeavors of the group.

Share your understanding of Matthew 28: 19-20 within the work of the local Church and District? It is our responsibility to share Jesus' love and teachings so that His mission will never die.

List the intercultural experiences you have been a part of during the past 5-8 years (e.g. Work camps, seminars, cross-cultural consultation, etc.) I have been a part of several COB rebuilds and attend equipping sessions at Annual Conference.

NAME: Donna Jones

HOME ADDRESS: 677 Mountain Road, Millerstown, PA 17062

HOME PHONE: 717-579-5833 **EMAIL:** edjones1172@gmail.com

CONGREGATION: Mt. Olivet Church of the Brethren

List local congregational, District or National responsibilities, past or present to which you have served or are currently serving. (Please indicate past/present) I am a Sunday School Teacher, Church Clerk, and have served on various committees. I have been a Delegate to District Conference, served as District Writing Clerk for many years, and have been a teller, and helped with registration.

Describe the gifts God has given you to continue the work of Jesus; particularly through the position to which you have been nominated? I believe God has given me the gifts of encouragement and empathy. I enjoy helping others in whatever I can.

What is your vocation? Retired – Court Administrator and County Auditor.

Share your understanding of the benefits of being a part of a judicial body. Being part of a judicial body provides an opportunity to work with others toward a common goal through sharing thoughts and ideas.

Share your understanding of Matthew 28: 19-20 within the work of the local Church and District? As a following of Jesus, it is my duty and sincere desire to show God's love to anyone with whom I have contact, wherever it might be. We teach best by being a good example by the way we live our lives.

List the intercultural experiences you have been a part of during the past 5-8 years (e.g. Work camps, seminars, cross-cultural consultation, etc.) Through friends and family.

SOPA Agency Reports / Board Meeting Minutes

Camp Eder Annual Report

Greetings from Camp Eder!
Becky McCulloch, Camp Administrator

2026 has been a year of "pressing on toward the mark" (*Philippians 3:14*). Despite facility challenges, we remain committed to keeping Camp Eder a sacred space. Through festivals, Senior Days, winter camps, and growing retreat groups, more people continue to call Camp Eder their "home in the hills." Remembering that "every good and perfect gift is from above" (*James 1:17*), we praise God for the local church and community support that provided full scholarships so campers could experience the life-changing gospel at Summer Camp 2026!

Summer Camp & Staffing Highlights

- **Summer Camp Success:** Grounds were filled with laughter, worship, and faith-building. Notably, the **Chris Eisenhart Scholarship Fund** enabled **7 campers** to attend summer camp who otherwise could not have.
- **Staff Transitions:** We give thanks for departing team members and joyfully welcome:
  - **Food Services Manager** *(Dec 2025)*: Keeping our guests warmly fed.
  - **Our 2026 Summer Counselors**: Thank you for your selfless mentorship and energy!
  - **Emma Colicci, Program Coordinator** *(Sept 2026)*: Bringing fresh vision to year-round programming.

Upcoming Autumn Events

- **48th Annual Fall Festival** | *Saturday, Oct 17 | 10 AM – 4 PM*
  - Live music, vendors, kids' activities, food court, silent & live auctions, and pit-cooked pork meals.
  - **How to Help:** We need **volunteers** and **live auction donations** (especially themed baskets from local churches!).
- **"Bountiful Blessings Banquet" Fundraiser** | *Thursday, Oct 30 | 5:30 – 8:00 PM*
  - Dinner proceeds fund a **new Climbing Wall** and **essential infrastructure repairs** for water and facility pumps.
- **Senior Day** | *Wednesday, Nov 4*
  - Fall cookie decorating, a camping memories postcard activity, and live music.

Connect With Us!

Keep an eye on your **mailbox** and visit **campeder.org** for event and volunteer details. As we look to the future, we are anchored by **Matthew 18:20**: *"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."* Thank you for making Camp Eder a place where we gather, grow, and experience God's presence together!"

Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center (SVMC)
Report to the 2026 Southern Pennsylvania District Conference

"The Kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of
all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the
air come and make nests in its branches." (Jesus, Matthew 13:31-32)

The Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center's mission is "to equip leaders for ministry." We live into this mission by providing high-quality ministry training for those seeking ordination in the Church of the Brethren. We also "build up the body of Christ" (Eph 4:11) by supporting congregational vitality and lay leadership through the development of helpful resources and training opportunities. In all we do, we seek to plant and nourish kingdom seeds, entrusting the growth to God. SVMC's staff support and implement our mission: Audrey Hollenberg-Duffey, Director; Karen Hodges, Program Coordinator; and Ray Flagg, Treasurer.

Ministry Training

SVMC coordinates Academy Certified Training Systems (ACTS) for the Atlantic Northeast, Mid- Atlantic, Middle PA, Southern PA, and Western PA Districts. Additionally, SVMC welcomes students from other districts' ACTS programs who wish to take a course through SVMC to meet their district's requirements. In the 2025-2026 academic year, enrollment totaled 53 registrations across 9 ACTS courses and 1 Training in Ministry (TRIM) course.

The 2026-2027 academic year will bring a change to the format of the ACTS courses in the five districts SVMC serves. To acknowledge the reality that fewer students are enrolled in ACTS, all five districts will begin to take hybrid courses together. Students in districts with at least 3-4 students will meet in person at a designated "hub" location. Districts with fewer than 3 students will continue to join online individually. This helps us prioritize in-person learning and meet our budget.

Continuing Education Events 2026

This year, we hosted excellent continuing education events for clergy and interested laity on a range of topics, including suicide awareness, spiritual well-being, the basics of Love Feast, online faith formation, and supporting congregants navigating divorce. There are a few more opportunities for continuing education in 2026:
Congregational Members with Chronic Health Conditions (Zoom) led by Julie Guistwite
Session for Laity: October 29, 1:00-4:00 pm
Spiritual Gifts at Elizabethtown COB led by Josh Brockway and Stan Dueck
October 31, 2026, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm (.5 CEUs available), lunch provided
Partnership with Building and Equipping Lay Leaders (B.E.L.L.) at the Germantown COB
Intro to Bible & Biblical Interpretation led by Stephen Reid
October 3, 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM (.7 CEUs available), light lunch provided
Introduction to Theology led by Drew Hart
December 5, 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM (.7 CEUs available), light lunch provided
Visit www.etown.edu/SVMC for more information and to register for events.

Southern PA District and SVMC Partnership:
SVMC relies upon a close collaboration with our five partner districts, Bethany Theological Seminary, and the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership. With appreciation, we thank the following people from the Southern PA District who serve SVMC faithfully:

- Governing Board: Don Kauffman, John Shelly, Kim Witkovsky, and Traci Rabenstein.
- The District Board and Ministry Commission
- Christian Elliot for coordinating Ministry Formation for Southern PA and Mid-Atlantic Districts

With appreciation, we also thank the following contributors from the Southern PA District who made monetary gifts to SVMC from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026.

Individuals:

Steve & Jan Custer
Christian & Deloris Elliott
Warren & Theresa Eshbach
Richard & Geraldine Godfrey
John & Beverly Hess
Don & Carol Kauffman
Delmas & Lois Kenney
John Malenke
Charles & Georgia Markey
Jacob Miller, Jr.
Leonard & Helen Stoner
Kim & Dave Witkovsky

Congregations:

Codorus
Faith Community of TBH
Free Spring
Huntsdale
Mechanicsburg
Mount Olivet
Newville
Waynesboro
York First

We are deeply grateful for your gifts, whether shared through financial support, prayer, or time and talents. We also know that many congregations are struggling financially, and when budgets get tight, the first line items cut from a budget are outreach. We want you to know that even a small gift to SVMC strengthens our roots and nurtures new ministries. We are challenging congregations to give a mustard seed gift to SVMC this year by putting us back in your budget for even just $100. Or consider taking up a special offering to support SVMC's ministries.

Even a small gift, given by many, strengthens our co-ministry and enables us to bear fruit for generations to come. Plant mustard seeds of faith and giving, and see how they grow!

Audrey Hollenberg-Duffey
Director

Dave Crumrine
Governing Board Chair

SVMC - Revenues / Expenses through December 2025
(100.0% of Budget Year)

		Current	YTD-2025	Budget-2025	YTD-2024	Difference YDT 2025 vs 2024	Percent of Budget
REVENUES							
4010	Atlantic Northeast District	1,250.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00	100.0%
4020	Southern Pa District	0.00	6,600.00	15,000.00	10,200.00	(3,600.00)	44.0%
4021	Mid-Pa District	0.00	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00	0.00	100.0%
4022	Mid Atlantic	1,250.00	6,250.00	5,000.00	3,750.00	2,500.00	125.0%
4023	Western PA District	0.00	9,000.00	9,000.00	9,000.00	0.00	100.0%
4030	Individuals	27,378.90	48,797.90	20,000.00	28,582.73	20,215.17	244.0%
4040	Congregations	3,429.85	27,958.88	21,000.00	26,910.57	1,048.31	133.1%
4050	Organizations/Trust/Foundations	0.00	0.00	26,200.00	21,200.00	(21,200.00)	0.0%
4120	Academy Students	685.00	14,945.00	19,000.00	21,739.00	(6,794.00)	78.7%
4125	TRIM Student Tuition	308.00	919.62	2,400.00	1,545.00	(625.38)	38.3%
4130	Continuing Ed Tuition/Fees	96.38	3,645.01	12,000.00	9,237.59	(5,592.58)	30.4%
4130.1	NMS Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
4130.2	NMS Transfer	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
4290	Interest	62.65	1,089.16	100.00	496.90	592.26	1.5%
4300	Transfer from Reserve	51,895.35	51,895.35	71,850.00	34,711.00	17,184.35	72.2%
	Total Revenues	**86,356.13**	**192,600.92**	**223,050.00**	**188,872.79**	**3,728.13**	86.3%
EXPENSES							
5022	Academy Faculty/Expenses	700.00	8,675.00	8,750.00	10,650.00	(1,975.00)	99.1%
5024	TRIM Honorarium	0.00	0.00	1,600.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
5025	Continuing Ed Faculty/Expense	0.00	1,815.00	7,600.00	5,298.97	(3,483.97)	23.9%
5025.1	NMS Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5035	Director	5,891.66	76,243.37	73,702.00	71,346.96	4,896.41	103.4%
5035.1	Director Search Exp.	0.00	127.04	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	6.4%
5050	Program Administrator	3,903.26	46,839.12	46,839.00	45,342.96	1,496.16	100.0%
5060	Receptionist/File Clerk	0.00	0.00	750.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
5110	FICA/Medicare Prog Coord	306.08	3,956.77	4,073.00	3,752.53	204.24	97.1%
5110.1	FICA/Medicare Director	0.00	0.00	6,416.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
5115	Unemployment Tax	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
5120	Prog. Coordinator BBT Ins	41.31	495.72	380.00	423.99	71.73	130.5%
5121	Director BBT Ins	62.43	765.44	640.00	691.20	74.24	119.6%
5122	Prog Coordinator Supplement	97.58	1,170.96	5,650.00	0.00	1,170.96	20.7%
5123	Director Supplement	451.34	6,237.37	10,170.00	3,660.00	2,577.37	61.3%
5130	Director Retirement	683.99	9,354.39	10,065.00	9,000.86	353.53	92.9%
5131	Program Coordinator Retirement	440.10	5,281.09	5,152.00	4,987.66	293.43	102.5%
5132	QSEHRA Reimbursement	529.16	6,349.92	6,350.00	6,150.00	199.92	100.0%
5140	W Comp/Liability Ins	3,026.00	3,913.00	4,700.00	3,126.00	787.00	83.3%
5190	Professional Growth: Exec Dir	0.00	941.50	750.00	115.00	826.50	125.5%
5191	Professional Growth: Prog Coord.	0.00	(387.94)	100.00	23.37	(411.31)	-387.9%
5515	ACTS Travel Expenses	159.25	935.90	1,500.00	1,436.66	(500.76)	62.4%
5525	TRIM Travel Expenses	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
5530	SVMC Staff Travel	0.00	2,051.93	1,500.00	1,708.63	343.30	136.8%
5540	SVMC Staff- Annual Conf.	0.00	242.05	1,700.00	1,156.14	(914.09)	14.2%
6010	Accounting/Auditing	375.00	4,912.25	4,900.00	4,740.25	172.00	100.3%
6030	Equipment/Machines	0.00	331.09	1,500.00	0.00	331.09	22.1%
6050	Hospitality	0.00	126.23	600.00	659.90	(533.67)	21.0%
6055	Development/Promotion	376.16	922.10	2,500.00	2,087.04	(1,164.94)	36.9%
6060	Legal	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
6070	Photocopies	0.00	0.00	150.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
6080	Postage	80.96	717.56	600.00	697.53	20.03	119.6%
6090	Rent	450.00	5,275.00	5,000.00	5,400.00	(125.00)	105.5%
6100	Supplies	0.00	516.66	1,000.00	1,112.40	(595.74)	51.7%
6110	Telephone/Fax	230.00	1,975.00	2,500.00	2,040.00	(65.00)	79.0%
6120	Technology Tools	223.74	2,381.05	2,400.00	2,791.16	(410.11)	99.2%
6290	Miscellaneous	0.00	100.00	150.00	0.00	100.00	66.7%
6295	Bank/Credit Card Fees	42.50	336.35	225.00	472.90	(136.55)	149.5%
	Total Expenses	**18,070.52**	**192,600.92**	**223,012.00**	**188,872.11**	**3,601.77**	86.4%
	Income over Expenses	**68,285.61**	**0.00**	**38.00**	**0.68**	**(0.68)**	

