

‘Compelling vision’ process to be central at Annual Conferences next two years

Annual Conference in 2017 called the Leadership Team

of the denomination, along with the Council of District Executives, to develop a process through which the church will engage in conversations leading to a “compelling vision” for the church’s life together.

A Compelling Vision Working Group has been formed, comprising general secretary David Steele, 2018 Annual Conference moderator Samuel Sarpiya, 2019 moderator Donita Keister, Conference director Chris Douglas, and two district executives chosen by the council, Colleen Michael and John Janzi. The 2020 moderator will join this group following this year’s Annual Conference.

This working group has set in place a process by which the church will be led through a time of envisioning beginning with Annual Conference 2018 and continuing through the 2019 Conference. The process is intended to move beyond conversations, debates, and official statements to living out

the steps that will move the denomination forward “with vision and purpose as we proclaim and serve Christ together.”

A Compelling Vision Process Team of seven individuals from across the denomination, with Sarpiya, Keister, and Douglas, will work during Annual Conference 2018 and 2019 and also alongside district gatherings to engage the church in conversations that will generate themes leading to a vision with a distinctive direction for the Church of the Brethren. During the 2018 Conference, one full business session and a portion of a second will be structured to begin the envisioning process. Following the 2018 Conference, district gatherings will provide input to the development of a denominational vision statement. Annual Conference 2019 will be primarily dedicated, including most of the business sessions, to the development of a compelling vision for the Church of the Brethren.

The Leadership Team and Council of District Executives are encourag-

Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford



ing all congregations “to be present in these conversations bringing your unique contributions and sharing in the hard work of discovering God’s plan for how we will continue to be the body of Christ in this broken world.”

“Confessing Jesus Christ as teacher, redeemer, and Lord, we desire to serve him by proclaiming, professing, and walking in his way together bringing his peace to our broken world. 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!” —GUIDING STATEMENT FROM COMPELLING VISION WORKING GROUP



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Paul Munday and Pam Reist top AC ballot

Topping the ballot for the 2018 Annual Conference

are two nominees for moderator-elect: Paul Munday and Pam Reist. Munday is an ordained minister who is retired from a long-term pastorate at Frederick (Md.) Church of the Brethren, and previously served on the denominational staff in the areas of evangelism and church growth. Reist is an ordained minister and pastor at Elizabethtown (Pa.) Church of the Brethren who has



Paul Munday



Pam Reist



served on the denomination's Mission and Ministry Board, where she was a member of the executive committee.

Following are additional nominees, listed by position:

Annual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee: Emily Shonk Edwards of Nellysford, Va.; Del Keeney of Mechanicsburg, Pa.

Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee: Jeremy Driver of Harrisonburg, Va.; Deb Oskin of Columbus, Ohio.

Mission and Ministry Board, Area 2: LaDonna Sanders Nkosi of Chicago,

Ill.; Paul Schrock of Indianapolis, Ind.
Mission and Ministry Board, Area 3: Sue Ann Overman of Morgantown, W. Va.; Carol Yeazell of Asheville, N.C.

Bethany Seminary board of trustees, representing clergy: Audrey Hollenberg-Duffey of Hagerstown, Md.; Brandy Fix Liepelt of Annville, Pa.

Bethany Seminary board of trustees, representing laity: Ronald D. Flory of Cedar Falls, Iowa; Louis Harrell (incumbent) of Manassas, Va.

Brethren Benefit Trust board of directors: Nancy L. Bowman of Fishersville, Va.; Shelley Kontra of Lancaster, Pa.

On Earth Peace board: Jennifer Keeney Scarr of Trotwood, Ohio; Naomi Sollenberger of New Enterprise, Pa.

For more information about Annual Conference go to www.brethren.org/ac.

Personnel notes

Roxanne Aguirre started Jan. 16 as part-time coordinator of Spanish-language ministry training at the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership, working from her home in California. Aguirre holds a master's degree in marriage and family therapy from Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary and a bachelor's in psychology from California State University Fresno.

Tammy Glenn began March 1 as executive director of finance and administration at Bethany Seminary. As controller, she will oversee financial planning and accounting operations and will manage

seminary investments in consultation with a consultant firm. Additional responsibilities include overseeing human resources, buildings and grounds, and Bethany housing. She will serve as treasurer for the board of trustees, enabling her to act in legal capacities for the seminary. Previously, she has been controller for the city of Richmond, Ind., among other work for area organizations.

John M. Loop began Jan. 8 as CEO of Timbercrest Retirement Community in North Manchester, Ind. He is a former administrator of Asbury Methodist Village in

Gaithersburg, Md., and holds degrees from Ohio State University and Valparaiso University. He succeeds David Lawrenz, who retired after 45 years at Timbercrest.

Amy Gall Ritchie is resigning as director of student development and alumni/ae relations for Bethany Theological Seminary, effective May 15. She has worked there since August 2003. Her work for Bethany has included leading spiritual direction as part of ministry formation, helping with a research project interviewing congregations to better prepare students for ministry, and, in

2016, serving as interim director of admissions and student services. She is a graduate of Bethany and Columbia Theological Seminary.

Beth Sollenberger is serving quarter-time as interim district executive for Michigan District, while she continues as executive for South/Central Indiana District.

Rick Villalobos started Jan. 29 as production coordinator for Brethren Benefit Trust. He holds a bachelor's in communications with a minor in graphic design from DePaul University.