

## **MEMO ANNOUNCEMENT**

***Welcome to our bi-monthly newsletter, Issue 4.***

For 2026, please send all MEMO submissions to me directly by or before the following dates:

**Issue 1: December 23 deadline** (for Jan 1 release)

**Issue 2: February 24 deadline** (for March 1 release)

**Issue 3: April 28 deadline** (for May 1 release)

**Issue 4: July 3 deadline** (for July 1 release, including Annual Conference Fort Wayne Wrap-Up)

**Issue 5: August 25 deadline** (for September 1 release)

**Issue 6: October 27 deadline** (for November 1 release)

Send electronic submissions to [westmarvade@gmail.com](mailto:westmarvade@gmail.com), call or text 540-742-2457, or send mail correspondence to the District Office at 384 Dennett Rd, Oakland MD 21550

*Include anything you'd like the district churches to know about, learn about, pray about, support, copy, or otherwise enjoy!*

- ✓ **service times, special occasions/events, fundraisers,**
- ✓ **prayers/poems/devotionals/liturgies/responsive readings,**
- ✓ **book/study recommendations,**
- ✓ **church or pastor anniversaries/homecomings/milestones,**
- ✓ **favorite potluck recipes,**
- ✓ **updated website, social media, or contact information**
- ✓ **obituary links or other remembrances of recently departed friends, and**
- ✓ **anything else that would be wonderful to share with your district brothers and sisters.**




---

## **LETTER FROM THE DE'S DESK**

### **Why We Thank God Regularly**

Gratitude is a natural and beautiful response for a Christian to offer God. Yet, with the pace of our everyday lives, it becomes easy to forget how important it is to pause and say, "Thank you, Lord." The Bible reminds us to "give thanks in all circumstances" (1 Thessalonians 5:18), not because every situation feels good, but because God is good. Our thanksgiving isn't based on how we feel in any given moment—it's rooted in who God is, what He has done, and what He promises to continue doing.

We thank God first because of who He is. God's character is steady, trustworthy, and unchanging. He is merciful, loving, powerful, and wise. His compassion never wears out, and His faithfulness lasts. When we take time to reflect on God's nature—His kindness, His justice, His patience—our hearts are

moved to gratitude. Saying “Thank You, God” becomes a way of recognizing His goodness, not just in what He gives, but in who He has always been.

We also thank God for what He has done. Every believer can look back and see evidence of God’s handiwork—His forgiveness, His salvation, His protection, and His provision. The greatest gift He has given us is redemption through Jesus Christ. He also provides for our needs, often in ways we do not fully notice until we pause to look. The Psalmist writes, “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits” (Psalm 103:2). Gratitude helps us remember. It helps us see clearly that nothing good in our lives is random or accidental—it is grace.

And finally, we thank God for what He has promised. We serve a God who does not abandon His children. He promises to be with us always, to give us peace that surpasses understanding, and to one day make all things new. Gratitude turns our eyes toward hope. It reminds us that the story is not over, and that the God who has carried us this far will continue to carry us forward. Even in seasons of uncertainty, thanksgiving anchors us in God’s faithful future.

So let us be a thankful people—not only once a year, not only when things go well, but daily. Let our prayers be filled with grateful praise. Let our conversations reflect appreciation. And let our hearts learn to rest in the God who is worthy of thanks forever.

Grace, Mercy, and Peace,

Leah (with some helpful prompts from ChatGPT for today’s article)

“Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.” – Colossians 2:6-7

---

## **NEWS AROUND THE OFFICE**

**ALLOCATIONS DEADLINE:** Any congregations that have not yet sent their annual allocation, please do so in time ***to be received and deposited no later than December 16*** to guarantee being counted for the 2025 FISCAL year. To all our actively supporting congregations, thank you for helping to meet the present needs and investing in the secure future of West Marva District.

**LEAH SCHEDULING CHURCH VISITS FOR 2026:** I have a limited number of Sundays away from my own congregation, and I want to be sure to visit every church. Text/Call or Email to get me on your calendars for 2026 (January is already full, so February dates would be earliest). I am very flexible outside of Sunday mornings: If your church wants to have a potluck dinner, praise and worship concert, ice cream social, revival meetings, or any weeknight gathering (except Wednesdays), I’d be happy to come and meet the good folks at your church and bring greetings from the district. 540-742-2457, westmarvade@gmail.com.

