



Myerstown Church of the Brethren

Myerstown Church of the Brethren

August 2021

Ministry through
Faith, Vision, and Action

Scriptural Message

Scriptures (referenced during Annual Conference):

Isaiah 43:19 (NET):

“Look, I am about to do something new. Now it begins to happen! Do you not recognize it? Yes, I will make a road in the wilderness and paths in the wastelands.”

Revelation 21:3-5 (MSG):

“...Look! Look! God has moved into the neighborhood, making his home with men and women! They’re his people, he’s their God. He’ll wipe every tear from their eyes...Look! I’m making everything new. Write it all down—each word dependable and accurate.”

Zephaniah 3:17 (ESV):

“The Lord [our] God is in [our] midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over [us] with gladness; he will quiet [us] by his love; he will exult over [us] with loud singing.”

1 Corinthians 2:9 (NRSV):

“What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, [is] what God has prepared for those who love him.”

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myerstowncob@myerstowncob.org

From June 30 through July 4, I spent the better part of my days ensconced in front of my computer for this year’s Church of the Brethren Annual Conference. For the first time, the entire conference was held virtually. Despite some anxiety on the part of both the planners and the attendees, the conference came off with only one minor technical glitch (the organ recital video froze and had to be rescheduled).

The conference was ably led by Moderator Paul Munday. Each morning business session opened with a Bible study on portions of the book of Revelation by biblical scholar, Michael Gorman. A highlight for me was the Plenary Session presented by Tod Bolsinger titled “Doing Church in Uncharted Territory” (more about that in a moment).

Conference included the usual reports from various agencies within the denomination and two ballots for denominational positions necessitated because last year’s conference was canceled. Those chosen on the 2020 ballot will serve terms one year less than usual in order to keep terms in rotation. The main item of business for this year’s conference was the approval of the Compelling Vision, a project which has been several years in the making and included input from over 3,000 Brethren. The following Vision was overwhelmingly approved by the conference delegates:

“Together, as the Church of the Brethren, we will passionately live and share the radical transformation and holistic peace of Jesus Christ through relationship-based neighborhood engagement. To move us forward, we will develop a culture of calling and equipping disciples who are innovative, adaptable, and fearless.”

Each congregation is now called to determine what it means to “share the radical transformation and holistic peace of Jesus Christ” in their neighborhood and is challenged to intentionally “develop a culture of calling and equipping disciples who are innovative, adaptable, and fearless.” We here at Myerstown need to take this Vision seriously and discuss what it means in our local setting. In some ways I think we are already carrying out parts of the Vision, but there is always more we could be doing.

The Plenary Session led by Tod Bolsinger, vice president for Vocation and Formation and Assistant Professor of Practical

The Plenary Session led by Tod Bolsinger, vice president for Vocation and Formation and Assistant Professor of Practical Theology at Fuller Theological Seminary was one of the highlights of conference for me. Bolsinger recognized that as we “do church” today we do so in “uncharted territory.” He said, “The only constant about change is that it is speeding up.” Change is happening so fast and most churches are falling further and further behind in adapting to challenge.

What is needed in such times, Bolsinger said, is adaptive leadership. Such leadership he said, “seizes the opportunity...to hit the organizational reset button.” Adaptive leaders “address the underlying issues that we have not had the will to confront before the crisis.” “In uncharted territory, adaptation is everything.” “...stuck systems cannot become unstuck simply by trying harder.” What is needed is “a spirit of adventure...which enables new perceptions.”

“For change to last,” Bolsinger said, “it must be a healthy adaptation of the ‘DNA’ of the group.” He described “DNA” as “who we are” and those things about us that should never change. He concluded saying, “Your future is found in the adaptation of the gifts and graces of your past.” “Once you’ve determined what will never change, then you must be prepared to change everything else.”

He recommended a book by Ronald A. Heifetz and Marty Linsky titled “Leadership on the Line.” I have ordered a copy and will share it after I have read it. It is available on Amazon. Despite some fears that an online conference would be a technical nightmare (and exceedingly boring!), it exceeded expectations. This was the last conference for director Chris Douglas. She has served the denomination admirably during her tenure and will be missed. Next year’s conference is scheduled to be in-person in Omaha, Nebraska.

