



Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.
~1Peter 4:8-11

Did you know that there are more than 65 people who regularly volunteer at the district level? And that's not counting all the people who volunteer as moderators or pulpit fill for a congregation that is not their own, as mentors to discerners, for particular one-time projects, or just when something is needed... It's an incredible endeavor we do together!

This is the best of what it means to be a member of the Body of Christ – every single person has a role to play in the body, a role suited to the uniqueness God has created in them. In the Church of the Brethren, each of us is called to ministry at our baptism, called to steward our gifts for the good of the kingdom, for the glory of God, and for our neighbor's good.

Also in the Church of the Brethren, we expect that calling is always a combination of internal call and external call affirming one another. The call may come externally first, perhaps from someone asking you to serve in a particular capacity or naming gifts you have. Or the call may come internally first, perhaps from an internal sense of God's nudging to be more involved in a particular area of gift. Often when the call comes, we are startled by it. Like Moses, we often feel some version of, "Who, me? Are you sure you don't want someone else?" But when an internal calling is affirmed by an external calling ("you'd be really good at that!") or when an external calling is affirmed by an internal calling ("I feel a surprising sense of peace or excitement about that possibility!"), we in the Church of the Brethren, trust it, no matter how surprising or disruptive it might be.

I'm not a fan of asking people to fill holes in the church. Often we come at volunteering like an obligation. "Someone's gotta do it... I guess it may as well be me..." That's noble, certainly, but it may not be an expression of God's call. Instead, I try to seek volunteers through prayer and discernment, looking for the person God is nudging to serve the church and the world in a particular way. It's more an art than a science, more an intuitive than a practical stance.

I always say that a well-discerned "no" is as important as, and sometimes more difficult than, a well-discerned "yes." There are so many good things in the world to say yes to. But are we saying yes in the ways and places that God is calling us to say yes? And are we saying no to roles God is not calling us to, in order to make room for saying yes when the call is clear? Are we willing to be surprised and follow anyway, when God nudges in a direction we were not

expecting?

You may have guessed... it is nominating season. We are working at calling a number of people to various roles in the district. And we are looking, not just for warm bodies to fill holes, but for the people God is calling to participate in leadership. You may know that before we do! If God is nudging you, let us know. You also may know people around you who you sense God might be calling into service of the Body. If God reveals someone to you, let us know. And if we call you, that means that God has put your name in our hearts. Pray with it and see if the internal affirmation of that call comes. Don't be afraid to say no when we call if you don't sense God's voice in the invitation. But also – don't be afraid to say yes, even if you think, "who, me?" You might be just exactly the person the church needs in this moment.

(PS, Serving on committees doesn't always sound like fun, but laughter and fellowship is a sustaining part of our work at the district. You might have more fun than you anticipate! You certainly will be surrounded by mature and growing Jesus followers doing good work in the world!)

Here are the positions we are currently discerning around:

East Section: Loans and Grants Commission (giving money to congregations)
District Board (meets 5 times a year)

North Section: Program and Arrangements (planning district conference)
Ministry Credentialing Committee (working with discerners)
District Board (meets 5 times a year)

Central Section: Nominating and Personnel (calling leadership)
Loans and Grants Commission (giving money to congregations)

West Section: Nominating and Personnel (calling leadership)

South Section: District Board (meets 5 times a year)

Any Section: Indiana Camp Board (Camp Mack)
Brethren Leadership Institute (2 openings)
Moderator-elect (2026 Moderator)
Shalom Team (promoting peace and conflict resolution)

Now stop and pray for a moment.
What are you hearing from God?
Let us know!

With gratitude for all the ways you are stewarding the gifts God has given you for the good of the world,

Laura

DISTRICT NEWS ITEMS

DISTRICT FINANCIAL REPORT as of March 31, 2024

	<u>March</u>	<u>YTD</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Congregations' Self-Allocation	\$7,275.00	\$15,709.09
Restricted Income	\$45.00	\$45.00
Other Income	\$40,041.88	\$111,006.73
Total Income	\$47,361.88	\$126,760.82
<u>Expenses</u>		
District Expenses	\$14,616.28	\$39,997.74
Restricted Expenses	\$899.72	\$1,150.72
Total Expenses	\$15,516.00	\$41,148.46
Net	\$31,845.88	\$85,612.36
District Fund Balance	\$1,217,282.36	

MAY 2024 - DISTRICT CALENDAR DATES

May 2 - Ministry Credentialing Committee - 7:00 pm—District Office

May 4 - Calling the Called - 11:30 am—Camp Mack

May 9 - Ministry Credentialing Committee - 7:00 pm—District Office

May 11—District Board Meeting - 9:00—Pleasant Dale CoB

May 30 - June 1 - Women's Camp - Camp Mack

MAY DISTRICT PRAYER CALENDAR

May 5 - Join us as we lift up Lower Deer Creek CoB and the Shenandoah District.

