

**MINUTES OF BROTHERHOOD COUNCIL**  
held at  
**INDIANA WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY, MARION, INDIANA**  
June 9, 2026

The 2026 Annual Conference of the Old German Baptist Brethren Church (New Conference) was held this year at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Indiana. The weather was generally accommodating to the various activities of the Conference, and what rain we did get was more refreshing than disruptive. As usual, the IWU staff blessed our members by their kind and courteous service. We also want to express our appreciation to all who contributed to making this Conference a blessing to the Brotherhood and honor to our Lord. A singing was held on Friday evening which brought together members from across the brotherhood for a season of worship and fellowship. There were other activities on campus that were enjoyed by many as we anticipated the beginning of the preaching services. Those services began on Saturday, June 6, at 10 am, and concluded Monday evening, June 8. A brotherhood communion service was held Sunday evening, June 7, by which many of our beloved members were blessed as we showed forth the Lord's death one time more.

Following the 3 days of worship and fellowship, the Brotherhood Council Meeting was held on Tuesday, June 9. Following is a record of that council.

**Devotional Service**

The Tuesday Council began at 9:00 am. A Conference Committee of nine elders had been selected Saturday afternoon, June 6, to preside over this meeting. Following the exhortation to prayer, we received a Biblical lesson on how we can know Jesus Christ is the only way to God.

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

**Letters of Greeting**

**Scottville District  
May 11, 2026**

To the brothers and sisters assembled at Annual Conference 2026 at Indiana Wesleyan University, greetings to all.

We of the Scottville District Michigan send love and best wishes to you. We pray this annual meeting will be an opportunity for the saints to be strengthened in their faith journey and renewed in spirit through fellowship and worship.

May each of you be encouraged as you spend time together in the Lord's love and work.

On behalf of the Church at Scottville:

Brother Bill Mustard  
Brother Leon Nead

**Mission Valley District  
April 25, 2026**

*Galatians 1:3-4* Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father...

Greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ. The brothers and sisters of the Mission Valley district in Lake County, Montana send our love and prayer support to the members of the Old German Baptist Brethren Church – New Conference assembled at the 2026 Annual Conference in Marion, Indiana. We pray that as you gather in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Word of God is preached in its purity and power, that the Holy Spirit has His way in each heart. We will pray for the exaltation of Jesus Christ among you as you worship, commune, fellowship and counsel together. We desire that from this conference there will rise up in each brother and sister a stronger faith in Christ Jesus, a deeper love for God's people and a greater witness for Christ among the nations.

*Ephesians 3:20-21* Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

On behalf of the Mission Valley District,

Rich Moore  
Danny Lynch  
Mylon Wolf

**Query from Cascade Valley**

Greetings in Jesus' name from the Cascade Valley Congregation to the brothers and sisters assembled at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Indiana, for the 2026 OGBBC NC Annual Conference. We submit the following query for your consideration and counsel.

The past seventeen years have been years of rich blessing as we have journeyed together as the Old German Baptist Brethren Church - New Conference. However, over the years, questions have developed regarding who we are as a people, and what form of administration we are using. It has been suggested by some that though we call ourselves a conference, perhaps we are operating in practice more as a fellowship. There are many ways these terms could be defined, but the core issues seem to be, how closely do we intend to be aligned in practice nationally, and how much latitude do we give to our local congregations to work out matters of practice locally? There are likely many positives and

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negatives that could be expressed about either model. Would this Annual Conference consider appointing a group of five elders to consider this matter, solicit input from our individual congregations, and suggest a clear path forward at next year's Annual Conference?

**Answer of the Subcommittee**

We appreciate the concerns stated in this query. Although we do not feel to grant the request, we believe that the combination of local latitude and extended brotherhood emphasized in the present model of New Conference holds a healthy balance (1 Corinthians 12:5) We encourage leadership to commit to teaching that promotes the "Why" behind what we currently practice as a brotherhood and the application of scripture.

