

# 2012 Progressive\* Guide to Annual Conference

Items of interest to women and men working with God for  
a church of justice, welcome, peace, and equality for all

\* And, yeah, we have problems with the word 'progressive', but we don't have anything better to offer at the moment. So we're coping. :)



Peacefully. Simply. Together.

you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

*Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded*

-- Matthew 28:19-20

## Introducing Open Table Cooperative: Empowering New Ways of Continuing the Work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.

A new movement has been stirring for quite some time within the Church of the Brethren. A movement that desires a fresh, new way of embracing our heritage, relating to one another, working together, and joining in God's boundary-breaking love. After Annual Conference 2011, this movement began to crystallize in conversations across the country, connected to one another through the internet, and gathered under the name "Feast of Love." These conversations were unique in that they included many young adults as both participants and leaders and connected with many persons who had not previously engaged with existing progressive movements within the denomination.

Over the past months a tremendous amount of work has gone into crafting the vision, structure, and plans for this new movement. Part of this transformation from nebulous conversations to grassroots-driven organization has included a new name: **Open Table Cooperative**. The Open Table Cooperative seeks to be an inclusive, empowering, transformational network of individuals and communities across the denomination.

The Open Table Co-op continues to grow in interest and energy and is excited to be making their Annual Conference debut this year. Connect with us through our SMS update list, social media, website ([www.opentablecoop.org](http://www.opentablecoop.org)), or in person at our insight session Sunday night or the Tuesday-evening celebration with Voices for an Open Spirit.

## Stay Connected

Whether you are at Annual Conference in St. Louis or watching from afar, stay connected through the wonders of technology!

### Annual Conference Updates SMS List, from Open Table Cooperative

Looking for a way to stay connected to what's going on around Conference without constantly checking message boards, social media, or email? Want to know if special events or impromptu get-togethers are taking place? Then sign up for the Annual Conference Updates SMS list! Using your mobile phone's text-messaging capabilities you can stay on top of all the exciting things that take place during Annual Conference. We'll be sending out reminders for important events, announcements of spontaneous actions and gatherings, and alerts about business items you might be interested in.

#### To Sign Up:

Text AC2012 to **708-277-6877**, or scan the QR code. You'll receive a response message with instructions on how to complete your registration. **To stop receiving messages from us, just text STOP to the number above.**



If you have questions about the list, or suggestions for something we might share, just text them to us at **708-277-6877**. Messages you send to us will not be passed directly to the list and we'll respond to your suggestions and questions as quickly as possible.

**\*\*\*Please remember that you may be charged for text messages by your cellular company depending on your messaging plan.\*\*\***

Also, keep an eye on the following pages and feeds:

[www.progressivebrethren.org](http://www.progressivebrethren.org)

#### Twitter:

@ProgBrethren use hashtag #cobac2012

#### Facebook:

Progressive Brethren Online  
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Progressive-Brethren-Online/352978681432>

# Suggested Activities Day-by-Day

## SATURDAY

### DINNER 5 p.m.

- **VOS Dinner -- Cultivating the Spirit: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow.** James Lehman. Room 221

### HEARINGS ON AC BUSINESS 9 p.m.

- **Climate Response.** Room 124
- **AC Revitalization Report.** Room 123
- **Congregational Ethics Revisions.** Room 121
- **Ministerial Leadership Polity Revisions.** Room 120
- **Denominational Vision Statement.** Room 127

## SUNDAY

### MORNING

- Clergywomen's Breakfast. **Beyond Bitterness: Naomi's Story.** Part of *Women in Leadership: Four Biblical Stories*. Rev. Dr. Lisa M. Wolfe. 7 am. Room 229
- **Bible Study** with Bob Neff. Sunday, 8 am. Halls 1 & 2.

