

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:

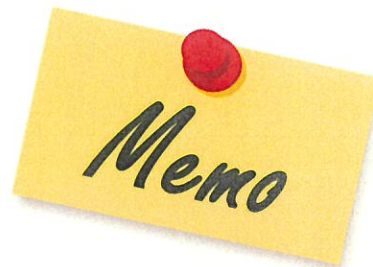
Issue 5: August 25 deadline (for September 1 release)

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

Send electronic submissions to 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 DISTRICT EXECUTIVE



IMAGINE! This was the theme selected by Moderator Don Fitzkee for the 2026 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference that I attended last week in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Much of the conference was devoted to remembering rather than imagining, recalling key symbols and themes from our Brethren heritage that have had particular significance: **The Cross, The Bible, The Spirit Like a Dove, The Basin and Towel, The Table.**

I see these symbols as an opportunity for growth and vitality for the future, not just acknowledgement of the past. When I think of the word "imagine" (and I have a big imagination), I begin to wonder: What would West Marva District look and feel like, both to those of us in it and to those around us, if every single congregation was a disciple-making factory? How life-giving would our congregations be if each member was constantly being filled with, and operating under, the Holy Spirit? I mean really filled, really operating, real Holy Spirit power.

Could we be in a position to plant five new churches over the next five years? Could we avoid closures of existing congregations struggling to keep the lights on and people in? Could the Lord use *us*, our little district, to demonstrate His power and glory to the rest of the Church of the Brethren, to inspire other districts, to heal and restore the believing community so that it is flourishing and not languishing?

One of my top spiritual gifts in those gift assessment tools is *faith*. The spiritual gift of faith is interesting because every true believer has faith, but the spiritual charismatic gift of faith is *extra* faith: It is the YES vote in the board meeting, the "look what my God has done" testimony, the person who "prays in faith believing" and does not doubt. A favorite verse for people with this gift is 2 Corinthians 1:20, "*For in him every one of God's promises is a Yes.*" *For this reason it is through him that we say the "Amen," to the glory of God.*"

At first, I walked out of Annual Conference this year a little discouraged with the status quo, the institutional systems that do not want to make the necessary adjustments. We could be better stewards, more faithful disciples, more evangelistic, more imaginative in how we are doing and being the Body of Christ, except to improve would mean to change. And we all know how much we love change, right?

Then *my faith gift kicked in*, and the Lord showed me a vision of revival for West Marva; that instead of being frustrated at the institutional church above us and around us, we could be *leading* the way to great renewal for the whole denomination and even the wider Western Christian communion.

Us? Yes, us. You. Me. Together. West Marva. 27 churches, big and small, city and country, mountain and valley. Us.

"Okay, Leah, how is this grand plan supposed to happen? What crazy idea have you concocted as our District Executive that's going to send streams of living water through our churches?"

I'm glad you asked. I'll answer your question.

I am calling all West Marva congregations to devote **the next full 12 months** to ***repentance, humility, prayer, fasting, scripture study, discipleship, and waiting on the Lord for direction and instruction.***

From now until the end of the 2027 Annual Conference, I want every member of all 27 of our churches seeking the Lord while He may be found, drawing near to God, asking to be filled with the Holy Spirit, asking for our sins to be forgiven and our broken relationships mended, believing that a mighty wind is blowing and that we are invited to get swept away in the work of Jesus among us.

I am asking every pastor, parent, teacher, and youth leader to concentrate effort in teaching your church members how to pray (and how to pray aloud among each other – believe me when I tell you from personal experience how your whole church will change when the quiet ones find their voice in prayer). Set aside days and times of spiritual, biblical fasting. Sing more hymns. Make more phone calls to each other. Visit more of your church members (I mean members doing this for each other, not just the pastor). Every member should be making sure that every person in your congregation, as Jonathan Shively taught me, "*is and feels* cared for."

I am *NOT* asking you to start a new program, outreach, or ad campaign. I am *NOT* asking you to revive tired old ideas that you used to do or tried once or twice. This isn't something *we* are doing: This is God's people leaning into what Jesus has already done, what Jesus has taught, what Jesus has modeled, who Jesus is in His fullness as both God and Man, the object of our worship, the author and pioneer of our faith, the Son of God, the King above all kings, the Head of the Church, the living and risen Savior, Lord, Friend, Brother, Master, Teacher, Rabbi, Healer, Companion, Incarnate God.

