

2013 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. :)



Move in our midst, thou
Spirit of God...
Touch thou our hands to
lead us aright...
Strike from our feet the
fetters that bind...
Kindle our hearts to burn

with thy flame...

Spirit of God, O send us thy pow'r! Hymn #418

New Business: Query on Biblical Authority

A noteworthy piece of new business this year is the query about Biblical Authority. It is asking whether we should clarify our stance on scriptural authority. This is concerning as the current paper from 1979 is balanced and represents the diverse view of the Church of the Brethren as a whole. The previous paper identifies eight different understandings of how Brethren interpret the Bible. The paper can be found by going to this web address: www.cobannualconference.org/ac_statements/ and searching for Biblical Inspiration and Authority, it is listed by year.

There is potential for this clarifying to marginalize voices. It opens the possibility to narrow the diversity of the current paper. The Bible can be easily used as a weapon, especially in how it is interpreted or translated. We encourage you to read the current paper and attend business when this query is discussed.

The '79 paper poses this question at the end: "How can we hold one another in love and fellowship when there exists a diversity of attitudes among us about the way in which scripture was given and its interpretation?" While this is a troubling question the paper responds with: "The way is found in the nature of God's creation, through the example and teachings of Jesus, through the examples of our early Brethren, through acknowledging our human limitations in understanding, and through being open to the leading of the Spirit who draws all members of Christ's church together." May we be open to the Spirit as we hear and discuss this query and the Bible.

Crossin' America Tour La Verne COB Sanctuary Choir

They will tour Pennsylvania and Virginia to finish at Annual Conference during the opening worship. This is a must see!

June 23, morning worship, Central Baptist Church, Wayne, PA

June 25, 7pm, Lancaster COB, Lancaster, PA

June 25, 7:30pm, Elizabethtown COB, Elizabethtown, PA

June 27, 7:30pm, Bridgewater COB, Bridgewater, VA

July 29, 7:30pm, Annual Conference, Charlotte, NC

There will be a concert at 9pm that night.

For more information check out:

<http://www.brethren.org/news/2013/la-verne-sanctuary-choir-tour.html?fromRSS=true>



Ministry of Reconciliation



Members of the Ministry of Reconciliation will be wearing yellow lanyards and tags that say "Minister of Reconciliation" on them.

If at any point during conference, you find yourself in need of a Minister of Reconciliation, please feel free to use this resource by stopping by the On Earth Peace Booth or the Annual Conference office. You can also call **(620) 755-3940** if you cannot find a Team member to talk to.

Stay Connected

Whether you are at Annual Conference in Charlotte 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 AC2013 to **(708) 315-2131**, 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) 315-2131**. 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.*****

Keep an eye on the following pages and feeds:

www.progressivebrethren.org (we're launching a new and improved version with everything up to date, check it out Monday!)

Twitter:

@ProgBrethren use hashtag #cobac2013

Facebook:

Progressive Brethren Online

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



Living Stream COB in Charlotte

The new online fellowship, Living Stream CoB, will be present at Annual Conference. Check us out and get connected!

- A *workshop* on new ways of worship will feature Living Stream, as part of the conference focus on spiritual renewal, on **Sunday from 11am—noon**, hosted jointly by Pastor Audrey and other pastors.
- **Monday, July 1, at 7:30pm**, we will have a *live meet-up* in the Westin hotel. Part of our conversation will be streamed live to our fellow worshippers around the country. Regular participants as well as new friends are welcome!
- Living Stream CoB will be inducted as an official *new fellowship* of the Pacific Northwest District during conference business.
- The *Congregational Vitality Ministries Fair* on **Tuesday from 4:30-6:30pm** will include Pastor Audrey as a table facilitator.
- Our congregation will be welcomed as a new member of the *Supportive Communities Network* on **Tuesday**.
- An *insight session*, hosted by Open Table Cooperative, will feature Living Stream as an example of the new ways of being church, on **Tuesday evening at 9pm**.
- *Roving Living Stream representatives* will have sign-up sheets, information, stickers, and friendly dispositions to get you connected with the Stream.
- *Pastor Audrey deCoursey* will be on hand to answer questions and get to know you better.
- Our very own *quilt square*, made by Pam Miller, will make an appearance in the conference quilts.

Visit www.livingstreamcob.org Welcome to the Stream!

Queries to Watch

It is important to be aware of these queries and be open to discussion on them, asking questions and being thoughtful, as they could induce larger shifts within the denomination.

