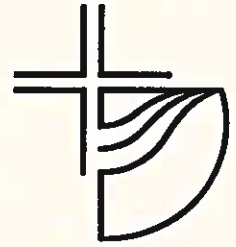




Church of the Brethren

3402 Plantation Road, NE, Roanoke, VA 24012



September 1, 2021

Dear Pastors, Interim Pastors & Congregational Contact Persons (Board Chairs),

We are excited and hopeful as we plan our November 12-13, 2021 District Conference in person at the Grandin Court Baptist Church in Roanoke. We missed our time together last year. Enclosed is your congregation's District Conference pre-registration packet. There are some scheduling changes and deadlines for food vendors, child care workers, and youth to consider so please make a note of the dates and new information.

This is the only mailing we will have prior to conference, and it is limited to one per congregation. It is important and necessary for you to review this packet's contents carefully and distribute each part to the designated person(s).

The following items are contained within:

1. District Conference information page/bulletin insert
2. Delegate Pre-Registration Form & the CoB yearbook guideline for number of delegates
3. An invitation to the Ministers & Spouses Dinner, 5:15 PM on Friday, November 12
4. Saturday Lunch Reservation Form for Delegates & Non-Delegates, 12:00 PM on Saturday, November 13
5. Offering project...Offering will be monetary this year, with 50% going to District Conference expenses and 50% going to aid relief in Haiti. Offerings may be sent to the District Office 3402 Plantation Road, NE, Roanoke, VA 24012

All forms and information are available online at <http://virlina.org/district-conference.html>.

The September Headliner district newsletter will highlight the events and schedules of the 2021 District Conference. Conference booklets will be mailed to each congregation in October and the congregational delegates and pastors will be asked to pick them up *at the church*.

The Program and Arrangements Committee, Moderator Greg Fleshman, and the conference officers have prayer over each detail of conference. Please join us in prayer as we come together after a year apart. We recognize that we each will be approaching in person worship and business sessions with unique feelings and opinions. Our theme is "Wait on the Lord" from Isaiah 40:31. God knows we need a renewed strength. Come join us as we conduct the business of God's church.

In Christ's Love and Service,

Mary Sink St. John

Director of District Conference, Nurture, and Witness
virlina2@aol.com (540) 362-1816



"but those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

2021 Virilina District Conference Dinner

Grandin Court Baptist Church

November 12th
2660 Brambleton Avenue, SW, Roanoke, VA 24015

WAIT ON THE LORD

*"but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and
not be weary, they shall walk and not faint." - Isaiah 40: 31*



Dear Ministers, Spouses, and Friends,

You're invited!

What: Dinner together for Virilina Ministers, Spouses, and Friends!

When: Friday, November 12th. Registration will begin at 4:45 PM in the gym and at the MAC door near the carport. Dinner will be served at **5:15 PM**.

(There will not be childcare for any of our conference activities.)

Where: Grandin Court Baptist Church Gymnasium on the lower level

Cost: \$10.00 per person (This is a one-time price reduction. We hope to return to buffets and catered meals in 2022, where costs per person may be higher.)

Food Vendor: Roanoker Restaurant

Menu: Option (A): Chicken breast, ham biscuit, potato salad, brownie -or-
Option (B) Vegetarian wheat wrap with broccoli, carrots, squash, cauliflower,
cheese, house dressing, potato salad, brownie

These are individually boxed meals for safety. There will be assorted beverages.

Program: Q and A with David Sollenberger, 2022 Annual Conference Moderator

Forms and information are available online!

<http://virilina.org/district-conference.html>

2021 Reservation Form for Ministers and Spouses Dinner

Name(s): 1. _____ Option (A) _____ Option (B) _____

2. _____ Option (A) _____ Option (B) _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Congregation: _____ Amount Enclosed: _____

**Mail this form and payment (made payable to Virilina District) by October 20th to
Virilina District Resource Center, 3402 Plantation Road NE, Roanoke, VA 24012.**

2021 Virlina District Conference

"Wait on the Lord"

