

Planning Committee

Nathaniel Sommers Westmoreland, KS 785-219-9209 *Chairman*
Allen Ramer New Paris, IN 574-354-8843 *Vice-Chairman*
Sean Rutledge McMinnville, TN 931-212-2923 *Secretary*
Raymond Horst New Holland, OH 740-227-0613 *Treasurer*
Laverne Martin Moorefield, ON 226-748-9425 *Community Rep*

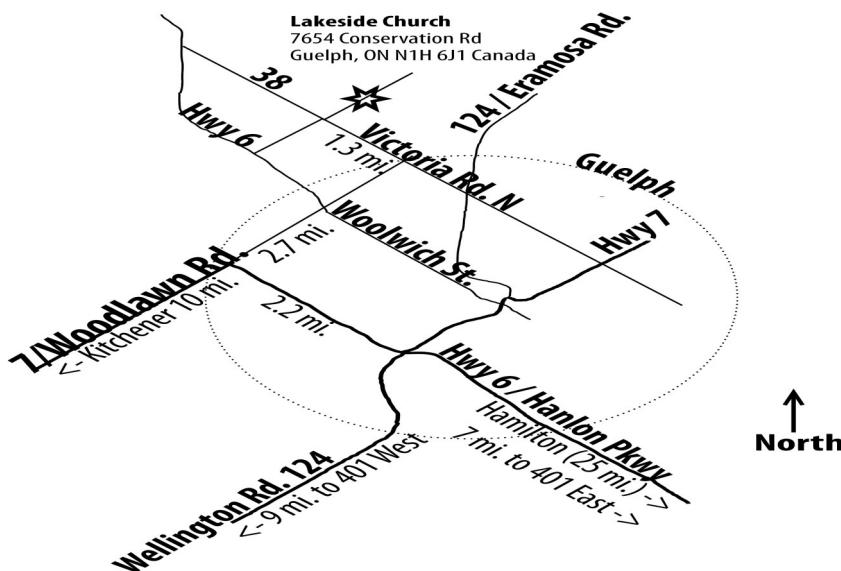
Please do your part to promote a reverent atmosphere by practicing the following minimum standards of dress and conduct. Thank you!

- For sisters: modest dresses with sleeves below the elbow, and black shoes and hosiery.
- For brethren: black shoes and solid-colored, long-sleeved shirts with collars closed. Plain suits are encouraged in cooler weather.
- Phones, computers, and cameras will not be used in the assembly and workshop areas.
- Attendees' conduct should promote a good Christian testimony at the place of lodging.

Registration and Lodging

Each attendee must register by September 7. Use the included form or contact
Seth Williams at 240-329-1627

For lodging needs, contact Duane Martin,
Phone: 519-588-9775 Fax: 888-727-0164



Fifty-Ninth Annual Conservative Mennonite Teachers' Institute

Western Session

September 26-27, 2025

Hosted by
Pathfinder Christian School

Held at
Lakeside Church
7654 Conservation Rd
Guelph, ON N1H 6J1 Canada

Who Teacheth Like God?

“Behold, God exalteth by his power: who teacheth like him?” (Job 36:22).

Theme Song:
“Who Can Teach Like Thee?”

Friday Morning, September 26, 2025

7:45	Registration
8:00	Prayer Period: Friday speakers and workshop leaders
8:30	Welcome Laverne Martin (ON)
	Congregational Singing
	Devotions: God of Mercy (Job 36:26-28 & 37:13-14) Duane Bauman (ON)
8:55	Never Man Spake Like This Man (John 7:46) Marlin Eby (PA)
9:25	Workshop Orientation and Offering
9:50-10:50	WORKSHOP SESSION I
	1. Holding Pencils to Shaping Numbers (Sisters Only) Samantha Zimmerman (IN)
	2. TIA: Speech Therapy (Sisters Only) Freda Hostetter (MD)
	3. TIA: Map Skills for Middle Grades Aden Martin (ON)
	4. Following the Lesson Plan (Mid to Upper Grades) John Rutledge (TN)
	5. TIA: Teaching Note-Taking Skills (Upper Grades) Jason Horst (OH)
	6. Oral Reading for Upper Grades Merle Beiler (NC)
	7. Glorifying God in Devotions (All Grades) Clifton Eby (ON)
	8. Interviewing Teachers Philip Horst (ON)
11:00-11:50	WORKSHOP SESSION II
	9. Composition in the Lower Grades (Sisters Only) Rosanna Beachy (KS)
	10. Liked or Respected (All Grades) Jonathan Sommers (PA)
	11. Understanding Your Curriculum (Mid to Upper Grades) Verlin Garber (KS)
	12. Special Education Panel (See Below *)
	13. Teaching Real Life Math (Mid to Upper Grades) Jay Martin (ON)
	14. Will Any Poster Do? (Sisters Only) Lucy Martin (PA)
	15. Common Mistakes Editors Fix (Mid to Upper Grades) Walter Schwartz (TN)
	16. The School Board — A Lighthouse Marlin Maldaner (AB)
12:00	Lunch