Dennis

Attendance & Offering

Attendance average for June 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021

Sunday School – 22
Worship Service – 79

Home Care

Please keep the following in your thoughts and prayers those living in nursing homes/assisted living homes: ***Dennis & Faye Brubaker, Orpha Doutrich, Joanne Ealy, Mary Ann Gibble, Gloria Keppley, and Iris Liskey.***

MCoB email list - join by sending your name and email address to info@myerstowncob.org

Gift Cards

The gift card order is always processed ***the first Sunday of the month***. Look for your order form in the newsletter or on the bulletin board. The list of businesses is always changing. How many cards do you think you can use in a month? You don't have to buy a card to give away, you can use them yourself. You can buy your groceries or gas for your vehicles.

August Wedding Anniversaries

5th Carl & Nancy Hartman
Bill & JoAnn Rager

30th Kevin & Heather Wenrich

Bell Choir & Senior Choir will start Wednesday September 1st. Bell Choir starts at 6:15 pm & Senior Choir starts at 7:30 pm.

Women's Camp at Camp Swatara on August 21, 2021. See bulletin board for more information.

Children and Youth Coordinator position -

On June 7, 2021, the church council approved the part-time position of Children and Youth Coordinator. This paid position would work from 10 to 15 hours a week on developing and expanding the programs for the children and the youth of the church. If you are interested in more information or wish to apply for the position please see anyone on the Ministry and Evangelism Commission (Grace Ziegler, Linda Zimmerman, David Dubble, or Pastor Dennis).

The Brethren Relief Auction will be held on September 24 & 25, 2021. The expenses for the food items are always on the rise and total approximately \$15,000. We are asking for donations to help defer these expenses to allow a greater portion of income to go to the Relief Fund. We appreciate that many of you already donate your time however, any monetary donation that you can give will advance this project. All income received goes to the Brethren Disaster Relief Auction. If you have any questions, contact Food Committee Chairman Lois Roop at clrooop@verizon.net or by phone 717-954-2278. **Please make checks payable to:** Brethren Disaster Relief Auction with Food Committee in the memo line. Send checks to the following Address:

Evie Dehmey
164 Vinegar Ferry Rd
Marietta, PA 17545

Thank you, Lois Roop Food Committee
Chairman.

Camp Swatara needs your help with the Annual Family Camp Auction! We want to make this auction the best yet! We are looking for individuals, SS classes, family groups, etc., who would be willing to donate something. Theme gift baskets are always a winner! Do you have a talent for painting, pottery, sewing, woodworking, etc.? Birdhouses and bird feeders are popular! We need items for the Children's Auction, too! Do you have a service you could share? Think outside the box! Remember 100% of donations from the auction benefit Family Camp at Camp Swatara. There are no administration costs, it is organized and run by volunteers. We will be glad to pick up your donation, just give us a call to make arrangements. Date of the auction is Saturday, September 4, 2021 in the East Lodge at Camp Swatara. Children's auction starts at 9:30 am with the main auction immediately following. Any questions, call Sandy Hughes at 717-679-1995 or Ryan Arndt at 717-926-1939. Please be sure to get your ideas going for donations to Camp Swatara's Annual Family Camp Auction. Call Sandy Hughes at 717-679-1995 or Ryan Arndt at 717-926-1939 with questions or to arrange pick up of your donation.