May 12 - Join us as we lift up Manchester CoB and the Southeastern District.

May 19 - Join us as we lift up Manchester University.

May 25 - Join us as we lift up Camp Mack.

DISTRICT CHURCH UPDATES

- **Anderson** - Is currently in the search process to fill a new part-time ministry position, Leader for Growth and Community Engagement. For more information about this position, go to: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1a7uN41DD7o8pDfIOJ_cp-3b6B-cfDeIsJr6gRs4bj5s/edit?usp=sharing
- **Eel River Community**—Audrey Svay is resigning at the end of May. Eel River is in search for 3/4 time pastor or team.
- **Guernsey** - Is in the search process.
- **Manchester** - Is in the search process.
- **Wabash**— Pastor Doug Veal has been hired as the DEM of the Mid-Atlantic District. His end date at Wabash is June 10. The Wabash congregation is beginning the search process.



We extend our sympathy to the family of **Sue Spaulding** who passed away on April 10. Sue was the wife of Anderson CoB Pastor Spencer Spaulding.

We extend our sympathy to the family of **Dawn Wild** who passed away on April 27. Dawn was the preacher at Burnettsville CoB since 2016.

2024 DISTRICT DIRECTORY NOW AVAILABLE!!

The 2024 South/Central Indiana District Directory is now available. Digital copies will be sent to all churches and everyone listed in the directory.

If you do not receive a digital copy and would like one, or would like to have a paper copy mailed to you, please contact Sarah at the District Office (scindcob@gmail.com or 260-274-0396).

DISTRICT NEWS ITEMS

SAVE THE DATE

UNITY NOT UNIFORMITY!

2024 District Conference

September 13 and 14
Camp Mack, Milford, IN
Moderator: Bruce Dunk

Fellowship, service, and learning activities for everyone on Friday; worship, business and insight sessions on Saturday. Plan to come for the whole weekend and have a staycation at Camp Mack!

Delegate Designation forms will be sent to churches later this month and the non-delegate form will be available on the website. We will also have information about accommodations and meals available as well.

DO YOU HAVE FOLKS IN YOUR CONGREGATION THAT LOVE TO MAKE COMMUNION BREAD?

At District Conference this year, we will be having communion during the closing worship session and are in need of folks to make communion bread.



We would like to have a handful of congregations each prepare 20-30 servings of bread to share at conference.

If your congregation would like to help, please contact the District Office.

DESSERT AND HANDMADE ITEMS AUCTION



This year's auction at District Conference may look a little different. In addition to bringing your best desserts to auction, folks can bring handmade items such as woodworking, crafts, or produce. All we ask is that its made or grown by someone in your congregation.

All funds raised from the auction go to Brethren Disaster Ministries



CELEBRATING BAPTISMS AND NEW MEMBERS IN THE S/C IN DISTRICT— 2023/2024

We're starting a new tradition of celebrating all the baptisms and new members welcomed in the S/C IN District in the past year (Easter 2023–Easter 2024) by asking congregations to share this information with us to share in the newsletter. We didn't receive lists from all congregations, but these are the ones we did. We'd love to include everyone's next year!

We pray with gratitude for the journeys of each one!

