



Wabash Church of the Brethren

645 Bond Street Wabash, IN 46992 260-563-5291 office@wabashcob.org

July 2022

Peacefully, Simply, Together



We welcome all who are on the journey to know Jesus, who share in his love and who choose to embrace the diversity within this community of believers. As individuals we may be at different places along the path, but as a community, we are all traveling together in faith, trusting God to show us the way.

Pastor Doug Veal

This year's Church of the Brethren Annual Conference will be held from July 10 to 15 in Omaha, Nebraska. It will be the 235th recorded Annual Conference in the Church of the Brethren. For over two hundred years, members of our denomination have gathered together to worship, to connect, and to make decisions about the direction of our denomination. I looked back over the recorded Annual Conferences on the Annual Conference website, and the very first one took place in 1742 in Coventry, PA. This "Big Meeting" (as it later became known) didn't start off on an annual basis. In fact, the next recorded Annual Conference did not take place until 1763, then there's another break until it becomes an annual tradition in 1777. There's another break that took place from 1805 to 1810, and then it takes place on an annual basis until 2020. That year, of course, the conference was cancelled due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. Last year, we had an all online Annual Conference (which, while it allowed for some of the work to take place, the feel of it was very different). This year, we are gathering in-person once again for the first time since 2019 in Greensboro, NC.

Growing up as a pastor's son in the Church of the Brethren, we went to Annual Conference every summer. I always looked forward to it because it was an opportunity to travel to different places in the US. This, in fact, led to me having traveled far more extensively as a child than many others I knew. I remember one time, when I was on a trip to New York City with my high school band, I was perfectly happy wandering around the city because I was used to being in places like that. But the chaperone for my small group within the trip had never been to a large city (and in fact, may not have even been out of the state we lived in before). It made me realize how lucky I was to have that experience growing up. I always enjoyed getting to stay in the hotel for the week. It allowed us access to the hotel pool and to cable TV, a big indulgence for us. And I enjoyed getting to go to the children's and youth activities. As far back as I can remember, we went every year as a family save one: the year it was in Portland, OR in 1991.

When I started college, I stopped going to Annual Conference for a number of years since I was working at church camps during the summer. But as I entered into seminary, and then began working as a pastor, I was able to start going again.

I always look forward to Annual Conference every year, even when there are hot-button issues that will be discussed. Part of it is that it's one of the times when I get to see my friends from across the denomination who live scattered around the country and occasionally even in other countries. But beyond that, it's a time to gather with others in our denomination to worship together, to learn together, to break bread together, and to do business together. Even while there remain significant theological divides within our denomination, at Annual Conference we all gather to be the body of Christ.

Annual Conference is a wonderful experience that is beneficial to everyone who attends. While this year's conference is quite a distance away, next year's will be held in Cincinnati, OH from July 4 to 8. If you've been curious about it, now is a good time to start thinking about going in 2023!

This year's Annual Conference agenda has a number of different items. Delegates will vote on a ballot of nominees to lead our denomination in various roles moving forward, as well as dealing with items regarding agencies of the denomination, pastoral compensation and benefits, updates on the minister's ethics guidelines, and updating the by-laws of the denomination. More information on these items is available at <https://www.brethren.org/ac2022/business/>

Our delegate this year is Laurie Kieffaber Cornett. If you are interested in learning more about the business of this year's conference, feel free to be in touch with me and I can share more about it. After the conference is over, we

will have a time later in the year to hear more about the decisions of the conference, and how that may impact our congregation moving forward.

As our Annual Conference approaches, I'd like to ask all of us to keep the conference in our prayers, for safe travels for those attending, for health and safety as we gather in-person once again, and for discernment by the delegate body as they do their work this year.

In Christ,
Pastor Doug

Church Board

The July Church Board and Commissions meeting will be held Wednesday July 13, 2022;
Commissions at 6:30pm, Board at 7pm.

Nurture Commission

Important:

SAVE THE DATE!

On Saturday, August 6, we will have our annual church picnic at **Larry and Nancy Jamerson's home**. More details to follow, but we wanted to let folks get the date on their calendars!

