

# ANE Today



## ATLANTIC NORTHEAST DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Volume 55 Issue 6

November/December 2021



The year 2021 brought the first hybrid District Conference for ANE. Participants could choose between participating in person or online.

Conference weekend started on Thursday, September 30, with on-line Bible Study focused on Paul's Letter to the church at Colosse. The study focused specifically on the theme of Be Renewed in Christ through application of Colossians 3.

The weekend continued on Friday, October 1, with a hybrid Worship Service. Brian Messler, Ephrata Church of the Brethren, challenged us through asking questions: If we believe Jesus is enough; if we are maturing through becoming more like Christ every day; and if we remember scripture as easily we remember commercial jingles. Specifically, if we are continually setting our hearts on the realities of heaven, taking off our old nature and putting on our new nature, as instructed in Colossians 3. Inspirational music was led by the District Praise Band made from throughout the ANE. The 2022 Annual Conference Moderator, David Sollenberger (Mt. Wilson) greeted participants, and offered encouragement to the ANE Family. District Executive Pete Kontra recognized the many ministers in the ANE who have been involved in ministry activity. An offertory was collected to support Brethren



Brian Messler

Photo credit: Glenn Riegel

### Disaster Ministries.



Un Nuevo Renacer

Photo Credit: Glenn Riegel

On Saturday October 2, a hybrid morning and afternoon Business Session was held at Leffler Chapel. The morning session included business items of a celebratory nature. Ebenezer Project was approved to become a Fellowship and Un Nuevo Renacer was approved to become a Congregation. Mount Zion Road and Brunswick's disorganizations were also approved, and a prayer was offered to all congregations and fellowships that have chosen to separate from the Church of the Brethren. The Way Forward Shepherding Team organized to guide ANE implementation of the Way Forward Process, provided an overview of the process, background as well as of what actions ANE congregations and members were being requested to take.

There was a time to renew and build new relationships over lunch followed by the opportunity to participate in one of two insight sessions. "Cultivating a Culture of Call and Why it Matters" insight session was led by Joe Dietrik on the importance of calling out ministers. The other insight session continued the conversation on the Way Forward Process. There were many challenging questions from the floor. Due to time constraints, not all

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questions were able to be addressed and had to be taken away by the Way Forward Shepherd Team to process together. The conversation and questions demonstrated the need for continued dialogue and time for discernment by congregations and individuals.



Photo Credit: Glenn Riegel

The afternoon session included approval of the 2022 ANE Ministry Investment Plan, commonly called a budget, and the 2022 Fair Share giving amount for

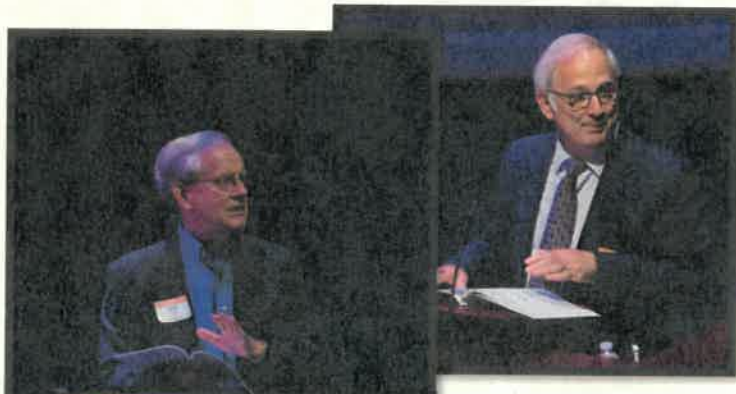


Photo credit:

Glenn Riegel

## District Conference in a Nutshell:

Worship Service Attendance: 115

Brethren Disaster Ministries Offering: \$2,504.93

Bible Study Attendance: 23

Business Session Attendance: 185

Delegates: 129 present (86 in person, 43 online)

