ANE Today



Volume 55 Issue 3 May/June 2021

ANE Way Forward Team Creates Logo

The graphic identity for the ANE District "Way Forward" Process was adopted to help individuals and congregations relate to this important work and embrace the principles set forth.

The arrows in the foreground signify the direction that we are aiming to achieve which is forward and upward, "seeking the mind of Christ". The cross is symbolic of Christ and His atoning sacrifice for our forgiveness and remission of sin. It is a reminder that we are His disciples.



The circle represents the continuous evolving of the body of Christ through the movement of the Holy Spirit. The circle has no beginning and no ending; it symbolizes inspiration to keep us going and remaining in unity with one another.

This expressive logo was developed by Odette Rodriguez of the Nuevo Renacer Fellowship. The logo interpretation is approved by the developer.

Church Video Streaming Specialist: Pioneering Position Called to Assist Congregations

The Atlantic Northeast District (ANE) Board is excited to announce a newly created District staff position of Church Video Streaming Specialist. The pandemic has brought about many changes to congregational life. The most significant change has been the need for congregations to gather online, as well as a shift that includes worshipers attending from a distance and in person. The ANE District recognized it could offer critical support for current and future congregational vitality by aiding churches, regardless of size, with streaming technology and answering questions.

ANE District Executive Pete Kontra states, "We are excited for this new staff position the Board has approved as an opportunity to serve our congregations in a very immediate and impactful way. COVID-19 has been devastating in many ways, yet has opened a door to creative ways to reach our communities for Christ through the use of technology, and so we want to be faithful to this opportunity we have been given." (continued on page 3)

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ANE 52nd District Conference OCTOBER 1-2, 2021 Online from Elizabethtown College

Spring is a time of renewal, rebirth, hope and growth – snow melts; trees bud; flowers bloom; fields are sowed; at Easter, the Resurrection of our Christ and King Jesus is remembered and celebrated; and at Pentecost, the birth of the church when thousands heard Jesus' good news in their own language, is remembered and celebrated. During 2021, this time of renewal and rebirth is also reflected in increased availability of COVID vaccinations; improving relevant COVID metrics; and our 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 there is uncertainty over conditions five-months from today. Uncertainty resulting from actual status of COVID vaccinations and gathering restrictions. The Program and Arrangements Committee is focusing their attention on holding a virtual District Conference again this year based on current conditions and gathering restrictions.

The Program and Arrangement Committee, the ANE Board and various committees are working hard to deliver a challenging, inspiring and meaningful District Conference. Our time together will start on Friday, October 1, with a worship service 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. Saturday, October 2, District Conference will provide opportunities to glorify Jesus through Bible Study; hearing of the wide variety of way the Holy Spirit is working through ANE and global Church of the Brethren; sharing your insights into how the Holy Spirit is using you and your local congregation; and through lifting your voice in song through the multi-cultural inspirational music. 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.

Colossians 3 will be the foundational scripture of the 52nd District Conference, as it should be in our daily thoughts, actions and words. Specifically that we, the ANE COB family and individuals, are broken through our numerous sins, BUT (a word when used in Scripture always means something different and the unexpected is next) God uses our brokenness to grow in unity and to be more like

Jesus every day. Colossians 3 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); and let the Peace of Jesus rule in our hearts as we, family members of one COB family, are called to peace.



Scott Moyer, Moderator

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 the Holy Spirit is working through the COB and

ANE and encourage you to plan now to participate in the 52nd District Conference and the ANE Way Forward process, which will be a key topic to be covered at District Conference.

- Registration Opens July 1.
 All delegates should be registered no later than July 31 to receive all pertinent communications and materials. Each person will need to register separately and have their own email. All delegates must have the ability to view, participate and vote online.
- Information regarding Conference can be found on the ANE website: www.anecob.org/districtconference
- More details to be released in June.



