Celebrating Faith, Fellowship, and Our District Family

The 2026 Atlantic Northeast District Conference was a meaningful celebration of faith, fellowship, and our shared life in Christ. Throughout our time together, we were reminded of our conference theme, "Fixing Our Eyes on Jesus," based on Hebrews 12:1–4.

Beginning with the Word

Our conference season began on Thursday, September 24, with a powerful Bible study led by Nicki Habecker of Cornerstone Christian Fellowship Church of the Brethren. Reflecting on Hebrews 12:1–4, Nicki challenged us to consider where our eyes had been fixed throughout the week and encouraged us to redirect our focus toward Jesus. It was a fitting beginning to a conference season centered on keeping Christ at the heart of our lives, our congregations, and our shared ministry.

Friday Evening Worship

Friday evening, 59 people gathered in person and another 27 joined virtually for a special District worship service at Living Faith Church of the Brethren.

The evening opened with uplifting music led by Moderator David Sollenberger, pastor of Living Faith Josh Tindall, and friends, beautifully setting the tone for worship centered on "Fixing Our Eyes on Jesus."



Worship Service at Living Faith COB

One particularly meaningful part of the evening was the recognition of those who have faithfully answered God's call to ministry. We were especially honored to celebrate Jim Beckwith, Ken Bomberger, Galen Hackman, and John Kolle, each marking an incredible 50 years in ministry. We give thanks for their many years of faithful service and for the countless lives touched through their ministries.

The generosity of our District family was also evident through an offering of more than $16,000 for the Deportation Defense Response Legal and Mutual Aid Fund. These gifts will help support congregations and members facing immigration-related expenses. Thank you to everyone who contributed so generously.

David Sollenberger shared a creative and meaningful message based on Hebrews 12:1–4, encouraging us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus as we continue the race set before us. Did you miss Friday evening worship? The service recording is available on YouTube, which you can access by clicking here.

Saturday District Conference

On Saturday, October 3, 150 Brethren gathered at Elizabethtown College for the 57th Annual Atlantic Northeast District Conference. More than a business meeting, the day was a celebration of faith, fellowship, and our shared purpose in Christ.

The morning began with worship led by Cornerstone Christian Fellowship. Throughout the day, attendees heard updates from District ministries, including the debut of a new video highlighting the many ways

ANE ministries are assisting congregations across the District. A five-minute version of the video is available on the home page of the District website for congregations to use as an educational and ministry resource, and a longer version is also available on the District's YouTube channel.

Another highlight was hearing from Alpha & Omega, Hatfield, and Mountville Churches of the Brethren about the creative ways their congregations are bringing Jesus into their neighborhoods. Their stories provided encouragement and practical examples of how congregations can explore new approaches to ministry while remaining firmly rooted in Christ.



2026 District Conference Attendees

The afternoon included hymns, updates and reports from partner organizations, and opportunities for questions, conversation, and sharing about the ways our congregations are bringing the Good News into their communities.

Answering the Call to Serve

Conference delegates affirmed the 2027 District Leadership Slate, welcoming new and returning leaders who have answered the call to serve and support the ministries of our District: Moderator-Elect: Rebecca Fuchs; Annual Conference Standing Committee: Jason Haldeman; Alternate Standing Committee: Adam Ulm; Program & Arrangements: Laura Meiser; Gifts Discernment Team: Ken Hackett and Mary Etta Reinhart; Board Vice Chair: Liz Bidgood Enders; Church Development: Cody Heagy and Todd Rebman; Ministry: Ray Dotter and Dana Statler; Nurture: David Black; Stewardship: Thomas Connelly and David Hosler; Witness & Outreach: Zarita Herasme-Terrero. Michael Campbell and Jamie Nace were also affirmed to serve on the Board of Trustees for Camp Swatara.

We are grateful for each person who has said "yes" to serving the District and ask God's blessing upon them as they share their gifts in the year ahead.

Many Members, One Body



Head Table

As the conference drew to a close, Moderator David Sollenberger passed the gavel to incoming Moderator Karen Hackett. Karen concluded the day with words inspired by Romans 12:5, reminding us that though we are many, we are one body in Christ—a powerful focus for our next year of shared ministry.

Throughout the conference weekend, one message was unmistakably clear: the love of Jesus is alive and active throughout our churches, and we are stronger when we serve together.

We are grateful to everyone who worshiped, participated, shared, served, volunteered, and helped make this year's District Conference a meaningful gathering of our District family.

Conference at a Glance

134 average Saturday attendance; 95 delegates attended, from 97 registered and 178 possible delegates; 45 congregations and fellowships were represented, from 46 registered and 58 possible.

We look forward to gathering again at Elizabethtown College on October 9, 2027, for next year's Atlantic Northeast District Conference. The District Conference Worship Service will be held Friday evening, October 8.

Until then, may we continue to run the race before us, serve faithfully together, and keep our eyes fixed on Jesus.

Click here to see more photos.