Congregations & Fellowships in Attendance: 50

### ANE District Leadership Affirmed:

**Moderator Elect:** Dave Nichols

**Alternate Standing Committee:** Mark Baliles

**Program & Arrangements Committee:**

Mark Pickens, Carol Nelson

**Gifts Discernment Team:**

Rick Balmer, Jason Haldeman, Carol-Joyce Anton, Alyssa Parker

**District Clerk:** Douglas Nyce

### District Board

**District Board Chair:** Jim Grossnickle-Batterton

**Church Development Commission:**

Jazmin Quijano, Tim Fleener

**Ministry Commission:** Ann Bach

**Nurture Commission:**

Karen Hackett, Brandy Liepelt

**Stewardship Commission:**

Scott Moyer, Barb Coffman

**Witness & Outreach Commission:**

Donna Parcell, Lisa Krieg

### Others:

**Camp Swatara:** Pamela B Gerberich

**COBYS Family Services:** Donna Parcell, Kathy Focht

congregations of \$55 per member. The 2022 Slate of those called into leadership positions within ANE was approved. Representatives from several of the agencies, organizations and commissions, beyond those presenting in person, were present at District Conference and interacted with the participants throughout the day. 2021 outgoing Moderator Scott Moyer and the 2022 Moderator John Hostetter closed the business session with prayer and brief remarks.





## District Conference Moderator Gives Thanks

Moderator Scott Moyer thanks and desires to again express his appreciation and gratitude to the following that made the first "hybrid" District Conference successful and without the efforts of these groups the 52<sup>nd</sup>



Annual District conference would not have been possible: (1) Kelly Bernstein and Krista Dickson and entire ANE Staff for their tireless planning, administration and behind the scenes work and ministry; (2) Enten Eller, David Vasquez, Mark Myers, Doug Hallman and entire Technical Team that assembled, tested, addressed multiple transitions, switches and challenges and disassembled the enormous amount of audio, visual, and information technology (computers, internet, etc) equipment; (3) Janet Myers and Carolina Izquierdo that organized and led the 24 instrumentalists and vocalists that lead District Conference event participants in approximately 1 1/4 hours of God Glorifying worship music; (4) the many organizations, agencies and committees and their representatives that prepared and presented the large volume of inspirational written, video and in-person reports; and (5) Un Nuevo Renacer not only on Congregation status being approved but their leadership in the inspirational worship music with many excellent musicians and vocalists and their many non-delegates members that attended and participated in District Conference!



## Updates from Brethren Disaster Ministries:

### Afghan Evacuee Resettlement

Below are a few new opportunities to join Church World Service (CWS) to support Afghan Evacuees in their resettlement in the US.

**Webinar:** CWS invites you to join them on November 7-11 from 6-9PM EDT for "Together We Welcome, a national faith gathering to strengthen support for refugees, immigrants and migrants." Participants will have the opportunity to learn from experts in the field, build relationships with other leaders and walk away with specific actions to foster welcome in their local communities. Register now at <https://cwsglobal.org/take-action/together-we-welcome/>

**New CWS Kits:** CWS is also welcoming donations of and for a new Welcome Backpack Kit. CWS Welcome Backpacks are a new part of the process - providing unaccompanied minors and families with the essentials for their transition: food and water, children's activities, a blanket, basic hygiene items, and PPE. If you care not able to assemble these kits at home but still want to support them, you can also donate to CWS for them to be created and distributed. *Please Note that the completed kits should be sent to the CWS location listed in Elkhart, IN not the Brethren Service Center.* For more information visit: <https://cwsglobal.org/donate/welcome-backpacks/>

**Haiti Earthquake Rebuilding:** BDM is still in close communication with the Haitian Church of the Brethren about the earthquake response and recovery efforts in the Saut Mathurine community where the only Church of the Brethren in the south is located. There will be more details included in our upcoming BRIDGES newsletter including a poster that can be shared.

