

INTRODUCTION OF THEME

BLESSED, BROKEN, & INSPIRED

“Blessed, Broken, & Inspired,” theme for our tenth Gathering, draws from **Mark 6:30-44**. The story tells of a crowd gathered to listen to Jesus. The hour grew late. Disciples were concerned because people were getting hungry. The disciples suggested the obvious solution to Jesus. “Send them somewhere else for food.” Then Jesus, maybe with a slight twinkle in the eye, proposed that the disciples feed the people themselves. Impossible! Yet, amazingly, the disciples discovered that, with the blessing of Jesus, they were able to satisfy the hunger of a multitude with the few loaves of bread and fish that they had available. Considering the number of times this event gets told and retold in the New Testament, the story’s well worth our exploration.

Disciples never seem to have “enough” to do what God asks of them. Do we have “enough”? We have a vision for the Church of the Brethren in Western Plains. It tells us who we are and what our calling is: *Rooted together in Love to be Christ’s transforming Hope and Power*. Is that impossible? How could we ever find the resources and energy to do that? Maybe we could *try* a little bit, but really! Considering our lack of numbers, money, skills, and...and...and...!

Come to Gathering 2014 and discover with us the **Inspiration** that can come when we, like bread in the hands of Jesus, are **Blessed and Broken**.

SCHEDULE

Friday Evening, October 24

- 3:00 – 6:00 Registration
- 5:00 – 6:30 Dinner
- 7:00 – 8:30 Opening Worship: David Steele, preacher
- 8:45 Campfire & Coffeehouse

Saturday Morning, October 25

- 7:00 – 8:00 Breakfast
- 7:30 – 7:45 Morning Watch with Herb Smith
- 8:30 – 9:30 General Session: *Rhythms of a Vital Congregation*, Leader: Jonathan Shively
- 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: *Music from Colorado*
- 3:00 – 4:30 Workshop Block #2
- 4:45 – 6:00 Dinner

Saturday Evening

- 6:30 – 8:00 Worship: Mary Jo Flory-Steury, preacher
- 8:00 Fellowship Night at the Coffeehouse

Sunday Morning, October 26

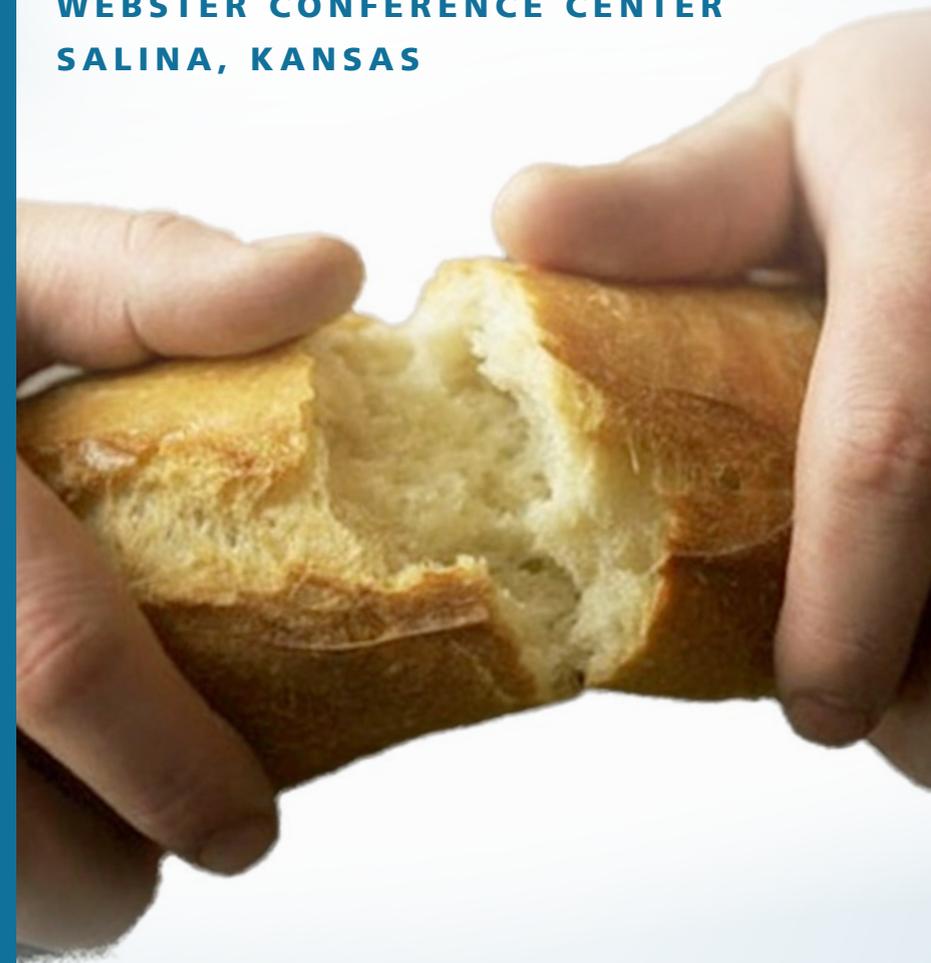
- 7:00 – 8:00 Breakfast
- 7:30 – 7:45 Morning Watch with Herb Smith
- 8:30 – 10:00 Workshop Block #3
- 10:30 – 12:00 Closing Worship: Jonathan Shively, preacher
- 12:15 – 1:15 Lunch & Depart