SOPA District Financial Report for the Year Ending 2025

Southern PA District COB

Income and Expense Statement

Consolidated - January 2025 - December 2025

		Current Period	Annual Budget Difference	Annual Budget	YTD Prior Year
INCOME	4000				
CONTRIBUTIONS	4050				
DFMA Receipts	4188	$200,565.06	$250,821.00	-$50,255.94	$301,568.06
OTHER INCOME	4950				
Interest on Inc/Invest.	4952	12,637.10	0.00	12,637.10	-4,865.68
Other Income	4956	29,473.55	0.00	29,473.55	0.00
Subtotal Other Income	4950	42,110.65	0.00	42,110.65	-4,865.68
Budgeted		*0.00*	*0.00*	*0.00*	*0.00*
Non-Budgeted		*42,110.65*	*0.00*	*0.00*	*0.00*
TOTAL INCOME		242,675.71	250,821.00	-8,145.29	296,702.38
Budgeted		*200,565.06*	*250,821.00*	*-50,255.94*	*0.00*
Non-Budgeted		*42,110.65*	*0.00*	*0.00*	*0.00*
DISBURSEMENTS	5000				
FIELD & OFFICE	5200				
Dist. Exec. Salary	5201	$0.00	$80,000.00	$80,000.00	$1,115.87
Travel Expenses	5205	4,381.75	6,000.00	1,618.25	7,583.22
Travel/Stipend Vol.Minist	5205-100	1,696.75	3,000.00	1,303.25	0.00
Annual Conference	5206	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.00
CODE Dues	5207	409.00	800.00	391.00	409.00
Associate D.E. Salary	5210	67,772.66	0.00	-67,772.66	89,156.88
Staff: Employer Soc. Sec.	5219	2,393.74	0.00	-2,393.74	7,793.09
Telephone	5220	3,577.24	2,900.00	-677.24	3,014.88
Office Supplies	5221	1,462.32	1,500.00	37.68	2,434.71
Postage	5222	2,963.41	3,000.00	36.59	1,720.03
Office Utilities/Services	5223	15,500.00	15,500.00	0.00	13,784.18
Dist. Office Maintenance	5223-200	2,131.64	3,432.00	1,300.36	1,584.00
Equipment Maintenance	5224	7,567.89	7,500.00	-67.89	8,353.23
Office Equip. Replacement	5225	500.00	700.00	200.00	0.00
Equipment Replacement Res	5225-100	15.00	100.00	85.00	82.00
Insurance	5226	3,174.16	6,000.00	2,825.84	3,327.96
Miscellaneous	5227	454.00	300.00	-154.00	47.66
In/Out Funds	5228	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,381.63
Bookkeeper Fee	5230	7,515.00	10,000.00	2,485.00	22,267.50
Treasurer's Honorarium	5232	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00
AdmAss'tAdm.SecretarySala	5238	3,400.00	30,000.00	26,600.00	21,045.18
Interim Secretary	5240	0.00	0.00	0.00	38.12
Computer/Software Upgrade	5242	280.00	300.00	20.00	180.17
Subtotal Field & Office	5200	125,194.56	171,532.00	46,337.44	185,339.31
Budgeted		*125,194.56*	*171,532.00*	*46,337.44*	*0.00*
Non-Budgeted		*0.00*	*0.00*	*0.00*	*0.00*

		Current Period	Annual Budget Difference	Annual Budget	YTD Prior Year
MINISTRY COMMISSION	5299				
Ministry Program Expenses	5300	378.00	500.00	122.00	485.41
New Pastors/Spouses Retre	5302	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00
Trim Cordinator	5305	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
TRIM Registration Fees	5306-200	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
Dist.Spons.Minist.Trainin	5307	100.00	250.00	150.00	115.00
Susq Valley-Bethany Sem.	5311	12,000.00	15,000.00	3,000.00	12,300.00
SVS Acad Prog/Instr Fees	5311-100	600.00	1,200.00	600.00	1,000.00
Readiness for Ministry Tr	5314	388.10	1,600.00	1,211.90	0.00
Subtotal Ministry Commission	5299	13,466.10	21,050.00	7,583.90	13,900.41
Budgeted		*13,466.10*	*21,050.00*	*7,583.90*	*0.00*

		Current Period	Annual Budget Difference	Annual Budget	YTD Prior Year
Non-Budgeted		*0.00*	*0.00*	*0.00*	*0.00*
NURTURE COMMISSION	5399				
Nurture Program Expenses	5400	0.00	350.00	350.00	0.00
Youth/Young Adult Ministr	5408	0.00	1,250.00	1,250.00	0.00
Brethren Bible Institute	5411	75.00	500.00	425.00	410.00
Women's Prog. Women's Cam	5413	400.00	1,200.00	800.00	0.00
Womens Program Spring Lun	5413-100	500.03	500.00	-0.03	0.00
Park Chaplaincy	5415	14,000.00	14,000.00	0.00	11,980.00
Park Chapl. Misc. Expense	5415-100	0.00	300.00	300.00	29.99
Men's Programs	5424	300.00	800.00	500.00	0.00
Subtotal Nurture Commission	5399	15,275.03	18,900.00	3,624.97	12,419.99
Budgeted		*15,275.03*	*18,900.00*	*3,624.97*	*0.00*
Non-Budgeted		*0.00*	*0.00*	*0.00*	*0.00*
STEWARDS COMMISSION	5599				
Stewards Program Expenses	5600	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00
Auditors	5606	3,500.00	9,300.00	5,800.00	6,700.00
Dist. Property Maint./Ins	5607	2,118.00	2,500.00	382.00	2,545.00
Subtotal Stewards Commission	5599	5,618.00	11,900.00	6,282.00	9,245.00
Budgeted		*5,618.00*	*11,900.00*	*6,282.00*	*0.00*
Non-Budgeted		*0.00*	*0.00*	*0.00*	*0.00*
WITNESS COMMISSION	5699				
Witness Program Expenses	5700	0.00	200.00	200.00	0.00
Evangelism Efforts	5701	280.50	1,500.00	1,219.50	0.00
Truck Stop Chaplaincy	5703	2,400.00	3,000.00	600.00	2,460.00
Pa Council on Alcohol Pro	5707	37.50	250.00	212.50	205.00
Subtotal Witness Commission	5699	2,718.00	4,950.00	2,232.00	2,665.00
Budgeted		*2,718.00*	*4,950.00*	*2,232.00*	*0.00*
Non-Budgeted		*0.00*	*0.00*	*0.00*	*0.00*
DISTRICT GENERAL	5799				
District Board Prog. Exp.	5800	2,217.50	300.00	-1,917.50	1,576.92
District Interpretation	5800-100	0.00	100.00	100.00	0.00
District Board Retreat	5800-400	0.00	0.00	0.00	150.00

		Current Period	Annual Budget Difference	Annual Budget	YTD Prior Year
District Conference	5801	100.00	600.00	500.00	263.11
Clerk Honorarium	5801-200	0.00	200.00	200.00	200.00
District Directory	5802	0.00	250.00	250.00	0.00
Standing Comm. Delegates	5803	1,844.97	2,500.00	655.03	0.00
Annual Conf. Workshop	5803-100	0.00	200.00	200.00	2,129.28
Pa. Council of Churches	5804	30.00	200.00	170.00	164.00
Subtotal District General	5799	4,192.47	4,350.00	157.53	4,483.31
Budgeted		*4,192.47*	*4,350.00*	*157.53*	*0.00*
Non-Budgeted		*0.00*	*0.00*	*0.00*	*0.00*
DISTRICT MISSION AGENCIES	5899				
E-town College Young Cent	5900	3,200.00	4,000.00	800.00	4,100.00
The Brethren Home	5901	12,000.00	15,000.00	3,000.00	12,300.00
Camp Eder	5902	24,000.00	30,000.00	6,000.00	32,800.50
Children's Aid Society	5903	24,000.00	30,000.00	6,000.00	32,800.50
Subtotal District Mission Agencies	5899	63,200.00	79,000.00	15,800.00	82,001.00
Budgeted		*63,200.00*	*79,000.00*	*15,800.00*	*0.00*

		Current Period	Annual Budget Difference	Annual Budget	YTD Prior Year
Non-Budgeted		*0.00*	*0.00*	*0.00*	*0.00*
DENOMINATIONAL	5920				
Annual Conference Minutes	5922	0.00	25.00	25.00	25.02
Annual Conf Assessment	5931	2,006.00	2,500.00	494.00	2,311.32
Subtotal Denominational	5920	2,006.00	2,525.00	519.00	2,336.34
Budgeted		*2,006.00*	*2,525.00*	*519.00*	*0.00*
Non-Budgeted		*0.00*	*0.00*	*0.00*	*0.00*
TOTAL EXPENSES		231,670.16	314,207.00	82,536.84	312,390.36
Budgeted		*231,670.16*	*314,207.00*	*82,536.84*	*0.00*
Non-Budgeted		*0.00*	*0.00*	*0.00*	*0.00*
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES		$11,005.55	-$63,386.00	$74,391.55	-$15,687.98
Budgeted		*-31,105.10*	*-63,386.00*	*32,280.90*	*0.00*
Non-Budgeted		*42,110.65*	*0.00*	*0.00*	*0.00*

Southern PA District Church of the Brethren

Restricted Checking Account

Date range of report	12/31/2024	6/30/2025	12/31/2025
Restricted Accounts	**Balance**	**Balance**	**Balance**
Africa Great Lakes	$ 1,103.66	$ 1,663.62	$ 5,138.07
Africa Great Lakes Nursery School	$ 2,536.68	$ 1,741.02	$ 816.02
Africa Projects BIBLES	$ 1,710.00	$ 410.00	$ 410.00
Africa Bible school	$ 1,383.34	$ 1,233.34	$ 283.34
Bank Fees		$ -	$ -
CEUs Mandated reporting		$ -	$ -
Church Transition Fund	$ 127,588.58	$ 102,519.58	$ 102,519.58
COB Brotherhood Mutual dividends	$ 1,800.00	$ 1,800.00	$ 1,800.00
Deacon Training	$ 602.85	$ 602.85	$ 602.85
District AUCTION Relief Trips	$ 16,000.00	$ 15,831.74	$ 15,831.74
District Conference Food Donation	$ 334.00	$ -	$ 334.00
District Men's Ministry & Retreats	$ 483.23	$ 483.23	$ 483.23
DISTRICT MINISTRIES	$ 8,412.17	$ 8,040.17	$ 7,427.74
District VIDEO	$ 2,213.54	$ 2,213.54	$ 2,213.54
Dominican Republic Mission Trip	$ 2,204.00	$ 256.69	$ 256.69
Ethics Counseling	$ 10.64	$ 10.64	$ 10.64
Equipment Replacement	$ 3,735.48	$ 3,779.48	$ 3,779.48
HK Bequest	$ 14,132.77	$ 14,132.77	$ 14,132.77
Mack Mowing	$ 1,500.00	$ 1,500.00	$ 1,500.00
Meat Canning	$ 26,495.47	$ 18,343.68	$ 20,691.68
Miscellaneous In & Out		$ 150.00	$ -
SOPS District Disaster Relief TRIPS	$ 6,163.69	$ 6,363.69	$ 6,363.69
Wenger Foundation	$ 3,793.62	$ 3,793.62	$ 3,793.62
Women's Camp	$ 441.75	$ 3,212.75	$ 492.75
Women's Spring Luncheon	$ 3,125.30	$ 3,409.00	$ 3,409.00
Workshop	$ 244.28	$ 244.28	$ 244.28
	$ 226,015.05	$ 191,735.69	$ 192,534.71
Summary Comparison	**12/31/2023**	**12/31/2024**	**12/31/2025**
Budget Account Checking Balance	$ 11,195.06	$ 18,156.99	$ 30,098.80
Budget Account Investment Balance	$ 116,531.56	$ 122,494.54	$ 120,602.77
Restricted Account Checking Balance	$ 241,230.59	$ 218,270.77	$ 192,537.71
Restricted Account Investment Balance	$ 869,101.40	$ 915,423.14	$ 1,000,446.63
Charles Schwab Account			$ 51,948.54
Total Balance of all Funds	**$ 1,238,058.61**	**$ 1,274,345.44**	**$ 1,395,634.45**

