

## District Conference, “Where peace and justice meet,” Oct 4-6th



District Conference for the Pacific Northwest District Church of the Brethren is approaching! Conference will begin Friday, October 4th at 4pm and conclude Sunday, October 6th at 11am. This year’s conference will be a hybrid conference, with District members gathering both online and in-person. The in-person conference will be held at Camp Koinonia in Cle Elum, Washington (<https://campkoinonia.org/>). Camp Koinonia, one of the Pacific Northwest District’s camps, is nestled in beautiful wooded nature, providing an enriching environment for our spiritual, community, and church-business discussions and activities.

District Conference is an opportunity for District members to come together to reflect on the past year of District life as well as discern together the future for our collection of congregations. Additionally, there will be programs and activities to foster spiritual exploration and nurture our community connections.

The theme for this year’s conference will be “Where peace and justice meet,” drawn from Jeremiah 22:3, which reads “This is what the Lord says: Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of the oppressor the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place.”

Together, we will explore questions about the intersection of peace and justice. Our world today is in deep need of peace and justice—what does it look like for us to work towards both in harmony? How can our peacemaking roots nourish our work for social justice? District Conference will conclude with a Sunday morning worship service, at which Dana Cassell will preach on these themes. Dana’s writings can be read at <https://danacassell.substack.com>.

Registration for online participation is free. For in-person attendance at Camp Koinonia, standard registration costs are \$175 per person, which covers overnight lodging and meals (Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast). Customized registration options, such as departing Saturday evening or only meals without overnight lodging, can be created at request—please email [pnwdcob@gmail.com](mailto:pnwdcob@gmail.com) if you require a custom registration option!

Scholarship options are also available for all to use as needed—no qualifications or approval necessary. Our district makes these scholarship options freely available to help ensure that financial concerns are not a barrier to participation. On the [registration page](#), you will find discount code options for a 50% discount scholarship and 100% discount scholarship. There is also a donation option for those who would like to donate funds to financially support this scholarship program.

Registration for District Conference is open now at: [districtconference2024.eventbrite.com](https://districtconference2024.eventbrite.com)

If you have any questions about this year's District Conference, please don't hesitate to reach out! Questions can be directed to Daniel Klayton at [pnwdcob@gmail.com](mailto:pnwdcob@gmail.com)

## **Living Stream gathering at Annual Conference**



At July’s Annual Conference, Living Stream Church of the Brethren hosted a gathering of congregation members open to other District attendees as well.

Annual Conference provides a great opportunity for members of this online church to gather in fellowship in-person!

## Call for nominations for District leadership positions

With District Conference approaching, the District Board is seeking candidates for District leadership positions. Nominations are welcome from across our District community, and there are a variety of open positions this year. These include:

### **District Moderator (2-year term)**

The District Moderator leads our District body through each year's District Conference, helping with conference planning and facilitation during the conference itself. In particular, the District Moderator moderates the business sessions of District Conference. The District Moderator is also a member of the District Board.

### **District Board Chair (2-year term)**

The District Board Chair leads the District Board in its work throughout the year. This includes guiding the priorities and discernments of the Board, as well as leading each Board meeting (which tend to occur about once every two months).

### **Recording Secretary (3-year term)**

The District's Recording Secretary is responsible for recording the minutes of District Conference as well as District Board meetings. The Recording Secretary is also themselves a member of the District Board.

### **Ministry Team chair (2-year term)**

The Ministry Team chair leads the work of the District Ministry Team, a continuing committee of the District. The Ministry

Team is responsible for supporting individuals through the identification and credentialing process of ministry, conflict mediation, and supporting Area Ministers. The Ministry Team chair may also call together teams to oversee particular tasks, such as periodic ordination reviews. The Ministry Team chair is not a formal member of the District Board, but works closely with the District Board in overseeing Ministry Team functions.

### **District Executive team member (unspecified term length)**

Our current model of District leadership entails a team of three individuals working together to accomplish the work that, in the past, a single District Executive was responsible for. Together, the District Executive team works to guide, counsel, and encourage district and local church workers in the development of needed church programs. The team also coordinates with denominational bodies as representatives of the District. Members of the District Executive team are also District Board members.

All of these positions are open to members of any of our District churches. If you are interested in learning more about or potentially serving in any of these leadership capacities, please email [pnwdcob@gmail.com](mailto:pnwdcob@gmail.com) to connect with District Board members for discernment and discussion together! Likewise, if you would like to suggest someone you know for any of these positions, please email us with their name and contact information so that members of our District Board can reach out!

