

**General Conference Program**  
of the  
**DUNKARD BRETHREN CHURCH**  
to be held at  
**Roxbury Holiness Campgrounds**  
Orrstown, Pennsylvania  
**June 8 - 12, 2024**

**- Daily Time Schedule -**

7:30 AM	Morning Worship	2:00	PM Afternoon Service
8:00 AM	Breakfast	5:00	PM Evening Meal
9:45 AM	Morning Service	7:00	PM Evening Service
12:00 Noon	Lunch	11:00	PM Quiet Time

**- Preaching Program -**

<u>Time</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Text</u>
Sat. PM	Judah Bauman	Elijah	1 Kings 17-19
Sat. PM.	Gerry Priest	To be supplied	
Sat. eve.	Ken Brock	Subject to Higher Powers	Rom. 13:1-4
Sun. AM	Bible Study, Children	God: Our Creator	Genesis 1
Sun. AM	Phil Gish	The Church in the End Times	
Sun. AM	Alan Meyers	Undistracted	Phil. 3:14
Sun. PM	Mission Moments		
Sun. eve.	Jonathan Skiles	Youth Message: Walking Through the Fire	Dan. 3:1-30
Mon 8:30 AM	Camille & Bev Ann Bowman	Sisters' Sharing Time	
Mon. AM	Bible Study, Adult	Honor Your Boss	1 Timothy 6:1-10
	Bible Study, Children	God: Our Provider	Genesis 22:1-19
Mon. AM	Mark Cordrey, Jr.	Raise Up a Child	Proverbs 22:6
Mon. PM	Andrew Miller	Walking in the Light	Ephesian 5
Mon. PM	Dennis Klinedinst	Contend for the Faith	Jude 3
Mon. eve.	David Rice	The Deception of Temptation	James 1:12-15
Tues. AM	Bible Study, Adult	Faith During Trials	James 1:1-15
	Bible Study, Children	God: Our Protector	Genesis Exodus 14
Tues. AM	Rodney Kimmel	The Glorious Gospel of Christ	
Tues. PM		Youth Activities Committee Program	
Tues. PM	Youth Activity		
Tues. eve.	Ray Stuber	The Christian and Coffee	1 John 1:9

**Business Session: Wednesday morning beginning at 9:00 a.m.**

1. Call to Order by Retiring Moderator
2. Opening Devotions
3. Announcement of New Organization (Officers of General Conference)
4. Appointment of Tellers and Time Keeper
5. Reading of Acts 15 and Rules of Order
6. Report of Credentials Committee
7. Approval of 2023 General Conference Minutes
8. General Conference Offering
9. Report of Standing Committee acting as Nominating Committee

**10. Report of the Trustee Board**

The Trustee Board offers sincere appreciation to the individuals and congregations that supported the board this past year. Inflation has affected the cost of most items and the Lord's work is not exempt. Some major expenses that received funding from the board are listed.

General Conference held in Oregon at Aldersgate Camp had a cost of \$70,553.33

Leadership Conference in Indiana at the Berean congregation totaled \$7,941.17

Bookkeeping expenses for the brotherhood were \$8,285.00

Travel expenses paid out were \$1,384.67

Various committee expenses totaled \$3,441.45

There was a loan of \$100,000 made to the Bethel congregation for their building project. The loan was made in January of 2024 so it will not appear in the Treasurer's Report for 2023.

May God bless you as you give and support financial needs across the Brotherhood.

*Brother Chad Meyers, Secretary*

## **11. Report of the General Mission Board**

The General Mission Board continues to monitor the activities of several different mission projects throughout the Brotherhood.

Bro. Tama McGlinn was able to attend Conference in Oregon in 2023, and was greatly encouraged. He and Carmen would welcome visitors in the Netherlands, and a family went over last Apr. and had communion with them.

The Board is still in touch with some other families in the Netherlands that expressed interest in the Dunkard Brethren Church, but little progress has been made.

The General Mission Board continues to give financial aid and encouragement to the Torreon Mission Board.

This year the Board also gave guidance to the African Mission Board and continues to monitor the work there.

Our desire is that the Gospel would continue to be presented to all, and that God would be glorified through these efforts.

If you feel God directing you to support the Mission work, financially or with time of service, please contact any of the Mission Boards.

*Brother Justin Beck, Secretary*

## **12. Report of the Board of Publication**

The Publication Board is indeed grateful for your continued support, both prayerful, and financial, as we endeavor to maintain the important work of sending forth the Gospel message in form of printed materials. We appreciate, and are thankful to those that have invested their time and talent in writing articles for publication.

We want to extend a hearty thank-you and appreciation to Brother Ken Brock for his diligent and faithful effort in putting everything together to be printed.

*Brother Kevin Funk, Secretary*

### **13. Report of the Bible Study Board**

As our world continues to change and darkness abounds, we have the blessed promise that the light of God's Word will remain the same and continue to shine. Matthew 25:35. It is the desire and prayer of the Bible Study Board that our efforts as a board will encourage and assist our brothers and sisters in their study of God's unchanging truth found in His Word. We thank God for this priceless treasure filled with direction, encouragement, instructions, and inspiration.

The work of the Bible Study board continues much like it has in past years. The primary responsibilities of the board are the production of annual Sunday school lessons plans and the planning and coordination of Bible study classes at General Conference. Currently, preparations are being made for the Sunday School lesson plan for 2025 which will be a study of II Samuel as well as a few selected Psalms.

As a board, we always want to do our work in a way that is most useful and practical for those in our brotherhood. After some discussion and consultation with several Sunday School teachers across the brotherhood, it was decided to make a change to the 2025 lesson plan arrangement. For many years, there have been special lessons assigned to five Sundays throughout the year that coincide with the Resurrection, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Thanksgiving, and the Birth of Christ. These lessons are not usually associated with the regular scripture that is being studied in that given year. In talking with a number of individuals, it was suggested that these special lessons be discontinued since the rest of our services on each of those Sundays is usually already focused on those topics and the special lessons are an interruption in our regular study. The 2025 lesson plan will reflect this change. Instead of special lessons on those days, the lesson will be a continuation of the regular scripture passage for that year.