Graduation recognition:

Bonnie Haughn's grandson, Finn Haughn, recently graduated from Ohio State University. Cards may be sent to the following address:

Finn Haughn,

c/o Cindy Thurston

3500 Grove City Road

Apt. B-211

Grove City, OH 43123

Transfer of Membership

We sadly report the transfer of membership for **Karen Odiorne** to the Eel River Church of the Brethren earlier this year. As you may know, following their move to Silver Lake, **Johnny and Karen** have been attending the Eel River congregation, which is located very near to their new home. We appreciate the many years of faithful participation from **Karen and Johnny**. We wish them well as they continue their faith journey with the Eel River congregation.

Directory Update:

Please make the following update to your church directory:

Judy and Joe Rodecap

4726 Pleasant Valley Dr.

Fort Wayne, IN 46825

Annual Conference Volunteer Opportunity:

Laurie Kieffaber Cornett, this year's delegate, as well as Mikayla and Charles Stanley, will be driving to Omaha, Nebraska, next week for Annual Conference. They will be helping, by taking monetary donations from the church for the Witness to the Host City, Girls, Inc of Omaha. You can read more on Brethren.org. If you want to contribute, please have your gift to the church on or before Sunday, July 3.



Newsletter update:

Moving forward, the newsletter will be sent out the last week of the month, so you will receive it in the first week of the new month. We are trying to get it out more consistently

News From the Pews

(That title belonged to Marcie but it's amusing and I don't think she'd mind.)

We're very thankful that **Nancy Jamerson** has mostly recovered from her disturbing health crisis of a year-and-a-half ago. It's always good to see her and we look forward to enjoying her and **Larry's** generous hospitality again later this summer.

Carol and Dennis Horn will be married 58 years this summer! (Plus three years of dating!) **Carol** says it has been wonderful and a blessing--(or something like that...) She hopes they will "have more, more, more" years together. **Dennis** said their life together had been "great." But after learning of his wife's enthusiastic assessment, he also chose to jump on the "more, more" bandwagon.

Linda Barkey shared recently in church that Wayne was having some success with his therapy and is no longer on hospice. **Linda**, herself, is also still having therapy on her neck from her fall last year.

Larry and Brenda Landis attended a family wedding several weeks ago. At the reception, they won the dance contest for being married the longest! (I know. You'll have to ask them.) They will be married 57 years in June! Of their long marriage, **Brenda** says they made a commitment and they stuck to it. Oh yeah, and they love each other!

Kay and Jim Gaier will be married 50 years this summer! And the **Barkeys** will celebrate 55 years! Look for them in an upcoming Messenger!

The Jamerson's grandson Aaron Hartley graduates from law school this year. His sister **Alexis** is also attending law school.

A number of our loved ones in this congregation are either caregivers for their spouses or are being cared for BY their spouses. Both of these roles are stressful ones. We want to remember to pray for these friends, ask often how they are, and give what support we can.

Finn Haughn's proud grandma, Bonnie, has shared with us that **Finn** graduated from Ohio State a few weeks ago. He received his degree in engineering and graduated Magna Cum Laude-- with high honors! He is currently traveling in Europe for a month- and-a-half. (**Bonnie** knows he's really there because he sent her a picture with the Eiffel Tower in the background.)

Laurie KC is very much enjoying her new role as **Nana** to **Charles Alan Stanley**. Charlie has **Laurie** wrapped around his little fingers. They especially enjoy singing together, watching Blue's Clues, and having silly conversations. (Their favorite songs are Mail Time and The Rainbow Connection.)

Sharon Larrowe's exciting and surprising news is that she sold her house and has moved! Last weekend! She is excited about beginning a new chapter in her life! (We are happy to learn that she is not moving far, but will remain in the area.) More details to follow, we're sure...

Hailey Height, the Barkey's granddaughter, received academic honors for her freshman school year. Her younger sister **Lauren** excels at softball.

Dennis and Carol enjoyed a visit with their **granddaughter Elyse** several weeks ago. They stayed with **Elyse** while she attended her school in Bluffton then brought **her and Duckie** to their home for the weekend. Some of the high points were doing homework with **Grandpa**, sharing her poems and stories, reading and snuggling together, and a trip to the Indiana State Museum with her beloved **cousin Ava and Uncle Bryon**.

The occasion for **Elyse's** visit was her **older brother Jesse's** move to Salt Lake City for an internship in computer science. **Parents Angie and Barth Montel** drove him there on a whirlwind four+ day trip.