Friday Afternoon

1:20	Singing and Prayer
1:40-2:30	WORKSHOP SESSION III
	17. If I Could Teach My First Year Again (First-Year Teachers) ... Eric Zimmerman (IN)
	18. Singing Across the Curriculum (All Grades) Conrad Rudolph (WV)
	19. Perspective Drawing Mervin Showalter (PA)
	20. LBL: The Geography Jesus Trod Albert Brubaker (ON)
	21. Spotlight on Peru Luke Martin (PE)
	22. Physics in Everyday Life (Mid to Upper Grades) Don Martin (MD)
	23. Local History — Mennonite Trek to Ontario Dean Martin (ON)
	24. Bird Identification (Mid to Upper Grades) Ethan Heatwole (ON)
2:40-3:30	WORKSHOP SESSION IV
	25. Stimulating Fluent Reading in Lower Grades (Sisters Only) Ella Diller (MD)
	26. Tactful Teaching (All Grades) Robert Heatwole (ON)
	27. Healthy Parent-Teacher Relationships (All Grades) Matthew Frey (ON)
	28. Techniques to Help the Torpid (All Grades) Marcus Rudolph (MD)
	29. TIA: Rudiments and Singing (All Grades) Luke Weiler (AB)
	30. Using Rubrics for Grading (All Grades) Caleb Hanes (PA)
	31. Teaching Etymology (Upper Grades) Conrad Rudolph (WV)
	32. The Absolutes of Math (Mid to Upper Grades) Eldon Ruth (OH)
3:40	Congregational Singing
4:20	Fifteen-Minute Topics: Building School Culture
	Developing Annual Traditions Matthew Frey (ON)
	Telling Intentional Stories Eldon Ruth (OH)
	Singing Jehovah's Songs Delmar Eby (KY)
5:15	Supper

*Special Education Panel: Aquilla Martin (PA),
Alan Amstutz (OH), and Lawrence Martin (NY)

WORKSHOP DURING BUSINESS MEETING

Understanding Children's Emotions (Sisters only)	Julia Jantzi (ON)
--	-------------------

Perfectly normal children face emotions like fear, anger, and sadness. These things may result from sickness, injury, unfamiliar settings, or unkind treatment from classmates. How can the teacher help her emotionally distraught students to emotional stability? Please come prepared to share some of your experiences or questions and let's learn together!

WORKSHOP SESSION V

33. Classroom Procedures (All Grades)	Nathan Stutzman (TN)
---	----------------------

Why procedures? Why do we complete a task a certain way day after day? What are some good procedures that will enhance order and effectiveness in the classroom? Please come ready to share procedures that you have found to be helpful!

34. TIA: Inspiring Original Compositions in Middle Grades. Elam Rudolph (MD)
--

Is composition class nearly de-railed? "The Little Red Caboose" will help. Has Thinkapolis drifted shut to the first story windows? Call Katie. In this class you will use good writing as a springboard for more good writing.

35. Helping the Lame Run (All Grades)	Raymond Yoder (IA)
---	--------------------

Asthma, a weak heart, or a missing limb: an unstable home life, death in the family, or rebellious siblings. How do we help physically or emotionally handicapped children feel safe, accepted, and needed?

36. Making History Live (Mid to Upper Grades)	Anthony Frey (ON)
---	-------------------

The Church in the Middle Ages. From Constantine to the Reformation, let's explore the following: the controlling power of the Roman Catholic Church, the disciplined life in the monasteries, the determination of the Crusaders, the steadfastness and persecution of dedicated followers of Jesus, and the horrors of the Black Death.

