

VIRLINA DISTRICT

Church
Of the
Brethren



MEMO FOR MINISTERS

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MINISTER SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER 2022

- 1 OPEN
- 2 Preach at Concord , Living Faith (AM)/Mortgage Burning (PM)
- 3 Office/A/C Program and Arrangements Committee (Z)/
Northern Area Ministers - Roanoke, Central (PM)
- 4 Office/Virginia Council of Churches Coordinating Cabinet (Z)
- 5 Staff Meeting/ Birthday Celebration/Office
- 6 OFF/Travel to Englewood, OH
- 7 Southern Ohio-Kentucky District Conference
- 8 Southern Ohio-Kentucky District Conference/Travel
- 9 Worship Undetermined/VACATION
- 10 VACATION
- 11 VACATION
- 12 VACATION
- 13 Travel to Elgin, IL/Mission and Ministry Board
- 14 Mission and Ministry Board
- 15 Mission and Ministry Board
- 16 Mission and Ministry Board/Leadership Team
- 17 Leadership Team/Travel to Roanoke, VA
- 18 VACATION
- 19 VACATION
- 20 VACATION
- 21 VACATION
- 22 VACATION
- 23 Preach at West Richmond
- 24 Office/A/C Officers (Z)/EL Buen Pastor Steering Committee
- 25 Office/Annual Conference Standing Committee (Z)
- 26 Staff Meeting/Office
- 27 OFF
- 28 Office/Ministry Advisory Council (Z)/Commission on Ministry
- 29 Nueva Vida Baptismal Service - Topeco
- 30 Speak at Germantown Brick
- 31 Office

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MINISTER SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER 2022

- 1 Office
- 2 Staff Meeting/Office/A/C Program and Arrangements Comm. (Z)
- 3 Virginia Council of Churches Annual Assembly in Richmond, VA
- 4 Shenandoah District Conference
- 5 OPEN
- 6 Worship Undetermined/Commission on Ministry
- 7 Discipleship and Reconciliation Committee/New Church
Development Committee at Roanoke, First
- 8 Office
- 9 Staff Meeting/Office
- 10 OFF
- 11 Office/District Conference at Grandin Court Baptist Church
- 12 District Conference at Grandin Court Baptist Church
- 13 Worship Undetermined
- 14 Office/Moneta-Lake Side Steering Committee
- 15 Office (AM)
- 16 Staff Meeting/Office
- 17 OFF
- 18 Office/Leadership Team (Z)

SOUTHERN AREA MINIS- TERS AND SPOUSES - OCTOBER 17, 2022

The Southern Area Ministers and Spouses plan to meet at the Cedar Bluff Church of the Brethren in the Naff's Community of Franklin County, Virginia on Monday, October 17, 2022.

The program will be presented by Rev. Mary Anne Glover, General Minister of the Virginia Council of Churches. An ordained minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Glover has served in congregations in Indianapolis, Minneapolis, and Louisville, Ky. She was also associate regional pastor in Ohio and regional minister in New York. Glover holds a B. S. degree from East Carolina University, an M.Div. from Lexington Theological Seminary. She will share about her journey as a clergywoman of color in a predominantly white context.

Please contact Betty at the District Resource Center by 6 p.m. on Friday, October 14, to reserve your meal. Officers for the Southern Area for 2022-23 are William J. Hinton, Sr., President; William G. "Greg" Broyles, Vice-President; and Emma Jean Franklin Woodard, Secretary.

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MINISTER SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER 2021

19	OPEN
20	Worship Undetermined
21	Office/Historical Committee
22	Office/Christian Growth Institute Admin. Committee-Buena Vista, Stone
23	Staff Meeting/Office
24-25	District Resource Center Closed for Thanksgiving
26	OPEN
27	Worship Undetermined
28	Office/Annual Conference Officers (Z)
29	Office/Program and Arrangements (Z)/Executive Committee
30	Staff Meeting/Office

MARY SINK ST. JOHN SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER 2022

3	OFF
4	Office
5	Staff Meeting/Office
6	Office
7	Office
10	OFF
11	Office/Race Education Team
12	Staff Meeting/Office
13	Office
14	Office
15	Program and Arrangements Committee (Z)
17	Southern Area Ministers - Cedar Bluff
18	Office
19	Staff Meeting/Office
20	Office
21	Office
24	OFF
25	Office
26	Staff Meeting/Office
27	Office
28	Office
31	OFF

