



Brethren in Christ U.S.

Formed to Follow

General Assembly 2024

..... **PROGRAM**

Thank You

Leadership Council is responsible for the planning of General Assembly and would like to thank the following people who have worked to make the event possible:

National director	Alan Robinson
Moderators	Heather Beaty Adam Forry
Event coordinator	Tammie Gitt Mitch Martin
Communications	Salynda Hogsett Michael Bowlin
Nursery and preschool director	Rachel Ulloa (<i>Highland BIC, OH</i>)
Children's program director	Joy Brown (<i>Amherst Community Church, OH</i>)
Youth program director	Marissa Cowan (<i>Open Door BIC, KY</i>)
Technical director	Dyan Garner Dan Garner
Worship director	Kara Kacmar
Recording secretary	Warren Hoffman
Hosting conference	Great Lakes

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General Assembly 2024

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Welcome

We are glad to welcome you to Sharonville, Ohio, for the 2024 General Assembly. Thank you for making time to be here. In many ways, these events are like a family reunion. They provide an opportunity for members of the family to gather, connect, fellowship, dialogue, and make decisions that will impact our life and ministry together.

Agenda

All delegates should have received a printed copy of the General Assembly 2024 Agenda upon registration. Digital copies of the agenda can be downloaded online at bicus.org/event/general-assembly-2024

Prayer

Prayer is an important part of our time together. Volunteers from across the denomination will lead corporate prayer 30 minutes prior to the morning and evening plenary sessions. The gathering will be held in Rooms 104-105 in the convention center.

On Sunday evening, we invite you to join us on a quiet prayer journey. A guide will be provided for you as you pray for all that God wants to do in and through the Brethren in Christ in the days ahead.

Displays

Displays representing several ministries and institutions with a covenant or memorandum of understanding with BIC U.S. will be available in the hallway outside the Northern Lights Ballroom. Please take time to visit the tables for these organizations: AWAKEN: BIC Network for Women in Ministry, BIC U.S. World Missions, Brethren in Christ U.S., Brethren in Christ Foundation, Brethren in Christ Historical Library & Archives, Commission on Ministry and Doctrine, Mennonite Central Committee, Messiah Lifeways, Pacific Lifeline, and Paxton Ministries.

Schedule

Friday, July 12, 2024

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
2:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.	Registration	Sharonville Convention Center Lobby
4:30 p.m.–6:45 p.m.	Dessert Reception <i>Sweet Whimsies</i>	Outside the Sharonville Convention Center
7:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m.	Plenary session 1 Jay Moon, Asbury Seminary <i>Formed to Follow: Reaching those who are indifferent to the Gospel</i>	Northern Lights Ballroom
8:30 p.m.–9:15 p.m.	Dessert Reception <i>Sweet Whimsies</i>	Outside the Sharonville Convention Center

Saturday, July 13, 2024

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
8:00 a.m.–8:30 a.m.	Prayer time	Rooms 104-105
8:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m.	Plenary session 2	Northern Lights Ballroom
10:30 a.m.–11:00 a.m.	Break	Sharonville Convention Center
11:00 a.m.–12:00 noon	Breakout sessions	See page 8 for details
12:00 noon–1:30 p.m.	Lunch (Sharonville Convention Center)	Portune East Hall
1:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.	Plenary session 3	Northern Lights Ballroom
3:30 p.m.–4:00 p.m.	Break	Sharonville Convention Center
4:00 p.m.–5:15 p.m.	Plenary session 4 Q&A with Walter Kim, President, National Association of Evangelicals	Northern Lights Ballroom
5:15 p.m.–6:45 p.m.	Dinner (Sharonville Convention Center)	Portune East Hall
6:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m.	Prayer time	Rooms 104-105
7:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m.	Plenary session 5 Walter Kim, <i>Formed by a Comprehensive Gospel</i>	Northern Lights Ballroom