The Church Video Streaming Specialist fosters churches' growth in technology by assisting with designing streaming solutions that are affordable and manageable. These designs are consistent, yet tailored to each congregation's needs, resources and worship style. This collaboration of design enables them to share their worship services with their congregation which are unable to attend in person, as well as with the wider community for evangelism and mission.

The ANE District Board embraced this vision and has set aside resources for a full-time position, including benefits. As the search to fill this full-time position begins in the immediate future, the ANE District is pleased to share they have called Enten Eller, of Palmyra, PA as Interim Church Video Streaming Specialist in a half-time capacity. Eller has been an integral part of the ANE Technical Team serving congregations since July 2020. He is an ordained minister in the Church of the Brethren, pastoring churches in a number of districts from Idaho to Pennsylvania. He also brings his experience of serving as the Director of Distributed Education and Electronic Communication at Bethany Theological Seminary. As Eller joins the District staff for this interim period, he will continue to serve as pastor at the Ambler (PA) Church of the Brethren, and as pastor and tech deacon of the Living Stream Church of the Brethren (the denomination's only fully on-line congregation), in addition to other streaming and tech responsibilities he carries.

Eller states, "My vision for this position is to as-

sist ANE congregations in responding to the paradigm shift of making worship services available online, not only to include members who cannot gather, but also to reach beyond the church walls for witness and evangelism."



Video Streaming Roundtable

A monthly roundtable discussion for those planning and implementing the technical aspects of an online worship service



Every Second Thursday of each Month

7pm—8pm

For more information to join in these roundtable discussions go to

www.ane-cob.org or ANE Facebook page.

Information can also be found in The Parking Lot.

ANE Women's Fellowship News

2021 Spring Fellowship

Beautiful and inspiring were words expressed by women who viewed the virtual Spring Fellowship which aired on March 20. Audrey Finkbiner's theme "Consider the Gardens: Gardening and Spirituality" was shared through scripture reading, garden images, music and her three thoughtful reflections. Over 100 women registered for the program which was offered in English and Spanish. A donation to Brethren Disaster Ministries will be made, thanks the women's generous offerings.

Women's Camp 2021

The annual Women's Camp is scheduled for August 20 and 21 at Camp Swatara. Due to ongoing COVID concerns, this year's plans are tentative. The cabinet will be meeting this month to discuss our options before we can make definite plans. Further details will be shared as soon as possible.





⁶ Again the Lord called, "Samuel!" And Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am; you called me." — 1 Samuel 3:6

"God's call is complex. It comes to a diverse group of people and individuals for a wide range of purposes and results. It often comes in unexpected ways, with serious consequences. As we look at three examples of God's call (the prophet Isaiah, the Samaritan woman, and the Great Commission), we see a God who challenges, empowers, and guides us into the good work that we are called to do." ~ Steve Schweitzer

Calling the Called is an event organized by the Atlantic Northeast, MidAtlantic, Southern PA, Middle PA and Western PA Districts. It is an intentional time away from the routine of life to discern what it means to be called by God to the set-apart ministry.

Whether you are someone actively exploring the possibility of ministry or someone unsure of God's calling this will be a helpful time of discernment and discovery.

Come and hear personal call stories, come and wrestle with biblical call stories, come and learn about the process of entering the set-apart ministry in the Church of the Brethren. Discover what it means to be a people called by God.

Register online on the ANE District website or call the District office.





May 2: Reflective Prayer

Reflect on your heart and talk about it with God. Reflect on your honest feelings about your circumstances including rage, despair, hopelessness, and more. Read Lamentations.

May 9: Ministry Commission

May 16: Stewardship Commission

May 23: Congregations searching for pastors

May 30: Program & Arrangements Committee

June 6: Video Streaming Roundtable

June 13: ANE District Youth Coordinators

June 20: District Board that meets this week

June 27: Churches travelling to Dayton, OH

for Disaster Response.