In the meantime, here are some initial estimates about what a donation to the response can support:

- \$7,000 – Materials and labor for a new home
- \$75 - Monthly food kits for a family
- \$30 - Water filter for a household
- \$38,000 - New 4 door truck in Haiti

Give to the Emergency Disaster Fund-Haiti Earthquake Response at 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120 Or [www.brethren.org/give-haiti-earthquake](http://www.brethren.org/give-haiti-earthquake)



## ANE District Fills New Ministry Position

The ANE District is pleased to announce the hiring of the Church Video Streaming Specialist position.

David Vasquez started last month and will be taking some time acclimating himself to the district and staff, as well as, getting up to date with the current demands and needs of his position. David assisted with technical support for District Conference where he also addressed the delegate body alongside Enten Eller (former Church Video Streaming Specialist).

David was born and raised in Pennsylvania. After graduating high school, he joined the US Air Force and became an Electrical Systems Apprentice. He has over 20 years in the Electrical and Electronics field and is currently enrolled at Northampton Community College seeking an Instrumentation and Controls Certification. He is married to Betzaida, who is part of the interim ministry team at Nuevo Amanecer CoB. They have two kids. David also teaches Bible school to the youth at their church. When asked about joining the ANE staff, David says, "I am humbled and honored to be part of the ANE family. God gives us this method to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ, and I look forward to this modern technique to transmit it."



Be on the lookout for updates and opportunities from David in the coming weeks.

As part of David's position, he will now moderate our Video Streaming Roundtable that meets monthly on the second Thursday. **Everyone is invited to attend**, whether you are just curious and exploring possibilities, or whether you are already streaming... whether you feel like you don't even know where to start, or whether you are a pro at all this so can share with others. Bring your questions as well as your experience, for in these roundtables we all help each other.

The next scheduled Roundtable is November 11 at 7pm. Please join us on Zoom: <http://tiny.cc/ANE-TechRoundtable>

To contact David directly:

dvasquez@ane-cob.org  
717-367-4730, Ext. 204  
484-809-8098 (cell)



The ANE District Nurture Commission is always looking for ways to encourage both our ANE District Youth and our ANE District Church Youth Leaders. Here is a great resource for our ANE District Youth Advisors!

"The Word in Youth Ministry" podcast was launched in May by the Center for Parent/Youth Understanding. This is a podcast by youth workers for youth workers that offers practical instruction and insight on how to teach the Bible and theology to our students. After scanning the hundreds of youth ministry podcasts out there, they couldn't find one that tackled the most important of all youth ministry tasks: teaching kids God's Word. So they decided to fill the void and meet the need. You can access "The Word in Youth Ministry" podcast by using this link: [https://cpyu.org/resource\\_category/the-word-in-youth-ministry-podcast/](https://cpyu.org/resource_category/the-word-in-youth-ministry-podcast/)

You can also find this podcast by visiting the Center for Parent/Youth Understanding homepage at <https://cpyu.org/> or through your preferred podcast provider.





# THANK YOU!

The ANE District would like to extend much gratitude to the following people for lending their time and talents to the District whose terms will end 2021.

**Jeff Glisson**, District Board Chair

**Scott Moyer**, Moderator

**Steve Hess**, Church Development Commission

**Sue Eikenberry**, Nurture Commission

**Jim Hollen**, Nurture Commission

**Ronald Myer**, Stewardship Commission

**Ruby Bean**, Stewardship Commission

**Dawn Weiss**, Witness & Outreach Commission

**Verona Detrick**, Program & Arrangements Committee

**Lisa Krieg**, Program & Arrangements Committee

**Kim Ream**, Alternate Standing Committee Member

**Megan Lester**, Gifts Discernment Team

**Mary Haldeman**, Gifts Discernment Team

## Gifts Discernment Team to Begin Search for 2023 Slate Candidates

DO YOU FEEL CALLED TO USE YOUR GIFTS?