The Query: **More Equitable Representation on the Mission & Ministry Board** directly impacts the representation of the west coast. The delegate body is deciding on whether to accept the recommendation from the Mission and Ministry Board on the make-up of the board. This query can be found at: <http://www.brethren.org/ac/documents/2013-ub5-equitable-rep-mmb.pdf>

The Query: **Guidelines for Implementation of the Congregational Ethics Paper** directly impacts the relationship between Districts and Churches, among other guidelines for churches. The delegate body is discussing the revisions and additions to the original paper from 1996. This query can be found at: <http://www.brethren.org/ac/documents/2013-ub2-congregational-ethics.pdf>

Open Table Cooperative



"A Truly Open Table"

Saturday June 29th Room 217-C/D

Open Table Cooperative invites you to supper for a truly "open table." We'll offer an array of finger foods for everyone, some stimulating conversation around the tables, and an encounter or two with Jesus. What more could you hope for?

Just show up – no ticket required.

Visit Our Booth!

We are sponsoring two insight sessions:

**Monday 9pm Room 204
Christian Economics: Principles, Policies, and Priorities**
US politics is filled with talk about "middle class tax cuts", who pays and who profits, what's our "fair share", how much we want government to do, etc. As Christians, shouldn't we look to Jesus to help us decide these moral questions? After all, Jesus taught more about the economics of God's community than many "religious" topics.

**Tuesday 9pm Room 207-B/C
Exploring Alternative Ways of Being Church**
Gather for a round-table discussion with Church of the Brethren pastors and lay leaders who are engaging in alternative, creative, and new ways of being church. Learn about how the spirit of Jesus is being shared in weekly online worship, house church meetings— even Pub Theology!



"Celebrating Women in Ministry"

Monday July 1st Room 217-D

Womaen's Caucus Luncheon

Come and join us for an interesting panel discussion with Bonnie Kline Smeltzer, Erin Matteson and Belita Mitchell. We will have our annual Silent Auction. Feel free to bring something for the Auction. Check out our website for more information or facebook!

Join us at our Booth!



Come pick up a Rainbow Handcraft, weave a stole for one of our panel members or chat with some interesting people. We would love to see you!

BMC and SCN Worship

Tuesday July 2nd Room 209-A/B

Visit the Booth in the Exhibit Hall!

We're back for another fun year! "In Our Midst" is the theme of the BMC booth, which will focus upon the congregations and communities that are part of the Supportive Communities Network (SCN) as publicly affirming of lgbtq people. SCN is expanding rapidly and is an exciting area of growth, strength, and gracious hospitality. We will have a "double wide" booth again this year, and invite people to stop by to relax, chat, peruse resources, and just hang out for awhile in a welcoming and warm space.

"A Celebration of Change"

Come join your progressive companions for a time of worship and celebration guaranteed to bring a sense of meaning, joy, and connectedness after the long days of Annual Conference. We'll rejoice at the ten new congregations who have joined SCN in the past year, sing some good songs, revel in some insightful reflections, and delight in the goodness of our community.



How Welcoming Congregations Grow

Momentum is rapidly shifting as more lgbt people come out, as young adults challenge attitudes of discrimination, and as welcoming congregations find their theological voice. What is happening within the welcoming movement? What does it mean to be a welcoming congregation? Why is this an important step for a congregation to take? What are the risks and opportunities? This workshop, presented by Carol Wise from BMC, will explore the dynamics of lgbt inclusion as well as offer an opportunity to bring your questions and experience to the conversation.

SCN Offering 12:30-1:30 pm Tuesday July 2nd The affirmation of lgbt people is one of the defining social and religious issues of our times.

Suggested Activities Day-by-Day

SATURDAY

DINNER 5 p.m.

- **Open Table Cooperative Reception – Truly “Open Table”** food and conversation, no ticket required. *Room 217-C/D*

EVENING 9 p.m.

- **La Verne COB Chancel Choir Concert.** *Hall C*
- **Hearing: Revision of the Ministerial Leadership Polity.** *Room 207-A*
- **Hearing: Guidelines for Implementation of the Congregational Ethics Paper.** *Room 207-D*

SUNDAY

MORNING 7 a. m.