ANE DISTRICT—NEW MEMBERS

Providence— Baptism: Melinda Pasquale, Russell Pasquale, Patricia Farnquist. Reaffirmation: C. Franklin Iyasere, Loveth Iyasere.





Licensings, Ordinations, and Installations

Rita Carter (Mechanic Grove) was ordained on February 21. Pete Kontra, District Executive, performed the service at Mechanic Grove.

Laura Meiser

(Hempfield) licensing service was on March 21 and performed by Pete Kontra, District Executive at Hempfield CoB.



Ordination of Rita Carter

Brethren Benefit Trust Approves 4th Round of Covid Grants



Employees of churches, districts and camps who are struggling financially due to the economic conditions created by the pandemic are encouraged to apply for financial assistance. If you have already received financial assistance through BBT's COVID-19 Emergency Grant and need additional help, you are eligible to reapply for the fourth round of funding.

The fund is available to active employees of a church, district, or camp, who have been employed for at least 5 years. Those applicants with less than 5 years tenure are encouraged to apply and will be considered on an exception basis.

Please contact the District office for an application. Specific questions should be addressed to Debbie Butcher at dbutcher@cobbt.org or 847-622-3391.

Placement News

Brooklyn First: Beginning search process. **Conewago:** Search Committee formed. Sandy

Christophel resigns effective April 30. **Elizabethtown:** Search Committee formed.

Geiger Memorial: Open

Green Tree: Rod O'Donnell retiring June 1, 2021.

Interviewing.

Harrisburg First: Search Committee formed.
Lititz: Searching for Director of Youth Ministries.
Mechanic Grove: Bob Kettering serves as Interim.
Mountville: Joe Detrick serves as Interim. Called

Angela Finet as Pastor, May 24, 2021.

Myerstown: Dennis Garrison serves as Interim. **Nuevo Amanecer**: Interim Team established.

Pottstown: Scott Major retiring effective September

30, 2021.

Schuylkill: Search Committee forming. **Wilmington:** Bob Wintsch serves as Interim.



Annual Conference Moderator, Paul Mundey, held 24 online Q&A sessions across all of the Church of the Brethren Districts since November 2020. He has compiled a PDF summary of FAQs of those sessions. It can be

found on his Moderator's page:

https://www.brethren.org/ac2021/wp-content/uploads/sites/20/2021/03/State-of-the-Church-FAQs.pdf

Outreach Update

Greetings from Akron Church of the Brethren.

To say the last twelve months have been challenging is an understatement. We have gone from doing status quo to redefining how to do church. Depending on where you are with technology and the comfort of being together, these challenges can overwhelm and consume you. I would like to take some time to share with you how we here at Akron have embraced these challenges to be more of God's light in this dark time in history.

I want to start out with that I have a great staff and Leadership team here at Akron. We have discerned for God's wisdom and made decisions for the whole congregation not just a few. It goes without saying that it has been meet with some opposition, but God has blessed us with all our needs and EVEN BEYOND.

Before March 14, 2020, we could only audio tape our worship service, so as the Leadership made their decision to close church due to the Coronavirus this created a challenge. We needed to start from ground zero to be able to live stream for Sunday March 15th. God blessed us with the people and equipment even though it was basic equipment and people outside their comfort zone to be ready to go live! This has changed the way we do church! In twelve months, God has blessed us with all new livestream equipment and a new sound system (old sound system was not compatible with the livestream equipment) throughout

the church building. This has increased our outreach to our own congregation and those outside of our congregation which has resulted with new attendees and new members.

On August 31st, we hired a new Office Coordinator, Bethany Kyper, who has a degree in Social Work. With her experience, it has given us

more opportunity to partner with Ephrata Area Social Services, Northern Lancaster Hub, Align Life Ministries, and other Community services. We now are able to help and stay in contact with those in need. We responded to the community crisis related to utility

shut offs and the financial challenges because of COVID. We had a fall event called "Candy for A Cause" where the church gave out candy and accepted donations for Ephrata Area Social Services Utilities Fund. We are continuing fundraising opportunities to support local social services that assist people with financial challenges.

