

ANE Today



ATLANTIC NORTHEAST DISTRICT CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

Volume 51 Issue 6

November/December 2020

ANE DISTRICT CONFERENCE

District Conference 2020 marked a historical moment for ANE. Over 140 gathered online on October 2 for our Worship Service that was Livestreamed from the District Office through Microsoft Teams. This platform enabled our brothers and sisters get real time closed captioning in English, Spanish, Arabic and Korean.

Karen Hackett, Moderator, prepared the service which included music from Ryan Arndt from West Green Tree CoB. Harrisburg First's Praise Band, led by Josiah Ludwick brought the eclectic sounds of their congregation supplying us with a twist to some traditional songs as well as a Spanish piece. We thank them for their time and effort to make the service meaningful and personal.

Those attending also learned of the District's Service Project – bcmPEACE. It is a nonprofit organization that serves the South Allison Hill Community of Harrisburg, and founded by Harrisburg First CoB. Between online and mailed in donations, the District was able to give bcmPEACE \$1,261. Thank you for your generous gifts.



Eric Landram, Pastor at Lititz COB, provided a message based on Psalm



46, encouraging us to Be still, let go and know God. He challenged us to embrace the Way Forward initiative presented by the District Board, to listen to each other, and to be honest about what is happening within our District and Denomination. He also encouraged us to remember for a people living in troubled times that God is our safe place. He is where our power and hope come from.

District Executive, Pete Kontra celebrated our ministers during a time of Ministry Recognition. George Snavelly of the Elizabethtown congregation was honored for his 50 years in Ministry.

The 2020 District Conference business session on Saturday, October 3 was also held online and livestreamed through Microsoft Teams. Over 150 people attended which included both Delegates and Non-Delegates. Brothers and Sisters gathered for 4 + hours to worship and do important District business. The event included both live and pre-recorded information.

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Karen Hackett-Moderator, Scott Moyer-Moderator Elect, Brian Berkey – Parliamentarian, Pete Kontra- District Executive and Jeff Glisson- Board Chair provided a core leadership group stationed at the District Office.

Sue Eikenberry, Way Forward Team Chair, provided a meaningful time together, leading all who attended in a Prayer, Blessing & Release of those congregations that have withdrawn from the Church of the Brethren. This was an initial step in the Way Forward Report shared at Conference. A Way Forward Implementation Team has been established to work with the recommendations and the ANE Board.

The business items were voted upon and all passed. The rest of the morning was filled with live and pre-recorded reports as well as special moments to reflect and worship. Harrisburg First's Praise Band again provided an eclectic time of worship, this time including a couple of South African songs. Ann Bach, Randy & Audrey Estep provided a video with the "Be Still" song with gorgeous photos of nature that Randy & Audrey took. We also were treated by Laura Meiser who sang and played "New Wine".

Question and answer time was given which was via a chat feature, as well as an option of phoning in a question. For Delegates, real time online voting was provided- a first for the District.

All-in-all it was a good event. Was it the best way to gather? It was for 2020. We had our share of technical difficulties, but the goal of providing Conference in the most affordable, efficient and meaningful way was achieved. We look forward to hosting the next District Conference on October 1 & 2, 2021—however that might look like.

The Program & Arrangements Committee meet in November to start to plan for next year.

Greetings Brothers and Sisters of the Atlantic Northeast District, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for attending our District Conference Worship Service on Friday evening, October 2nd and our District Conference Business Session on Saturday morning, October 3rd. I am grateful for the opportunity to have served in this position over the past year. Thank you for your encouragement, support and your prayers. During these unprecedented times, as the Psalmist shared with us in Psalm 46: 10 - "Be Still and Know that I am God." May God continue to bless each of you.

