

# VIRLINA DISTRICT

Church  
Of the  
Brethren



## MEMO FOR MINISTERS

### DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MINISTER SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2019

- 1 Worship at Bethel/Roanoke-Oak Grove for Licensing Service
- 2 Northern Area Ministers Meeting - Poages Mill/Iglesia Del Buen Pastor Fellowship Dinner - Blacksburg
- 3 Office
- 4 Staff Meeting/Office
- 5 OFF
- 6 Office/Historical Committee/Commission on Ministry
- 7 OPEN
- 8 Worship at Masons Cove/Staff Christmas Dinner
- 9 Office
- 10 Office
- 11 Staff Meeting/Office
- 12 OFF
- 13 Office/Commission on Stewardship
- 14 OPEN
- 15 Worship at Daleville
- 16 Office/Southern Area Ministers Meeting and Love Feast - Germantown Brick
- 17 Office
- 18 Staff Meeting/Office
- 19 OFF (NRHS Christmas Banquet)
- 20 Office
- 21 Open
- 22 Worship at Boones Mill/Install Jerry Naff/New Bethel (Troutville)
- 23 Office
- 24 - 31 **District Resource Center Closed - Christmas/New Year's Eve**
- 29 Preach at Daleville

### DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MINISTER SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 2020

- 1 **District Resource Center Closed - New Year's Day**
- 2 Office
- 3 Office
- 4 District Board Retreat - Camp Bethel
- 5 Worship at Fraternity/Profile Meeting
- 6 Office/Northern Area Ministers - Central (Program)
- 7 Awakening Committee/Office
- 8 CODE-East at Weyers Cave
- 9 OFF
- 10 Office
- 11 OPEN
- 12 Worship at Topeco/Board Meeting
- 13 Office/Moneta-Lake Side Steering Committee
- 14 Office
- 15 Staff Meeting/Office
- 16 OFF (NRHS)
- 17 Office
- 18 OPEN
- 19 Worship Undetermined
- 20 Office/Southern Area Ministers Meeting at Christiansburg (Program)

### MINISTERS AND SPOUSES RETREAT - FEBRUARY 28-29, 2020

The Virlina District Ministers and Spouses Retreat will be held on February 28-29, 2020 at the Eagle Eyrie Baptist Conference Center on U.S. 501 between Big Island and Lynchburg, VA. Nancy S. Heishman, Director of Ministry for the Church of the Brethren will lead the event. Her theme is "The Power of Sacred Stories." The three sessions will focus on the following texts:

- SESSION 1: Watching for Where the Spirit Blows - John 3:1-21  
SESSION 2: From the Margins to the Center - John 4:1-42  
SESSION 3: Having the Sense to See - John 9:1-41

This event provides .3 CEU credits for ordained or commissioned ministers. The cost of the event is \$150 for couples (or double occupancy), \$100 for single occupancy and \$40 for commuters (meals included). The Commission on Ministry will provide scholarship up to 50% of the cost for those who need it. You may find the brochure and registration material at <http://www.virlina.org/resources/downloads/send/5-miscellaneous/97-ministers-spouses-retreat-2020.html>.

**MEMO FOR MINISTERS - Page 2 DECEMBER 2019-JANUARY 2020**

- 21 Office/Calling the Called Committee
- 22 Staff Meeting/Office
- 23 OFF
- 24 - 29 Council of District Executives Meetings in Melbourne, FL
- 30 OFF
- 31 Office

**MARY SINK ST. JOHN SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 2019**

- 2-4 OFF
- 5 Office
- 6 Office/Historical Committee
- 9 OFF
- 10 Office/Disaster Response Committee
- 11 Staff Meeting/Office
- 12 Office
- 13 Office
- 16 OFF
- 17 Office
- 18 Staff Meeting/Office
- 19 Office
- 20 Office
- 23 OFF
- 24-31 District Resource Center Closed for Christmas

**MARY SINK ST. JOHN SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY 2020**

- 1 District Resource Center Closed - New Year's Day
- 2 Office
- 3 Office
- 4 District Board Retreat - Camp Bethel
- 6 OFF
- 7 Awakening Committee/Office
- 8 Staff Meeting/Office
- 9 Office
- 10 Office
- 13 OFF
- 14 Office
- 15 Staff Meeting/Office
- 16 Office
- 17 Office
- 20 OFF
- 21 Office
- 22 Staff Meeting/Office
- 23 Office
- 24 Office
- 27 OFF
- 28 Office
- 29 Office
- 30 Office
- 31 Office

**MINISTERS MEETINGS FOR DECEMBER 2019**

The Northern Area Ministers will meet at the Poages Mill Church of the Brethren on Monday, December 2, at 8:30 a.m. The program will be "Trauma and the Church" featuring Seth McCormick from Carilion Hospice. This meeting provides 0.1 CEU. Breakfast will be provided with a suggested donation of \$7.00.