Sunday, July 14, 2024

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
9:00 a.m.–9:30 a.m.	Prayer time	Rooms 104-105
9:30 a.m.–11:00 a.m.	Worship Service Jose Rodriguez (Esmirna BIC) <i>Formed to Follow as a Disciple</i>	Northern Lights Ballroom
11:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m.	Free time	
6:00 p.m.–6:50 p.m.	Information Sessions	See page 10 for details
6:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.	Prayer time	Rooms 104-105
7:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m.	Plenary session 6 Tracie Hunter, Western Hills BIC <i>Formed by Jesus: From Tragedy to Triumph</i>	Northern Lights Ballroom

Monday, July 15, 2024

TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
8:00 a.m.–8:30 a.m.	Prayer time	Rooms 104-105
8:30 a.m.–10:30 a.m.	Plenary session 7	Northern Lights Ballroom
10:30 a.m.–11:00 a.m.	Break	Sharonville Convention Center
11:00 a.m.–12:00 noon	Breakout sessions	See page 9 for details
12:00 noon–1:30 p.m.	Lunch (Sharonville Convention Center)	Portune East Hall
1:30 p.m.–3:00 p.m.	Plenary session 8	Northern Lights Ballroom
3:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m.	Break	Sharonville Convention Center
3:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m.	Plenary session 9	Northern Lights Ballroom
5:00 p.m.–7:00 p.m.	Dinner/Free time	
6:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m.	Prayer time	Rooms 104-105
7:00 p.m.–8:30 p.m.	Plenary session 10 Alan Robinson, BIC U.S. <i>Formed to Follow Consistently</i>	Northern Lights Ballroom

Compelling Convictions Author Panel

Celebrate the new book on the core values, *Compelling Convictions*, by hearing from the authors as they describe the writing process and hopes for the book. Together we will consider how the values hold us together as a BIC family and serve as guideposts for living. The panel will be moderated by Jennifer Lancaster and feature panelists Alan Claassen-Thrush, Lynda Gephart, Hank Johnson, Joshua Nolt and Naomi Smith with video contributions from Stephen Badiger and José Otamendi.

The panel discussion will be held on Monday afternoon. Every adult attending General Assembly will receive a copy of *Compelling Convictions* at that session.

Meals

Saturday lunch, Saturday dinner, and Monday lunch will be provided for registered attendees during General Assembly. The meals will be served buffet-style in the Portune East Hall at the Sharonville Convention Center. Children in Pre-K through 5th grade will be given a ticket at registration for a buffet featuring kid-friendly food. Coffee and tea will be provided during breaks. Water is available at coolers in meeting rooms.

The following restaurants are within a 15-minute drive of the convention center. Those with an asterisk are within a 15-minute walk of the convention center.

alReddy Café & Espresso Bar

11083 Reading Rd
Cincinnati, OH 45241
8 minutes
Family-owned cafe

Bob Evans

11015 Prince Ln
Cincinnati, OH 45241
Drive-time: 5 minutes
Family-friendly comfort food

Burger King

1340 E Kemper Rd
Springdale, OH 45246
3 minutes
Fast Food

Chili's

11329 Montgomery Rd
Cincinnati, OH 45249
15 minutes
Tex-Mex

Chick-fil-A

501 E Kemper Rd
Springdale, OH 45246
6 minutes
Fast Food

Chuck E. Cheese

1429 E Kemper Rd
Sharonville, OH 45246
3 minutes
Pizza

Cincy Crab (Springdale, OH)

