

MINUTES OF BROTHERHOOD COUNCIL
held at
CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY, CEDARVILLE, OHIO
May 27, 2025

The 2025 Annual Conference of the Old German Baptist Brethren Church (New Conference) was held this year again at Cedarville University, Cedarville, Ohio. The weather was very pleasant throughout the Conference, with just a couple of showers adding refreshment to the meeting. The Cedarville staff was a great blessing to us in helping us take care of all of our needs, as they were in the midst of a large remodeling project that affected more than one building. We appreciate greatly all who helped to make this Conference a rich experience for our people. On Friday evening, a singing was held, which was enjoyed by many, and there were various activities to occupy the evening. The general preaching services began on Saturday, May 24, at 10 am, and concluded Monday evening, May 26.

Following these 3 days of worship and fellowship, the Brotherhood Council Meeting was held on Tuesday, May 27. 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 some opening remarks and prayer, devotional thoughts were offered concerning Biblical Unity.

The moderator then offered appropriate introductory comments before entering into the business of the meeting. The letters and reports given during the meeting are as follows:

**Explanation by Moderator of the
Messenger Meeting held on
Monday afternoon**

We had no queries for the Messengers to work with this year, so in response to a provision made in 2024 for this possibility, the Messengers were called in to meet at 1:00 pm and given opportunity to share with each other, and pray for the welfare of the church.

After prayer on behalf of this gathering, the Messengers were given opportunity to offer any thoughts or encouragements to each other, or share any concerns that they felt needed prayer.

Several Messengers shared areas of difficulty that they are working with in their congregations, and also things that they are working on in their local settings that they would appreciate prayer for, offering information so that others with leadership responsibilities would be aware.

Following this time of sharing, the Messengers present entered into a time of extended prayer for our people, our ministry, and for our collective efforts to present the gospel to a needy world.

This meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:10 pm, in time for the 2:30 pm services.

The Messenger Meeting seemed to be a great encouragement to many of the Messengers present.

Letter of Greeting

**Scottville District
May 6, 2025**

Greetings,

To the brothers and sisters in Christ, children of the living God, and all those meeting at Cedarville University for this year's Annual Meeting. Peace and mercy to each. We of the Scottville District send our sincere greetings.

May the God of grace fill you with His Spirit to so enable all to accomplish His will on earth. We are praying for you that your time together will be well used, through your own prayers for this church, in reading God's Holy word, in fellowship and worship, in singing and preaching. Make this a great time of encouragement for the edifying of the saints and building up the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ, in whose precious name we send our love and blessings to the children, to the young men and young women, to the fathers and mothers, and to the older ones and all who are gathered. Do not miss Jesus when He shows up. Lay hold on Him and do not let Him go. May holy fire fill your hearts and minds to the glory of God.

On behalf of the Scottville District,

Brother Bill Mustard
Brother Leon Nead

Testimony Committee Report

To the members assembled at our Annual Conference,

Elder Dean Kinsley has expressed a desire to resign from the Testimony Committee. 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 Rusty Flora** to fill this vacancy.

We present this for the approval of this assembly.

The Testimony Committee

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 2025 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 been working to maintain the site, make continued improvements, and manage correspondence. We recently sent out a newsletter which shares about the progress of the site development, introduces the new functions, and shows the impact the site is having in the world. The newsletter explains the new calendar subscription feature and gives a detailed description of how to set it up on your device. We have also added a Sunday services button to make it easier to quickly access the worship service schedule for each week. The newsletter can 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 welcome your continued feedback regarding the website.

The Website Advisory Committee gives a special thanks to the website inquiry support brethren who labor throughout the year to answer questions and communicate with seekers. This past year we added brothers Grant Fullmer, John Sink, and Russel Bowman to our current support brethren, which includes brothers Marcus Miller, Mike Miller, Denny Wray, and Wes Bauman. We also thank those who have invested in writing articles, supplying art work, taking photos, and contributing in various other ways.

Our website continues to bless the members of our fellowship, to encourage other believers, and to reach seekers around the world. Over the last year there have been 84,497 site visits by 28,447 users from 143 countries and all 50 states. Those visits break down as follows:

- Calendar feature: 38,033 page views
- Sermons feature: 51,082 page views
- News feature: 19,552 page views
- About feature: 21,403 page views
- Resources feature: 6,338 page views

The Website Advisory Committee thanks this brotherhood for their continued financial support. To cover the cost of ongoing site maintenance and development needs, we request funds of \$7/member. Please send funds to Brethren Charity Fund, Inc. P.O. Box 365, Brookville, Ohio 45309.

