

E-HEADLINER



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM THE MODERATOR'S Q&A SESSIONS

Paul Munday, 2021 Annual Conference Moderator, along with the Leadership Team of the Church of the Brethren, held 24 Moderator's Q&A Sessions in fourteen districts during the past months of 2020-21. As a result, in the course of holding those sessions, a collection of questions and answers about the current state of the church was developed. What follows is a link to those FAQ's at <https://www.brethren.org/ac2021/wp-content/uploads/sites/20/2021/03/State-of-the-Church-FAQs.pdf>

2021 DELEGATE BRIEFING VIDEO

The 2021 Delegate Briefing Video has been completed and posted on the 2021 Annual Conference site at

<https://www.brethren.org/ac2021/business/>. The Annual Conference Office encourages all persons, but especially delegates, to please view this video before Annual Conference.

SOUNDS OF THE MOUNTAINS ONLINE - ONLINE NOW!

Our big 20th Annual Sounds of the Mountains Story Festival will be online on Saturday, April 17! Donald Davis returns to our amazing "all-headliners" festival including Dolores Hydock, Kevin Kling, Bil Lepp, Barbara McBride-Smith, and Donna Washington. Enjoy this fun, FREE, and truly unique online storytelling event to encourage donations to Camp Bethel. For information online please go to the Sounds website at www.SoundsoftheMountains.org.

GLOBAL CHURCH OF THE BRETHERN SURVEY - PLEASE RESPOND BY APRIL 30, 2021

A committee of the Global Church of the Brethren Communion has developed a survey and asks that all interested Church of the Brethren members in the US respond. This will also be sent in Spanish, Portuguese, and Haitian Creole to Church of the Brethren related denominations of those language groups. The survey names 19 characteristics that some identify with the CoB. The intent is to receive feedback from across our 11 country denominations as to which of these are considered essential, important, or irrelevant to the individual respondent.

The committee believes that this survey can lay the foundations for intentional ongoing dialogue among the worldwide Church of the Brethren on our theological and denominational identity, and strengthen ties between the sister churches.

Results will inform discussions between these Church of the Brethren related denominations (in Brazil, DR Congo, Dominican Republic, Haiti, India, Nigeria, Rwanda, Spain, Uganda, the US, and Venezuela) in order to develop criteria for what bodies might be included in this global fellowship in the future, as there are many inquiries for affiliation.

The data may also provide information about areas for more emphasis in education. For example, if a high majority of the respondents say trine immersion is irrelevant, what might that tell us? To see the survey and enter your responses please follow the link below: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScB4jXhitap-4Ns21VriloXQIBF0rh4z9B6h7VPxErTjufIA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0>

We strongly encourage you to answer the survey and enhance our understanding of the Global Church of the Brethren Communion. Please complete the survey by the end of April.

MINISTRY AND MISSION DAY - MAY 1, 2021

Our Annual Ministry and Mission in Virlina Day will be online May 1, 2021. This will be a live online event, so pre-registration is required. Paul Munday, Annual Conference Moderator for 2021, will be hosting a delegate briefing via zoom. Once registered, delegates will be emailed a zoom link. All pastors and Annual Conference delegates are encouraged to attend. Paul is offering a question-and-answer period after the delegate briefing. 0.1 CEU will be offered to those who qualify. Contact Mary St.John at virlina2@aol.com or (540) 362-1816 to register.

Greg Fleshman, our 2021 District Conference moderator, will offer a short devotional video which will be available to watch at your convenience. Learn more about the Virlina District Conference theme, "Wait on the Lord", Isaiah 40:31, as we begin to approach District Conference at the Grandin Court Baptist Church on November 12-13, 2021. The worship video will be posted online at <https://www.virlina.org/>.