Ask **Laurie** the next time you see her if her car has a new battery yet or its own set of jumper cables! And **Dave Hahn** is a hero who will come and assist stranded motorists in the rain and even when he'd rather be golfing. Thanks, **Dave!**

Wayne and Linda were delighted to see their son Eric and wife Heather from Bridgewater, Virginia over Easter.

Chloe Bisher, Audrey and Dave Hahn's granddaughter, was inducted into the National Honor Society. **Ava Bisher** was awarded top band student honors (trumpet) and also top geography student. And she received top academic honors!

We certainly do have a lot of gifted young people associated with this church, don't we?!

Nancy Jamerson and her daughter Wendy French are planning a trip to Colorado Springs in August to visit grandson Ian and his year-old baby, Lucas. Ian French is serving as a medic in the army. Nancy hasn't seen Lucas for a year and she misses him!

Brenda Landis recently had an appointment with her oncologist and she is happy to report that she has been cancer-free for five years! We're so pleased to hear this news!

Norma and George Schneider have been married 58 years! They agree that their life together has been wonderful!

Bryant Larrowe has been working at a new job in Connecticut since the first of the year. He works for Amtrak "riding the rails". He lives in a locomotive with several others and they travel slowly along the tracks checking for breaks. They work four months at a time and then get some time off. **Bryant** loves it!

Aiden Benysh had a birthday last weekend (22!) and **Maya Benysh** this weekend (20!). **Toni** tells us that they are too grown up these days to do much celebrating with the family but that won't stop **Toni** from eating cake in their honor!

Kay and Jim Gaier are excited about a new granddaughter due in October to **son Adam's family** in Germany. Having been married for 50 years, Kay says she is grateful to have been able to spend her life with the father of her children. She credits part of the success of her marriage to the fact that she and **Jim** spent a lot of time apart for many years due to **Jim's** job. According to Kay, the separation was also quite difficult at times-- like when they were raising three children. (So don't try this at home.)

Larry Jamerson has been busy clearing out his area of the lake and working in his yard. As we know, he also does a considerable amount to keep things at church running smoothly including regular trips up north to replenish the food pantry. Thanks for all you do, **Larry!**

John and Laurale Kreps will be married 61 years this summer! **Laurale** tells us it's been an interesting life and a good one.

Congratulations to all our long-married couples! Even if you didn't say so specifically, we'll assume that you still love each other and would do it all over again!

Sunday School

Sunday School will take place at 9AM, before worship. We will be meeting downstairs in the Fellowship Hall initially.



Worship Schedule - July

If you are interested in participating in the service, please contact the office, or talk to pastor Doug!

	Pulpit	Worship Leader	Song Leader	Head Usher	Children's Church	Musician
3	Pastor Doug Luke 15:1-3, 13b-32 "The Prodigal Son"		Mikayla Stanley	Larry Jamerson	Laurie Kieffaber Cornett	Bonnie Haughn
10	Annual Conference Video	Deanna Unger	Stan Miller	"	Carol Horn	
17	Pastor Doug Luke 10:38-42 "Mary and Martha"	Bonnie Haughn	Stan Miller	"	Carol Horn	Bonnie Haughn
24	Pastor Doug Luke 11:1-13 "Praying and Seeking"		Mikayla Stanley	"	Carol Horn	Laurie Kieffaber Cornett
31	Nan Erbaugh to speak Pastor Doug off		Mikayla Stanley		Laurie Kieffaber Cornett	Deanna Unger

Women's Fellowship

Pastor Doug's article explained a new mission for Wabash COB. I would like to make this a special project for the Women's Fellowship. I would like for as many of you as possible to sign up to receive the requests for children's needs in our county. You may have children or grandchildren who have outgrown the items that are needed. Or you may feel led to give a small monetary amount so items can be purchased to fill the request. Please register soon.

We are hoping to have some WF events in the near future. One idea is to have Nan Erbaugh, who spoke to the congregation recently, tell about her years of riding along with law enforcement officers who were on patrol. The women who are being served by Growing Grounds love the throws that Mikayla showed us how to make back when we were able to meet together and I'm sure those throws have been claimed by now. We could make more.

We're looking for ideas for meetings. It can be informative, entertaining, helpful, or just social. Please let me know your ideas.