In recent years, the method used to distribute the yearly Sunday School lesson plans to the congregations and members of the brotherhood has gone through some changes. We are working toward primarily online distribution via the DBC website. Toward the end of each year, the next year's lesson plan is published on the church website. This allows it to be easily accessible and readily available to individuals across the brotherhood at any time. If any members would prefer to have the lesson plan sent to them via

e-mail, that can be done as well by contacting the Bible Study Board secretary.

While they have not been used much in recent years, the Bible Study board does have annual Sunday School lesson plans for the young people's classes as well. These lesson plans are topical with a different topic for each Sunday. These will also be published on the website along with the adult lesson plans starting in 2025.

Finally, we recognize that our work as a board would be of little benefit to the brotherhood without all the willing individuals who study and teach the lessons in Sunday School classes across the brotherhood and at General Conference each year. May God richly bless each one for serving in this way.

*Nate Meyers, Secretary*

#### **14. Report of the General Relief Board**

Dear Church family,

Another year has come and gone and the Lord is still faithful. Because of generous contributions our board has been able to meet several needs this year. We would like to continue to thank you for your continuous support, and ask for your prayers as we serve our brotherhood for yet another year. It is with great joy that we serve anyone who is in need of help and assistance.

*Mark Cordrey, Jr., Secretary*

#### **15. Report of the Torreon Navajo Mission Board**

If we are to ever have a ministry to the lost, broken, and hurting people around us, we must have a passionate undying love for them. This love needs an object to which it can give itself, in which it can wholly lose itself, and with which it can make itself one. It is patterned after the Divine passion of the loving Father in heaven delighting in His Son. Those who are serving and have served at Torreon Mission, very quickly discover that the opportunity to flesh this out is everywhere.

Last September marked the end of three plus years of service for Bro. Devin and Sis. Alyssa Meyers. We again express our heartfelt thanks to them. Only eternity will tell the impact they have had and continue to have on the Torreon community!

Because we were without a superintendent for nearly seven months, the call went out for short term volunteers. There have been many who answered that call and it has been such a blessing to see each of them faithfully apply themselves to many responsibilities. Whether they served a few days or a couple months, it has been greatly appreciated. We encourage anyone to consider a short-term visit. Your particular skills can certainly be put to use. It will give you a burden for the call of the gospel and bless you immensely.

The current staff are Sis. Lois Chupp, Sis. Sierra Sensenig, Sis. Ellie Weiler, and Sis. Kaitlyn Royer. They all teach in the school. Sierra will not be returning and we thank her for two years of faithful service. She has no doubt left a mark on the lives of the children in the school. Bro. AJ and Sis. Janell Trujillo just came on staff. AJ is now serving as the new superintendent. Over the past few months their family has been a wonderful help in many ways, especially giving direction for the volunteers. Bro. Jonathan and Sis. Jill Skiles have also been a great help to the work there. Jonathan continues to take care of the finances for the mission.

Support for this ministry comes in from many people and in many forms. May God bless all who have helped to advance His kingdom in this part of the world!

*Torreon Board of Directors  
Rick St. John, Secretary*

## **16. Report of the African Mission Board**

August 2023 there was an encouraging youth conference held. Over 60 youth made a commitment to follow Christ and were baptized. Please remember to pray for them as they face the typical temptations from Satan in their new walk with Christ.

Annual General Meeting was held in December 2023. Fred and Diane Pifer traveled to Kenya to help with the AGM and to encourage and visit the churches.

The church registration has finally been completed. In Kenya the government does not recognize a church as an entity unless it is registered with the government. and therefore, makes some things extremely hard to do such as obtaining work permits for staff and various other legal and administrative processes. Praise the Lord that is finished! From beginning to end it has been approximately a fifteen-year journey.

Remember the Kamoi congregation in prayer. Their faithful pastor of many years, Absalom Wafula, lost his battle with cancer this past year. Also pray for Absalom's wife, Janet, and their children as they mourn the loss of their husband and father.

There has been some conflict among the leadership. We ask that you pray for forgiveness, restoration, and unity as they work through their challenges.

Praise the Lord for filling the need for long term staff in Kenya. Micaiah and Bethany Johnson and their son Knightly arrived in February, 2024, to begin a two-year term. Remember to encourage them with letters, messages, and most of all prayers. WhatsApp is a functional and inexpensive form of communication between the U.S. and Kenya.

We want to thank you for your generous donations and prayers over the past year to support the work in Kenya. We pray the Lord will bless you for your generosity.

*Andy Lichtenberger, Secretary*

## **17. Report of the Civilian Service Board**

We who are part of the Conservative Anabaptist community seem to have lost contact with any staff who are working in the national office of the Selective Service System located in Arlington, Virginia. Since CASP began, there has always been an active interest by Cassandra Costly or someone from Selective Service who was involved with Alternative Service. Cassandra's title was "Manager, Alternative Service Program". Ken Montgomery was the last person to be in this position, but he is no longer in this position. At this point, CASP does not have contact with anyone in the national office of Selective Service. We have been communicating with the state directors of Ohio and Pennsylvania. Both were present at the CASP Constituency Committee Meeting last August, 2023. We learned since that the state director of Pennsylvania has retired.

The latest version of Selective Service's organizational chart, dated September 22, 2023, does not include the Alternative Service Division or any reference to it. It seems to me that Alternative Service and Conscientious Objection to War has faded into the background of their minds and the organization, based on a fairly comprehensive review of their website. These two topics are present, but are no longer nearly as prominent as they were when Cassandra Costly was director of Alternative Service. Someone looking for this information has to do a little more searching to find this information.

Regarding our own CASP program, we are overdue to have a project. An integral part of the CASP Program is to have a project every two years. We were actually due to have a project last Winter, but it was canceled at the last minute. We really did not have enough staff or volunteer young men to have a project even if it had not been canceled. We deeply appreciate those who volunteered for the project last February, 2023. But we were disappointed there was not sufficient interest for the project to take place. Your secretary is sorry he did not do a better job of publicizing the project well ahead of time.

Brother Milton Cook has been replaced on this board. His tenure on this board ran out, but he has been suffering from significant health issues. We have deeply missed his leadership as Chairman, his encouragement, prodding, and deep fellowship as we developed and implemented this program within our constituency. However, we are encouraged by having younger brethren on board who are committed to the issue of Biblical nonresistance and conscientious objection to war, as well as the concept of Alternative Service.

