



# The Chimes

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## Modesto Church of the Brethren

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Ministers: Every Member of the Congregation

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

REFLECTION  
Annual Conference  
Church of the Brethren

By Pastor Andrew



The Church of the Brethren's Annual Conference was scheduled to be in Greensboro, North Carolina this year (as it moves around the U.S.) from June 30-July 4. However, due to the ongoing pandemic and Greensboro giving the option to the conference planners that there would be no financial penalty to cancel; it was decided to have a virtual conference.

This would prove to be a sizable challenge to organize, with 800 to 900+ delegates representing churches from across the country, who usually convene for business sessions in table groups of eight persons, plus countless folks who usually listen in on the business sessions. (Delegates are representatives of individual congregations. Each congregation gets one delegate for up to 200 members and additional delegates for each 100 members. Therefore, Modesto has two delegates as we have 201+ members.)

In addition to the business there are usually three blocks of workshops each day, at least one worship service per day, and numerous sponsored meals. (Delegates can easily spend 12+ hours every day in various activities at conference when attending in person!)

The question was what the virtual conference schedule would look like. The answer turned out to be nearly identical to the in-person schedule, despite the concern of many about computer fatigue, with business sessions in two-hour chunks twice a day, and being online 12+ hours each day if one participated in workshops, worship services, and special entertainment options.

The business sessions consisted of more discussion about the Compelling Vision, ([www.brethren.org/ac/compelling-vision/](http://www.brethren.org/ac/compelling-vision/)) voting for candidates to fill positions, and ultimately deciding whether to accept the Compelling Vision (CV). The overwhelming amount of time was spent talking about the CV, which had been created and discussed for 3+ years and had cost an undisclosed amount of energy and money. So the delegates spent even more time talking about a document that almost everyone assumed would be affirmed.

I have reservations about the CV and questions that I never heard answered:

1. Roughly 3000 people provided input for the CV which equals about 3.3% of the denomination's official membership. In my opinion, that is entirely too low a percentage to try to accurately gauge what a group is thinking.

2. It is unknown-or at least was not disclosed-how many of the 3000 are still in the Church of the Brethren, since approximately 2100 people and 32 congregations left to join the Covenant Brethren Church, according to their Facebook page. How did this fundamentalist and uber-traditional group impact the CV? It's hard to know.

3. My delegate table at the 2019 conference asked repeatedly to engage with a representative of the CV team and was repeatedly ignored. Why? We never were told.

4. Lastly, the CV preaches a message of unity over inclusivity. Frequently, in the Church of the Brethren this seems to mean, "sit down and be quiet," to progressive individuals, churches, and organizations, so as not to "rock the boat."

The format of the CV ballot assured that it would pass, with three options for varying degrees of affirmation and only one dissenting option. Four hundred fifty delegates voted (out of a total of 519):

- 162 whole-heartedly affirmed
- 107 affirmed
- 100 had reservations but affirmed
- 81 cannot affirm (69 did not vote)

The CV passed but not with a lot of enthusiasm or energy except for maybe by the three elderly, white gentleman who presided over the conference. Next year's conference in Omaha will probably be in person and considerably busier at the business sessions since there was no new business at the virtual conference. I am curious to see what, if any, of the CV makes its way into conversations once conference finally comes out "West."



Sunday in-person worship continues weekly at Modesto Church of the Brethren. If you prefer, you may continue following the worship service online at the address below.



### August 15<sup>th</sup> Communion Sunday

Pastor Andrew and the Deacons are planning to serve communion next Sunday. For those who attend worship on line, virtually, you can contact the church if you would like to come by to pick up individual communion kits.

Due to COVID restrictions, at in-person worship, the deacons will serve communion using individual vials for the juice and serve the bread using gloves.

We are excited to be having communion as part of our service. We hope you will choose to participate this coming Sunday.

The Deacon Body.



Joann Ewert is grateful for the prayers for safety for her grandson, Cameron, as he works southwest of Redding cutting firebreaks to contain the McFarland fire.

Mary Pieczarka asks for prayers for Cal's brother Owen as he completes his earthly journey. Please hold Owen's family in prayer.

Mary also asks for prayers for Cal and his daughter Annie as she prepares to move from Olympia to Chico this week.

Lynda Sesser has joy to have her Aunt Norma Kelly with her; she has recently moved to Modesto from Pleasanton. Lynda also says it is great to see Les Roy at worship again.

Johnathan Goodrich has a joy that his father's hip replacement was smooth and successful.