Brenda Landis

Devotionals - Upper Room

The Upper Room is available in the sanctuary. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please contact the office and please specify regular or large print. If you would like to pick one up the next time you are here, they are on the back table in the sanctuary.

Altar and Sanctuary Staging

We are looking for either a dedicated individual who would enjoy changing out the altar and window setups on a regular basis, or a small group who would like to rotate assignments. Please contact the office if you are interested.

2022 Directory

New directories are located on the back table. Please contact the church if you would like a copy mailed to you.

Reading through the Bible in a year - March

1	Luke 15-16	9	Colossians 1-2	17	Leviticus 16-18	25	2 Kings 16-20
2	Philippians 3-4	10	Leviticus 13-15	18	2 Kings 11-15	26	Psalms 87-89
3	Leviticus 10-12	11	2 Kings 6-10	19	Psalms 84-86	27	1 Kings 19-22
4	2 Kings 1-5	12	Psalms 81-83	20	Proverbs 11-12	28	Ezekiel 37-42
5	Psalms 78-80	13	Proverbs 10	21	Ezekiel 31-36	29	Luke 23-24
6	Proverbs 8-9	14	Ezekiel 25-30	22	Luke 21-22	30	1 Thessalonians 4-5
7	Ezekiel 19-24	15	Luke 19-20	23	1 Thessalonians 1-3	31	Leviticus 22-24
8	Luke 17-18	16	Colossians 3-4	24	Leviticus 19-21		

Witness Commision

Special Offering

July 14	Habitat for Humanity
August 11	Deacons' Helping Hands Fund
September 8	Disaster Relief

Growing Grounds News

Growing Grounds News

Some of you may have noticed the article in *The Paper* about Housing Action Wabash County (HAWC). It is a cooperative venture coming out of the 2014 Growing Grounds (GG) call to other ministries, nonprofits, government agencies, and individuals to gather at our church to consider working together on the urgent and life-threatening lack of shelter for the homeless and housing insecure in our county. Every month since that time, a gathering has occurred in our church fellowship hall as we share our endeavors, help each other meet the needs of those struggling from all age groups, and plan for systemic change that will speak to solutions on a wider and deeper scale. Recently, the next step seemed to be to incorporate HAWC. An incorporation subcommittee is meeting regularly to complete needed paperwork, make submissions, develop policies and budgets, and plan for a Board. Ask Jim Gaier about this huge task! He has taken on a major role in all this and will continue to do so with his extensive background in grant writing for NASA and beyond.

We have been greatly assisted by Advantage Housing and Executive Director Dale Bliss in the incorporation process and the development of HOST houses, apartments renovated (often with help from individuals from our congregation) to receive homeless women and children at 571 South Wabash St., and soon families at 559-61 West Hill Street. Dale has seen the commitment and passion of those in Wabash County for those needing shelter and related help and has added his and the organization's expertise, passion, and endless hours to the endeavor.

In the meantime, Growing Grounds continues to try to meet the emergency needs of people who call, or organizations who refer. This includes payment for motel stays, some help with rent or utility payments, gas cards, lots of furniture pickup and distribution, food and clothing distribution, and just the "walking with" aspect. A closer look at the giving aspect of Growing Grounds shows that in approximately the last four to five weeks, GG has, with discernment and personal contact, paid out \$726 to emergency Knight's Inn housing, \$780 to apartment and HOST housing, and \$170 toward transportation needs. Volunteers have transported truckloads of furniture and household items given to GG, often from Timbercrest residents, that were, in turn, given to county individuals in need, persons getting out of incarceration who are starting over, Hands of Hope women and their children, Babes of Wabash families, and Waypoint.

Over many years, the denomination's Global Women's Project (GWP) has consistently awarded funds to Growing Grounds. In fact, we are the only US-based outreach that it funds since they use most of their

donations to fund women in other countries where the money has a further reach. We are pleased and grateful to announce that GWP has awarded a new round of funding to GG in the amount of \$3,000. You may be aware that individuals can contribute to GWP at any time of the year, but especially on Mother's Day when a woman of any age, or man, can be honored through this giving. While speaking of giving, we take this opportunity to sincerely thank all those related to the congregation who have donated money, time, trucks, lifting, and household items to Growing Grounds and the individuals and families served. You are amazing!