### INSIGHT SESSIONS 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

- **Conflict Coaching.** Leslie Frye. Room 125
- **Finagling Justice: Tamar's Story.** Part of *Women in Leadership: Four Biblical Stories*. Rev. Dr. Lisa M. Wolfe. Room 123
- **Addressing Violence in Africa: Brethren Peace Mission.** Room 126

### DINNER

- **BMC Worship & Dinner.** Centenary United Methodist Church, 55 Plaza Square. Music: 4:30 pm. Worship: 4:45 pm. Dinner: 6:00 pm.
- Brethren Press / Messenger Dinner. **What Holds the Brethren Together?** Guy Wampler. 5 pm. Room 220

### INSIGHT SESSIONS 9:00 - 10:00 p.m.

- **By the Hand of a Woman: Judith's Story.** Part of *Women in Leadership: Four Biblical Stories*. Rev. Dr. Lisa M. Wolfe. Room 120
- **The Science of Sexuality.** Dr. Jonathan Frye. Room 126
- **Bullying Within the Church: Strategies for Ending It.** Eric Bishop and panel. Room 123
- **The Forgotten Disaster: Responding to Hunger, Drought, and Famine in Africa.** Jeff Boshart, Roy Winter. Room 124
- **Keeping Our Children Safe: Our Congregational and Community Response.** Bonnie Kline Smeltzer, Kim Ebersole. Room 231
- **Stepping Out: Our Relationship with Carbon.** Becky Ullom, Carol Fike. Room 241
- **Facebook Horror Stories: Dos and Dont's of Social Media.** Wendy McFadden, Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford. Room 232
- **Disciple-Making.** Joshua Brockway. Room 242
- **On Earth Peace's Emerging Vision/Meet and Greet the**

**New Executive Director.** Room 240

- **The Government and the Church: The Life and Work of Peace Witness.** Nathan Hosler, Jonathan Stauffer. Room 280
- **Open Table Cooperative: Expanding the COB Progressive Movement.** Sunday, 9:00 PM, Room 101/102

## MONDAY

### LUNCHEON 12 noon

- **Womaen's Caucus Luncheon.** Ruthann Knechel Johansen. Room 223

### INSIGHT SESSIONS 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

- **Forgotten Minister: Phoebe's Story.** Part of *Women in Leadership: Four Biblical Stories*. Rev. Dr. Lisa M. Wolfe. Room 123
- **Leadership Next: For the Vitality of Your Congregation.** Stan Dueck. Room 120

### INSIGHT SESSIONS 9:00-10:00 p.m.

- **Developing Your Web Presence.** Brian Solem. Room 122
- **Webcasting and Webinars: How We Do Them, How We Use Them.** Enten Eller. Room 123
- **Coming, Staying, and Going: Why People Choose to Remain In or Leave the Church of the Brethren.** Andrew Hamilton. Room 124
- **Power of People on the Margins.** Lucy and Micah Loucks. Room 280
- **Finding the Heartcry of the Community.** Samuel Sarpiya. Room 126

## TUESDAY

### BREAKFAST 7 a.m.

- **Stepping Up for Peace.** On Earth Peace Breakfast. Room 220

### LUNCHEON 12 noon

- **Ecumenical Luncheon: New Fire: Youth and Young Adults and the Ecumenical Movement.** Rev. Jennifer Leath. Room 221

### INSIGHT SESSIONS 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

- **Video Games: Cracking the Code?** Kathleen Fry-Miller and Judy Bezon. Room 120
- **Faithful Voting.** Nate Hosler. Room 123

### INSIGHT SESSIONS 9:00 - 10:00 p.m.

- **Welcome Matters: The Experience of SCN Congregations.** Carol Wise. Room 125
- **I and Thou: The Art and Spritual Discipline of Listening.** Ruthann Knechel Johansen, Celia Cook-Huffman, Joel Kline. Room 121
- **From Marine Sergeant to Conscientious Objector.** Corey Gray. Room 120
- **An Anniversary Hymn Sing.** Nancy Faus-Mullen. Room 130

- **New Fire: Youth and Young Adults and the Ecumenical Movement.** Rev. Jennifer Leath. Room 232
- **Screen, Song, and Story: Using Multimedia in Worship.** Dean Sensenig. Room 123

**VOS ANNUAL MEETING 9:00-11:00+ p.m.**

Welcoming Open Table Cooperative. Room 101/102.  
Latecomers welcome after other insight sessions/ meetings!