Watch for resources in the mail/email!

Throughout the year, I will be providing tools you and your church, your Sunday School class, your youth group can use to practice this greater devotion, prayer, fasting, and scripture study.

Make sure you are on the district email list (just email me at westmarvade@gmail.com to be added), and make sure that *someone* from your church is always sharing district information with the people (pastors, I'm talking to you! If you're bad at checking email, delegate this responsibility to someone else).

As I'm making my visits to each congregation, I'm happy to preach about this, introduce it to your folks, teach a study on it, lead a worship service or prayer meeting around it, come for revival meetings: Anything I can do to help *you* enjoy a fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit's power and purpose, renewed love for Christ and the Church, renewed passion for the lost, renewed care of the whole created order.

Are you with me? ALL ABOARD!

Grace, Mercy, and Peace, Leah J. Hileman, West Marva District Executive Minister.

NEWS AROUND THE OFFICE

D. E. LEAH J. HILEMAN HAS A NEW HOME ADDRESS: I have relocated to within the district footprint to 5127 Emoryville Rd, Elk Garden WV 26717. The Open House that is scheduled for July 11 has been postponed until late Fall. Stay tuned for updated invitation information.

LEAH SCHEDULING CHURCH VISITS FOR 2026: I am available now for church visits, pulpit supply, concerts, milestones, and revival meetings in the second half of the year. Text/Call or Email to get me on your calendars. 540-742-2457, westmarvade@gmail.com.

DIRECTORY UPDATES: Please update your copy of the 2026 Directory to adjust the worship time at South Mill Creek to 9am and Bill Johnson's cell to 304-813-6512.

SHARE YOUR CHURCH DIRECTORY: We'd love to have a copy at the district office! Email a digital version to westmarvade@gmail.com or send a paper copy to West Marva District, 384 Dennett Rd, Oakland MD 21550.

NEWS AROUND OUR CHURCHES

BEAR CREEK VBS begins Monday, July 13 through Thursday July 16 with EGYPT: Joseph's Journey from Prison to Palace 6:30pm – 8:30pm.

BEAVER RUN Pastor Cappy and Sister Letha Caplinger celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in June. *"Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their labor: If either of them falls down, one can help the other up..."* (Ecclesiastes 4:9). Congratulations, Cappy and Letha!

GEORGE'S CREEK Annual Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, August 23 at 12pm at the church. Come and fellowship to meet district Brethren. You're always welcome at worship at 10am.

HANGING ROCK Pastors Bob and Brenda Combs' property was devastated by a major storm system on Independence Day. They lost several trees, sustained damage to three buildings including their house roof, and were without power for four days (this is potentially life-threatening for Brenda, who uses oxygen supplementation). Members assisted in setting up temporary generators and providing immediate care.



On Wednesday July 8, Disaster Coordinator Denny Skeweris called volunteers to help safely cut damaged trees and clear debris from the yard and around the property. In addition to Denny and Levi from Oak Park, four members of Bean Settlement and DE Leah all joined Bob Combs. Bob and Brenda were also blessed to receive a generator of their own for future emergencies, provided by funds that have been donated to Brethren Disaster Ministries. If you would like to make a contribution toward the fund that paid for the generator, checks may be mailed directly to West Marva District with "BDM" in the MEMO line, 384 Dennett Rd, Oakland MD 21550.



OAK GROVE VBS adopted our *Sleep In Heavenly Peace* bed build event as their mission project. If they raise \$1500, all the kids get a pajama party the last night of VBS. They collected their opening night offering in pillow case to kick off their week studying Lee Strobel's *A Case for Christ*.



SOUTH MILL CREEK hosted an Ice Cream Social and Lawn Party on Independence Day.

WESTERNPORT is hosting B.A.R.F. Day (Be A Real Friend) Back-to-School Invite-a-Friend day August 22, 11am – 1pm with Games, Treats, Music, and Door Prizes. Save the Dates: October 24 Harvest Party, 11am – 1pm and December 5 Santa Secret Shop, 10am – 2pm.