Grandin Court Baptist Church

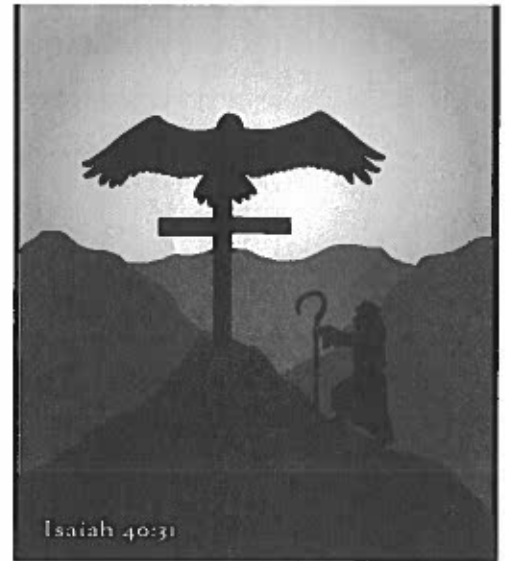
November 12th & 13th

2660 Brambleton Avenue, Roanoke, VA 24015

PRE-REGISTRATION FOR DELEGATES

(Due: September 30th)

Name of Congregation: _____



Please print clearly.

Step 1: Let us know who your 2021 District Conference delegates are!

(Please refer to the back of this sheet to find out how many delegates you may send.)

Pastor (Automatic Delegate) _____

Chair of Board (Automatic Delegate) _____

3rd Elected Delegate _____

4th Elected Delegate _____

5th Elected Delegate (251+) _____

If your congregation has to send an alternate delegate in a registered delegate's place, please alert the District Resource Office of this change as soon as possible. (540) 362-1816

Step 2: Send in this form and payment.

The registration fee is \$25.00 per delegate. This helps to pay for conference expenses.

Registration forms and payment are due by September 30th. This registration form will help determine how many conference booklets are printed. Mail this form and payment (checks made payable to Virlina District) to:

Virlina District Resource Center, 3402 Plantation Road NE, Roanoke, VA 24012.

Registration Cost: _____ (delegates) X \$25.00 = \$ _____

Congregations: If you plan to cover the cost of meals for your ministers and/or delegates, and only want to send one check, please send all forms together with the check by the September 30th deadline. This makes the in-office registration process much easier. *Thank you!*

For more information or questions regarding registration, call or email MARY ST. JOHN, Director of District Conference, Nurture, and Witness: virlina2@aol.com or (540) 362-1816

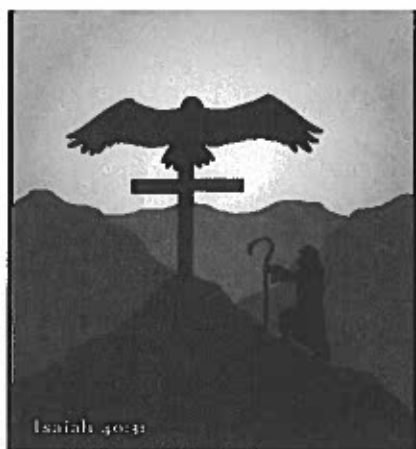
Forms and information are available online! <http://virlina.org/district-conference.html>

Number of Delegates Allowed for the 2021 Virlina District Conference

This list is based on the statistics from the 2020 Yearbook. Congregations are invited to send the Pastor, Board Chair, as well as 2 other delegates. Only those congregations with a membership of over 250 may send 3 delegates in addition to the Pastor and Board Chair. (Up to 250 = 4; 251-350 = 5; 351-450 = 6; 451-550 = 7)

