



A Note for You...

Calling

"I urge you to a life worthy of the calling you have received." *Ephesians 4:1 (NIV)*

You have a calling. We all do. In my role as Director of Church Development, I hope and pray that your call will be to start a new church (also known as - plant a new church). However, God doesn't just call those who have the gifts to be church planters. The overwhelming message of scripture is that God calls every person to a specific purpose and mission.

Church Planters, you have to know your *calling*. Vocation comes from the Latin word for voice and means "what God has called you to do." Jesus knew his calling. He said in John 8:14, "*I know where I came from and where I am going*" (NIV). Jesus understood his unique purpose—and he lived for it.

Your life is driven by something. All of our lives are driven by something. Sometimes they're driven by regret or anger, sometimes they're driven by shame. God wants your calling to drive your life. You may think you settled your calling years ago, yet, you may still be wrestling with the idea of calling to start a new church.

So, my Sisters and Brothers -- have a little talk with Jesus and tell him all about, and maybe the Call to Plant a Church might manifest itself.

Do you possess the following?

- Visioning Capacity
- Personal Motivation
- Creating Ownership of Ministry/
Building a Core Team
- Reaching the Un-Churched
- Spousal cooperation
- Relationship Building
- Responsiveness to community
- Exercising Faith
- Gift utilization
- Flexibility and adaptability
- Building Group Cohesiveness
- Entrepreneurial spirit

Think about and pray through the aforementioned and it just might lead your specific calling to Start or Plant a Church. God doesn't give you a calling you'll find miserable. If he has called you to start a new church, you'll enjoy it and be good at it.



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I encourage you to ask yourself everyday:

Am I doing what I'm called to do?



Don Mitchell
Director, Church Development



ANE DISTRICT CONFERENCE • OCTOBER 7 & 8, 2022



John Hostetter
Moderator

The church has a powerful gift to offer to sisters and brothers in Christ. As this gift takes root in our life together as bodies of believers, through ministry and mission, we are able to offer this gift to communities around the world. The

gift I'm referring to is how the gospel empowers people to rewrite the story of their life. This isn't just a pious platitude. The New Testament writers speak of the power exhibited in the resurrection as the same power at work in our lives and churches (Ephesians 1:19-20).

Often, the script of people's lives are being written by the negative messages they've received. Inherent in the gospel is the power to change the script of our lives. No longer is my story being written by the voices of the world, but by Jesus. The church gathers regularly to study, pray and discern how to live the new script as a follower of Jesus. What a mission the church has...to free people from the old, enslaving scripts to empower them to live God's script.

Having said that as a backdrop, let me introduce the logo. We know it is easy to drive by a pleasant sight of nature, see it, but not take it in so that our emotions are impacted. The logo is designed with the intention of getting us to stop and take it in. The design includes a traditional image with flames bursting forth from a church. This represents that the church is ignited by the power of the spirit to be Christ church to radiate God's love. But then, there is the "C" clamp. Not something we would normally see in a logo. This represents the pressures that seek to write an alternative story of the church.

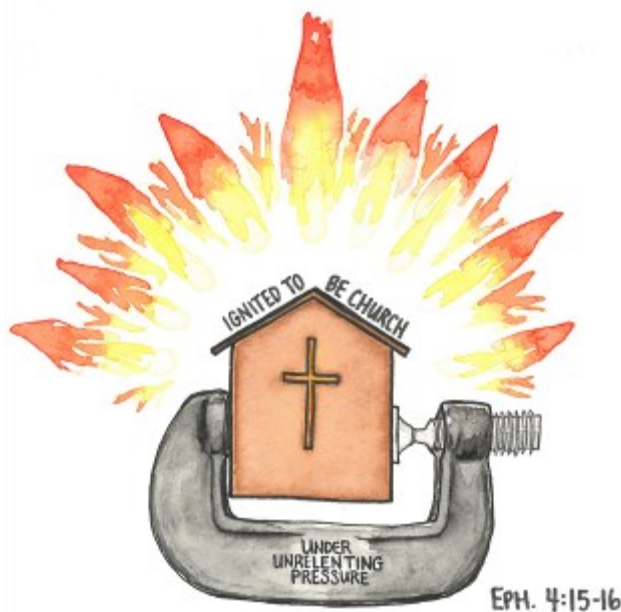
The design is intended to show the possibility of a church whose story is being written by Jesus. But secondly it is intended to get us to pause and ask, what truly is writing the

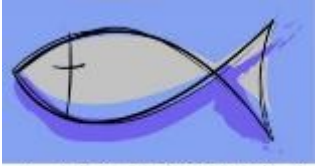
story of our lives and our church's life? Is it Jesus, or is it the ways of the world?