MARY SINK ST. JOHN SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER 2022

1	Office
2	Staff Meeting/Office
3	Office
4	Office
7	OFF
8	Office
9	Staff Meeting/Office
10	Office
11	District Conference - Grandin Court Baptist
12	District Conference - Grandin Court Baptist
14	OFF
15 - 18	VACATION
21	OFF
22	Office
23	Staff Meeting/Office
24 - 25	District Resource Center Closed for Thanksgiving
28	Office
29	Office/Race Education Team
30	Staff Meeting/Office

SMALLER MEMBERSHIP CONGREGATIONAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Grants up to \$1,000 are available from the Smaller Membership Congregational Committee for qualifying congregations. These grants exist to provide assistance to congregations having fewer than 50 members and less than \$30,000 yearly giving. Grants can be used to expand ministry, provide outreach, assist building projects, update technology, purchase music, and other needs that smaller congregations cannot afford. Applications forms are downloadable from the <virlina.org> website.

Please complete a grant application and return to SMCC Assistance Grant, Virlina District Resource Center, 3402 Plantation Road, NE, Roanoke, Virginia 24012. If you have questions, please contact Mary StJohn at <virlina2@aol.com> or by calling (540) 362-1816.

NORTHERN AREA MINISTERS MEET OCTOBER 3

The next meeting of the Northern Area Ministers is scheduled for Monday, October 3, beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the Central Church of the Brethren at 416 Church Avenue, SW.

The youth of Central will be providing a meal for the meeting. Please advise the church office at (540) 342-0337 or by email at <kinsey.revkev@gmail.com> as soon as possible, so we can be sure to have an adequate amount of food available. The youth are excited to serve "make your own tacos" and there will be vegetarian options available for this. Donations are appreciated.

Following the meal, the program will focus on the new Integrated Annual Ministry Agreement and revised Guidelines for Pastor's Salaries and Benefits approved by the 2023 Annual Conference. This program will be led by Deb Oskin and Dan Rudy. Church Board or Leadership Team Chairpersons and Treasurers are invited and encouraged to attend. There will be a zoom option available. For more information, contact Tim Harvey, president, at <pastortim@oakgrovecob.org>

PASTORAL PLACEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- **BASSETT** - Part or full-time position, profile pending - R. Douglas Jones serving as pulpit supply.
- **BETHANY** - *Emma Jean Franklin Woodard has been called as pastor and Patricia A. Ronk as associate pastor, both on a part-time basis, effective September 1, 2022.*
- **FAIRVIEW (ROCKY MOUNT)** - Part time position, no profile available - Pulpit supply.
- **GREEN HILL** - Part time position, profile circulating (2) - J. Michael Varner serving as interim pastor.
- **LIGHTHOUSE** - Part time position, no profile available - Don D. Street serving as pulpit supply.
- **LYNCHBURG** - *In negotiation, trial sermon and vote on October 9.*
- **MAPLE GROVE** - Part time position, no profile available - Jeremiah Beasley serving as pulpit supply.
- **MASONS COVE** - Part time position, no profile available - Charles DeHart serving as pulpit supply.
- **MONETA, LAKE SIDE** - Part time position, profile circulating - Christian J. Becker serving as pulpit supply.
- **MONTE VISTA** - Part time position, no profile available - Gina Wright-Hawkins serving as interim pastor.
- **MOUNT BETHEL** - *Part time position, no profile available - Zachary R. Hatcher has resigned effective December 31, 2022.*
- **NEW BETHEL** - Part time position, no profile available - Pulpit supply.
- **NEWPORT NEWS, IVY FARMS** - Part time position, profile circulating - Pulpit supply.
- **OAKVALE** - Part time position, no profile available - Joshua Lucas continues as associate pastor.
- **OLEAN** - Plural ministry position, no profile available -
- **PLEASANT VIEW** - Part time position, no profile available - John P. Reed, Sr. serving as interim pastor.
- **RED OAK GROVE** - Part time position, no profile available - Pulpit supply.
- **ROANOKE, IGLESIA CRISTIANA RENACER** - Part time position, profile circulating - Pulpit supply.
- **ROANOKE, WILLIAMSON ROAD** - Part time position, profile pending - Pulpit supply.
- **SAINT PAUL** - Part time position, no profile available - Not currently meeting.
- **SELMA** - Part time position, no profile available - Alvis Jackson serving as pulpit supply.
- **SHELTON** - Part time position, no profile available - Pulpit supply.
- **SMITH MOUNTAIN LAKE COMMUNITY** - Part time position, profile circulating - Edward C. Woodard serving as interim pastor.
- **SPRUCE RUN** - Plural ministry position, no profile available - Seeking pulpit supply.
- **TRINITY** - *Part time position, profile pending - E. Anne Mitchell serving as interim pastor effective October 1, 2022.*

DISTRICT BOARD REPORT - SEPTEMBER 17, 2022

• The Virilina District Board met at the First Church of the Brethren in Eden, NC on Saturday, September 17, 2022. In addition to the reports of the commissions, committees and staff persons; the board appointed a number of persons to serve on subcommittees related to the district ministry.