**OFFICE VOLUNTEER DAY:** Tuesday, December 30, 11am -2pm, I am in need of 2-3 volunteers to help with some office organization and decluttering. Lunch will be provided.

**DIRECTORY UPDATES:** All updates are due by Tuesday, December 23, for the 2026 West Marva Directory. Please look over the current one and be sure we have ***ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:***

- Current Pastor or Pulpit Supply (If vacant, please include the name of a congregational contact) *and their spouse's name.*
- BOTH Physical Address (for GPS) *and* Mailing Address (if different)
- Email *and* Phone Number(s) for both Pastor/Pulpit Supply *and* the Congregation/Church Contact.
- Worship Times *and* Sunday School (and include any midweek Prayer Meeting, Bible Study, or Youth Group gatherings as well)

***Does your church have a directory?*** We'd love to have a copy at the district office! Email a digital version to [westmarvade@gmail.com](mailto:westmarvade@gmail.com) or send a paper copy to West Marva District, 384 Dennett Rd, Oakland MD 21550.

## **NEWS AROUND THE DISTRICT**

**SUGARLANDS:** Sugarlands welcomes Leah on November 2 to worship and a Lasagna Dinner hosted by the members at Mt. Top Senior Center in Thomas, WV.

**GEORGE'S CREEK:** All are invited on Sunday, November 16 to join GCCOB at Bob Evans in La Vale, MD (1203 National Hwy) for a lunch outing after church.

**LICENSING ANNOUNCEMENT:** We congratulate Kenneth "Cappy" Caplinger on his recent licensing service during the Fall Love Feast at Beaver Run Church of the Brethren. Cappy and his wife Letha are already serving there, and Cappy is moving forward in his ministry training. Keep him in prayer as he continues treatment for cancer.

**CHRISTMAS SEASON WRAP-UP:** If your congregation does fun or festive activities in December, or hosts any special services, please snap a photo and send it and a brief description (2-3 sentences) to the office to be included in a special ***TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS MINI MEMO*** at the end of Christmastide (Epiphany).



**NEW BOARD MEMBERS APPROVED:** Our 2025 District Conference Delegates approved the slate presented by Spiritual Gifts Discernment Team. Welcome all new and returning Board Members for 2026! Joining us are Moderator-Elect Burl Charlton (Bean Settlement), Mission/Evangelism Team Member David Moore (Glady), Spiritual Growth Team Member Sue Alt (South Mill Creek), Ministerial Leadership Team Members Bob Combs (Hanging Rock) and Allie Crowe (Westernport). Stephen Lowe (Morgantown) has been called to represent us at the West Virginia Council of Churches.

**DISTRICT TRAILER GETS FACELIFT:** Thanks to a generous donation from a client of Brethren Disaster Ministries District Coordinator Denny Skeweris, our trailer is now decorated with the district name and Brethren logo on all sides. Beautiful work by Tint Lyfe and Designs, LLC.

---



**WESTERNPORT NEWS:** As we charge full-steam ahead to Advent, the church is busy with multiple outreaches, fundraisers, and services over the next 9 weeks.

**November 8th:** Pastor Allie is providing a seminar through the Allegany Public Library System for grief support. She will provide resources and create an environment where individuals feel supported, especially with the holidays around the corner. The event will be at the library in Lonaconing from 1 PM to 2:30 PM.

**November 15:** Members of the church are part of the Tri-Towns Church Coalition. This group is made up of Christ-followers from surrounding churches who are dedicated to being the hands and feet of Christ. On November 15, they will be providing a FREE Turkey dinner (turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, rolls, and pie). The meal is at the Game Center on Maryland Ave in Westernport. This is from 11 AM to 12:30 PM.

**November 22 & 29:** Hard Tack days! This is one of our church's fundraisers. We take orders throughout October and spend two Saturdays making the candy and preparing for order pick-up. This is a hands-on event that takes almost 20 people to pull off. If you leave without being coated in powdered sugar, you are truly impressive!