Southern Pa District Church of the Brethren

Congregational District Financial Ministries Allocation Report

Membership rate is	$ 93.00	We are	100%	Through the year	12/31/2025
2025 DFMA Total Membership is	2697				

Congregation	2025 DFMA	Paid to Date	Balance Owed	Paid % 2025
Black Rock	$ 18,321.00	$ 2,800.00	$ 15,521.00	15%
Bullalo Valley	$ 18,879.00	$ 18,879.00	$ -	100%
Carlisle	$ 6,417.00	$ 3,548.50	$ 2,868.50	55%
Chambersburg	$ 20,181.00	$ 20,181.00	$ -	100%
Codorus	$ 20,832.00	$ 9,904.56	$ 10,927.44	48%
Faith Community	$ 7,440.00	$ 8,000.00	$ (560.00)	108%
Farmers Grove	$ 744.00	$ -	$ 744.00	0%
Freespring	$ 13,392.00	$ 13,392.00	$ -	100%
Gettysburg	$ 11,439.00	$ 11,439.00	$ -	100%
Greencastle	$ 7,254.00	$ 7,254.00	$ -	100%
Hanover	$ 14,229.00	$ 6,000.00	$ 8,229.00	42%
Huntsdale	$ 5,580.00	$ 7,838.00	$ (2,258.00)	140%
Knobsville	$ 1,767.00	$ 2,046.00	$ (279.00)	116%
Mechanicsburg	$ 24,738.00	$ 24,738.00	$ -	100%
Mt. Olivet	$ 1,581.00	$ 1,581.00	$ -	100%
New Freedom	$ 651.00	$ -	$ 651.00	0%
Newville	$ 13,020.00	$ 13,020.00	$ -	100%
Rouzerville	$ 1,488.00	$ 1,488.00	$ -	100%
Shanks	$ 4,092.00	$ 4,100.00	$ (8.00)	100%
Sugar Valley	$ 4,743.00	$ 4,743.00	$ -	100%
Waynesboro	$ 13,950.00	$ 1,900.00	$ 12,050.00	14%
West Shore	$ 1,953.00	$ 1,953.00	$ -	100%
West York	$ 11,253.00	$ 10,000.00	$ 1,253.00	89%
Wolgamuth	$ 3,348.00	$ 3,348.00	$ -	100%
York First	$ 15,903.00	$ 15,912.00	$ (9.00)	100%
York Madison Ave.	$ 6,324.00	$ 6,500.00	$ (176.00)	103%
York Second	$ 1,302.00	$ -	$ 1,302.00	0%
Total Churches 27	$ 250,821.00	$ 200,565.06	$ 50,255.94	79.96%

18 Churches are at or above DFMA

SOUTHERN PENNSYLVANIA DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

2027 Proposed Financial Ministries Plan

		2026 Budget	2027 Proposed Budget	Variance from 2026 Budget
	INCOME			
ACCT #	ACCOUNT TITLE			
4188	DFMA Receipts	$ 257,912.00		$ (257,912.00)
4952	Interest on Inc/Ivestments			
4955	Transferred from Restricted			
4956	Other income			
	TOTAL INCOME	$ 257,912.00	$ -	$ (257,912.00)

		2026 Budget	2027 Budget	
	EXPENSE (FIELD & OFFICE)			
200	D.E. Salary	$ 80,000.00	$ 80,000.00	$ -
200.1	**D.E. Salary Paid from Restricted**		$ 24,334.00	$ 24,334.00
202	**D.E.Pension Paid from Restricted**		$ 12,329.97	$ 12,329.97
204	**D.E. Prof. Growth**			
205	Travel Expenses DE	$ 5,000.00	$ 8,000.00	$ 3,000.00
205.1	Ministry/Consultants/Stipend	$ 2,000.00	$ 5,000.00	$ 3,000.00
206	Annual Conference Expenses		$ 2,500.00	$ 2,500.00
207	C.O.D.E.Dues	$ 800.00	$ 476.00	$ (324.00)
210	Associate DE Salary			
219	Dist Portion of IRS cost for DE & OM	$ 3,000.00	$ -	$ (3,000.00)
220	Telephone	$ 2,500.00	$ 3,800.00	$ 1,300.00
221	Office Supplies	$ 1,500.00	$ 1,500.00	$ -
222	Postage	$ 3,000.00	$ 3,500.00	$ 500.00
223	Office Rent & Utilities/Services	$ 15,500.00	$ 16,800.00	$ 1,300.00
223.2	District Office Cleaning	$ 3,432.00	$ 2,500.00	$ (932.00)
224	Equipment (Copier)	$ 7,500.00	$ 7,750.00	$ 250.00
225	Equipment Replacement	$ 500.00	$ 600.00	$ 100.00
225.1	Equipment Replacement Reserve	$ 100.00	$ -	$ (100.00)
226	Insurance	$ 6,000.00	$ 5,000.00	$ (1,000.00)
227	Miscellaneous	$ 300.00	$ 2,000.00	$ 1,700.00
228	In/Out Funds	$ -	$ -	$ -
230	Bookkeeper's Fee	$ -	$ -	$ -
232	Treasurer's Honorarium	$ -	$ -	$ -
238	Office Manager Salary	$ -	$ -	$ -
238.1	Office Manager Pension	$ -	$ -	$ -
242	Computer/Software	$ 300.00	$ 800.00	$ 500.00
	SUBTOTAL-FIELD & OFFICE	$ 131,432.00	$ 140,226.00	$ 8,794.00

		2026 Budget	2027 Budget	
	MINISTRY COMMISSION			
ACCT #	ACCOUNT TITLE			
300	Program Expenses	$ 500.00	$ 1,000.00	$ 500.00
301	Ministerial Student Loan	$ -	$ -	$ -
302	New Pastors/Spouse Retreat	$ 500.00	$ 500.00	$ -
303	Pastoral Counseling Services	$ -	$ -	$ -
305	TRIM Coordinator	$ 1,000.00	$ 1,000.00	$ -
306.2	TRIM Registration Fees	$ 1,000.00	$ 1,000.00	$ -
307	District - Sponsored Minister's Training Events	$ 250.00	$ 250.00	$ -
310	Bethany Seminary Scholarship	$ -	$ 500.00	$ 500.00
311	Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center Fees	$ 15,000.00	$ 15,000.00	$ -
311.1	SVMC Academy (ACTS) Instructional Fees	$ 1,200.00	$ 1,300.00	$ 100.00
314	Readiness for Ministry Training	$ 1,600.00	$ 1,600.00	$ -
	SUBTOTAL - MINISTRY COMMISSION	$ 21,050.00	$ 22,150.00	$ 1,100.00

		2026 Budget	2027 Budget	
	NURTURE COMMISSION			
ACCT #	ACCOUNT TITLE			
400	Program Expenses	$ 350.00	$ 500.00	$ 150.00
403	Youth Sr High Program	$ -	$ 400.00	$ 400.00
407	Youth Junior High Program	$ -	$ 400.00	$ 400.00
408	Youth/Young Adult Ministry	$ 1,250.00	$ 400.00	$ (850.00)
411	Brethren Bible Institute	$ 500.00	$ 500.00	$ -
413	Women's Programs (Women's Camp)	$ 1,200.00	$ 1,200.00	$ -
413.1	Women's Programs (Spring Luncheon)	$ 500.00	$ 600.00	$ 100.00
415	Park Chaplaincy	$ 14,000.00	$ 12,400.00	$ (1,600.00)
415.1	Park Chaplaincy Miscellaneous Expenses	$ 300.00	$ 300.00	$ -
416	Young Adult Fellowship Scholars	$ -	$ -	$ -
424	Men's Programs	$ 800.00	$ 800.00	$ -
	SUBTOTAL - NURTURE COMMISSION	$ 18,900.00	$ 17,500.00	$ (1,400.00)

		2026 Budget	2027 Budget	
	STEWARDS COMMISSION			
ACCT #	ACCOUNT TITLE			
600	Program Expenses	$ 100.00	$ 2,100.00	$ 2,000.00
	Training Event	$ -	$ -	$ -
606	Auditors	$ 8,500.00	$ 6,000.00	$ (2,500.00)
607	District Property Maintenance	$ 2,500.00	$ 3,000.00	$ 500.00
	SUBTOTAL STEWARDS	$ 11,100.00	$ 11,100.00	$ -

		2026 Budget	2027 Budget	
	WITNESS COMMISSION			
ACCT #	ACCOUNT TITLE			
700	Program Expenses	$ 200.00	$ 200.00	$ -
701	Evangelism Efforts	$ 1,500.00	$ 1,500.00	$ -
703	Truck Stop Chaplaincy Support	$ 3,000.00	$ 3,000.00	$ -
717	Mission Projects	$ -	$ 250.00	$ 250.00
	SUBTOTAL WITNESS	$ 4,700.00	$ 4,950.00	$ 250.00
	DISTRICT GENERAL			
ACCT #	ACCOUNT TITLE			
800	District Board Program Expenses	$ 400.00	$ 1,500.00	$ 1,100.00
800.1	District Interpretation	$ 100.00	$ 100.00	$ -
800.3	District Shalom Team	$ 200.00	$ 200.00	$ -
800.4	District Board Retreat	$ 200.00	$ 1,500.00	$ 1,300.00
801	District Conference - Committee/Speakers	$ 600.00	$ 600.00	$ -
801.2	Clerk Honorarium	$ -	$ 200.00	$ 200.00
802	District Directory	$ 300.00	$ 300.00	$ -
803	Standing Committee Delegate Costs	$ 2,500.00	$ 2,500.00	$ -
803.1	Annual Conference Workshop	$ 250.00	$ 250.00	$ -
804	PA Council of Churches	$ 200.00	$ 200.00	$ -
805	District Library	$ 50.00	$ 50.00	$ -
	SUBTOTAL DISTRICT GENERAL	$ 4,800.00	$ 7,400.00	$ 2,600.00
	DISTRICT MISSION AGENCIES			
ACCT #	ACCOUNT TITLE			
900	Young Center at Elizabethtown College	$ 3,000.00	$ 3,000.00	$ -
901	The Brethren Home (Good Samaritan Fund)	$ 12,000.00	$ -	$ (12,000.00)
902	Camp Eder	$ 24,000.00	$ 24,000.00	$ -
903	Children Aid Society	$ 24,000.00	$ 12,000.00	$ (12,000.00)
	SUBTOTAL DISTRICT MISSION AGENCIES	$ 63,000.00	$ 39,000.00	$ (24,000.00)
	DENOMINATIONAL			
ACCT #	ACCOUNT TITLE			
922	Annual Conference Minutes	$ 30.00	$ 30.00	$ -
931	Annual Conference Assessment	$ 2,900.00	$ 2,900.00	$ -
	SUBTOTAL DENOMINATION	$ 2,930.00	$ 2,930.00	$ -
	GRAND TOTAL	$ 257,912.00	$ 245,256.00	$ (12,656.00)

NOTE: Items highlighted in blue are disbursed quarterly

2355	Members for DFMA for 2027	$ 104.1427
		$ 245,256.00

Standing Committee
&
District Commission Reports

Standing Committee Report
Report to the 2026 District Conference

The Standing Committee of Annual Conference 2026 met before the start of this year's Annual Conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Standing Committee met Thursday, June 25 through Sunday, June 28. The first meeting was a get acquainted dinner and sharing time for Standing Committee Members scheduled at 5:00 pm on Thursday evening. We met in the lobby of the Hilton at 4:30 to carpool to the Beacon Heights COB for our evening meal. The Moderator for this year was Don Fitzkee, and he was in charge of this meeting and dinner. This year's dinner was unique as the church hosted the meeting and provided all the food for the evening meal. The meal was a fellowship meal with the food being prepared and served by the ladies of the church. The Moderator Elect, Dennis Beckner, led the get acquainted time.