37. The Story of Cursive Handwriting (All Grades)	Lawrence Martin (NY)
---	----------------------

Stories... Shouldn't those be written in cursive to give your students practice in this disappearing art? Let's discover the origins, styles, advantages, and the science of cursive handwriting. Let's talk about how to bring about a revival of this brain-developing skill in your classroom.

38. Teaching Public Speaking (Upper Grades)	Warren Bauman (ON)
---	--------------------

The ability to speak publicly is God's gift to you, and your gift to your audience. This session is about making it less about me, and more for the audience.

39. Grooves But No Ruts (All Grades)	Keith Brubaker (ON)
--	---------------------

From the daily prayer to the science class, long-term teachers can become monotonous. In this workshop we will discuss ways of steering free of the ruts of apathetic repetition to travelling along the grooves of ardent originality.

40. Evaluating Current Threats to our Schools	Brian Warner (PA)
---	-------------------

Satan is on a mission to destroy the Church. As a critical aspect of the work of the Church, the Christian Day School will be a battleground. Ministry, parents, boards, and teachers must be aware of and evaluate threats to our schools. "Thou therefore endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." (II Tim. 2:3)

Please preregister

so the hosting community and the planning committee
can more accurately prepare for an engaging CMTI!

22. Physics in Everyday Life (Mid to Upper Grades) **Don Martin (MD)**
 Physics is just a nebulous discipline studied by scientists, isn't it? Actually, any time you deal with light, electricity, magnetism, motion, or sound you use physics. We will use demonstrations in these fields to provide a platform for teaching the principles of physics.

23. Local History—Mennonite Trek to Ontario **Dean Martin (ON)**
 Around 1800 many Mennonites chose to leave the comfortable fertile valleys of Pennsylvania to migrate on a perilous and irrevocable journey to the wilds of Upper Canada. Come join me as we explore the dynamics and experience of that trek!

24. Bird Identification (Mid to Upper Grades) **Ethan Heatwole (PA)**
 Which of your fascinating little friends just disappeared into that willow bush in front of you? Did you mark it down as "another tweety bird"? How do you identify birds at a glance? How do you excite your student's interest?

WORKSHOP SESSION IV

25. Stimulating Fluent Reading in Lower Grades (Sisters Only) **Ella Diller (MD)**
 Fluent reading flows from the lips like a fluid from a flask. How can our students acquire this skill? Can you read fluently? Come to practice.

26. Tactful Teaching (All Grades) **Robert Heatwole (ON)**
 Does the teacher of many years ever subconsciously raise the bar for achievement or behavior; face temptations to impatience; think, I just told you that; respond bluntly or abrasively? Then the more serious question, Should he?

27. Healthy Parent-Teacher Relationships (All Grades) **Matthew Frey (ON)**
 Parents enlist teachers to help in teaching their children. The only way to have this work long-term is through healthy relationships. Let's explore some key elements in building this vital link. This workshop should be applicable for teachers of all grades.

28. Techniques to Help the Torpid (All Grades) **Marcus Rudolph (MD)**
 What practical methods can be used to transition slow, sluggish, hibernating minds into vital classroom participants? Bring the "raw materials"—your experience, your questions, and your participation — to the "workshop" to craft techniques that build classroom energy, diligence, and productivity.

29. TIA: Rudiments and Singing (All Grades) **Luke Weiler (AB)**
 "Singing is fun but I could never write a song"! Does this sound familiar? Let's discover how chords work together, unravel the mystery of composing harmony, and literally build a song from scratch. Will you help me?

30. Using Rubrics for Grading (All Grades) **Caleb Hanes (PA)**
 Do you struggle with subjective grading in subjects such as composition or art? How can we arrive at a fair score? Come prepared to discuss ways to take abstract grading to a concrete score.

31. Teaching Etymology (Upper Grades) **Conrad Rudolph (WV)**
Etymology (*etumon*, "true sense of a word" + *logia* < *logos*, "word, speech, one who deals with") What's the connection between a goat, a building in DC, and a musical repeat? Logophiles, let's "deal with" the "true sense of a word."

32. The Absolutes of Math (Mid to Upper Grades) **Eldon Ruth (OH)**
 God is absolute, infinite, and beautiful. Math has absolutes, expresses infinity, and reveals beautiful truths. Do you need some inspirational tidbits to inspire your math classes? In this workshop we will endeavor to stretch our minds by exploring how math points to an unchanging God.