- **Clergy Women’s Breakfast – “Finding Your Voice: Turning Crumbs into Bread”** Ruthann Knechel Johansen. *Rooms 218-219*

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL WORKSHOPS 11a.m. – 12p.m

- **How Do I Worship?** Panel (Brian Messler, Audrey deCoursey, Russ & Erin Matteson). *Room 202*
- **Music as a Form of Prayer** – Shawn Kirchner. *Hall C Stage*

SPIRITUAL RENEWAL WORKSHOPS 4-5p.m

- **Deliberatively Christian Conflict Transformation** – Leslie Frye. *Room 210-A*
- **Finding Courage in the Face of Injustice** – Matt Guynn. *Room 206*
- **Faith and the Politics of Jesus** – Nate Hosler. *Room 205*
- **Subversive Spirituality in the Marketplace** – Jenn Hosler. *Room 204*

MONDAY

MORNING 8:30a.m.

- **Bible Study and Business** – Jonathan Brenneman. *Hall C*

LUNCH 12 p.m.

- **Womaen’s Caucus Luncheon – “Celebrating Women in Ministry”** Panel (Belita Mitchell, Erin Matteson and Bonnie Kline Smeltzer). *Room 217-D*
- **Ecumenical Luncheon - “Seeking Wholeness”** Rev. Dr. Sharon E. Watkins. *Room 218-219*

INSIGHT SESSIONS 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

- **Sending of the Seventy: How the Congregations in a Conflicted District Rediscovered One another in a Deeper Common Purpose** – Tim Button-Harrison, Kathy Mack. *Room 205*
- **Finding Your Voice: Improvisational Evangelism** –Tara Hornbacker. *Room 207-D*

- **The Science of Climate Change** – Jonathan Frye. *Room 207-A*
- **The Well-Formed Minister** – Enten Eller, Amy Gall Ritchie, Dan Poole. *Room 209*
- **Jesus, Caesar, and the Dunkers: Spiritual Foundations for Public Witness** – Joshua Brockway and Nathan Hosler. *Room 204*
- **Cultivating a Thriving Church in Collaboration with Brethren Higher Education** Ruthann Knechel Johansen, Katie Cummings, Dale Dowdy, Janet Ober, Jarret Smith, David Steele, Becky Ullom Naugle. *Room 210-A*

AFTERNOON EVENTS 4:45 – 5:45 p.m.

- **Young Adult Meet and Greet with the Moderator** -Elect *Room 210-A*

INSIGHT SESSIONS 9 – 10 p.m.

- **Unity Within Diversity – Diversity Within Unity: Implications for Brethren Today** – Darla K. Dearthoff. *Room 210-A*
- **Finding Your Voice: Administration as Pastoral Care** –Julie M. Hostetter. *Room 208-A*
- **Christian Economics: Principles, Policies, and Priorities** – Panel Sara Davis, Josih Hostetler, Ken Kline Smeltzer. *On Earth Peace with Open Table Cooperative. Room 204*
- **Our “Statement of Inclusion” Two Years Later – What Does it Mean to You?** – Bill Scheurer. *Room 203-B*

TUESDAY

MORNING 7 a.m.

- **On Earth Peace Breakfast – “A Conversation with Sister Anna Mow and Brother John Kline”** Larry Glick and Jean Moyer. *Room 213-C/D*
- **Bible Study and Business** – Jon Brenneman. *Hall C (8:30 a.m. start)*

SCN OFFERING 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

- **How Welcoming Congregations Grow** – Room 207-B/C

INSIGHT SESSIONS 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.

- **“Living Peace Church” – Does Our Congregation Want to be One? How Do We Do It?** Bill Scheurer. *Room 206*
- **Christian Peacemaker Teams: Awesome Inspirational Stories of Building Partnerships to Transform Violence and Oppression** – panel, Beth Soltenberger. *Room 209*

AFTERNOON EVENTS 4:15 – 5:30 p.m.

- **BMC/SCN Worship – A Celebration of Change!** *Room 209 A/B*

Tuesday Continued

INSIGHT SESSIONS 9 – 10 p.m.

