

# ANE Today



## ATLANTIC NORTHEAST DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Volume 55 Issue 4

July/August 2021

### ANE 52<sup>nd</sup> District Conference

**OCTOBER 1-2, 2021**



Scott Moyer, Moderator

Historically, Summer is a time of relaxation, vacations, beach and camping adventures etc. During 2021, these historical experiences all seem brand new as we can again have these experiences as a result of the wide availability of COVID vaccinations; reduction in mandates and restrictions from multiple governmental departments; and our continued emergence from isolation and quarantines.

Your ANE Program and Arrangements Committee, responsible for organizing District Conference, continues to wrestle with the challenges of balancing the desire to gather and encourage one another in-person, while uncertainty looms over conditions three-months from today. While all governmental gathering restrictions and mandates have been lifted, except for the mask-mandate for those who are not vaccinated, there continues to be considerable uncertainty surrounding restrictions at individual locations where people gather (auditoriums, sanctuaries, etc.). The Program and Arrangements Committee continues to focus their attention on holding a virtual District Conference again this year as a result of the continued considerable uncertainty. We will be using a new platform called Webex, which is very similar to Zoom, but can provide real-time closed captioning and closed captioning translation.

The Program and Arrangement Committee, ANE Board and various committees request that you prayerfully ask for wisdom and discernment in selecting District Conference delegates to represent your congregation, including their voting on several business items. Delegates will have the opportunity to participate in a Delegate Briefing session to be held on Tuesday, September 14 at 7 p.m. during which the District Leadership will provide background and review of the business items and provide a time for delegates to ask questions regarding those business items. The delegate briefing is open to everyone. New for 2021 is attendees can choose to participate in one of two training sessions to be held Tuesday, September 7 at 6pm or Wednesday, September 8 at 1pm. These training sessions will provide the opportunity for those unfamiliar, or uncomfortable with technology the opportunity to connect and try out the platform with guidance prior to Conference.

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**During the WORSHIP SERVICE on Friday October 1<sup>st</sup> at 7 p.m.**, we will officially start District Conference weekend in prayer and worship. The Worship Service will be highlighted by multi cultural inspirational music followed by Brian Messler, Ephrata COB Senior Pastor, challenging and encouraging us to Be Renewed in Christ as the Holy Spirit guides our navigation through the ANE Way Forward process. Throughout our time together on Friday and Saturday you will have the opportunity to assist others through supporting the Church of the Brethren Disaster Relief Ministries.

We start District Conference off with prayer and worship with the objective of actively and intentionally applying the foundational scripture for District Conference of Colossians 3 that states we should focus our hearts and minds on Jesus, not on the brokenness of this world (verses 1-4); put to death whatever belongs to our earthly nature (verses 5-9); **continually renew ourselves in Jesus** (verses 10-14); let the Peace of Jesus rule in our hearts as we, family members of one COB family, are called to peace (verses 15-17); and work and serve Christ directly with one hundred percent sincerity of heart, strength, mind, soul and reverence for Him (verses 18-24).

**BUSINESS SESSION on Saturday October 2<sup>nd</sup> with the opportunity to glorify Jesus through Bible Study** starting at 7:30 a.m. immediately followed by the Business Session starting at 9:00 a.m. During the Business Session we will be inspired by the wide variety of ways the Holy Spirit is working through local congregations, ANE and global COB and through multi-cultural inspirational music.

Delegates will act upon several business items, including the 2022 ANE Leadership slate, COB Family organization changes (Fellowship status and Congregation status); Proposed Ministry Investment Plan 2022, and ANE's proposed Fair Share amount.

Scott Moyer, East Fairview COB laity, has been called to serve as District Conference Moderator for 2021. He is available to serve your congregation as your congregational leadership determines, including participating in meetings, discussions and/or Sunday services. Scott can be reached through the ANE office or at 717 203 0458.

