

**MINUTES OF BROTHERHOOD COUNCIL**  
held at  
**CEDARVILLE UNIVERSITY, CEDARVILLE, OHIO**  
**MAY 31, 2022**

The 2022 Annual Conference of the Old German Baptist Brethren Church (New Conference) was held this year again at Cedarville University. The services began on Saturday, May 28, with preaching at 10 am. The series of preaching services concluded on Monday evening, May 30. Following these 3 days of worship and praise, the Brotherhood Council Meeting was held on Tuesday, May 31. Following is a record of that council.

**Introduction**

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 opening that took us through thoughts of unity and love from Phil. 1, we were exhorted in the main message to be mindful of the need to keep the church of God free from sin, so that we can have overcoming power. The example of Israel not being able to take Ai was held forth for our solemn consideration. In the church also, what one person does affects the rest of the body, just as Achan's sin took overcoming power away from Israel. We should always be striving for unity. We have a singular purpose, but a diversity of gifts with which to glorify God. The moderator offered appropriate introductory comments before entering into the business of the meeting.

**Letter of Greeting**

**Scottville District**

To the brethren and sisters assembled at Annual Conference of 2022 at Cedarville, Ohio. We of the Scottville district in 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.

In behalf of the church,  
Minister                      William Mustard  
Trustee                         Leon P. Nead

**Letter of Greeting**

**Lower Twin District**

The members of the Lower Twin district in Preble County, Ohio, send greetings in the name of Jesus to the fellowship of the Old German Baptist Brethren Church, New Conference, assembled at the 2022 Annual Conference in Cedarville, Ohio. Our congregation has chosen to send representation from

our district by way of letter in lieu of messengers this year. We send our love, support, and blessing to this assembly. It is our desire that the Holy Spirit will guide and direct the labors of this brotherhood to the glory of God, the exaltation of His son Jesus Christ and the edification of His church. May there be a testimony of love and faithfulness from us as we go as light into this present world.

**“And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.”**

Signed in behalf of the church,

**Ministers:**

Larry Bower  
Curt Wagoner  
Dave Bower  
Clint Brubaker  
Eric Brubaker

**Deacon:**

Kevin Deaton

**Request from Committee of Elders**

May 28, 2022

Dear Brethren:

In January of 2016, the brotherhood elders authorized a committee to create a biblical vision statement, to take responsibility for the polity paper, the "We Believe" statement and other documents (coordinating their contents), to solicit inputs from the elders and congregations, and then to finally present its work to the whole body at Annual Conference.

The labor assigned to us by the elders, and then authorized by the brotherhood, continued from that point until the last portion of a four-part document was completed and approved at the 2019 Annual Conference. We trust many may find this a concise outline that biblically sets forth our common Vision, Doctrine, Polity, and Practice, and trust it may suitably meet the need of future generations.

Since that time, the members of this committee have felt their labor has been completed. As such, we respectfully request to be released from our duties as a committee for this document. If revisions become needful due to future Annual Conference counsels, elders could then be appointed to maintain this document.

We gratefully acknowledge all those who have aided this work, who have shared of their time and interest along with valuable insights. Many have contributed

in this labor, and it is our desire that each may receive a rich blessing for their efforts.

With love for His church,

The Committee of Elders -- (Galen Flory, Grant Fullmer, Lowell Miller, David Rumble, Curt Wagoner)

**Question: Will you approve this paper?**

**Answer: Yes.**

### Testimony Committee Notice

To the members assembled at our Annual Conference,

Elder Gary Peters and Elder Larry Bower have expressed a desire to resign from the Testimony Committee. We have appreciated their work on this Committee and express thanks to them for their willingness to labor in behalf of our extended Brotherhood.

We have chosen **Elder Phil King** and **Elder Tim Deaton** to fill these vacancies.

We present this for the approval of this Assembly.

The Testimony Committee

**Question: Will you approve this paper?**

**Answer: Yes.**

### Testimony Committee Proposal

#### Email Publication

May 28, 2022

To the members assembled at our Annual Conference,

There has been a feeling among us that it might be beneficial to have our church publication, *The Testimony*, provided to our members in digital form (by email) in addition to the hard copy that is now received by subscribers.

The hard copy is a great blessing, and is now being received in homes, businesses, libraries, and has been seen in at least one doctor's office. The hard copy also has been the means of an increase in subscriptions, and the spreading of the Gospel, as a copy has been seen in homes by a visitor, and a desire expressed to receive the publication. The hard copy in the home is a blessing for all family members for reading at any time, when placed where it is available.

Our plan is to make this publication available also by email **to all who are subscribed and are receiving a hard copy.**

Although this will be some additional labor for us, we want to offer this at no additional cost to the subscribers.