**November 26:** Our community tree-lighting event filled with booths from churches and organizations, characters for pictures, cookie decorating, train displays, Santa, and more. Our church is setting up a table with some items to give away and promoting an outreach for kids on December 6.

**November 30: Heirborn Promise to kick off Advent!** For anyone who was at District Conference, Heirborn Promise provided a beautiful music ministry. They are coming to Westernport to help us kick off the Advent season. Heirborn Promise is comprised of Darlene and Brett Scott, and Kevin Shreves. We will be having a soup and sandwich fellowship following worship. Worship begins at 10:40 AM.

**December 6:** This is our first annual (for Westernport) Santa Secret Shop. Brenda Crowe has brought a multi-decade outreach from Georgia to Wisconsin, now to Westernport. This event is for children only, sorry parents!

1. Children come and purchase gifts for family, teachers, etc. Items range in price from \$1 to \$10.
2. No child will be turned away due to an inability to pay. We will attempt to fill all gifts on their list, with whatever funds they bring.

3. Gifts will be wrapped, tagged, and bagged by reindeer and elves.
4. NO PARENTS ALLOWED! You will have an area to wait for your child, but no parent gets to see the shopping area. It's just for kids!
5. There will be volunteer shoppers to hold items selected by your child.
6. No complaining about your gift! Your child picks it out. If dad gets a candle, and mom gets a screwdriver, it comes from a place of love.
7. There could be surprises...who knows! ??
8. Spread the word! More information coming REAL soon!



We are looking for volunteers to help the children shop and to wrap gifts. Adults and teenagers are welcome. Please wear festive clothing. Also, we need **LOTS of wrapping paper, tissue paper, ribbon, gift bags, and tape. Gift donations (new) are appreciated ( please, no clothing or shoes).** **Gifts can range from toys (for all ages), candles, jewelry, coffee mugs, tools, hats, small decor pieces, or anything "Christmas."** Be creative!

**This year, the event is being financially supported by a few folks. If you or your church wants to give a monetary donation to offset some expenses, we would sincerely appreciate it.**

Anything you can do will be a blessing for the children and their families. For some, this may be the only Christmas they will have this year. You will be blessed...promise!

If you or your church would like to volunteer, please send a note to Pastor Allie Crowe at [allie.crowe.07@gmail.com](mailto:allie.crowe.07@gmail.com) or Brenda Crowe at [brencrowe@hotmail.com](mailto:brencrowe@hotmail.com). Check out the FB page at 1st Annual Santa Secret Shop. Hope to see you!

**December 14:** This is our annual Christ-giving Meal, a time where we celebrate the holidays as a church family following worship!

**December 15: Blue Christmas.** This service is an emotionally-charged service. Do you or someone you know struggle this time of year? Is it challenging to match the Holiday spirit of your friends and family? Are you feeling blue during a season where being joy and merry is expected? Come and be okay with not being OK. This service includes music, scripture, prayer, and meditation. Service begins at 6:30 PM. Zoom is available.

Topic: Blue Christmas, Time: Dec 15, 2025 06:30 PM Eastern Time

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89637109564?pwd=XEdClq1YSdnhRjZuBaT0TZLqtTM55J.1>

Meeting ID: 896 3710 9564, Passcode: 579981

**December 24: Christmas Eve.** Join us for a beautiful celebration of Christ—7 PM.

**CHILDREN'S ASSISTANCE FUND UPDATE:**

This school year has been extremely busy. We have assisted 78 children between August 20<sup>th</sup> and October 25<sup>th</sup> and the requests are still coming in. For the purpose of comparison, last year we assisted 72 children from August 1- December 31<sup>st</sup>.

The need is great this year and from speaking to people at the schools, there are more children who have significant needs than in past years. I received a call this week for 2 children who were wearing shoes that were taped together.

For those who did not see the conference report, it is also important to note that the cost of purchasing clothing has increased significantly this year. Last year I was able to buy kids shoes for \$19.98. This year I had to pay \$29.99 for the exact same pair. Jeans, sweatpants and hoodies also increased significantly in price, some increasing as much as \$5-7/item. Underwear jumped almost \$5 a pack.

