

Karen L. Hackett – ANE District 2020 Moderator

I am the Fourth Generation of my Father's family to attend the Wilmington Church of the Brethren. I recently heard the phrase "cradle" Brethren and that is exactly what I am!

I have been so blessed to have grown up in the Church with my parents, grandparents and many Aunts and Uncles and a loving, caring, supportive Church Family.

I heard the "call" in the early 1980's and was a part of the earlier "Lay Speaker" Program which I attended with several other members of the Wilmington Church. At the time my personal life was very much in limbo: I was going through a divorce, my children were ages 3 and 1 and I was struggling to find my way. It was a very difficult time for me and I did not feel worthy at all of the calling I knew was there so I just stuffed it down inside of me and ignored it-for quite a while.

It wasn't until the Fall of 2008 that I entered the ACTS Program and over the next four years completed the Courses required. I was Ordained in June of 2016.

In April of 2009 I was approached by Craig Smith, former District Executive of the ANE District to become part of a team ministry at the Jennersville Church of the Brethren. I continue to serve there with Brian Berkey and Rita Carter. It is a wonderful Church Family and I love serving there. We share preaching and pastoral duties.

I also have the opportunity to serve at the Wilmington Church as a pulpit-fill several times a year, and am Deacon Chairperson, and also serve on the Fellowship and Commissions.

I have also served on the District Level – I was a member of the Nurture Commission and a member of the Ministry Commission.

When Misty Wintsch called me about becoming District Moderator for 2020, I was speechless. I had been praying to God about stepping out of my "box" and trying something new. Little did I know.....I am enjoying this new experience.

I am married to Ken Hackett and we will celebrate 33 years of marriage in August. We met at the Wilmington Church. When we married in 1987, he had 2 boys and I had a boy and a girl. We were very blessed that our children went to church together and knew each other so the blending of our families went well.

Ken is very supportive of me and my work in the Church and at the District Level. I could not do what I do without him. We have 10 grandchildren who are the light of our lives. We love them so.

I continue to thank God for the many blessings He has bestowed upon me.