- “Tea without sugar is not tea.” **Life in the Occupied Territories of Palestine** – Matt Guynn. *Room 209*
- **Finding Your Voice: By Listening to the Past** – Denise Kettering-Lane. *Room 206*
- “Demographics is Destiny” – **Young Adults Find Common Ground** – Bill Scheurer. *Room 207-D*
- **Community Gardens: Going to the Garden of Peace Witness Ministries and the Global Food Crisis Fund** – Jeff Boshart. *Room 204*
- **Exploring Alternative Ways of Being Church** – Panel, Open Table and Pacific Northwest District. *Room 207-B/C*
- **From Youth Participant to Young Adult Leader** – Rachel Witkovsky. *Room 202*
- **Seeking to Live the Peace of Jesus Publicly: The Church of the Brethren Peace Witness Ministries** – Nathan Hosler. *Room 205*
- **Exploring Alternative Ways of Being Church** – Panel with PNW and OTC. *Room 207-B/C*

Insight Sessions/Workshops by Subject

INCLUSIVITY/WELCOME

- **Sending of the Seventy: How the Congregations in a Conflicted District Rediscovered One another in a Deeper Common Purpose** – Tim Button-Harrison, Kathy Mack. *Room 205*. Monday 12:30pm.
- **Unity Within Diversity – Diversity Within Unity: Implications for Brethren Today** – Darla K. Deardorff. *Room 210-A*. Monday 9pm.
- **Our “Statement of Inclusion” Two Years Later – What Does it Mean to You?** – Bill Scheurer. *Room 203-B*. Monday 9pm.
- “Demographics is Destiny” – **Young Adults Find Common Ground** – Bill Scheurer. *Room 207-D*. Tuesday 9pm.

POLITICS AND RELIGION

- **Christian Economics: Principles, Policies, and Priorities** – On Earth Peace with Open Table Cooperative. *Room 204*. Monday 9pm.
- **Faith and the Politics of Jesus** – Nate Hosler. *Room 205*. Sunday 4pm.
- **Subversive Spirituality in the Marketplace** – Jenn Hosler. *Room 204*. Sunday 4pm.

PEACEMAKING/JUSTICE

- **Deliberatively Christian Conflict Transformation** – Leslie Frye. *Room 210-A*. Sunday 4pm.

- **Finding Courage in the Face of Injustice** – Matt Guynn. *Room 206*. Sunday 4pm.
- “Living Peace Church” – **Does Our Congregation Want to be One? How Do We Do It?** Bill Scheurer. *Room 206*. Tuesday 12:30pm.
- **Christian Peacemaker Teams: Awesome Inspirational Stories of Building Partnerships to Transform Violence and Oppression** – panel, Beth Soltenberger. *Room 209*. Tuesday 12:30pm.
- **Seeking to Live the Peace of Jesus Publicly: The Church of the Brethren Peace Witness Ministries** – Nathan Hosler. *Room 205*. Tuesday 9pm.
- “Tea without sugar is not tea.” **Life in the Occupied Territories of Palestine** – Matt Guynn. *Room 209*. Tuesday 9pm.

WOMEN/LEADERSHIP

- **Finding Your Voice: Improvisational Evangelism** – Tara Hornbacher. *Room 207-D*. Monday 12:30pm.
- **Finding Your Voice: By Listening to the Past** – Denise Kettering-Lane. *Room 206*. Tuesday 9pm.
- **From Youth Participant to Young Adult Leader** – Rachel Witkovsky. *Room 202*. Tuesday 9pm.

SPIRITUALITY/FAITH

- **How Do I Worship?** Panel (Brian Messler, Audrey deCoursey, Russ & Erin Matteson). *Room 202*. Sunday 11am.
- **Music as a Form of Prayer** – Shawn Kirchner. *Hall C Stage*. Sunday 11am.
- **Bible Study and Business** – Jonathan Brenneman. *Hall C*. Monday, Tuesday 8:30am.
- **Cultivating a Thriving Church in Collaboration with Brethren Higher Education** Ruthann Knechel Johansen, Katie Cummings, Dale Dowdy, Janet Ober, Jarret Smith, David Steele, Becky Ullom Naugle. *Room 210-A*. Monday 12:30pm.

ENVIRONMENT/CARE FOR CREATION

- **The Science of Climate Change** – Jonathan Frye. *Room 207-A*. Monday 12:30pm.
- **Community Gardens: Going to the Garden of Peace Witness Ministries and the Global Food Crisis Fund** – Jeff Boshart. *Room 204*. Tuesday 9pm.

TECH/ONLINE COMMUNITY

- **The Well-Formed Minister** – Enten Eller, Amy Gall Ritchie, Dan Poole. *Room 209*. Monday 12:30pm.
- **Exploring Alternative Ways of Being Church** – Panel with PNW and OTC. *Room 207-B/C*. Tuesday 9pm.