Friday Evening	
6:25	Optional Singing Period
6:55	Congregational Singing
7:00	Devotions: God of Goodness (Psalms 104:10-14, 24) Eli Wideman (ON)
7:15	He Guides Their Certain Flight Michael Zimmerman (PA)
7:50	I Have a Dream Sheldon Lengacher (IN)
8:20	Dismissal

Saturday Morning, September 27, 2025	
7:45	Prayer Period: Saturday speakers and workshop leaders
8:15	Congregational Singing
	Devotions: God of Power (Psalms 121:1-8) John Murray Martin (ON)
8:35	Business Meeting
8:35	Understanding Children's Emotions (Sisters Only) Julia Jantzi (ON)
9:30-10:30	WORKSHOP SESSION V
	33. Classroom Procedures (All Grades) Nathan Stutzman (TN)
	34. TIA: Inspiring Original Compositions in Middle Grades ..Elam Rudolph (MD)
	35. Helping the Lame Run (All Grades) Raymond Yoder (IA)
	36. TIA: Making History Live (Mid to Upper Grades) Anthony Frey (ON)
	37. The Story of Cursive Handwriting (All Grades) Lawrence Martin (NY)
	38. Teaching Public Speaking (Upper Grades) Warren Bauman (ON)
	39. Grooves but No Ruts (All Grades) Keith Brubaker (ON)
	40. Evaluating Current Threats to Our Schools Brian Warner (PA)
10:30	Prayer Period (Conducted by workshop leaders)
11:00	Seven-Minute Seminars: The Teacher Channeling...
	Energy Raymond Yoder (IA)
	Conversations Walter Schwartz (TN)
	Friendships Robert Heatwole (ON)
	World-View Keith Brubaker (ON)
11:30	Wonders Without Number Neal Weaver (PA)
12:00	Dismissal and Lunch

Song Leader: Arlin Martin (ON)

LBL: Learning by Lecture
TIA: Teacher in Action

CMTI has a call-in conference phone number that can be used for both sessions. That number is (712) 432-8773; conference ID # is 2684 (CMTI). This will be active only when CMTI is in session. Those calling in will only be able to hear what happens in the main assembly, including workshops conducted in the main assembly area. There is no recording playback number to listen to it later.

Workshop Descriptions

WORKSHOP SESSION I

1. **Holding Pencils to Shaping Numbers** (Sisters Only) ... **Samantha Zimmerman (IN)**
Sister Hannah hints that the fourth graders came into her class with poor habits. Help, I'm the lower grade teacher! Teacher's guides don't mention students falling out of desks, holding pencils with clenched fists, not knowing the number facts, or not using tissues. What all should I be teaching?
2. **TIA: Speech Therapy** (Sisters Only) **Freda Hostetter (MD)**
How can we teach young students to say sounds clearly and pronounce words correctly? Come and help evaluate errors in articulation and glean pointers for correcting them.
3. **TIA: Map Skills for Middle Grades** **Aden Martin (ON)**
Cities, landmarks, and highways; mountains, rivers, and continents... For thousands of years, maps have provided a wealth of information to both the navigators and students. How can you teach your students the skills needed to benefit from the ancient art of maps?
4. **Following the Lesson Plan** (Mid to Upper Grades) **John Rutledge (TN)**
What is a lesson plan? Why do I need one? Does it need to be complicated to be effective? Can you just use the plan in the teacher's guide? How can we develop lesson plans?
5. **TIA: Teaching Note Taking Skills** (Upper Grades) **Jason Horst (OH)**
Teaching the future business owner, or school board secretary how to take accurate and concise notes at meetings? Probably! Do your students know how to decide between details and main points? How can you help them decide? Bring your suggestions for note-taking, and also come prepared to take notes from a short article.
6. **Oral Reading for Upper Grades** **Merle Beiler (NC)**
Our younger teachers pour themselves out to teach vibrant oral reading. How or can we continue this across the array of subjects in the upper grades? Do your students still read expressively? Why not? Do you?
7. **Glorifying God in Devotions** (All Grades) **Clifton Eby (ON)**
Seize the opportunity to draw your students minds to the attributes of God. How can we keep devotions age-appropriate, balanced in worship and instruction, and captivating without losing depth and purpose? Come to contribute and collect inspirations
8. **Interviewing Teachers** **Philip Horst (ON)**
You are a school board member and are responsible for hiring teachers. The stakes are high. Your supporting church, your patrons, and of course, the students care deeply about who you hire as their next schoolteacher. Let's discuss how you follow leads, interview candidates, and hire your next schoolteacher.

