

INTRODUCTION OF THEME

WHAT NOW?! WHERE NEXT?!

That surely nails the frame of mind of the two disciples who had left Jerusalem and walked toward Emmaus (**Luke 24:13-35**). They shared their disappointed hopes with a certain stranger who walked with them. Yet, even as this stranger laid out for them a biblical context for recognizing this Jesus as resurrected Lord, in spite of the way their hearts “burned” within them, this stranger’s identity remained hidden. Only when they ate together and Jesus broke and offered them bread did they realize who that stranger had been and that Jesus was most certainly alive!

But where and when is Jesus alive? That the Emmaus-bound disciples discovered Jesus around the table in the intimate fellowship of eating together, that the post-crucifixion Jesus appears to the gathered disciples, that Jesus offers himself, body and spirit (“this is my body...” “receive the Holy Spirit”) to the gathered church helps us to catch on. Jesus is alive in the gathered body. We are the body of Christ!

So **“What Now?! Where Next?!”** It’s continuing the work of Jesus: peacefully, simply, together. It’s living out our district vision: Rooted together in Love to be Christ’s transforming hope and power. It’s discovering that Christ is alive in us!

Don’t miss Gathering 2013! Bible study, solid preaching, inspiring worship, new ideas, friends old and new, regenerating nature, and even ice cream make this an unforgettable experience.

Where next for you and your congregation?

SCHEDULE

Friday Evening, November 1

3:00 – 6:00	Registration
5:00 – 6:30	Dinner
7:15 – 8:45	Opening Worship: Nancy Sollenberger Heishman, preacher
8:45	Campfire

Saturday Morning, November 2

7:00 – 8:00	Breakfast
8:30 – 9:30	General Session: Theme Bible Study, together and in small groups. Leader: Steve Crain
9:30 – 9:45	Preview of Workshops
10:00 – 11:30	Workshop Block #1
11:45 – 1:00	Lunch

Saturday Afternoon

1:00 – 1:45	Shared Interest Groups
2:00 – 2:50	General Session: Taking the next step toward vital congregations.
3:00 – 4:30	Workshop Block #2
4:45 – 6:00	Dinner

Saturday Evening

6:30 – 8:00	Worship – Featuring our Youth
8:00	Fellowship and Game Night (Coffee House)

Sunday Morning, November 3

(Time change: “Fall back”)

7:00 – 8:00	Breakfast
8:30 – 10:00	Workshop Block #3
10:30 – 12:00	Closing Worship: Jeff Carter, preacher
12:15 – 1:00	Lunch & Depart

WHAT NOW?! WHERE NEXT?! LUKE 24:13-35

November 1-3, 2013

THE GATHERING

WEBSTER CONFERENCE CENTER

SALINA, KANSAS



A transformational initiative
of the Church of the Brethren
in Western Plains



SPEAKERS



Nancy Sollenberger Heishman

Nancy Sollenberger Heishman is the 2014 moderator of Annual Conference and co-interim pastor of the West Charleston and Cristo, Nuestra Paz Churches of the Brethren in Southern Ohio District. She and her husband Irvin served for eight years as mission coordinators in the Dominican Republic. They are parents of two children: Tim is currently an NYC coordinator through BVS, and Jeni is a student at Eastern Mennonite University. Another member of the family is Sophie, their bilingual Dominican cat.



Jeff Carter

Jeff Carter is the new President of Bethany Theological Seminary, in Richmond, Ind., having begun in this role in July. A graduate of Bridgewater College, he received his masters degree from Bethany Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Princeton Theological Seminary. In his free time Jeff enjoys golf, soccer, and running. He is married to Kim and has three daughters: Anna, Grace, and Julie. Jeff lives with great intensity and seeks to inspire others to see their lives as a blessing and created to be a blessing to others.

Photo by Chris Detrick



WORKSHOPS

Open Conversation – Nancy Sollenberger Heishman

Gather to share your dreams and concerns with one another.

Conflict? Tools Beyond Leaving the Room!

– Gail Erisman Valeta

Learn and practice ways of handling conflict creatively. Designed for Deacons, Youth Leaders, Camp Leaders, or Anyone

—Adults and Youth.

Awaken to the Spirit! – Joanna Smith

Come with an open heart & mind to discuss Divine Spirit and learn ways to awaken your consciousness to this loving, transforming, life-giving energy!

“What Now?! Where Next?!” with Youth

– Sarah Neher, Tim Heishman, & Katie Cummings

Join the National Youth Conference Coordinators for informal conversations about what is happening with Brethren youth and discuss what the future may hold. For youth, youth leaders, and anyone wanting to be supportive of our youth.

Developing Your Web Presence

– Brian Solem (Brethren Benefit Trust)

Is your website up-to-date? Does it represent your congregations’ spirit? What is your website missing? We will talk about ways to make your church’s website more appealing and useful to your audience and also give you helpful tips on how to include photos, audio, and video files.

What’s Next for Theological Education – Jeff Carter

Join informal conversations with the newly appointed president of our Bethany Theological Seminary.

Tell Me a Story: Exploring Biblical Storytelling

– Anita Christian

How do you read a Bible story aloud so that it’s easy to listen to? How might you tell one from memory? What might we find (and remember!) if we explore the details and structure of one story? For anyone who wants to hear, read, study or tell a Bible story.

YOUTH RETREAT

District Youth Coordinators Shawn Flory Replogle (Sr. High) and Lois Grummert (Jr. High) have planned another fun-filled, Spirit-driven, jam-packed weekend! Youth will be challenged to consider what the Gathering theme (“What Now?! Where Next?!”) has to do with them. Youth will have the opportunity to participate in a service project, the ropes course, participate in Worship, and much, much more!

CHILDREN’S ACTIVITIES

The Gathering features program and care for children from infants through 5th grade. Several blocks of care are provided for infants through four-year-olds. Children five years through 5th grade participate in Bible School activities during much of the time adult activities are scheduled on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. For more information and the children’s registration form, go to www.wpcob.org.

REGISTRATION

The registration fee includes all conference meals, programs, activities, and on-campus lodging. A motel list with special conference rates is available for those preferring off-campus lodging. Persons choosing to stay in motels pay their own housing and are charged the same conference fee, still a subsidized rate.

	By Oct. 21	After Oct. 21
Adult	\$60	\$70
Youth	\$60	\$70
Family max.	\$150	\$180

Visit www.wpcob.org or call 620-241-4240 for registration forms and more information.

LOCATION

The Gathering is held at Webster Conference Center at the north edge of Salina just north of I-70, exit 253 (Ohio St.)—about two miles east of the junction with I-135. On-campus housing is “winterized camp style,” with



single beds, decent mattresses, and some handicapped accessible rooms. Most lodgings have bath facilities in the room. Normally 4-5 persons of the same gender share a room, although a limited number of family rooms are available. Bring your own bedding (including pillows) and towels. RV hook-ups are also available.