We feel that much of the lack of clarity referred to in this paper, and within our fellowship, points back to a lack of teaching on practical application of Scripture that we as a brotherhood have agreed on. We appreciate the Faith and Practice document and feel it is sufficient. We also desire to present a united and clear identity to the world around us. In light of this, we would plead that each of us consider ways that we could relinquish personal preferences and submit to decisions we have made, to help unify us as a conference. "That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." John 17:21

"For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works." Titus 2:11-14

**Question: Are you willing to accept the answer of the subcommittee?**

**Answer: Yes**

**Brotherhood Service Committee Report**  
**June 9, 2026**

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 Scriptural principles in every area of their lives.

**Selective Service Update:**

Currently, 46 states use driver's license data to automatically register young men for the Selective Service. Under new legislation, all 50 states are required to implement this automatic registration process by December 2026.

Once implemented, young men will no longer need to manually register; they will automatically be entered into the system upon turning 18 and will receive a written confirmation in the mail. Since the new legislation does not go into effect until December 2026, the Service Committee advises all young men turning 18 this year to continue registering manually at [sss.gov](http://sss.gov).

Even after December 2026, we highly recommend verifying your status. When you turn 18, make sure you receive your written notification and use the verification tool on [sss.gov](http://sss.gov) to confirm you are properly registered.

The Service Committee currently has a bank account balance of \$10,992.

**CASP Updates:**

In October 2025, a team of ten young men and six support staff successfully completed a CASP forestry and construction project at Camp Peaceful Pines in California. With great energy and teamwork, this crew built a brand-new cabin, re-sided another, and replaced the roofs on three additional cabins. They also constructed new benches and significantly improved the seating area for the evening campfire.

This successful endeavor would not have been possible without the fervent prayers, steadfast support, and generous donations of so many willing brothers and sisters. May our Heavenly Father richly bless each of you for your vital contributions to this important work. Thank you!

We are actively planning our next CASP project, which will take place in San Juan, Texas, in January 2027. While we currently have enough ASW applicants for this trip, we still encourage any interested young men to fill out an "Interested in Serving" form to be added to the list for the next project. Additionally, we are looking for volunteers to serve in vital leadership and support roles, including Project Coordinators, Job Supervisors, and House Parents. Please contact your local Service Committee representative to sign up or learn more.

This upcoming project is likely to cost more than previous projects due to the increased travel expenses of getting our team and supplies to the southern tip of Texas. We estimate the project expense to be in the \$30,000 range, and our current CASP balance stands at \$13,487. If you feel led to

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contribute to this need, donations may be sent to the Brethren Charity Fund, marked for the "CASP Fund."

We are also looking forward to hosting Non-Resistance meetings throughout the brotherhood during the winter of 2026 and spring of 2027. Further details will be shared with local congregations as they become available.

The Service Committee recommends adding one new member to the Committee to represent the regions of Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Tennessee. To fill this role, the Committee has selected Brother Brad Layman of the Mt. Zion district, subject to the approval of the Brotherhood.

In Christ,

The Brotherhood Service Committee

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

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

**Answer: Yes.**

**2026 Scheduling Committee Report**

Greetings in Jesus' name. We would like to thank those from Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, 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 Indiana Wesleyan University staff for their hospitality and generosity over this conference. May God in heaven be glorified.

The California districts will be hosting the 2027 Conference at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Indiana on May 28-June 1, 2027.

The Ohio and Tennessee districts have agreed to host the 2028 conference.

The Scheduling Committee has chosen Jason Filbrun to replace Greg Kuns.

Your Scheduling Committee

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

**Answer: Yes.**

**Website Advisory Committee Report**

**June 6, 2026**

We extend greetings of grace and peace to the brothers and sisters at the 2026 Annual Conference. As your Website Advisory Committee, we labor together with various other volunteers to make the website an effective tool for the blessing of our members and for reaching seekers around the world. We continually strive to provide doctrinally sound and spiritually rich content on the website, as well as making it user-friendly for practical uses.