NEWS AROUND THE DISTRICT

DISTRICT YOUTH MINISTRY is being revived. High School students are encouraged to register for our District Conference in September to participate in a youth rally during the business session.

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE BED BUILD Saturday, September 26 (one week after District Conference). Use this QR code or link to sign up now. Stay tuned for additional resources, like bulletin inserts and flyers to use in your congregations.

LINK: <https://x.gldn.io/e/caSSkxvMS2b> QR CODE:



DEACON TRAINING SAVE-THE-DATE: Mark calendars now for Saturday, August 15, 10am-1pm at Keyser COB. Lunch will be provided. This is ***open to all current and prospective deacons, pastors, and churches who do not have active deacon ministry*** and would like to know how to increase care-giving and service ministries. It will be team-taught by Robin Smearman and Leah J. Hileman. We will look at Deacon Ministry from a traditional perspective and an adaptive model for current times to see what works best for your church.

DISTRICT BOARD MEETING DATES: July 25 at Bear Creek, September 19 at Moorefield following District Conference for reorganization, October 17 at Living Stone-Cumberland (noon, a later start-time prior to a district worship event being planned the same day at the church).

WOMEN'S CAMP SAVE-THE-DATE: Women's Camp is on the calendar at Camp Galilee the weekend of August 21-23. Please contact Camp Galilee for more information, including theme, registration times and event costs, 304-789-6712.

BRETHREN DISASTER MINISTRIES is calling for volunteers to be *on call*. All members and attendees of West Marva congregations 18 and older (16 with parental approval and supervision in some circumstances) are asked to prayerfully consider having your name added to Denny's growing list of able-bodied volunteers to call when needed.

Denny Skeweris is building a list of willing and available volunteers that he can notify when there are opportunities to serve both within the district footprint and at BDM sites nationwide. Please contact: District Coordinator Denny Skeweris, 301-616-0013, denskew@gmail.com.

PULPIT SWAP Thank you to all our pastors and host churches who joined in our pulpit swap!

CAMP HOPE SCHEDULE Our theme this year is "Put on the Full Armor of God," Eph 6:10-20.

Camp	Grade this fall	Dates	Cost	With Early Registration Discount	Directors	Pastor in residence

Youth	8-12 or grad	July 5-9	\$90.00	\$65.00	Kevin Leadbeater	Kevin Leadbeater
Junior	5-7	July 12-16	\$90.00	\$65.00	Tammy Phillips	Tammy Phillips
Primary	K-4	July 19-22	\$75.00	\$50.00	Myranda McDaniel	Leah Hileman

CAMP GALILEE SUMMER SCHEDULE: Youth Camp (9th grade through just graduated) – July 5-11. Jr. High Camp (6th through 9th) – July 12 – 18. Junior Camp (3rd through 5th) – July 19 – 24. Primary Camp (Kindergarten through 2nd) – July 24 – 26.

NEW TABLE PROCESS is an initiative started by Council of District Executives, in partnership with Lon Schwartzenruber of Design Group Int'l, to lead all levels of Church of the Brethren in a discernment process. Your district executive Leah is part of this process, and will be bringing listening sessions and other information in the latter half of 2026 to get your input. Here are some questions to consider:

- 1) What are the primary needs of our congregations? What about your specific church?
- 2) What resources would be most helpful for our churches to have from the district and denomination?
- 3) Are there ways we could restructure our church, or reimagine how we are doing and being church, that would be more efficient, fruitful, and affordable?
- 4) What are our district churches willing to do to develop greater spiritual devotion, discipleship, leadership, pastors/teachers/deacons/leaders/elders, better mutual encouragement, friendship, collaboration, resource sharing, and fellowship? Think creatively! Pray fervently. Love God and people.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE DELEGATES May begin registering *now* for the September 19 conference at Moorefield CoB. Find delegate qualifications and registration form at the end of the MEMO. **ALL 27 churches should be represented**, and all members of all churches are welcome and invited to attend, even as non-delegates. **ALL TEENS** entering 9th grade through first year out of high school are invited to a special **DISTRICT YOUTH MINISTRY REBOOT** mini rally during the business session. There is no cost except their meals. Simply add their meal payment and headcount to your delegate/church registration form and submit their names.