When we receive a call for a child who needs "everything", we typically purchase 3 pair of pants, 3-4 shirts, socks, underwear, shoes and a hoodie. In some cases, shoes or hoodies have been provided and we just buy the regular clothing.

We have been blessed with donations from individuals and from churches. It is through this generosity that we are able to continue to provide this service.

I ask that you continue praying for each one of these children and their families. The committee tries to cover them with clothes, and we ask that you cover them in prayer.

Diane May, CAF Founder and Coordinator, dianemay197@gmail.com.

(Editor's Note: Contributions to support the ongoing work of Children's Assistance Fund may be sent directly to the West Marva District, 384 Dennett Rd, Oakland MD 21550, with "CAF" or "Children's Assistance" in the Memo Line)

**BED BUILD SUCCESS:** Members of 7 of our congregations, over 40 volunteers total, gathered under the capable leadership of the Morgantown-area Chapter of ***Sleep In Heavenly Peace*** on Saturday, September 27 (the week after District Conference) to construct 36 new twin-sized beds to donate to children with inadequate sleeping arrangements scattered throughout our district footprint.



Three beds were donated to a local family that day. Jennifer Kreighbaum (Bear Creek) arranged for the event and had the privilege of praying over the beds at the family's home, seeing the reaction of the children. The Community Dreams Foundation of First United donated \$2000 to the event, which covered the full cost of lumber. Thanks to all the churches who also donated bedding at our District Conference bedding drive. We hope to do another event like this in the future, and have all our congregations participate in some way.

Watch for the full article and additional photos of the Bed Build Event to be published in the January-February *Messenger Magazine* from the Church of the Brethren!

---

**WEST MARVA MINISTRY TRAINING PROGRAM:** The year 2025 is wrapping up, and we are looking forward to what 2026 has to offer. Over the last year, the students have tackled classes including New Testament Survey, Teaching and Learning in the Church, Pastoral Care, and Administering the Church's Life.

The tuition year runs from May to March. March 21, 2026, will be the final class of the tuition year. This class, Mission and Witness, is being taught by Carl Fike. Students will need to make sure the tuition for the 2026-2027 year is paid by May 15, 2026. The tuition covers 4 classes and includes a small stipend for educators. Classes are from 9 AM-3 PM (4 PM at the latest).

Anyone can audit a class, especially if you are looking for continuing education units. Each class will be half a credit. To count, you are expected to come, participate, and help the students in the program learn and grow through adding to the conversation and sharing your experiences in the subject matter.

I want to encourage churches to look for individuals who may want to go through the three-year program. This does not mean students are looking to be licensed or ordained. Someone may have a calling for a commission to task, a type of leadership specific to their gifts. Maybe someone would like to be a deacon, and this course of study could provide guidance and resources to explore that calling. Someone may want to learn in a new environment for personal growth. This is not about a minister production line; it is about lifelong learning opportunities while growing in your relationship with Jesus.

**2026 Courses:** Mission and Witness: March 21 (Carl Fike) *\*End of 2025-2026 Tuition Year\**

***\*Begin 2026-2027 Tuition Year\*-Tuition Due May 15, 2026***

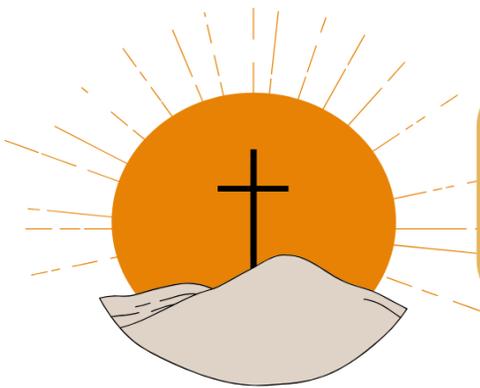
Preaching and Worship: May 30 (Allie Crowe and Jennifer Kreighbaum)

Practical Applications/Brethren Beliefs and Practices Date TBA (Diane May)

Prayer and Spiritual Growth: Date TBA (Leah Hileman)

Tuition Year includes the first class of 2027: Christian Faith and Ethics

For any questions, please contact Allie at [allie.crowe.07@gmail.com](mailto:allie.crowe.07@gmail.com), 608-215-8619.