Dennis and Carol Horn

Little Free Pantry

Our local pantry is looking to supplement what we get from Milford each month. Additional items needed are:

Mac and Cheese boxes
Hamburger
Baked beans
Hamburger /Tuna/Chicken Helper
Peanut butter
Canned meat (tuna, chicken, etc.)
Jelly
Pasta
Saltines

Bread
Soups
Canned fruits and veggies
Saltines
Cleaning Supplies
TP/Tissue
Personal Hygiene items

Stewards Commission

Looking at a new and exciting way you can help the church? We are in need of a volunteer (or two or three) to help run the video streaming. A very positive outcome to sheltering in place is that we've been able to improve our ability to include family members who aren't normally able to worship with us, as well as reach beyond our community.

If you are interested, or know someone who would be, please contact Pastor Doug at pastordoug@wabashcob.org or Mikayla at office@wabashcob.org.

Around the District

ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Church of the Brethren Annual Conference

July 10 - 14, 2022

Omaha, NE

CHI Convention Center

To register, go to: <https://www.brethren.org/ac2022/registration/>



**ANNUAL CONFERENCE AGENDA WILL INCLUDE ONE ITEM OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS
AND SEVEN ITEMS OF NEW BUSINESS**

From Newswire, April 1, 2022

The business items for the Church of the Brethren's Annual Conference on July 10-14 in Omaha, Neb., are now posted online at: <https://www.brethren.org/ac2022/business/>. The Conference is returning to a full business agenda complete with queries and other new business after several years in which the compelling vision took precedence.

The Conference will address one item of unfinished business, "Update to Polity Regarding Annual Conference Agencies," and seven items of new business.

New business includes queries on "Standing with People of Color" and "Breaking Down Barriers—Increasing Access to Denominational Events"; three items related to pay and benefits for pastors: a new Integrated Annual Ministry Agreement and Revised Guidelines for Pastors' Salaries and Benefits, a Revised Minimum Cash Salary Table for Pastors, and the annual cost-of-living adjustment to the Minimum Cash Salary Table for Pastors (the latter recommendation to come in June); amendments to the appeal section of the Ethics in Ministry Relations polity document; and revisions to the denomination's bylaws.

The delegate body also will vote on a ballot and will receive numerous reports including from the denomination's Leadership Team, the work of the Church of the Brethren's board and staff, the Annual Conference agencies (Bethany Seminary, Brethren Benefit Trust, and On Earth Peace), Conference committees including the Program and Arrangements Committee and the Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee, and representatives to ecumenical organizations.

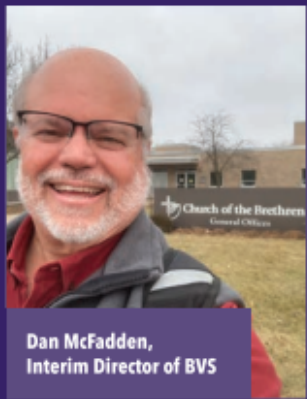
To watch the business online you must register as a virtual nondelegate. Business sessions will no longer be live-streamed free of charge. Go to www.brethren.org/ac2022/registration.

BVS

Brethren Volunteer Service

We're a little different. Maybe you are too.

By Dan McFadden



Dan McFadden,
Interim Director of BVS

Soon after I came back to the BVS office as the interim director, I was asked if BVS wanted to place an ad in the church's monthly magazine, "Messenger". I didn't have much time to make a decision nor come up with an ad.

And then I forgot the whole thing. So, one Monday at noon, I texted my daughter (a former BVSer), her friend, Taryn, and my wife. Could they put their heads together and help me out? They started with a phrase I gave them, "Find your passion." Then came a progression of their

thinking. My wife took notes and kept the piece of paper.

And finally, "we're a little different. maybe you are too."

This all came about in about 10 minutes. When pressed for time sometimes great ideas spring forth.

We on the BVS team have become captivated by this phrase. Right away it seemed to fit and its simplicity tells the BVS experience.


We in BVS are a little different. We always have been. In the way we place volunteers, our hope for living simply, food groups cooking for the orientation units the last 40 years, drop-off day. Is what you gain from your volunteer experience unique to BVS? No. Many others gain the same thing from their service years. And yet, the Church of the Brethren, who forms the foundation of BVS and following Jesus, the reason we do what we do... yes, we're a little different.