AUGUST 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Christopher Hostetter	2 JoAnn Houtz Elmer Weidman	3 Trent Dohner	4	5	6 Shirley Brandt	7
8	9	10	11 Lori Lentz	12 David Ceresini Carson Reppert	13	14 Robert Beisel
15	16	17	18	19	20 Vicki Hunsicker	21 Hunter Leahy
22	23 Cindy Sattazahn	24	25	26 Mark Bomberger	27 Ken Liskey	28
29	30 Troy Dohner	31 Cynthia Behney				

AUGUST 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	2	3	4	5	6	7
8 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	9	10	11	12 Sharing Cupboard 10 am – 1 pm	13 Sharing Cupboard 3 pm – 6 pm	14
15 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am ANE Women's Fellowship	16 ANE Women's Fellowship	17 Executive Mtg. 6:30 pm Comm. Mtg. 7:00 pm Board Mtg. 7:30 pm ANE Women's Fellowship	18	19	20	21
22 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am	23	24	25	26 Sharing Cupboard 10 am – 1 pm Spiritual Nurture Mtg. 7:00 pm	27 Sharing Cupboard 3 pm – 6 pm	28
29 Sunday School 9:00 am Worship Service 10:00 am Promotion Sunday Presentation of Bibles	30	31				

Wrap Up



The officers preside over the virtual Annual Conference from a head table at the Church of the Brethren General Offices in Elgin, Ill.: (seated from left) moderator-elect David Sollenberger, moderator Paul Munday, and secretary James Beckwith. Operating the camera is Aidan Replogle. Photo by Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford

By the numbers

Registration: 519 delegates from congregations and districts and 705 nondelegates for a total registration of 1,224

New fellowships and church projects:

- 1 new fellowship: **Centro Ágape en Acción (Los Banos)** in Pacific Southwest District
- 3 new projects: **Nueva Visión la Hermosa Iglesia de Los Hermanos** and **Conexión Pasadena** in Pacific Southwest District, and **Light of the Gospel Fellowship** in Atlantic Northeast District

Offerings received as of July 4:

- \$3,705** for the Core Ministries of the Church of the Brethren
- \$2,745** for church rebuilding in Nigeria
- \$2,665** to support the Conference budget
- \$1,445** for translation of Conference documents and simultaneous translation
- \$1,195** for the expenses of volunteers leading children's activities at Conference
- \$1,170** for new furniture and supplies for children's activities at Conference
- \$250** for the Minister's Assistance Fund
- \$250** for Intercultural Ministries
- \$200** for the Office of Global Mission
- \$150** for Discipleship Ministries
- \$100** for the Global Food Initiative
- \$55** for the Haiti Medical Project
- \$200** to be divided among daily offerings

Virtual blood drive: 42 pints including 2 double reds, and 6 donations of platelets. Some 22 others have pledged to donate. The drive continues through July.

Minimum Cash Salary Table for pastors:
2 percent cost-of-living increase for 2022

See www.brethren.org/news/coverage/annual-conference-2021 for full coverage of the 2021 Annual Conference. Order the Annual Conference Wrap-Up DVD for \$29.95 and Sermons DVD for \$24.95 each from www.brethrenpress.com.

Together, as the Church of the Brethren, we will passionately live and share the radical transformation and holistic peace of Jesus Christ through relationship-based neighborhood engagement. To move us forward, we will develop a culture of calling and equipping disciples who are innovative, adaptable, and fearless.



Graphic designed by Donita Keister and Nicole Keister-Hornig

Annual Conference affirms compelling vision statement

The 2021 delegate body affirmed the compelling vision statement for the Church of the Brethren, shown above. This was the only substantive business item coming to the delegate body beyond elections and reports.

The 2021 Annual Conference was the first fully online annual meeting of the Church of the Brethren. Presiding were moderator Paul Munday assisted by moderator-elect David Sollenberger and Conference secretary James Beckwith.

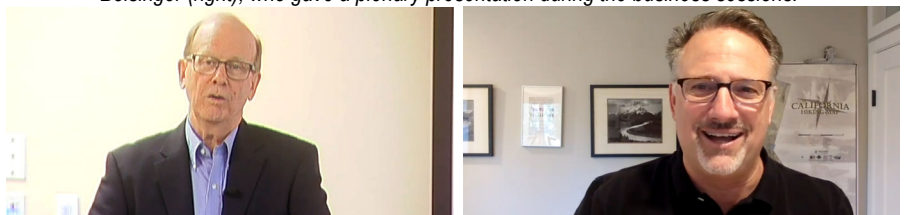
The affirmation of the compelling vision ended a years-long process of conversation and data gathering that involved some 3,000 Church of the Brethren members in numerous gatherings and venues across the denomination, including conversations around the tables at previous Conferences.