WORKSHOP SESSION II

9. **Composition in the Lower Grades** (Sisters Only) **Rosanna Beachy (KS)**
Is it possible for second graders to write paragraphs or short stories? Yes, especially if the process begins in first grade. We want to discuss how to teach writing assignments on an appropriate level for lower grades. Let's also create a list of ideas for writing projects.
10. **Liked or Respected** (All Grades) **Jonathan Sommers (PA)**
Or neither. What about being despised? Come for a discussion on relationships, reputation, and respect.
11. **Understanding Your Curriculum** (Mid to Upper Grades) **Verlin Garber (KS)**
"The teacher must know that which he would teach." Understanding the differences between content and skill-based courses, chapter layout versus spiral format, core subjects and extra-curricular activities can aid us in fully understanding what we

teach. Join us for a discussion on maximizing the strengths and compensating for the weaknesses of the various teaching methods found in the curricula we use.

12. **Special Ed Panel** **(see below*)**

Does this student need a special curriculum? If so, what curriculum? Maybe we can make the curriculum match the student. Maybe the teacher needs the curriculum to learn how to teach the student. What resources are available to assist the teacher in teaching students with learning difficulties?

*Panel: Aquila Martin (PA), Alan Amstutz (OH), and Lawrence Martin (NY)

13. **Real-Life Math** (Mid to Upper Grades) **Jay Martin (ON)**

When are we ever going to use this? This question typically shows a lack of interest or understanding. In this workshop, we will make connections to the real world using concepts from the math text, to promote enthusiastic and interesting math classes.

14. **Will Any Poster Do?** (Sisters Only) **Lucy Martin (PA)**

Will any poster do? Not if we hope to preserve the name of Christian Day School. In this workshop we will consider how posters, displays, and classroom décor can teach and inspire, yet support Christian principle and maintain godly simplicity.

15. **Common Mistakes Editors Fix** (Mid to Upper Grades) **Walter Schwartz (TN)**

If teacher's word teach more thoroughly, would editors have more hair? Maybe. If you can't find the missteaks in this work-shop description, you definitely need this here class to jump start your learning about how to correctly teach proper grammar rules and good punctuation and make'em stick by teaching in memorable ways? Well practice in class.

16. **The School Board—A Lighthouse** **Marlin Maldaner (AB)**

School boards of Christian Day Schools need to know where they are heading; the dangers that are along the way; and always have the light on for parents, teachers, and students. This is only accomplished by men who have the Holy Spirit illuminating their minds.

WORKSHOP SESSION III

17. **If I Could Teach My First Year Again** (First-Year Teachers) **Eric Zimmerman (IN)**
Why didn't I drill that concept more? Why did I ignore the complaining so long? That phone call was really effective! Academics, relationships, discipline—teachers are thrown into them all. This is one upper grade teacher's reflections on his first year(s) of teaching (with a few gleanings from lower grade teachers)
18. **Singing Across the Curriculum** (All Grades) **Conrad Rudolph (WV)**
Singing? That's for devotions and music class. But what about social studies, memory work, math, and phonics? Bring your favorite ditties and we'll pool our ideas on how to use music to make learning memorable.
19. **Perspective Drawing** **Mervin Showalter (PA)**
Horizon lines, vanishing points, foreshortening, ellipses. Discover a few techniques that convince your brain to add the illusion of depth to your drawings. We'll draw a picture in perspective that's sophisticated enough to take home to your students. Rulers are allowed (most of the time!)
20. **LBL: The Geography Jesus Trod** **Albert Brubaker (ON)**
The geographical dimensions of Israel are entirely too small in comparison to the attention it gets. Jesus confined his time on earth to its borders. The majority of that time was in the area around the Sea of Galilee. Jerusalem was a city He visited at least 3 times. The topography and position in relation to the rest of the world is to be noted. We want to tour from the Dead Sea area, Jerusalem, Nazareth, Caesarea Phillipi. This is so much more than a land of relics!
21. **Spotlight on Peru** **Luke Martin (PE)**
Join me for stories of history and life in my adopted country, Peru. We'll talk about pyramids, conquistadors, and a schoolteacher-turned-guerilla. Find out what Peruvians do with guinea pigs. Hear about earthquakes, cultural nuances, and our tri-cultural church and school.

