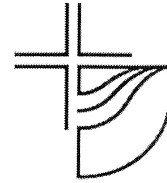


Church of the Brethren Annual Conference

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Church of the Brethren

District and congregational leaders in the Church of the Brethren,

I am hopeful that you have had a chance to see or hear the 2010 Annual Conference theme, *Taking Jesus Seriously*, based on John 14:15 ... “*if you love me, you will obey what I command*” (New International Version). To see more information about “why” this theme, please visit <http://www.cobannualconference.org/pittsburgh/theme.html>.

I would also like to invite you to consider two ways to participate in the 2010 Annual Conference, to be held in Pittsburgh, PA, July 3 to 7. **First, as a way of challenging and inspiring us to consider the theme, Program and Arrangements Committee is looking for stories of persons who have taken Jesus seriously.** Perhaps it is a moment of selfless action. Perhaps it is a lifetime’s commitment to a cause of the Gospel. Perhaps it is a story of one person ... or a congregation ... or a district, agency, or organization. We are interested in stories that span the diversity of our denomination: theologically, geographically, generationally, and more. The aim is to include those stories of faith and testimony throughout our time together in Pittsburgh, celebrating God’s good work among us.

Program and Arrangements Committee is collecting these stories now. At this point, we are most interested in getting a brief synopsis of the story and contact information to do some follow-up. These stories could be sent to the Annual Conference Office (see the address above) or to cdouglas@brethren.org. **It would be helpful if the stories could be sent by November 9.**

Second, please come to the 224th recorded Annual Conference! This is the only gathering within the Church of the Brethren where everyone is invited to the table, regardless of age, theology and geography. This is the place that members of the Church of the Brethren come to be the body of Christ, to be a part of a community of faith that is more powerful than we could be on our own. That body will not be the same without you.

Regardless of whether you will be able to attend this year, please hold the “big meeting” in your prayers. Please pray for the workers and staff of the convention center, hotels and restaurants we will frequent. Please pray for the delegates who will gather to discern the Spirit’s movement in our midst. Please pray for the safety, creativity, and wisdom of Annual Conference officers. Please pray for the volunteers and attendees who will gather to sense the Spirit, glorify God, and catch a glimpse, again, of the way the Church of the Brethren have taken Jesus seriously for over 300 years ... and counting.

Blessings in Jesus’ name,


Shawn Flory Replogle
2010 Annual Conference Moderator