## **District-wide prayer gatherings on Zoom, first Thursdays**

Our District-wide prayer gatherings on Zoom continue each month, with a temporarily modified schedule. Our prayer gatherings are currently held the first Thursday of each month, with plans to return to our prior schedule of first and third Thursdays beginning in October. District prayer gatherings always begin at 7pm Pacific time, and tend to be about 45 minutes.

These gatherings are not only a time to settle into prayer midweek, but also an opportunity to build connections with fellow Church of the Brethren congregation members across our Washington, Oregon, and online churches. With our wide geographical spread—not just in the Pacific Northwest but across the globe through Living Stream Church of the Brethren—it might sometimes feel difficult to build and foster connections with members of other congregations. These online prayer gatherings are a perfect option to do so.

Whether you've joined for a District prayer gathering before or haven't yet had the chance to do so, your presence is more than welcome! Keep an eye out for an announcement email before each gathering. You can also stay abreast of when these gatherings occur—and find the Zoom link to join—through the "Events" section of the District website, [www.cobpacificnorthwest.org](http://www.cobpacificnorthwest.org)

### **Comments? Questions? Suggestions for future newsletters?**

We'd love to hear from you!  
You can reach us at  
[pnwdcob@gmail.com](mailto:pnwdcob@gmail.com)  
or through the contact form at  
[cobpacificnorthwest.org/contact](http://cobpacificnorthwest.org/contact)

## **Church of the Brethren seeking nominations for denominational leadership**

Our District is not the only church body seeking nominations for leadership positions! There are a number of denominational leadership opportunities that currently have an open call for nominations. While some positions are geographically defined, most are open to nominees from all across the Church of the Brethren, offering great opportunities for our District voices to be present in denominational leadership. Positions that are open to nominations from our District include:

- Moderator-elect (one person, 3-year term)
- Annual Conference Program & Arrangements Committee (one person, 3-year term)
- Review and Evaluation Committee (five persons, 2-4 year term)
- Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee - Laity (one person, 5-year term)

Nominations will be gathered from July until December, and then the Nominating Committee and Standing Committee work to select two nominees per position. These two nominees are then

presented on the ballot at Annual Conference. Our denomination continues to seek diversity and balance in leadership across such demographic lines as gender, age, geography, theology, and more, and so a wide diversity of nominations are encouraged.

Nominations can be submitted online by following the "Nominations" link at [www.brethren.org/ac](http://www.brethren.org/ac). Paper nomination forms can also be requested by calling 847-429-4364 or 800-323-8039 and selecting "Annual Conference Office" from the phone menu.

Nominations must be submitted by December 4th, 2024.

## Pacific Northwest District at Song and Story Fest

After July's Annual Conference, folks from across the denomination gathered in Michigan at Camp Brethren Heights for this year's Song and Story Fest, joining in intergenerational activities and worship, music-making and story-sharing, and a whole lot of fun.



This year's Song and Story Fest was centered around the theme of "Exploring the Heights and Depths of Community." This year's gathering in Michigan brought together folks from across our Pacific Northwest District!



## Upcoming events

*September 7th, 8am-11am Pacific time*

"Supporting Children Overwhelmed by Anxiety," McPherson Ventures Course

- "In this class, we will explore the many causes of anxiety in children. We will examine the influences, both positive and negative, from the family, neighborhood, peers, school, outside activities, video games, and social media. We will explore the effect of national and world events on their perceived view of danger, concern, or safety."
- Part of the Ventures course series, which seeks "to empower lay people, especially in smaller congregations, to more effectively carry out the work of discipleship, following in Jesus' footsteps to transform ourselves and the world."
- Online, free to register and optional donations
- <https://www.mcpherson.edu/ventures/>
- Denomination-wide

*October 4th-6th*

"Where peace and justice meet," District Conference 2024

- An opportunity for District members to come together to reflect on the past year of District life as well as discern together the future for our collection of congregations.
- Programs and activities to foster spiritual exploration and nurture our community connections.
- Attendance options online and in-person at Camp Koinonia in Cle Elum, WA
- <https://districtconference2024.eventbrite.com/>
- District-wide

*October 8th & 15th, 4pm-6:30pm Pacific time*

"Happiness in Hard Times: A View from the Psalms," McPherson Ventures Course

- "Why do we think of these as hard times? We will touch on this slightly in this session, but what will occupy us more is, how do the Psalms characterize the "happy." The book of Psalms uses the term happy several times. We will carefully examine these and simultaneously explore how we pursue happiness."
- Part of the Ventures course series, which seeks "to empower lay people, especially in smaller congregations, to more effectively carry out the work of discipleship, following in Jesus' footsteps to transform ourselves and the world."
- Online, free to register and optional donations
- <https://www.mcpherson.edu/ventures/>
- Denomination-wide

Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership proudly offers:

## Introduction to the New Testament

OCTOBER 16 – DECEMBER 10, 2024

8-WEEK ONLINE COURSE

[REGISTER ONLINE](#)

### Course Description and Objectives



TRIM Courses taken for full credit require 75-90 hours of work, which includes 500-600 pages of reading.