Conversation about the compelling vision continued at this Conference in small online groups who met in virtual break-out rooms or "tables." Both delegates and nondelegates who registered for the full Conference were invited to participate in the small-group conversations.

The "tables" discussed and submitted responses to a number of questions posed by Rhonda Pittman Gingrich, co-chair of the Compelling Vision Team along with Church of the Brethren general secretary David A. Steele. Also on the team were Michaela Alphonse, Kevin Daggett, John N. Jantzi, Brian Messler, Colleen Michael, Alan Stuckey, Kay Weaver, former moderators Samuel Sarpiya and Donita Keister, 2021 moderator Paul Munday, and Conference director Chris Douglas.

A question for small-group conversation at the start of the Saturday morning business session—"How might we be known, (continued on page 2)

Screenshots of guest resource speakers Michael Gorman (left), who led daily Bible studies, and Tod Bolsinger (right), who gave a plenary presentation during the business sessions.



Elections and appointments

Two ballots were elected, the 2021 ballot and a 2020 ballot deferred from the Conference canceled last year because of the pandemic. Those elected from the 2020 ballot, except for the moderator-elect, serve one year less than the usual term. Also below are additional directors, trustees, and other appointments affirmed by or reported to the Conference. An asterisk (*) indicates those nominated to fill unexpired terms, whose terms already have concluded.

Annual Conference moderator-elect

Tim McElwee of Wolcottville, Ind.

Church of the Brethren Leadership Team

Torin Eikler, Northern Indiana District executive, appointed by the Council of District Executives (CODE)

Mission and Ministry Board

* Martha Stover Barlow, Harrisonburg, Va., representing Area 3

Lauren Seganos Cohen, San Gabriel, Calif., Area 5

Barbara Daté, Eugene, Ore., Area 5

John Michael Hoffman, McPherson, Kan., at-large

Josiah Ludwick of Harrisburg, Pa., Area 1

Kathy A. Mack of Rochester, Minn., Area 4

Meghan Horne Mauldin, Columbus, N.C., Area 3

* John Mueller, Fleming Island, Fla, Area 3

Karen Shively Neff, Gotha, Fla., Area 3

Joanna Wave Willoughby, Wyoming, Mich., at-large

Rebecca Miller Zeek, Duncansville, Pa., Area 1

Brethren Benefit Trust

Sara Davis, La Canada Flintridge, Calif.;

Janis Fahs, North Manchester, Ind.

Donna March, Carpentersville, Ill.

Gerald (Jerry) Patterson, Fairfax, Va.

Wayne T. Scott, Harrisburg, Pa., elected by Pension Plan participants (Fellowship of Brethren Homes)

David L. Shissler, Hummelstown, Pa.

Kathryn Whitacre, McPherson, Kan.,

elected by Pension Plan participants (Brethren Ministers Asso. and CODE)

Program and Arrangements Committee

Nathan Hollenberg, Broadway, Va.

Beth Jarrett, Harrisonburg, Va.

Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee

Arthur Fourman, Dayton, Ohio

Gene Hagenberger, Mid-Atlantic District

executive, appointed by CODE

Robert S. McMinn, Huntingdon, Pa.

Bethany Theological Seminary

Chris Bowman, Manassas, Va.,

representing clergy

Mark A. Clapper, Elizabethtown, Pa., at-large

Karen O. Crim, Dayton, Ohio,

at-large

John Flora, Bridgewater, Va.,

at-large

Drew Hart, Harrisburg, Pa.,

representing laity

Jacki Hartley of Elgin, Ill.,

representing laity

Steve Longenecker, Harrisonburg,

Va., representing the colleges

Richard Rose, Claremont, Calif., at-large

On Earth Peace

Rudy Amaya, Pasadena, Calif.