BLESSED, BROKEN, & INSPIRED MARK 6:30-44

October 24-26, 2014

THE GATHERING

WEBSTER CONFERENCE CENTER
SALINA, KANSAS



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



SPEAKERS

David Steele is currently the Annual Conference Moderator of the Church of the Brethren and district executive minister for Middle Pennsylvania District. He is a graduate of McPherson (Kan.) College and Bethany Theological Seminary. David has also served as pastor in the Bakersfield (Calif.) congregation and pastor of youth ministries and subsequently pastor at the Martinsburg (Pa.) Memorial congregation. He has been very engaged in district and denominational youth ministry.



Mary Jo Flory-Steury serves as associate general secretary for the Church of Brethren and has served as executive for the Office of Ministry since November 2001. Previously, she served as pastor in Southern Ohio District at the Troy and Prince of Peace congregations. Mary Jo is married to Mark Flory-Steury. Their two grown children are Joshua Bashore-Steury of Lancaster, Pa. and Jessica Strawderman of Harrisonburg, Va.



Jonathan Shively is a father, husband, church bureaucrat, musician, Jesus-follower, house chef, handyman, frequently sleepless introvert doing his best to plug into God's mission. His passion is to see vital congregations forming disciples of Jesus. Currently he serves as the executive director of Congregational Life Ministries for the Church of the Brethren, living and serving with his family in Elgin, Ill.



YOUTH RETREAT

District Youth Coordinators Shawn Flory Replogle (Sr. High) and Nicole and Phil Sampson (Jr. High) have planned another fun-filled, Spirit-driven, jam-packed weekend! Youth will be challenged to consider what the Gathering theme ("Blessed, Broken, & Inspired") 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

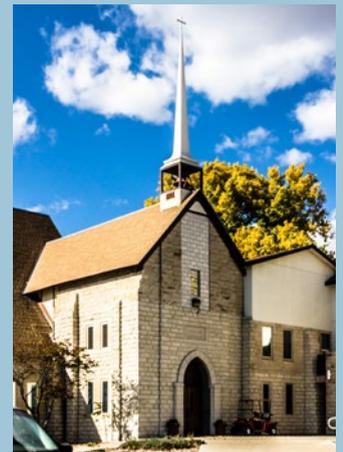
The registration fee includes all conference meals, programs, activities, and on-campus lodging. A motel list with special conference rates is available for those preferring off-campus lodging. Persons choosing to stay in motels pay their own housing and are charged the same conference fee, still a subsidized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

	By Oct. 13	After Oct. 13
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.



WORKSHOPS

Open Conversation – *David Steele*

Gather to share your dreams and concerns with one another.

Creating a Culture of Call – *Mary Jo Flory-Steury*

In this workshop, explore Biblical and current stories of call. What does our theology have to do with our work in the society and world? Talk about how to engage in intentional conversations about faith, spiritual gifts, and vocation.

Keys to Parenting – *LaMonte Rothrock*

Participants will learn about styles of parenting, goals and reasons for behaviors, a discipline model, and communication methods to match your family's values. Participants will walk away with a concrete parenting model and steps for addressing current and future challenges with their children and maybe even their spouse.

Springs of Living Water – *Keith Funk*

Introduced by Church of the Brethren pastor David Young, Springs of Living Water is a church renewal process designed for pastors and congregations who seek a deeper relationship with Christ. Keith will share out of his own experience with the process.

Study, Pray & Share: Enriching Faith and Practice through Biblical Engagement – *Jonathan Shively*

This workshop will introduce participants to the principles and practices of the Vital Ministry Journey, a process for local congregations desiring deeper scriptural reflection, stronger relational connections, and heightened mission vitality.

What Now? Where Next for The Gathering?

– *Ken Frantz, facilitator*

What is the path ahead for Western Plains District? Come and share your thoughts and ideas on the Gathering and District Conference and how transformation could move forward.

Blessed & Broken – *Joanna Smith*

Do you recognize the Divine within your own brokenness & frailty? Come, experience God through the practice of meditation and the sharing of stories.

Brethren Volunteer Service – *Sarah Ullom-Minnich*

One of our own young adults shares her experiences as a BVS volunteer at Su Casa, a project in Chicago's inner city working with Hispanic women and children.