We greatly appreciate everyone who contributes to the success of the website. Our current Webmasters, who provide ongoing technical support and development, are as follows: Caleb Jenkins, Andrew Grover, Brendan Swearingen, Addison Emig, and Asher Helmuth. Nathan Wright fills a creative director role, overseeing the more artistic aspects of the website. The website support brethren who labor throughout the year to answer questions submitted to the site and communicate with seekers, are as follows: Denny Wray, Marcus Miller, Mike Miller, Wes Bauman, Grant Fullmer, John Sink, and Russell Bowman. There are also those who invest by writing articles, supplying artwork, taking photos, and contributing in various other ways. We thank each one who fills these various roles, and we pray God will bless you richly for your investment in this work.

We have a need for more volunteers and invite those who are interested or have experience in website development to make it known. If you are interested in helping with sermon editing, we would appreciate your assistance with this as well. We appreciate each contact who has helped keep the calendars updated. If you notice any errors, please send corrections to us so that the calendars can be useful to everyone.

Our website continues to be a resource for the members of our fellowship, to encourage other believers, and to reach seekers around the world. Over the last year there have been approximately 203,081 site visits by 133,522 users from 138 countries and all 50 states. Those visits break down as follows:

- Calendar feature: 87,730 page views
- Sermons feature: 51,511 page views
- News feature: 22,477 page views
- About feature: 25,466 page views
- Resources feature: 6,451 page views

The Website Advisory Committee thanks this brotherhood for their continued financial support for the website. Your ongoing contribution goes primarily toward hosting, maintenance, development, and security expenses. We are requesting funds this year in the amount of \$7 per member, which can be sent to the Brethren Charity Fund, Inc. P.O. Box 365, Brookville, Ohio 45309. In an effort to better communicate, we plan to send out a reminder email concerning the requested funds to each congregation.

We welcome your input on the ongoing development of the Website, as we work together to make it a user-friendly and effective tool. If you have ideas for

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improvement, experience any problems, or need help using the website, please communicate with any of the committee members or submit a request through the “Contact Us” form on the website.

Kevin Jamison has retired from the Webmaster Committee, and brother Asher Helmuth has been added as his replacement. We deeply appreciate Kevin’s labor on this committee over the past 10 years.

The primary goal of our website is to glorify God, 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

Luke Flory, Chairman  
Brian Frantz, Secretary  
Michael Cook, Treasurer

Todd Boone  
Aaron Long

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

**Answer: Yes.**

**Conclusion**

When the business portion of the meeting was finished, the moderator offered thoughts on the perfect peace described in Isaiah 26:3, *“Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.”* The term “perfect peace” in its original language is *“shalom, shalom”* and its meaning transcends the mere absence of conflict. Instead, it goes much deeper in describing the tranquility and spiritual well-being that come from the active presence of the Lord and are the result of anchoring our minds on the Lord and trusting Him for all things. We were encouraged to walk in that peace daily.

The Council Meeting was closed by one of the Elders who reminded us of the consolation there is in Christ and among His people. There is always the temptation to take glory to ourselves, but may this never be among the people of God. Our calling is to exalt the glory of God in our daily lives, and with Paul our hearts desire that unto Him will be glory in the church through Christ Jesus throughout all ages.

The presiding brother from the Indiana districts offered comments after prayer, which expressed our deep appreciation to all who helped in the work of preparing for and conducting this meeting.

Appreciation was once again expressed to the Indiana Wesleyan University Staff for their tireless assistance throughout the conference.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

Thus, another Annual Conference was concluded and the brothers and sisters, along with their families began to disperse back to their homes and local congregations. Being together for a few days with those we love and labor with in the Lord is a blessing we should treasure and preserve. But, neither can we neglect the great blessing of our homes and local congregations; the venues in which we live out the glory of Jesus daily. It is in our local congregations that we regularly experience the Spirit’s work within and among the gifted members He has sovereignly placed together for the loving edification of the church and spread of the gospel in a lost world. May we cherish the blessings of the Lord Jesus in His church with thankful hearts.

On behalf of the Brotherhood:

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