

MINUTES OF BROTHERHOOD COUNCIL
held at
CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY, CEDARVILLE, OHIO
May 28, 2024

The 2024 Annual Conference of the Old German Baptist Brethren Church (New Conference) was held this year at Cedarville University, Cedarville, Ohio. The weather was very pleasant throughout the meeting, with a couple of showers and seasons of breeziness that were refreshing as well. All of our needs were taken care of by the Cedarville staff, and by willing volunteers who assisted. We appreciate greatly all who helped to make this Conference a blessing to our people. On Friday evening, a singing was held, which was a blessing, and various activities to occupy the evening.

The preaching service began on Saturday, May 25, at 10 am, and concluded Tuesday afternoon, May 28. Following 3 days of worship and fellowship, the Brotherhood Council Meeting was held on Tuesday, May 28. Following is a record of that council.

Devotional Service

The Tuesday Council began at 9:00 am. A Conference Committee of 9 elders had been selected Saturday afternoon to preside over this meeting. After an inspiring opening, devotional thoughts were offered.

The moderator then offered appropriate introductory comments before entering into the business of the meeting.

Letter of Greeting

New Covenant District

To the brethren and sisters assembled at Annual Conference of 2024 at Cedarville, Ohio.

We of the Scottville District, Michigan send love and greetings to all. Our prayers are with you as you follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit and are directed by God's Word to labor in the Lord's work, and for His glory.

On behalf of the church,

Minister	William Mustard
Trustee	Leon Nead

Query from the Pleasant View Congregation
Eldorado, Ohio

The Annual Meeting of the Old German Baptist Brethren – New Conference has been a great blessing to our church fellowship, and this gathering has so much potential for us all, as we seek the blessing of the Lord, and also seek to pursue a continued unity of purpose and mission.

After a series of preaching services, and other activities each year, we return home refreshed and

appreciating the bond that ties us together in the Christian faith.

Believing that these many benefits could be expanded yet more, we offer the following proposal to the Messenger Body to consider at our upcoming Conference of 2024.

Option #1 - When there are no questions needing attention by the Messengers, could the Messenger Body maintain a practice of assembling still, for the purpose of having a time of devotion, praying together, sharing their experiences with each other, and maintaining a close bond? This gathering could include all messengers including the Conference Committee when it is possible. This gathering could be on Monday afternoon or as the Messenger Body sees fit.

Option #2 - The Ministry in all of our churches often express appreciation for the blessing they experience when they are able to gather with other ministers and share together. Many of the ministers are not messengers, and yet could be blessed by a Ministers' Meeting at our Conferences, to have a brief season of prayer and fellowship.

This meeting could be Friday afternoon, or as the Messenger Body may feel to suggest.

If this is worthy of consideration, could this suggestion be placed into the hands of the Messenger Body to consider as separate suggestions, or combine into one?

Could the Messengers offer a proposal to consider?

Ministers

Lowell Miller
Mark Denlinger
Kent Markley

Deacons

Dennis Garber
Samuel Benedict
Weston Peters

Answer of the subcommittee:

As we considered this suggestion, we dealt with each option individually and feel it would be beneficial that they be voiced on separately. With this in mind, we offer the following for your consideration:

In regards to Option #1 for the Messengers, we feel to grant the request for this type of meeting, when there are no subcommittee duties, and suggest that it would conclude in time for afternoon service on Monday. As stated in the suggestion, this meeting would be for the purpose of devotion, praying together, or sharing their experiences to maintain a close bond. The Conference Committee would be included when possible.

Question: Are you willing to approve the answer to Option #1 of this Query?

Answer: Yes.

In regards to Option #2, for the Ministry, we considered the National minister's meeting already

in place that is currently being held on a five year schedule. Also, in consideration of the already full schedule at Conference and the opportunity ministers have to mingle with their congregations, we do not feel to add this type of meeting to our Conference schedule at this time.

Question: Are you willing to approve the answer to Option #2 of this query?

Answer: Yes.

Query from the Sugar Grove Congregation Covington, Ohio

Greetings of love and blessing from the Sugar Grove congregation, to the brothers and sisters assembled at Cedarville University for the 2024 OGBBC NC Annual Conference. We are sending the following query for your consideration and counsel.

Query to the 2024 Conference

To improve the workings of our Conference Business Meeting, we propose changes to the Polity Paper, Extended Brotherhood, Annual Conference section.

Proposal #1.

Item #5. Subcommittees. Add this statement to privilege:

Sending the query as written to the council for an answer.