We continue to recommend that young men register with Selective Service upon attaining the age of 18. If they forget, they may register through age 25. Once a young man reaches the age of 26, he can no longer register. At this time those who register with Selective Service are not classified. Although non-registrants will not likely be prosecuted, failure to register is a felony and non-registrants may be denied Federal and state loans, grants, job training, and jobs for life. For example, a non-registrant can never work for the US Postal Service.

We would encourage you to be pondering whether you might be a candidate for serving on a project as a house parent, cook, house keeper, or project manager. We would appreciate your help in promoting this message to the young people in your life. At this time, women are not subject to registering for the draft. If that issue ever comes up in congress, I feel it will be approved. But for now it does not appear to be very high on anyone's priority list.

Thanks for your prayers and support for the work of the Civilian Service Board!

*Respectfully Submitted,  
Brother Bob Lehigh, Executive Secretary*

## **18. Report of the Church Growth Board**

The Church Growth Board has continued its work in two areas over the last year. The first was assisting the Garnett Dunkard Brethren Church to become a congregation. After our work in the Garnett area was completed, the CGB spent most of its efforts discussing ways to assist small and underserved congregations. At present there are several congregations and outreach points that need assistance: Grandview, Hart, Mohlers, Mountainview, and Swallow Falls. If you have any interest in visiting, helping, moving to, or assisting any of these congregations in some fashion, please reach out to them directly, or through any Church Growth Board member.

“We, as the CGB, would like to take this opportunity to encourage all believers to use the opportunities presented to them to encourage the smaller congregations in our brotherhood. Not only in and by our words, but more importantly, by our presence! We all know the encouragement that is experienced as a congregation when we have visitors in our assemblies.” (Brother Marc Wray, Bible Monitor article)

We ask that you continue to pray, offer suggestions, ask questions, and provide solutions as we seek to grow the brotherhood together. Please reach out to your congregational point person or any of the board members if you are interested in an area for a church plant or with other ideas on how to expand our Father's Kingdom. Ephesians 3:20-21

*Bro. Brant Jamison, Secretary*

## 19. Report of the Financial Stewardship Board

The Financial Stewardship Board had been given the responsibility of improving the management of the denominational funds. The goals set for this committee included these longer-term goals/mandates:

- 1) Monitor and audit the accounting process and update as necessary.
- 2) Create an investment plan for funds not included in the operating needs.
- 3) Vet and approve needs/proposals for gifting funds to appropriate causes, be that our churches, missions, or needs within the Christian community.

This process in 2023 included the establishment and launch of the accounting being done by Eldon Kuntz, CPA. His office is located in Troy Ohio and for that reason any checks for the denominational boards need mailed to “Dunkard Brethren Church, PO Box 821, Troy, OH, 45373”. Processes have been established for working with each of the Board Treasurers to allow the daily work to be done by the accounting firm, but the distribution of funds to be directed by the Treasurers. Monthly reports are provided to each of the Treasurers showing the activities in the respective boards.

Also in late 2023 a final decision was made as to the establishment of a firm to provide investment advice on funds not needed in the daily administration of the Boards. Everence Financial was the firm selected to invest the Board funds. Everence Financial (formally Mennonite Mutual Aid) has a mission statement that reads “We help people and institutions integrate their faith and values into their financial decisions to accomplish their stewardship goals.” This institution was also selected because of their capacity to invest the funds with a Christian worldview. Part of that process was to discuss with the Investment Advisor our values. A document that established our “Dunkard Brethren Church Investment Policy Statement” guides the investment process. And a small part reads as follows. “The Dunkard Brethren Church is guided by Christian principles and strives to utilize its resources in a responsible and professional manner. We believe that our economic decisions reflect our corporate values and as such, our financial resources should be invested in a manner consistent with Christian

principles.” To that end accounts were established, and in January of 2024 a total of \$996,000 was invested with Everence Financial using the Trustee Board funds. There is one outstanding CD in the Trustee Board, that when it matures is expected to be combined with the Everence Financial account.

The final goal of gifting funds to appropriate causes needs work. This process needs created and a framework for decision making with investment earnings will need established.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Financial Stewardship Board  
Jesse Alspaugh, Secretary  
Don Gipe (Deceased)  
Marlin Marks  
Alex Myers  
Zac Rice (Resigned)*

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**20. Report of the Committee on Printing “Minutes in One Volume, 1976 to Present”** (reference item 19 of the 2023 General Conference Minutes, #23 - 2022, #22 - 2021, #22 - 2019, #20 - 2018, #20 - 2017, #20 - 2016, #22 - 2015, #21 - 2014, #22 - 2013, #21 - 2012, #21 - 2011, #22 - 2010, #21 - 2009, #22 - 2008, #26 - 2007, #18 - 2006, #s 21 & 22 - 2005 and #18 - 2003.)

Bro. Marvin Lorenz has invested many hours into this project on behalf of this committee and the church. We are extremely grateful for his input and extensive labor on this project.

It is in digital form and currently contains the General Conference Minutes from 1976-2022. The Table of Contents has a live feature. When a topic is selected, it will automatically take you to that section of the document.

The plan going forward is to have the completed portions of the Minutes (currently 1976-2022) available on the Dunkard Brethren Church website, with a printed copy maintained by the Publication Board.

Following is a summary of the status of work on this project:

a) Conference Minutes 1927-1975

- These Minutes have been digitized by being scanned and imported into Microsoft Word.
- A final proofread with the original book needs to be completed.
- The Lord willing, in the next year, a review of the individual annual conference minutes booklets is planned from this time period (1927-1975) to review for accuracy and also incorporate any items of historical significance (such as the founding of the Torreon Navajo Mission) into the digitized documents.

b) Conference Minutes 1976 - to date

- The 2023 minutes need to be added to the digitized document.

c) Question for Clarification by General Conference Business Meeting

- Upon Completion of the 1927-1975 digitization project, does the church desire for the two documents to remain separate, or for both documents to be combined into one digitized document?