- Jayla B.-Pleasant Dale
- Tanner B.-Pleasant Dale
- Hope Brock-Liberty Mills
- Levi C.-Pleasant Dale
- Steven Cecil-Andrews
- Jim Crissinger—Buffalo
- Josie E.-Pleasant Dale
- Kloe E.-Pleasant Dale
- Troy F.-Pleasant Dale
- Levi French-Liberty Mills
- Simon Gabriel-Liberty Mills
- Kim Gould-Buffalo
- Greg Gray -Living Faith
- Lexie Gray-Living Faith
- Karston Gray-Living Faith
- Bentley Gray-Living Faith
- Nashton Gray-Living Faith
- Tenley H.-Pleasant Dale
- Matt H.-Pleasant Dale
- Dave H.-Pleasant Dale
- Chris H.-Pleasant Dale
- Jim Hicks-Living Faith
- Michelle Hicks-Living Faith
- Landon K.-Pleasant Dale
- Anna L.-Pleasant Dale
- Pamela L.-Pleasant Dale
- Tim Little-Liberty Mills
- Chelsea Little-Liberty Mills
- Elizabeth Long-Eel River Community
- Dylan M.-Pleasant Dale
- Titus M.-Pleasant Dale
- Lucas M.-Pleasant Dale
- Britteny McCarty-Living Faith
- Ainsley Metzger-Liberty Mills
- Rachelle Mongosa-Peru
- Lynn Moser-Peru
- Karen Moser-Peru
- Gabe R-Pleasant Dale
- Ron Reed-Andrews
- Barb Reed-Andrews
- Erica S.-Pleasant Dale
- Elijah Shoue-Liberty Mills
- Delbert Sloane-Andrews
- Tim Sloane-Andrews
- Chris Spaulding-Living Faith
- Miriam Struble-Hedstrom-Manchester
- Lynn Terry-Buffalo
- John Terry-Buffalo
- Sam U.-Wabash
- Deanna U.-Wabash
- Sophia W.- Pleasant Dale
- Susan White-Liberty Mills
- Eli Wildermuth-Buffalo
- Jeremy Wildermuth-Buffalo
- Jeanine Wine-Eel River Community
- Faith Z.-Pleasant Dale

NOMINATIONS FOR DISTRICT POSITIONS

The Nominating and Personnel Committee is seeking nominations for the following District Positions:

- Moderator Elect (3 year commitment)
- District Board - East & South Section Representatives (5 year commitment)
 - Indiana Camp Board member

For full position descriptions, see the District Constitution and By-laws, available at:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZZ6t3EZbbjekItbwbfz7BBRSwRn3GJ_c/view?usp=sharing

Look for updates from Laura and other folks in the S/C IN District on our District blog at:

<https://www.scindcob.org/blog>

Also, follow South/Central Indiana District on Facebook to see current information and upcoming events.



ROMANS 16:2 (CEB)

WELCOME+ WORTHY

2024 CHURCH OF THE BROTHERS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024
DeVos Place Convention Center
Grand Rapids, Michigan
July 3-7

Registration is now open at: <https://www.brethren.org/ac2024/registration/>

WITNESS TO THE HOST CITY

For more information about these opportunities go to: www.brethren.org/ac2024/activities/host-city-witness

Kids' Food Basket (www.kidsfoodbasket.org)

Kids' Food Basket exists to increase access to healthy food for children and families. Our core belief is that food is a right, not a privilege. Because that is not yet a reality, we mobilize human and financial resources to break down barriers that cause food insecurity. Our services include our flagship Sack Supper program, community-driven farming, family food provision and educational programming. Collectively, we are working toward realizing a hunger-free West Michigan for all.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace (www.shpbeds.org/chapter/mi-kelloggsville)

Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) believes that a bed is a basic need for the proper physical, emotional, and mental support that a child needs. When it was brought to our attention that the need for beds went far beyond our own neighborhoods, we stepped up and took initiative. All children deserve a safe, comfortable place to lay their heads. Across the U.S., too many boys and girls go without a bed – or even a pillow – to sleep on. These children end up sleeping on couches, blankets, and even floors. This can affect their happiness and health. That's where SHP comes in. We're a group of volunteers dedicated to building, assembling and delivering top-notch bunk beds to children and families in need. **NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!®**

Blood Drive

Plan to donate blood, either onsite in Grand Rapids or virtually.

The conference blood drive will be held on Thursday July 4 (7:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.) and Friday July 5 (8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m.).

Registration before the conference is encouraged. Registration at the conference will be available.

Not attending Annual Conference in person? That's ok! You can sign up as a virtual donor and donate locally.

Gun Violence Vigil

The **Church of the Brethren Gun Violence Prevention Action Team** invites 2024 Annual Conference attendees to join us in a vigil and public witness at **4:30pm, Saturday, July 6, at Rosa Parks Circle** near the convention center.

This year, we are offering an option to order custom t-shirts to wear for the vigil, for #WearOrange weekend June 7-9, or any time you are witnessing as Brethren related to Gun Violence Prevention. .

Volunteer Opportunities

Annual Conference greatly appreciates those who volunteer to help at Annual Conference. You can be a caregiver or chaperone in the Age Group Activities, Usher, Teller, stuff Delegate Packets, help in Registration, and more.