Propose to read as follows:

5. Subcommittees. Queries received by the Conference Committee are delegated to subcommittees comprised of the messengers. Each subcommittee selects its own foreman and secretary and has the privilege of proposing a direct answer to the query, sending the query as written to the council for an answer, suggesting it be resolved locally, or recommending it be laid down.

This additional privilege is not meant to take away from the working of messengers in a subcommittee. The intent of this proposal is to add a privilege of sending the query directly to open council, along with guidance, scripture, or other information. Calling the subcommittee to be a guide of truth and substance as the query itself is answered, by the Spirit, in the voice of the body in council.

Proposal #2

Insert a new item to section F. Annual Conference, between item #6 and #7, to read as follows:

Voicing. All articles of business brought to the open council, including suggestions and reports, are to be voiced for approval and disapproval.

On behalf of the Sugar Grove congregation,

Ministers	Deacons
Roger Rapp	Carl Wagoner
Rodney Sprenkel	Jonathan Rapp
Wesley Sprenkel	Chip Fisher
Stephen Sink	Jesse Burns

Answer of the subcommittee to Query from Sugar Grove District:

We sincerely value our brothers and sisters who asked this question. Because we see wisdom in having a starting point to begin discussion on the floor, we do not feel to make this change suggested in Proposal #1. The pattern we currently use allows this option for the church to offer an alternate answer after an attempt to pass the answer of the subcommittee. We feel our current method is consistent with biblical shepherding, honors each member, and minimizes the challenge of asking a large group to formulate an initial answer.

Regarding Proposal #2: While we do not feel to grant this request and bind the Conference Committee to one procedure, we do see value in bringing closure to issues which come to the floor. We would encourage a voice whenever the Conference Committee feels it is expedient and suggest that opportunity should be given to object whenever a voice is taken.

Question: Will you pass this query with the answer of the subcommittee?

Answer: Yes.

Testimony Committee Report

To the members assembled at our Annual Conference,

Elder Roger Rapp has resigned from the Testimony Committee this last year. We have appreciated his faithful labor on this Committee and want to express thanks to him for his years of service on behalf of our extended Brotherhood.

We have chosen Elder Grant Fullmer to fill this vacancy. We present this for the approval of this Assembly.

Question:

Will you approve this paper?

Answer: Yes.

Website Advisory Committee Annual Report

We extend greetings of grace and peace to the brothers and sisters at the 2024 Annual Conference. As your **Website Advisory Committee**, we continue to labor together with the **Webmaster Committee** to make the website an effective tool for the blessing of our members and for reaching seekers around the world. Over the past year we have continued our work on the new website, bringing it to its launch in November of 2023. Since that time, we have been actively fixing the bugs of the new site and working to make improvements. We thank you for your feedback, and we appreciate

your patience as we continue to resolve issues and implement changes for the better.

The Advisory Committee and Webmaster Committee recently sent out a newsletter which itemizes some of the upgrades we plan to implement in the future and provides an outline of the improved and new website features. Some of these features are as follows:

- Beliefs topics are broken down into findable sections.
- Services each weekend are accessible from a clickable map display.
- Congregation pages are more robust.
- A faster calendar with helpful filters.
- Thought provoking questions for seekers.
- Lifestyle and outreach pages.

We encourage everyone to read this latest newsletter to be brought up to date with the new functionality. The newsletter was sent to the presiding elder of each congregation for distribution, and it can also be found on the Website under the **Resources** section. Any questions you have can be directed through the contact form on the website or by directly emailing the webmasters. We also welcome your continued feedback regarding the website to make it better and more user friendly.

We want to keep you up to date on how the website is being accessed to bless the members of our fellowship, to encourage other believers, and to reach seekers around the world. Over the last six months there have been 52,813 site visits by 17,622 users from 84 countries and all 50 states.

Those visits break down as follows:

- Calendar feature: 24,826 page views
- Sermons feature: 36,299 page views
- News feature: 11,973 page views
- About feature: 18,059 page views
- Resources feature: 9,172 page views

The Website Advisory Committee thanks this brotherhood for their continued financial support. To cover the cost of ongoing site maintenance and further development we request funds of \$10 per member. Please send funds to

Brethren Charity Fund, Inc.
P.O. Box 365,
Brookville, Ohio 45309.

The primary goal of our website is to glorify God. We trust this is being accomplished by providing easily accessible resources for the edification of the saints and the discipling of the nations. Please continue to pray, along with us, that the website can be a tool

for the Glory of God, for the encouragement of believers, and for the reaching of lost souls.

The Website Advisory Committee

Question: Will you approve this paper?

Answer: Yes.