Committee:

*Bro. Dennis St. John*

*Bro. Tom St. John*

*Bro. Ken Brock*

**21. Report of the Headship Covering Committee** (reference item 20 of the 2023 General Conference Minutes, #24 - 2022, #23 - 2021, #23 - 2019, #21 - 2018, #21 - 2017, #21 - 2016, #23 - 2015, #23 - 2014, #27 - 2013, #23 - 2012, #23 - 2011, #s 25 & 33 - 2010, and #30 - 2009)

- No report received for printing.

Committee:

First District - *Robert Lehigh, Marlin Marks*

Second District - *Dennis St. John, Tom St. John*

Third District - *Mark Andrews, James Meyers*

Fourth District - *Milton Cook, Mark Cordrey*

**22. Report of the Church Polity and Church Manual Review Committee**

(reference item 21 of the 2023 General Conference Minutes, #25 - 2022, #24 - 2021, #24 - 2019, #22 - 2018, #22 - 2017, #22 - 2016, #24 - 2015, #24 - 2014, #21 - 2013, #s 24, 28 & 29 - 2012)

Work on the Church Polity has been completed, and the committee is now turning their attention to the Church Manual, in which we desire to make significant progress in the coming year.

Committee:

First District - *Marlin Marks, Dale Eberly*

Second District - *Dennis St. John, Ken Brock*

Third District - *James Meyers, Jonathan Skiles*

Fourth District - *Milton Cook, Mark Cordrey*

### **23. Financial Reports - 2023**

Due to the bank account consolidation last year, all Boards are sharing the same bank account which is administered by Eldon Kuntz, CPA, of Troy Ohio. I had expected to have Don Gipe, CPA, also sign off on this report as an auditor, but his recent passing changed that plan. I have perused the accounts and found them to be correct with bank statements. The checking account balance does have a higher year-end balance (by \$78.13), when compared to the ending totals on Board reports. This is due to outstanding checks and also deposits credited to 2023 that were deposited in January 2024.

*Zachary Rice*

## Treasurer's Report of the Trustee Board

Summary Report January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

<u>Assets</u>	
Money Market Account	\$849,311.58
CD's	\$367,047.12
Loan – Cornerstone	\$60,000.00
<u>Beginning Balance, Checking</u>	<u>\$68,568.22</u>
<u>Beginning Total Assets</u>	<u>\$1,344,926.92</u>
<u>Income</u>	
Congregation Offerings	\$36,852.84
General Conference Offerings	\$21,145.41
Individual Donations	\$11,250.00
Subscriptions	\$250.00
Interest Income	\$3,210.31
Loan Payment, Cornerstone	\$10,000.00
<u>Account Transfers</u>	
Money Market Transfer	\$849,311.58
CD Transfer	\$183,520.91
<u>Expenses</u>	
Bank Service Charges	\$100.00
Church Charter Fees	\$312.00
Donations by Board	\$2,652.00
General Conference Expenses	\$70,553.33
Insurance Expense	\$1,499.67
Leadership Conference Expenses	\$7,382.27
PO Box Rental	\$176.00
Printing Expenses	\$1,095.06
Professional Fees	\$35,725.00
Supplies	\$415.73
Travel Expenses	\$6,532.89
<u>Ending Balance, Checking</u>	<u>\$1,057,665.32</u>
CD Ending Balance	\$183,526.21
Loan, Cornerstone Balance	\$50,000.00
<u>Ending Total Assets</u>	<u>\$1,291,191.53</u>

*Dennis St. John, Treasurer*

**Treasurer's Report of the General Mission Board**

Summary Report January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>\$90,034.93</u>
<u>Income</u>	
Congregation Offerings	\$85,139.98
General Conference Offerings	\$1,804.00
<u>Expenses</u>	
Donations by Board	\$57,545.14
Retirement Care, Misc.	\$18,000.00
Travel Expenses	\$2,789.43
<u>Ending Balance</u>	<u>\$98,644.34</u>

*Dennis Myers, Treasurer*

**Treasurer's Report of the Relief Board**

Summary Report January 1, 2023 - December 31 2023

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>\$72,765.13</u>
<u>Income</u>	
CASP Contributions	\$2,150.00
Congregation Offerings	\$9,294.51
<u>Expenses</u>	
Donations by Board	\$12,000.00
<u>Ending Balance</u>	<u>\$72,209.64</u>

CASP Financial Summary (internal to Relief Board)

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>\$16,092.07</u>
<u>Income</u>	
CASP Contributions	\$2,150.00
<u>Expenses</u>	\$0.00
<u>Ending Balance</u>	<u>\$18,242.07</u>

*Rodney Kimmel, Treasurer*

**Treasurer's Report of the Publication Board**

Summary report January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

Beginning Balance	\$8,663.23
<u>Income</u>	
Congregation Offerings	\$7,564.10
General Conference Offerings	\$1,573.00
Sale of History Books	\$156.52
Sale of Hymnals	\$3,201.62
Subscriptions	\$7,013.00
<u>Expenses</u>	
Editorial Services	\$6,000.00
Postage - Book Mailings	\$392.20
Printing - Bible Monitor	\$14,523.21
Printing Expenses	\$372.00
<u>Ending Balance</u>	<u>\$6,884.06</u>
Online Sales Account	\$130.05
<u>Total Cash Available</u>	<u>\$7,014.11</u>

*Marlin Marks, Treasurer*

**Treasurer's Report of the Torreon Navajo Mission Board**

Summary report January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>\$56,815.99</u>
<u>Income</u>	
Congregation Offerings	\$25,694.98
Individual Donations	\$7,350.00
Proceeds from Sale of Assets	\$4,200.00
<u>Expenses</u>	
Gift Cards	\$152.67
Professional Fees	\$9.65
Supplies	\$4,351.25
Travel Expenses	\$35,425.00
<u>Ending Balance</u>	<u>\$54,122.40</u>

