



Church of the Brethren

Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings to you in the name of Christ our Savior!

I am filled with gratitude for the remarkable ministries and transformative work being carried out by the Church of the Brethren in your local congregations and through the work and ministries of denominational staff on your behalf. Your unwavering commitment to serving God and our communities has been an inspiration and a testament to the enduring power of faith and compassion.

You will find much about our denominational mission and ministries reflected in two printed resources available to you at your district conference and on the Church of the Brethren website (www.brethren.org). The *Church of the Brethren Annual Report* offers a glimpse of the ministries over the last year, and the *Advocating Generosity* booklet invites you to partner with us in our current ministries. You will also find these resources, together with our recent Church of the Brethren video report, at www.brethren.org/annualreport.

The Jesus in the Neighborhood vision calls us to “*develop a culture of calling and equipping disciples who are innovative, adaptable, and fearless.*” As we live into that vision, we are currently evaluating much of what we do, wanting to make certain that we are supporting the needs of our congregations and leaders as best we can. To that end, if you have questions or needs, please let us know.

The challenges that we face as a Church can be daunting at times, especially if we get distracted by all the noise around us. I continue to be drawn to the vibrant church reflected in Acts 4:32-35. That vibrancy was centered in Christ and in caring for one another and their community. It reflected a radical generosity that ensured that all the needs were met within the community. In the same way, our own communities need the grace and love that we have to offer. While the needs of each of our communities may look different, they need the same radical generosity that we have to offer as followers of Jesus. Let’s not overthink it, but simply do what Jesus did. God’s grace is and will be transformational for the community through our witness of Jesus’ love.

Again, I am grateful for the many ways your district and local congregations faithfully strive to live out the Gospel – to simply try to do what Jesus did. The vibrant ministries of our Church of the Brethren congregations – small to large – are at the heart of our Church. We should never diminish the essential role that each unique part of the body plays in our common ministry together.

Your servant in Christ,

David Steele
General Secretary

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