Marye Martinez asks for prayers for Mary Louise, her closest friend from childhood, who is in the hospital with COVID and pneumonia.

Elaine Forcier is grateful for her successful angioplasty last Tuesday. She is feeling much better and glad to be at worship. Elaine also has concern for her husband Al, as he continues to struggle to regain his energy amid respiratory challenges.

Larry and Luella Cole are happy that Larry's son, Bryan and Bryan's two daughters will be coming to visit from Minnesota.

Keep in your prayers all these joys and sorrows, and remember those who are left unspoken but remain in our hearts



### August Birthdays

- 9 Tom Deal
- 13 Syl Bupp
- 13 Dave Hunter
- 16 Steve Miller
- 23 Jamie Campbell
- 23 Sara Miller
- 27 Carole Greathouse
- 30 Al Forcier
- 31 Marye Martinez

### MORE



**Please keep adding milestones to the Chimes! Birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, new jobs, retirements. Send any other milestones in your life that you would like to see here.**



Sunday, August 22, **Pastor Andrew** will have a "blessing of the backpacks" during worship. **Andrew** will send out an email to all parents of school age children inviting them to come to church that Sunday.

# Cash Receipts/Expenses 2021

January \$15,322.00

February \$14,191.00

March \$12,699.68

April \$25,724.00

May \$27,475.63

June \$21,532.00

July \$18,605.83

Total \$135,532.14 \*

\* This giving reflects 45.9% of our 2021 budget with 58.3% of the year elapsed. Our disbursements to date have been \$138,338.75, for a deficit of \$2,806.61.

Items for the next Chimes  
are due by 5 pm Sunday, August 15.  
Send to [chimes@modcob.org](mailto:chimes@modcob.org)



The Shower Shuttle boxes are back in the narthex, and this year, we are asking that members of the congregation donate not only **socks**, but—**underwear**! After a refreshing shower, guests of the Shower Shuttle need clean socks and underwear to feel clean.

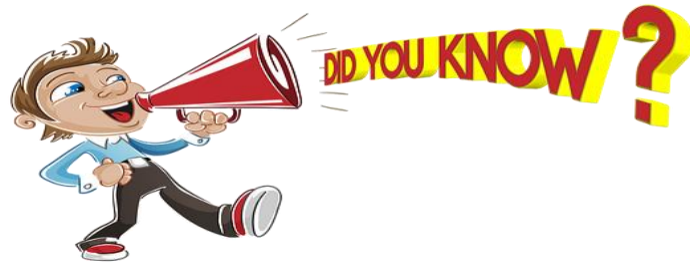
As well as socks, the Shower Shuttle needs men's boxers, sizes Small, Medium, and Large. (NO brief-style tighy-whitey's) please! Women's panties sizes Small, Medium, and Large. Any style. (Please note: Most of the women guests tend to be on the smaller side)

Another item that the Shower Shuttle can use is **grocery bags**. They can use both plastic and paper bags. If you have those, they can be placed in the boxes or under the table that holds the boxes.

Your donations may be placed in the Shower Shuttle boxes in the narthex if you visit the church. If you would like to donate, but can't get to the church, call Jim Costello at (209) 402-9191 or Luella Cole at (209) 402-2915 and we will pick up your donations.



The knitting/crocheting group meets at 2 PM every second and fourth Monday at Pat Royer's apartment, Casa de Modesto, #1004, gate code 1234. Some knit, some crochet, and we all share our projects, learn new ideas, and chat.



YOU NEED TO KEEP **AUGUST 22<sup>ND</sup>** OPEN FOR A  
HAPPENIN'?  
**WHAT'S HAPPENIN'?**



**Well, here it is!!** That day at church **you** and anyone else going back to school (kids, teachers, secretaries, etc.) are being asked to bring their backpacks, computers, or anything else important to their wellbeing at school, to church to receive a blessing for the start of the school year. **But WOW!!** Immediately after church you Sr. Hi. youth will also travel to the Daniels home for pizza and a swim party from 12:30-3:30. We will be welcoming our new 9<sup>th</sup> graders at this party and it's a great time for you to invite any high school friends as well. We need RSVPs to know how much pizza to get. So let us know to count you in as soon as possible!

Email [kdboardman@gmail.com](mailto:kdboardman@gmail.com) or [ashleygflores14@gmail.com](mailto:ashleygflores14@gmail.com) or  
Call Karleen Daniels 209 484 3163