Associate Pastor Chris Reinford held a fully virtual VBS in 2020 for 80 kids in the Akron community. We distributed crafts, snacks, and Bible study materials before the event and streamed a live program on Facebook and YouTube. We will do the same with an in-person program

as well in 2021. We have continued to do events such as our egg hunt and Harvest parties as well. Youth programs have continued to meet as scheduled with lock-ins in the church as a highlight. We also host Bible Adventure for 3rd and 4th graders and a TNT Youth Center for 6th-12th graders weekly.



The church is currently being challenged with the Coronavirus, but then again, the church has always been challenged with something. God desires for His church to be challenged and to thrive, be faithful, and to share the Good news of Jesus for all people to hear.

Blessings from Akron Church of the Brethren, Pastor Tim Fleener

Editor's note: Pastor Fleener is a member of the ANE Church Development and Evangelism Commission & the ANE District Board.







Brethren Disaster Ministries recently shared news and updates that they would like to be shared with our ANE congregations. Please check out the information below:



Churches Supporting Vaccination Efforts:

FEMA is building a list of volunteer organizations and Houses of Worship (HOWs) who can offer to support a national vaccination effort. Responding is not a firm commitment. By responding a church can offer a willingness to be added to a catalog to match needs with offers. Here are some examples of ways churches may be asked to help:

- ◆ Priority examples: Health Professionals, Clerical Work, a facility, logistics support (traffic support or assistance to access & functional needs)
- ♦ Other wrap around possibilities include providing meals for workers or volunteers, Transportation for elderly/seniors to vaccination sites, emotional and spiritual care, vaccination messaging to congregations and community.

Churches with an interest may respond to **Partner-ships@fema.dhs.gov** to be added to the list as a possible resource for vaccine distribution.

Financial Assistance for COVID-19 Related Funeral Expenses:

Under the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 and the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, FEMA is providing financial assistance for COVID-19 related funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020. Here is the link for more information: https://www.fema.gov/disasters/coronavirus/economic/funeral-assistance

Annual Conference Virtual Blood Drive:

Join the BDM Virtual Blood Drive and to donate locally between June 15 and July 15, 2021. Here is the link for more information:

https://sleevesup.redcrossblood.org/campaign/church-of-the-brethren-virtual-blood-drive-2021/



Southeast PA Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (SEPA VOAD) is partnering with UCC Disaster Ministries and Eastwick United to recruit volunteers to repair and rebuild homes in the Eastwick neighborhood of Philadelphia.

Project Focus: Repair and Rebuild; install heating systems and hot water heaters if licensed

Contact: Judy Moore, Volunteer Coordinator 802-299-8290; <u>IsaiasRecoveryVolunteers@gmail.com</u>

Other Information: Once contact is made with our Volunteer Coordinator you will be provided you with all the necessary information including release forms, skill sheets for your group, contact information, arrival information. etc. You will also find information at https://www.ucc.org/volunteer/disaster_disaster-volunteers/



Annual Conference 2021

How will the Online Conference work?

Covision, the company that provided the iPad technology at the 2019 conference will be hosting our platform for the 2021 Online Annual Conference.



The platform is simply a

website that you'll click on. It will ask you to enter the same email address that you registered with as well as a password emailed to you the week before Annual Conference begins. Once on that website, you can click to participate in Business Sessions, Insight Sessions, Networking Groups, Concerts and more! Delegates will have table conversations in online groups.

It will be important for all participants to have reliable WiFi service and if they are a Delegate to have their own computer or tablet.

There will be training sessions offered at various times in June so that you will be able to practice using this online platform.

If you have questions feel free to email us at annualconference@brethren.org or call 847-429-4366.

Registration fees

Why do we have to pay for Annual Conference if it's online?