*Johnathan Edgecomb, Treasurer*

## **Torreón Navajo Mission Operational Account Statement**

Summary Report January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

<u>Beginning Balance From Bank Statement</u>		<u>\$25,040.61</u>
<u>Receipts</u>		
Donations	\$65,305.24	
Sponsorship	\$7,360.00	
General Mission Board	\$57,545.14	
Interest	\$0.00	
Miscellaneous	\$1,215.00	
Utilities	\$897.13	
Refund	\$374.83	
Tuition	\$830.00	
School Lunch/Concessions	\$1,223.50	
Total Receipts		\$134,750.84
Total Funds Available		\$159,791.45
<u>Disbursements</u>		
Allowance	\$35,637.75	
Food	\$9,866.27	
Clothing	\$915.90	
Housekeeping	\$1,150.34	
Insurance	\$12,080.44	
Medical (Includes insurance)	\$3,845.04	
Mission Misc.	\$6,219.48	
Staff Misc.	\$1,303.11	
Office	\$1,575.47	
School Supplies	\$6,703.67	
Vehicle Maint.	\$5,180.46	
Grounds Maint.	\$15,107.23	
Transportation	\$18,110.47	
Utilities	\$20,689.52	
Equipment Maint.	\$968.53	
School Lunch/Concessions	\$2,297.52	
Total Disbursements		\$141,651.20
<u>Closing Fund Balance</u>		<u>\$18,140.25</u>
Outstanding Checks		\$498.00
Outstanding Deposits		\$5,240.43
<u>Closing Balance From Bank Statement</u>		<u>\$13,397.82</u>

*Jonathon Skiles, Treasurer*

**Treasurer's Report of the African Mission Board**

Summary Report January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>\$108,641.63</u>
<u>Income</u>	
Congregation Offerings	\$26,147.27
Individual Donations	\$13,800.00
	\$39,947.27
<u>Expenses</u>	
Bank Service Charges	\$545.16
Financial Assistance.	\$51,000.00
Travel Expenses	\$8,255.49
	\$59,800.65
<u>Ending Balance</u>	<u>\$88,788.25</u>

*Merle Sweitzer, Treasurer*

**Treasurer's Report of the Church Growth Board**

Summary Report January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>\$3,500.00</u>
<u>Income</u>	\$0.00
<u>Expenses</u>	\$0.00
<u>Ending Balance</u>	<u>\$3,500.00</u>

*Mark Andrews, Treasurer*

**NEW BUSINESS**

**24. Query #1**

We, the Pleasant Ridge Congregation of the Dunkard Brethren Church, petition 2024 General Conference through the Second District to change the job descriptions of Monitor staff from the current three positions (Senior Editor, Office Editor, and Subscription Manager) to two positions (Editor and Assistant Editor).

The duties of the Assistant Editor would be to take on the responsibilities of the Editor if he resigns or is no longer able.

The minimum qualifications for the Editor and assistant Editor would be that they are a Minister or Elder.

Term for both positions: 5 years, no term limits.

*Moderator: Ken Brock*

*Clerk: Jason St. John*

Action by 2nd District Meeting: Passed

*Moderator: Ken Brock*

*Clerk: Rodney Kimmel*

## 25. Query #2

We, the Juniper Hills Congregation of the Dunkard Brethren Church in conjunction with the Sexual Abuse Awareness Taskforce, respectfully petition General Conference through the 3<sup>rd</sup> District to adopt a procedure for directing the Church's response in the cases of sexual abuse.

The Dunkard Brethren Church needs to establish a formal response for cases of sexual abuse perpetrated by its members. This response needs to meet the current legal requirements, protect the victim(s), and apply consistent discipline and accountability across the brotherhood.

We believe a formalized plan will improve the Church's acute response, add structure for accountability, and will serve to deter and prevent abuse.

1. We request the following procedures be adopted in the Dunkard Brethren Church Manual, *Chapter 6 – Rules in Cases of Offenses* after Item #10 and preceding the *Church Trials* section:

### **Procedure for Responding to Sexual Abuse**

Sexual abuse is criminal behavior that involves an adult and an underage individual.

#### **I. Acute Sexual Abuse**

- All members of the Dunkard Brethren Church shall see themselves as protectors of the vulnerable and abused. Members are to take immediate action to report suspected abuse to local authorities and local church officials.

- Mandatory reporters (ex. elders, ministers, deacons, or teachers) shall call 911 (or the appropriate agency) to report the incident.
- The reporter will document their action using the Abuse Response Protocol form (this document can be found in the manual *A Biblical Response to Sexual Abuse*).
- Any church member criminally charged with sexual abuse shall be placed on probation (considered to be a member **not** in good standing) by the church pending the outcome of the legal process.
- During the investigation, the accused shall be removed from all church responsibilities and shall not be allowed to commune.
- Should the accusations be confirmed to be correct (by confession or conviction), the accused shall be removed from membership.
- If membership is later reinstated, any person who has been convicted of, or has confessed to, sexual abuse of a minor shall be prohibited from all participation in children's ministry and shall not be eligible to hold any official position (deacon, minister, or elder).
- Since a hallmark of true repentance is being willing to let go of self-preservation, an Offender Covenant shall be established between the Church and the offender. A copy of this agreement shall be forwarded to the Standing Committee and implemented by the offender's congregation. (the Offender Covenant can be found in the manual *A Biblical Response to Sexual Abuse*).
- If a member has a history of committing sexual abuse and moves to another congregation, a report of the nature of the crimes and actions taken shall be forwarded to the receiving congregation's local officials and presiding elder.
- If a member has a history of committing sexual abuse and moves to another brotherhood of similar faith, a report of the nature of the crimes and actions taken shall be forwarded to the receiving congregation upon request by the receiving congregation's senior leadership.

## **II. Confession of Sexual Abuse – Without Conviction**

Sexual abuse may not be revealed for many years, well past the legal statute of limitations.

- Any church member who is accused of sexual abuse and confesses to the accusations but has never been convicted may be removed from membership if deemed appropriate.

- Any person who confesses to sexual abuse of a minor shall be prohibited from all participation in children’s ministry and shall not be eligible to hold any official position (deacon, minister, or elder).
- Also, an Offender Covenant shall be established between the Church and the offender. A copy of this agreement shall be forwarded to the Standing Committee.

### **III. Accused of Sexual Abuse – Without Confession or Conviction**

Victims of sexual abuse may not want to report acutely for many different reasons. The accusations may come to light after the statute of limitations has passed.

