



Church of the Brethren

Dear Siblings in Christ in the Southern Ohio & Kentucky District,

I greet you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. My prayers are lifted for you as you prepare your hearts and minds for District Conference. As the community of God, may these special meetings and worship times honor our Lord and celebrate the many ways each of you and your congregations are carrying forth the message of the Good News of Jesus. Sharing Christ's love and the gospel is still our call and mission. May we together move forward with God's Spirit and guidance to share love with God and all our neighbors.

I am looking forward to our 238th recorded Church of the Brethren Annual Conference, scheduled for July 2-6, 2025, in Greensboro, North Carolina. There will be business sessions, bible studies, equipping session, worship, and many opportunities for fellowship and celebration as the Body of Christ gathers. Annual Conference exists to unite, strengthen, and equip the Church of the Brethren to follow Jesus.

One of the core values of the Annual Conference is to continue building loving relationships with one another, despite any differences we may have. Love seems to be having a hard time in our world and in the church. We are called to love and respect each other in the divisive times we find ourselves. At times, agape love, a love embodied by God's love for all humankind in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ seems impossible. Rabbi Harold S. Kushner theologian shares, "If we are brave enough to love, strong enough to forgive, generous enough to rejoice in another's happiness, and wise enough to know there is enough love to go around for us all, then we can achieve a fulfillment that no other living creature will ever know." I pray we embrace the words of 1 Corinthians 13 as our focus to love as Christ loves us. May we be able to say, "And now, faith, hope, and love abide, these three, and the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13: 13.

I look forward to seeing each of you in Greensboro as we gather as the wider church to continue the love and work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, together.

Blessings and love to you all,

Dava Hensley

2025 Annual Conference Moderator