

E-HEADLINER

DISTRICT CONFERENCE VIDEO PRESENTATIONS - NOVEMBER 13-14, 2020

Our District Conference Video Presentations will be posted on the Virlina website, www.virlina.org beginning Friday, November 13, 2020. None of these will be "live recordings," so pastors, delegates, all of Virlina and friends may view at their convenience. There will be a series of videos to watch as we study the 2020 theme, "Radical Hope: Glimpses of the Kingdom."

The Interdistrict Youth Cabinet (IYC) from Bridgewater College will have a short Bible lesson for the youth of Virlina. We very much look forward to having "in person" retreats. In the meantime, take a few minutes to be connected with other youth.

The worship portion of our conference will feature a variety of speakers and musicians from throughout the district. The worship video will feature ways how the theme, "Radical Hope: Glimpses of the Kingdom" is lived out in our daily lives. We pray that the district feels a sense of reunion as we virtually look forward in radical hope for God's kingdom in the here and new.

The Annual Conference Moderator, Paul Munday, will have a short message entitled "The Mighty Flow of God". The Annual Conference Moderator often delivers the Saturday morning message prior to our business sessions. Please spend ten minutes or so being led by Paul Munday as he directs us to feel God's presence online together.

Lastly, the business portion of District Conference will announce the outcome of the District Board election, and affirmation of the 2021 budget, the statistics of this year's conference, the passing of the gavel to the 2021 moderator, and the announcement of next year's District Conference theme. Our 2020 moderator, Cathy Huffman, and moderator elect, Greg Fleshman, as well as the Program and Arrangements Committee and officers, have been challenged to present an online conference that would speak to the hearts of the district at a time like no other in our history. We pray that God will bless the recording and the viewing of the online conference.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE OFFERING

The 2020 offering will be used to offset conference expenses and to help support the work of the Virlina District. Our Board, Commissions and Committees have never stopped working during the Pandemic in an effort to continue to provide spiritual growth and support for the Virlina District. Please indicate your contribution as being for District Conference and mail or deliver to 3402 Plantation Road, NE, Roanoke, VA 24012. Thank you for your support.

In-kind offerings are also being accepted through the end of the year. We are collecting Clean-up Buckets, Hygiene Kits, and Individual Kits of Comfort as part of our contribution to Disaster Response Ministries and Children's Disaster Services. www.virlina.org has lists of supplies for each of these offering opportunities. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Sink St. John at virlina2@aol.com or by calling (540) 362-1816 or (800) 847-5462.



DELEGATE INFORMATION PACKETS

Each registered delegate will receive a packet in the mail containing additional information pertaining to Virgina District, Camp Bethel, the Denomination, and other committees, age groups and agencies. The packet would have ordinarily been given to each delegate at the time of conference registration. Please carefully read through all of the information and then share with appropriate leadership in your congregation.

MODERATOR'S TOWN HALL - NOVEMBER 19, 2020

We are excited to announce the next Moderator's Town Hall on November 19th, 2020, at 7:00 PM EST. The featured resource person will be Mark DeVries, founder and president of Ministry Architects, a nationally acclaimed church resourcing organization.

The focus of the Town Hall will be: "Innovative Ideas for a Hard Season." Multiple factors press in on persons and congregations during our current, difficult life chapter. As a result, it is easy to become immobilized by the gravity of weighty issues and emotions as they swirl around us. Our calling, however, is to be adaptable and innovative despite the challenges before us. To that end, practical ideas for flourishing in a hard season will be shared, applicable to clergy, laity, and congregations.

A native of Texas, Mark DeVries is a graduate of Baylor University and Princeton Theological Seminary. From 1986-2014, Mark served as Associate Pastor for Youth and Their Families at First Presbyterian Church in Nashville, Tennessee. Mark's work at First Presbyterian included a combination of volunteer and staff development, teaching, preaching, and relational ministry with youth and their families as well as regular participation in the worship and mission life of the church.

In addition to his pastoral ministry, Mark has engaged in a career of entrepreneurial ministry and coaching. A serial entrepreneur, Mark has founded or co-founded numerous sustainable ministry enterprises, including Ministry Incubators, the Center for Youth Ministry, Justice Industries, and most notably, Ministry Architects (2002). Ministry Architects has worked with over 950 churches, schools, and nonprofits, deploying over 80 consultants and offering counsel in strategic initiatives for entire congregations as well as youth ministry, children's ministry, young adult ministry, small church ministry, and executive coaching. Since his beginning as a part-time consultant, Mark himself has worked with over 1000 congregations.

Mark is the author of several books, including Family-Based Youth Ministry, Sustainable Youth Ministry, and The Indispensable Youth Pastor (with Jeff Dunn-Rankin). Mark and his wife, Susan, co-authored a marriage book (with their good friends, Robert & Bobbie Wolgemuth) entitled The Most Important Year in a Woman's Life / The Most Important Year in a Man's Life.

Mark and Susan have been married since 1979 and make their home in Nashville, Tennessee. They have three grown children: Adam, Debbie, and Leigh, and four grandchildren: Parish, Nealy, Liam, and Jack.

You are encouraged to sign up early, as the event is limited to the first 500 registrants.

Registration for this exciting town hall event, one in a series, is found online at https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_jbpKj5m3SdmBrv8xddE5pw

The Town Hall will once again feature a Question & Answer format. You are invited to submit your questions for Mark DeVries during the Town Hall, or you can send them in advance. To send your questions prior to the Town Hall, please email: cobmoderatoretownhall@gmail.com. Though we cannot commit to answering every question, we'll do our best to use what is submitted.