Congregation & Fellowship [f]	Members	Delegates	Congregation & Fellowship [f]	Members	Delegates	Congregation & Fellowship [f]	Members	Delegates	Members	Delegates
Antioch	317	5	Green Hill	119	4	Pulaski, First	62	4	62	4
Bassett	94	4	Henry Fork	308	5	Red Hill	80	4	80	4
Beaver Creek	226	4	Hiwassee	52	4	Red Oak Grove	51	4	51	4
Bethany	58	4	Hopewell	41	4	Roanoke, Central	139	4	139	4
Bethel	68	4	Jeters Chapel	107	4	Roanoke, First	176	4	176	4
Bethlehem	113	4	Jones Chapel	69	4	Roanoke, Hollins Road	193	4	193	4
Blacksburg, Iglesia del Buen Pastor [f]	16	4	Laurel Branch	85	4	Roanoke, Iglesia Cristiana Renacer	16	4	16	4
Blue Ridge	76	4	Lighthouse	17	4	Roanoke, Ninth Street	191	4	191	4
Boones Mill	48	4	Lynchburg	102	4	Roanoke, Oak Grove	319	5	319	5
Burks Fork	49	4	Maple Grove	45	4	Roanoke, Summerdean	294	5	294	5
Cedar Bluff	105	4	Masons Cove	26	4	Roanoke, Williamson Rd.	75	4	75	4
Christiansburg	191	4	Moneta, Lake Side [f]	28	4	Rocky Mount, First	85	4	85	4
Cloverdale	207	4	Monte Vista	81	4	Saint Paul	28	4	28	4
Collinsville	143	4	Mount Bethel	37	4	Saunders Grove	56	4	56	4
Concord, Living Faith	89	4	Mount Hermon	153	4	Schoolfield	61	4	61	4
Copper Hill	316	5	Mount Joy	57	4	Selma	26	4	26	4
Coulson	213	4	Mount Union	149	4	Shelton	160	4	160	4
Crab Orchard	36	4	New Bethel	45	4	Smith Chapel	22	4	22	4
Daleville	85	4	New Covenant	48	4	Smith Mountain, Lake	53	4	53	4
Danville, Emmanuel	51	4	New Hope	105	4	Smith River	141	4	141	4
Duncan Chapel	53	4	Newport News, Ivy Farms	64	4	Spruce Run	159	4	159	4
Durham, Peace Covenant	60	4	Nineveh	56	4	Stonewall	36	4	36	4
Eden, First	140	4	Oak Grove, South	104	4	Topeco	115	4	115	4
Fairview, Floyd	38	4	Oakvale	32	4	Trinity	48	4	48	4
Fairview, Rocky Mount	112	4	Olean	10	4	Troutville (inc. New Bethel)	141	4	141	4
Ferrum	14	4	Parkway	24	4	Vinton	22	4	22	4
Floyd, Iglesia Cristiana Renacer [f]	41	4	Peters Creek	193	4	Va Beach, Christ Church Uniting	94	4	94	4
Fraternity	181	4	Pleasant Dale	11	4	Wakefield Chapel	56	4	56	4
Germanatown Brick	234	4	Pleasant Valley	133	4	West Richmond	154	4	154	4
Good Shepherd	5	4	Pleasant View	50	4	White Rock	53	4	53	4
			Poages Mill	97	4	Total	8,933	369	8,933	369

Forms and information are available online! <http://virlina.org/district-conference.html>



2021 Virlina District Conference

GRANDIN COURT BAPTIST CHURCH

November 12th & 13th

2660 Brambleton Avenue, Roanoke, VA 24015

SATURDAY LUNCH RESERVATION FORM

Due: October 20th

Information about Lunch on Saturday, November 13th:

- **When:** 12:00 noon to 1:15 PM
- **Where:** Lower-Level gymnasium of MAC building (OMC and new and returning Board members eat upstairs in the Sunshine Room and Hamner Hall for reorganization.)
- **Cost:** \$10.00 per person (no refunds after registration deadline)
- **Provider:** Heavenly Ham Restaurant
- **Menu: Option (A):** Turkey Classic on bakers roll, turkey, lettuce, tomatoes and cheese, chips, cookie, and mint; **Option (B):** Garden Salad, dressing packs on the side, chips, cookie, and mint (tea, lemonade and water)
- **Tickets** will be distributed on Friday evening and Saturday morning at registration. No extra meals will be sold at District Conference.
- **Registration Deadline:** October 20th.

To Register:

1. Complete the Meal Registration Form below.
2. Mail the below form and payment (made payable to Virlina District) by October 20th to:
Virlina District Resource Center, 3402 Plantation Road NE, Roanoke, VA 24012.

Forms and information are available online!