Standing Committee is comprised of 29 delegates from the 23 Districts in the COB plus the immediate Past Moderator, Dava Hensley. This year's Agenda, as usually is the norm for Standing Committee, was full with reports to be heard and four Business Items that needed to be processed. Districts have one, two, or three Delegates based upon the number of members in that District. Southern Pennsylvania has one Delegate. It was my privilege to represent you at Annual Conference this year.

One of the main responsibilities and functions of Standing Committee is to go over each Business Item on the Annual Conference Agenda and recommend an answer to the Delegate Body of Annual Conference for their consideration. This allows for, hopefully, a quicker time in processing the business related to these Items. The Delegates may then accept, reject, or amend the recommendations from Standing Committee.

Another major function of Standing Committee is to serve as the judicial body of the Church of the Brethren, hearing any appeals related to brokenness between Districts, Congregations, and Individuals. There were no Appeals presented at this year's meeting.

One of the primary functions of Standing Committee is to make recommendations on the Unfinished Business Item(s), as well as the New Business Items and Queries coming to Annual Conference. The following Items were presented to Standing Committee for their input. Standing Committee made recommendations for each Item, and then these Items were presented to the Annual Conference Delegates for their consideration and for their action.

2026 Standing Committee Recommendations Regarding Business Items Unfinished Business

UB 1. Review and Evaluation
Standing Committee received the first interim report of the Review and Evaluation Committee.

New Business Items

NB 1. Resolution on Weapons Transfer

Standing Committee recommends to the 2026 Annual Conference delegate body that the Resolution on Weapons Transfer be adopted.
Standing Committee has determined that this Item will require a simple majority vote.

NB 2. Recommendations for Adjustments to the 2014 Ministerial Leadership Paper

Standing Committee recommends to the 2026 Annual Conference delegate body that the proposed Recommendations for Adjustments to the 2014 Ministerial Leadership Paper be adopted.

Standing Committee has determined that this Item will require a two-thirds vote as it is a change in polity.

NB 3. Resolution - Walking Together: Immigration, Peacemaking, Conscience, and Supporting Our Neighbors

Standing Committee recommends to the 2026 Annual Conference delegate body that the

Resolution — Walking Together: Immigration, Peacemaking, Conscience, and Supporting

Our Neighbors be adopted.

Standing Committee has determined that this Item will require a simple majority vote.

NB 4. Recommended Cost of Living Adjustment to the Minimum Cash Salary Table for Pastors

Standing Committee recommends to the 2026 Annual Conference delegate body that the Recommended Cost of Living Adjustment to the Minimum Cash Salary Table for Pastors of 4.2% be adopted. All congregations are encouraged to consult the Pastoral Compensation Calculator in order to equalize wage with work expectations.

Standing Committee has determined that this Item will require a simple majority vote.

Along with these Items was the request from Eder Financial to transition their business to Everence which is a part of the Mennonite Church. Their reasoning for this request is this:

In the post-pandemic church and during a season of division, Eder Financial has not been able to grow its business. Seeking to be proactive, the Eder Financial board and staff have worked to find another service provider to serve the ministers and employees of the Church of the Brethren. It was noted that Everence Financial has sixteen times more assets than Eder Financial. Because their charter is broader than Eder, it was stated that they can serve all denominational members, not just employees and pastors. It was emphasized that their values align with the Church of the Brethren.

As can be imagined there were quite a number of questions and comments coming from the Standing Committee Delegates.

Comments from the Church of the Brethren Leadership Team

David Steele, General Secretary, shared that the Leadership Team had met with the leadership of Eder Financial three times beginning in January to begin processing the requests from the agency. Because this is an ongoing and extraordinarily complex matter, he mentioned that the document under consideration in relation to Eder is a Certificate of Secretary providing them with the authorization they need to work toward transfer of the retirement plan and that the document under consideration in relation to Everence is an interim memorandum of understanding. These documents provide a bridge as details are finalized. He reported that the Leadership Team will continue to work alongside Eder Financial and Everence Financial toward a final consummation at the 2027 Annual Conference.

April 13, 2026

In response to the Eder Financial Board's decision that it will transfer key services to Everence during the next 12 months, the following interim Resource Partnership Memo of Understanding is offered as an outline for how Everence Association, Inc. proposes to serve the Church of the Brethren, Inc., its members, and institutions.

Approval of this interim MOU creates space for Standing Committee and its designees to collaborate with Everence to develop a final agreement to be completed by November 1, 2026. It also allows Everence to begin working with Eder to transfer accounts efficiently to minimize disruption for retirement plan participants and investment clients during the balance of 2026.

Interim Memo of Understanding:

Everence seeks to be recognized by Standing Committee as a Resource Partner of the Church of the Brethren. The Church of the Brethren and Everence commit to establishing an ongoing working relationship grounded in communication and accountability.

In the context of a working partnership with Church of the Brethren, Everence is endorsed as the Denomination's preferred provider for employee retirement, organizational investing, and other financial services. Church of the Brethren grants to Everence access to its members and denominational gatherings to facilitate interaction with current Eder clients and to share the breadth of its faith-informed financial services.

Everence will provide competitively priced retirement plan services for existing participants in the Eder Retirement Plan by affecting the transfer of assets to Mennonite Retirement Trust, sponsored by Mennonite Church USA. Further, Everence will provide institutional investment management services, including security screening aligned significantly with Eder Values Investing guidelines. Other services to be provided to Church of the Brethren members may include, but are not limited to, promotion and

management of charitable accounts, financial planning, banking services, and other financial services and insurance products.

The experience of Eder clients during and after the transfer of accounts is an important consideration for Eder and the Church of the Brethren. Everence commits to collaborating with Eder to create a smooth experience during what may be an uncertain time for its clients.

Everence is committed to consulting with the Standing Committee and designated Church of the Brethren denominational leadership to develop a final Resource Partnership agreement for inclusion in the docket for Annual Conference 2027. More information will be communicated in the future.

Another Item that was presented was the New Table presentation. This Item states in part:

Our denomination is undertaking an intentional process of transformation, to equip us to be the body of Christ together, carrying out God's mission for us in the world. At the urging of the Council of District Executives, 50 denominational leaders (General Offices Staff, Annual Conference Officers, Agency Representatives, District Executives, Review and Evaluation Committee Members) met together in October to develop more open and trusting relationships, and to look together at current patterns, organizational culture, and Spirit's desired future of the Denomination. That meeting was facilitated by Lon Swartzentruber, process consultant with Design Group International, and out of that meeting came a desire to continue the conversation.

This New Table process is emerging as the denomination's best chance to follow God's leading into more wholeness and vitality. For many of us who have been engaged, it has been an invigorating source of hope for the denomination's thriving, and we are sensing Spirit-led possibility flowing in our midst. For that possibility to take shape, it will be essential that we continue the conversation. A small group of CoB leaders, with Lon's guidance, has designed a process going forward that will expand to others within the CoB, will create and strengthen networks of relationships, will look at how our ways of working together help or hinder our relationships and collective vitality, and will work toward holistic, relational, and cultural transformation that will allow the Church of the Brethren to be more of who God created us to be in the world – more fully the body of Christ.

This new Item was discussed and many questions were asked. The Item was brought for our information and also to request monies to finance this study. Leadership is requesting $1,000 dollars or more donations from the Districts for help in financing this Item. This Item also brought much discussion and a request for more information on what is being requested.

The future locations for Annual Conference 2027 and 2028 are:

2027 Daytona Beach, Florida July 28 – August 1 (Wednesday – Sunday)

2028 Cincinnati, Ohio July 5 – 9 (Wednesday – Sunday)

The Annual Conference Moderator for 2027 is Dennis Beckner from Columbia City COB in Indiana, Northern Indiana District. The Annual Conference Moderator for 2028 will be Amy Gall Ritchie of Manchester COB in North Manchester, Indiana, South Central Indiana District.

Continue to pray that the Church, the true Church of Jesus Christ, will stand strong and be invincible. It is Romans 8:35 – 39 that relates this:

"35Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. 37Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. 38For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Thank you for the privilege of serving you and this District as your Standing Committee Delegate for 2026.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Shelly

District Ministry Commission Report
Report to the 2026 District Conference

It is time once again to prepare and submit a District Ministry Commission report for 2025/2026. It seems as if this time of the year rolls around very quickly. This year we are meeting at the Chambersburg Church of the Brethren for our District Conference. This year's theme is, "With Every Breath That I Am Able," with this inspiration coming from Psalm 34:1; "I will bless the Lord at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth." These Words come from the Psalmist David and is an indication of his dedication and reliance on his Lord God. That should be the desire of all of our hearts as we serve our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We as a Ministry Commission try, to the best of our abilities, to dedicate our lives and what we do as a Commission to and for Jesus Christ as our Lord, as well as guide and mentor the Ministers we serve.

It seems like I am always saying that we have had a busy year but for the Ministry Commission that seems to always be true. The Ministry Commission meets the fourth Thursday of every month, except for December, to work at supporting, encouraging, and empowering the Ministers of our District to faithfully serve not only the District but especially the Members of their respective Congregations. The Ministry Commission is invested in trying to make the Minister's job and responsibilities just a little easier. We as a Ministry Commission want to come along side each Minister and ministry Candidate, to provide the necessary components to make their ministry successful. Every Minister is important and the work they do is of utmost importance as they serve their Lord first and then their Congregation and the District.

Just a few of the things we do are to have interviews with all those who are considering entering into ministry here in our District. Needless to say, these interviews take a considerable amount of time and depending on whether we interview one or two Candidates, this is the bulk of the time for the meeting. Each Candidate fills out an interview guide and this guide is shared with the Commission Members for them to get to know the Candidate. Then the Candidate comes for the interview and brings with them someone who is important in their life in their ministry. It may be their Spouse, their Mentor, or some other significant person who knows them well. Questions are asked by Commission Members of the Candidate and their Guests. This is very helpful for us to both encourage and know how to help and guide the Candidate.

We also provide Mentors for each Candidate who enters into ministry so that the Candidate has an ally, a friend, and a companion to ask questions of and to seek direction from. This individual is normally an ordained Minister from the Church of the Brethren and is preferably from our own District.

Another Item that has taken a great deal of our time has been the required reordination of all of our Ordained Ministers in our District. There are certain requirements that need to be met by our Ministers. These requirements include ethics training for each Ordained Minister, Child Protection Training, and CEU (continuing education units) credits. Opportunities to meet the necessary requirements for all of these have been provided by our District. Our Ministers have met or continue to work on these requirements.

There are many other Items that we deal with over the course of our year. In closing this report, we want to emphasize that Georgia Markey, Interim DE, has been a very valuable asset for and with the DMC as we have worked together. In April of 2026 Georgia completed her work here in our District and Traci Rabenstein has been retained as our new District Executive. We want to personally thank both Georgia, and Traci for all the hard work they have done for and with our Ministry Commission.

It is always a blessing and a privilege to serve the District, our Ministers, and our Congregations. Thank you for your support and your prayers, especially your prayers, as we strive to serve our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ into the future. The greatest thing you can do, if it can be called that, is to pray for your Minister(s). I believe I closed last year's report with this but it is still so pertinent and so applicable especially in light of the times we are living in. We want to leave you with this verse from Romans 10 verse 15 which tells us this – Romans 10:15 (KJV) "15And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!" The ICB says it this way – Romans 10:15 (ICB) "15And before someone can go and tell them, he must be sent. It is written, "How beautiful is the person who comes to bring good news." It should be noted that this is a quotation that comes from Isaiah 52:7.