Questions or issues related to registering for the Town Hall can be emailed to cobmoderatoretownhall@gmail.com.

We are encouraged that persons are continuing to participate and asking for additional forums of this kind. Your completion of the following brief survey will help greatly in planning for future events, along with identifying other resources to support you during this season of crisis and opportunity. Please access it at the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SQRDSMF>

DISTRICT RESOURCE CENTER CLOSED – NOVEMBER 25-30, 2020

The District Resource Center will be closed during the Thanksgiving Holiday from 6 p.m. on Wednesday, November 25 until 9 a.m. on Monday, November 30, 2020.

ELEMENTS OF PREACHING (A ZOOM INTENSIVE) – JANUARY 11-18, 2021

Sermon preparation and preaching are major components of the life of ministry – not only pastors, but for all who offer themselves in public service, speaking of God with and for others. Study, prayer, writing, and the presentation of our insights and stories are all part of an integrative process that can enrich our spirits and enliven others. There are also practices that may be learned (for the novice) and honed (for the more seasoned preacher/speaker). Through readings, lectures, discussions, and assignments, students will learn the art and practice of preparing and presenting sermons for diverse settings and ministries. Instructor: Dawn Ottoni-Wilhem.

Sessions will be held as follows: January 11-14: 10 a.m.-3 p.m. EST (one-hour lunch break), Friday, January 15: 10 a.m. – noon EST and Monday January 18: 10 a.m. – 3pm EST (one-hour lunch break); **limited to eight students**; the cost is \$300 and 2 CEUs will be earned. Registration deadline is **December 7**.

Get a jump on the required CEUs for the next five-year ministry cycle. Download a class brochure at <https://bethanyseminary.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/BrochureElementsofPreaching.pdf>

CLERGY TAX SEMINAR - JANUARY 16, 2021

Students, pastors, and other church leaders are invited to participate in this online seminar. Learn how to prepare clergy taxes correctly and legally.

Comply with regulations while maximizing tax deductions.

Earn 0.3 CEUs - requires attendance in the first session.

The annual Clergy Tax Seminar will consist of two sessions:

Session 1, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. EST, will focus on the rules surrounding Clergy Tax Returns, including who is subject to these rules, what income is subject to tax, and how to reduce total tax liability using various methods, including housing allowance, business expenses, and medical reimbursement plans. Credit for 0.3 CEUs will be available for attending Session 1 only.

In Session 2, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. EST, participants will complete a clergy tax return using H&R Block's highest tier (Premium and Business) downloadable software.

This seminar is highly recommended for all pastors and other church leaders who wish to understand clergy taxes, including treasurers, steward commission chairs, and church board chairs.

Sponsors: The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership, the Church of the Brethren Office of Ministry, and Bethany Theological Seminary.

Seminar Schedule

10 a.m.-1 p.m. EST: Morning session

1-1:30 p.m. EST: Lunch on your own

1:30-3:30 p.m. EST: Afternoon session

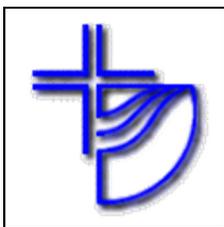
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We're on the web
www.virlina.org

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



Registration and Cost

Registration is \$40 per person (generally nonrefundable to keep fees and overhead low). Current Bethany, TRIM/EFSM/SeBAH, and Earlham School of Religion students may attend the seminar at no cost, although registration is still required to reserve space and will allow us to provide you with web access to the seminar. Instructions and handouts will be sent a few days prior to the event. Registrations are not complete until payment is received. For quality reasons, registrations may be capped at eighty-five persons online. **Prompt registration is advised - registration deadline is January 6, 2021.** Information and registration is found at <https://bethanyseminary.edu/?s=Clergy+Tax+Seminar+January+16%2C+2021>

PILGRIMAGE XXIV RESCHEDULED - MARCH 26-28, 2021

Although the severity of COVID-19 is different in various locations, we still are not to the place where we could have a large gathering in one room, sit together for meals and in small groups, give hugs, etc. So, for the safety of all, the Pilgrimage Committee has decided to postpone Pilgrimage. The new date is March 26-28, 2021, which is typically when it is held each year. There will be more information closer to the time if you would like to register.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN GREENSBORO - 2021

The Program and Arrangements Committee of the Church of the Brethren has set the registration fees for the 2021 Annual Conference in Greensboro., N.C. The fees for registration will remain \$125 for non-delegates and \$305 for delegates. The hotel costs will be \$119/night (+tax) for the Sheraton Hotel at Joseph S. *Koury* Convention *Center* and includes free parking.

NOMINEES FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE BALLOT

The denomination is in need of nominees for these openings: Annual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee; Mission and Ministry Board (MMB) from Areas 3 and 5; Bethany Seminary, one representing Church of the Brethren affiliated colleges and one representing laity; Brethren Benefit Trust Board; On Earth Peace Board; and Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee.

All the details needed to make nominations are online at www.brethren.org/ac. From this page, click the button "2021 Nominations" to make nominations and see details about the open positions. You can make a nomination quite quickly if you have your nominee's e-mail address. You may nominate people for several or all positions. You do not need to have the nominee's permission to nominate them. However, you might discuss the possibility with the person to gauge their interest.

After you complete the nomination process, the Annual Conference Office will contact the potential nominee and ask them to respond with some additional information before being put on the initial ballot. Their information will be shared with the Nominating Committee for discernment and possible inclusion on the Annual Conference ballot in 2021. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Susan Starkey, a member of the committee from Virlina District, at skc002@gmail.com or (540) 992-1067.

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE E-HEADLINER IS PROJECTED FOR NOVEMBER 21, 2020