West Marva Ministry Training Program

Submitted By: Dr. Allie Crowe

Are you discerning a calling on your heart into an area of ministry? Do you want to grow more in your theological knowledge and understanding? Are you looking for a group of folks to study with and learn from? You may be looking for a way to challenge what you think you know. Look no further than the West Marva Ministry Training Program! This 3-year rotational program offers classes including Brethren History and Practice, Old and New Testament, Mission and Evangelism, Preaching and Pastoral Care, and more. This tuition year began with the course on preaching. Five individuals attended, ranging from current students to auditors and CEU opportunities. The bigger the class, the more opportunities for conversation.

Classes are from 9 AM-3 PM (4 PM at the latest). All classes are held at the Westernport Church of the Brethren in Westernport, Maryland. 198 Oakview Drive. The next class is being taught by Diane May. She is teaching the Brethren beliefs and practical applications. If you are interested in attending this class as a new student or to audit/earn CEU credits, please email me so I can send you the syllabus. Students are required to have all work completed for the class. Auditors and CEU persons are asked to attend and engage in discussion. Please be prepared to add perspective as a learning opportunity for new students.

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 participate and support the students in the program by contributing to the conversation and sharing your subject-matter experience.

I want to encourage churches to identify individuals who may be interested in 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 that help you grow in your relationship with Jesus.

2026-2027 Courses:

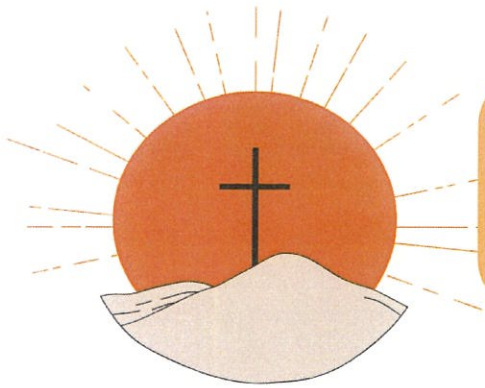
****Begin 2026-2027 Tuition Year*-Tuition Due May 15, 2026 (New students beginning after Preaching and Teaching will need to pay for the year before their first class)***

Practical Applications/Brethren Beliefs and Practices Date August 29 (Diane May)

Prayer and Spiritual Growth: Date Nov 7 (Leah Hileman)

Christian Faith and Ethics: TBD

For any questions, please contact Allie. allie.crowe.07@gmail.com, 608-215-8619



WMMTP

West Marva Ministry Training Program

Invoice

- Invoice #A2026

Invoice Date: 3/21/2026
Due Date 5/15/2026

- Remit Payment: West Marva District Office

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 is in the books. On the following pages are some highlights and the final results of various business items. Also, did you see your DE on stage? They invited three Brethren musical acts to present music for a Brethren Musician Concert the last night of conference. This photo of Leah J was taken by Pastor Keith Hollenberg of York-Madison Avenue CoB in Southern PA District. Other artists were cellOboe (Cody and Erin Flory Robertson) and Greg and Rhonda Baker.



Please plan, pray, and budget to send a delegate to Daytona Beach 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. Every congregation in the denomination gets a voice, a vote, and a place in the church.



2027 Annual Conference Dates are July 28 – August 1 (Wednesday to Sunday) in Daytona Beach, FL (will be the 240th recorded AC!), Moderator Dennis Beckner. Theme is "Growing Faith" (Dennis has a special gift and heart for Youth and Young Adult ministry)

2028 Annual Conference Dates are July 5 – 9 (Wednesday to Sunday) in Cincinnati, OH, Moderator Amy Gall Ritchie.

UPCOMING ONLINE EVENTS: Part-Time Pastor, Full-Time Church Coordinator Ryan Braught sent this message to all districts for our MVP's (Multi-Vocational Pastors, which is nearly all of our pastors): First we will be offering 3 different online listening sessions throughout the summer. These listening sessions will give opportunity to MVP's to meet with other MVP's, share their thoughts, ideas, and ways that our program can be helpful and supportive of their lives and ministries. The first was in May. Here are the remaining dates:

Wednesday July 29 from 7:00-8:30 PM and individuals can sign up for this listening session here: <https://forms.gle/LANW8VRXVc938S1FA>

Tuesday August 26 from 7:00-8:30 PM and individuals can sign up for this listening session here: <https://forms.gle/fuzTdcg5rc9KrpVj8>

Second, we will be offering an in-person listening session at Annual Conference. We will be offering this listening session on the morning of Tuesday June 30. I'm not exactly sure of the exact time and location but the Conference schedule will have all of that information.

Lastly, we will be offering an equipping session on Tuesday night June 30 from 8:30-9:30 PM entitled *Betwixt and Between: Following Jesus in the Midst of Liminality*. That will take place in Jefferson A.

BUSINESS REPORTING FROM THE 2026 CONFERENCE AND PRE-CONFERENCE MEETINGS, WITH LINKS TO THE FULL REPORTS ONLINE

Eder Financial reports on transition of services to Everence: Eder Financial had big news for the delegates this year as they described the background of the decision and the process for moving employee retirement and organizational investing services to Everence Financial. The move will take some time, over the course of the next months. It will leave Eder with only some ancillary insurance services and benevolence programs. Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2026/eder-financial-reports-on-transition

‘Walking Together’ resolution on care for immigrants is adopted: The delegates voted with a very strong majority to adopt the resolution brought by the Mission and Ministry Board titled “Walking Together: Immigration, Peacemaking, Conscience, and Supporting our Neighbors.” It reiterates that “care for immigrants and refugees is an essential part of the Christian and Church of the Brethren ethic of service and peacemaking.” A landing page of resources to help individuals, small groups, and congregations study and use the resolution is at www.brethren.org/walking-together. Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2026/walking-together-resolution-adopted

Resolution on weapons transfer is adopted by the 2026 Annual Conference: The delegate body adopted a “Resolution on Weapons Transfer” with a solid majority vote. The paper cites Matthew 5:44b-45, “Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...,” to call the Church of the Brethren to “examine and respond to the impacts of the arms industry.” The resolution reaffirms “the Church of the Brethren’s commitment to peace as God’s will and the call of Christ” and states the church’s “opposition to the US manufacturing and sale of weapons and urges the US government to halt the sale of arms to other countries.” Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2026/resolution-on-weapons-transfer

Adjustments to ministerial leadership polity are approved: Two adjustments to the 2014 Ministry Leadership paper that governs credentialing of ministerial leaders in the Church of the Brethren were approved by the delegate body. One adjustment defines licensing as a “provisional credential.” The other adjustment simplifies the process for a commissioned minister to seek ordination. Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2026/ministerial-leadership-polity

Amy Gall Ritchie to serve as Annual Conference moderator-elect, among other election

results: Amy Gall Ritchie of Manchester Church of the Brethren in North Manchester, Ind., South Central Indiana District, has been elected to the position of moderator-elect of Annual Conference. She will serve as moderator in 2028. Find full election results include the names of those elected or appointed to additional positions of leadership in the Church of the Brethren at www.brethren.org/news/2026/amy-gall-ritchie-elected-moderator

Review and Evaluation Committee brings an interim report: For some time, the Church of the Brethren has undertaken a periodic review every decade to evaluate the denomination's organizational structures and procedures, with a committee assigned to bring recommendations to Annual Conference for possible changes. This decade's Review and Evaluation Committee, elected in 2025, presented its first interim report to the 2026 Conference. Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2026/review-and-evaluation-committee

Mission and Ministry Board adopts two statements on Supreme Court decisions, approves budget parameter for 2027: The Church of the Brethren Mission and Ministry Board in its pre-Conference meeting on Sunday, June 28, adopted two statements on Supreme Court decisions: **"A Statement of Concern on Voting Rights Protections"** laments the Supreme Court's April 29 decision weakening key protections of Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. **"Our Faith Calls Us to Stand Beside Those Who Suffer"** responds to the June 25 ruling allowing the federal government to remove temporary protected status (TPS) from Haitians, Syrians, and others who have been in the US legally and had been protected from deportation. Among other actions, the board also approved a 2027 budget parameter for the Church of the Brethren's Core Ministries. Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2026/mmb-adopts-two-statements