I wonder if the angry approaches over social agendas, the political discords, the general rudeness and disrespect shown to those who see things differently is creeping into our churches and affecting the story of our churches. The intent of this logo is to be hopeful. Even though there is unrelenting pressure to be formed by cultural attitudes, the church has been ignited by the Spirit to have a different story. What a story the church can write. Through our ministries and mission endeavors, we have the opportunity to help communities subjected to violence, divisiveness and disruption to rewrite their stories. The flames of the good news of the gospel rewrites stories.

I am deeply grateful to Amber Huffman of the Mt Wilson Church of the Brethren, who took my rambling explanations of the theme and designed such a creative logo for the theme. Her creative thoughts and artwork is truly a gift and we have been blessed.

It is my prayer, as we see this logo at District Conference, that it will keep this question before us. What is writing the story of this year's District Conference? Is it a church ignited by the Spirit and power of the resurrected Lord, or the cultural patterns of our day? Let us pray together for a story that is written by the Spirit.





MINISTRY

Licensings, Ordinations, and Installations

Natasha McKinney's

(Mount Wilson) licensing service was on February 20 and performed by Pete Kontra.

Betzaida Droz's (Nuevo Amanacer)

installation service was on March 20 and performed by Pete Kontra.



Carolina Izquierdo's (Un Nuevo Renacer) ordination service was on April 10 and Pete Kontra performed the service.

District-Wide 55+ Older Adult Spring Luncheon

Let's Celebrate! It's time for fellowship, food, and fun!!

May 11, 2022 --- 12:00 p.m.
Yoder's Restaurant, New Holland, PA

\$22.00 per person

Registration Deadline is May 4

Menu:

Broasted Chicken OR Ham loaf

Gourmet Red Mashed potatoes, Green Beans and Baby Carrots, Tossed Salad, Dressings, and Rolls, Butter, Jelly, Hot and Cold Beverages, Vanilla or Chocolate Ice Cream
Vegetarian Lasagna is also available.

Entertainment

Terry Gehman

Terry Gehman is a local musician with over 30 years of experience all kinds of music. As a first-class keyboardist, he skillfully combines hundreds of keyboard sounds, base/drum tracks, with a digital vocal harmonizer to create music which reflects his interest gospel, country, folk, and pop music. He has played at special events all over central PA, including Luther Acres, Willow Valley, and other retirement communities.



Placement News

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

Coventry: Searching for an Associate Pastor.

Green Tree: Interviewing. Kim Ream serves as Interim.

Lititz: Discerning Interim Pastor options.

Mechanic Grove: Beginning search process. Bob Kettering serves as Interim.

Mohler: Carl Brubaker retiring 9/30/22

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

Pottstown: Searching. Dawn Lare serves as Interim.

Wilmington: Search Committee formed.

Lenten Bible Study Update

For seven weeks, a group of about 15 people from across our district have been engaged in a meaningful Bible Study centered on the life and teachings of Christ. We have taken a deep-dive exploring who Jesus is and what Jesus has taught us to do as his followers. Our discussions have been thought-provoking, authentic, and lively and it has been good to be together on Zoom!





FREE DEVICES

The Atlantic Northeast District has received a generous technology donation from Greg Holsinger, former CEO of U-GRO Learning Centres and former member of Palmyra COB. As a result, we are sharing those devices with our churches!

Devices are available for pick up at the District Office.
Monday-Thursday, 8am-4pm
500 E Cedar St, Elizabethtown, PA 17022

Two devices per congregation. First come, first serve.
All devices have been restored to factory settings. Tech support for the devices is the responsibility of the recipient.





ANE District Board Meeting Update

The Atlantic Northeast District Board had a hybrid meeting on Tuesday, March 22. Some members met at the Lebanon Church of the Brethren, while others joined the meeting online. Among many items of discussion, action and reporting, a few highlights from the March 22 meeting are shared below.

Belita Mitchell, chair of the Way Forward Shepherding Team, reported on the continued work of the Team. The Way Forward Shepherding Team meets bimonthly. The completed Way Forward video, including Spanish translation, is now available on the District website (www.ane-cob.org).

The Board processed approvals for three ordination candidates. Each candidate came recommended by the District Ministry Commission.

The Board recommended the disorganization of 4 churches to this year's District Conference. The disorganization of Chiques Church of the Brethren, Haitian First Church of the Brethren, Middle Creek Church of the Brethren, and White Oak Church of the Brethren will be presented to the Conference delegates for action.

Each District Commission had the opportunity to share of its work to the larger Board. The Nurture Commission has led a District-wide Bible Study during Lent. Witness and Outreach Commission promoted its upcoming event *The Church: Alive to Thrive* on May 14.