May God bless each of you as you faithfully serve Jesus Christ and His Church.

Respectfully Submitted,

District Ministry Commission
John Shelly, Chair
Gerry Godfrey, Vice Chair
Don Kauffman
Keith Nonemaker
Linda Titzell
Traci Rabenstein, D.E., Ex Officio

District Nurture Commission Report
Report to the 2026 District Conference

The Nurture Commission has the responsibility for fostering education and spiritual growth in the life of our brothers and sisters throughout the Southern Pennsylvania District. This is done through worship, music, training seminars, financial support, and fellowship.

Women's Ministry:
2026 Women's Camp was cancelled due to Camp Eder restructuring staff and no hosting congregation for this event. However, the Nurture commission has scheduled this event for Friday June 4- Saturday June 5, 2027. If anyone would like to host this event, please contact Mary Hahn at (717) 571-6288 or email mnmhahn1@gmail.com or contact the District office.

Women's Spring Luncheon:
The West Shore Fellowship hosted a Tea with guest speaker/singers Daybreak/ Brad & Mary Barrows. The Tea luncheon was held on Saturday April 25, 2026. There were 52 women in attendance and 8 men helped to set-up, serve, and cleanup. Plans for 2027: Free Spring COB has agreed to host this event.

Men's Ministry:
The Commission is in the process of planning a bus/day trip,(s) to Germantown for the spring of 2027. A guided tour, possible picnic, etc...
There is also a possibility of bringing back some form of Man2Man event.

Youth and Young Adult Ministry:
The Commission sent one Young Adult to the Young Adult conference, held at Blue Diamond Camp, Petersburg, PA the end of May2026. We encourage our Congregations to send youth to National High conferences, National Junior High conferences, Young Adult conferences, winter and summer camps at Camp Eder. The Commission has scholarships for anyone who would like to go to these events.

Leisure Ministry and Park Chaplaincy:
Codorus State Park and Gilford Pinchot State Parks season was from, Friday May 22 to Monday September 7, 2026. If anyone is interested in their Chaplains coming to your church to speak about the ministry program at the parks, please contact Tim A. Bremmer Sr., PA Council of Churches, (717) 729-7146, or campgroundministry@pachurches.org

Other:
Attention all SOPA District Congregations: If you are planning an event at your church and would like to invite other churches in your district, or need help from the Nurture Commission or District Board, Please contact the District office or Nurture Commission mnmhahn1@gmail.com or spoadistrict@brethren.org.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Hahn, Chair
Leon Yoder, Vice Chair
Dick Parady, Scribe
Morgan Hahn, Jr.
Traci Rabenstein, D.E., Ex Officio

District Stewards Commission Report
Report to the 2026 District Conference

We continue to work for the District in the upkeep of the properties and monitoring the investments of the District.

We had a cleanup day at the Miller Meeting House cemetery in April of this year. Brother John Gingrich later went back to cut up a tree limb that had fallen on the fence.

We are currently transitioning our investment and pension services from Eder Financial to Everence Financial as Eder Financial no longer provides this service. The Stewards, along with District Executive Tracie Rabenstein and Treasurer Jay Finkenbinder, had a meeting with our Everence Financial representative, Michael Whiteman, on July 14, 2026. Michael explained that Everence Financial had begun in the Mennonite Denomination and that they had a similar conservative investment ideology as we currently do. After this meeting Stewards voted to follow through with Everence Financial as our investment firm. We took this to the July District Board meeting, and it was approved. We expect the completion of this process to take place before the end of the year.

As we go through the coming year, I would like to leave you with the following message taken from Pastor David from the Bible Repository:

As we explore the concept of stewardship, we see it involves much more than just managing resources; it encompasses a relationship with God and a reflection of His nature. Stewardship means recognizing that everything we have belongs to God. He has entrusted us with talents, time, and treasures, and it's our responsibility to manage them wisely. Understanding stewardship helps us to appreciate our place in God's plan, encouraging us to treat every resource with respect and care. As stewards, we are called to share, cultivate, and maintain what we've been given responsibly so that we reflect God's Glory through our actions.

"God bless them and said to them 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.'"—Genesis 1:28

Respectfully submitted by the Stewards Commission

Ron Bell, Chairperson
Jeffrey Rider, Vice Chair
Leroy Keeney, Scribe
John Gingrich
Traci Rabenstein, D.E., Ex Officio

District Witness and Outreach Commission Report
Report to the 2026 District Conference

The commission is responsible for *directing and undergirding District congregations as they reach out in service to the local community and world in the areas of witness, evangelism and global ministries...new church development and church revitalization.* We worked at that in a number of ways.

Early in the year, the Witness and Outreach Commission became involved in a Church of the Brethren Global Mission project in the Dominican Republic (DR). We gave $200.00 from the District budget to help the DR Church of the Brethren (COB) purchase computers to be able to keep records electronically.

Witness and Outreach Commission put the Meat Canning flyer, District-wide Picnic flyer and West Shore and Black Rock congregations' Jesus in the Neighborhood stories in the Southern PA (SOPA) District Newsletter. A district-supported evangelism ministry, Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry, was also featured.

The Chicken Canning Project, April 6-9, 2026 at the canning facility in Ephrata PA, was a joint effort of district witness commission members and volunteers from the Mid-Atlantic and SOPA Districts. The funds were completely drained by lower donations and higher costs. Area food banks were very appreciative of the canned chicken. Send donations to the District office for Chicken Canning. We're looking at ways to also involve youth as volunteers at the cannery next year.

The commission hosted its second district-wide picnic July 26, 2026 at Little Buffalo State Park again. About 40 people from half (13) of the district congregations enjoyed a variety of delicious food, brought by the attendees. Vespers worship music was led by Pastor Keith Hollenberg and Madison Avenue COB folks. Pastor Jeffrey Rider, a minister at Mount Olivet COB, brought an inspirational meditation on sharing with others the joy of knowing Jesus.

Beth Nonemaker attended two Brethren World Mission meetings via Zoom. Persecution against Christians has escalated in Nigeria and India especially. However, the Church of the Brethren in Africa continues to grow, with Nigeria, at over a million members, being the largest Anabaptist body in the world. Grants were approved for: Democratic Republic of Congo to provide travel and lodging for a pastor's surgery; a training in South Sudan; Rwanda; help to purchase the property being rented by Great Lakes Bible School (through the SOPA District).

Respectfully submitted,

Witness and Outreach Commission
Beth Nonemaker, Chair
Cindy Barclay, Vice Chair
Fred Keener, Scribe
Kim Geisewite
Westly Gingrich

Traci Rabenstein, D.E., Ex Officio

District Independent Accountant
2025 Review Report

SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN AGREED-UPON

PROCEDURES DECEMBER 31, 2025

INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S REPORT

Boyer & Ritter LLC

ON APPLYING AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES

Board of Directors and Management

Southern District of Pennsylvania Church of the Brethren
Gardners, Pennsylvania

We have performed the procedures enumerated below, which were agreed to by the Board of Directors and management of the Southern District of Pennsylvania Church of the Brethren (the District), to assist the Board of Directors and management of the District in evaluating the completeness and accuracy of certain accounting records and transactions which the District has specified, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2025. Management of the Southern District of Pennsylvania Church of the Brethren is responsible for the District's accounting records. The sufficiency of these procedures is solely the responsibility of those parties specified in this report. Consequently, we make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures enumerated below either for the purpose for which this report has been requested or for any other purpose.

The agreed-upon procedures were performed, and the associated findings are as follows:

Revenue

1. We selected a sample of deposits, one from each month of 2025, from the weekly cash receipts spreadsheet, and obtained the corresponding deposit receipt and attachments. Each deposit receipt was checked for mathematical accuracy and agreement with the attached remittance documentation.

   We traced the deposits to their postings in the *QuickBooks* and/or *Power Church* accounting systems as applicable and compared the date, amount and description of the entry to the deposit receipt for agreement.

   We inspected the account classification assigned to the deposit entry and compared it to the underlying documentation. We reviewed the supporting documentation for indication of any time or use restrictions.

Revenue (Continued)

We traced the deposits to inclusion in the applicable bank statement noting the agreement of the date and amount with the deposit receipt.

- All deposit receipts inspected were mathematically accurate and supported by remittance documentation. Respective, deposit entries posted in the District's accounting system agreed to the underlying deposit receipts in amount and date.

- Account classifications assigned to deposits were consistent with the underlying documentation, including any time or use restrictions.

- All deposits inspected were posted to the respective bank statements and agreed in amount and date.

2. We requested confirmation of six congregations' fair share giving as recorded in the District's accounting records. The sample of congregations was selected using a systematic approach.

   - All confirmations agreed with the District's accounting records.

Expenditures

1. We randomly selected a sample of twelve expenditures from the discretionary accounts, *QuickBooks* Journal detail, with the exclusion of the payments to the four District Mission agencies. The sample was obtained from the population of all checks written and recorded in these accounts. We obtained the cancelled checks and supporting invoice/requisition, loan agreement, designated-giving report, or line-item budget supporting documentation, whichever was applicable.

   We compared the cancelled checks to the supporting documentation for agreement of amount and payee and compared the cancelled checks to the entry in the accounting system for agreement of date, amount and payee. We compared the signatures on the cancelled checks to the list of authorized check signors provided by the bank.

   We inspected the supporting documentation for evidence of approval by an authorized member of management. We compared the account classification code assigned to the expenditure to the District's chart of accounts.

   - No exceptions were found as a result of applying the procedures.

2. We obtained paid invoices for the purchase of meat and rental facilities used during the meat-canning project. We compared these invoices to the amounts recorded in the temporarily restricted account for agreement of description and amounts.

   - No exceptions were found as a result of applying the procedures.

Expenditures (Continued)

- We obtained the payroll journal for the fiscal year and selected a sample of three (3) pay periods throughout the year. We traced reported hours to time sheets, traced the hourly payrate to board authorized pay rates, recalculated the gross payroll and withholdings, and traced total payroll and related taxes to the QuickBooks accounting system for agreement of dates and amounts.

    - One paycheck pulled noted additional hours on the time sheet than what employee was paid for; however, it was noted that instead of paying overtime, the employee was only paid for 40 hours a week during the pay period. No further issues were noted.

Cash and Investment Balances

3. We compared the investment account balance per the year-end statements to the amounts recorded in the general ledger.

    - No exceptions were found as a result of applying the procedure.

4. We re-performed the bank reconciliations for the months of February, May, July and November 2025, for the restricted bank account.

    - No exceptions were found as a result of applying the procedure.

5. We traced all deposits and checks from the unrestricted account's bank statement to the transactions recorded in the general ledger checking account in the *Power Church* system for February and April 2025. We also traced all deposits and checks from the general ledger to the transactions posted in the unrestricted account's bank statement for May and August 2025.

    - No exceptions were found as a result of applying the procedure.

6. We inspected the journal entries posted to the cash account in the *Power Church* system for the months of February, April, May and August 2025, to record bank-reconciling items, and traced those amounts to the respective bank statements.

    - No exceptions were found as a result of applying the procedures.

This agreed-upon procedures engagement was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination or a review, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion or conclusion, respectively, on the accounting records. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion or conclusion. Had we performed additional procedures other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Board of Directors and management of the Southern District of Pennsylvania Church of the Brethren, and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Boyer & Ritter

Chambersburg, Pennsylvania June
17, 2026

Ministry and Agencies Reports

Church of the Brethren

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

... Serve one another humbly in love *(Gal. 5:13 NIV)*
... Love your neighbor as yourself... *(Mark 12:31 NRSVUE)*
Serve the Lord with Gladness.... *(Psalm 100:2 NRSVUE)*

These verses exemplify the love and service that flow from the volunteers, supporters, and partners of Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) as we bring hope and healing to survivors of disasters in the US and around the world. We are grateful for all who support our ministry in varied ways: leaving home to serve in a different community, providing practical support at home to enable others to travel, praying for our ministry and those who serve and are served, providing financial or in-kind donations, advocating for the work that we do—there are so many ways that your compassion and dedication are indispensable to our ministry.

