

**Shenandoah District Church of the Brethren  
2022 District Conference  
Montezuma Church of the Brethren/Mill Creek Church of the Brethren  
November 4-5, 2022**

**Minutes**

The 2022 Shenandoah District Conference was held on Friday, November 4, 2022, at Montezuma Church of the Brethren (MCOB). Saturday, November 5, 2022, the business session was held at Mill Creek Church of the Brethren (MCCOB). Pastor Kevin Daggett (Dayton) served as Moderator.

**Friday, November 4, 2022**

The Continuing Education Unit (CEU) event that was to be held in the afternoon, and led by retiring Virgina District Executive Minister David Shumate, was cancelled due to illness. Pastor Shumate has been invited to deliver his presentation at a later date.

Over 70 people attended the Pastor's Appreciation Dinner and Milestones in Ministry recognition Friday evening held in the Fellowship Hall at MCOB. Members of the MCOB catered the meal. Twenty-six pastors were recognized for more than 50 years of service. Because Pastor Shumate was unable to speak at the event, retired pastor Robert Alley filled in as speaker. Moderator Elect Regina Harlow (Mountain View Fellowship) provided special music.

The Mountain View Fellowship Praise Band began the service with music. Church of the Brethren General Secretary David Steele delivered the message from Acts 4:32-34 and the conference theme text from Colossians 2:1-5. The Montezuma Bell Choir provided music during the offering. \$1,170 was received from the offering and was earmarked for Ukraine. An ice-cream social followed the service.

**Saturday, November 5, 2022**

Moderator Kevin Daggett welcomed everyone and opened the business session at 9:00 a.m. Attendance for the day was 159 registered delegates, 38 non-delegates totaling 197 people representing 62 churches. There is now a total of 96 churches in the Shenandoah District. On behalf of the Mill Creek Church of the Brethren, Pastor Glenn Bollinger welcomed everyone followed by housekeeping items. Moderator Daggett introduced members of the Program and Arrangements Committee, thanking them for their service during the past eight months. He introduced guests who had exhibits displayed in the Library and Social Hall and encouraged everyone to take a few minutes to visit the exhibits.

Bethany Theological Seminary – Erika Clary  
Brethren and Mennonite Heritage Center – Sam Funkhouser  
Brethren Disaster Ministries – Jerry Ruff  
Brethren Woods – Linetta Ballew and Pieter Tramper  
Bridgewater College – Robbie Miller  
Church of the Brethren General Office – David Steele  
Church of the Brethren Mission Advancement – Traci Rabenstein  
Church of the Brethren Office of Ministry – Jen Jensen  
Congregational Care Team – Galen Combs, Brenda Diehl, and David Morris  
Eder Financial – Loyce Borgmann, Nevin Dulabaum, and Beth Martin

The seating and dedication of delegates followed with the singing of the hymn *Brethren We Have Met To Worship*. Moderator Daggett read the Delegate Covenant and asked delegates to sign the covenant. He then invited people to bring forward the skeins of yarn to place on the altar to be knit together making prayer shawls. He expressed gratefulness to those who have already knit a prayer shawl. A Prayer of Blessing was then offered for the yarn and to those who would be knitting the yarn.

Shenandoah District Executive (DE) John Jantzi invited members of the Gordonsville Chapel Church of the Brethren and Knights Chapel Church of the Brethren to come forward. After DE Jantzi offered a litany, the Gordonsville Chapel Church of the Brethren, a church plant from Knights Chapel, was granted full congregational status by a unanimous vote of the delegate body. Moderator Daggett shared a Prayer of Blessing.

Moderator Daggett delivered the morning sermon *Receiving Jesus*, focusing on the Conference's theme text from Colossians 2.

DE Jantzi recognized six graduates from the Christian Growth Institute and Seminary graduates. Brenda Diehl, Jonathan Farmer, Jack Glover, Keith Higgs, Karl Magenhofer, and David Stewart received pastoral training jointly sponsored by the Shenandoah District and Virlina District.

Moderator Daggett introduced Phil Stone Jr. Mr. Stone will serve as Parliamentarian. The ushers will act as tellers. The delegates affirmed these positions.

Moderator Daggett reviewed the Delegate packet. ***A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.***

***A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the minutes from the November 6, 2021, Shenandoah District Conference. The motion passed unanimously.***

Following a break, *To God Be The Glory* and *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* were sung by Conference attendees.

Church of the Brethren General Secretary David Steele reported on the work of the denomination.

- Brethren Disaster Ministries has been actively serving in Waverly, TN for most of the year.
- Children's Disaster Services has three teams in Florida assisting 418 children between October 9 and November 9.
- The Emergency Disaster Fund has supported areas experiencing adverse needs. The Shenandoah District has given almost \$5,000 toward this relief effort.
- Mission Work has expanded globally with leadership training for many teams. He reported an adoption of a global mission philosophy that has shifted thoughts about ministry from the Church in the United States – seeing itself as a parent church to becoming a partnership with international congregations.
- Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN) will be celebrating its 100-anniversary next year as part of the Church of the Brethren.

- Faith in Action grants that were developed with the funds from the sale of the upper campus at New Windsor, MD. Some of the grants went to local congregations for outreach in the community.
- Planning for National Junior High Conference to be held in June 2023 and National Older Adult Conference in September 2023.
- A conference focusing on church plantings is being planned.
- Christian Citizenship Seminar is being planned.
- A new staff person with being hired to work with each District to determine ministry needs among churches.

Moderator Daggett led the group in prayer.