# Invoice

- Invoice #A2026
  - Remit Payment: West Marva District Office
- Invoice Date: 3/21/2026  
Due Date 5/15/2026
- 384 Dennett Rd  
Oakland, MD 21550

## May 2026- March. 2027 Fees

### Courses

- Preaching and Worship
- Practical Applications/Brethren Belief and Practices
- Prayer and Spiritual Growth
- Christian Faith and Ethics

Total

Note : Please make the payment by the specified due date and include student name

**\$75**



**Church of the Brethren**  
*Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.*

Dr. Allie Crowe

608-215-8619

allie.crowe.07@gmail.com



## **NEWS FROM AROUND THE DENOMINATION**

***ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026 will be in Fort Wayne, IN from Sunday, June 28 to Thursday, July 2.*** In 2027 it will convene in Daytona Beach, FL. Note the special dates (for better rates) – Wednesday, July 28 to Sunday, August 1.

We had very poor representation from West Marva this year. ***Please plan, pray, budget, and prepare to send a delegate to Fort Wayne next summer.*** Let's get full participation from our district churches. Any member in good standing may serve as a delegate. Pastors benefit from several continuing education events as well (consider sending your pastor as a non-delegate!).

There *is* scholarship money available directly from the Annual Conference office for congregations who need financial assistance. Don't let it be the money that stops you from participating – ***IF IT'S GOD'S WILL, IT'S GOD'S BILL!***

Church of the Brethren  
**ANNUAL CONFERENCE**  
June 28-July 2, 2026



**ABOUNDING IN THE  
WORK OF THE LORD  
CALL FOR NOMINATIONS**

**The work of the church is constant and I was recently reminded of  
1 Corinthians 15:58,**

***Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord. (NASB 1995)***

**While constantly at work, seasons also change in the church. When it comes to nominations for denominational leadership the same is true.** We have recently come out of a season of great need and great response as we were filling positions on the Review and Evaluation Committee which is being tasked with some incredibly important work. **In our current season, the need is still great, yet the response is underwhelming at best.** At the current time we have 20% of the number of nominations we did this time last year. That is not sustainable if we want our ballots to reflect the full depth and breadth of the gifted people we call brothers and sisters in the Church of the Brethren.

**I write not just seeking additional nominations, but also with a word for those who have been nominated in the past and not been given the opportunity to serve.** I am constantly reminded that God and I do not wear the same watch. His timing and mine are rarely, if ever, the same. I am imploring those who have been nominated in the past and not made it to the final ballot, to be willing to hear the call of your brothers and sisters who are telling you yet again that you have something special to offer the wider church. The same goes for those who have nominated incredibly talented folks in the past and either not had the opportunity to vote for them or have seen the position go to someone else. Do not lose heart or your conviction that the person you nominated is worthy of consideration. Perhaps the time in which they are needed is now.

This is about the spot I should quote someone brilliant, sharing a pithy comment that turns light bulbs on above our heads. You'll have to settle for my dim bulb simply reminding us all that **the quality of the ballot and quality of denominational leadership is up to you.**

**Abound in the work of the church by sending in your nominations. A full list of open positions and digital nomination forms are available here: [Nominations – Annual Conference \(http://www.brethren.org/ac/nominations/\)](http://www.brethren.org/ac/nominations/)**

By the way, the deadline for nominations is December 3<sup>rd</sup>, so don't wait!

Humbly submitted,  
*Karl Magenhofer*  
Nominating Committee Chair

---

**Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership** invites you to register for our upcoming course:

***Cultivating an Everyday Faith***

Instructor: Joan L Daggett

Dates: January 21-March 17, 2026

Format: 8 Week Online Course

Fee: \$300.00

Registration Deadline: December 12, 2025

Faith is not limited to Sunday mornings-it is woven into daily life. Cultivating an Everyday Faith invites participants to explore how faith can flourish in homes, congregations, and communities through intentional, intergenerational relationships.

Whether you are enrolled in TRIM, EFSM, seeking CEU credit, or pursuing personal and spiritual enrichment-this course is for you.