~Karen L. Hackett, 2020 District Moderator



Karen Hackett, 2020 Moderator

The 2021 Slate was approved. The candidates that will serve you over the next 1-3 years include the following:

Moderator Elect: John Hostetter (Lampeter)

Program & Arrangements: Carollina Izquierdo (Un Nuevo Renacer)

Standing Committee: David Stauffer (East Fairview)

Alternate Standing Committee: Kim Ream (Ephrata)

District Board Vice Chair: Sandy Miller (Ambler)

Church Development & Evangelism Commission: Andy Hamilton (Stevens Hill)
Scott Haldeman (New Beginnings)

Ministry Commission: Liz Bidgood Enders (Ridgeway), Marvin Foster (Lebanon)

Nurture Commission: Pat Leiter (Elizabethtown)

Stewardship Commission: Todd Stoltzfus (East Fairview), Brian Rice (Lititz)

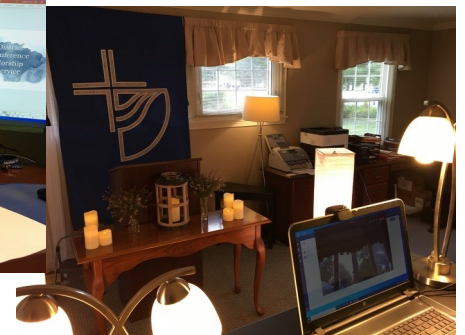
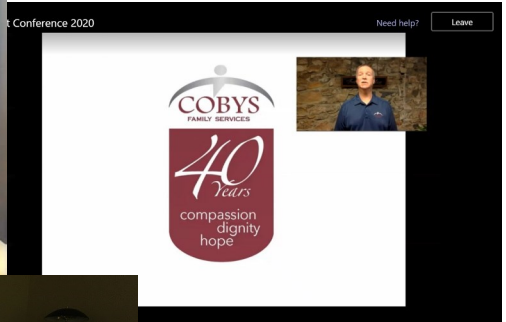
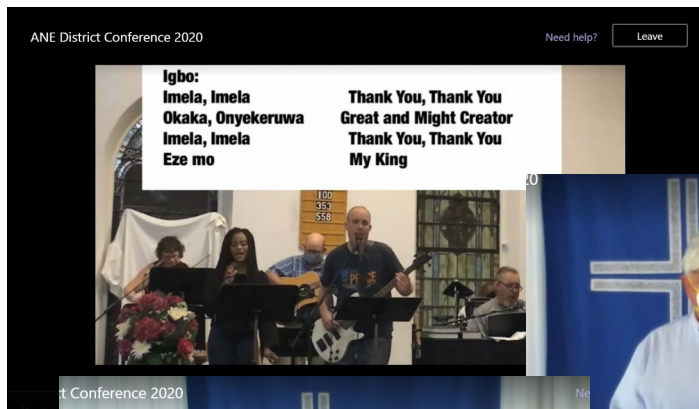
Witness & Outreach Commission: Deb Krantz (Mechanic Grove)

Gifts Discernment Team: Sam Frankhouser (Ephrata), Janice Haldeman (Hempfield), Nancy Beck (Green Tree), Ron Finney (Spring Creek)

Camp Swatara: Michael Shearer (Annville), Mike Myers (Lampeter), Jason Haldeman (Elizabethtown)



District Conference in Snapshots



Many thanks to Moderator Karen Hackett and to all who participated in the virtual Conference.



MINISTRY

Licensings, Ordinations, and Installations

Bill Wink (Richland) was ordained and installed on August 23 as Pastor. Pete Kontra, District Executive, performed the service.

Craig Luckenbill (Little Swatara) was licensed on August 30. Pete Kontra, District Executive performed the service.

Rose Baer (Elizabethtown) was ordained on September 27. Kay Weaver, Stewardship Commission Director performed the service.



Amy Messler's (Providence) ordination service and installation as Associate Pastor was on October 18. Pete Kontra, District Executive, performed the service.

Placement News

Brooklyn First: Jonathan Bream resigned effective November 10, 2020

East Fairview: Called Ryan Clift as Pastor starting January 2021

Geiger Memorial: Open

Lebanon: Erv Huston serves as Interim. Search Committee formed.

Lititz: Searching for Director of Youth Ministries

Mountville: Joe Detrick serves as Interim. Search Committee formed.