- The local church officials shall appoint a committee to investigate the sexual abuse of any church member who denies accusations of sexual abuse and has not been convicted of these crimes. This investigation shall not interfere with or replace the local authorities’ investigation. Individuals with a history of sexual abuse, or of failing to properly handle reports of sexual abuse, are not permitted to serve on such committees. The local committee shall forward a report of their investigation to Standing Committee.
- If the investigation confirms the accusations of sexual abuse, the accused shall be removed from membership in the Dunkard Brethren Church and permitted to attend church services and church activities only after signing an Offender Covenant. Also, a report of the findings shall be given to local authorities, local congregation, District elders, and Standing Committee.
- If the person later confesses to sexual abuse, repents, receives licensed, clinical counseling, and then desires membership to be reinstated, the requirement of an Offender Covenant shall remain in effect. A copy of this agreement shall be forwarded to the Standing Committee.
- If membership is later reinstated, any person who confesses to sexual abuse of a minor shall be prohibited from all participation in children’s ministry and will not be eligible to hold any official position (deacon, minister, or elder).

### **IV. Care of the Victim**

- **If the victim is in immediate danger or requires immediate medical attention, call 911 first.**

- Create a care and protection plan with the victim when appropriate (please review the manual *A Biblical Response to Sexual Abuse* for resources on the care of sexual abuse victims).
- Ensure the victim receives the counseling and care needed.
- A report of the plan for care shall be forwarded to Standing Committee.

## **V. General Guidelines**

- Church officials and members of a congregation shall refrain from testifying on behalf of the accused except when subpoenaed or after receiving written consent from the presiding elder and the majority of the official body.
  - Letters of recommendation written by church officials or members for the accused which shall be presented at trial or prior to sentencing will also need written approval from the presiding elder and the majority of the official body.
  - The congregation where the perpetrator held membership shall cover the cost of counseling for the victim(s) as well as all ancillary costs. This counseling is to be provided by a licensed clinical counselor.
  - No Retaliation or Disparagement – Retaliation and disparagement against victims or reporters is contrary to the Anabaptist values of the church. No one reporting concerns of sexual abuse shall suffer harassment, retaliation, or disparagement as a result of reporting. Anyone associated with the church who retaliates against a good-faith reporter or victim shall be subject to church discipline and/or removal from membership.
2. Additionally, we request that a new section be added to the *Dunkard Brethren Church Polity* under *Article XI – Membership* preceding the section on *Church Trials*, with the heading “**Sexual Abuse**.” This section will then refer people to the *Church Manual’s Chapter 6* that will include the above procedure. Wording for the new *Sexual Abuse* section of the *Polity* will be as follows:

### **Sexual Abuse**

All members should familiarize themselves with the manual, *A Biblical Response to Sexual Abuse*, as a source of education on awareness, prevention, and response to sexual abuse in the church. Please refer to the *Dunkard Brethren Church Manual, Chapter 6 – Rules in Cases of Offenses*

– *Procedure for Responding to Sexual Abuse* for the church’s procedure on dealing with reported cases of sexual abuse.

*Presiding Elder: Fred Pifer*

*Writing Clerk: Jonathan Skiles*

**Query as amended:**

We, the Juniper Hills Congregation of the Dunkard Brethren Church in conjunction with the Sexual Abuse Awareness Taskforce, respectfully petition General Conference through the 3<sup>rd</sup> District to adopt a procedure for directing the Church’s response in the cases of sexual abuse.

The Dunkard Brethren Church needs to establish a formal response for cases of sexual abuse perpetrated by its members. This response needs to meet the current legal requirements, protect the victim(s), and apply consistent discipline and accountability across the brotherhood.

We believe a formalized plan will improve the Church’s acute response, add structure for accountability, and will serve to deter and prevent abuse.

1. We request the following procedures be adopted in the Dunkard Brethren Church Manual, *Chapter 6 – Rules in Cases of Offenses* after Item #10 and preceding the *Church Trials* section:

**Procedure for Responding to Sexual Abuse**

Definition of “Sexual Abuse” for the purpose of this policy: Sexual abuse is sexual contact that involves an adult and an individual under the age of 16 years old.

**I. Acute Sexual Abuse**

- All members of the Dunkard Brethren Church shall see themselves as protectors of the vulnerable and abused. Members are to take immediate action, coupled with prayer, to report suspected abuse to local church officials and local authorities.
- Mandatory reporters (ex. elders, ministers, deacons, or teachers) shall call 911 (or the appropriate agency) to report the incident.
- The reporter will document their action using the Abuse Response Protocol form (this document can be found in the manual *A Biblical Response to Sexual Abuse*).

- Any church member criminally charged with sexual abuse shall be placed on probation (considered to be a member **not** in good standing) by the church pending the outcome of the legal process.
- During the investigation, the accused shall be removed from all church responsibilities and shall not be allowed to commune.
- Should the accusations be confirmed to be correct (by confession or conviction), the accused shall be removed from membership.
- If membership is later reinstated, any person who has been convicted of, or has confessed to, sexual abuse of a minor shall be prohibited from all participation in children's ministry and shall not be eligible to hold any official position (deacon, minister, or elder).
- Since a hallmark of true repentance is being willing to let go of self-preservation, an Offender Covenant shall be established between the Church and the offender. A copy of this agreement shall be forwarded to the Standing Committee and implemented by the offender's congregation. (the Offender Covenant can be found in the manual *A Biblical Response to Sexual Abuse*).
- If a member has a history of committing sexual abuse and moves to another congregation, a report of the nature of the crimes and actions taken shall be forwarded to the receiving congregation's local officials and presiding elder.
- If a member has a history of committing sexual abuse and moves to another church, assembly, or congregation, a report of the nature of the crimes and actions taken shall be forwarded to the leadership of the receiving church, assembly, or congregation.

## **II. Confession of Sexual Abuse – Without Conviction**

Sexual abuse may not be revealed for many years, well past the legal statute of limitations.

- Any church member who is accused of sexual abuse and confesses to the accusations but has never been convicted may be removed from membership if deemed appropriate.
- Any person who confesses to sexual abuse of a minor shall be prohibited from all participation in children's ministry. They shall not be eligible to hold any official position (deacon, minister, or elder), if they were a professing believer at the time of the abuse.

- Also, an Offender Covenant shall be established between the Church and the offender. A copy of this agreement shall be forwarded to the Standing Committee.