The primary 2025 location for the BDM Rebuilding Program was in Eastern Kentucky helping families impacted by the 2022 flooding in the area. Volunteers repaired homes and built new homes on reclaimed mining land in higher ground communities. This work, with partner HOMES Inc., was completed in March 2026, ending BDM's three-year plus work in Kentucky in response to flooding and tornadoes. Two 2025 short-term responses served survivors of 2024's Hurricane Helene in North Carolina and Tennessee. Hurricane Helene recovery will be the main focus for the Rebuilding Program during 2026 and possibly longer. The need is still great, and recovery is expected to last for years.

In December 2025, a new Construction Assessment Team was formed after the initial team training was held in Allegany County, Md., in an area that experienced flooding in May 2025. This team of five is now equipped to deploy to disaster impacted areas where they can perform damage assessments on homes to determine the work and cost needed to complete repairs. The training also led to a partnership with the long-term recovery group, resulting in a one-week BDM response in April/May 2026.

Children's Disaster Services (CDS) responded to seven disasters in 2025, sending 61 volunteers to care for a total of 759 children. Critical Response Childcare Teams cared for children in January after a truck attack in New Orleans, La., and in July after catastrophic flooding in Texas. When wildfires devastated large areas of the Los Angeles, Calif., region in January, CDS sent three volunteer teams to serve in Multiagency Resource Centers (MARCs) and one team to a Local Assistance Center (LAC). They cared for 515 children in five weeks. After multiple tornadoes passed through Missouri in April and May, CDS responded with four teams to three MARCs, a shelter, and a Disaster Assistance Center. In mid-September, a CDS team from La Verne, Calif., responded for one day to a LAC after a fire in Sonora. In December, after heavy rains caused flooding and evacuations in Washington, CDS responded with a local team, serving in two shelters for a total of four days.

BDM's international disaster response supports relief and recovery for global churches and partners following natural and human-caused disasters, including in conflict areas. In 2025, nearly 16 percent

Brethren Disaster Ministries, 601 Main Street, P.O. Box 188, New Windsor, Maryland 21776-0188
410-635-8731 800-451-4407 Fax: 410-635-8739

of global Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) grants ($163,350) were in response to natural disasters, including flooding and storm damage in Venezuela and Uganda. When Hurricane Melissa brought extensive damage in the Caribbean in the fall, a unique opportunity emerged to support churches in Cuba with emergency relief through their relationship with the Church of the Brethren in Venezuela. An EDF grant also supported agricultural recovery programs of the Church of the Brethren in Haiti following the storm, in areas that received little international attention.

The majority of international grants in 2025 supported responses to conflict by Global Church of the Brethren Communion members in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Nigeria, and the Church of the Brethren Mission in South Sudan. The ongoing conflict in the DRC between the national army and the M23 rebel group has created destruction, chaotic conditions, economic hardship, and food insecurity which spilled over to the neighboring countries of Rwanda and Burundi, with the latter receiving many refugees. EDF grants have helped Brethren leadership in DRC and Burundi to serve church members and neighbors. In South Sudan, BDM has partnered with the Global Mission office on strategic planning, while concentrating on humanitarian relief to support families impacted by flooding as well as escalating conflict between the two major power groups in the government.

The Nigeria Crisis Response, a partnership between the Church of the Brethren and Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) since 2014, provided food and agricultural distributions, medical assistance, livelihood training centers for widows and orphans, new wells for drinking water, education assistance for orphan children, trauma workshops, and home repairs for the most vulnerable during 2025, and continuing through 2026.

Several staffing changes early in 2026 saw Michael Scalzi retiring as the CDS program assistant and Jenn Dorsch-Messler resigning to work with another disaster response organization. We expect new staff to be in place by the time of the district conference.

Toward the end of 2025, with the help of a Lilly Foundation planning grant, BDM gathered a broad range of information about its current work and impact, helping it to envision how its ministry could be improved and extended. This served as the foundation for a strategic planning process which in turn led to the application for and receipt of a three-year Lilly Foundation implementation grant. This grant will support the strategic plan's goals of strengthening BDM's US programs and increasing volunteer participation. While these funds focus on program improvement and growth, continued support from individuals, congregations, and districts will be key for ongoing operations.

Brethren Disaster Ministries' mission to share Christ's compassion and transform lives by working toward recovery and healing for disaster survivors is only possible because of the faithful support and sharing of God's bounty of all who partner with us through donations of time, talent, treasure, and prayer. We are humbled and thankful for your commitment, compassion, and generosity.

Roy Winter

Roy Winter, Executive Director for Service Ministries
On behalf of BDM staff: Sharon Franzén, Kim Gingrich, and Carolyn Neher

Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.

Brethren Disaster Ministries, 601 Main Street, P.O. Box 188, New Windsor, Maryland 21776-0188
410-635-8731 800-451-4407 Fax: 410-635-8739

Eder Financial
BOLD. BALANCED. TRUSTED.

2026 Eder Financial Report

Eder Financial provides retirement and insurance services to pastors and church-related employees, asset management services to Brethren congregations and organizations, and deferred gift services to all Brethren members. It also manages benevolent funds that enable entities to provide financial assistance to individuals facing extraordinary hardship during times of crisis. At 83-years young, Eder Financial continues to care for those it serves, evident in 2025 by the many new one-time and ongoing initiatives it launched.

In 2025, Eder Financial issued one-time payments to annuitants as a result of the sale of Eder Retirement Plan annuities to Securian Financial in late 2024. These payments helped augment the retirement income members received. For at least one individual, these additional funds made it possible to remain in their residence rather than being forced to relocate late in life due to financial constraints. Eder's retirement planning specialists continue to help Eder Retirement Plan members prepare for and navigate retirement through one-on-one guidance.

Eder Financial partners with organizations and denominations — such as the Church of the Brethren — to manage benevolent funds with care and integrity. We help establish clear policies and efficient processes to ensure funds are distributed fairly, responsibly, and in a timely manner to those in need.

Eder Organizational Investing fully launched Nonprofit Toolkit, a wholistic resource designed for nonprofit organizations that offers tools, resources, and knowledge to actively and easily help institutions increase the gifts they receive from donors. Nonprofit Toolkit helps churches and nonprofits navigate how to solicit and manage funds to undergird their financial health.

The new initiatives were well received by members and clients, and the longstanding work Eder has carried out through its core ministries continues to be equally valued.

Investment Oversight

Distinct to Eder Financial is the intentional socially responsible investment (SRI) approach it takes to align investment fund offerings with Church of the Brethren values. Known as Eder Values Investing, this approach focuses on screening, positive investment, and shareholder activism to achieve long-term, competitive market returns while supporting ethical, faith-based principles. EVI is an integrated approach that filters companies that do not conform to Eder's investment guidelines while simultaneously providing competitive returns. Orchestrating EVI within our separately managed accounts is straight forward because managers are hired to construct portfolios exclusively based on Eder's investment guidelines. Mutual funds, which we utilize when we do not have sufficient assets to meet balance requirements for a separately managed account, must meet Brethren values and ethical commitments so that Eder can assure members that the Eder Investing Platform is 100 percent compliant with Eder's social screens.

Eder Financial Board and Staff

The 12-person Eder Financial Board consists of people who have knowledge and experience in accounting, finance, investments, law, employee benefits, human resources, pastors, denominational executives, and organizations of like mind with Eder Financial.

Our team works in retirement, employee insurance, organizational investing, finance, investments, client relations, marketing, public relations, IT, data, special projects, and business development. We are a family friendly, faith-based organization that strives to provide concierge level service to our members and clients while also providing a fulfilling work environment in a permanent work-from-home setting.

Conclusion

The Board and staff also believe a strong organization is realistic about the challenges that it faces. Eder understands that tomorrow's church is different from yesterday's church. Given this, the firm must adapt boldly, and as Alexander Mack wrote, "without hesitation or fear." In 2026, Eder has a strong balance sheet, ample reserves, and a steady client base. But our data shows that Eder will face operational challenges in the future if it does not adapt today. Adapting from strength allows an organization to control its decision making and narrative; adapting from weakness means making decisions out of desperation. Eder's practice, no matter how difficult, is to make decisions out of strength. This is why in 2026 Eder entered into an agreement to transfer most of its products and services to Everence Financial, a financial services organization of Mennonite background that serves Anabaptist organizations, by the end of April 2027. Everence has a much larger scale than Eder so that it can offer more products at lower fees to employees, organizations, and all denominational members.

This step, while difficult to make, will ensure that Eder's members and clients will be well served for years to come.

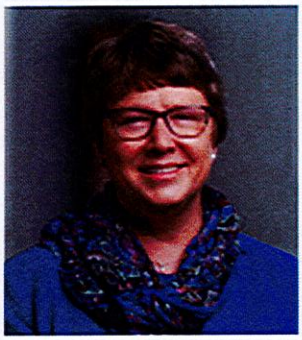
Donna Rhodes
Eder Financial Board Chair

Nevin Dulabaum
Eder Financial President

ETOWN
ELIZABETHTOWN COLLEGE

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
2026 ANNUAL REPORT

A Message from President Elizabeth A. Rider, Ph.D.

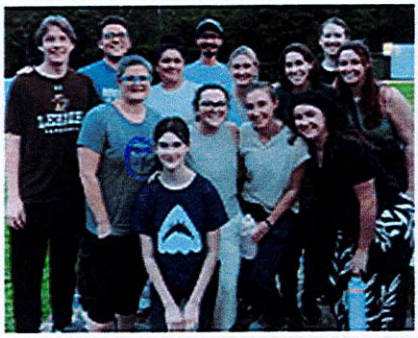


Greetings from Elizabethtown College! We recently concluded another exciting and productive academic year at Etown. I am proud of our engaged students, faculty, and staff who worked so hard, each united behind a shared goal to serve with purpose and impact.

Building on the momentum generated by last year's celebration of the College's 125th anniversary, this year's initiatives focused on continuing to strengthen the institution academically, financially, and culturally, while advancing strategic priorities related to student success, enrollment growth, academic innovation, and long-term sustainability.

We seek to carry that momentum forward this fall as we embark on Etown's Strategic Plan 2030, developed in partnership with the College community and Board of Trustees. This comprehensive five-year roadmap will guide the College's future and launch this fall. By the 2030–31 academic year, Etown will build on its distinctive strengths to deliver an exceptional student experience grounded in academic excellence, innovation, and its enduring commitment to Educate for Service.

Our belief in education has a special purpose at Etown because we believe that knowledge is most noble when used in the service of others. And we encourage our students to live out our Educate for Service motto by using their talents, empathy, intellect, and energy to confidently serve our community and beyond.



Physician Assistant Studies students and faculty expanded their understanding of healthcare access and cultural awareness during a winter break service trip to Belize.

We provide our Blue Jays with numerous opportunities to make a positive difference in the lives of others through enriching educational, campus, and community experiences. This year, students demonstrated that commitment in meaningful ways:

- During a winter break service trip to Belize, Physician Assistant Studies students and faculty expanded their understanding of healthcare access and cultural awareness while serving residents and refugees in three remote villages. Six Etown graduate clinical-year students joined seven physician assistants on the trip, which was planned in collaboration with international service organizations Samuel's Sanctuary and Global Health Impact.
- Four Engineering students recently collaborated with the Hershey Volunteer Fire Company to design and build a vehicle fire simulator as part of their Industry-Sponsored Capstone Project. The simulator will improve the efficiency of future training sessions at the fire company by enabling on-site training, reducing the need to outsource, and allowing personnel to remain on call at all times. The project's reach is set to expand far beyond its initial recipient as the Hershey Fire Company plans to invite other local fire departments to utilize the device and conduct training locally, allowing them to better serve their respective communities.
- Etown's annual Into the Streets community engagement and service event was recognized for its significant community impact and dedication to meaningful service by receiving the 2026 Insight Into Academia Civic Engagement and Community Service Award. This beloved tradition has engaged Etown students, alumni, and community partners for 32 years. Into the Streets 2025 involved nearly 350 volunteers completing more than 1,200 service hours by assisting 27 community partners in on- and off-campus projects across three counties and 10 boroughs.

Blue Jays supported Wittel Farm in Elizabethtown by helping with outdoor farm work during Etown's annual Into the Streets event.

The experiences our Blue Jays have had at Etown will continue to shape who they are, guide their decisions, and inform their values as they go out ready to make a difference in the world.