CMTI Registration Form 2025 Western Session

Hosted by Pathfinder Christian School at Lakeside Church, 7654 Conservation Rd., Guelph, Ontario

Each attendee must complete **both** sides of this form unless she is a spouse or child (under 18) of the person filling it out.
Please mail to the address on the back or fax both sides to one of the phone numbers on the back **before** September 7.

Contact Information (print neatly & large enough to be faxed)

Your Name: _____
First _____ Middle Initial _____ Last _____

Spouse (if attending): _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Your School Information

School Name: _____

School Location Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ School phone (only if phone at school): _____

Grade Structure (circle one) 1-8 1-9 1-10 1-11 1-12 Enrollment: _____

An attendee list will be mailed to the school address.

Leave the next 2 lines blank if there is a mailbox at above address. If there is no mailbox, who generally receives school mail?

C/O Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Your Position (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/>	_____							
Teacher	Former Teacher	Teacher's Aid	Principal	Ordained	Board Member	CMTI Committee Member	Speaker	Other

I have taught _____ years before this term. I have served as board member _____ years prior to this term.

(Registration West Cont.)

Meals and Lodging

Note the number of meals you will need. Include spouse or family members who are too young to register.

Friday Lunch _____

Friday Supper _____

Saturday Lunch _____

Lodging Contact: Duane and Carol Martin, 246 Francis Street West, Arthur, ON N0G1A0, Canada. Phone: 519-588-9775, Fax: (888) 727-0164

Workshop Registration Mark your choices so that appropriately sized rooms can be prepared. Your choices will be printed on your nametag so you can attend the classes you chose.
(If your wife is attending, put a “✓” for your choices and a “w” for your wife’s choices.)

Session 1

- 1. From Holding Pencils to Shaping Numbers
- 2. TIA: Speech Therapy (Sisters Only)
- 3. TIA: Map Skills for Middle Grades
- 4. Following the Lesson Plan
- 5. TIA: Teaching Note-Taking Skills
- 6. Oral Reading for Upper Grades
- 7. Glorifying God in Devotions
- 8. Interviewing Teachers

Session 2

- 9. Composition in the Lower Grades (Sisters Only)
- 10. Liked or Respected
- 11. Understanding Your Curriculum
- 12. Special Education Panel
- 13. Teaching Real-Life Math
- 14. Will Any Poster Do (Sisters Only)
- 15. Common Mistakes Editors Fix
- 16. The School Board—A Lighthouse

Session 3

- 17. If I Could Teach My First Year Again
- 18. Singing Across the Curriculum
- 19. Perspective Drawing
- 20. LBL: The Geography Jesus Trod
- 21. Spotlight on Peru
- 22. Physics in Everyday Life
- 23. Local History: The Mason Dixon Line
- 24. Bird Identification

Session 4

- 25. Stimulating Fluent Reading in Lower Grades (Sisters Only)
- 26. Tactful Teaching
- 27. Healthy Parent-Teacher Relationships
- 28. Techniques to Help the Torpid
- 29. TIA: Rudiments and Singing
- 30. Using Rubrics for Grading
- 31. Teaching Etymology
- 32. The Absolutes of Math

Session 5

- 33. Classroom Procedures
- 34. TIA: Inspiring Original Compositions in Middle Grades
- 35. Helping the Lame Run
- 36. TIA: Making History Live
- 37. The Story of Cursive Writing
- 38. Teaching Public Speaking
- 39. Grooves but No Ruts
- 40. Evaluating Current Threats to Our Schools

Optional Class During Business Meeting

- 41. Understanding Children’s Emotions (Sisters Only)

Institute Guidelines

For sisters: Modest dress with sleeves below the elbow and black shoes and hosiery.

For brethren: Black shoes and solid-colored, long-sleeved shirts with collars closed.

Attendees’ conduct should promote a reverent atmosphere. Phones, computers, and cameras will not be used in the assembly and workshop areas.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

As an attendee of this institute, my signature confirms that I agree to practice the above minimum standards of dress and conduct.

Registration Options (please register as soon as possible)

Mail this form to *Seth Williams, 17701 Reiff Church Road, Hagerstown, MD 21740*

Or fax **both** sides to one of the following numbers: 240-520-1889 • 717-762-3856 • 717-208-0039