Mount Wilson: Called John Hostetter to serve as PT Pastor, starting October 11.

Myerstown: Dennis Garrison serves as Interim.

Paxton: Called Janet Myers as PT Pastor, starting October 26.

Providence: Called Amy Messler as Associate Pastor.

Schuylkill: Search Committee forming.

Wilmington: Developing Interim options.

In Memoriam:

Robert Heffley, retired ordained minister at Hempfield Church of the Brethren passed away on Wednesday, September 2, 2020.

Bob was an active member of the Hempfield Church of the Brethren in Manheim where he sang in the choir and was a Sunday school teacher. He was licensed to the ministry in 1961 and ordained in 1965 at the Mohler Church of the Brethren in Ephrata where he served in the free ministry. He later was a member of the former Salunga Church of the Brethren where he served as moderator. Bob also served as an evangelist in various churches.



Donna L. Lefever-Hoover, ordained minister, passed away Wednesday, October 7, 2020. Donna retired as a teacher for the Lancaster and Lebanon IU13 after 36 years. She was an active member of Annville Church of the Brethren where she was an administrative assistant. Donna served as the Volunteer Interim Nurture Commission Director and on the board for the Atlantic Northeast District and served as part of the ACTs Ministry Formation Team. She also worked as an interim pastor for Mt. Wilson Church of the Brethren.





Global Leadership Network

The annual **GLOBAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT** for church leaders looked a little different this year. A

number of our ANE pastors and church leaders gathered on August 6 and 7 virtually by their computers to be a part of the major annual learning and training event. Those in attendance spent two days hearing from well known church leaders like Craig Groeschel, founder and senior pastor of Life Church, and best-selling author, T.D. Jakes.

Other speakers included Paula Faris, who is a well-known journalist and author, and KAKÁ (speaking in Portuguese!) who is a Brazilian Retired Soccer Phenomenon and FIFA World Player of the Year. A total of 16 different and varied leaders and speakers shared their thoughts and words of encouragement.

A major highlight of this two day event was an interview with President George W. Bush.

Here are some of the comments shared by our ANE church leaders who were a part of this GLS Summit:

Craig Groeschel always seems to hit home with me. Two take-away statements include:

1. I serve a Leader who knows how to lead through the dip.
2. People don't hate change, they hate the way we MAKE the change.

I appreciated the interview with **George Bush** who said, "Have faith that the power of the Gospel will always prevail.

Vanessa Van Edwards talked about good leaders having both warmth and competence. Some people are very human and not very efficient. Some people are very competent but come across as a machine.

T.D. Jakes share these interesting thoughts: Meet in the center of the square - black or white, male or female

1. Build a coalition that you can't control (have a conversation where the AMENs don't come easy).

2. Sit at the table with someone who has a perspective you can't teach. Become a student.
3. Find what connects you rather than what divides you.

Next year, the Global Leadership Summit is scheduled for August 5 and 6, 2021. Mark your calendars for this powerful 2 day opportunity to grow and be encouraged in your life and ministry!

~Mary Etta Reinhart, Interim Director, Nurture Commission

Report From The Way Forward Team

The Way Forward Team was convened by District Executive Minister, Pete Kontra for their initial meeting via Zoom on 9/28/20. Four of the five Called members of the Team present were Enten Eller, Doug Enck, Carolina Izquierdo, and Belita Mitchell. Moderator Karen Hackett was also present. Following a time to get acquainted, the Team learned that the fifth member, Lisa Krieg would be unable to serve as a team member for personal reasons. With discussion of the origins and function of the Team, it was decided that further organization for future work would be deferred until a new Team member was called.

At the second meeting of the Way Forward Team (WFT), Adam Ulm was welcomed as a new Team member; and with a time of discernment and respectful conversation, Belita Mitchell was called to serve as Chair. This process set the tone for the aspirational nature of the Team's work. We also decided our designated name would be "The Way Forward Team". It was agreed that in cooperation with the District Board and staff, this group of devoted servant leaders will work diligently to assist in shepherding the process of living out the recommendations of the Way Forward Report while setting an example for embracing the season of change facing the ANE District and the Church of the Brethren. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve and look forward to how the Lord will move through our work together.

