

Reflections on My Appreciation of the ANE District
By Samuel T. Frankhouser

I have always tried to look “down the road” and seek new opportunities to learn, grow, and serve. I also like opening doors which lead me to new brothers and sisters who can enrich and bless my life in inspiring and faithful ways.

I love my home church and find much satisfaction and appreciation in being part of a vibrant, caring, and serving neighborhood ministry. However, I also really love the work and dedication of “wider church” that we call the ANE District.

Getting to know, engage, and worship with folks from all over our District is a blessing! It encourages the formation of new relationships and fosters understandings that are essential so that I may faithfully and lovingly move forward with my brothers and sisters of the wider church in friendship and appreciation.

Making friends across the District through Christian service and fellowship means a lot to me. District events, commissions, committees, worship services, classes, conferences, and service projects make it easy for me to connect with Brethren from different backgrounds and Biblical understandings which may be different from mine! And that’s a good thing, since Jesus remains the central focus in all our daily lives.

I am truly thankful for the ways in which I can serve the wider church and joyfully use my God-given gifts in support of the important ANE ministries which lovingly reach out to help, enhance, and grow the exceptional ministries and service efforts which are already found in every local/neighborhood Brethren church. But, by working together and covenanting together, we are even **more capable** of being God’s “hands and feet” as we move forward as Christ’s ambassadors to this crazy world!

With that in mind, I offer this quotation from the Wesleyan Tradition ... “No church is an island. We are bound together in covenant, responsible for one another, and called to advance the Kingdom **together.**”

So, I continue to look positively and prayerfully to the future of the ANE District as we continue the work of Jesus ... “Peacefully. Simply. Together.” Amen!

Blessings—Always!

Sam Frankhouser

Chair of the ANE Older Adult Committee

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