The Southern Area Ministers will meet at the Germantown Brick Church of the Brethren on Monday, December 16, at 6 p.m. This is the yearly Love Feast and Communion meeting. Please contact Pastor Greg Broyles at (540) 892-8477 in order to insure adequate preparation for those attending.

**PILGRIMAGE XXII - MARCH 20-22, 2020**

Pilgrimage XXIV will be held March 20-22, 2020, at Camp Bethel. Individuals from 60 congregations in our district have participated in this spiritual retreat for adults.

Pilgrimage is for everyone who wants to draw closer to God. It is for the young and old, for the new Christian and the one who has been a Christian for decades. The retreat includes spiritual talks, small groups, fun times, inspiring worship services, and much more.

God continues to work in wonderful ways through this ministry! Prayerfully consider your participation. For more information, please contact Karen Haynes at (336) 765-5263 or by e-mail at [haynesmk1986@yahoo.com](mailto:haynesmk1986@yahoo.com) or go to our website at [www.experiencepilgrimage.com](http://www.experiencepilgrimage.com).

**DRC HOLIDAY HOURS**

The Virlina District Resource Center will close at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 27 and reopen at 9:00 a.m. on Monday, December 2. During this time the staff will enjoy the Thanksgiving Holiday with family and friends.

The Virlina District Resource Center will be closed from Monday, December 23, 2019 at 6 p.m until Thursday, January 2, 2020 at 9 a.m. Phone messages and e-mail will be checked periodically. We wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!

**PASTORAL PLACEMENT REPORT**

- **BETHANY** - Part time position, no profile available - *Jessica A. Slusher has resigned effective December 31, 2019 to pursue further training.*
- **BETHEL** - *In negotiation, trial sermon and vote date on December 1, 2019.*
- **EDEN, FIRST** - Full time position, profile circulating (P/I) - Edward C. Woodard serving as interim pastor.
- **FRATERNITY** - Full time position, profile pending - *Harold E. Sonafrank and Robert L. Williard serving as interim pastoral team.*
- **JETERS CHAPEL** - Part time position, profile circulating (P)- James R. Worline serving as interim pastor.
- **JONES CHAPEL** - *Thomas E. Auker will begin as pastor on a part-time basis effective January 1, 2020.*
- **LIGHTHOUSE** - Part time position, no profile available - *Don D. Street, layspeaker from Mount Hermon, serving as pulpit supply.*
- **LYNCHBURG** - Part time position, profile circulating (P/I) - Leah O. Harness serving as interim pastor.
- **MAPLE GROVE** - Part time position, no profile available - *Brian Sink serving a pulpit supply.*
- **MASONS COVE** - *In negotiation, trial sermon and vote date to be determined.*
- **MONETA, LAKE SIDE** - Part time position, profile circulating - Christian J. Becker serving as pulpit supply.
- **NEW BETHEL** - Part time position, no profile available - Pulpit supply.
- **NEWPORT NEWS, IVY FARMS** - Part time position, profile circulating - Pulpit supply by Nathaniel Milton and others.
- **RED HILL** - Part time position, no profile available - Pulpit supply by Carlton Hodges and others.
- **ROANOKE, IGLESIA CRISTIANA RENACER** - Part time position, profile pending - Pulpit supply.
- **SAINT PAUL** - Part time position, no profile available - Mark A. Bolt is serving as interim pastor.
- **SHELTON** - Part time position, no profile available - Joseph D. Smith serving as interim pastor.
- **TRINITY** - Part time position, profile circulating (P) - Pulpit supply.

**BRETHREN BENEFIT TRUST OPEN ENROLLMENT ENDS NOVEMBER 30, 2019**

Brethren Benefit Trust would like to remind you that open enrollment for ancillary insurances is the month of November. An insurance packet should have been sent to every congregation in the district. If you did not receive an insurance packet and would like to see what is available to you, please contact Loyce Borgmann at (847) 622-3364. If you did receive the packet and are planning to enroll in one or more of the options, forms are due back to BBT by November 30.

