



# 2014 Progressive\* Guide to Annual Conference

Items of interest to all people working for  
a church of justice, welcome, peace, and equality for all

\*And, yeah, we have problems with the word 'progressive', but we don't have anything better to offer at the moment. So we're coping. :)

## New Booth Configuration! Courage Rising: Conversations of Challenge, Risk & Solidarity

The booth space will look very different this year. BMC, Open Table, Global Women's Project and Womaen's Caucus will be in a line with no partitions. There will be a space in the center that is for conversations. We are excited to announce each organization will be hosting several conversations in this space!



### Thursday, 1:30pm - What's Queer on Brethren Campuses?

Church of the Brethren colleges and universities are increasingly institutionalizing resources which protect and support lgbtq students, faculty and staff. What models might they provide for the Church of the Brethren? Listen as chaplains Steve Crain (McPherson College), Zandra Wagoner, (La Verne University), and David Witkovsky, (Juniata College) reflect on the intersection of faith and gender identity and sexual orientation at their respective campuses. [Hosted by BMC.](#)



### Thursday, 8:30pm - Queer Young Adults Talk Church

What does it mean to be an lgbtq young adult in the Church of the Brethren? This is an opportunity to hear the experience and dreams of queer young adults and how they understand their position and role in the church. Our journeys toward courageous vitality may be more intertwined than we think. [Hosted by BMC.](#)



### Friday, 10am - State of the COB: Reflections from SCN Pastors

Congregations that welcome lgbtq people offer a unique position from which to observe and reflect upon the general health and future of the Church of the Brethren. Pastors from three SCN (Supportive Communities Network) congregations; Susan Boyer (La Verne), Brian Flory (Beacon Heights) and Kurt Borgmann (North Manchester) will offer their insights and perspectives in what we hope will be a lively and engaging conversation. [Hosted by BMC](#)



### Friday, 1:30pm - Ask the Beasts Book Discussion

Join Open Table as we read together as a way to build community and deepen our faith. Together we will read and discuss our way through *Ask the Beasts: Darwin and the God of Love* by Elizabeth Johnson. With Johnson's latest book as our guide we will explore and deepen our understanding of God's love by looking to the beasts, birds, plants, and fish. Join is for an in-person discussion on Chapter 3. You can also enter a drawing for an opportunity to win a copy of *Ask the Beasts!* [Hosted by Open Table.](#)



### Friday 3:45pm - Inclusive Language

Are we really still talking about inclusive language? Language matters and words are powerful messengers. Words can wound and perpetuate violence, and words can heal. How can our use of inclusive language contribute to a more just world? Come join the conversation, share ideas and resources as we learn from each other. Join Cindy Weber-Han & Kathy Gingrich. [Hosted by Womaen's Caucus.](#)



### Friday, 8:45pm - Shrinking Congregations: Dying with Grace or Radical Rebirth?

Coming to terms with our mortality is often challenging, both for people and for congregations. When the communities we are part of begin to shrink, what might it look like to die with grace and dignity, or to prepare for the challenge of radical rebirth? Join Matt McKimmy, Richmond Church of the Brethren, and Howard Ullery, Lacey Community Church, as they share from their experiences walking with congregations as they face these very questions. [Hosted by Open Table.](#)



### Saturday, 10:15am - Visions for Caucus

After 40 plus years of work, where are we going? Inspired by the courageous women who started caucus, we would like to look at the current status of women in the church. Join the Steering Committee in a sharing of ideas, thoughts and visions for the future. Come dream together with us. [Hosted by Womaen's Caucus.](#)



### Saturday, 4:30 (immediately following business session) Power and Privilege in the Church

How does oppression play out in the church? How can we join together to recognize each other's experiences in our church community? Join Matt Gynn, On Earth Peace, and Elizabeth Ullery, Open Table Cooperative, as we come together to build awareness on the impact of power, privilege and oppression on our church community. [Hosted by Open Table.](#)

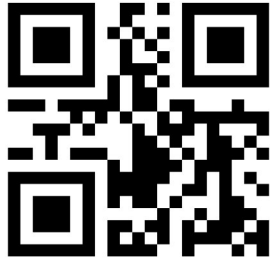
## Ministry of Reconciliation



Members of the Ministry of Reconciliation will be wearing yellow lanyards and tags that say "Minister of Reconciliation" on them.

If at any point during conference, you find yourself in need of a Minister of Reconciliation, please feel free to use this resource by stopping by the On Earth Peace Booth or the Annual Conference office.

**(620) 755-3940**



## Open Table Annual Conference Text Message Updates

Scan the QR Code above with your smartphone  
or text "AC2014" to (765) 280-4999  
to receive updates about Progressive Brethren  
events and important conference business.

\* Standard messaging rates apply.



## Beyond the Stained Glass Ceiling



### Intercultural Luncheon

**Thursday July 3rd, 12pm D230-232**

Rev. Christine A. Smith will share her insights and wisdom about addressing the interlocking injustices of sexism and racism within the contemporary church.