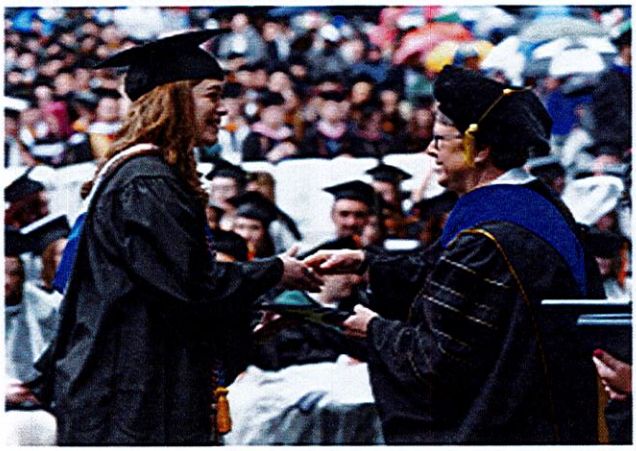
On a more personal note, I recently announced my decision to retire from my role as president, effective June 30, 2027, concluding nearly 40 years of my career at Elizabethtown College.

I am deeply grateful to have served the College as president during a time of transformational growth and strength, and I will retire confident that Etown is well-positioned for long-term sustainability and will continue to advance its mission of providing transformative opportunities for students.

I remain inspired by the students, faculty, staff, alumni, and supporters who will continue to shape the future of Etown. Thank you for your continued support of our institution and our enduring commitment to honoring our Brethren roots and values.

Blue Jays. Always.

Elizabeth A. Rider

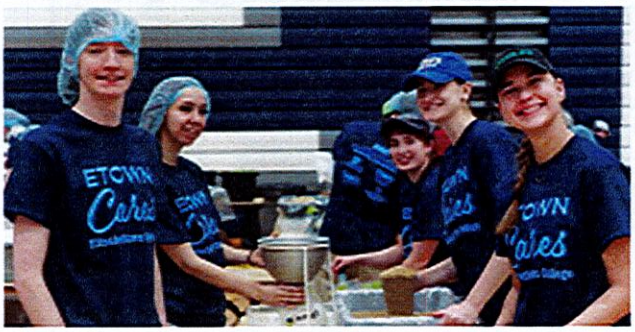


Elizabethtown College honored the Class of 2026 during its 123rd Commencement ceremony on May 9.

Elizabethtown College honored 612 graduates from six of Etown's Schools, including the School of Graduate and Professional Studies, during its 123rd Commencement ceremony on Saturday, May 9. The outdoor ceremony in the Dell featured the traditional conferring of degrees, remarks from President Elizabeth A. Rider, Ph.D., and a thoughtful address by Commencement speaker Tom Baldrige H'17, who currently serves as the interim president and CEO of Pennon, the parent organization of WITF public media.

Etown welcomed 544 members of the Class of 2029 to campus in the fall. This new class included 503 first-year students and 41 transfer students, and the average first-year student high school GPA was 3.74. The class included 10 Stamps Scholars, and 140 students were accepted into the Honors Program. Members of the class hail from 10 states, including 74% from Pennsylvania, and seven foreign countries.

The College hosted its annual Spring Day of Service on Friday, March 27, collaborating with Unto, a humanitarian organization based in Mount Joy, Pa., to help address food insecurity. More than 315 Blue Jay students, faculty, staff, and alumni volunteered to support those in need by packing more than 45,000 meal kits for people facing food insecurity across the globe. The event, which was organized by the Center for Community and Civic Engagement (CCCE), was made possible through the support of the Center for Global Understanding and Peacebuilding; the Institute for Engagement, Mission, and Impact; the Social Work Department; and Members First Federal Credit Union.

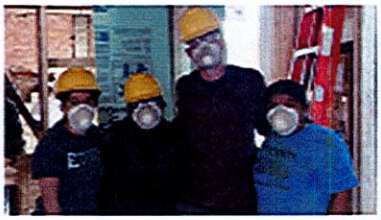


More than 320 Etown students, faculty, staff, and alumni prepared more than 45,000 meal kits during Etown's annual Spring Day of Service.

Etown recently signed a partnership with Bethany Theological Seminary to provide students and alumni with flexible, affordable pathways to graduate theological education and ministry careers. Through the partnership, Etown juniors and seniors can take Bethany graduate courses while completing their undergraduate degrees and pursue either a graduate certificate or master's degree through a 3+1 or 3+2 program. Alumni can also continue their education by earning a Bethany master's degree or graduate certificate online or on Bethany's campus in Richmond, Ind.

Etown's Occupational Therapy (OT) program recently received the 2026 #GenerationG Award from Lancaster-based nonprofit Gigi's Playhouse during the nonprofit's annual Spring Gala. The OT program and Gigi's Playhouse have been collaborative partners for more than four years, with more than 160 Etown OT students serving as tutors or volunteers. The award recognized the program's dedication to meaningful service and exceptional generosity. Gigi's Playhouse provides free educational, therapeutic, and career development programs to individuals with Down syndrome and their families.

The Center for Community and Civic Engagement (CCCE) provided students with meaningful service trips during Etown's fall and spring breaks. Eleven students stayed on campus to spend their fall break giving back to the local community by helping to build homes with Lancaster-Lebanon Habitat for Humanity. Seven students traveled to Alabama, Georgia, and Tennessee over spring break to participate in community service projects and civic learning activities. Stops included students volunteering with Habitat for Humanity in Tuscaloosa, Ala., to support a home-build project. In Selma, Ala., the group joined local Councilwoman Jannie Thomas in a cleanup project at Edmund Pettus Bridge and had an opportunity to meet Selma Mayor Johnny "Skip" Moss III.



Blue Jays helped build homes with Lancaster-Lebanon Habitat for Humanity during fall break.

Two Blue Jays were awarded the highly competitive Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship for the 2026-27 academic year. The Gilman Scholarship aims to cultivate the next generation of American leaders through funding students to study abroad. Mechelle Johnson-Reeves '28, who is majoring in International Business and Pre-Law, studied abroad this spring at the University of Malta in the Republic of Malta and volunteered her time at service agencies, educating refugees on financial literacy and budgeting. History major Ernest Lloyd '27 will study abroad at Marburg University in Marburg, Germany, this fall. He received a special designation as a Gilman-German Academic Exchange Service scholar.

The Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies at Elizabethtown College continues its mission of teaching, research, and public interpretation.

This year's highlights included a field trip in October, hosted by the Gettysburg (Pa.) Church of the Brethren. The day focused on the impact of the Civil War Battle of Gettysburg on Brethren families at the time. Some 56 participants from four states learned from historian Steve Longenecker, visited the historic Marsh Creek Meetinghouse, and toured the Seminary Ridge Museum on the campus of United Lutheran Theological Seminary.

In March, the Young Center's Durnbaugh Lecture featured Bethany Theological Seminary President Dr. Jeff Carter, who spoke on "Church and Culture: A Shaking of the Foundations . . . Again." Carter considered how the church can faithfully engage with contemporary culture in our current moment. The next day, Carter led the Durnbaugh Seminar, which included a panel discussion with the Rev. Brian Messler, lead pastor of Ephrata (Pa.) Church of the Brethren; the Rev. Lexi Andre-Aligarbes, co-pastor, Harrisburg (Pa.) First Church of the Brethren; the Rev. Audrey Hollenberg-Duffey, director of the Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center; and the Rev. Amy Shorner-Johnson, Elizabethtown College's chaplain and director of spiritual and religious life. The seminar drew engaging and spirited audience participation.

In May, the Young Center was pleased to host Professor Bao Xiaowan of Shanxi University School of Foreign Languages. Dr. Bao is researching the history and legacy of the Brethren mission in China during the early 20th century. She was delighted to be able to use the mission records and personal papers of Brethren missionaries that have been so well prepared and stewarded by Etown's Hess Archives.

The Young Center hosted an evening to celebrate the music of beloved Brethren musicians Andy and Terry Murray on Nov. 11. Rachel Bucher Swank MME'25, music coordinator at the Elizabethtown (Pa.) Church of the Brethren, contextualized the Murray's musical legacy, drawing on research she completed as a student in Elizabethtown College's Master of Music Education and Peacebuilding program.

The Murrays then sang and shared stories related to their music, and ended the evening by inviting the audience to join them in singing several favorite songs.

THE YOUNG CENTER FOR ANABAPTIST AND PIETIST STUDIES

ELIZABETHTOWN COLLEGE

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

The Young Center is turning 40! Elizabethtown College established the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies in 1986 to promote research and interpretation of the traditions that shaped the Church of the Brethren and other groups.

Scholars Donald B. Kraybill and Donald and Hedda Durnbaugh played key roles in the Center's founding, flourishing, and international recognition. In recent years, the Young Center hosted researchers from a dozen countries, as well as the Seventh Brethren World Assembly and a global conference on Early Anabaptism.

Join us during our 40th anniversary year for programs with theologian Dr. Drew Hart on Anabaptism and Black theology, Dr. Jeff Bach on history of the Church of the Brethren mission in China, and more!

This year's Kreider Fellowship supported the work of Dr. Frederique Green, a UK-based researcher, who spent the spring semester on the Etown campus writing about church-state relations involving the Old Order Amish.

In late April, the Young Center's visiting fellow, Dr. Nelson Okanya, led a one-day seminar on Anabaptism and mission, attended by 18 church leaders from five states and Ontario, Canada.

The Young Center continues to welcome church and community groups to tour the Bowers Interpretive Gallery, which combines photos, objects, and sound to explain the central importance of peace and service in Anabaptist and Pietist traditions. Thank you for your support of the Young Center.

Visit **etown.edu/youngctr** for upcoming programs, videos of past events, and news of research and publications.

2025 Peace Fellow Dr. Jeanne Elberfeld presented the fall Peace Fellow Lecture, "Peace is Not in Our Control," which explored how society can nurture strong children and families to become integrated, connected individuals who are the light-bearers and peacemakers our world needs. Dr. Elberfeld is a licensed social worker and retired family practitioner. She offers training for schools and community groups in brain and body-based understanding and behavioral interventions, honoring the unique needs of the person.

The Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies

at **Elizabethtown College** continues its mission of teaching, research, and public interpretation.

This past year's highlights included a Saturday field trip in October, hosted by the Gettysburg Church of the Brethren. The day focused on the impact of the Civil War on Brethren families. Some 56 participants from four states visited the historic Marsh Creek Meetinghouse. The group also enjoyed a delicious noon meal provided by Gettysburg CoB!

In November the Young Center hosted an evening of singing and storytelling with Brethren musicians Andy and Terry Murray. In March, the Center's Durnbaugh Lecture featured Bethany Theological Seminary President Dr. Jeff Carter who spoke on "Church and Culture: A Shaking of the Foundations ... Again." Carter considered how the church can faithfully engage with contemporary culture in our current moment.

In late April, the Young Center's visiting fellow, Dr. Nelson Okanya, a Kenyan-American Mennonite, led a one-day seminar on Anabaptism and mission, attended by eighteen church leaders from five states and Ontario.

In May 2026, the Young Center was pleased to host Professor Bao Xiaowan of Shanxi University, Taiyuan, China. Dr. Bao is researching the history and legacy of the Church of the Brethren mission in China, 1908–1950. She was delighted to find mission records and the personal papers of Brethren missionaries so well cared for in Etown's Hess Archives.

In addition to caring for materials like those Professor Bao used, Hess Archives also serves as the official repository for the Southern Pennsylvania District and its congregations. Churches are invited to contact archivist Rachel Grove Rohrbaugh (grover@etown.edu) to discuss stewardship of their records. Please see Church of the Brethren Collection Policy.

The Young Center continues to welcome church and community groups to tour the Center's Bowers Interpretive Gallery, which combines photos, objects, and sound to present the beliefs and values of Anabaptist and Pietist traditions.

Please visit the Young Center website (www.etown.edu/centers/youngcenter) for upcoming programs, videos of past events, and news of research and publications. For information on Hess Archives, please see https://libraryguides.etown.edu/cobarchives

Thank you for your support of the Young Center and its mission.