This course is available to:

- TRIM/EFSM students-fulfills:
  - ✓ 1 Ministry Study
- Those seeking Continuing Education Units (2.0 CEU)
- Anyone seeking personal and spiritual enrichment.

Essentially, this course is open to ALL!

Course fee \$300.00

#### Registration deadline:

**September 11, 2024**

Please do not order books until this date.

#### Course Description:

The Church of the Brethren has long held that it has “no creed save the New Testament.” Yet the New Testament itself is a collection of books and letters of a wide range of genres, none of which resemble a traditional creed. In this course, we will look at the various books of the New Testament, explore the world which created these texts, and look at how the texts may have interacted both with each other and the Hebrew Scriptures. We will look at what the ancient authors of the texts might have been trying to say to their audiences as well as what they are still saying today.

#### Course Objectives:

Upon completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Critically analyze the texts of the New Testament.
2. Identify and describe elements of the surrounding culture informing the texts of the New Testament.
3. Interpret New Testament passages using the biblical text, scholarly commentaries, and external information.
4. Apply this meaning from the text to a modern ministry-related

### Instructor: Matt Boersma

Matthew Boersma is a PhD candidate in Hebrew Bible and its Interpretation at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. He is finished with coursework and exams; he only needs to complete his dissertation. Matt’s work focuses on the early interpretation of the Hebrew Bible by both the rabbis and the Christians in the context of their Roman world. Prior to Hebrew Union College, Matt graduated from Bethany Theological Seminary with an MA in 2011. Matt lives in Greensburg, Indiana, with his spouse Nykki and three children: Miriam (17), Malachi (13) and Salome (9).



**Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership**  
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**Course Withdrawal Refund Policy**

- 100% of course fee prior to registration deadline
- 50% from the registration deadline to the first day of class
- No refunds will be given, once the class has begun
- Exceptions require the approval of the Director of the Brethren Academy

**To earn CEU credit**

- Participant will
- Meet the attendance requirement
  - Complete the assigned reading
  - Engage in the course through participation
  - Complete reduced assignments as outlined in the syllabus

**Required Text**

- *Study Bible*. The one from the Orientation course is fine. If you do not have that one, I suggest *The New Oxford Annotated Bible (NRSV)* (ISBN: 978-0-19-528955-8)
- Achtemeier, Paul J., Joel B. Green, and Marianne Meye Thompson. *Introducing the New Testament: Its Literature and Theology*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: W.B. Eerdmans Pub., 2001. (ISBN: 978-0-8028-3717-2)

**Expectations**

Online learning requires students to be disciplined in their time management. Students are expected to spend 10 hours per week in course-related work

For online learning, students will need basic computer skills and access to the internet. If your computer is four years old or less, you should have the capabilities for this class. These capabilities include:

- Modem: Minimum 56 kbps speed is slow but adequate. A speed of 100 kbps (300 recommended) is needed for podcasts and 300 kbps (500 recommended) for videos
- An email account
- An up-to-date web browser; such as Firefox, Internet Explorer or Google Chrome

**Introduction to the New Testament: October 16 – December 10, 2024**

[Register online](#) or fill out following information and return, along with payment to:  
Brethren Academy \* 615 National Road West \*Richmond, IN \* 47374

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Best contact phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I will be taking this course for: \_\_\_ TRIM credit \_\_\_ EFSM credit \_\_\_ CEUs (2) \_\_\_ Personal Enrichment  
Course Fee: \$300 payable to Brethren Academy      Registration Deadline September 11, 2024



### **Request for Nominations for Denominational Offices**

The calling of denominational leadership begins when members of our congregations nominate gifted individuals for the next year's Annual Conference ballot. Your nominations help shape the future of the Church of the Brethren! As you prayerfully consider the open positions, who is the Lord prompting you to nominate for leadership in our denomination?

Please share this request with the leaders and members of your congregation and encourage them to submit nominations. Nominees are needed from every part of the church!

The offices to which leaders will be elected this coming year are listed on the next page of this document, along with our election procedures. More detailed information about each office open for nominations is provided at [www.brethren.org/nominations](http://www.brethren.org/nominations). Please note that some nominations must be made according to specific categories and that certain areas of expertise are needed for some offices. If you know people who work in one of the areas from which nominees need to come, please make a special effort to submit the names of those who could make a valuable contribution to our ministry and mission.