Volunteers are needed to assist with ticket sales at Annual Conference, July 3-6, Grand Rapids MI. This group of folks will handle all onsite ticket sales for catered meal events. Our responsibilities begin Tuesday, July 3rd at 3:00 pm and end

Saturday, July 6th at noon. If you are willing to assist, please sign up for one or more shifts using this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4AAEAF2FA2FAC43-49221854-annual> OR contact Don Anderson, ticket sales coordinator, at donaldranderson@comcast.net or 574-370-9905.

Listening for the Sound of the Genuine

July 2-3, 2024
Grand Rapids, Michigan



A preaching workshop led by Dr. Frank A. Thomas, professor of homiletics at Christian Theological Seminary (Indianapolis). His passion is “to teach preachers to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to shape and influence preachers to rise to the height, depth, and beauty of the best of their preaching potential.”

Informational flyer with event details is available [here](#).

To register, go to: <https://www.eventsquid.com/event.cfm?id=23565>

LISTENING FOR THE SOUND OF GENUINE

Directed Independent Study Unit (DISU) through Brethren Academy
July 2-3, 2024,
Facilitator: Audrey Hollenberg-Duffey

This course is a Directed Independent Study Unit (DISU) in conjunction with attending the Ministers' Association Pre-Conference event with Frank A. Thomas, in Grand Rapids, MI.

Students who participate in this DISU will examine their own preaching, specifically what is said and how it is said. After completing this course, students will be able to:

- Evaluate sermons for what is communicated through the words that are spoken.
- Articulate the role of celebration in preaching.
- Utilize practical resources for strengthening genuine and celebratory preaching.

This course is available for Continuing Education and Personal Enrichment. TRIM/EFSM students will receive one credit in Ministry Skills upon completion. This also qualifies for the Annual Conference Experience.

Registration deadline is May 28.

For more information and registration details, go to: <https://bethanyseminary.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Final-DISU-Brochure-2024.pdf>



**GLOBAL WOMEN'S
PROJECT**



MOTHER'S DAY PROJECT

Honor a woman you love by supporting mothers around the world!

Instead of buying more stuff for your loved one, express your gratitude with a gift that keeps on giving. Your donation allows us to fund women-led projects focused on women's health, education, and employment. In return, your chosen recipient(s) will receive a lovely, hand-written card indicating that a gift has been made in their honor.

Donate online or mail a check along with your name and recipient's name and address to:

**Global Women's Project
c/o Karlene Tyler
333 South Lakeside Dr.
Unit 1
McPherson, KS 67460**

For your recipient(s) to receive a card by Mother's Day, GWP must receive your gift by **May 1st**. If making an online donation, email cobgwp@gmail.com with the names and addresses of all recipients.

YOUR DONATION SUPPORTS:

Growing Grounds
Indiana, USA

Women's Integrated Health
Chiapas, Mexico

Life is Expensive
Rwanda

SITEAW
Uganda

Cultural Academy for Peace
Kerala, India

Narus Sewing Cooperative
Narus, South Sudan

WWW.GLOBALWOMENSPROJECT.ORG

Camp Mack Upcoming Events



Summer Camp registration is open!

Go to <https://www.campmack.org/summer-camp/> to find out more.

Women's Camp (May 30-June 1): Gather with women for a time of worship, reflection, and fellowship. Enjoy time at the campfire. Attend sessions led by a guest speaker to grow in faith. Participate in Love Feast. Leave feeling refreshed and recharged together.

Ages: Women of all ages. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

Fees: \$170 for 2 nights and 5 meals, \$97 for 1 night and 3 meals, \$56 for 1 day and 3 meals

For more information and to register: <https://www.campmack.org/retreats-and-events/#spiritual>

Peacefully, Simply, Together.

SOUTH/CENTRAL INDIANA DISTRICT OFFICE, CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
260.274.0396

LAURA STONE, DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MINISTER

scindlaura@gmail.com, 574.306.8768

Usual work days: Wednesday—Sunday

SARAH O'HARA, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

scindcob@gmail.com

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday: 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM

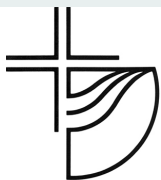
District Website: www.scindcob.org

Denominational website: www.brethren.org



<https://www.facebook.com/SouthCentral-Indiana-District-205091192857321/>

South/Central Indiana District
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Church of the Brethren

«FIRST» «LAST»
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«CITY» «STATE» «ZIP»