

January 2026

To: Pastor, Moderator, or Church Representative
Re: **2026 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference,
Fort Wayne, Indiana – June 28 - July 2**



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Imagine: New Possibilities, Restored Vision, Renewed Dreams. Annual Conference provides an opportunity for the body of Christ to come together to hear the voice of God as revealed by the Holy Spirit within and among us. Please join us for inspiring worship, informational Bible studies, communal discernment, engaging breakout sessions, energizing exhibits, empowering witness, nurturing fellowship and meaningful connection.

Special this year on Tuesday: **Imagine! A Morning of Sparking, Stirring, and Serving.** In a keynote address, Angelo Mante will share insights from his work in Fort Wayne, where his nonprofit Alive Community Outreach focuses on restorative peacemaking, nonviolent education for youth, and support for survivors of violence. That will be followed by educational equipping sessions, meaningful service projects, and intentional networking opportunities. We're excited to invite you to take part in this special opportunity!

Registration for Onsite Attendance

Registration for both delegates and non-delegates for the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference will open at 12:00 Noon Central Time on **Wednesday, March 4, 2026.**

- The advance delegate registration fee is \$350 per delegate. Advance registration will close on June 7. The fee for registering delegates onsite in Fort Wayne will be \$425. Don't wait!
- The advance non-delegate registration fee is \$175. Advance registration will close on June 7. The fee for registering non-delegates onsite in Fort Wayne will be \$210. The adult daily fee in advance and onsite is \$55. Post-high to age 21 fee is \$50 full/\$20 daily. Current high school and younger are free but must be registered.

Registration for Virtual Attendance

Thanks to generous contributions from the Living Stream Church of the Brethren and the Pacific Northwest District we are able to offer the virtual option at no charge for 2026. This gives you the opportunity to engage in business, participate in a number of Equipping Sessions, and enjoy the Wednesday evening concert featuring Brethren musicians—all virtually. All participants must still register between March 4 through June 23. Virtual attendees are encouraged to make a donation to the ministry of Annual Conference as an expression of appreciation. For more information go to www.brethren.org/ac2026/registration and select Virtual Non-Delegate Registration.

Special Opportunity

We are offering a special discount for in-person attendees (delegates or non-delegates) from congregations who have not been represented at Annual Conference in-person since 2019. Those interested in taking advantage of this discount should contact the ANE district office for more information (Call 717-367-4730). Click [here](#) to see the ANE congregations eligible for this discount.

Registering a Delegate

Congregations may register their delegates using online registration beginning Wednesday, March 4, 2026, at 12:00 Noon Central Time. Payment options include paying by credit card or sending a check. Go to www.brethren.org/ac and click on the "Registration" button and then choose "Delegate Registration". Each delegate's complete name, address, email, and phone number are required. If you need assistance, call the Annual Conference Office and we will be happy to answer your questions. Delegate registration fees provide each delegate with a Conference booklet, the business materials packet, a designated delegate name tag, seating at the delegate tables at Annual Conference, and a 2026 Annual Conference minutes book mailed to the congregation.

For information about how to use the registration site go to www.brethren.org/ac2026 then click Registration and click on the link: **A Guide to Registering Online for Annual Conference.**

Delegate Eligibility and Allotment

Delegates must be full members of the Church of the Brethren. The number of delegates for each congregation is based on the membership statistics as reported through the 2024 CoB Yearbook reporting process:

Up to 200 Members: 1 delegate 201-400 Members: 2 delegates 401-600 Members: 3 delegates

Conference Hotel

There are three conference hotel options this year:

- The **Hilton Fort Wayne** is located at 1020 S. Calhoun St. and is seamlessly connected to the convention center on two floors. Our Annual Conference Room Rate* is \$128 plus tax and fees (15%) totaling \$147.20 per night. Complimentary airport shuttle to and from Fort Wayne International Airport.
- The **Hampton Inn & Suites** is located at 223 W. Jefferson Blvd. and is directly across the street from the front of the convention center. Our Annual Conference Room Rate* is \$135 plus tax and fees (15%) totaling \$155.25 per night. Rate includes a complimentary hot breakfast.
- The **Courtyard by Marriott** is located at 1150 S. Harrison St. and is across the street from the convention center and also connected by two skywalks. Our Annual Conference Room Rate* is \$132 plus tax and fees (15%) totaling \$151.80 per night.

A discounted daily parking fee of \$8 has been negotiated for COB guests in each hotel garage. In-room Wi-Fi is complimentary for all hotel guests. Find more information at www.brethren.org/ac2026/hotels. Annual Conference registration and housing reservations open to the public on **Wednesday, March 4**. *Room rate is only accessible through the Annual Conference registration process, not by contacting the hotel directly.

Worship Services

All five worship services will be available in person and virtually free of charge to all registered and non-registered people.

Welcome Meal on Sunday, June 28.

Come meet, greet and eat with other conference goers on Sunday evening, June 28, beginning at 5:00 p.m. in the Atrium of the Hilton Hotel. Purchase your meal ticket in advance when you register. Questions on table tents will encourage conversation and fellowship. Come join us!

New Attendee Orientation

We encourage delegates or non-delegates who have never attended or have not recently attended Annual Conference to attend the New Attendee Orientation session in Fort Wayne on Sunday, June 28 at 3:30 p.m. in Anthony Wayne A.

Online Information

Please check our webpage at www.brethren.org/ac2026 for more information about Annual Conference in Fort Wayne, including leadership, themes, activities, schedules, catered meals and food options, meetings and events, webcasting instructions and much more. New information is added regularly, so check back often!

Please feel free to contact either of us if you have any questions.

Rhonda and Debbie

Church of the Brethren Annual Conference Office
1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120

Rhonda Pittman Gingrich, Conference Director
Dial direct: 847-429-4364 | Toll free: 800-323-8039 | RPGingrich@brethren.org

Debbie Noffsinger, Conference Assistant
Dial direct: 847-429-4366 | Toll free: 800-323-8039 | dnoffsinger@brethren.org