**CHRISTMAS TOGETHER BANQUET - DECEMBER 5, 2019**

Camp Bethel's Christmas TOGETHER Banquet on Thursday, December 5, beginning at 6:30 p.m. includes an excellent dinner and fun Christmas program in our festive, decorated Ark Dining Hall. Your gift of \$50 per person (larger gifts accepted) will provide much needed year-end funding for Camp Bethel. Our collective support of Camp Bethel puts TOGETHERness into practice as described in Acts 2:43-47. Please reserve a special place for your family or group by November 28 at <[www.CampBethelVirginia.org/Christmas-Together](http://www.CampBethelVirginia.org/Christmas-Together)>.

**CHRISTIAN GROWTH INSTITUTE - ROANOKE CENTER**

The next class to be held at the Roanoke Center will be INTRODUCTION TO THEOLOGY, taught by Daniel L. Rudy. Textbooks and resources for the class are: Another Way of Believing: A Brethren Theology, by Dale W. Brown, Elgin, IL, Brethren Press and What's Theology Got To Do With It? Convictions, Vitality, and the Church by Anthony B. Robinson, Herndon, VA, The Alban Institute, 2006.

The Sunday afternoon classes will be held on January 5, January 19, February 2 and February 16 from 2:30 - 6:30 p.m. at the District Resource Center, 3402 Plantation Road, NE, Roanoke, VA. Tuition for the class will be \$100.00 and students are responsible for purchasing the necessary textbooks.

For more information or to obtain a registration form please contact Gary Basham, Director of Ministry Formation by telephone at (540) 890-3818 or by electronic mail at [gb0247@cox.net](mailto:gb0247@cox.net). Make checks payable to VIRLINA DISTRICT and mail with registration form by December 27, 2019 to: Gary Basham, 2526 Parkview Drive, Vinton, VA 24179-1612. CEU credit is available for ordained ministers taking the class.

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**CLERGY TAX SEMINAR - JANUARY 25, 2020**

Students, pastors, and other church leaders are invited to participate in this online seminar.

Learn how to file clergy taxes correctly and legally.

Comply with regulations while maximizing tax deductions.

Earn 0.3 CEUs - requires attendance in the first session.

The annual Clergy Tax Seminar will consist of two sessions

In Session 1, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. EST, will focus on the rules surrounding Clergy Tax Returns, including who is subject to these rules, what income is subject to tax, and how to reduce total tax liability using various methods, including housing allowance, business expenses, and medical reimbursement plans. The court case around the housing allowance will also be discussed. Credit for 0.3 CEUs will be available for attending Session 1 only.

In Session 2, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. EST, participants will complete a clergy tax return using H&R Block's highest tier (Premium and Business) downloadable software.

This seminar is highly recommended for all pastors and other church leaders who wish to understand clergy taxes, including treasurers, steward commission chairs, and church board chairs.

Sponsors: The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership, the Church of the Brethren Office of Ministry, and Bethany Theological Seminary.

**Seminar Schedule**

10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	EST - Morning session
1:00-1:30 p.m.	EST - Lunch on your own
1:30-3:30 p.m.	EST - Afternoon session

**Registration and Cost**

Registration is \$40 per person (generally nonrefundable to keep fees and overhead low). Current Bethany, TRIM/EFSM/SeBAH, and Earlham School of Religion students may attend the seminar at no cost, although registration is still required to reserve space and will allow us to provide you with web access to the seminar; instructions and handouts will be sent a few days prior to the event. Registrations are not complete until payment is received. Prompt registration is advised - registration deadline is January 15, 2020. The registration form may be found at <<https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/clergy-tax-seminar/>>.

**Leadership**

Deb Oskin has been doing clergy tax returns since 1989, when her husband left seminary to pastor a small rural Church of the Brethren congregation. As a pastor's wife and later as a tax professional, she learned the tax problems and pitfalls associated with the IRS's identification of clergy as "hybrid employees." In 2011, after twelve years with H&R Block, Deb left to start her own tax practice, specializing in clergy taxes. Clergy clients now make up 75 percent of her client base.

**ROUNDTABLE AT BRIDGEWATER COLLEGE - FEBRUARY 28 - MARCH 1, 2020**

Roundtable 2020, sponsored by the Interdistrict Youth Cabinet, will be held at Bridgewater College beginning on February 28 at 6 p.m. and ending on March 1 at 12 p.m. The theme of Roundtable 2020 is 2020 VISION - SEEING AS JESUS DOES. The Roundtable 2020 speaker is Kyle Remnant! A native of Bridgewater, VA, Kyle is a musician, speaker and husband. Things to bring include: a Bible, sleeping bag, pillow, clothes, towel, and toiletries (air mattress optional).

**NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE BALLOT**

You can help shape the future of the church! Each member of the Church of the Brethren is invited to recommend possible nominees for the 2020 Annual Conference ballot. As you pray about this, who comes to mind? Whom will the Lord prompt you to nominate? Visit the 2020 Annual Conference home page, <<http://www.brethren.org/ac>>, and begin your journey into that future!

Please make election information from that site available to the leaders and members of your congregation and urge them to submit nominations. We need nominees from every part of the church.

## MEMO FOR MINISTERS - Page 5 DECEMBER 2019-JANUARY 2020

Offices open for nomination for the 2020 Ballot and the election procedures, are listed below. Further details about these offices are available at *Information about Offices Open for Nomination for the 2020 Ballot* at <<http://www.brethren.org/ac/nominations>>. Please note the specific categories that apply to each nomination.

If you know persons who work in one of the areas from which nominees must come this year, please make a special effort to prayerfully submit their names. Perhaps they can make valuable contributions to the denomination!

Please make special note of the *Call to Accountability* document at <<http://www.brethren.org/ac/documents/call-toaccountability.pdf>> which reminds us to work towards a balance of gender, age, ethnic/racial, rural/urban, and professional representation among our leadership.

There are two ways to submit nominations:

(1) Online via the "2020 Nominations" link at the <<http://www.brethren.org/ac> website>. You must provide the email address of the person you are nominating in order to submit the nomination online. They will be sent an e-mail inviting them to submit their information online. Those who do not respond cannot be considered. Please follow up with the persons you nominate to make sure they have received an e-mail or contact the Annual Conference Office if they did not.

(2) If you cannot submit online, you may submit the Elected Office Nomination Form and have your nominee submit the companion Nominee Information Form. Note that persons being nominated must sign their information forms acknowledging their permission to consider them as nominees. If you need help locating or filling out these forms, visit <<http://www.brethren.org/ac/nominations/>> or contact the Annual Conference Office.

All nominations should be submitted to the Annual Conference Office via the online process or via postal mail to 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120 by December 1, 2019. The earlier, the better. Thank you for your help!

Offices Open for Nomination for the 2020 Ballot INCLUDE:

Moderator-Elect (one person, 3-year term).

Annual Conference Program & Arrangements Committee (one person, 3-year term).

Mission and Ministry Board from (one person, 5-year term) from Area 1: Atlantic Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Middle PA, Southern PA, Western PA.

Mission and Ministry Board (one person, 5-year term) from Area 4: Missouri-Arkansas, Southern Plains, Western Plains. (Northern Plains is already fully represented.)

Bethany Theological Seminary Board of Trustees – Clergy: (one person, 5-year term).

Bethany Theological Seminary Board of Trustees – Laity: (one person, 5-year term).

Brethren Benefit Trust Board: (one person, 4-year term, skill set requested: finance and/or auditing knowledge, or an expert in the field of investments, or a Brethren Pension Plan member who has knowledge and/or interest in investments).

On Earth Peace Board: (one person, 5-year term).

Pastoral Compensation & Benefits Advisory Committee – Laity: (one person, 5-year term).

### NEW MEMBERS REPORT FORM

A New Members Report Form is enclosed for you to copy and use throughout the year to report the names of persons who become members of your congregation. You can complete and send the form to the District Resource Center, or you can email the new member information to <[virlinasecretary@gmail.com](mailto:virlinasecretary@gmail.com)>.

### 2020 ADDITIONAL OFFICERS FORM

The Additional Officers Form for 2020 is enclosed in this memo. Please complete the form and return it to the Virlina District Resource Center, 3402 Plantation Road, Roanoke, VA 24012. This information helps the district staff in making contact and sending material to persons in certain positions of service. This form is due by January 15.

### DISTRICT BOARD REORGANIZATION FOR 2019-20

Please review and draw any corrections to our attention at <[nuchurch@aol.com](mailto:nuchurch@aol.com)>.

### ATTACHMENTS/ENCLOSURES

Financial Secretary's Report for November 18, 2019

Children, Youth and Young Adult Activity Calendar for 2019-20

District Board Reorganization for 2019-20

D/C 2020 Nomination Form

Additional Officers Form

New Members Report Form