ANE District Board, Leadership, Committees, and COB Agencies are committed and excited to continue to serve Jesus, you, and your congregations. They look forward to sharing how

## Online District Conference in a Nutshell:

### Open to All:

- Delegate Briefing: September 14, 7:00p
- Worship Service: October 1, 7:00p
- Bible Study: October 2, 7:30a
- Online Expo: October 2, 12:30p-2p  
Have the opportunity to pop in and out via Zoom to visit with the following agencies: Bethany Seminary, Brethren Benefit Trust (BBT), COBYS Family Services, Brethren Disaster Ministries, Part time Pastor: Full Time Church, PA Council of Churches, Parish Resource Center

### Registration Opens July 1 for October 2 Business Session \$15/person

- PLEASE REGISTER DELEGATES BY JULY 31
- Delegate Materials supplied early August

### Business Session Highlights:

- ◆ Scheduled for 9a-4p
- ◆ Both live and pre-recorded reports
- ◆ District wide Praise & Worship Team
- ◆ Online voting for many business items
- ◆ Lunch Break
- ◆ Online Expo with many agencies
- ◆ Insight Sessions Led by
  - ⇒ Joe Detrick: Becoming a Calling Congregation & Why It Matters
  - ⇒ Way Forward Team
- ◆ Ability to have closed captioning and closed captioning translation.

To register go to

<http://www.ane-cob.org/>

Please go to the District Conference

Website: <http://ane-cob.com/districtconference/> for updates.



the Holy Spirit is working through the COB and ANE and encourage you to plan now to participate in the 52<sup>nd</sup> District Conference and the ANE Way Forward process, which will be a key topic to be covered at District Conference.



## Hispanic Leaders Gathering

Saturday May 15, the ANE District CLIHANE group of Hispanic leaders and other leaders of "Ebenezer Chapel" gathered for a brunch. Their purpose was to share what is happening in our ANE District Hispanic churches. They used this opportunity to share near future events and how the churches can support these events.



It was a blessed and rewarding time together. To God be the glory!!

## Outreach Update: Nuevo Amanecer

Nuevo Amanecer recently conducted an outreach picnic. The event included a worship service and some recreational activities. A local pharmacy signed up persons for COVID vaccinations and offered free COVID testing. Church members brought a dish to share and grilled hot dogs and burgers. What a great opportunity to reach out to their local community to share the gospel!

~Angel Gonzalez, Nuevo Amanecer



## Announcing Women's Camp 2021

Mark your calendars now to attend Women's Camp on Saturday, August 21.

We will gather at Camp Swatara for this one day event with the theme "Joy in Creation - Faith - Fellowship."

Like so many other events this year our format will be different. But we're planning a day filled with many activities we look forward to at camp - enjoying God's creation, worship, group singing, Bible study, crafts and more.

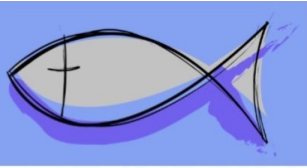
Look for more details in coming weeks.

## ANE DISTRICT—NEW MEMBERS

**East Fairview** — *Baptism:* Blake Gibble, Miranda Heistand, Cullen Leppo, Jack Shelly, Corinna Stoltzfus, Jenn Thomas.

**Mount Wilson** — *Baptism:* Hunter Anderson, Tracey Geist, Todd Geist.





## MINISTRY

### Licensings, Ordinations, and Installations

**Jeff Keller's** (Lebanon) ordination and installation service was on May 30th and performed by Pete Kontra, District Executive.