•Church Development

•Ministry

•Nurture

•Witness & Outreach

•Stewardship

•Program & Arrangements

•Moderator Elect

•Gifts Discernment

Have you ever truly tried to discern whom would best serve our District in leadership roles?

The Gifts Discernment Team (GDT) will soon begin to fill open positions for 2023. The positions are filled by the GDT, but candidates can be self-nominated or chosen by Church leaders, moderators, mentors and friends. The GDT strives to select a diverse group of volunteers from all ages, backgrounds and congregational locations. **They are Church leaders, stay at home parents, working professionals, business owners, retirees and more, with one common goal.** Could this be you? Are you being called by God to gladly serve Him and the ANE District.

**God has blessed each one of us with many spiritual gifts.** When we discover and utilize these gifts, we find great satisfaction and joy from the Lord. Each one of you have God-given gifts and may know others in your congregation that are blessed with talents also.

As you go through the process of discernment, please carefully consider who among your congregation has a passion for the Church or a particular ministry. Do you know anyone that is enthusiastic and feels compelled to make a difference?

These individuals will hold a leadership position and make improvements within our District. If you know of someone that might be interested, please reach out to them. Explain that you've recognized their talents and encourage them to share their gifts, while making a difference within our District.

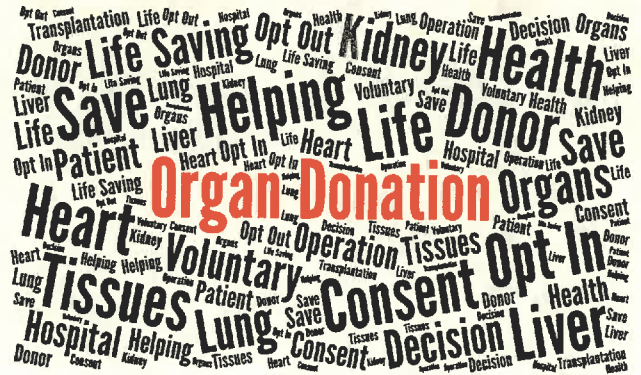
The GDT welcomes questions regarding this process at any time. Please contact the District Office at 717-367-4730.



**Gifts Discernment**

There is an unmet need for living and deceased organ and tissue donors. As Brethren, you are called to help fill that need. Living donors have the best success rates and anyone who can be one is in a very unique position to share the gift of life. We can all be organ and tissue donors—there is no age limit.

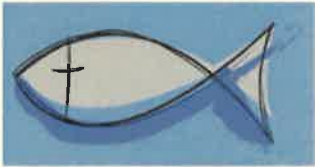
<https://www.brethren.org/ac/statements/1993-organ-tissue-donation/>



As a Christian, I accept and believe that at the moment of my death (brain death), my soul and spirit will leave my body. I believe that the body I once occupied will no longer be me, should no longer be considered me and it will have become a corpse. I will no longer be there. Based on my faith in the promises of God and Jesus Christ, I desire, should it become apparent it is unlikely I (my body) will survive, that efforts shift from preserving me to preserving and facilitating the transplantation of all useful material of my body. I further wish that my remains be made available to medical science and education as deemed appropriate by my family and medical staff. I request my family make these wishes known as soon as possible to enable the best results for recipients. Gift of Life Donor Program representatives may be contacted by the medical facility as early as practical to ensure the best possible outcome for the recipients.

*I will no longer be where you are used to finding me, I am now everywhere. Love your husband, father, grandfather, brother, friend.*





## MINISTRY

### Licensings, Ordinations, and Installations

**Janet Myer's** (Paxton) ordination service was on September 19, and performed by Pete Kontra.

**Adam Ulm's** (Spring Creek) ordination service was on October 17, and performed by Pete Kontra.



Ordination of Janet Myers



An installation service for **Jeff Bach, Ann Bach, and Audrey Estep** was held at Steven's Hill on October 24 and performed by Pete Kontra.