#### Course Highlights:

- Fulfills BHTS requirements for TRIM/EFSM students
- Earn 2.0 CEUs for CEU Participants
- Open to all learners

*Please do not purchase course books until confirmation is received from our office.*

Register Now <https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/brethren-academy-course-listings/brethren-academy-course-registration-annual-trim-payment/>

For questions or more information, feel free to contact us at [academy@bethanyseminary.edu](mailto:academy@bethanyseminary.edu) or 765-983-1824. We hope you can join us for this opportunity to grow in faith, understanding, and ministry.

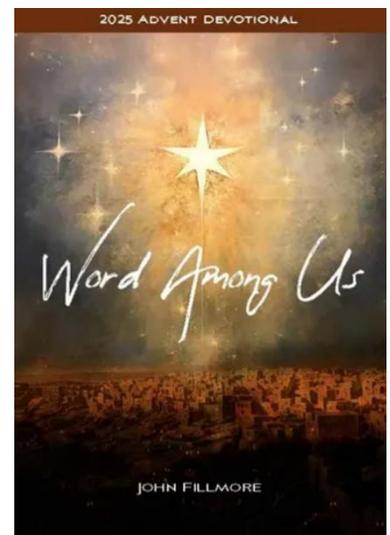
In Christ's love,

Candice E. Rolff, Administrative Assistant, Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership

---

**NEW ADVENT DEVOTIONAL:** The new Advent Devotional is out from Brethren Press. This year's is written by John Fillmore, District Executive Minister of Idaho-Montana District. Standard Print (\$5) and Large Print (\$10) available. I encourage each congregation to grab enough copies for your members to enjoy together throughout the Advent and Christmas season. Visit [https://www.brethrenpress.com/product\\_p/adventdev.htm](https://www.brethrenpress.com/product_p/adventdev.htm) or call 800-441-3712 to order.

From the website description: The season of Advent reminds us of God's choice to enter into human experience in a physical way, by sending Jesus. Jesus has some borders to cross in order to "become flesh and live among us," as John's Gospel tells us. Because of the tangled mess we have created with our desire to fence off the world, Jesus must continually challenge and even cross our hurtful attempts to section off this from that, and us from them. Yet rightly ordered borders, laid gently by our Creator, can bring us life. Advent is an invitation to witness again the way Jesus navigates the landscape of our human division, tearing down the dividing walls and calling us back to a rightly ordered relationship with him.



**ANNUAL CONFERENCE FEES AND HOTEL INFORMATION:** As I said in our last MEMO, I'm encouraging every congregation in West Marva be more active its role in the Church of the Brethren by committing now to sending delegates and pastors to the Fort Wayne conference. Below is the *Newsline* article that breaks down fees for the event (not including meals and travel). Now is the time to begin planning, budgeting, saving plus calling representatives. Do your best to send a member *plus* your pastor, so that your pastor can experience the conference without the additional responsibility of delegate work. It is a rich experience, and the more of us who attend, the more influence we have over the future of the Brethren.

Also consider sending any ministers in training, Sunday School superintendents, deacons, youth and youth leaders. There are on-site and off-site activities all week long for non-delegates, including children, youth, young adult, and singles, so the whole family can attend and enjoy themselves. Be generous! Bless members of your church; do extra fundraising, or find generous donors willing to sponsor someone to attend. Find a way to participate in the Annual Conference, and bring West Marva to Fort Wayne! -Leah

## **Annual Conference 2026 fees, hotel, and schedule details are announced for Fort Wayne next summer**

### **Church of the Brethren Newsline**

October 15, 2025

*A release from the Annual Conference office*

Annual Conference will be held Sunday, June 28, through Thursday, July 2, at the Grand Wayne Convention Center in Fort Wayne, Ind. Annual Conference registration and housing reservations will open to the public on Wednesday, March 4, 2026.

Because our schedule is varying from the normal Wednesday to Sunday schedule and in recognition of the significant number of Brethren living in and around Fort Wayne who may want to join us on Sunday afternoon, not only will the exhibit hall open at noon as usual that day but the Program and Arrangements Committee also is scheduling some equipping sessions that afternoon. We hope many of our brothers and sisters who may not be able to join us for the full week, but live within easy driving distance, will register to join us that day as we seek to "imagine new possibilities" and "unite, strengthen, and equip the Church of the Brethren to follow Jesus."