THE REWARD OF RISK – A VIRTUAL NEW AND RENEW EVENT – MAY 13-15, 2021

"The Reward of Risk" is a virtual NEW AND RENEW EVENT sponsored by Discipleship Ministries of the Church of the Brethren. This online event will provide a space to explore new forms of mission, church planting, church renewal and shaping community. This year, the keynote speakers will be Christiana Rice and José Humphreys. Offered in at least three languages, we will be providing opportunities to network with others as we learn and grow. An interpretive document is available – in Spanish, Haitian Creole and English. If you want a copy, please contact us at nuchurch@aol.com

Virlina District persons who would like financial assistance from the New Church Development Committee may advise us at nuchurch@aol.com. We will register those individuals. The website link for all things related to the 2021 NEW AND RENEW EVENT is found at <https://www.brethren.org/discipleshipmin/newandrenew/>

DISASTER RESPONSE TRAINING DAYS AT CAMP BETHEL - MAY 15 & MAY 22, 2021

The Virlina Disaster Response Committee and Camp Bethel are partnering together on construction and repair projects in preparation for the upcoming 2021 summer camps. Many persons in the Virlina District have volunteered with Brethren Disaster Ministries through the Virlina Disaster Response Committee. These volunteers have traveled to areas of the country near and far to assist with disaster recovery projects. Maybe you have wanted to volunteer but have been unable until now.

With so many of the disaster project sites being shut down due to pandemic restrictions, the Disaster Response Committee has joined with Camp Bethel to provide tool-use training, support of new construction, and opportunities for repair work around the camp. You are invited to come to Camp Bethel to be briefly oriented to "a day on a Brethren Disaster Project" and to be involved in construction and repair projects. As with our disaster trips, you are welcome no matter what your skill level might be. There are projects for everyone. Overnight lodging is also an option.

For project information, to register your attendance and to be counted for the free lunch on-site, please go to www.CampBethelVirginia.org/volunteer or contact Eric Anspaugh, Disaster Response Committee Chairperson at (540) 488-4630 or at eanspaugh@yahoo.com.

MODERATOR'S TOWN HALL – "WHAT WILL BE THE NEW NORMAL?" - MAY 19, 2021

The next Moderator's Town Hall will be on Wednesday, May 19, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. EDT. The Town Hall will explore what the future might hold in light of the COVID-19 crisis and the possible shape of a "new normal." Topics will include: the current state of the pandemic, when and how congregations can safely resume in-person activity, the importance of hybrid (in-person plus online) approaches to ministry to ensure accessibility for all, navigating ongoing tensions and headlines related to the pandemic, facing into the loss and grief of the COVID-19 crisis, how to support both parishioners and pastors, the future trajectory of the pandemic, and how best to equip ourselves

for tomorrow. Mark DeVries and Dr. Kathryn Jacobsen will serve as resource persons.

The link to register is: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_frzinkNiQkKFqEakM0QE_A. Interested persons are encouraged to sign up early, as the event is limited to the first 500 registrants. You can email questions about registering or information for this event to: cobmoderatorstownhall@gmail.com.

LET'S HAVE A CONVERSATION – JUNE 6, 2021

The Race Education Team is inviting persons to a district-wide live zoom meeting. “Let’s Have a Conversation” will be held June 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. There will be a guest emcee, opening with a fun trivia game, a chance to win a new book, and a virtual place to bring your favorite ice cream as we play games and get to know each other. Afterwards participants will move into the conversation about why we need this team at this point in our life together as a church and with those in our neighborhoods. A registration e-mail will be distributed at some point in May. A flyer concerning this event is found at <https://www.virlina.org/>. Our hope is to have at least one person from every congregation in attendance! We look forward to working together to share God’s love, justice, and peace.

CHRISTIAN GROWTH INSTITUTE NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION – JUNE 12, 2021

Feeling a call to ministry? Experiencing spiritual rebirth? Desiring to deepen personal faith? Learn about Christian Growth Institute, the district program that promotes spiritual growth for persons from all educational backgrounds. Classes and workshops are offered throughout the year, and students who enter the program are expected to complete all the offerings in four years. The next new student orientation will be held virtually on June 12 from 9 a.m. until 12 noon. Contact Cathy Huffman at cashuffman@gmail.com for more information and to schedule an in-person meeting at the Virlina District Resource Center prior to June 12.

THE CHALLENGE OF AN ONLINE ANNUAL CONFERENCE – IDEAS NEEDED!