Please review the "Call to Accountability" charts, which can also be found at [www.brethren.org/nominations](http://www.brethren.org/nominations) – these demonstrate how we are working toward a balance of gender, age, racial/ethnic, rural/urban, theological, and professional representation among our leadership. The delegate body decided many years ago – and has reaffirmed several times – that this is an important aspirational goal.

**Please submit nominations online** via the "2025 Nominations" link at the [www.brethren.org/ac](http://www.brethren.org/ac) website.

Note: ***You must provide the email address*** of the person you are nominating, so we can send an email to invite your nominees to submit their information online. We cannot consider those who do not respond. Please follow up with those you nominate to make sure they received our email. Please contact us if they did not.

If you do not have internet access, you may request a paper nomination form from the Annual Conference Office ([annualconference@brethren.org](mailto:annualconference@brethren.org) or 847-429-4364 or 800-323-8039 (and select Annual Conference Office from the menu).

Submit all nominations **by December 4, 2024**.  
The earlier, the better! Thank you for your help.

The Nominating Committee depends upon your knowledge of the gifts and availability of diverse persons who can serve. We ask you to be diligent in your prayers and in your discernment of those who can lead and inspire us in our efforts to follow Jesus together.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact:

The Annual Conference Office at [annualconference@brethren.org](mailto:annualconference@brethren.org)  
or 847-429-4364 or 800-323-8039

or the Annual Conference Secretary at [acsecretary@brethren.org](mailto:acsecretary@brethren.org)

### Offices Open for Nomination for the 2025 Ballot

**Moderator-elect** (one person, 3-year term) Ineligible (past four moderators): Paul Munday, David Sollenberger, Tim McElwee, Madalyn Metzger

**Annual Conference Program & Arrangements Committee** (one person, 3-year term)  
Ineligible (member completing a term in 2025): Jacob Crouse

**Church of the Brethren Mission and Ministry Board** (one person, 5-year term)  
**from Area 1:** Atlantic Northeast, Southern PA, Middle PA, *Western PA, Mid-Atlantic\**  
*Districts not represented the past 5 years are shown in italics. \*no representation for the past 10 years*

**Church of the Brethren Mission and Ministry Board** (one person, 5-year term)  
**from Area 4:** *Missouri-Arkansas, Northern Plains, Southern Plains\**, Western Plains  
*Districts not represented the past 5 years are shown in italics. \*no representation for the past 10 years*

**Review and Evaluation Committee** (five persons, 2-4 year term)

**Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee - Laity** (one person, 5-year term)

### Election Procedures

1. From July until December each year, the Nominating Committee gathers *nominations* from across the denomination. This process seeks balance among the nominees between female and male, younger and older, rural and urban, geographic location, theological perspectives, and skill sets.
2. The Nominating Committee meets in early January to prepare a *ballot* of four names for each position. That ballot is distributed only to the current Standing Committee members (those who served at the previous Annual Conference), who keep that ballot confidential. The Standing Committee's vote reduces the ballot to two nominees per position. This is the tentative final ballot that will be presented at the Annual Conference. It is announced to the denomination at large in February (*AC Minutes 2001*).
3. Anyone *making a nomination from the floor* of Annual Conference is required, before presenting the name of a nominee, to offer a rationale for why the existing ballot for a particular position is inadequate. The Annual Conference delegates will be asked to vote on whether to accept a new nomination based on the presented rationale. If a majority of delegates vote to approve, the person may then present the name of an additional nominee. If the motion fails, the intended nomination shall not be presented nor named (*AC Minutes 2023*). If/when a nomination is allowed, biographical information and written consent by the nominee must be submitted to the Annual Conference secretary immediately for publication and distribution (*AC Minutes 1979*).
4. Each year the Nominating Committee explains the *goals*, needs, and procedures of our election process to the Standing Committee and the delegate body. Delegates are reminded to work towards a balance of age/gender/ethnic representation (*AC Minutes 2001*) – see the *Call to Accountability* report at [www.brethren.org/nominations](http://www.brethren.org/nominations). Standing Committee's 1983 "Call to Accountability of Representation on Annual Conference Ballots" also authorized Nominating Committee to use at-large categories in the structure of ballots to correct any imbalances of representation.
5. Congregations, districts, and agencies are called to do quality *leadership development*, giving leadership experience to a wide variety of persons to prepare them for possible denominational leadership, in particular to identify and call forth ethnic/minority leadership. All nominees for denominational leadership are encouraged to have participated in at least one *intercultural experience* in the past five years (*AC Minutes 2001 and 2007*).