• Other business included:

- 1) Recommendation of the 2023 District Board Budget to the District Conference, 2) approval of the Outdoor Ministries Committee Budget for Camp Bethel in 2023, 3) recommended the disorganization of the Coulson Church as a congregation of the Church of the Brethren, 4) authorized a "quitclaim" deed to be prepared for the Coulson Church, 5) revised distribution policies for withdrawal payments and bequests to include funding for the general reserve funds of the district and camp, and 6) approved transfer of property and facilities to congregational ownership for the Concord, NC - Living Faith Church and the Durham, NC - Peace Covenant Church. Reports were received on the District Executive Minister search process and a process was outlined for the Camp Bethel Director search.

FALL VOLUNTEER WORKDAY - NOVEMBER 5, 2022

- Our fall volunteer workday will be Saturday, November 5, 2022 beginning with a free breakfast at 7:30 a.m. Volunteers will also receive a free lunch at 1 p.m. We need your help preparing camp for the winter conference season. There will be workday projects for all skill levels and all ages. This event will be held rain or shine, inside or out. Please reserve your meals by October 30 <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/workday>.

VIRILINA DISTRICT CONFERENCE - NOVEMBER 11-12, 2022

- The 2022 Virilina District Conference will be held Friday, November 11- Saturday, November 12 at the Grandin Court Baptist Church located at 2660 Brambleton Avenue in Roanoke, Virginia. Friday night's featured speaker will be the president of Bethany Theological Seminary, Jeff Carter. The speaker for the Friday evening Ministers and Spouses Banquet will be David Steele, General Secretary of the Church of the Brethren. Brother Steele will also be the Saturday morning worship speaker. The 2022 District Conference Moderator is Lynn N. Myers, a member of the Antioch Church of the Brethren in Franklin County, VA.

Pastors and congregations received a mailing during September that included details of the conference, registration forms for delegates and meal and age group information. The Virgina District website, <www.virlina.org> has a District Conference tab that details conference plans and/or changes as soon as they are updated. The September Headliner contains all finalized plans and information. Contact Mary St. John, Director of District Conference, Nurture and Witness, <virlina2@aol.com> or (540) 362-1816 with questions or concerns.

INTRODUCTION TO EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY - BEGINNING JANUARY 11, 2023

The Brethren Academy will offer this online course, Introduction to Educational Ministry, from January 11 - March 7, 2023. Gene Hollenberg, Executive Director of Camp Alexander Mack, will be the instructor and TRIM students will receive one credit in Ministry/Ministry Skills.

How do we learn? Physically, learning is described as a process of sensing stimuli, short-term memory, and long-term memory that creates a series of brain pathways in the brain. The more a pathway is used, the stronger it becomes. From a more practical standpoint, however, we learn when we are motivated to learn.

Online TRIM classes are particularly accessible for busy pastors. The deadline to register for this course is December 7, 2022.

Persons interested in taking an Academy course for CEUs or Personal Enrichment may register in one of two ways: 1) Mail a registration form with payment to Brethren Academy, 615 National Rd. W., Richmond, IN 47374. Contact Fran Massie for the form at <massifr@bethanyseminary.edu>.

2) Register and pay online at <<https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy/brethren-academy-course-listings/brethren-academy-course-registration-annual-trim-payment/>> There is a 3% service charge when registering online. Questions may be directed to Academy Director, Janet Ober Lambert at <oberlja@bethanyseminary.edu> or (765) 983-1820.

CLERGY TAX SEMINAR - JANUARY 28, 2023

Clergy, students and anyone who deals with clergy finances such as congregational treasurers are invited to participate in this online Zoom seminar. Learn how to prepare clergy taxes correctly and legally. Comply with regulations while maximizing tax deductions.

Clergy can earn 0.3 CEUs - for the first two sessions only.

This seminar is highly recommended for all clergy and anyone who deals with clergy finances who wish to understand clergy taxes, including treasurers, stewardship commission chairs, and church board chairs. It is sponsored by the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership, the Church of the Brethren Office of Ministry, and Bethany Theological Seminary.