## POWER OF PRAYER

2021

**July 4:** The reduction of gun violence

**July 11:** The search of a full time Church Video Streaming Specialist

**July 18:** For ANE Nurture Commission looking for ways to interact with district youth & youth leaders

**July 25:** ANE Way Forward & reconciliation within our district and denomination

**August 1:** ANE Disaster Response supporting the work of the Brethren Disaster Ministries in Dayton, OH

**August 8:** ANE Women's Fellowship and the upcoming Camp at Camp Swatara

**August 15:** District Conference Moderator, Scott Moyer as he and other District leadership prepare for Conference

**August 22:** Pastoral Placement— Congregational search committees & candidates

**August 29:** All teachers and students returning for fall semester.

## Placement News

**Brooklyn First:** Beginning search process.

**Conewago:** Interviewing.

**Drexel Hill:** Brandon Hanks resigned effective 7/31/21.

**Elizabethtown:** Interviewing.

**Geiger Memorial:** Open

**Green Tree:** Interviewing. Pat Horst serves as Interim.

**Harrisburg First:** Search Committee formed.

**Lititz:** Searching for Director of Youth Ministries.

**Mechanic Grove:** Bob Kettering serves as Interim.

**Myerstown:** Dennis Garrison serves as Interim.

**Nuevo Amanecer:** Interim Team established.

**Pottstown:** Search Committee formed. Scott Major retiring effective 9/30/21.

**Schuylkill:** Search Committee forming.

**West Green Tree:** Mick Allen retiring 2/22/22.

**Wilmington:** Bob Wintsch serves as Interim.

### ANE District Seeks to Fill Staff Position

ANE seeks someone to serve as the full-time salaried Church Video Streaming Specialist. This person would assist congregations and church leaders with implementing online and hybrid church services.

Primary responsibilities include helping local leaders evaluate strategies for streaming, suggesting specific hardware and configurations, assisting with installations, configuring installed setups, training church members to use the equipment, being available for questions and requests, and coordinating volunteers to assist with all the above as able.

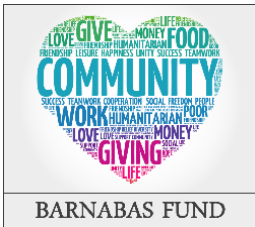
These services are provided to all congregations in the district — large and small— along with limited availability for congregations and events outside of ANE, as the hope is for these services (and staffing) to expand to other districts and the denomination.

As such, this position is breaking new ground, giving the opportunity and responsibility to help shape this ministry and how it is grown. This position lives out the Church of the Brethren's call for the district and congregations to be the church in ways that are innovative, adaptable and fearless.

Please visit our website— <http://www.ane-cob.org/> for more information.



## The Barnabas Fund Needs You!



**Calling ANE congregations to reach out to other ANE congregations by supporting the Barnabas Fund.**

Some of our ANE congregations are located in and are serving communities with a significant economically challenged population community where the needs surpass the congregation's ability to respond. These congregations reach out through community ministries such as food banks, counseling services, English classes, computers for refugees, parenting and health workshops, youth and children's programs and help with affordable housing.

Each year ANE commits to giving more than \$100,000 to support four of our traditional urban churches. These churches are Alpha and Omega, Brooklyn First, Germantown and Harrisburg First.

For example, this year Alpha and Omega received full approval of their \$27,000 request for 2022 funding to support the ministry of the Alpha and Omega congregation. In their application, the need for these funds was described in this way:

*As one of the original "Mission" churches that has flourished in the poverty-stricken section of Lancaster, we have always been dependent on the Barnabas fund to provide for a substantial portion of our outreach and discipleship ministries. Our membership and tithes have grown, but with more members our program costs increase, and thus we are far from the point of becoming self-sustaining.....*

Joel Pena, Pastor at Alpha and Omega, shared these words of gratitude with the Barnabas Fund Team when he was told that the application for funding had been approved:

*I am delighted in my spirit to hear this good news from you. On behalf of Alpha and Omega congregation and my family receive our word of THANKFULNESS.....*

The Barnabas Fund needs your help. Funds are running low. Witness and Outreach is asking each congregation to prayerfully consider



contributing to the Barnabas Fund over and above your commitment to ANE's Ministry Investment Fund. Contributions may be mailed to the ANE District Office at 500 E. Cedar Street, Elizabethtown, PA 17022. You may also make contributions online at the ANE District website: [www.ane-cob.org](http://www.ane-cob.org).

**Please consider offering your financial support to this important ANE District ministry.**

For more information about the ANE District Barnabas Fund, check out the "ANE Special Funds" section of the ANE District website at [www.ane-cob.org](http://www.ane-cob.org).



Please lift up Spring Creek, and Palmyra as they participate in the FaithX Ministry this summer through the Church of the Brethren denomination. 'May their FaithX experience be a humbling one that instills in them a passion for being fully present in serving the needs and wants of their community. We pray that each participant has a meaningful, joy-filled week and comes home with an increased desire to continue growing in their faith.' Alton Hipps and Chad Whitzel, Coordinators.