In addition, since the officers are anticipating a lighter business agenda, Program and Arrangements Committee is planning a special morning of "sparking, stirring, and serving" on Tuesday. The morning will feature a keynote presentation, equipping sessions, and opportunities to serve our host city. More information will be forthcoming as we continue to imagine and shape this special morning.

### **Fees**

As you work on your 2026 budgets, we want to provide this information from the recent Annual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee meeting.

As we continue to wrestle with the sometimes competing values of increasing attendance and balancing our budget, you will note that some fees will remain the same for 2026, some fees have been increased, and some fees have been reduced.

— The registration fee for virtual nondelegates will be higher. This increase offsets the rebate we get from the hotels for each room night booked by an in-person attendee. These rebates help cover rental costs at the convention center, so virtual nondelegates are being asked to contribute to these costs as well.

— The daily registration fee for nondelegates has been reduced and will not increase during onsite registration. We hope this will encourage brothers and sisters who live in, or within easy driving distance of Fort Wayne, to join us for a day.

### **Registration fees:**

#### **Advance registration (March 4-June 7)**

Delegate: \$350

Nondelegates adult-full Conference: \$175

Nondelegates adult-daily: \$55

Post-high school to age 21-full Conference: \$50

Post-high school to age 21-daily: \$20

Current high school and younger: free (age group activity registration fee is additional)

#### **Onsite registration (opens June 27)**

Delegate: \$425

Nondelegates adult-full Conference: \$210

Nondelegates adult-daily: \$55

Post-high school to age 21-full Conference: \$50

Post-high school to age 21-daily: \$20

Current high school and younger: free (age group activity registration fee is additional)

#### **Virtual registration (nondelegate only)**

Adult (until June 10)-full Conference: \$220

Group/institutional-full Conference: \$500

### **Hotel information**

There are three Conference hotel options this year:

— **The Hilton Fort Wayne** is located at 1020 S. Calhoun St. and is seamlessly connected to the convention center on two floors. Our Annual Conference room rate is \$128 plus tax and fees (15 percent) totaling \$147.20 per night. This room rate is only accessible through the Annual Conference registration process, not by contacting the hotel directly. Complimentary airport shuttle to and from Fort Wayne International Airport.

— **The Hampton Inn and Suites** is located at 223 W. Jefferson Blvd. and is directly across the street from the front of the convention center. Our Annual Conference room rate is \$135 plus tax and fees (15 percent) totaling \$155.25 per night. This room rate is only accessible through the Annual Conference registration process, not by contacting the hotel directly. Rate includes a complimentary hot breakfast.

— **The Courtyard by Marriott** is located at 1150 S. Harrison St. and is across the street from the convention center and also connected by two skywalks. Our Annual Conference room rate is \$132 plus tax and fees (15 percent) totaling \$151.80 per night. This room rate is only accessible through

the Annual Conference registration process, not by contacting the hotel directly. A discounted daily parking fee of \$8 has been negotiated for Church of the Brethren guests. In-room wi-fi is complimentary for all hotel guests.

— Rhonda Pittman Gingrich is director of Annual Conference. Debbie Noffsinger is Conference assistant. Find out more about Annual Conference 2026 at [www.brethren.org/ac2026](http://www.brethren.org/ac2026)



**Secure firearm storage protects your family.**

**Gun violence is the leading cause of death for kids in the US. The best way to be sure your kids can't access firearms is to store them securely.**

BeSMARTforKids.org  
In partnership with On Earth Peace

Here's how to **Be SMART** and protect your family:

- S** **Secure** all guns in your home and vehicles
- M** **Model** responsible behavior around guns
- A** **Ask** about unsecured guns in other homes and vehicles
- R** **Recognize** the role of guns in suicide
- T** **Tell** your friends and neighbors to Be SMART



**ELECTION DAY, November 4**  
**VETERANS DAY, November 11**  
**THANKSGIVING DAY, November 27**  
**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, November 30**  
**CHRISTMAS DAY, December 25**  
**NEW YEAR'S DAY, January 1**  
**EPIPHANY, January 6 (observed Sunday, January 4)**