At this Conference, we are asking for approval to move forward with this.

If this is approved, we will begin building a mailing list of all who desire to receive an email copy. This list will be blind-copied for privacy, and sent out on a specified day each month. Request for this service will be made by sending an email to [thetestimony@emypeople.net](mailto:thetestimony@emypeople.net).

We see this publication as a ministry provided by our people for the blessing of all.

In the Lord's service,

The Testimony Committee

**Question: Will you approve this Proposal?**

**Answer: Yes.**

### Website Advisory Committee

#### Annual Report

May 28, 2022

The Website Advisory Committee extends blessings of grace and peace to the brothers and sisters in attendance at the 2022 Annual Conference. The following report is a summary of the activities of the Website Advisory Committee since our last conference in 2019.

The brotherhood website continues to pursue its original vision of being a blessing to users within our fellowship, and those around the world who are seeking to know and worship Jesus Christ. The Advisory Committee and Webmasters consider it a privilege to serve God's people in pursuit of this vision and are appreciative of the thoughtful feedback we receive from users of the website.

During the past year, there have been 85,145 site visits by 31,121 users from 145 countries and all 50 states. Those visits break down to the following number of page-views:

✓ Calendar feature:	107,622
✓ About feature:	41,984
✓ Sermons feature:	37,065
✓ News feature:	36,509
✓ Resources feature:	6,566
✓ Conference feature:	6,099

Over the past several years, we have been reconsidering the long-term functionality and reliability of our website. Our goal has been to maintain our cultural look and feel, while also looking

for ways to reach out to others. In light of this, we decided it would be prudent to rebuild our entire website. We researched website designers and partnered with one who understands our background and had excellent reviews from people we know. We expect this project to be completed this fall. This new website will continue to support sermon podcasts and have an improved calendar, news submission, and sermon upload process.

This website will also have some new features. Additional information is being added to the congregation-specific pages and mapping will make it easier for visitors to locate our services. The site will also contain a church history timeline, and the home page will present real life questions that serious seekers typically wrestle with.

The Advisory Committee extends our sincere thanks to the brotherhood churches for their unselfish financial support during the past three years. To cover the cost of the website redesign and on-going site maintenance we request funds of \$7.00/member. Please send funds to Brethren Charity Fund, Inc. P.O. Box 365, Brookville, Ohio 45309.

Our persistent prayer is that the brotherhood website will continue to bless our members as well as seekers from around the world who desire a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. Unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end.

The Website Advisory Committee

**Question: Do you approve this Report?**

**Answer: Yes.**

### **Brotherhood Service Committee Report**

**Cedarville University, Cedarville, Ohio  
May 31, 2022**

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

The Brotherhood Service Committee wishes to commend our young people for their faithfulness to non-resistant principles taught by our Lord in every avenue of their lives.

It is still the responsibility of all young men to be registered with the Selective Service System within 30 days of their 18th birthday. Failure to do so may result in a letter and/or fine from Selective Service System. Some states have automatic registration via driver license. If in doubt or there are any questions, contact your district CO Advisor for help with registration process.

The current balance in the Brotherhood Service Committee checking account is: \$8,500.00.

### **CASP Update**

A successful CASP project was held on Ocracoke Island in February 2022, which was completely funded by your generosity. We are committed to another CASP project in early 2023, the Lord willing, providing we have sufficient interest among staff and draft-age young men. We strongly encourage our young men between 18-25 years of age to participate in a pilot project, if possible. Contact your local CO advisor of your interest in participating.

Thank you to all participants, donors and others for your continued support and prayer.

The current balance in the CASP fund is: \$25,857.83. We encourage members to support future CASP projects by sending donations to the Brethren Charity Fund, earmarked 'CASP Fund.'

It is with reluctance that we have accepted the resignation of Brother John Fall who has served on the Service Committee since 2005. We sincerely thank Brother John for his dedicated service to the Brotherhood, and for his leadership in the last seventeen years. In his absence, in order to strengthen this Committee, we propose to add Brother Dean Crawmer of the Modesto District, subject to Brotherhood approval.

Organization of the current committee is as follows:

- Foreman: Larry Bower
- Treasurer: David Benedict
- Secretary: John Fall

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 to love our fellow man as Christ taught us to do.