### **III. Accused of Sexual Abuse – Without Confession or Conviction**

Victims of sexual abuse may not want to report acutely for many different reasons. The accusations may come to light after the statute of limitations has passed.

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- If the investigation confirms the accusations of sexual abuse, the accused shall be removed from membership in the Dunkard Brethren Church and permitted to attend church services and church activities only after signing an Offender Covenant. Also, a report of the findings shall be given to local authorities, local congregation, District elders, and Standing Committee.
- If the person later confesses to sexual abuse, repents, receives licensed, clinical counseling, and then desires membership to be reinstated, the requirement of an Offender Covenant shall remain in effect. A copy of this agreement shall be forwarded to the Standing Committee.
- If membership is later reinstated, any person who confesses to sexual abuse of a minor shall be prohibited from all participation in children's ministry. They shall not be eligible to hold any official position (deacon, minister, or elder), if they were a professing believer at the time of the abuse.

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- **If the victim is in immediate danger or requires immediate medical attention, call 911 first.**
- Create a care and protection plan with the victim when appropriate (please review the manual *A Biblical Response to Sexual Abuse* for resources on the care of sexual abuse victims).

- Ensure the victim receives the counseling and care needed.
- A report of the plan for care shall be forwarded to Standing Committee.

## **V. General Guidelines**

- Church officials and members of a congregation shall refrain from testifying on behalf of the accused except when subpoenaed or after receiving written consent from the presiding elder and the majority of the official body.
  - Letters of recommendation written by church officials or members for the accused which shall be presented at trial or prior to sentencing will also need written approval from the presiding elder and the majority of the official body.
  - The congregation where the perpetrator held membership shall cover the cost of counseling for the victim(s) as well as ancillary costs, up to \$10,000 per victim. This counseling is to be provided by a Biblically-based, licensed clinical counselor. Additional financial assistance may be requested through the Dunkard Brethren Church Relief Board.
  - No Retaliation or Disparagement – Retaliation and disparagement against victims or reporters is contrary to the Anabaptist values of the church. No one reporting concerns of sexual abuse shall suffer harassment, retaliation, or disparagement as a result of reporting. Anyone associated with the church who retaliates against a good-faith reporter or victim shall be subject to church discipline and/or removal from membership.
  - The central theme of the gospel is Heaven’s passion and provisions to redeem and reconcile every soul to fellowship and acceptance to their Creator. Sexual abuse is a tragic event, but it is not beyond Heaven’s redemption. Care of the eternal soul should never be neglected in pursuit of justice. The family of God is called to make every effort to provide support, hope, and healing to both victims and abusers.
  - The hallmarks of this reconciliation process will include a willingness on the part of the perpetrator to be faithful to the Word, accountable to the church, and teachable. It will include a specific accountability and discipleship plan approved and put into action by the local leadership and may include restitution to the victim as evidence of gospel change.
2. Additionally, we request that a new section be added to the *Dunkard Brethren Church Polity* under *Article XI – Membership* preceding the section on *Church Trials*, with the heading “**Sexual Abuse.**” This section

will then refer people to the *Church Manual's Chapter 6* that will include the above procedure. Wording for the new *Sexual Abuse* section of the *Polity* will be as follows:

### **Sexual Abuse**

All members should familiarize themselves with the manual, *A Biblical Response to Sexual Abuse*, as a source of education on awareness, prevention, and response to sexual abuse in the church. Please refer to the *Dunkard Brethren Church Manual, Chapter 6 – Rules in Cases of Offenses – Procedure for Responding to Sexual Abuse* for the church's procedure on dealing with reported cases of sexual abuse.

Action by 3rd District Conference: Passed to General Conference as amended.

*Moderator: Mark Andrews*

*Writing Clerk: Jonathan Skiles*

## **26. Query #3**

Having considered the work of the committee appointed to edit the language and compilation of the Polity and Manual as authorized by 2012 General Conference, we, the 2023 Standing Committee, ask 2024 General Conference to approve this installment of that project. The committee has reviewed, edited, and arranged from the beginning of the section of *Methods and Governments of the Dunkard Brethren Church* through the end of the Polity for greater clarity and ease of use. This work has been considered and approved by 2023 Standing Committee. 2023 Standing Committee asks General Conference to approve the submitted material.

*Elder Lloyd Lorenz - Moderator*

*Elder Fred Pifer - Reading Clerk*

*Elder Mark Cordrey - Writing Clerk*

\*\*\*\*\* Submitted Material, Query #3 \*\*\*\*\*

## **METHODS AND GOVERNMENT of the DUNKARD BRETHERN CHURCH METHODS**

1. Loyalty to the faith and order of the church is essential to Her welfare and success. Only Brothers and Sisters who believe and observe the doctrines and practices of the church are placed on programs at District and General Conferences.

2. Members composing General and District Conferences must be supportive of the church in their appearance and must be in harmony with Her doctrines and practices.

3. These members are supplied with credentials by the congregation sending them, showing the date and Conference for which that credential blank is valid.

## GOVERNMENT

This government is maintained through General and District Conferences and Local Church Councils.

## GENERAL CONFERENCE

1. All Elders present constitute the Standing Committee and these brethren, along with all Ministers and Deacons present, are the voting body of Conference.

2. General Conference adopts rules to govern its deliberations and conduct of its business.

3. General Conference exercises jurisdiction in all matters that may originate in its body, and final jurisdiction over matters important to the Brotherhood appealed from District Conferences.

4. Decisions made by General Conference must be fully respected by the churches, unless they are revoked by the same authority.

## DISTRICT CONFERENCES

1. One Elder may convene a District Meeting which has been properly called and announced.

2. Either Brothers or Sisters may serve as delegates at District Meetings.

3. District Conferences are held annually and are composed of three delegates from each congregation located within that District.

4. District Conferences are governed by rules considered most suitable within each District.

5. District Conference has original jurisdiction in matters that may originate in its body, and appellate jurisdiction in matters sent to it from the local congregations.

6. Decisions of District Conference will be respected by the congregations composing it, unless they contradict decisions of General Conference. Appeals may be made regarding such decisions directly to General Conference by any congregation or party affected. Queries that do not pass at District Conference may not be appealed to General Conference.