Respectfully Submitted,
Belita D. Mitchell, Chair



Ebenezer Project



CHURCH DEVELOPMENT
& EVANGELISM

When Hospitality and Love are Manifested in the Natural, We can Experience the Goodness of the Kingdom.
A year ago when Ebenezer (Project) was looking for a house that would welcome us, Lampeter Church of the Brethren, through the Pastor at that time, John Hostetter, not only opened

his doors, but also opened his hands and his heart.

This privilege has allowed this seed to be planted and today it is in the process of growth. We are highly grateful to Pastor Christopher Shelly and the leaders of the Lampeter Church, for continuing to support us and allow us to be part of that great family where it is possible to feel the kindness and love of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Eternally grateful,
~Pastors, Eric Ramirez & Leonor Ochoa

Hispanic & Latino Ministries

The First picture shows the promotion of a united service that took place at Alpha and Omega COB, where we got together to glorify God with all our gifts and talents and bless all who were able to join us in person and also through Facebook Live. It was a tremendous blessing!!!

The other two pictures, were taken on our virtual fasting to lift on high this nation and also, to share different points on the topic of "Raising future leaders to continue God's work". The points shared in this meeting were as follows:

- 1- Adopt a search position
- 2- Personal time with brothers and sisters
- 3- Promote trust
- 4- Learn to delegate responsibilities
- 5- Cultivate respect for others leaders

It was indeed a wonderful time as pastors and leaders to have this refreshment in order to expand God's kingdom. To God be all the glory!!!

Sincerely, Mayra Calix





ANE DISASTER RESPONSE UPDATE

Volunteers Welcome & Needed!



The Bad News:

Many people are aware that the work sites for Brethren Disaster Ministries were forced to close due to COVID 19 crisis earlier this year. Many volunteers who had hoped to be able to serve at these work sites were forced to change and cancel their plans to serve in this way.

The Good News:

Brethren Disaster Ministries work sites are now open and ready to receive volunteers. Now that the sites are open again, there is a significant shortage of volunteers to serve at these work sites. Persons in the ANE District who would like to use their gifts to serve at a Brethren Disaster Ministries work site are now being encourage to volunteer.

There are openings for work weeks in the upcoming weeks of 2020. And there are also lots of openings for your church group to volunteer for a week in 2021. Now is the time to begin to schedule those trips.

Jenn Dorsch Messler, Director of Brethren Disaster Ministries, has these words to share for those who may be hesitant to spend a week at a BDM work site during this time of pandemic restrictions:

“We are finding that volunteers who have served on our sites since July are reflecting that they have felt very safe when they have served because everyone has been diligent with following safety precautions. The protocol in place to protect all involved with the site have helped them to be more at ease even if they were anxious in advance. We thank those who have served and worked so hard to keep our sites as safe as possible but also honor those who are concerned about health issues and are not able to travel right now. We are also open to answering any questions that volunteers may have.”

Jenn has also shared these helpful scheduling details for those interested in volunteering:

2020 Schedule:

As we look at the end of 2020, we are currently now back to running two rebuilding sites that are hosting overnight volunteers. One site is in Dayton, Ohio, continuing with the tornado recovery. The newly opened site is the Coastal NC project in Pamlico County, N.C., completing Hurricane Florence recovery. Both sites are planned to stay open through the end of 2020, as the COVID-19 environment allows, and are still welcoming volunteers.

Here are the dates that remain open in 2020. All at the new Coastal NC Site:

Nov 15-21, 2020
Nov 29- Dec 5, 2020
Dec 6-12, 2020

2021 Schedule:

Primarily due to the lower numbers of weekly volunteers and leaders comfortable going out right now, we will only be able to sustain one rebuilding site for the beginning of 2021. After weighing many dynamics on both sites, the only option for serving on a BDM national site for January, February, and March 2021 will be at the Coastal NC site.