Installation Service at Steven's Hill



**November 7:** Youth leaders gathering via Zoom on November 9 to network and learn more about National Youth Conference.

**November 14:** Congregations dealing with Pastoral transitions.

**November 21:** Outreach ministry of congregations as the holiday season begins.

## Placement News

**Brooklyn First:** Beginning search process. Kay Weaver serves as Interim.

**Elizabethtown:** Called Eric Landram to serve as Executive Pastor beginning January 2022.

**Green Tree:** Interviewing. Considering Interim options.

**Lititz:** Searching for Pastor/Director of Faith Formation.

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

**Myerstown:** Beginning search process. Dennis Garrison serves as Interim.

**Nuevo Amanecer:** Interim Team established.

**Pottstown:** Negotiating.

**Stevens Hill:** Called Jeff Bach, Ann Bach, and Audrey Estep to serve as Co-Pastors beginning October 2021.

**West Green Tree:** Search Committee formed.

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

## ANE DISTRICT—NEW MEMBERS

**Mohrsville — Transfer:** Matt Stein, Nita Stein, Susan Schlenker.

**November 28:** ANE District Board/Commission reorganization.

**December 5:** ANE District Video Streaming Roundtable and David Vasquez, our ANE District Church Video Streaming specialist, as he works with our ANE Churches to improve their technology so they can better reach out to their church family virtually.

**December 12:** Program & Arrangements Committee as they begin to plan 2022 District Conference.

**December 19:** ANE Gifts Discernment Team as they begin the search process to fill vacant positions for 2023.

**December 26:** Rest and care for our pastors and chaplains.



## ANE District Youth and Advisor Retreat

On Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 67 youth and advisors met at Camp Swatara for a one-day retreat. The theme of the retreat was "The body of Christ – reconnecting with each other after reemerging from quarantine". Our theme verse was 1 Corinthians 12:12.

We began our day with adventure games. This was definitely a highlight for many of the youth. They divided into 3 groups because there were so many youth! To start off, one group had to wear blind folds, but the other two groups weren't allowed to talk. They formed a line by placing their hands on each other's shoulders, and lead each other into the



adventure games area. That was their first challenge! Then each of the groups completed several elements in the adventure games, becoming more

successful as they learned to communicate, problem solve, and help each other. It was a great learning experience on many levels. They also had a time to debrief and discuss what they learned, what was successful and what was not. We were thankful the rain that was predicted held off during the outside portion of our day. Special thanks to Jason Haldeman for leading the games.

Our next activity was worship. We enjoyed the amazing praise band from Un Nuevo Renacer CoB led by Christian Hildalgo-Hernandez and featuring former district cabinet members Gabrielle Rodriguez and Edison Rodriguez in addition to other talented musicians. We were truly blessed by their ministry.



Our speaker was David Radcliff from New Community Project. He talked about what it means to connect with each other and take care of each other and the earth.

After a delicious lunch, we played some games led by Anneliz Rosario and Elliot Ochoa. They did a great job getting the youth to engage with one another and have some fun at the same time! Then it was time for break-out sessions. The advisors met with Mark Cunningham from COBYS, and the youth met with David Radcliff. Both the youth and the advisors learned and lot about and enjoyed the sessions. Wrapping things up, Jason and Belle (members of the national youth cabinet) talked about NYC which is coming up in the summer of 2022.\*



The retreat was very successful and we are looking forward to doing more activities together in the future. Thanks to everyone who participated and to those who worked hard to make it happen.