The territory of the Virlina District is inclusive of an area of about 100,000 square miles from the Atlantic Ocean to the Ohio River across portions of three states. Having an online Annual Conference is necessary given the restrictions and uncertainties amidst a pandemic. Nevertheless, internet accessibility is limited in many areas of the district. As we ponder how to include the greatest number of our congregations in the Annual Conference it is clear that we need creative approaches. One idea has been to have congregations with strong internet connection and considerable space serve as “cluster points” for delegates. If you have thoughts on this matter, please send your ideas to us at nuchurch@aol.com.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION IS UNDERWAY

Registration for both delegates and non-delegates for the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference is currently underway. The delegate registration fee is \$305 per delegate. Registration will stay open through the end of conference.

Delegate registration fees provide each delegate with a Conference booklet and the business materials packet. Each congregation registering a delegate will also receive a copy of the 2021 Annual Conference minutes.

Unique to this year’s ONLINE Annual Conference, each delegate MUST HAVE THEIR OWN PERSONAL EMAIL ADDRESS, A COMPUTER OR TABLET, AS WELL AS ADEQUATE WIFI SERVICE IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCE. Please ensure that your selected delegate meets these requirements to participate so that your congregation can be fully represented at Annual Conference.

We are aware that some congregations do not have much access to the internet and we hope delegates from those congregations will be able to participate. Perhaps your district office will have counsel as to how you can obtain individual Internet connections for each of your delegates.

One online site will be used for all business, insight sessions, networking groups, concerts, Bible studies and more. A link and password for access to the site will be emailed to each registrant in the days prior to the start of Conference. Training sessions will be provided in the weeks before conference begins for those wanting to learn how

**Virlina District
Church of the Brethren**

3402 Plantation Road, NE
Roanoke, Virginia 24012

Phone: 540 362-1816
Fax: 540 362-1817
Toll Free: 1-800-VIRLINA
E-mail: EHeadliner@aol.com

We're on the web
www.virlina.org

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



to navigate the site. The many details of the event will be frequently updated on www.brethren.org/ac. Please check back often! Also watch for weekly emails sharing information about all that Annual Conference will have to offer online.

Registering a Delegate

Congregations may register their delegates online at www.brethren.org/ac. Click the "Registration" button and then choose "Delegate Registration." Payment options include paying by credit card or sending a check. Each delegate's complete name, address, email, and phone contact are required. Please use the delegate's own email address, not the church email! If you need assistance, call the Annual Conference Office at (800) 323-8039, ext. 366, or (847) 429-4366.

Delegate Eligibility and Allotment

Delegates must be full members of the Church of the Brethren. The number of delegates for each congregation is based on the membership statistics as reported in the 2020 Church of the Brethren Yearbook. The number allowed is as follows:

Up to 200 Members	1 delegate
201-400 Members	2 delegates
401-600 Members	3 delegates
601-800 Members	4 delegates

Non-Delegate Registrations

Non-delegate registration opens the same day as delegate registration. When registering anyone other than a delegate, click on the "Non-Delegate Registration" button. This year's reduced price of \$99 for non-delegates provides access to the business sessions, insight sessions, networking groups, concerts, Bible studies and more.

All five worship services will be available free of charge to all registered and non-registered persons.

New Delegates

Please encourage delegates who have never been or have not recently been to Annual Conference to attend the New Attendee Orientation session, online at 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time on Wednesday afternoon, June 29.

Online Information

Please check out our webpage at www.brethren.org/ac2021 for more information about Annual Conference, including leadership, themes, schedule, concerts and much more. New information is added regularly so check back often.

RACE EDUCATION TEAM RECIEVES MINI-GRANT FOR RESOURCES

The Race Education Team recently received \$500.00 in response to a mini-grant application from the Church of the Brethren Intercultural Ministries. Twenty-three books and one video were purchased and are now on loan from the library at the Virlina District Resource Center. The purpose of this program is to empower you in your communities and congregations to provide opportunities for learning about racial healing. Please take the time to come by and check these out!

NEXT ISSUE IS PROJECTED FOR SATURDAY, MAY 8, 2021