

The Newsletter of the Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren  
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## CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN ANNUAL CONFERENCE SUMMARY

### Compelling Vision

The 2017 Annual Conference set the church to the task of framing a “compelling vision” for how the entire denomination will continue the work of Jesus together, by adopting a recommendation from the Leadership Team and the Council of District Executives.

Since then, a Compelling Vision Working Group was formed, and then a Compelling Vision Process Team was named to plan and implement the process the denomination will go through in order to discern a compelling vision.

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3. Church of the Brethren Annual Conference Summary (Cont.)

Pastor's Message

4. Summer at Camp Koinonia

National Youth Conference

Chili Cookoff & BBQ  
Sad to say...

5-6. Calendar

1)

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

The New Olympian  
Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren  
425 NE 95th Street  
Seattle WA 98115

The visioning process the group has designed started at this year's Annual Conference, involving both the delegates and the non-delegates who were present during two sections of the business sessions this week. The process will continue denomination-wide through the 2019 Annual Conference, with events in districts, input from boards and staff of agencies, and conversation with youth at National Youth Conference, among others.

The recommendation to move forward with the described process was adopted by the delegate body this week, including a recommendation to set aside new business items at the 2019 Annual Conference.

The recommendation is that new business be set aside so that next year's Conference may devote most of its time to the Compelling Vision Process. This required a two-thirds majority vote as a major departure from practice, and the "yes" votes came to more than 80 percent.

As the report states, the Compelling Vision Process "is intended to move us beyond our conversations, debates, and official statements into the experience of vision and purpose as we proclaim and serve Christ together." The report also states, "While we cannot anticipate how God will work through a body of believers seeking God's vision, we can answer that such a vision can only be anchored in Jesus Christ." A guiding statement for the process invites, "Join us in reclaiming a new passion for Christ and helping set a course for our future as the Church of the Brethren serving Him in our communities and in the world!"

## 2) Delegates affirm the ecumenical and interfaith work of the church

The 2018 Conference approved "Vision of Ecumenism for the 21st Century," and in doing so reaffirmed the historical identity of the Church of the Brethren as a denomination active in ecumenical work and in relationship with other Christian bodies. The paper also

calls the church to build and nurture positive interfaith relationships.

"In doing so, we strengthen a history of service and missions, disaster response and relief ministries, and peace witness--nationally and globally," the statement said. "These relationships further our understanding of opportunities for mission and ministry, and they instill a cooperative readiness to act upon needs and areas of common concern when they arise."

"Brethren in the US need to take up the task of loving our neighbors whatever religion they hold," chair Tim Speicher said as he introduced the paper, citing Ephesians 4:4-6 and other scriptures. This message about Christian responsibility to love was strengthened by Elizabeth Bidgood-Enders, another member of the committee, who told the Conference, "We are called to love God and love our neighbors without qualifiers as to who those neighbors are."

In addition to guidance, scripture, and historical foundations, the paper offers ideas for commitments and activities to help the Church of the Brethren at all levels--individual, congregational, district, and denominational--extend love, caring, and service to neighbors of varying backgrounds and beliefs.

## 3. 'Creation Care: Faith into Action' recommendations are adopted

In 2016, a Creation Care study committee was authorized in response to a query on continuing the study of our Christian responsibility to care for God's creation. Their report, titled "Creation Care: Faith into Action," includes a list of recommendations that have been adopted by the 2018 Annual Conference.

Committee chair Sharon Yohn shared the process the committee used and the rationale for the recommendations, stating that care for our brothers and sisters is part of our calling in Christ. She noted that climate change has the potential to cause great harm to

people both in our country and around the world. Reducing fossil fuel use may help avoid that harm. Pollution is a more immediate harm that also can be reduced.

The committee did three things. They pulled together many helpful resources on energy use and conversion to other types of energy that are posted on the Church of the Brethren website at [www.brethren.org/creationcare](http://www.brethren.org/creationcare). They developed a new Brethren Creation Care Network, a team of volunteers who will be coordinated by the Office of Public Witness. And they developed a list of recommendations for moving from fossil fuel to renewable energy, with recommendations for all levels of the church--denomination, districts, congregations, and individuals. After a time of additional comment from the microphones, the recommendations were adopted as revised.

## 4) Conference adopts new vision for a global Church of the Brethren

Annual Conference on July 7 adopted the paper, "Vision for a Global Church of the Brethren." Impetus came from a disconnect between polity and practice said Jay Wittmeyer, executive director of Global Mission and Service, presenting the paper to the delegates. A mandate for a global church is present in previous Annual Conference statements, but those call for international districts rather than the independent Church of the Brethren denominations that have developed over recent decades.