"The concept of the glass ceiling is not new. In the secular realm, the glass ceiling represents the barrier that prevents qualified individuals from excelling beyond a certain level due to their race, gender, or orientation. For those of us who serve in the sacred or religious realm, we know it as the stained glass ceiling, referring to the barriers imposed by churches."

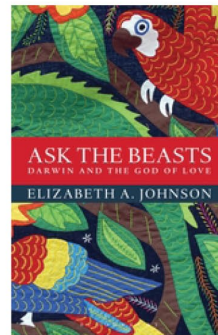
- From her book *Beyond the Stained Glass Ceiling: Equipping and Encouraging Female Pastors*

## Business Items to Watch

It is important to be aware of these queries and be open to discussion on them, asking questions and being thoughtful, as they could induce larger shifts within the denomination.

- Guidelines for Implementation of the Congregational Ethics Paper
- Guidance for Responding to the Changing of Earth's Climate
- More Equitable Representation on the Mission and Ministry Board
- Revision to the Special Response Process of "A Structural Framework for Dealing with Strongly Controversial Issues"
- On Earth Peace Annual Report

## Open Table Summer Read



Join us as we read  
*Ask the Beasts:*  
*Darwin and the God of Love,*  
by Elizabeth Johnson.

Together, with Johnson's latest book as our guide, we will explore and deepen our understanding of God's love by looking to the beasts, birds, plants, and fish.

[www.OpenTableCoop.org/SummerRead](http://www.OpenTableCoop.org/SummerRead)



Come by the Open Table Booth to enter for a chance to win a copy of *Ask the Beasts*!



## Stay Connected

Keep an eye on the following pages and feeds:

[www.ProgressiveBrethren.org](http://www.ProgressiveBrethren.org)  
[www.OpenTableCoop.org](http://www.OpenTableCoop.org)

### Twitter:

@OpenTableCoop  
@ProgBrethren use hashtag #cobac2014

### Facebook:

Open Table Cooperative  
Progressive Brethren Online

# Open Table Mix & Mingle

**Wednesday, July 2  
5:00 pm D233-235**

Join us for an all-ages mix and mingle with stimulating conversations, good friends, light appetizers and maybe even an encounter with the Holy Spirit. Grab a lemonade or an iced tea as we **raise a glass and say a prayer** for our time together as courageous disciples.

No Ticket Required - All Are Welcome!



## BMC Worship Service By Word and Action

**Thursday, July 3rd**

**4:35pm**

**Hyatt: Franklin B**

Annual Conference can be a challenging experience for many of us. The BMC worship service at Annual Conference is becoming a special place for our community to gain strength for the struggle as we support, share, worship, and celebrate together. We are pleased to announce that Rob Miller, pastor of the Northview COB, will be the preacher. We will also celebrate the 7 new COB communities that joined the Supportive Communities Network this year, including two Brethren universities!

**Bring your friends!!**



## Suggested Activities Day-by-Day

### WEDNESDAY

#### DINNER 5 p.m.

- **Open Table Mix and Mingle** – Join us for an all-ages mix and mingle, no ticket required. *D233-235*

#### EVENING 9 p.m.

- **Hearing: Guidance for Responding to the Changing of Earth's Climate.** *C216*
- **Hearing: Guidelines for Implementation of the Congregational Ethics Paper.** *C225*
- **Hearing: Revision to Ministerial Leadership Polity.** *C226*

### THURSDAY

#### MORNING 7 a.m.

- **Clergy Women's Breakfast – "Parishoner-Empowered and Self-Congruent Preaching"** Carolyn Stahl Bohler. *C113-114*
- **Bible Study and Business Session – "Sacred Listening"** Linda Alley. *Hall C (8:30 a.m. start)*

#### LUNCH 12 p.m.

- **Intercultural Ministries Luncheon – "Beyond the Stained Glass Ceiling"** Christine A Smith. *D230-232*

#### INSIGHT SESSIONS 12:30-1:30 p.m.

- **Table Talk: Climate Change** – Gail Erisman Valeta and Leslie Frye. *C221*
- **Ministry Questions in the Digital Realm** – Wendy McFadden and Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford. *C222*

#### PRAYER 1:20 p.m.

- **Gathering for Women on the Ballot** – Women's Caucus. *Just before business in the Exhibit Hall.*

#### BOOTH TALK 1:30 p.m.

- **What's Queer on Brethren Campuses?** Steve Crain, Zandra Wagoner and Dave Witkovsky.

#### BMC WORSHIP 4:35 p.m.

- **BMC Worship Service "By Word and Action"** – Rob Miller. *Hyatt: Franklin B*

#### AFTERNOON EVENTS 4:45-5:45 p.m.

- **Young Adult Meet and Greet with the Moderator-Elect** *Hyatt: Harding*

#### BOOTH TALK 8:30 p.m.

- **Queer Young Adults Talk Church** – panel.