## Outreach Update: Indian Creek

**Find an unmet need in your community and fill it.**

That's advice Indian Creek CoB was given last year by consultants working with us to improve our effectiveness. We found that need and it is not just in our community, it is a worldwide need and we are doing something about it. Thousands of people are having their life devastated by illness and dying waiting for an organ that often never comes. The organs are plentiful; unfortunately they are not being made available because of fear, misinformation and a lack of understanding that every one of us has the power to change someone's life.

The **Organ Donor Awareness Team (ODA)** is an initiative of the Indian Creek CoB, but it is not just our mission. This is an initiative inspired and guided by God; his hands have been overtly on us throughout the process. As Christians we are called to love one another and to serve one another – this is a significant opportunity to do just that! Every one of us can significantly improve, if not save the lives of others. One donor can help more than 70 people – a powerful responsibility we all share.

Our ODA Team is setting up a program to raise the level of awareness related to organ donation in our area. Our mission is not to get you to donate an organ but rather to make you aware of the many advances in organ donation, both living and post mortem. Organ donation is a very personal choice and it is not for us to “talk you into donating”. We feel that by equipping you with the facts about organ donation you will be better equipped to make a personal decision and to share this information among your sphere of influence. The more people we / you “touch” with the ODA message, the better the chances of finding donors. It would be a wonderful gift if among the donors we find a kidney for one of our own, [Shelby Winder](#). There are thousands of others on the lists for all types of organs, tissue and skeletal donations. Surprisingly you are never too old to be a donor!

We cannot do this alone. Fortunately there are many organizations to help. We are working with the Gift of Life Donor Program, Jefferson Hospital, Lehigh Hospital and the Kidney Foundation. We



are preparing ourselves to be Organ Donor Awareness Ambassadors. While we are preparing ourselves and our congregation to advocate for organ donation, we are building a repeatable process that we hope will make a good starting point for other congregations in the faith community to start their own ministry. As our first Ambassadors come online we will be recruiting the next group, train them and keep repeating the process. We will begin reaching out to area congregations to help them create their own ODA Teams. We are hoping to share this opportunity with congregations within ANE and hope to grow it to be a denominational ministry.

Anytime is the right time to learn about donation – Our website has a page dedicated to ODA: <https://www.iccob.org/> This page is an information aggregator, concentrating information we have found useful. Please visit it and reach out to us via the “contact” link or you can contact us directly at: [iccoborgans@gmail.com](mailto:iccoborgans@gmail.com).

Bob Lane – Witness Team Member,  
[boblane1949@gmail.com](mailto:boblane1949@gmail.com) cell / text 215-805-8676

PLEASE – jump onboard, we need everyone excited, engaged and involved with this effort!

~Bob Lane, Indian Creek CoB





## HELPING HANDS BENEVOLENCE FUND AT WORK!



The **ANE District Helping Hands Benevolence Fund** seeks to enhance local congregational ministries in responding to natural disasters and social ills in the ANE District. Consideration may be given to congregations desiring to assist individuals or families who are victims of a disaster, or to an ANE congregation that has become itself a victim of disaster.

Recently this fund was used to support a need in the Ambler congregation who suffered a "disaster" in their church building. On July 6, 2020 there was a strong storm that dumped approximately 6" rain in the area around the church building (at a rate of 3" per hour). As a result of this heavy rain, water entered into the building which caused approximately \$26,000 in damage to their fellowship hall. Their insurance carrier considered this to be "flood damage" and offered only a minimal amount of compensation for this damage.

Our ANE District Witness and Outreach Commission approved a grant of \$10,000 to support this congregation's efforts to repair the water damage from this storm. We received a response from the Ambler congregation telling us *"ACOB is very grateful for your generous assistance in helping us recover after this damage....With your financial gift, we have plans to replace the carpeting, fix the damaged drywall, and repaint the walls."*



Please keep this fund in mind as you and groups in your congregation look for appropriate ways to share your financial resources with those in need. And don't forget to request an application if your congregation desires to reach out to support a need in your congregation and/or community. By working together, we can make a significant difference in the lives of our neighbors. What a wonderful way to share the love of Jesus with those in need around us!

