

Wrap Up



The officers preside over the virtual Annual Conference from a head table at the Church of the Brethren General Offices in Elgin, Ill.: (seated from left) moderator-elect David Sollenberger, moderator Paul Munday, and secretary James Beckwith. Operating the camera is Aidan Replegle. Photo by Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford

By the numbers

Registration: 519 delegates from congregations and districts and 705 nondelegates for a total registration of 1,224

New fellowships and church projects:

- 1 new fellowship: **Centro Ágape en Acción (Los Banos)** in Pacific Southwest District
- 3 new projects: **Nueva Visión la Hermosa Iglesia de Los Hermanos** and **Conexión Pasadena** in Pacific Southwest District, and **Light of the Gospel Fellowship** in Atlantic Northeast District

Offerings received as of July 4:

- \$3,705** for the Core Ministries of the Church of the Brethren
- \$2,745** for church rebuilding in Nigeria
- \$2,665** to support the Conference budget
- \$1,445** for translation of Conference documents and simultaneous translation
- \$1,195** for the expenses of volunteers leading children's activities at Conference
- \$1,170** for new furniture and supplies for children's activities at Conference
- \$250** for the Minister's Assistance Fund
- \$250** for Intercultural Ministries
- \$200** for the Office of Global Mission
- \$150** for Discipleship Ministries
- \$100** for the Global Food Initiative
- \$55** for the Haiti Medical Project
- \$200** to be divided among daily offerings

Virtual blood drive: 42 pints including 2 double reds, and 6 donations of platelets. Some 22 others have pledged to donate. The drive continues through July.

Minimum Cash Salary Table for pastors:
2 percent cost-of-living increase for 2022

See www.brethren.org/news/coverage/annual-conference-2021 for full coverage of the 2021 Annual Conference. Order the Annual Conference Wrap-Up DVD for \$29.95 and Sermons DVD for \$24.95 each from www.brethrenpress.com.

Together, as the Church of the Brethren, we will passionately live and share the radical transformation and holistic peace of Jesus Christ through relationship-based neighborhood engagement. To move us forward, we will develop a culture of calling and equipping disciples who are innovative, adaptable, and fearless.



Graphic designed by Donita Keister and Nicole Keister-Hornig

Annual Conference affirms compelling vision statement

The 2021 delegate body affirmed the compelling vision statement for the Church of the Brethren, shown above. This was the only substantive business item coming to the delegate body beyond elections and reports.

The 2021 Annual Conference was the first fully online annual meeting of the Church of the Brethren. Presiding were moderator Paul Munday assisted by moderator-elect David Sollenberger and Conference secretary James Beckwith.

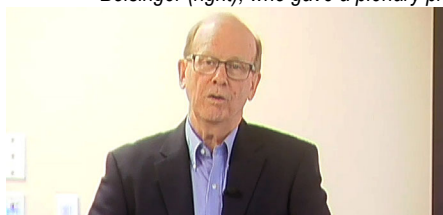
The affirmation of the compelling vision ended a years-long process of conversation and data gathering that involved some 3,000 Church of the Brethren members in numerous gatherings and venues across the denomination, including conversations around the tables at previous Conferences.

Conversation about the compelling vision continued at this Conference in small online groups who met in virtual break-out rooms or "tables." Both delegates and nondelegates who registered for the full Conference were invited to participate in the small-group conversations.

The "tables" discussed and submitted responses to a number of questions posed by Rhonda Pittman Gingrich, co-chair of the Compelling Vision Team along with Church of the Brethren general secretary David A. Steele. Also on the team were Michaela Alphonse, Kevin Daggett, John N. Jantzi, Brian Messler, Colleen Michael, Alan Stuckey, Kay Weaver, former moderators Samuel Sarpiya and Donita Keister, 2021 moderator Paul Munday, and Conference director Chris Douglas.

A question for small-group conversation at the start of the Saturday morning business session—"How might we be known," (continued on page 2)

Screenshots of guest resource speakers Michael Gorman (left), who led daily Bible studies, and Tod Bolsinger (right), who gave a plenary presentation during the business sessions.



Elections and appointments

Two ballots were elected, the 2021 ballot and a 2020 ballot deferred from the Conference canceled last year because of the pandemic. Those elected from the 2020 ballot, except for the moderator-elect, serve one year less than the usual term. Also below are additional directors, trustees, and other appointments affirmed by or reported to the Conference. An asterisk (*) indicates those nominated to fill unexpired terms, whose terms already have concluded.