Brother Vince Tye's term of service has come to an end, and we have chosen brother Aaron Long as his replacement. We deeply appreciate brother Vince's labor and leadership on this committee over the past several years. Also, this past year brother Addison Emig was added to the Webmaster Committee.

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 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

Cedarville University, Cedarville, Ohio

Grace and peace to all assembled at Annual Conference.

The Brotherhood Service Committee desires to uplift our young people and encourage them to faithfully live out non-resistant principles in every part of their lives.

Selective Service Update:

The Service Committee maintains yearly contact with federal Selective Service officials to stay informed of any regulatory changes. As of today, we are not aware of any changes in the draft status. It remains the responsibility of all young men to register with the Selective Service within 30 days of their 18th birthday. This can be done at www.sss.gov. Please note that some states now include automatic registration when issuing a driver's license. If you have any questions on registration, please contact your district CO Advisor.

The Service Committee has a current bank account balance of \$11,106.

CASP Update:

In February 2025, a dedicated team of nine young men and six support staff completed a CASP forestry project at Cedars of Lebanon, Tennessee. Their work included tearing down and rebuilding barns, cutting down trees, remodeling a chicken coop, and painting houses. Evenings were filled with singing, devotions, ping pong, and pickleball, fostering a wonderful sense of camaraderie among all involved. This endeavor would not have been possible without the

fervent prayers, steadfast support, and generous donations from so many willing brothers and sisters. May our heavenly Father richly bless each of you for your kind contributions to this important work. Thank you!

Looking ahead, we are actively planning another CASP project for winter 2025/26, and we will share further details as they become available.

The current CASP balance stands at \$21,474. If you feel led to contribute, donations can be sent to the Brethren Charity Fund, marked "CASP Fund".

Please continue to pray for the peace of this nation and the freedom to worship and practice as we understand the Scripture. May God bless each of you.

Brotherhood Service Committee

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

Question: Will you approve this paper?

Answer: Yes.

Scheduling Committee Report

Greetings in the name of Jesus.

We would like to thank all those from the Eastern States Region 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 Cedarville University staff for their hospitality and generosity over this conference. May God in Heaven be glorified!

The Midwest Region (Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan) will be hosting the 2026 Conference at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Indiana on June 5-9, 2026, Lord willing.

California has agreed to host the 2027 Conference. The site and date to be determined at a later time.

Steven Brubaker has been selected to replace Kenny Oyler on the scheduling Committee.

Your Scheduling Committee

Question: Will you approve this paper?

Answer: Yes.

Conclusion

Following the business meeting, the moderator gave encouraging words regarding the church on earth being the habitation of God through the Spirit, and that we are a part of that work that God is doing. He took us back then to the book of Nehemiah, drawing a comparison from the builders who were instructed to build, and also to be very vigilant as they labored. Neh. 4:15-17 *“And it came to pass, when our enemies heard that it was known unto us, and God had brought their counsel to nought, that we returned all of us to the wall, every one unto his work. And it came to pass from that time forth, that the half of my servants wrought in the work, and the other half of them held both the spears, the shields, and the bows, and the habergeons; and the rulers were behind all the house of Judah. They which builded on the wall, and they that bare burdens, with those that laded, every one with one of his hands wrought in the work, and with the other hand held a weapon.”*

A comparison was made regarding the need in our day, to both be engaged in *building*, and also *protecting*, as we labor together in the face of foes.

The Council Meeting was then closed by one of our older elders, who reminisced some of the years that have passed since the forming of our fellowship and also spoke appreciation for the peaceable working together that we are experiencing now. The meeting was closed with a prayer of thanksgiving for the blessings our Heavenly Father has bestowed upon us, and for His sustaining care over our lives.

The presiding brother from the Eastern Region of our Brotherhood made some comments after prayer, expressing appreciation to all who helped in the work of preparing for and conducting this meeting. Appreciation was also expressed to the Cedarville Staff for their assistance in the midst of a large remodel project. It seemed that all went well. The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 am.

Though there was some light rain as we prepared to leave, we left the Meeting with joy, and with a great appreciation for our brethren and sisters who labor with us in the battle of life.

While the work accomplished here yearly is very vital as we strive to maintain the unity of the Spirit, we know that the responsibilities at home in our local setting are perhaps even more important.

May the Lord bless and keep us until we meet again.

On behalf of the Brotherhood:

The Conference Committee – Darrell Boyd, Galen Flory, Merle Flory, Grant Fullmer, David Rumble, Vince Tye, Larry Bower (moderator), Lowell Miller (Secretary), and Wes Bauman (Reading Clerk).