

November 20, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WESTERN PA DISTRICT CONFERENCE - CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
Hollsopple, Pennsylvania

The Western Pennsylvania District held its 140th annual District Conference at Eberly Hall on the campus of Indiana University of Pennsylvania in Indiana, PA on Saturday, October 28, 2006. Moderator Phillip A. King of Johnstown challenged the approximately 234 participants with the theme "For the Common Good," calling for unity and a spiritual awakening. Reba B. Johnson of Indiana was installed as moderator of the district for the next year. Robert R. Stein of Chalk Hill was named moderator-designate. The district is comprised of 69 churches and one fellowship with a membership of just under 10,000.

The budget of \$195,618 for 2007 was adopted by 203 delegates representing 49 congregations of the district, which has its office near Jerome. Insight sessions were held in the morning. The subjects included: an overview of the work of the denomination's mission program that includes an endeavor in Nigeria; a presentation about a proposed new commission/team for the District Board that would require a district constitutional update; and a presentation from representatives of two denominational agencies, Association of Brethren Caregivers and On Earth Peace.

A highlight of the conference was an auction of three hours of District Minister Ronald Beachley's time. This was done to encourage attendance at the District's first annual auction that took place on November 4. Congregations and individuals also brought enough "Gift of the Heart" Kits to send a truckload to Church World Service for disaster response.

Worship and music were interspersed throughout the business of the day.

Five persons were called to three-year terms on the district board of administration. They are Royden E. Airesman, Somerset; Tracy Rhodes, Johnstown; Carol Walker, Somerset; Doris Brehm, Hooversville; and Joel A. Wilcher, Oakmont.

P. James Hayes of Johnstown was named to a five-year term on the Board of Trustees for Brethren Home Community Windber.

Christopher A. Forry of Somerset was called to serve a three-year term on the District Charitable Trust Board.

Called to three-year terms on the board of directors of Camp Harmony located near Hooversville were Penny Cable, Johnstown; Jack Harrison, Johnstown; Janice Kaltenbaugh, Meyersdale; and Michele Shetler, Johnstown.

Christopher Strasser of Somerset will serve on the program and arrangements committee for a three-year term.

Every five years a Review and Evaluation Committee is called to evaluate the work of the district. Called for two-year terms were: James Blair, Greensburg; Arbutus Blough, Hollsopple; Germain Letizia, Johnstown; Linda Stoner, Somerset; and Elva Jean Westlake, Kittanning.

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