Standing Committee recommends adoption of four new business items, discusses relationship of the Church of the Brethren and Eder Financial: The Standing Committee of district delegates to Annual Conference in its pre-Conference meetings made recommendations on the four items of new business, held a discussion of the relationship of the Church of the Brethren with Eder Financial, and held elections for subcommittees, among other business. Read more at www.brethren.org/news/2026/standing-committee-acts-on-new-business

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2026 BY THE NUMBERS

1,659 registered participants including 389 delegates, 1,117 nondelegates, and 153 virtual attendees. These numbers represent a correction of previously published figures.

\$50,788.29 received in worship offerings (as of Thursday, July 2) including both onsite and online giving, representing the total of the daily offerings: \$9,409.70 received for the Core Ministries of the Church of the Brethren, with a focus on Global Mission, on Sunday, June 28; \$14,268.05 received in support of Annual Conference operations on Monday, June 29; \$11,350.63 received for the Witness to Host City benefiting Alive Community Outreach on Tuesday, June 30, with an additional 4 pallets of material goods also donated; \$10,066.59 received for the Annual Conference children and youth programming on Wednesday, July 1; and \$5,693.32 received in support of the Church of the Brethren Core Ministries with a focus on Discipleship and Leadership Formation on Thursday, July 2.

\$14,759 was raised by the Silent Auction to undergird the operating budget of Annual Conference.

181 copies of *Healing Resistance* and 162 copies of *Finding Meaning: The Sixth Stage of Grief* were sold by the Brethren Press at the onsite bookstore. It is expected that the majority of these books have been donated to the Witness to the Host City for use by Alive Community Outreach—however, some copies may have gone home with Conferencegoers who were inspired to read them!

191 daily average devices connected with the Conference worship services, representing an average of the daily totals: 239 connected with the opening worship on Sunday, June 28; 209 connected with the worship service on Monday, June 29; 205 connected with the worship service on Tuesday, June 30; 201 connected with the worship service on Wednesday, July 1; 103 connected with the worship service on Thursday, July 2. During each of the services, a few dozen connected via YouTube and Facebook Live. Each connecting device may translate to significantly more viewers, reported Enten Eller, who organized the streaming, given that there were viewing parties of 35 to 50 people at some churches and retirement communities.

41 average peak numbers of Zoom log-ins for the business sessions, representing an average of the following: 38 for the opening business session on Monday, June 29; 47 for the afternoon business session on Monday, June 29; 30 for the morning keynote speaker on Tuesday, June 30; 50 for the afternoon business session on Tuesday, June 29; 41 for the morning business

session on Wednesday, July 1; and 42 for the afternoon business session on Wednesday, July 1. Eller said virtual attendees reported that being able to engage in “table talk” online, when those onsite talked around tables on the business floor, was one of the most important experiences.

1 new fellowship and 1 new church plant were welcomed into the Church of the Brethren denomination: Iglesia Cristiana Elohim was welcomed as a new fellowship located in Las Vegas, Nev., in Pacific Southwest District. The Sanctuary was welcomed as a new church plant located in a rural area of Indiana, in Northern Indiana District.

4.2 percent cost of living increase was approved for the Minimum Cash Salary Table for Pastors in 2027, as proposed by the Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee. The Standing Committee recommendation to adopt the increase, which was approved by the delegate body, included the instruction: “All congregations are encouraged to consult the Pastoral Compensation Calculator in order to equalize wage with work expectations.” Find the calculator and other tools and documents for pastoral compensation at www.brethren.org/ministryoffice/compensation

110 units of blood were collected over 2 days onsite. The Annual Conference Virtual Blood Drive, in which church members and friends can give blood in their own communities, continues through July 31. For information about how to participate contact Brethren Disaster Ministries at bdm@brethren.org.