Ruth Aukerman, Union Bridge, Md.

Irvin R. Heishman, Tipp City, Ohio

Alyssa Parker, Harrisburg, Pa.

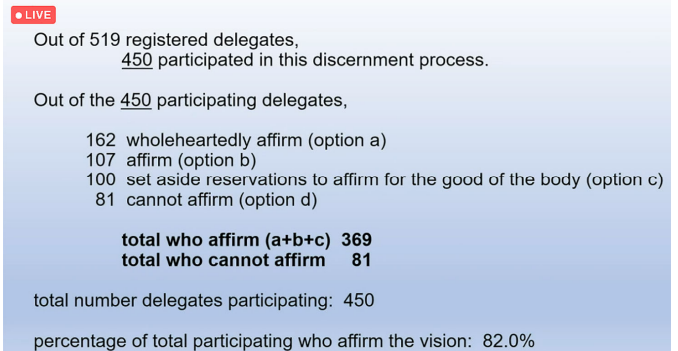
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both as congregations and as a denomination, if we truly embrace and live out the vision of Jesus in the neighborhood?”—led into the discernment process that was used to affirm the vision.

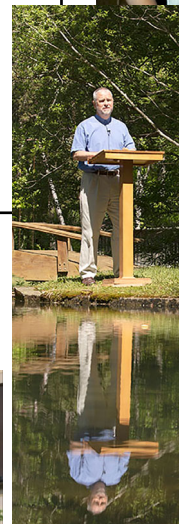
Delegates were offered the choice of four responses: first, “I feel inspired and wholeheartedly affirm the vision”; second, “I affirm the vision”; third, “I have reservations, but will set them aside and affirm the vision for the good of the body”; and fourth, “I cannot affirm the vision.”

Of the 519 registered delegates, 450 participated in making the decision by choosing one of the four options in an online vote. When results were tallied, the statement was affirmed with 82 percent of those participating choosing one of the first three affirmative options.

A screenshot of the announcement of the results is below.



This was the final Conference of director Chris Douglas' tenure, before she retires later this year. Above, a screenshot shows her at the podium with elected members of the Program and Arrangements Committee: Jan Glass King, Emily Shonk Edwards, and Carol Hips Elmore.



Photographer Glenn Riegel followed along as videographers David Sollenberger and Larry Glick pre-recorded the preachers for four of the five daily worship services. From left: Beth Sollenberger, Paul Munday, Tyler and Chelsea Goss, and Patrick Starkey. At bottom: a screenshot of Richard Zapata's sermon.



Family Order Form

Created: 7/19/2021 10:42:50 AM

Myerstown Church of the Brethren/PA

The following is a list of gift cards that can be purchased as a fundraising project for the building fund. All orders must be placed by the first Sunday of each month. Thank you for your purchase.

Name	Customer #
Check #	Order Date

Product	%	QTY	Total
adidas \$25.00	13%		\$
Advance Auto Parts \$100.00	7%		\$
Advance Auto Parts \$25.00	7%		\$
Aeropostale \$25.00	10%		\$
Amazon.com \$100.00	2%		\$
Amazon.com \$25.00	2%		\$
AMC Theatres \$25.00	8%		\$
AMC Theatres Single Ticket \$10.00	10%		\$
AMC Theatres Single Ticket \$12.00	10%		\$
American Eagle® \$25.00	10%		\$
American Girl \$100.00	9%		\$
American Girl \$25.00	9%		\$
Applebee's \$25.00	8%		\$
Applebee's \$50.00	8%		\$
Arby's \$10.00	8%		\$
AutoZone \$25.00	8%		\$
Banana Republic \$25.00	14%		\$
Barnes & Noble \$10.00	8%		\$
Barnes & Noble \$25.00	8%		\$
Bass Pro Shops \$100.00	10%		\$
Bass Pro Shops \$25.00	10%		\$
Bath & Body Works \$10.00	12%		\$
Bath & Body Works \$25.00	12%		\$
Best Buy \$100.00	4%		\$
Best Buy \$25.00	4%		\$
Bob Evans Restaurants® \$10.00	10%		\$
Boscov's \$25.00	8%		\$
Boston Market \$10.00	12%		\$
Buca di Beppo \$25.00	8%		\$
Buffalo Wild Wings® \$10.00	8%		\$
Buffalo Wild Wings® \$25.00	8%		\$
Build-A-Bear Workshop® \$25.00	8%		\$