Non-delegate and Delegate fees to "attend" Annual Conference online pay for the creation and management of the online platform, the salaries of Annual Conference staff, office and warehouse rental, etc. The Annual Conference budget does not receive money from the denominational budget or anywhere else, but is only funded by registration fees. Thus, the registration fees are critical to being able to offer an online Annual Conference this year.

Registration allows you to participate in Business, Insight Sessions, Networking Groups, Concerts and more. Worship Services are free and will be available to everyone, registered or not.

Non-Delegates fees: Full Conference: \$99, daily \$33 Delegate fees: Full Conference: \$305

Registration opens March 2 at www.brethren.org/ac

Annual Conference schedule at a glance

Subject to change

Morning Business Sessions

Thursday and Saturday

10:00 am - 12:00 noon (Eastern) 7:00 am - 9:00 am (Pacific)

Morning Business Sessions

Friday

10:00 am - 12:15 noon (Eastern) 7:00 am - 9:15 am (Pacific)

Insight Sessions and Networking Groups

Thursday, Friday and Saturday

12:30 pm - 1:30 pm (Eastern) 9:30 am - 10:30 am (Pacific)

Organ Concert – Robin Risser Mundey Friday

2:00 pm - 2:30 pm (Eastern) 11:00 am - 11:30 am (Pacific)

Afternoon Business Sessions

Thursday, Friday and Saturday

3:00 pm - 5:00 pm (Eastern) 12:00 noon - 2:00 pm (Pacific)

Networking Groups

Thursday, Friday and Saturday

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm (Eastern) 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm (Pacific)

Worship

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday

8:00 pm - 9:00 pm (Eastern) 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm (Pacific)

Worship Sunday morning

10:00-11:00 am (Eastern) 7:00-8:00 am (Pacific)

Fernando Ortega Concert

Wednesday

9:15 pm - 10:30 pm (Eastern) 6:15 pm - 7:30 pm (Pacific)

Insight Sessions

Thursday, Friday and Saturday

9:15 pm - 10:15 pm (Eastern) 6:15 pm - 7:15 pm (Pacific)



Drive Thru Pork BBQ Dinner to Benefit Center



The Community Center invites you to "pig out" for a good cause.

The AOCC is sponsoring a drive thru pork BBQ meal fundraiser on Saturday, May 22, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Lancaster Church of the Brethren. The church is located at 1601 Sunset Ave. (near the Lancaster Shopping Center).

Catered by Peters' Barbecue, the meal will include a pulled pork sandwich with barbecue sauce, a homemade roll (made by Amish), baked potato, and applesauce (drink not included). The cost is \$10 per meal. Please have exact change to pay at pick-up by cash or check made out to AOCC. Extra donations are welcome!

Pre-orders are strongly encouraged, but a limited number of meals will be available for purchase the day of the event. Pre-ordered meals not picked up by 12:30 may be sold to someone else. The only way to guarantee that you won't miss out is to pre-order and pick up by the deadline.

To pre-order, contact Board member Carolyn Fitzkee no later than May 12 at dcfitzkee@gmail.com or 717 -682-1762.

Covid-19 resulted in the cancellation of two annual AOCC banquets, so the board is excited to go whole hog on this creative (and tasty) alternative!



Join us for this year's online Annual Conference Delegate Briefing

Saturday, June 5, 2021 9:00am, online

Moderator Paul Mundey will share about this year's Annual Conference, both through video and a time of Q&A. Please visit https://www.brethren.org/ac2021/business/ to access the delegate briefing video and all Annual Conference news. The link to join the online delegate briefing is available on the ANE website, under the Events tab.





Psalm 24 reminds us that God created everything, the heavens, the earth and all that live on it. As followers of Jesus, we are called

Faith and Finance - Put your money where your faith is

FE y Finanzas-Ponga su dinero donde está su Fe.