\*Please see pg. 9 for opportunities to learn about NYC

### District Youth Contact Information:

If you are a youth advisor and would like to connect to the ANE District and haven't done so already, please reach out to one of the following people:

**Mary Etta Reinhart**, Interim Director of Nurture:  
mreinhart@ane-cob.org

**Ed Haldeman**, Advisor:  
edwardhaldeman@gmail.com

**Donna Parcell**, Advisor:  
dparcell@comcast.net

**Linda Byers**, Advisor:  
lancob.youth@comcast.net





## Intergenerational Advent Bible Study

The season of Advent is one of anticipation and preparation. All things considered, it is also a rather short season and often a very busy one. Wouldn't it be nice to take a little bit of time to pause...reflect...linger...and listen? **Jamie Nace**, on behalf of the Nurture Commission, will lead a four-week Advent Bible Study designed to slow us down and help us reflect on the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love that is found in Jesus.

This study will take place on four Tuesday evenings: November 30, December 7, 14, and 21 from 6:30 - 7:45 p.m. on Zoom. This will be an intergenerational event with a special time devoted to children at the beginning of each lesson. Come and be filled!

Register online to receive link:  
<https://conta.cc/2YMMube>



## Youth Leaders- What is this thing called National Youth Conference?

Here are two opportunities to learn more about it!

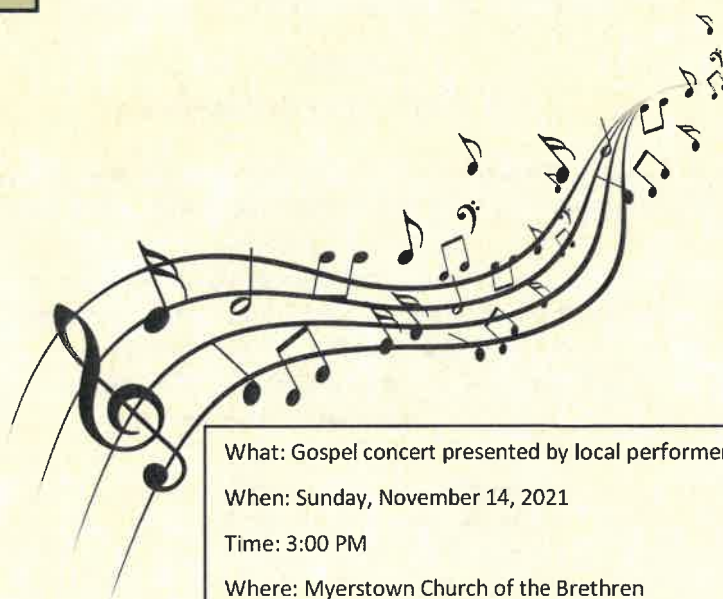
### **Monday, November 1 at 8 PM Eastern ZOOM with National Youth Conference office:**

We will be holding a question-and-answer session over Zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register/tZAtc--qqiktGtyH2P7U7vySwCp6T52Q4Uok>.

### **Tuesday evening November 9 at 7 pm. ZOOM with ANE District youth leaders:**

A place to talk about the practical details such as fund raising and transportation that are needed to lead our youth on this journey to Colorado next summer: <https://conta.cc/3DvJDCz>

  
**Children's  
Disaster Services**  
*A Church of the Brethren  
Disaster Ministry*  
**ROARING SPRING,  
PA**  
**Children's Disaster  
Services Volunteer  
Workshop**  
**November 5 & 6, 2021**  
**Friday 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM**  
**Saturday**  
**at**  
**Roaring Spring First Church of the  
Brethren**



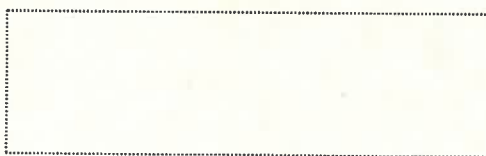
What: Gospel concert presented by local performers  
When: Sunday, November 14, 2021  
Time: 3:00 PM  
Where: Myerstown Church of the Brethren

**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**

David Vasquez, **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](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 January/February  
issue of ANE Today is December 6.  
[kbernstein@ane-cob.org](mailto:kbernstein@ane-cob.org).



**AtlanticNortheastDistrict**

**Atlantic Northeast District Church of  
the Brethren**