2 honorees received the annual Revelation 7:9 Award this year, presented during the Mission and Ministry Board meeting by Intercultural Ministries director Founa Augustin Badet. The award recognizes church members and congregations for their contributions to a vision of intercultural ministries in their communities, within the denomination, and in the world at large. Both 2026 recipients are women retiring from the denominational staff in July: **Wendy McFadden**, publisher and executive director of Brethren Press and Communications, and **Nancy Sollenberger Heishman**, director of Ministry.

3 camp staff and volunteers were honored by the Outdoor Ministries Association (OMA): **Kyle Lapp** received the award for Camp Volunteer of the Year, **Wayne Guyer** received the award for OMA Volunteer of the Year, and **Gene Hollenberg** of the Camp Alexander Mack staff received the award for Camp Staff of the Year.

64 is the record number of consecutive Annual Conferences attended by Fred Swartz. He is a retired pastor who is a former secretary of Annual Conference and has served on the Church of the Brethren communications staff. He has attended every Annual Conference since 1962.



**SLEEP IN
HEAVENLY PEACE**

**NO KID SLEEPS
ON THE FLOOR
IN OUR TOWN!**



BUILD A BED. BUILD HOPE.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN A CHILD'S LIFE!



**NO KID SLEEPS
ON THE FLOOR
IN OUR TOWN!**

SLEEPINHEAVENLYPEACE.ORG



DATE:

SEPTEMBER 26



TIME:

9:30 AM - 3:00 PM



LOCATION:

THE GLADES PAVILION

10 Spruce Lane

Oakland, MD 21550

OUR GOAL:

50

NEW BEDS

FOR CHILDREN IN NEED!



WEST MARVA DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
in partnership with
SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

**WV-MONONGALIA CO
CHAPTER**



We will build wooden beds for kids that need beds in West Virginia and possibly western Maryland – headboards, footboards and siderails for these beds.

VOLUNTEERS WILL HELP:



SAND



STAIN



DRILL



**BRAND
WOOD**



**ASSEMBLE
HEADBOARDS,
FOOTBOARDS
& SIDERAILS**



**SUPPORT
ROLES
AVAILABLE TOO!**



**NO EXPERIENCE
NEEDED**

We'll show
you everything!



**LUNCH
PROVIDED**

for all
volunteers!



**GREAT
FELLOWSHIP**

Make new friends
while helping kids!



**A FUN EVENT
WITH LOTS OF
GREAT PEOPLE**

making a difference!

SCAN TO REGISTER!



**REGISTER TO VOLUNTEER
SPACES ARE LIMITED!**

TOGETHER, WE CAN SEE THAT NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN! ♥

August 22
11 AM-1 PM **B.A.R.F. DAY**

Be A Real Friend

Back-to-school fun time with
games, treats, music, and
door prizes.



What's Ahead?
@ the church of the
Brethren on Oakview Drive



October 24
11AM - 1PM

Harvest Party

"It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown" will be playing on loop!
There are games, treat bags,
activities, and more!
Let the kiddos wear their costumes.

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN, WEST MARVA DISTRICT
384 Dennett Rd, Oakland MD 21550
540-742-2457, westmarvade@gmail.com
Leah J. Hileman, District Executive Minister/Administrative Assistant

To Pastor or Congregational Contact,

On Saturday, September 19 we will gather as a district to celebrate what the Lord has done among us, conduct the good business of the church, call leaders, manage our resources, honor ministers' milestones, eat good food, enjoy an ice cream social sponsored by Eder Financial, and be led by Moderator Danny Ludwick on the theme, "BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT!"

Conference booklets will be emailed to registered delegates who provide an email address (May be your own or someone willing to receive and print it on your behalf). Emailed packets are free to receive. To receive a hard copy printed at the office and shipped, please include \$10 with your registration forms. If sending a check, make it payable to West Marva District with "Delegate" in the MEMO line.

The Moorefield Church will be hosting our conference again this year and serving a lunch. There are other nearby meal options available, but the most fun one (and probably the most affordable) will be the on-site meal they are preparing for the cost of only \$15 (no change from last year). You will also include meal money with your registration.