Product	%	QTY	Total
Burger King \$10.00	4%		\$
Cabela's \$100.00	10%		\$
Cabela's \$25.00	10%		\$
Carrabba's Italian Grill \$25.00	10%		\$
Carter's \$25.00	10%		\$
Cheesecake Factory \$25.00	5%		\$
Children's Place \$25.00	12%		\$
Chili's Grill & Bar \$25.00	11%		\$
Chipotle Mexican Grill \$10.00	10%		\$
Chuck E. Cheese's \$10.00	8%		\$
Claire's \$10.00	9%		\$
Cold Stone Creamery \$10.00	11%		\$
Cracker Barrel \$10.00	8%		\$
Cracker Barrel \$25.00	8%		\$
CVS Pharmacy \$25.00	6%		\$
Dairy Queen \$10.00	3%		\$
Darden Restaurants \$25.00	8%		\$
Dick's Sporting Goods \$25.00	8%		\$
Disney \$100.00	3%		\$
Disney \$25.00	3%		\$
Domino's \$10.00	8%		\$
Dunham's Sports \$25.00	8%		\$
Dunkin' Donuts \$10.00	3%		\$
Dunkin' Donuts \$25.00	3%		\$
Eat'n Park \$10.00	9%		\$
Eat'n Park \$25.00	9%		\$
Express \$25.00	10%		\$
Famous Footwear \$25.00	8%		\$
Foot Locker \$25.00	8%		\$
GameStop \$25.00	3%		\$
Gap \$25.00	14%		\$
Giant Food Stores \$100.00	4%		\$

Product	%	QTY	Total
Giant Food Stores \$25.00	4%		\$
Giant Food Stores \$50.00	4%		\$
Groupon.com \$25.00	7%		\$
Hardee's \$10.00	5%		\$
Home Depot® \$25.00	4%		\$
Icing \$10.00	9%		\$
IHOP \$25.00	8%		\$
J. Crew \$25.00	13%		\$
JCPenney \$100.00	5%		\$
JCPenney \$25.00	5%		\$
Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores \$25.00	6%		\$
Kmart \$25.00	4%		\$
Kmart \$50.00	4%		\$
Kohl's \$100.00	4%		\$
Kohl's \$25.00	4%		\$
L.L.Bean \$100.00	16%		\$
L.L.Bean \$25.00	16%		\$
Lands' End \$100.00	15%		\$
Lands' End \$25.00	15%		\$
Long John Silver's \$10.00	8%		\$
Lowe's \$100.00	4%		\$
Lowe's \$25.00	4%		\$
Marshalls \$25.00	7%		\$
Men's Wearhouse \$25.00	8%		\$
Michaels \$25.00	4%		\$
Nike \$25.00	12%		\$
Old Navy \$25.00	14%		\$
Olive Garden \$25.00	8%		\$
OshKosh \$25.00	10%		\$
Outback Steakhouse \$25.00	10%		\$
Panera Bread \$10.00	8%		\$
Panera Bread \$25.00	8%		\$
Papa John's Pizza \$10.00	8%		\$
PetSmart \$25.00	5%		\$

Make Checks Payable To: *Myerstown Church of the Brethren*

Total Due All Columns:

\$

Family Order Form

Created: 7/19/2021 10:42:50 AM

Myerstown Church of the Brethren/PA

The following is a list of gift cards that can be purchased as a fundraising project for the building fund. All orders must be placed by the first Sunday of each month. Thank you for your purchase.