<http://virlina.org/district-conference.html>

2021 Virlina District Conference Lunch Reservation Form

Name	\$10.00 each meal
1.	Option (A) _____ Option (B) _____
2.	Option (A) _____ Option (B) _____
3.	Option (A) _____ Option (B) _____
4.	Option (A) _____ Option (B) _____
5.	Option (A) _____ Option (B) _____
6.	Option (A) _____ Option (B) _____
7.	Option (A) _____ Option (B) _____
8.	Option (A) _____ Option (B) _____

Total number of lunches: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Church of the Brethren Haiti Earthquake Response



A 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck southwest Haiti on August 14, 2021, affecting the Sud, Grand'Anse, and Nippes departments (administrative areas) and causing especially heavy damage in and around the towns of Les Cayes, Jeremie and Anse à Veaux. The government estimates that forty percent of the residents of these departments are in dire need of emergency humanitarian assistance. UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) estimates that more than 1.2 million people were affected by the earthquake, including more than 500,000 children.

The earthquake hit at a time when Haiti was already struggling with political instability, protests, and unrest particularly after the recent assassination of President Jovenal Moise, as well as economic distress; poverty; violence and displacement due to gang activity; and the coronavirus pandemic.

The death toll from the earthquake has reached over 2,000 and is expected to continue to climb, while hundreds remain missing. There are over 12,200 injured and this is also expected to rise. Haitian government and aid agencies have identified a critical need for immediate medical assistance, as well as drinking water, food, shelter, hygiene, and sanitation.



Support the Haiti Earthquake Response

- Give online at www.brethren.org/give-haiti-earthquake
- Send a check to the Emergency Disaster Fund
1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120
Make the check out to Emergency Disaster Fund with "Haiti Earthquake" in the memo line.
- Pray: The members of Eglises des Freres d'Haiti (Church of the Brethren in Haiti) greatly appreciate your prayers for themselves, their communities, and their country.
- Advocate for humanitarian assistance for those affected by the earthquake with family/friends and with elected officials.

The Church of the Brethren is committed to both an immediate and a long-term response in support of our Haitian sisters and brothers. This effort will necessitate raising several hundred thousand dollars to support multi-year programming for emergency relief and long-term recovery. **Donations to the Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) are needed urgently.** (see box for more information)

Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) is partnering with Eglises des Freres d'Haiti (Church of the Brethren in Haiti) and will work with the church to determine the best way

to support their earthquake response. The church leadership has expressed their gratefulness, saying it was "helpful for them and the community to see and know they have other brothers and sisters on the other side of the world praying for them and supporting them in this moment of darkness." Members of the Haitian Church National Committee traveled to the affected area to make assessments and bring immediate emergency food, shelter, water, and hygiene and medical supplies, supported by a \$5,000 Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) grant. Church leaders are developing their response programming, which is expected to range from the provision of emergency supplies (including food, medical assistance, shelter, and trauma therapy) to a recovery program supporting healing, resilience, and rebuilding of homes and lives for Haitian church members and their neighbors. An additional EDF grant of \$75,000 has been approved to support these efforts.





Children in Saut Mathurine gathered for a chance to play and received a meal. Photo courtesy of Damierla Montas

Leaders of the Haitian Church were especially grateful to visit and encourage church members in the area around Saut Mathurine, where EDF grants funded a joint BDM/Haitian Church of the Brethren response supporting relief, agricultural programs, and home rebuilding after extensive damage from Hurricane Matthew in 2016. This work led to a church plant and an enthusiastic and growing congregation at Saut Mathurine. Many homes of church members, as well

as the temporary church building, were destroyed in the earthquake (see photos). Some church members were injured and one member is reported to have died. The homes built through the Hurricane Matthew response are reported to be some of the only buildings in the area still standing.

BDM is also exploring support through other partners in the region, particularly Church World Service (CWS), which plans to work with partners in Pestel (Grand'Anse department), where they responded to damage from Hurricane Matthew. Their response will involve emergency relief, home rebuilding, psychosocial and trauma recovery support, livelihood programs, and water infrastructure repairs.

Earthquake Background

The rising death toll, the increasing number of injured, and the list of those still missing, illuminate the human cost of the August 14 earthquake. A majority of homes and other structures (schools, churches, hospitals, etc.) as well as roads and bridges were damaged or destroyed by the quake and the land/mudslides that followed. Estimates are that more than 30,000 people are without shelter and even those whose damaged homes remain standing may choose to sleep outside out of fear that they will eventually collapse due to earthquake damage and continuing tremors. Some hospital patients either cannot be treated indoors or do not trust the damaged facilities and are gathered on walkways and under what tents or shelters are available. The earthquake also caused damage or blockage to wells and cisterns, limiting access to potable water, and killed livestock which were crushed under buildings. The wind and up to 10 inches of rain from Tropical Storm Grace, which passed over the areas hardest hit by the earthquake on August 16-17, further distressed the lives of survivors and hindered relief and rescue operations.