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The national BDM Dayton, Ohio, site will be paused during those three months though there are local BDM volunteers and other local groups who plan to continue to work as the weather allows. In April we will plan to close the Coastal NC site and resume the national site in Dayton with the expectation for the work there to continue at least through the end of 2021.

This is a new world we are navigating to balance the concern of serving and our call to help those in need. We thank those who have served and worked so hard to keep our sites as safe as possible and honor those who are concerned about health issues and are not able to travel right now. We are blessed by all the prayers and support you have shared and thank you for your continued support.

For those with questions about scheduling a week to serve with Brethren Disaster Ministries, please contact Bob Eisemann, ANE District Disaster Coordinator, by phone at 717-733-7413 or email at rqeisemann@gmail.com

Travel costs for ANE congregations who travel to BDM work sites under the coordination of our District Disaster Coordinator, Robert Eisemann, may be reimbursed by funds from the Brethren Disaster Relief Auction and the ANE District Helping Hands Benevolence Fund. For more information you may contact Robert Eisemann by phone at 717-733-7413 or email at rqeisemann@gmail.com or Mary Etta Reinhart, ANE District Director of Witness and Outreach, by phone at 717-808-4306 or email at mreinhart@ane-cob.org.

Ezer Warriors!

The ANE District hosted a luncheon gathering of some of our ANE District licensed and ordained women in ministry on Tuesday, August 18. The women gathered at noon via ZOOM for a time of virtual lunch (bring your own!), fellowship and sharing. Those in attendance heard Susan Eikenberry share some of her thoughts about the Hebrew word “ezer” that we see in Genesis 2:18. God told Adam that he needed a helper – an “ezer” - because it was not good for man to be alone. Sue reminded us that the Hebrew word, “ezer” almost always refers to God as the “ezer” – mighty help, shield and deliverer in the Old Testament.

After Sue shared her thoughts, other participants shared some of their personal experiences in ministry and also took some time to offer words of wisdom for those who are just starting their journey in ministry.

This was a meaningful opportunity for our ANE licensed and ordained women in ministry to gather and offer encouragement and words of wisdom to others involved in similar roles. Another gathering for our ANE District Women in Ministry is being planned for later this year. Keep your eyes open for the date and details for the next opportunity to experience meaningful insights and encouragement from our sisters in Christ.

The next ANE Clergy Women Gathering is scheduled for November 10 with Nancy Hess sharing on Romans 15. Contact Kay Weaver (kweaver@ane-cob.org) or Mary Etta Reinhart (mreinhart@ane-cob.org) for more information.



Myerstown CoB Annual Holiday Bazaar



Saturday, November 21, 2020
8 AM – 1 PM
Myerstown Church of the Brethren
51 W Stoever Ave
Myerstown PA 17067

There will be crafts, vendors, LOTS of white elephant items, plants, homemade baked goods, candy, subs, homemade cold soups to go, our always popular apple dumplings and pumpkin rolls and much more!

Serving egg sandwiches for breakfast, and soup, subs, hot dogs, and bar-b-que for lunch.

For more details or questions, call the church office at 717-866-5517.

FACILITY IS HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE



Coffee with ANE

The first District-wide Zoom Gathering

Saturday, December 5, 2020
9:30-11:00a

We have heard your need to gather together, face to face, on a larger scale based on responses from the District Conference Evaluations.

Please join us on December 5 to gather together for connection and conversation with your brothers and sisters!

Grab your coffee, tea or even your breakfast and come mingle with your fellow Brethren and District Leaders.

OUTREACH Update: Nuevo Amanecer Church of the Brethren

On Sunday Sept 6th our mission and evangelistic department organized an outreach service in our parking lot, where we invited all of the community to share the gospel with us, all while maintaining social distancing protocols.

We distributed over 60 bags of groceries, light snacks for the children, slightly worn and new clothing as well as footwear. We also distributed tracts and Bibles. Worship & prayer was led by Pastor Otilio, which lead two people to Christ and one who reconciled!

It was a victorious day-
Glory be to God!