Name	Customer #
Check #	Order Date

Product	%	QTY	Total
Pizza Hut \$10.00	8%		\$
Pottery Barn \$25.00	8%		\$
Qdoba Mexican Grill \$25.00	7%		\$
Rainforest Cafe \$25.00	9%		\$
Red Lobster \$25.00	8%		\$
Red Robin \$25.00	8%		\$
Regal \$25.00	8%		\$
Regal Premiere e-Ticket \$10.50	10%		\$
Rite Aid \$25.00	4%		\$
Sam's Club \$100.00	2.5%		\$
Sam's Club \$25.00	2.5%		\$
Sears \$100.00	4%		\$
Sears \$25.00	4%		\$
Sears Auto Service Center \$100.00	4%		\$
Sears Auto Service Center \$25.00	4%		\$
Sheetz \$100.00	3%		\$
Sheetz \$25.00	3%		\$
Shutterfly \$25.00	9%		\$
Speedway \$25.00	4%		\$
Staples \$100.00	5%		\$
Staples \$25.00	5%		\$
Starbucks \$10.00	4.5%		\$
Starbucks \$25.00	4.5%		\$
Stop & Shop (NOT TOPS) \$100.00	4%		\$
Stop & Shop (NOT TOPS) \$50.00	4%		\$
Subway Restaurants \$10.00	4.5%		\$
Supercuts \$25.00	8%		\$
T.J. Maxx \$25.00	7%		\$
Taco Bell \$10.00	5%		\$
Talbots \$25.00	13%		\$
Tanger Outlets \$25.00	8%		\$
Target \$100.00	2.5%		\$
Target \$25.00	2.5%		\$
Target \$50.00	2.5%		\$

Product	%	QTY	Total
TGI Fridays \$25.00	9%		\$
The Home Depot® \$100.00	4%		\$
The Home Depot® \$25.00	4%		\$
Under Armour \$25.00	11%		\$
Walgreens \$25.00	5%		\$
Walmart \$100.00	2.5%		\$
Walmart \$25.00	2.5%		\$
Walmart \$50.00	2.5%		\$
Wawa \$25.00	1%		\$
Wendy's \$10.00	6.5%		\$

Make Checks Payable To: *Myerstown Church of the Brethren*

Total Due All Columns:

\$

Commissions and Church Board Meeting

Date: July 20, 2021

Meeting was called to order: @ 7:30 pm

by Assistant Chairperson: Bob Noll

Present were: Secretary-Mark Landis, Jr.

Prayer by: Grace Ziegler

Present were: Pastor Dennis Garrison

Secretary's Report of June 15, 2021

Approved as presented by Aye Vote

Treasurer's Report of June 30, 2021

Approved as presented by Aye Vote

Commission Reports & Members Present

Ministry & Evangelism Commission: Chairperson – Grace Ziegler
Linda Zimmerman, Pastor Dennis

Members attending were Pastor Dennis, Grace Ziegler and Linda Zimmerman.

Opening Prayer – Pastor Dennis

Worship leaders are scheduled through August 29th.

Rev. Jim Rhen will fill the pulpit on August 15 and Rev. Ron Brubaker on August 22 when Pastor Dennis & Cathy are on vacation.

Renewal Services will be October 3rd to October 5th with David Stauffer as speaker.

We discussed plans for having a Men's Fellowship Breakfast on October 23rd, Saturday, at 7:30 am with 8:00 am speaker – Grace will contact a speaker to see if he is available – and we talked about what other neighboring churches we would like to invite. We discussed different persons and groups we would like to contact for our Gospel Concert to be held Sunday November 14th at 3 pm.

Missions & Fellowship Commission: Chairperson – Susie Dundore

Checked the mailboxes.

National Night Out, August 3rd, 5:30 – 8:00 pm, no plans.

Lebanon Fair, for On Fire stand. Making progress.

Collecting baking items for the 6th Street kids camp. Needed ingredients: flour, white sugar, brown sugar, chocolate chips, oil (any kind) baking soda.