Seminar Schedule - The annual Clergy Tax Seminar will consist of three sessions:

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EST (0.15 CEUs): Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Clergy Taxation, part 1. Topics covered: IRS's definitions of ministers (ministerial "status") and of ministerial work (ministerial "services"), as well as the three kinds of income ministers receive, the two kinds of taxes ministers pay, and the various ways ministers can pay those taxes during the tax year.

1:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. EST (0.15 CEUs): Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Clergy Taxation, part 2. Topics covered: Housing exclusion, parsonages and parsonage adjustments, and self-employment taxes, as well as ways to reduce total taxes.

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. EST: Completing the Clergy Tax Return.

Rev. Zeke Zacharias, pastor at Litlold Church, has a typical clergy tax return to complete. We will walk through it with him. Deb will be using H&R Block's Premium (for self-employed people) version of their downloadable software.

Registration and Cost

Registration is \$40 per person (generally nonrefundable to keep fees and overhead low). Current Brethren Academy, Bethany Theological Seminary and Earlham School of Religion students may attend the seminar at no cost, although registration is still required to 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. For quality reasons, registrations may be capped at eighty-five persons. Prompt registration is advised at the registration deadline is January 19, 2022. A Zoom link will be sent prior to the seminar.

MINISTERS AND SPOUSES - MARCH 10-11, 2023

Our annual MINISTERS AND SPOUSES RETREAT is scheduled for March 10-11, 2023 at the **Smith Mountain Lake 4-H Center**. Leadership for the retreat will be David Radcliff, Director of the New Community Project and former denominational staff person. Registration forms will be available prior to the end of the year. This retreat is sponsored by the Commission on Ministry of the Virlina District Board. It is for all ordained, commissioned and licensed ministers of the Virlina District, as well as lay speakers, and spouses. There is much time for fellowship and quiet reflection, in addition to worship and the program. CEU's are available for commissioned and ordained ministers. The 2023 event has been scheduled to avoid conflict with the annual Youth Roundtable at Bridgewater College.

PILGRIMAGE XXIV - MARCH 17-19, 2023

Pilgrimage XXIV (A FaithQuest for Adults) will be held March 17-19, 2023, at Camp Bethel. Pilgrimage is a weekend retreat for adults of all ages who want to spend some intimate time with our Heavenly Father. Filled with speakers, small groups, worship, reflection, and fun, Pilgrimage offers an opportunity for you to share and learn with others as we journey together on the road to a deeper relationship with God.

God works in wonderful ways through this ministry! Prayerfully consider your participation. For more information, contact Karen Haynes at (336) 765-5263, by e-mail at <haynesmk1986@yahoo.com>, or go to <www.experiencepilgrimage.com>.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2023 AND SALARY INFORMATION

As you work on your 2023 congregational budget, we want to remind you that the 2023 salary table and renewal agreements can be found at <<https://www.brethren.org/ministryoffice/compensation/>>

In past years we have sent out a mailing following Annual Conference with this information. However, this year we have decided to refer church board chairpersons, treasurers, pastors and other congregational leaders to the website. As always, we are available to address questions or concerns by telephone, e-mail or in person.

Annual Conference will be held Tuesday, July 4-Saturday, July 8 at the Duke Energy Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. Annual Conference registration and housing reservations open to the public on Wednesday, March 1. We believe the minimum cost for a delegate would be approximately \$1,500 including travel, housing, meals and registration. Depending on distance and travel mode, the cost could reach \$2,000.

IS IT TRUE? IS IT KIND? IS IT NECESSARY?

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." Philippians 4:8 (NIV)

Before we repeat things we've heard, it might be important to ask ourselves the foregoing title questions. In the midst of ongoing division in society, in the church and in our denomination, we hear quite a number of things. Some are true. Some are partly true, but out of context. Some are exaggerated truth. Some are a mix of truth and falsehood. Some are complete fabrications. It is helpful to contact the District Resource Center staff, or members of the District Board Executive Committee, or the denominational leaders and staff to check out what you are hearing. The process outlined in Matthew 18 by Jesus still has authority in the lives of believers like you and like me. Uncomfortable conversations are usually awkward, but necessary. If sufficient answer is not given by district or denominational leaders, the query process is still available for congregations to bring issues before the denomination. After all, Jesus said "tell it to the church." He didn't say post it on social media or send it out in a group text.

"These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: A proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil, a false witness who speaks lies, and one who sows discord among brethren." Proverbs 6:16-19 (NKJV)

SELF-ALLOCATION/FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

The Virlina District Financial Secretary Report for August 31, 2022 is attached. Please review your congregation's self-allocation giving for 2022 in consultation with your treasurer and draw any discrepancies to our attention. Your congregation's support of the district and denomination financially and by other means is vital for our continuing mission together. We appreciate it!