For more information about or to apply for help from this fund, please check out the ANE Special Funds link on the ANE District website at: <http://ane-cob.com/ane-disaster-benevolence-fund/>

## NOAC: National Older Adult Conference



One of the benefits of holding NOAC online is that those who have been unable to travel to Lake Junaluska for NOAC due to finances,

health, or schedule conflicts, may be able to participate online this year.

Online registration is now open at [www.brethren.org/NOAC](http://www.brethren.org/NOAC). Cost per person is \$100 and per couple is \$150. Paper registration forms are available upon request by calling: 1-800-323-8039 ext. 303. The registration fee will provide access to all sessions, worship services, workshops, and recorded archives. We hope each person/couple who plans to attend will register and pay the fee so that we can continue to provide a meaningful experience for all.

NOAC 2021 will begin on Monday, September 6 at 7 p.m. with announcements, NOAC News and worship. It will end on Friday, September 10 at 9 a.m. with worship. The daily schedule Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday will include: (all times are eastern)

- 8:30-9:30 a.m. Morning Bible Study led by Joel Kline
- 9:45- 11:30 a.m. Keynote Speakers will include Karen Gonzalez, Lisa Sharon Harper, and Ted Swartz & Ken Medema
- 1:30- 2:45 p.m.- Workshops and Virtual Field Trips
- 3:15- 4:30 p.m.- Workshops and Virtual Field Trips
- 7:00 p.m.- Announcements, NOAC News
- 7:30 p.m.- Worship with preachers Christy Dowdy, Paula Bowser, Andrew Wright, Don Fitzkee, and Eric Landram
- 8:30 p.m.- Virtual Ice Cream socials with Outdoor Ministries Association, Bethany Theological Seminary and our Brethren colleges/universities (continued on page 8)



# ETOWN

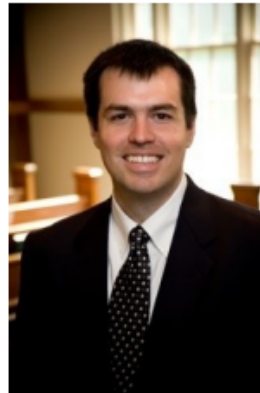
ELIZABETHTOWN COLLEGE

## Dean of Elizabethtown College School of Arts and Humanities to Present 'Embodiments of Peacebuilding' During the College's COB Annual Conference Networking Session

Elizabethtown College welcomes Church of the Brethren Annual Conference attendees from the Atlantic Northeast District to join friends and alumni for a special online event on **Saturday, July 3 at 12:30 p.m.** Registration for this year's event is currently available through the Annual Conference website at <http://www.brethren.org/ac>.

The virtual event, hosted by Etown's Executive Director of College Engagement Mark Clapper '96 and featuring a presentation titled "Embodiments of Peacebuilding" by Associate Professor of Music Education and Dean of the School of Arts and Humanities Dr. Kevin Shorner-Johnson, promises to be a delightful part of your Annual Conference experience!

The richness of our Anabaptist heritage has been in putting our feet into paths of peace and love. The very essence that makes an Anabaptist heritage so beautiful is that it is a fully embodied faith, one where we place our lives and our actions into the model of Christ. This session explores scholarship and the new Master of Music Education (M.M.E.) degree program at Elizabethtown College, one that has been designed to grow from the Anabaptist heritage of embodied faith and peacebuilding.



Dr. Kevin Shorner-Johnson



The M.M.E. degree, the first of its kind in the nation, is focused on the study of peacebuilding, social-emotional learning, and world music drumming. Through this program, graduate students understand that the essence of peacebuilding comes through bringing a lived presence of humble love, and committing to practices of intentional community, empowered voice, and prophetic imagination.