Earthquake survivors are facing multiple traumas. They are mourning their dead and looking for those who are missing. Their lives are at risk from hunger, a scarcity of clean water and sanitation facilities, medical facilities that are overwhelmed, the coronavirus, and the need for shelter. Some have lost their livelihoods. Schools and churches have been destroyed. And they are reliving the trauma of the 2010 earthquake as well as Hurricane Matthew, from which many have not yet fully recovered.

There is much to be done and we are called by Jesus to serve our sisters and brothers. (Matthew 25:34-40)



The Saut Mathurine Church was destroyed during the earthquake. Photo by Moliere Durose



Houses like this one, constructed after Hurricane Matthew, survived the earthquake. Photo courtesy of BDM

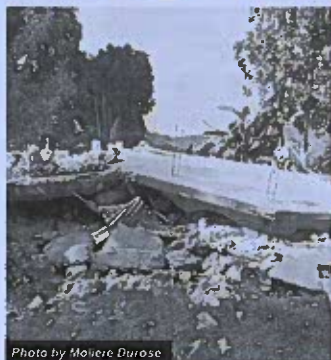


Photo by Moliere Durose

**Your support for the Haiti Earthquake Response is critical.
Please give to the Emergency Disaster Fund.**

For questions or additional information, visit www.brethren.org/bdm or contact BDM at bdm@brethren.org or 1-800-451-4407.



WAIT ON THE LORD 2021 Virilina District

Conference

GRANDIN COURT BAPTIST
November 12th & 13th

Join us for in-person worship Friday night, delegate business sessions on Saturday, mail-in voting, online music and Church of the Brethren reports.



"But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint."

— Isaiah 40: 31

• In-person service: **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12** •

Ministers & Spouses Dinner 5:15 PM

The Annual Dinner for Ministers and Spouses will be held in the Gymnasium of Grandin Court Baptist Church. Guest speaker is David Soltenberger. Reserve individually boxed meals by **Oct. 20.**

Conference Registration and Check-in

Delegates must register by **September 30** with a \$25.00 fee made out to

Virilina District 3402 Plantation Road, NE, Roanoke, VA 24012

Non-delegates may purchase a report booklet by September 30 for \$5.00.

All registered delegates will cast votes by mail by November 3.

In-Person (at Grandin Court Baptist) Worship 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Speakers: District Conference Moderator Greg Fleshman and Annual Conference Moderator David Soltenberger

Special Music shared by Stephen Wills.

The worship service will be shared online after Saturday.

There will be a variety of special music online from various musicians from the Virilina District. Music links due by Oct. 30. (No on-site child care or refreshments provided in 2021.)

• Delegates-only, **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14** •

Registration 7:45 AM

Everyone is always welcome to attend District Conference, however, in order to ensure social distancing, delegates-only will be sitting in the main floor sanctuary area. If nondelegates attend, there is limited seating in the balcony and hallways around the sanctuary. Congregations will be mailed to and asked to distribute delegates' report booklets and ballots for voting. Ballots are due **November 3.** Delegates should bring report booklets to conference.

Children & Youth Activities

Due to the rising cases of Covid in younger people, Program and Arrangements has postponed conference childcare and youth activities until District Conference 2022.

Business Sessions 8:15 AM - 2:30 PM

The business and worship will include commission and committee reports, ballot results, affirmation of the 2022 budget, reorganization, prayer and commissioning for Virilina's 2022 leadership and the installation of 2022 Moderator Lynn Myers. Brethren agencies will have some video reports online, and there will be music available for all to enjoy through the end of the year.

Lunch 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM

Lunch will need to be reserved by **October 20.** There are two options provided by Heavenly Ham. Lunch will be in the lower level of the gym. Local restaurants are an option as well.

2021 Officers

Moderator: Greg Fleshman, Mount Union

Moderator Elect: Lynn Myers, Antioch

Clerk: Pam Clark, Peters Creek

Forms and information are available online!

<http://virilina.org/district-conference.html>