Annual Conference moderator-elect

Tim McElwee of Wolcottville, Ind.

Church of the Brethren Leadership Team

Torin Eikler, Northern Indiana District executive, appointed by the Council of District Executives (CODE)

Mission and Ministry Board

* Martha Stover Barlow, Harrisonburg, Va., representing Area 3

Lauren Seganos Cohen, San Gabriel, Calif., Area 5

Barbara Daté, Eugene, Ore., Area 5

John Michael Hoffman, McPherson, Kan., at-large

Josiah Ludwick of Harrisburg, Pa., Area 1

Kathy A. Mack of Rochester, Minn., Area 4

Meghan Horne Mauldin, Columbus, N.C., Area 3

* John Mueller, Fleming Island, Fla., Area 3

Karen Shively Neff, Gotha, Fla., Area 3

Joanna Wave Willoughby, Wyoming, Mich., at-large

Rebecca Miller Zeek, Duncansville, Pa., Area 1

Brethren Benefit Trust

Sara Davis, La Canada Flintridge, Calif.;

Janis Fahs, North Manchester, Ind.

Donna March, Carpentersville, Ill.

Gerald (Jerry) Patterson, Fairfax, Va.

Wayne T. Scott, Harrisburg, Pa., elected by Pension Plan participants

(Fellowship of Brethren Homes)

David L. Shissler, Hummelstown, Pa.

Kathryn Whitacre, McPherson, Kan., elected by Pension Plan participants (Brethren Ministers Asso. and CODE)

Program and Arrangements Committee

Nathan Hollenberg, Broadway, Va.

Beth Jarrett, Harrisonburg, Va.

Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee

Arthur Fourman, Dayton, Ohio

Gene Hagenberger, Mid-Atlantic District executive, appointed by CODE

Robert S. McMinn, Huntingdon, Pa.

Bethany Theological Seminary

Chris Bowman, Manassas, Va.,

representing clergy

Mark A. Clapper, Elizabethtown, Pa., at-large

Karen O. Crim, Dayton, Ohio, at-large

John Flora, Bridgewater, Va., at-large

Drew Hart, Harrisburg, Pa.,

representing laity

Jacki Hartley of Elgin, Ill.,

representing laity

Steve Longenecker, Harrisonburg, Va., representing the colleges

Richard Rose, Claremont, Calif., at-large

On Earth Peace

Rudy Amaya, Pasadena, Calif.

Ruth Aukerman, Union Bridge, Md.

Irvin R. Heishman, Tipp City, Ohio

Alyssa Parker, Harrisburg, Pa.

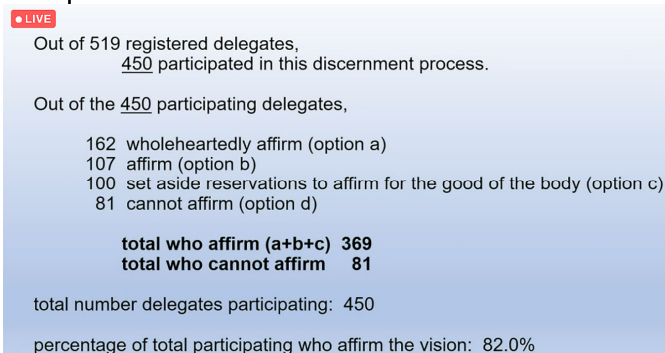
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both as congregations and as a denomination, if we truly embrace and live out the vision of Jesus in the neighborhood?"—led into the discernment process that was used to affirm the vision.

Delegates were offered the choice of four responses: first, "I feel inspired and wholeheartedly affirm the vision"; second, "I affirm the vision"; third, "I have reservations, but will set them aside and affirm the vision for the good of the body"; and fourth, "I cannot affirm the vision."

Of the 519 registered delegates, 450 participated in making the decision by choosing one of the four options in an online vote. When results were tallied, the statement was affirmed with 82 percent of those participating choosing one of the first three affirmative options.

A screenshot of the announcement of the results is below.



This was the final Conference of director Chris Douglas' tenure, before she retires later this year. Above, a screenshot shows her at the podium with elected members of the Program and Arrangements Committee: Jan Glass King, Emily Shonk Edwards, and Carol Hips Elmore.



Photographer Glenn Riegel followed along as videographers David Sollenberger and Larry Glick pre-recorded the preachers for four of the five daily worship services. From left: Beth Sollenberger, Paul Munday, Tyler and Chelsea Goss, and Patrick Starkey. At bottom: a screenshot of Richard Zapata's sermon.