

Annual Conference Prayer Guide

(The Annual Conference Officers join in prayer each Wednesday morning at 8:00 am whatever time zone they are in. You are invited to join in prayer with them each Wednesday morning throughout the year as we pray for the Church of the Brethren.)

- Oct 5 Pray for Moderator Tim Harvey and the leadership he is providing as plans are made for Annual Conference in St. Louis, MO (July 7-11, 2012) with the theme *Continuing the Work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.*
- Oct 12 The Mission and Ministry Board will meet at the denominational offices in Elgin, IL from Friday, October 14 – Monday, October 17. The Annual Conference Leadership Team will also meet on October 17. Hold all of our church leaders in prayer during these meetings.
- Oct 19 Pray for Moderator-Elect Bob Krouse as he assists the Annual Conference Officers, and balances this call with his calling as pastor of Little Swatara Church of the Brethren.
- Oct 26 Pray for Annual Conference Secretary Fred Swartz, serving in his tenth year in this role. Give thanks for Brother Fred's gifts and deep understanding of church polity.
- Nov 2 Pray for Annual Conference Director Chris Douglas and assistant director Jon Kobel, as they coordinate the many details involved in conference planning.
- Nov 9 Give thanks for our Saturday evening preacher, Dr. Walter Brueggemann, and worship leader Walt Wiltschek for their involvement in Annual Conference next summer. Pray that their work will inspire a new commitment to *International Mission* by the Brethren.
- Nov 16 The Annual Conference Program and Arrangements committee meets this week (November 14-17) in St. Louis, MO. Hold this group in prayer as they continue planning for the 2012 Annual Conference.
- Nov 23 Give thanks for our Sunday morning preacher, Moderator Tim Harvey, and worship leader Moderator-Elect Bob Krouse. As they help us focus on the theme *Brethren Voice*, be in prayer for how you and your congregation share the work of the Church of the Brethren in your location.

- Nov 30 Give thanks for our Monday evening preacher, Becky Ball-Miller, and worship leader Dave Steele. As they help us focus on the theme *Strong Congregations*, pray especially for your own congregation and the ways that it might be strengthened to *Continue the Work of Jesus* more effectively.
- Dec 7 Give thanks for our Tuesday evening preacher, Jennifer Leath, and worship leaders Katie and Parker Shaw Thompson, as they provide leadership around the daily theme of *Service*. Consider how in a world that is increasingly skeptical about religion, a commitment to service can be an authentic expression of our faith in Jesus.
- Dec 14 Give thanks for our Wednesday morning preacher, Daniel D’Oleo, and worship leader Angie Lahman Yoder, as they help us focus on the theme *Church Planting*. Also pray for the new churches in your district, and seek ways you or your congregation might be involved in planting new churches.
- Dec 21 As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, pray that the Brethren would find unity around the work we do together. In the midst of some frustration and disappointment, may remembering Jesus’ birth be an encouragement for us as a denomination.
- Dec 28 As 2011 comes to a close, reflect back upon this year in the Church of the Brethren. In what ways were we especially blessed and faithful? In what ways did we get off course and stray from our calling to make and be disciples? Give thanks to God for the joys of this year, and pray that we all might repent of those places of sinful disobedience and unfaithfulness.
- Jan 4 Hold the Nominating Committee of Standing Committee in prayer as they work to prepare the ballot for the 2012 Annual Conference. Give thanks for each person who has been nominated to serve, and for those Standing Committee members willing to give their time to this important task.
- Jan 11 In what new ways can you and your congregation work to *Continue the Work of Jesus* in the community surrounding your church? Seek God’s guidance for the strengthening of ongoing ministries and the development of new ministries for your local congregation.
- Jan 18 Pray for the Standing Committee today, especially for the Standing Committee delegate(s) from your district. They have an important job, and our denomination is continually blessed by their efforts.

- Jan 25 Pray for General Secretary Stan Noffsinger, and the work he does on behalf of the Church of the Brethren.
- Feb 1 In your prayer today, give thanks for the work of the Church of the Brethren Mission and Ministry Board and all of our staff members, as they *Continue the Work of Jesus* through denominational ministries. May their work for the church be a blessing to themselves and to others.
- Feb 8 In your prayer today, give thanks for the work of On Earth Peace. In our world of violence and conflict, this agency does important work, helping people experience the Kingdom of God, "on earth, as it is in heaven." Pray that the work of On Earth Peace would be expanded and multiplied around the globe.
- Feb 15 In your prayer today, give thanks for Bethany Seminary, as they train the next generation of church leaders to creatively *Continue the Work of Jesus* in local churches, communities, and places around the world.
- Feb 22 In your prayer today, give thanks for the work of Brethren Benefit Trust, as they provide important financial services to pastors, denominational staff, and congregations among the Brethren.
- Feb 29 Give thanks for the work of the denominational *Vision Committee* and the work they have done preparing a vision statement for the remainder of this decade. The statement is on the Annual Conference website, and will be an item of business in St. Louis this summer. Pray for ways your congregation might interact with the vision statement.
- Mar 7 The Mission and Ministry Board will meet from Friday, March 9 – Monday, March 12. Hold all of our church leaders in prayer during these meetings.
- Mar 14 Annual Conference depends heavily on numerous volunteers to accomplish the many tasks that come with a meeting of this size. Volunteers do everything from unloading trucks, to providing child care, to helping with audio-visual equipment and much, much more. Give thanks to God for the large number of persons who will help this summer in St. Louis, and especially for the Missouri-Arkansas district for their work in hosting the "Big Meeting."
- Mar 21 Pray that Annual Conference would truly be a place where Brethren come to be united and inspired in our shared work of *Continuing the Work of Jesus*.

- Mar 28 In our decision making as a denomination, the results are important. But the *process* we use in arriving at those decisions is also important. As you consider the work of Annual Conference, pray that the process we use would be helpful, respectful, and enable us to understand differing opinions others may have.
- Apr 4 Tomorrow evening, many Church of the Brethren congregations will celebrate Love Feast. In the Gospel account of footwashing, Peter had some discomfort with Jesus' actions. Are there persons whose feet you would find difficult to wash? Ask God to change your attitude toward those persons, as Peter's attitude toward Jesus was changed.
- Apr 11 After the resurrection of Jesus, many persons were transformed and become followers of Jesus. Pray that our work as a denomination would continue to equip persons to *Continue the Work of Jesus*, helping people and communities experience authentic transformation in the name of Jesus.
- Apr 18 Pray that Annual Conference would truly be a place where Brethren come to be united and inspired in our shared work of *Continuing the Work of Jesus*.
- Apr 25 It will soon be time for Annual Conference Delegate briefings, held in our districts. Pray for those persons who will be leading those sessions, that they would be well attended and helpful to prepare us for our work in St. Louis this summer.
- May 2 Give thanks for our Saturday evening preacher, Dr. Walter Brueggeman, and worship leader Walt Wiltscheck, for their involvement in Annual Conference this year. Pray that their work will inspire a new commitment to *International Mission* by the Brethren.
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