## Insight Sessions / Activities by Topic

### INCLUSIVITY & WELCOMING

- **The Science of Sexuality.** Dr. Jonathan Frye. Sunday, 9 pm. *Room 126*
- **Bullying Within the Church: Strategies for Ending It.** Eric Bishop and panel. Sunday, 9 pm. Room 123
- **Keeping Our Children Safe: Our Congregational and Community Response.** Bonnie Kline Smeltzer, Kim Ebersole. Sunday, 9 pm. Room 231
- **Open Table Cooperative: Expanding the COB Progressive Movement.** Sunday, 9:00 PM, Room 101/102
- **Coming, Staying, and Going: Why People Choose to Remain In or Leave the Church of the Brethren.** Andrew Hamilton. Monday, 9 pm. Room 124
- **Power of People on the Margins.** Lucy and Micah Loucks. Monday, 9 pm. Room 280
- **Ecumenical Luncheon: New Fire: Youth and Young Adults and the Ecumenical Movement.** Rev. Jennifer Leath. Tuesday, noon. Room 221 **ALSO** Tuesday, 9 pm. in Room 232.
- **Welcome Matters: The Experience of SCN Congregations.** Carol Wise. Tuesday, 9 pm. Room 125
- **I and Thou: The Art and Spiritual Discipline of Listening.** Ruthann Knechel Johansen, Celia Cook-Huffman, Joel Kline. Tuesday, 9 pm. Room 121

### ENVIRONMENT / CARE FOR CREATION

- **AC Business Hearing: Climate Response.** Saturday 9 p.m. *Room 124*
- **The Forgotten Disaster: Responding to Hunger, Drought, and Famine in Africa.** Jeff Boshart, Roy Winter. Sunday, 9 pm. Room 124
- **Stepping Out: Our Relationship with Carbon.** Becky Ullom, Carol Fike. Sunday, 9 pm. *Room 241*

### TECHNOLOGY / ONLINE COMMUNITY

- **Facebook Horror Stories: Dos and Dont's of Social Media.** Wendy McFadden, Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford. Sunday, 9 pm. Room 232
- **Developing Your Web Presence.** Brian Solem. Monday, 9 pm. Room 122
- **Webcasting and Webinars: How We Do Them, How We Use Them.** Enten Eller. Monday, 9 pm. Room 123

- **Video Games: Cracking the Code?** Kathleen Fry-Miller and Judy Bezon. Tuesday, 12:30 pm. Room 120

### HUMAN SEXUALITY

- **The Science of Sexuality.** Dr. Jonathan Frye. Sunday, 9 pm. *Room 126*
- **Welcome Matters: The Experience of SCN Congregations.** Carol Wise. Tuesday, 9 pm. Room 125

### PEACEMAKING / JUSTICE

- **Conflict Coaching.** Leslie Frye. Sunday, noon. *Room 125*
- **Addressing Violence in Africa: Brethren Peace Mission.** Sunday, noon. *Room 126*
- **Bullying Within the Church: Strategies for Ending It.** Eric Bishop and panel. Sunday, 9 pm. Room 123
- **On Earth Peace's Emerging Vision/Meet and Greet the New Executive Director. Sunday 9 pm.** Room 240
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- **Finding the Heartcry of the Community.** Samuel Sarpiya. Monday, 9 pm. Room 126
- **Stepping Up for Peace.** On Earth Peace Breakfast. Tuesday, 7 am. Room 220
- **Faithful Voting.** Nate Hosler. Tuesday, 12:30 pm. Room 123
- **From Marine Sergeant to Conscientious Objector.** Corey Gray. Tuesday, 9 pm. Room 120

### WOMEN / LEADERSHIP

The following are part of **Women in Leadership: Four Biblical Stories**, the Rev. Dr. Lisa M. Wolfe leader.)