Steven M. Nolt, Ph.D.
Young Center Director and Professor of History

Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry

The Ministry was founded in 1985 when the Pennsylvania Council of Churches, along with local churches and individuals recognized the need for such a ministry. On November 18, 2009, we became an independent non-profit organization and are in our 39th year of serving the Lord Jesus, our community and those that are just 'passing through.'

The Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry, Inc. offices and chapel are located in a trailer at the Petro Truck Stop on U.S. Route 11 between the Pennsylvania Turnpike and Interstate 81 in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. The Chaplain's office is located at one end and is usually open from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM, seven days a week. The chapel end is open 24/7/365 to provide a quiet place for truckers to pray, meditate or read. The chapel provides a significant amount of free literature including Bibles, Our Daily Bread and books and pamphlets designed to meet the spiritual needs of truckers and travelers. The Chaplain's vehicle is marked as such and can be seen traveling throughout the several truck stops in the area. The truck stops themselves provide 'outposts' of the Ministry by having literature and donation boxes.

Each year, between Thanksgiving and Christmas, Carlisle Truck Stop Ministry, Inc. conducts a cookie collection and distribution event. Individuals from local churches and other groups prepare homemade cookies and place 5-6 cookies in decorated bags along with a note, tract or Bible verse. These bags are dropped off at the trailer and then distributed to the local truck stops, trucking depots, restaurants, motels, and businesses to be handed out to drivers, employees and motel guests. Between 13,000 and 15,000 bags of cookies are collected and distributed each year. The purpose is to let truckers and travelers know that we're thinking of them, that we are here for them, and to provide a 'taste of home' while they are on the road. Many drivers have contacted us to say how much they appreciate our thoughts and prayers for them.

The Cookie Collection is a great opportunity to share the good news of Jesus each year, in which several SOPA District congregations participate. Some of the congregations include scripture verses or gospel tracts with the bags of cookies, in order to share the gospel in our area of South Central Pennsylvania.

2025 Report to Church of the Brethren District Conferences

Bethany Seminary

February 1, 2025

As Bethany Theological Seminary enters its 31st year in Richmond, Indiana, we are delighted to report that our educational mission is thriving! We continue to see strong enrollment as students from the Church of the Brethren (as well as other Christian traditions) come to Bethany as they respond to a call from God to ministry and service. Thanks to strong financial support from alumni and friends, our robust academic program is affordable and accessible to all qualified students.

We have responded to the changing needs and interests of students by investing in technology that extends our learning community around the world. We regularly update courses or add new ones to help students grow spiritually and intellectually and prepare to minister and serve in a wide array of contexts. Yet the education we provide remains grounded in the enduring values and distinctive witness of the Church of the Brethren.

A review of the past decades reveals a clear trajectory as the Seminary has moved through worry about the institution's survival, completed diligent work to ensure our long term financial sustainability, and arrived at a moment where we can imagine flourishing for generations to come. The key to our success is that Bethany is a truly student-centered institution. When we put our energy and resources into providing students with a truly transformative seminary education, there is no doubt that Bethany, and our distinctive Brethren witness, will continue to shine.

Leadership

Board of Trustees

The Bethany Board of Trustees is led by Chairman Mark Clapper (Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania). Jacqueline Hartley (Elgin, Illinois) is vice chair and Jonathan Frye (McPherson, Kansas) is board secretary. New members of the board are Katy Gray Brown (North Manchester, Indiana), David McFadden (Milford, Indiana), and Dennis Webb (Evanston, Illinois).

Campus Leadership

Rev. Dr. Jeff Carter is in his 12th year as president of Bethany. He is assisted by an experienced leadership team that helps guide long-term planning and day-to-day decision making at the Seminary. This year Jeff has represented Bethany at meetings of the World Council of Churches, the Association of Theological Schools, and on visits to Nigeria. Locally, he remains engaged in the local community, working to build relationships with key

partners. Jeff continues to speak in congregations and at district and denominational events, and is working to strengthen the seminary's connection to the Brethren colleges.

Major Initiatives

The Seminary is working with the six Brethren colleges to establish a pathway for high achieving students at the colleges to earn a graduate certificate or begin work on a master's degree through Bethany while they are still undergraduates. Bethany hopes to have memoranda of understanding with all of the institutions signed within a year. The program will not only strengthen ties between the colleges and the Seminary, but also to provide undergraduates a seamless, affordable, and accessible way to pursue theological education and prepare to answer a call to various forms of ministry and service.

Bethany held its first Commencement ceremony in Jos. Nigeria on May 21, 2024. That joyous occasion honored 22 graduates who had completed postgraduate diplomas and certificates between 2021-24. The event marked an important milestone in a multiyear effort to build and nurture relationships in Nigeria. For context, Bethany signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Ekkleisiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN) to offer an online educational program in 2016. The technology center where classes are now held was constructed in 2017. Bethany now has two full-time staff members in Jos — Sharon Flaten and Joshua Sati — who have built relationships with students, friends, and neighbors. President Jeff Carter and other Seminary leaders have traveled to Nigeria several times to meet with leaders of government offices, religious organizations, and academic institutions. We have also hosted visitors from Nigeria in Richmond. Especially notable is our connection to Rev. Dr. Daniel Mbaya, the president of EYN. He was keynote speaker at our first Nigeria commencement, and he visited our campus last summer.

Funded in part by a grant from the City of Richmond, Bethany has launched a new opportunity for leadership training and service that is open to students from all of the higher education institutions in Richmond. The Seminary has forged a new partnership with Indiana University East, which includes the opportunity for Bethany students to enroll in select courses offered at the University. These collaborations are part of Bethany's effort to deepen its connections to the local community.

At the 2024 Annual Conference, Bethany celebrated the public launch of Flourish: A Campaign for Bethany Theological Seminary. This fundraising effort seeks $12 million to enhance the student experience, encourage faculty creativity and innovation, and to bolster the Seminary's annual fund. As of January 1, 2025, the Seminary had received 1209 gifts to the campaign and raised $10.8 million. This total includes several leadership gifts, including $1 million from Priscilla Wampler, and her late husband, Paul, to support the Bethany BOLD program; $1.4 million from Kathy and Mark Melhorn in support of various needs; and an additional gift to ensure that the Seminary will continue to have a strong focus on Brethren studies. Bethany intends to complete the campaign in 2026.

Academic Community

The Seminary continues to offer four master's degrees, as well as nine programs leading to graduate certificates or postgraduate diplomas. All courses are accessible to students from anywhere in the world via an internet connection. Bethany offers students many opportunities to put their faith and education into practice through community engagement and service learning activities. Some intensive courses continue to be offered far from campus in such locations as Atlanta, Los Angeles, and Iona, Scotland.

Selected Faculty Activities

Dr. Jeff Carter led a continuing education event for pastors at the Idaho/Western Montana District Conference. He was also a presenter at the Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center's day-long fall symposium. His presentation was entitled, "The Question of Leadership: Why It Matters!" In addition, Carter was a presenter and closing speaker at the Church of the Brethren LEAD Conference hosted by the Ephrata Church of the Brethren. He also recently published an essay in In Trust magazine discussing Bethany's commitment to forming community in person and with technology.

Dr. Joelle Hathaway presented at the American Academy of Religion on "A New Icon of The Triumph of Orthodoxy" in a pedagogy section called "Teach This Image." She also published a visual curation and commentary for The Visual Commentary on Scripture titled, "Discerning the Body." One image each from artists Graeme Mortimer Evelyn, Nyoman Darsane, and Susan Dorothea White were put into conversation with 1 Corinthians 11:17-33 to consider what it means "to come together" as a Church in today's world. These three contemporary works were chosen as small windows into the pressing issues of global poverty, gender discrimination, and ethnic and racial oppression. Read in light of Paul's concerns for the celebration of the Lord's Supper, these images invite us to consider various challenges to the unity of the body of Christ. Link: https://thevcs.org/discerning-body

At the December 2023 meeting of the Academy of Homiletics, Dr. Dawn Ottoni-Wilhelm, Brightbill professor of preaching and worship and editor of the journal Homiletic, gave a panel presentation on publication trends in the field of homiletics, along with editors of the International Journal of Homiletics, Westminster John Knox Press, and Rowan and Littlefield.

Dr. Denise Kettering-Lane, associate professor of Brethren studies, presented papers at two conferences last fall. In September, she presented "Lessons from the Past for 21st-Century Brethren" at The Forum for Brethren Studies at Bridgewater College. She shared "The Krefeld Connection: Pietists and Immigration to Germantown, Pennsylvania" at the Heirs of Pietism II Conference held at United Theological Seminary in October.

Dr. Steve Schweitzer, academic dean, published "Introduction and Biblical Context Notes" on 1-2 Chronicles in Anabaptist Community Bible. Harrisonburg, VA: MennoMedia, 2025. Schweitzer presented a paper: "Proximity to an Elusive Utopia in Deuteronomy: How the

Book Presents Its Vision as Accessible but Not Realized" at the Utopian Studies Consultation, national annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, in San Antonio, Texas. He also led a Continuing Education Unit event for Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center titled "Choose Life: Deuteronomy's Message."

Dr. Dan Ulrich, Wieand professor of New Testament studies, published commentaries about Hebrews 1:1-12 and Hebrews 10:5-10 at workingpreacher.org. Both passages appear this year in the Revised Common Lectionary.

Enrollment

As of the beginning of the 2025 Spring Semester, Bethany's enrollment was as follows:

Certificates and postgraduate diplomas: 47

MA: 12

MATW: 21

MASST: 10

MDiv: 23

Total: 113*

*Note: some students are enrolled in more than one program at a time.

Fiscal Stewardship

	FY23	FY24
Assets	$60,960,422	$66,060,717
Endowment	$47,080,825	$51,587,976
Surplus/Deficit	$3,308	$11,126
Operating Budget	$3,298,544	$3,581,316

Fundraising	FY23	FY24
Bethany Fund	$722,315.33	$752,214.45
Total Giving	$1,388,106.73	$1,896,186.21
Number of Gifts	1,754	1,592

We are very thankful to all of those in the Church of the Brethren who support the mission of the Seminary.

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Jeff Carter, President

Mr. Mark Clapper, Board Chair

Pull Out Section

SOUTHERN PA DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
2026 DISTRICT CONFERENCE

FORM TO: MOVE TO AMEND

I Move to Amend The Motion By:

1. STRIKING OUT on page____at line____beginning with the word_____through page____at line____ending with the word_____.

2. INSERTING on page____on line____between the words_____and _____the following:

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   _____

3. ADDING on page____on line____after the words_____the following:

   _____

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4. STRIKING OUT on page____on line____beginning with the word_____through page ___on line____ending with the word_____: and INSERTING or SUBSTITUTING the following:

   _____

   _____

   _____

   _____

Signed:_____Congregation:_____

(Use the other side of this sheet if more space is needed.)

SOUTHERN PA DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
SUGGESTIONS FOR 2028 BALLOT

The District Nominating & Personnel Committee continues to seek persons to be considered for District offices. If you have interest in serving in any of the below categories or can suggest someone who you believe would be qualified to serve in one of these positions, please share this information with the District Nominating & Personnel Committee. (Zone Chart is on the reverse side of this sheet. Please list name and person's congregation where they are a member.)

	NAME	CONGREGATION
Moderator-Elect		
District Board		
Central Zone		
Eastern Zone		
Northern Zone		
Western Zone		
At-Large		
Nominating & Personnel Committee		
Eastern Zone		
Western Zone		
Program & Arrangements Committee		
Central Zone		
Eastern Zone		
Northern Zone		
Western Zone		

Please complete and submit by email or mail (by December 30, 2026)

Email: *SOPADistrict@brethren.org*

Mail: SOPA District Office, 3375 Carlisle Road Suite A, Gardners, PA 17324

DISTRICT CONGREGATIONS BY ZONE

EASTERN ZONE (9)
Black Rock
Codorus
Faith Community
Hanover
New Freedom
West York
York First
York Madison Ave.
York Second

NORTHERN ZONE (4)
Farmer's Grove Fellowship
Free Spring
Mount Olivet
Sugar Valley

CENTRAL ZONE (6)
Carlisle
Huntsdale
Mechanicsburg
Newville
West Shore Fellowship
Wolgamuth

WESTERN ZONE (7)
Chambersburg
Gettysburg
Greencastle
Knobsville
Rouzerville
Shanks
Waynesboro