Brotherhood Service Committee Report

To the Annual Conference of the Old German Baptist Brethren Church-New Conference:

The Brotherhood Service Committee wishes to encourage our young people in being faithful in living out non-resistant principles in every avenue of their lives.

As of today, we are not aware of any changes in the status of the draft. It is still the responsibility of all young men to register with the Selective Service System within 30 days of their 18th birthday. Some states have automatic registration via driver's license. If in doubt, or if there are any questions, contact your district CO Advisor for help with the registration process.

The current balance in the Brotherhood Service Committee checking account is: \$11,356.70.

Update on our participation in the CASP Program –

In April 2024, nine young men and six support staff worked diligently together to rebuild flood-destroyed homes in Hindman, Kentucky. The work crew framed, sheeted, and papered a 3,200 square foot home in just 14 days! In addition, the young men built a deck, installed flooring, and set cabinets in 4 other homes. A sense of teamwork, camaraderie, and accomplishment was enjoyed by all throughout the project. This effort would not have been possible without the prayers, support, and generous donations of many willing brothers and sisters. Your contributions have helped this project share the light and love of Jesus Christ to a small Appalachian community. May our heavenly Father richly bless each of you for your kind contributions to this work.

We have been made aware of the need for a construction crew in Gates, Oregon, to replace homes decimated by a fire several years ago. The project consists of pouring concrete foundations for 5 new homes and is targeted to start in mid-September 2024. While it looks like a challenge to be ready in 4-1/2 months, the Service Committee believes this represents an ideal opportunity to host our first CASP project in the Pacific Northwest. The project is located about one hour from the Dallas, Oregon district. In order to make this project happen, volunteers are needed! If you are interested

in serving on this project, please contact one of the brethren on the Service Committee. In addition, donations are needed and appreciated. Each CASP project costs around \$20,000 - \$25,000, and the current CASP balance is \$787.17. Donations can be sent to the Brethren Charity Fund, earmarked "CASP Fund".

Please continue to pray for the continued peace of this nation, and the freedom to worship and practice as we understand the scripture. We encourage each to continue loving our fellow man as Christ taught us to do.

Brotherhood Service Committee

Larry Bower – Foreman	Trent Bowman
David Benedict – Treasurer	Everett Wray
Dean Crawmer – Secretary	Arlan Wolf

Question: Will you approve this paper?

Answer: Yes.

2024 Scheduling Committee Report

Greetings in the name of Jesus.

We would like to thank all those from Ohio, Tennessee, and all who have assisted in many ways in hosting this conference to make it what it has been. We also would like to thank the Cedarville University staff for their hospitality and generosity over this conference. May God in Heaven be glorified.

The Eastern Region will be hosting the 2025 Conference at Cedarville University in Cedarville Ohio on May 24-27, 2025, Lord willing.

The Midwest Region has agreed to host the 2026 conference June 5-9, 2026 at Indiana Wesleyan University.

The Scheduling Committee has chosen Doug Koble to replace Curtis Flora. Thank you, Curtis for your years of service.

Your Scheduling Committee

Kent Brubaker	Adam Grover
Greg Kuns	Greg Robbins
Rex Cottrell	Doug Koble
Kenny Oyler	

Question: Will you approve this paper?

Answer: Yes.

Conclusion

Following the business portion of the meeting on Tuesday, the moderator made appropriate remarks, taking our minds to the prayer of Jesus in John 17,

where the Lord made an appeal to the Father in behalf of His disciples, and all who would believe on Him through their word. Jesus prayed for us!

After encouragement was given to all, I Thess. 5:12-28 was read as a closing benediction:

“And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.

Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men. Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

Brethren, pray for us. Greet all the brethren with an holy kiss. I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be read unto all the holy brethren. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.”

A brother then closed the meeting, pointing to the need for each of us to be “always filled with the Spirit.” Reference was made to the apostle Paul’s prayer in Ephesians 3, and the importance of an increase in love among us. I Thess. 3:12. “And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men.”

Encouraging thoughts were offered by the presiding brother, and we were dismissed from the Council at 12:07 pm. Lunch was ready and served to all. We parted in peace and goodwill, with hearts drawn together, and looking forward to all that the Lord may bring to us in the days ahead.

He is faithful, and His saving gospel is our delight! The opportunities are great to give forth a good testimony to others, to share our substance with a needy world, and to explain the reason for our joy. May we remain faithful in His way as we approach the time of His coming!

On behalf of the Brotherhood,

Conference Committee – Wes Bauman, Darrell Boyd, Galen Flory, Merle Flory, David Rumble, Dennis Wray, Mark Grover (moderator), Lowell Miller (secretary), Larry Bower (reading clerk).