- Clergywomen's Breakfast. **Beyond Bitterness: Naomi's Story.** Sunday 7 am. Room 229
- **Finagling Justice: Tamar's Story.** Sunday noon. *Room 123*
- **By the Hand of a Woman: Judith's Story.** Sunday 9 pm. Room 120
- **Forgotten Minister: Phoebe's Story.** Monday, 12:30 pm. Room 123
- **Womaen's Caucus Luncheon.** Ruthann Knechel Johansen. Monday, noon. Room 223

### SPIRITUALITY / FAITH

- **Bible Study** with Bob Neff. Sunday, 8 am. Halls 1 & 2.
- **Disciple-Making.** Joshua Brockway. Sunday, 9 pm. Room 242
- **An Anniversary Hymn Sing.** Nancy Faus-Mullen. Tuesday, 9 pm. Room 130



## Womaen's Caucus

### Womaen's Caucus Luncheon

Monday, July 9 12 noon

Caucus is pleased to welcome Dr. Ruthann Knechel Johansen, president of Bethany Theological Seminary as our Luncheon speaker this year. Ruthann will be speaking on **"The Love Poem."** Our **silent auction** will also be full of awesome handcrafts and more for you to bid on!

### Caucus Booth Activities

Rainbow Handcrafts will again be available at our booth, so please drop off what you have created or pick up a necklace, bracelet, scarf, hat, or key chain to show support for inclusivity in the Church. We would like to have enough rainbow handcrafts to stock the BMC booth as well.

Also at the Caucus Booth will be a version of Word With Friends to reinforce concepts such as equity, justice, and women in leadership. Stop by to add a word and read what others have offered!

We are also creating a banner recognizing women in leadership who have influenced our lives. Ministers, missionaries, Sunday School teachers, mentors, Moms, care givers, Board Chairs, delegates, Moderators, commission chairs, and scholars. Stop by and pay tribute to the women in your life who have made a difference by adding her name to the banner.



## Voices for an Open Spirit (VOS)

**VOS Dinner Saturday, 5 pm, Room 221**

**"Cultivating the Spirit: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow."** James Lehman will share about the birth and growth of the shared vision that became Voices for an Open Spirit. He will also share his own vision for how the church might continue to be fertile soil that empowers all of us to listen and respond to the movement of the Spirit, even as we face the unknown factors that are our future.

### VOS Annual Meeting & Celebration

Tuesday, 9 pm. Room 101/102. All are invited to join with VOS to:

- Celebrate 10 years of encouraging an open and inclusive spirit in ourselves and the denomination
- Welcome Open Table Cooperative to the progressive fold and describe how we will join and support their work
- Hear plans for the Progressive Brethren Fall Gathering, October 26-28, LaVerne Church of the Brethren – *Holy Work: Becoming a Beloved Community*

## Open Table Cooperative

### **Insight Session: Open Table Cooperative: Expanding the COB Progressive Movement.**

Sunday, 9:00 PM, Room 101/102. Join the Interim Organizational Team and the newly called Leadership Board to learn more about the mission and vision for OTC and how you can be involved in this new progressive movement. Hear about how OTC hopes to connect progressive Brethren throughout the country. How can the energy and enthusiasm of young adults alongside the wisdom and experience of older adults help change the climate of the denomination? What is our vision for the church? Come be a part of this growing movement that is envisioning a new way of being part of the Church of the Brethren where our diversity is celebrated and our unique gifts are honored.



## BMC

### BMC Worship & Dinner

Sunday, July 8

Centenary United Methodist Church, 55 Plaza Square  
Music: 4:30 pm. \* Worship: 4:45 pm. \* Dinner: 6:00 pm.

