

E-HEADLINER

HELP WANTED - SEEKING SUMMER STAFF AT CAMP BETHEL

To fill the 2021 Summer Staff, Camp Bethel seeks four female Senior Counselors (18+), two male Senior Counselors (18+), one adult Pool Coordinator, and four male Junior Counselors (age 16-17). They also seek Kitchen Staff: two for morning shift and two for evening shift. Please use your connections to help recruit the best and brightest leaders for Camp Bethel's 2021 Summer Staff. Thank you! For more information, go to www.CampBethelVirginia.org/Summer-Staff

CONTRIBUTE TO THE CHURCH WHEN YOU SHOP AMAZON

If you or someone you know shops online with Amazon, Amazon will contribute .5% of your purchase to the Church of the Brethren. There is no cost, simply sign up and Amazon does the rest. .5% is not much, but spread across all of the Amazon shoppers in our denomination, it would certainly add up. Click on "Account" then go to "Your Lists" and finally click "AmazonSmile Charity Lists". From there just follow the prompts and select Church of the Brethren, Elgin, IL. The only thing you need to remember is to shop at "smile.amazon.com" in the future instead of just "amazon.com", but all of your information transfers automatically.

MODERATOR'S TOWN HALL - "WHAT WILL BE THE NEW NORMAL?" - MAY 19, 2021

The next Moderator's Town Hall will be on Wednesday, May 19, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. EDT. The Town Hall will explore what the future might hold in light of the COVID-19 crisis and the possible shape of a "new normal." Topics will include: the current state of the pandemic, when and how congregations can safely resume in-person activity, the importance of hybrid (in-person plus online) approaches to ministry to ensure accessibility for all, navigating ongoing tensions and headlines related to the pandemic, facing into the loss and grief of the COVID-19 crisis, how to support both parishioners and pastors, the future trajectory of the pandemic, and how best to equip ourselves for tomorrow. Mark DeVries and Dr. Kathryn Jacobsen will serve as resource persons.

The link to register is: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_frzinkNiQkKFqEakM0QE_A. Interested persons are encouraged to sign up early, as the event is limited to the first 500 registrants. You can email questions about registering or information for this event to: cobmoderatorstownhall@gmail.com.

DISASTER RESPONSE TRAINING DAY AT CAMP BETHEL - MAY 22, 2021

The Virlina Disaster Response Committee and Camp Bethel are partnering together on construction and repair projects in preparation for the upcoming 2021 summer camps. Many persons in the Virlina District have volunteered with Brethren Disaster Ministries through the Virlina Disaster Response Committee. These volunteers have traveled to areas of the country near and far to assist with disaster recovery projects. Maybe you have wanted to volunteer but have been unable until now.

With so many of the disaster project sites being shut down due to pandemic restrictions, the Disaster Response Committee has joined with Camp Bethel to provide tool-use training, support of new construction, and opportunities for repair work around the camp. You are invited to come to Camp Bethel to be briefly oriented to "a day on a Brethren Disaster Project" and to be involved in construction and repair projects. As with our disaster trips, you are welcome no matter what your skill level might be. There are projects for everyone. Overnight lodging is also an option.

For project information, to register your attendance and to be counted for the free lunch on-site, please go to www.CampBethelVirginia.org/volunteer or contact Eric Anspaugh, Disaster Response Committee Chairperson at

(540) 488-4630 or at eanspaugh@yahoo.com.

LET'S HAVE A CONVERSATION – JUNE 6, 2021

The Race Education Team is inviting persons to a district-wide live zoom meeting. "Let's Have a Conversation" will be held June 6, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. There will be a guest emcee, opening with a fun trivia game, a chance to win a new book, and a virtual place to bring your favorite ice cream as we play games and get to know each other. Afterwards participants will move into the conversation about why we need this team at this point in our life together as a church and with those in our neighborhoods. A registration e-mail will be distributed at some point in May. A flyer concerning this event is found at <https://www.virlina.org/>. Our hope is to have at least one person from every congregation in attendance! We look forward to working together to share God's love, justice, and peace.

CHRISTIAN GROWTH INSTITUTE NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION – JUNE 12, 2021

Feeling a call to ministry? Experiencing spiritual rebirth? Desiring to deepen personal faith? Learn about Christian Growth Institute, the district program that promotes spiritual growth for persons from all educational backgrounds. Classes and workshops are offered throughout the year, and students who enter the program are expected to complete all the offerings in four years. The next new student orientation will be held virtually on June 12 from 9 a.m. until 12 noon. Contact Cathy Huffman at cashuffman@gmail.com for more information and to schedule an in-person meeting at the Virlina District Resource Center prior to June 12.