Currently, Church of the Brethren denominations are established--or are in process of forming--in the US, India, Nigeria, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Spain, the Great Lakes region of Africa (Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, and Burundi), and Venezuela.

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The new vision is for a global Church of the Brethren that brings together these denominations “as a union of autonomous bodies, a spiritual community bound together by a common passion to be followers of Christ, a common New Testament theology of peace and service, and a common commitment to be in relationship with one another.”

Although Conference approval is just a first step toward an informal structure for a global Church of the Brethren, it has potential to significantly change the relationship of the US church to the other Church of the Brethren denominations around the world. If a global Church of the Brethren does result, it may prompt American Brethren to reconsider the place of their own denomination in the world.

#### 5) ‘Vitality and Viability’ report focuses on providing resources for renewed vitality

The report titled “Vitality and Viability” and its recommendations were adopted by the 2018 Annual Conference. The study committee that brought this report was formed

to address concerns raised at the 2015 Annual Conference, which returned a query about district structure but assigned to this committee the broader topic of viability within congregations, districts, and the denomination.

In addressing vitality, the report begins with two confessions. One is that the denomination is “in the midst of significant polarities” concerning human sexuality and differing approaches to scripture. The other confession is that some congregations may leave the denomination because of their deeply held beliefs. The report states that vitality in this context means formation of a gracious and amicable process for congregations to leave the denomination. The report also stated an understanding that the scope and authority of Annual Conference will need to be clarified.

The report suggests engagement in an appreciative visioning process to unite the church around commonly held values, which is the direction being taken by the newly approved Compelling Vision Process. The report contains a number of resources to inspire and guide such a process.

The Vitality and Viability committee recommended “that congregations and districts make use of the report and its resources for a renewal of relationships with our Lord and Savior and with each other.” They also recommended that the report and its resources be referred to the Compelling Vision Working Group for possible use in the visioning process.

#### 6) Changes to the Church of the Brethren bylaws are approved, among other business

Amendments to the bylaws of the Church of the Brethren and two business items originally brought by Brethren Benefit Trust (BBT) in 2017--and then deferred for a year--were approved by the 2018 Annual Conference. Also approved were business items related to the Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee. A proposal for a denominational leadership gathering was turned down.

For more details, go to: <http://www.brethren.org/news/2018/newsline-for-july-14-2018.html>

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

by Pastor Glenn Brumbaugh



As the days of summer begin to wane, we start thinking about returning to our regular routine. Often these days mean a last minute vacation or break before getting back to our fall schedule. In our lives, the end of lazy days of summer symbolizes the end of a more relaxed time in our calendar. Likewise, for our community of faith, we return to a later start time, resume bible study, and start thinking about the Advent season, which slowly approaches. As we get back to our regular routine in our personal lives, let's give some thought as to what that means for our spiritual life, as individuals and a community of faith. For many, that means getting back to church on a regular basis or getting back into bible study. As a communi-

ty, what does getting back to business look like? Are we happy with the normal church “grind,” or maybe it's time for something new and different? What ideas do you have? What would you like to see? So often when we desire change, we look for something different elsewhere to join or emulate instead of actively working to transform our own situation. As we get back to our normal lives and habits in the coming weeks, let's set aside some intentional time to thinking about what we would like our faith community to be, and how we can work towards making that dream a reality.

In Gods hope,

Pastor Glenn



## SUMMER AT CAMP KOINONIA

By Harriet Koscho

The summer church camps for junior and senior high were held at Camp Koinonia August 5-11. They are ecumenical camps between the Pacific Northwest District of the Church of the Brethren and the Northwest District of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). We had over 65 campers and 15 counselors. The theme this year was "Use What Ya Got" which centered on 1 Corinthians 12, which can be encapsulated in this quote:

*"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us." ~ 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 (NLT)*

We played games, sang songs, did funny skits, made crafts, and talked about God, Jesus, and the Bible. We prepared vespers services every night. And we survived the 100 degree heat by swimming, throwing water balloons, and resting in the shade. Camp Koinonia is an amazing place and we love it very much. We really appreciated Free Hinton providing praise music with his band, "Already Free". Thanks also to the people who have contributed to camp scholarships! For some kids the camp experience is truly life-changing. They gain confidence in themselves and their faith journey, while being in a safe space for talking about their greatest challenges and fears.



## NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE

By: Joanna Castano Calderon

Stepping out of your comfort zone, meeting new people, bunking and making new friends from your district, and overall being present in the moment. NYC is a place where I felt safe and ready to encounter God in a large affectionate community. Throughout the one week I stayed at Colorado State University I was exceedingly aware of the moments where the Holy Spirit was fully present. Moments like hiking in Rocky Mountain National Park, morning devotion, learning and loving NYC songs, worship, and hearing a new speaker every day was truly very fruitful – the best. The greatest thing of them all was that all participants and advisors traveled from near and far to come experience what it means to be a community that is bound together in Christ. A special thank you to OVCC. I wouldn't have gone without you, and shout out to the coolest advisors ever Roger Edmark and Bobbi Dykema! I love you National Youth Conference till next time.

**We are Sad to say goodbye to Elderwise and the Gerizim Church. We were blessed by their stay at Olympic View Church, and wish them continued success.**

**And a warm welcome to our new tenant, New Point Church.**



**Olympic View Community Church**  
**invites YOU**  
**To their Community**

**Chili Cookoff**  
**and BBQ**

Games!  
Prizes!

**September 8, 2018**

**Noon - 2:30 pm**

At Olympic View Community Church



# August 2018

Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 Good Samaritan Church 7-8pm	4
5 <i>11th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship Korean Church 1:30-4:30pm Good Samaritan Church 6-8pm	6	7	8	9	10 Good Samaritan Church 7-8pm	11
12 <i>12th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship Korean Church 1:30-4:30pm Good Samaritan Church 6-8pm	13	14	15 5:30 OV Exec. Mtg. 7:00 OV Board	16	17 Good Samaritan Church 7-8pm	18 Movement for Religious Renewal 10:30am
19 <i>13th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship New Point Church 1-3 pm Good Samaritan Church 6-8pm	20	21	22	23	24 Good Samaritan Church 7-8pm	25
26 <i>14th Sunday after Pentecost</i> 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship New Point Church 1-3 pm Good Samaritan Church 6-8pm	27	28	29	30	31 Pastor Glenn Vacation	

## August Outreach



## New Community Project

...promoting peace through justice,  
care for creation, and experiential learning...

...turning the world upside down...Acts 17:6

## August Birthdays!

- |                    |                         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| 4 Patti Berg       | 13 Misghana Andemichael |
| 4 Barbara Ehli     | 18 Elizabeth Russell    |
| 4 Nancy Utter      | 22 John Russell         |
| 5 Stephanie O'Cain | 23 Dan Smith-Derksen    |
| 5 Byron Thill      | 24 Carol Landis         |
| 8 Myrna Latschaw   |                         |


## Upcoming Events

### August

- 15 OV Executive Meeting
- 15 OV Board Meeting

# September 2018

Olympic View Community Church of the Brethren

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
<b>2</b> 15th Sunday after Pentecost 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship New Point Church 1-3 pm Good Samaritan Church 6-8pm	3	4	5	6	<b>7</b> Good Samaritan Church 7-8pm	8
<b>9</b> 16th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Adult Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Fellowship New Point Church 1-3 pm Good Samaritan Church 6-8pm	10	<b>11</b> Alternative Worship - 7 pm	<b>12</b> 5:30 OV Exec. Mtg. 7:00 OV Board	13	<b>14</b> Good Samaritan Church 7-8pm	15
<b>16</b> 17th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Adult Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Fellowship New Point Church 1-3 pm Good Samaritan Church 6-8pm	17	<b>18</b> Alternative Worship - 7 pm	19	20	<b>21</b> Good Samaritan Church 7-8pm	22
<b>23</b> 18th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Adult Sunday School 11:00 Worship 12:00 Fellowship New Point Church 1-3 pm Good Samaritan Church 6-8pm	24	<b>25</b> Alternative Worship - 7 pm	26	27	28	29
<b>30</b> 19th Sunday after Pentecost 9:30 Adult Sunday School 11:00 Worship - 12:00 Fellowship New Point Church 1-3 pm Good Samaritan Church 6-8pm	<b>September Outreach</b>			 <b>CROP HUNGER WALK</b> ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME		

## September Birthdays!

3 Janet Lamont	23 Peggy Cochran
4 Yvonne Vierthaler	26 Mary Kissinger
5 "Frosty" Forrest Wilkinson	29 Ronda Russell
12 Mike O'Cain	30 Samuel Edmark
13 David Horsey	

## Upcoming Events

### September

- 8 BBQ and Chili Cookoff
- 9 Regular Church Hours begin
- 11 Alternative Worship begins
- 12 Exec & Board Meeting
- 21 Northaven Gala
- 21-23 District Conference - Myrtlewood