~Angel Gonzalez





Being the Salt & Light

ANE District
Urban Ministries Initiative
Virtual Gathering
Saturday morning November 7, 2020
9 AM to 12:30 pm

Distrito ANE
Iniciativa de Ministerios Urbanos
Reunión Virtual
Sabado por la Mañana, Noviembre 7, 2020
9 AM to 12:30 pm

“Being Salt and Light for the healing of our communities” Matthew 5:13-16

“Ser Sal y Luz para la sanación de nuestras comunidades” Mateo 5: 13-16

We are being challenged by brokenness and separation on various levels in society and within the Body of Christ. Using a scriptural approach, this time of worship and fellowship will assist participants in uncovering ways to nurture hope and healing during these difficult days.

Estamos siendo desafiados por el quebrantamiento y la separación en varios niveles en la sociedad y dentro del Cuerpo de Cristo. Usando un enfoque bíblico, este tiempo de adoración y comunión ayudará a los participantes a descubrir formas de nutrir la Esperanza y la Sanidad durante estos días difíciles.

Special Speaker: Leonor Ochoa

Discussion Panelists: Belita Mitchell, Josiah Ludwick, Gabriella Rodriguez and Eddie Quijano

Music: Brooklyn First, Un Nuevo Renacer, Ebenezer, Germantown



Moving Forward with Video Streaming

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

Every Second Thursday of each Month

Basic Session 7 pm
 Advanced Session 8 pm

Many of our ANE congregations have been learning new ways to do worship by using a variety of online worship software or platforms. These same churches are experiencing challenges in finding and knowing the right equipment and techniques to create a meaningful and effective worship experience online.



The ANE District is offering a monthly video conference gathering for those working with technical aspects of online worship in our congregations.

- At 7 pm we offer an opportunity to gather for an online discussion to those who are hoping to learn more about where to start, and the basic equipment and techniques needed to stream worship services online. **Don't know where to start? Need to know what to buy? This session is for you!**
- At 8 pm we move beyond the basics for a more detailed discussion for those who may have some experience in video streaming and have specific technical questions. (Continued on next page)



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These online gatherings are led by ANE's own tech experts:

Doug Hallman is the lead tech at Lampeter Church of the Brethren, whose day job has him traveling the world as a video systems designer and integrator for different touring productions such as Bon Jovi, Nickelback and TSO.

Enten Eller is a tri-vocational minister serving the Ambler Church of the Brethren (ANE) as well as the denomination's only completely online congregation, Living Stream Church of the Brethren (PNWD).

Mark Myers recently joined the team. Mark is currently doing the live streaming at Little Swatara Church of the Brethren. Mark is Director and Owner of SR Film & Video Productions

Our goal as a tech community is to help equip our ANE congregations with the knowledge needed to help start, or to advance, their online presence. These gatherings are open to all those who are interested in learning more about the technical, and practical aspects of offering online worship at your church. Please consider joining us each month for one or both of these online discussions as an ongoing monthly basis. Bring your questions, big or small, general or specific!



November 1: The Urban Ministries Initiative as they plan their 'Being the Salt & Light' event.

November 8: The Way Forward Team as they prepare for the District Board retreat.

November 15: Strength and Wisdom for Pastors

November 22: Brethren Disaster Ministries as they search for able bodied volunteers to fill their work weeks.

November 29: Pray for unity among us.

December 6: Pray for denominational Leaders

December 13: All ANE Ministers that have renewed their ordinations or licensing.

December 20: The Program & Arrangements Committee and Gifts Discernment Team as they begin to plan for 2021 District Conference and fill open District Positions.

December 27: District Executive, Pete Kontra, in his work and ministry throughout the District.

For more information to join in these roundtable discussions go to www.ane-cob.org and ANE Virtual Church & Streaming Roundtable Facebook page. Information can also be found in *The Parking Lot*.

Youth Update



Visit our website to watch the video update of the District Youth activity shared at District Conference!

Please contact Linda Dows-Byers with questions:
lancob.youth@comcast.net

**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**

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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 January/February issue of ANE Today is December 7.
kbernstein@ane-cob.org.

Happy Thanksgiving