Christian Education Commission: - Chairperson – Christine Blackwell
Cindy Sattazahn, Walter Sattazahn

In attendance: Christine Blackwell, Cindy & Walter Sattazahn

We are gathering children's names for Bibles and they will be given out on August 29th on promotion Sunday to 2nd and 6th graders.

We are still looking for 2 more Sunday School teachers, and also for a VBS Coordinator.

Trustee and Property Commission: – Chairperson – George Nagle
Dale Houtz, Mark Landis, Jr., Ken Gross

1. Some of the outside doors need paint, I painted the kitchen door, railings at car port area, the double doors on west side, south door at stairs need painted.
2. I checked on automatic door openers at a member's request, price for 2 doors around \$4,200.00 for in Gathering Place restrooms.
3. There are 3 windows in gym need replaced. Last year we replaced the lights in sanctuary. Funds weren't available to do the windows in kitchen, we did them this year the cost went up \$390.00 higher for the 3 windows from last years price. Maybe we could get help from Women's Fellowship.
4. The walk-in refrigerator & freezer needed repairs; repairs were done by Triangle Refrigeration.
5. The school is having a Fundraiser Carnival in August by invitation only.
6. The school working on partitions for extra classrooms.
7. Locking & unlocking doors system discussed.

Finance and Stewardship Commission: – Chairperson - Bob Noll
Tim Fetzer

We received & deposited \$5,000.00 from the General Brotherhood Church of the Brethren. It is a grant from their Brethren Faith in Action Fund. It will not need to be paid back but we will need to submit a final accounting once the technology upgrade is completed.

We will be handing out budget worksheets in the near future for 2022. The budget will need to be approved at the October board meeting.

We would like to thank the congregation for their financial giving.

Pastor's Report

June 16, 2021 – July 20, 2021

The months of June and July are typically slower ones in the life of the church, but not so much this year. As a church family, in the past month we have grieved the loss of two long-time members, Ruth Firestine and Anna Mae Snyder whose funerals I officiated, as well as the loss of Carl Hower. Preaching and worship planning continue to be major responsibilities as well as trying to get out and visit shut-ins as much as possible.

I "attended" Annual Conference online June 30 through July 4 as your delegate. The conference organizers did an amazing job of working out the technology to make the conference run smoothly. I will provide a conference wrap-up handout at board meeting and also a summary in my August newsletter article. If you didn't get to see it, the Plenary Session with Tod Bolsinger was excellent. It can still be viewed on the Annual Conference website at www.brethren.org/ac

At this point our Netherlands trip is still on, however there seem to be growing concerns with the Delta variant of COVID both here in the US and in the Netherlands. Prayers are appreciated that we will see our son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren in August for the first time in about 2 years. And, speaking of grandchildren, in case you haven't heard, Peter and Katie's (they've been on the prayer list) twins arrived on Thursday, July 15 and there is a good chance they will be coming home on the 20th or the 21st! We are looking forward to seeing them for the first time!

Between babies and a trip to the Netherlands, our summer 2021 is passing quickly! Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Dennis

Pastoral Record for the past month:

4 Sermons prepared and planning 5 worship services
Visits to shut-ins, hospital and nursing centers as time allows
Funeral services for Ruth Firestine and Anna Mae Snyder
Pre-baptism class with Cameron Fuhrman
Phone calls to members or families of members
Numerous emails and texts
Sermons tentatively planned through September
Executive, Ministry & Evangelism Commission, Board meetings
Newsletter article
"Attended" Annual Conference as Myerstown's delegate

Upcoming Sermons:

August 1: Second Chances; Luke 23:32-43, Romans 8:31-39
August 8: Doing What We're Told; Matthew 28:16-20, Romans 10:14-15
August 15: (tentative Netherland's trip August 9-21)
August 22: Pulpit Supply – Ron Brubaker preaching
August 29: Freed to Become; Exodus 19:1-12, 16-17, 1 Peter 2:4-10

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None

Interests & Concerns

Pete Contra from the district will be at our next board meeting to discuss moving forward with a pastoral search.

Adjournment

8:00 pm with prayer by Pastor Dennis.