Brotherhood Service Committee,

David Benedict	John Fall
Larry Bower	Arlan Wolf
Trent Bowman	Everett Wray

### **Paper from 2022 COA**

#### Cover Letter

The 2010 Annual Conference approved a suggestion from the 2010 COA for the Ohio Servant Body to create a Scheduling Committee of three Ohio brethren to facilitate the scheduling of any future Annual Conferences to be held at Cedarville University. This suggestion has served our brotherhood well for the conferences held at Cedarville since that time. Starting in 2013, the brotherhood conference has

occasionally been held in other locations. Some of the venues we have grown accustomed to using are planning their schedules 2-4 years in advance. Realizing the merits of this original suggestion, the 2022 COA offers the following proposal to expand on this original suggestion in order to alleviate the need for other regions to select a COA 2 ½ years in advance and to assist in navigating unforeseen circumstances affecting the hosting schedule.

**Original 2010 COA suggestion is included below for reference:**

*i. Suggestion from 2010 Committee of Arrangements*

1. *The Ohio Servant Body would select a Scheduling Committee of three Ohio brethren.*
2. *The responsibilities of this committee would be to:*
  - a. *Schedule any future Annual Conferences to be held at Cedarville University*
  - b. *Work with any new Committee of Arrangements on introducing them to Cedarville University and provide any necessary contact required in behalf of a remotely located Committee of Arrangements*
3. *This committee would be sustained by one brother going off each year in which the meeting is held at Cedarville, starting with the oldest in 2011, and being replaced by a selection from the committee each year, subject to the approval of the brotherhood.*

**Suggestion**

The 2022 Committee of Arrangements offers the following suggestion to expand the current Conference Scheduling Committee and further define its responsibilities.

A. Currently, the Scheduling Committee has two members, both in Ohio. We propose to expand the current Scheduling Committee to include a brother from each of the 5 additional regions of the brotherhood hosting conference. The 5 new brethren would be selected by the elders from their respective regions following the 2022 Annual Conference resulting in the following committee composition: (2) brothers from Ohio/TN, (1) from the Northwest states, (1) from California, (1) from IN/MI/WI, (1) from the Central states, and (1) from the Eastern states.

B. Responsibilities

1. Maintain the brotherhood Conference Hosting Schedule and make any necessary changes in the event of unforeseen circumstances. Contact the elders of the hosting region 2 ½ years prior to conference to confirm the willingness of that region to host.
2. Schedule the historically used venue for the corresponding region hosting conference at least 2

years in advance and present it to the congregations of that region for approval. (If other suitable venues become known to the scheduling committee, they could investigate them and present them to the corresponding hosting region as options to choose from.)

3. Submit announcement of the hosting location and date to The Testimony and the brotherhood website 15-18 months prior to the conference.
4. Introduce the Committee of Arrangements to the hosting venue and provide any necessary on-site contact required by a remotely located Committee of Arrangements.
5. Be a willing help to COA's when unforeseen events present themselves.
6. Transfer the COA minutes, treasurer materials, and other electronic files useful to the COA from one COA to the next.
7. Manage the maintenance, registration, and replacement of the conference supply trailer.
8. When a brother resigns, choose a replacement from the corresponding region.
9. Submit a report each year to the Conference Committee including the following:
  - a. Report the name of any member resigning and the brother selected for his replacement.
  - b. Report the location and date of the next year's conference and the hosting region of the year following.

The 2022 Committee of Arrangements

**Question: Are you willing to approve this paper?**

**Answer: Yes.**

**The Scheduling Committee Report**

Greetings in Jesus name, we have again been blessed with the opportunity to hold our Annual Conference here at Cedarville after a couple of unusual years. May the Lord give us strength and direction in the coming days.

We want to thank the Northwest Districts and all of their labors for making this meeting a success.

The Kansas & New Mexico districts have agreed to host our 2023 Annual Conference at the Indiana Wesleyan University, Marion Indiana on June 2-6, 2023

The Ohio districts have agreed to hold our 2024 Annual Conference at Cedarville University, Cedarville Ohio, on May 25-28, 2024 (pending Cedarville confirmation).

Due to the passing of our dear Brother Doug Balsbaugh, Brother Rex Cottrell from Shiloh District has been chosen to replenish the Scheduling Committee, subject to the approval of this

Brotherhood. Also, Brother Rick Kingery has agreed to stay on the committee through Annual Conference of 2024 to help facilitate the new committee members.

We want to extend a hearty thank you to the Cedarville University staff for all that they have done to make our Conference a success. May the Lord bless all of us, and his Name be glorified in everything we do.

In behalf of the Scheduling Committee,

Curtis Flora, Secretary

**Question: Are you willing to approve this paper?**

**Answer: Yes.**

### **Conclusion**

The meeting concluded on Tuesday at 12:00, with encouraging and tender comments from older elders who have a strong desire for the future of the Church. Though we did not have difficult issues to discuss this year, this is not a time to be passive or distracted as we return home. We are soldiers. May this inspirational meeting help equip us for tomorrow. God is with us! May His Name be exalted in the earth!

In 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).