WORLD HUNGER BIKE RIDE – JUNE 26, 2021

The 32nd Annual World Hunger Bike Ride (The longest running continuously held cycling event in Franklin County) will be held on Saturday, June 26, 2021 from the Antioch Church of the Brethren, 2996 Callaway Road, Rocky Mount. Check in at 8 a.m., rides depart at 8:30 a.m. Ride lengths of 5, 10, 25 or 50 miles in Franklin and Floyd Counties.

The challenging 50-mile ride follows a route with a climb to the Blue Ridge Parkway. Maps and/or cue sheets provided at check-in, rest stops along the route and SAG provided. Registration \$25 per person or raise \$75 in pledges to benefit the World Hunger Fund and entry fee will be waived. Flyer/Registration form at www.worldhungerauction.org

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FROM THE MODERATOR'S Q&A SESSIONS

Paul Munday, 2021 Annual Conference Moderator, along with the Leadership Team of the Church of the Brethren, held 24 Moderator's Q&A Sessions in fourteen districts during the past months of 2020-21. As a result, in the course of holding those sessions, a collection of questions and answers about the current state of the church was developed. What follows is a link to those FAQ's at <https://www.brethren.org/ac2021/wp-content/uploads/sites/20/2021/03/State-of-the-Church-FAQs.pdf>

2021 ANNUAL CONFERENCE DELEGATE BRIEFING VIDEO

The 2021 Delegate Briefing Video has been completed and posted on the 2021 Annual Conference site at <https://www.brethren.org/ac2021/business/>. The Annual Conference Office encourages all persons, but especially delegates, to please view this video before Annual Conference.

AN ONLINE ANNUAL CONFERENCE – HELP NEEDED

The territory of the Virlina District is inclusive of an area of about 100,000 square miles from the Atlantic Ocean to the Ohio River across portions of three states. Having an online Annual Conference is necessary given the restrictions and uncertainties amidst a pandemic. Nevertheless, internet accessibility is limited in many areas of the district. As we ponder how to include the greatest number of our congregations in the Annual Conference it is clear that we need creative approaches.

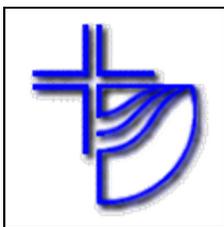
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www.virlina.org

*Continuing the work of Jesus.
Peacefully.
Simply.
Together.*



One idea has been to have congregations with strong internet connection and considerable space serve as “cluster points” for delegates. The Troutville Church has offered to host delegates there. You may contact Pastor Terry Johnson at johnson-terry333@gmail.com If your congregation has strong internet service and you are willing to help out, let us know at nuchurch@aol.com.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE ONLINE TRAINING SESSION

Training Sessions showing step by step instructions from how to log on to the Online AC site to how to join an Insight Session will be hosted by Tim Harvey and Carol Elmore, both of the Oak Grove Church of the Brethren in Roanoke, Virginia. During these trainings they will be able to answer any questions you have about the site and perhaps calm any fears you may have about navigating an online conference. A Zoom link will be posted on www.brethren.org/ac2021

Online dates for training are Wednesday, June 16, at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, June 17, at 11:00 a.m., Monday, June 21, at 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 22, 4:00 p.m., Thursday, June 24, 2:00 p.m., Saturday, June 26, 12:00 noon, and Saturday, June 26, 4:00 p.m. All times are Eastern.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE INSIGHT SESSIONS

Insight sessions will provide educational opportunities (including always-desirable CEU's for pastors and others in ministry), while the networking groups allow less-formal forums to talk about shared interests, trade ideas, and catch up on the latest news. All insight sessions and networking groups can be accessed via the online site by anyone registered. Insight sessions will run 12:30-1:30 p.m. and 9:15-10:15 p.m. (ET) on each day July 1-3, while networking sessions run 12:30-1:30 p.m. and 5:30-6:30 p.m. (ET). For more details about each group visit: <https://brethren.us4.listmanage.com/track/click?u=fe053219fdb661c00183423ef&id=431088482a&e=d60df31de0>

TWO CONFERENCE BALLOTS IN ONE YEAR

When last year's Conference was cancelled because of the pandemic, the Nominating Committee recommended deferring the 2020 ballot to 2021. Each person on the 2020 ballot has been asked their willingness to be considered in the 2021 vote. People holding positions elected by Annual Conference whose terms expired in 2020 have been asked their willingness to extend their terms until the election in 2021.

This has resulted in two ballots coming before the delegate body this year: the 2020 deferred ballot and the 2021 ballot. Those elected from the 2021 ballot will serve the usual term for their office. Those elected from the 2020 deferred ballot, except for the moderator-elect, will serve one year less than the usual term. To view the ballots and details about the nominees visit: www.brethren.org/ac2021/business/ballots/

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE E-HEADLINER IS PROJECTED FOR MAY 29, 2021.

A PRINTABLE COLOR VERSION OF THE E-HEADLINER WILL BE AVAILABLE AT www.virlina.org