Dr. Shorner-Johnson's scholarship focuses on the intersection of peacebuilding and music education. As a teacher, he has applied his interests in ethics, spirituality, and peacebuilding to approach music coursework in ways that are rooted within an Anabaptist heritage of peacebuilding, intentional community, and ethical discernment. His work has been published in the *Philosophy of Music Education Review*, *Music Educators Journal*, *International Journal of Music Education*, and *Advances in Music Education Research*. Dr. Shorner-Johnson's most recent scholarship in the international book, *Humane Education for the Common Good*, approaches and critiques the United Nations' temporal constructions in education policy. In 2018, Dr. Shorner-Johnson was named a "Peacemaker in Our Midst" by the World Affairs Council of Harrisburg.

## NOAC

(continued from page 7)

We are hoping that districts and congregations will organize viewing parties (keeping in mind COVID safety protocols). Perhaps a Sunday School class or Bible Study group could plan to meet at the church or in someone's home. We are working with our retirement communities to provide opportunities for viewing, especially for those in assisted living and nursing care units.

We are on Facebook at "Church of the Brethren NOAC." We also have a webpage at [www.brethren.org/NOAC](http://www.brethren.org/NOAC). Both are updated on a regular basis.





## District Bible Study Group Digs Deep into the Compelling Vision



We just completed week 9 of the 13-week Compelling Vision Bible study provided by the denomination. This has been an insightful class with lively and deep conversation, meaningful scripture study, and a few laughs, too! Mark Pickens from Harrisburg First COB says, "I have enjoyed sharing in this Bible Study with people from various congregations in our District. It is great learning and listening to people from different contexts and perspectives."



26 people registered for the class, and we have had an average attendance of 17 each week. 7 teachers have taken turns leading the group. Our meeting format has been through Zoom allowing some who could not normally attend an in-person gathering the chance to be present with us.

Our time together has been spent digging deep into each phrase of the Compelling Vision statement making the statement even more meaningful for many in our group. Those phrases are grounded in specific scripture texts which we use to foster conversation and thoughts about

how God is moving us forward as individuals, as congregations, as a district, and as a denomination. It has been a Spirit-filled experience!

~Jamie Nace, Lancaster CoB, member of District Board

## Pricetown Meetinghouse Holds Annual Vespers in July



Mohrsville Church of the Brethren's Annual Pricetown Vesper Service will be held on Sunday, July 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. Visitors are welcome to worship in the oldest unaltered Church of the Brethren in America. Fred Steinruck will be leading the service with hymns and special music. Come and enjoy an evening in a peaceful setting just like it was long ago.

It was built in the year 1777 by Brother Martin Gaube. Martin Gaube was born in 1742 and died in 1812. He was ordained to the Eldership by Christopher Sauer, Jr. on August 12, 1780, two years after Brother Sauer was released from prison for operating a printing press and refusing to serve in the Revolutionary War.

The main building is 30 X 25 feet. An addition used for preparation of Love Feasts measures 16 X 16 feet. The walls of rough stone are about two feet thick. For more information and directions, call 610-926-5167 or contact Pastor Scott Cooper at 717-925-9994.

**ATLANTIC NORTHEAST DISTRICT  
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
500 East Cedar Street  
Elizabethtown, PA 17022**

**Non-Profit Organization**

**AUTOMATION**

**U. S. POSTAGE PAID  
Elizabethtown, PA  
Permit No. 53**



**OFFICE HOURS**

Monday - Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

**STAFF**

Pete Kontra, **District Executive**

Don Mitchell, **Director of Church Development & Evangelism**

Mary Etta Reinhart, **Director of Witness & Outreach & Interim  
Director of Nurture**

Kay M. Weaver, **Director of Stewardship**

Enten Eller, **Interim Church Video Streaming Specialist**

Krista Dickson, **Office Administrator**

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District Conference Coordinator**

**Phone Number:** 717- 367- 4730



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**Website:** [www.ane-cob.org](http://www.ane-cob.org)

**Our Vision:**

*Guided by scripture, heritage and the  
Holy Spirit, we are creating spiritually  
healthy New Testament congregations  
who covenant and network  
together to further the Kingdom of God.*

Deadline for the September/October  
issue of ANE Today is August 16.  
[kbernstein@ane-cob.org](mailto:kbernstein@ane-cob.org).

 **AtlanticNortheastDistrict**  
 **Atlantic Northeast District Church of  
the Brethren**