Join BMC for a worship service to celebrate the welcoming movement and the presence of a BMC booth in the AC Exhibit Hall! All are welcome at this joyful and uplifting service honoring the persistence, courage, and hope of the struggle for hospitality and grace within the church. A light dinner will follow the worship service. Cost of the dinner is \$10. **Please RSVP to the BMC office at [bmc@bmclgbt.org](mailto:bmc@bmclgbt.org) or call 612.343.2060 so they know how many to expect for dinner.**

### Meet You At the BOOTH!

Please stop by the BMC booth for resources, conversation, or just to hang out in a friendly environment. If you would like to help staff the booth, please email [bmc@bmclgbt.org](mailto:bmc@bmclgbt.org) or stop by the booth at Conference and we'll get you on the schedule. Thank you!

**Insight Session: Welcome Matters: The Experience of SCN Congregations.** Tuesday, July 10 at 9 p.m. Room 125.

### Service Project

We are working with **The Bridge**, a ministry of Centenary UMC that provides sanctuary for homeless and at-risk people in St. Louis, to offer service during Annual Conference. The Bridge serves over 3000 meals weekly and provides a safe place for people to relax, make phone calls, use the Internet, and find support. Email [bmc@bmclgbt.org](mailto:bmc@bmclgbt.org) or stop by the BMC booth at Conference for details on service opportunities.

# Women in Leadership:

## Four Biblical Stories

Descriptions taken from the AC informational materials.



Women's Caucus is very excited to see this four-part exploration of women in leadership focusing on the biblical stories of four women. Leadership for all sessions will be provided by the Rev. Dr. Lisa M. Wolfe. Dr. Wolfe is Associate Professor in the Endowed Chair of Hebrew Bible at Oklahoma City University, and also teaches for Saint Paul School of Theology at OCU. She received her Ph.D. from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and Northwestern University in 2003,

her M.Div. from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH in 1996, and was ordained in the United Church of Christ in 2000. Her published/video works include:

- **Uppity Women of the Bible: Ruth, Song of Songs, Esther, and Judith.** DVD study series by Living the Questions ([www.livingthequestions.com](http://www.livingthequestions.com))
- **Ruth, Esther, Song of Songs, and Judith.** Cascade Books, 2011.

### **Clergywomen's Breakfast, Sunday, 7:00 a.m., Room 229**

#### **"BEYOND BITTERNESS: NAOMI'S STORY"**

Naomi, also known as "sweetness and light," eventually finds the other side of bitterness in the book of Ruth. What did it take to get there? Would it work for us? (CoB Office of Ministry)

### **Sunday Insight Session - 12 noon, Room 123**

#### **"FINAGLING JUSTICE: TAMAR'S STORY"**

In Genesis 38, we meet the patriarch Judah and his daughter-in-law Tamar. How did he wrong her and why did he eventually admit "she is more in the right than I"? (Gen 38:26, NRSV) Do we ever hear concessions of wrong from those who have done us injustice? (CoB Office of Ministry)

### **Sunday Insight Session -- 9 p.m., Room 120**

#### **"BY THE HAND OF A WOMAN: JUDITH'S STORY"**

This lesser-known woman plays the role of a heroic protector for her oppressed people. Yet throughout her story she is subtly disparaged by repeat of the underhanded compliment "by the hand of a woman," which assumes a woman could not have done what she did. Can women get credit for their accomplishments without being patronized? (Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership/Bethany Seminary)

### **Monday Insight Session -- 12:30 p.m., Room 123**

#### **"FORGOTTEN MINISTER: PHOEBE'S STORY"**

Everyone knows the book of Romans, but few remember Phoebe. Paul asked that the Romans welcome and care for this benefactor and minister "as is fitting for the saints." In fact, Phoebe may well have been the one to carry Paul's now famous letter to Rome, though biblical translations and Church history have downplayed her role. How can we uncover and celebrate behind-the-scenes work when other forces try to keep it hidden? (Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership/CoB Ministry Office)