7. Congregations will reimburse the expenses of delegates attending District Conference. These delegates must be in harmony with the doctrines and practices of the Church and manifest the same in general appearance.

#### CHURCH COUNCILS

1. A majority of local officials present in officials' council meeting favoring an item of business makes it business for the church council meeting.
2. On all important matters each member 16 years of age and over should vote, "Silence for consent" is not sufficient.
3. When acting in harmony with decisions of General Conference, a minority cannot be overruled.
4. Local Church council meetings are composed of the members present. These councils convene periodically or when special needs arise.
5. Each congregation has a Presiding Elder who moderates its council meetings or he may appoint some other qualified Elder or Minister to take this responsibility.
6. Matters affecting the local congregation, the District or the General Brotherhood are proper subjects for the church council to consider and its decisions are final on local matters.

#### RULES FOR GENERAL CONFERENCE

1. All properly presented questions (business items) will be read by the Reading Clerk after which the Moderator will declare those items the business of the meeting.
2. No one will speak more than twice on the same question. The first speech will be limited to fifteen minutes and the second one to five minutes.
3. The reading of any question may be called for a second time but not more often if there is an objection made.
4. No one will speak without first addressing the Moderator and being recognized by him.
5. The Moderator will require every member, when speaking, to confine their remarks to the subject being considered at that time.
6. Any member using personalities or derogatory statements in their speech will be called to order by the Moderator. They will not be given the floor to speak again during that conference until they have withdrawn the objectionable statements.
7. The Moderator will decide who has the right to the floor and when their time expires.

8. The Moderator will determine when the discussion on each subject will close and when the question will be brought to final resolution. If an objection is made to his ruling, an appeal must be made immediately by motion seconded by three delegates. The Conference will then decide the matter. All members present will have the right to participate in the discussion of all questions before the meeting.

9. Motions on or amendments to queries that are presented to General Conference will not be entertained by the Moderator until those presenting the query have opportunity to explain its merits, which can be discussed by those at the meeting. After discussion, if there is not a consensus of sentiment in the meeting, the Moderator may entertain amendments to the item.

10. All queries will be voted on by ballot. All other business may be voted on optionally by ballot or other methods.

11. All queries will require a two-thirds majority to pass and motions will require a simple majority vote.

#### CHURCH OFFICIALS

1. In all elections for church officials, members 16 years of age or over are entitled to vote.

2. The Eldership is the highest office in the Church. Elders are advanced from the Ministry to the Eldership in the congregation where they hold their membership. The authority to ordain Elders shall be, and is vested in, the Elders of the District. The request may originate in the official body of the congregation, from the Presiding Elder of the congregation or in the District Elders meeting. All Elders, except for age and experience, are of equal rank officially, being ordained by the laying on of hands. A committee of two Elders shall be appointed by the District Elders for that purpose.

3. Presiding Elders have oversight of the local congregations where elected. All Elders present at General Conference and similar meetings called for by the moderator constitute Standing Committee and have oversight over the Brotherhood at large. They preside in District Conferences and in local Church Councils, ordain other Elders, anoint the sick, solemnize marriages, officiate at Communion, preach the Gospel, baptize new converts and see that the principles of the Church are respected and carried out in the lives of the membership. Elders are to be examples to the flock in biblical obedience and holiness of life.

4. At their ordination, which is based on the approval of the membership by private verbal confirmation and absence of Gospel objection, each candidate must covenant and promise to teach, respect and enforce the doctrines and methods by which the Church seeks to promote the cause of Christ and maintain the principles of the Gospel.

5. Ministers and Deacons are elected by the members of the congregation where they hold their membership. It is recommended that a message on the qualifications of Church leadership, in accordance with Apostolic example, along with general admonition against electioneering, be preached in advance of the election to give ample time for prayer and fasting. Voting is done by ballot with each member appearing before the Election Committee and casting his or her vote.

Each candidate must covenant and promise to teach, respect and enforce the doctrines and methods by which the Church seeks to fulfill its mission in the world. After their covenant and promise, they are installed in office by the laying on of hands and prayer. The Presiding Elder of the congregation and the Elder or Minister appointed by the District Elders performs this work. No Elder or Minister of the local congregation in which the election is held shall be allowed to serve on the Election Committee to avoid influencing the members coming before the Committee.

6. Ministers preach the Word, baptize, assist Elders in anointings, solemnize marriages, officiate at Communion, and in all things endeavor to be an example to others in humility and holiness of life. They may also moderate Church councils if necessary.

7. Deacons are chosen to serve the Church in the capacity of stewards and attend to the temporal and financial needs of the Church. They serve at Communion, visit the sick, care for the poor, assist in the ministry, investigate other matters of importance, care for the church visit, and may in extreme cases administer baptism and assist in anointing.

## COMMITTEES

1. General or District Conferences may grant requests for committees when they feel every reasonable effort to settle difficulties has failed.

2. Committees report their work to the body appointing them. In cases of appeal, the work of the committees becomes final when ratified by the body appointing them.

3. Committees will decide who will pay their expenses, except in the case of appeal. In this case, the expenses will be paid by the party losing the case. Committees may, in cases of appeal, require the appellant to deposit sufficient funds with the proper treasurer to cover the estimated cost.

## CONDUCTING SERVICES

1. Our worship services are conducted in a reverential manner and consist of preaching, prayer (predominantly kneeling), and congregational singing. Use of the Lord's Prayer is encouraged, as it is an appropriate and simple seeking of God's will and blessing.

2. When services and programs, other than regularly scheduled worship services (such as weddings, school programs, Thanksgiving and Christmas services, Vacation Bible Schools, etc.), are held on the church property, they should be conducted in a manner consistent with our beliefs. These services and programs are not held to the format outlined in #1 and are left to the discretion of the local congregation.

3. Officials or members from churches of similar faith and practice may be called upon to assist at our services, except in communion, under the direction of the local official body and the Presiding Elder. This does not prevent others from taking part in funeral services when requested by the family.

#### Sisters' Aid Societies

The Church sees no objection to a simple organization for business purposes, but admonishes that all worldly methods of raising money be avoided.

\*\*\*\*\* End Submitted Material, Query #3 \*\*\*\*\*

## **27. Resolutions**

## **28. Adjournment**