Maybe you know of others who are different too. Invite them to join us. *AM*

Your support of our ministries
makes a notable difference.

Thank you!

Find your passion
Shake things up
Be different
Gateway
Find your future
Unlock the
Discover yr future
Discover something diff
We're a little different -
maybe you are too

 Church of the Brethren
Office of Mission Advancement
MA@brethren.org (800)323-8039 ext. 370
Your gifts do great things! www.brethren.org/greatthings

Camp Mack

News from the Director

Camp Fills the Gap

Growing up in the 1960's and 70's, I was in Sunday school and church every Sunday, as were nearly all the people I knew. Nothing was more important on Sunday morning. I learned that my church was a central part of my life. I learned about God, the traditions of my denomination, the love Jesus showed, and the power of a community focused on biblical truth.

The practice of Sunday morning church is no longer the norm for most families these days.

There is a lot to be said for the need to be authentic in worship, and we must make our faith tangible through the investment of our time, talents, and resources. But, I have to wonder where children are learning about faith and community.

This is where Camp Mack becomes so vitally important. Each day, all day, the focus is on learning and experiencing how God works through the community to bless each individual and the world at the same time.

Here, children find **sanctuary** from the stresses of life. They **connect with God**, learning about God's love, and taking time to read the Bible and pray. Every day is spent outdoors, so they can **experience creation**, breathing fresh air and marveling at the beauty around them. Most importantly, they **build Christian community**, learning how to love and support one another, and developing a sense of belonging in a world that seems more and more isolated.

I don't want to go back to the days of going to church because it was expected or it was an obligation, but I do worry about the growing mental health issues and trauma children face.

Lots of adults tell me that kids just need to be more resilient. "We need to toughen them up!" I disagree. My resilience was formed in the support of my church community and the experience of knowing God was always there.

Camp Mack can be an important part of providing the love and support of a community of faith. Have your children or grandchildren been given that gift? What other children do you know who need this special blessing? There is still time. We are waiting for the opportunity to minister and bring the love of God to as many children as we can.

"Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them."

Mark 10:14b-16

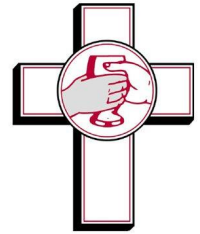
Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director



Brethren Disaster Ministries

Friends,

BDM is active and desires your participation. Children's Disaster Services has training scheduled in Roaring Spring, PA , November 5-6. CDS has been active in person this year on the US/Mexico border with migrant children and presently with children of families immigrating from Afghanistan. Call New Windsor, 800-451-4407 to ask questions or to register for one of the training sessions.



Thank you for your support and encouragement of BDM activities. Blessings of peace to you!

Cliff Kindy, District Disaster Coordinator

On Earth Peace held its spring board meeting via Zoom on April 7-9, led by co-chairs Melisa Leiter Grandison and Irvin Heishman. The meeting opened with a report on the current interim staffing arrangement. Responsibilities previously carried by the executive director are now divided among the three staff: Marie Benner-Rhoades, Matt Guynn, and Darlene Johnson. The board is preparing to consider proposals for a new staffing structure. Staff have stepped up development work, with interns assisting in making calls to donors. The board is assisting with planning a Dec. 3 concert fundraiser at Manchester Church of the Brethren in North Manchester, Ind., in-person and online, featuring Friends with the Weather. In other business, the board continued work to become “unapologetically multiracial/multicultural”; held conversations about the On Earth Peace branding; considered recommendations that board members be trained in Kingian Nonviolence; celebrated progress made with National Youth Conference staff “for training for all adult advisors with guidelines in place to protect queer youth from bullying as well as providing identified safe space and advisors”; and reviewed polity recommendations being brought to Annual Conference, five years after On Earth Peace asked for clarification of polity relating to agencies. Board member Beverly Eikenberry was appointed as treasurer. Two candidates were affirmed as new board members, beginning in 2023: Tamera Shaw, a program coordinator in the Psychology Department at George Mason University, and Jessie Houff, community arts minister at Washington (D.C.) City Church of the Brethren and Community Arts coordinator and an adjunct professor at Wesley Theological Seminary.

Brethren Leadership Institute

Due to current gathering restrictions, please contact the district office to confirm class schedule and method of delivery.