#### INSIGHT SESSIONS 9-10 p.m.

- **The Necessity and Art of Listening** – Emily J. Justes. (Women in Leadership series) *Hyatt: Franklin B*
- **Visions and Dreams of the Generations** – Bill Scheurer. *C222*
- **Update From the Office of Public Witness** – Nathan Hosler and Bryan Hanger. *C223*
- **BVS and Congregations: Models of Partnership** – Ben Walters and Tim Harvey. *Hyatt: Union B*
- **Vision and Dreams of the Beloved Community** – Matt Guynn, LaDonna Sanders Nkosi and David Jehnson. *C216*
- **We Want to Thrive! Exploring Your Congregation's Vitality** – Steve Schweitzer and Dan Ulrich. *Hyatt: Knox*





# Womaen's Caucus Luncheon

## Uncommon Courage

Friday July 4th, 12pm D233-235



Join us for our annual luncheon and **silent auction**. We are delighted to have Zandra Wagoner speak this year as we continue to mark 40 years of Caucus. Come hear her take on courageous disciples!

### FRIDAY

#### MORNING 7 a.m.

- **On Earth Peace Breakfast – “Visions and Dreams of Spirited Peacemaking”** Audrey deCoursey and Ruthann Knechel Johansen. *D230-232*
- **Bible Study and Business – “Interpretive Feast”** Beth Jarrett, Shayne Thomas Petty, Laura Stone and Dan Ulrich. *Hall C (8:30 a.m. start)*

#### BOOTH TALK 10 a.m.

- **State of the COB: Reflections from SCN Pastors** – Susan Boyer, Brian Flory and Kurt Borgmann

#### LUNCH 12 p.m.

- **Womaen's Caucus Luncheon – “Uncommon Courage”** Zandra Wagoner. *D233-235*

#### INSIGHT SESSIONS 12:30-1:30 p.m.

- **Live Letters to the Editor** – Randy Miller. *C223*
- **Table Talk: Patriotism** – Gail Erisman Valeta and Leslie Frye. *C221*

#### BOOTH TALKS

- **Ask the Beasts Book Discussion, 1:30 p.m.** – Open Table.
- **Inclusive Language, 3:45 p.m.** – Cindy Weber-Han and Kathy Gingrich.
- **Shrinking Congregations: Dying with Grave or Radical Rebirth? 8:45 p.m.** – Matt McKimmy and Howard Ullery.

#### INSIGHT SESSIONS 9-10 p.m.

- **Can I Get a Witness? Can I Be a Witness?** Tara Lea Hornbacker. *C226*
- **Visions and Dreams of Conscientious Objectors** – Bill Scheurer. *C222*
- **Interactive Session on the Understanding of Ecumenism** – Tim Speicher and study committee. *C223* (second opportunity)
- **Going to the Garden** – Jeff Boshart and representatives of community gardens. *C221*
- **Visions and Dreams of Overcoming Violence and Ending War** – Matt Guynn and Cliff Kindy. *C216*
- **Secrets, Secrets Everywhere** – Emma J. Justes. (Women in Leadership series) *C224*

### SATURDAY

#### BOOTH TALK 10:15 a.m.

- **Visions for Caucus – Steering Committee.**

#### INSIGHT SESSIONS 12:30-1:30 p.m.

- **South Sudan: Building a Brethren Presence for Peace in a Country Familiar with War** – Athanasus Ungang and Jay Wittmeyer. *C222*
- **Table Talk: Inside/Out – Experience of Inclusion and Exclusion in the Church of the Brethren** Gail Erisman Valeta and Leslie Frye. *C221*

#### BOOTH TALK 4:30 p.m.

- **Power and Privilege in the Church** – Matt Guynn and Elizabeth Ullery.

#### EVENING ACTIVITIES 7-9 p.m.

- **Concert** – Blue Bird Revival, Community of Song and Mutual Kumquat. *Hall C*

#### INSIGHT SESSIONS 9-10 p.m.

- **Visions and Dreams of People on the Margins** – Matt Guynn facilitating several vision sharers. *Hyatt: Franklin C*
- **A Drone: War Maching or Techno Gadget?** Nathan Hosler and Joshua Brockway. *C222*
- **Neither Jew Nor Gentile: New Testament Lessons for Today's Intercultural Church** – Matt McKimmy and Samuel Sarpiya. *Hyatt: Union B*
- **Visions and Dreams of a Nonviolent God** – Bill Scheurer. *C226*
- **Alternative Ways of Being Church: Creating Community Outside of Worship** – Elizabeth Ullery and panel. *Hyatt: Union A*



### Prayer and Gathering for Women on the Ballot

It takes great courage to accept the call to be on the ballot at Annual Conference. We would like to invite you to help us support the women who are on the ballot this year. Join us for a gathering and prayer in the Exhibit Hall during the counting of the ballots at 1:20pm on Thursday, July 3rd.