Moderator Elect Regina Harlow spoke on behalf of the Gifts Discernment Team. The following slate of individuals have been called to leadership roles by the Gifts Discernment Team.

Moderator Elect (2023) and Moderator (2024) – Duane Painter, Newport Church of the Brethren  
 Congregational Care Team Chair – Jonathan Fletcher, Valley Pike Church of the Brethren (*second term 2025*)

Discipleship Ministries Team Chair– Dave Chappell, White Hill Church of the Brethren (*2025*)

New Church Development Team Chair – Daniel House, Pleasant Valley Church of the Brethren (*2025*)

Outdoor Ministries Team Chair – Nancy Bowman, Staunton Church of the Brethren (*2025*)

Standing Committee – Jan Orndorff, Sunrise Church of the Brethren (*2025*)

***The delegate body unanimously approved the 2023 slate of District Leadership.***

Shenandoah District Director of Finance Gary Higgs (Melrose) gave an update on the 2022 financials information for the Shenandoah District and Brethren Woods. He reported the net proceeds from the 2022 Shenandoah District Disaster Auction were \$225,362. The 2023 Proposed District Budget was reviewed noting that salaries were increased by 3%. This is less than what the Pastoral Compensation and Advisory Committee approved at Annual Conference. A formal vote to approve the 2023 Shenandoah District Budget will take place after lunch.

An offering was taken to support District Ministries. During the offering, Moderator Elect Harlow shared scripture and a brief testimony about her daughter’s death and how God has provided. She concluded by singing, “My Life Flows On.” Moderator Daggett offered a prayer. The total amount collected was \$2,555.01.

Lunch and the Insight Session (Community Building led by Linnetta Ballew) followed the morning business session.

Moderator Daggett began the second session of business at 1:23 p.m.

Shenandoah District Executive John Jantzi reported that five churches have left the Shenandoah District (Antioch, Beaver Creek, Calvary, Columbia Furnace, and Moscow). There have been 17 installations of pastors in new congregations as well as various interim positions being filled. District leaders will convene in January to begin brainstorming/evaluating the range of leadership activities including call of

leadership, evaluating the credentialing and educational models currently at work, and the sustaining and nurturing of leadership.

Brethren Woods Executive Director Linetta Ballew reported that financial support for the camp continues to be strong. Brethren Woods continues to develop leaders. Staff continue to be good stewards of the outdoors. Counts for the number of campers rose more than 10%. The *Great Community Give*, a fundraising event sponsored by the Community Foundation of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County achieved its goal of \$8,000 by lunchtime. By the end of the day, \$20,000 was netted from this event. The funds raised will replace, upgrade, and expand camp program supplies, as well as kitchen and cooking equipment. Pieter Tramper is set to assume the role of Program Director.

Attendance for the day was 159 registered delegates and 38 non-delegates for a total of 197 attendees. The offering collected Friday evening totaled \$1,770.00.

On behalf of the District Leadership Team, Finance Director Higgs presented the 2023 Proposed Budget. He noted that projected congregational giving could be down due to five congregations leaving the denomination. A 3% increase in salaries was included in the proposed budget. In addition, a new line-item *Line of Credit Interest* was added. After reviewing the proposed budget, several delegates voiced concern that the 2023 Budget should include the same increase level (8.2%) for staff salaries that was recommended by the Pastoral Compensation and Advisory Committee approved at Annual Conference.

***A motion was made and properly seconded to approve the 2023 Proposed Budget reflecting an increase in compensation to 8.2 for all staff. Ballots were distributed and the motion passed by a slim majority –Yes 69 No 64.***

*I Am Thine, O Lord* was sung while waiting for the vote to be tabulated. A copy of the approved 2023 Budget will be distributed at a later date.

Nevin Dulabaum and Beth Martin reported on behalf of Eder Financial. They explained the name change from Brethren Benefit Trust, noting there are several ‘streams’ of Brethren, but the initial Brethren movement began in Germany at the Eder River. Several products are available to assist with financial retirement planning. Mr. Dulabaum encouraged pastors to contact them to learn more about the housing calculations, retirement planning, or other financial matters.

District Leadership Team Chair Wayne Pence gave an overview of the various ministries the District provides in support of local congregations, noting several training opportunities offered. In addition, he highlighted the Christian Growth Institute (CGI) and its role in addressing the District’s pastor shortage. He concluded by asking churches to identify for the District those serving as 2023 Disaster Auction and Disaster Ministries representatives for each congregation.

Bridgewater College Chaplain Robbie Miller showed a video about Bridgewater College, followed by his report. He highlighted the tagline, “In the good times and bad, we stand together.” He noted that the campus and community rallied together around the College after the tragic event that took place on campus in February. Chaplain Miller reported that to date \$73,000 had been raised from the Crop Walk. Chaplain Miller will retire on June 30, 2023, after 33 years of service.

District Executive John Jantzi concluded the Conference with the installation of the 2023 District Conference Moderator Regina Cyzick Harlow and Duane Painter as Moderator Elect. Nancy Bowman,

Jonathan Fletcher, and Daniel House were installed as chairs of the Congregational Care Team, the Outdoor Ministries Team, and the Church Development Team respectively. Dave Chappell, chair of the Discipleship Ministries Team, was unable to attend. Jan Orndorff will serve as a Standing Committee member.

District Conference concluded with a call for congregations to come forward and pick-up skeins of yarn to take back to their congregations for knitting and crocheting prayer shawls for future use in the District.

There being no other business, the conference was adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sally Jane Conner, District Clerk