The Board's next meeting is Tuesday, June 21, 2022.



- May 1:** Northern Plains District and DE Timothy Button-Harrison
May 8: Please be in prayer for our ANE District 55+ Older Adult Ministry as the older adults from our various ANE churches gather for a meal and fellowship on Wednesday, May 11 and as efforts are being made to identify a vision for our 55+ Older Adult ministry.
- May 15:** Please be in prayer for ANE District youth ministry as our youth from our ANE churches have been encouraged to gather on May 22 at Lititz COB for an afternoon of games and fellowship.
- May 22:** Northern Ohio District and DE Kris Hawk
May 29: Please be in prayer for the work of Brethren Disaster Ministries and our ANE District disaster response efforts. The BDM work site is moving to Waverly TN. This will require a longer time of travel for our ANE District Disaster Response groups.
- June 5:** Southern Ohio & Kentucky District and Interim DE Nick Beam
June 12: ANE District Board as they prepare for their June meeting
June 19: Pacific Northwest District and DE Team: Glenn Brumbaugh, Carol Mason Lee-Lani Wright
June 26: Annual Conference Preparations



9 + CLOUD TOURNAMENT

All youth in grades 6 to 12 are invited to participate in an afternoon of fellowship and fun!

Youth leaders hoping to bring youth should contact Linda Byers by email to lancob.youth@comcast.net or by text or call to 717-205-3846. We would like a base count of groups who are interested in attending prior to registration.

PLEASE REGISTER THE YOUTH WHO WILL ATTEND BY MONDAY MAY 16

The \$5 Registration fee is requested for all youth in attendance to cover the cost of pizza and other refreshments.

More info and to register: www.ane-cob.org

CALLING ALL ADVENTURE SEEKERS!

CHALLENGE COURSE INSTRUCTOR TRAINING

MAY 13-15, 2022



Do you love being outdoors? And enjoy conquering obstacles and helping others do the same? Become a volunteer Challenge Course Instructor! Join us for a weekend of adventure games, leadership training, knot tying, belaying and more!

Details & RSVP: www.campswatara.org



Women's Fellowship

Women's Camp 2022

Please mark your calendar for Women's Camp this year.

We will be gathering on Friday, August 19 through Saturday, August 20, 2022.

Our Speaker is Jeanne Davies, Executive Director of the Anabaptist Disabilities Network. We will meet Friday afternoon through Saturday evening. We are planning a Campfire for Friday evening, and on Saturday various crafts, a Bible Study in English and Spanish, Hiking, Swimming and other activities. Please Save the Date! More information will be forthcoming in the next several months. We hope to see you there!!!

-ANE District Women's Cabinet and Fellowship

FAMILY FRIENDLY

OPEN HOUSE!

CAMP SWATARA
June 4, 2022
Saturday
2-5pm

Info & RSVP:
www.campswatara.org



THE CHURCH

**Alive
to
Thrive**



Saturday, May 14 2022

Sábado 14 de mayo, 2022

9:00am—3:00pm

Ephrata Church of the Brethren
La Iglesia de los Hermanos de Ephrata
201 Crescent Avenue
Ephrata, PA 17522

Se proveerá Traducción

The Church: Alive to Thrive

Gathering from different areas within ANE District, representing ethnically and culturally diverse congregations, we will worship, fellowship, and share testimonies about The Church: Alive To Thrive.

Join us in this inspirational time of connection and relationship building with the expectation to learn and return to your own congregation with renewed excitement about how God is working among us!

What is keeping your church alive?

How does your church thrive?

How does your church call out the gifts of persons in your midst?

How are leaders called out within your church?

In our morning session, we will hear encouraging testimonies shared by representatives from a variety of ANE churches who will answer the question:

What is keeping you and your church alive and thriving?

In an afternoon breakout session, all participants will be invited to share their own stories of being alive and thriving in their faith journeys.

Music Provided by

- ANE District Praise Team
led by Janet and David Myers
- Brooklyn First•Germantown
- Harrisburg First•Nuevo Amanecer

\$10 per person.

Children 5th grade and under are free.

Lunch will be provided for all in attendance. Child Care will be provided for children up to 5th grade.

REGISTER ONLINE:

www.ane-cob.org under Registration



**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
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



AtlanticNortheastDistrict



**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 20.

kbernstein@ane-cob.org.

ANE TODAY Goes Completely Online

2022 will be the last year the District's ANE Today publication is offered in a paper format.

For those who receive a paper edition, in order to continue to receive the ANE Today, contact the office with your email to be placed on the mailing list. Another option to keep in touch is to follow us on Facebook. The newsletter is also available on our website under Communications.

If you have any questions, please reach out at 717.367.4730