We are specially inviting YOUTH to the District Conference this year for a District Youth Ministry Reboot Rally during the business session, led by Thelma Cox and friends. If you have any high-school aged teens attending your church, encourage them to attend for only the cost of their meal. We want them to lead in planning youth events for the coming year that will be open to all district youth.

To summarize:

- **Attendance at the conference is free to all members of friends of any church.**
- **Meals will be \$15 per person (\$5 for children 10 and under). Other local dining is available, but you don't want to miss out on the Ice Cream part!**
- **Delegate packets are FREE if receiving electronically, or \$10 if receiving a hard copy.**
- **Make sure you submit all names, both delegates and non-delegates, meal money, and your delegate packet request (Free or \$10) AUGUST 18.**
- **Non-delegates and Youth can be listed on the back of the registration form or on a separate page.**

Every congregation under 200 gets 4 delegates, larger churches get one extra delegate per 100 extra people. No matter how big or small, or where you are located, we want your presence and input, we want to hear testimony of God in your midst, and we want your voice raised in worship beside us.

-Leah J. Hileman, D.E.M.

WEST MARVA DISTRICT -- CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN DISTRICT CONFERENCE DELEGATE BODY QUALIFICATIONS

All members of the congregations and fellowships of the District shall have the privilege of moving and discussing the business of District Conference. However, only the official delegates of the member congregations and fellowships shall have the right to vote.

There shall be FOUR delegates for each member congregation with 200 members or fewer. Larger congregations shall have one delegate more for each additional 100 members or fraction thereof. The pastor and church board chair of each member body shall serve as delegates by virtue of their offices. Each congregation or fellowship shall elect the remaining quota of its delegates from its membership.

Where a minister serves two or more congregations, in consultation and agreement between the served churches, it will be agreed that the minister represent one congregation as its official pastoral delegate and that the other congregation(s) will elect an additional delegate to represent their congregation.

An alternate may serve, if necessary, in place of any delegate.

There may be times when a church refuses to follow counsel of the Board to be in accordance with the decisions of District Conference. In such cases the Board may exercise their responsibility to discipline such churches, with the goal of restoration. Discipline may include the revocation of the church's voting privileges.

(From the West Marva District Plan of Organization (revised 2013) page 2 District Conference Delegate)

CREDENTIAL FORM FOR DELEGATES TO WEST MARVA DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Name of Congregation _____

As delegate to the West Marva District Conference, I promise to prayerfully consider, with open mind and teachable spirit, all matters presented, and to act, by voice and vote, in good faith, for the best interests of the church, that she may continue to be "the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Thessalonians 5:17; Romans 14:22-23)

DELEGATE NAME PRINTED (as it will appear on your name tag)	DELEGATE SIGNATURE	CIRCLE ONE	EMAIL ADDRESS TO RECEIVE A FREE ELECTRONIC COPY OF CONFERENCE BOOKLET	MAILING ADDRESS FOR PRINTED COPY OF THE CONFERENCE BOOK \$10.00 Charge <i>Deadline to order books is August 17</i>
		Board Chair Delegate Pastor		
		Board Chair Delegate Pastor		
		Board Chair Delegate Pastor		

The above delegates have been duly selected or authorized by virtue of their office to represent the above-named congregation at the West Marva District Conference, to be held at Moorefield Church of the Brethren on September 19, 2026. We recommend this delegate as being in full accord with the faith and practices of the church.

Signed by Pastor or Moderator _____ Signed by Clerk _____

Total printed copies of the Conference Book _____ X \$10 = _____ Total number for Moorefield Lunch _____ X \$15 _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____
 Please make checks payable to the West Marva District with "DELEGATE" in the MEMO LINE.

***A reminder to all church members that anyone
can receive the MEMO via email or snail mail.***

Just fill out the bottom portion and mail to the district office at
384 Dennett Rd, Oakland MD 21550, or email Leah directly at
westmarvade@gmail.com.

For EMAIL: Add "ADD ME TO THE MEMO" in the Subject line.

For SNAIL MAIL:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone/Email _____

I would like to receive a hard copy of the MEMO 6 times per year.
(Please consider a small donation to cover the cost of printing and postage; though it is not
necessary, it does help the district).

Mail to West Marva District, 384 Dennett Rd, Oakland MD 21550