Saturday, June 12 9:00a—12:30p, Online

to be servants of Christ and stewards of God's creation (I Cor. 4:1). This practical workshop will introduce (or re-introduce) you to the significant Biblical concept of Stewardship and specifically the way we manage our money – aligning our spending priorities with our faith values. We help you answer the question, "How do I put my money where my faith is?"

El Salmos 24 nos recuerda que Dios creó todas las cosas, los cielos, la tierra y todo lo que en ella habita. Como seguidores de Jesús, fuímos llamados a ser servidores de Cristo y administradores de la cración de Dios (1 Cor. 4:1). Este taller práctico introducirá (o re-introducirá) el concepto Biblico significativo de meyordomía y específicamente la forma en que manejamos nuestro dinero, alineando nuestras prioridades de gastos con nuestros valores de Fe. Te ayudamos a responder la pregunta, "¿Como pongo mi dinero donde está mi Fe?"

For more information, go to the District website. Para obtener más información, visite el sitio web del Distrito.

2nd Annual Etown CoB Walk to Nigeria Team Challenge

When: May 1-31 Where: Anywhere

Last year, our Walk to Nigeria was such a success that we are doing it again. Our goal is to Run, Walk, Hike, or Ride 5,563 Miles in 31 days.

<u>Join Our Challenge!</u> (https://www.challengehound.com/join/7eedd740-826b-11eb-8fb2-21aa45fbd0a8)

We are asking all participants to sign up using the <u>Challenge Hound website</u>. All you need is your name and an email address. Also, please log miles for each individual separately.

To add a little fun we are going to be offering prizes! More to come on that. If you have anything you'd like to donate as a prize (baked goods, homemade crafts, etc) please contact Amy Karr (amykarr86@gmail.com).

As you know, we are not holding the Run for Peace this year. Please consider making a donation to <u>The Centre for Caring, Empowerment, and Peace Initiatives in Nigeria (CCEPI)</u>, founded by Rebecca Dali as a participation fee. This is NOT required to participate.





Contact Amy Karr with questions.





Bible Study Continues through June

Our District Nurture Commission is sponsoring a 13-week Bible study of the denomination's Compelling Vision Statement, which began on April 5. Jamie Nace, a pastor in the Lancaster congregation and member of the Commission, coordinates a team of teachers who will help us explore the vision statement, which will be acted upon at Annual Conference this summer. The statement says simply:

"Together, as the Church of the Brethren, we will passionately live and share the radical transformation and holistic peace of Jesus Christ through relationship-based neighborhood engagement. To move us forward, we will develop a culture of calling and equipping disciples who are innovative, adaptable, and fearless."

Brethren Press has created a 13-week Bible study lesson series focused on the Compelling Vision. This series is designed to call us into a time of prayer and focused study of Scripture as we seek the mind of Christ in community with others. As the Church of the Brethren, we desire to move forward boldly in faith and commitment to Jesus, to the church, and to each other. We invite you to participate in a first step on that journey by joining in this Bible study with others in our district. Please join us at any time during the study.

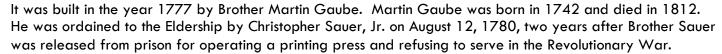
To register, and receive the link, visit the District's website, www.ane-cob.org.

Annual Pricetown Homecoming Scheduled for June 6

YOU ARE INVITED

Mohrsville Church of the Brethren's Annual Pricetown Homecoming will be held on Sunday, June 6, 2021 at

2:30 p.m. Visitors are welcome to worship in the oldest unaltered Church of the Brethren in America.



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
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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
Kelly Bernstein, Communications Manager &
District Conference Coordinator

Phone Number: 717- 367- 4730

FAX Number: 717- 367- 8737

Website: www.ane-cob.org

AtlanticNortheastDistrict

You Tube Atlantic Northeast District Church of the Brethren

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 July/August issue of ANE *Today* is June 14. kbernstein@ane-cob.org.