1309 E Kemper Rd
Cincinnati, OH 45246
3 minutes
Seafood

Cracker Barrel

2255 E Sharon Rd
Sharonville, OH 45241
5 minutes
Comfort food

Culver's

11530 Princeton Pike
Springdale, OH 45246
7 minutes
American

***Da-Han Mongolian BBQ**

11483 Chester Rd,
Cincinnati, OH 45246
2 minutes
Mongolian BBQ

***El Pollo Sabroson Fire Grilling**

1582 E Kemper Rd
Cincinnati, OH 45246
3 Minutes
Mexican

Five Guys Burgers & Fries

810 E Kemper Rd
Springdale, OH 45246
4 minutes
Fast Food

IHOP

1217 Omniplex Dr
Cincinnati, OH 45240
14 minutes
Breakfast

Jersey Mike's

11409 Princeton Pike
Springdale, OH 45246
8 minutes
Sandwich shop

Long John Silver's

1560 E Kemper Rd
Sharonville, OH 45246
4 minutes
Fast Food

***McDonald's**

1695 E Kemper Rd
Sharonville, OH 45246
3 minutes
Fast Food

Outback Steakhouse

11700 Princeton Pike
Cincinnati, OH 45224
7 minutes
Steaks/seafood

***Penn Station East Coast Subs**

1625 E Kemper Rd
Cincinnati, OH 45246
2 minutes
Sandwich shop

Raising Cane's Chcken Fingers

705 Kemper Commons Cir
Cincinnati, OH 45246
5 minutes
Fast Food

Ruby Tuesday's

2235 E Sharon Rd
Sharonville, OH 45241
5 minutes
American

Skyline Chili

2511 E Sharon Rd
Cincinnati, OH 45241
5 minutes
Diner-style

Subway

10325 Reading Rd
Cincinnati, OH 45241
9 minutes
Fast Food

***Taco Bell**

1607 E Kemper Rd
Cincinnati, OH 45246
2 minutes
Fast Food

The Root Beer Stand

11566 Reading Rd.
Sharonville, Ohio 45241
7 minutes
Family-owned landmark

***Tokyo Japanese**

11481 Chester Rd
Cincinnati, OH 45246
2 minutes
Japanese

Waffle House

2391 E Sharon Rd
Sharonville, OH 45241
5 minutes
Breakfast

Wendy's

2230 Northland Blvd
Cincinnati, OH 45240
10 minutes
Fast Food

Translation

Spanish translation will be provided during all main sessions. Headsets are available at the back of the Northern Lights Ballroom.

Wi-Fi

Guests at the Sharonville Convention Center can access the Internet via Alta Fiber's Fioptic Free Wi-Fi. Users will need to sign in through a social media account or enter a name, e-mail address, and birthdate to gain access.

Social Media

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram (@brethreninchristus) to see highlights, updates, and important information for this event and beyond. Use #formed2follow so we can see your General Assembly 2024 posts.

Nursery and Preschool Care (Rooms 201-204)

Welcome to Sharonville, Ohio! We are so excited to meet you and your little ones! We are sticking with the theme "Formed to Follow" but adding a side of Play-Doh! We will learn about how God formed us, very uniquely, to follow Him. We will read from *The Jesus Storybook Bible*, make our own Play-Doh and form our own creations, sing and dance together, and have lots of fun.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you and your family at General Assembly! If you have any questions, contact Rachel Ulloa by email at rachann315@gmail.com or call/text at 937-241-0814. Hablamos español. Contáctenos si le podemos servir en algo.

Children's Programs (Rooms 201-204)

This year at General Assembly, we will go on a treasure hunt to uncover the truth about our Creator God! We will take a deep dive into some of the amazing creatures God has made and use our detective skills to unpack scripture to better understand how God is great and trustworthy. We'll discover that God is the Almighty Ruler and our Emmanuel. We'll engage the Word of God with hands-on science experiments, creative works of art, and heartfelt praise and worship.

You never know what twists and turns our treasure hunt will take as we navigate an island of mystery with surprises all along the way! On Monday, we will welcome a special guest to guide us through building our faith while building with LEGO bricks. We will also keep an eye out for amazing animal encounters along the way. All activities will take place inside the convention center, but don't let that fool you! You will feel as though you are on an island adventure!

Youth Programs (Room 111)

We are so excited to share our youth series, “Knowing the Character of God,” where we will explore the how God introduces himself to us in scripture and how we can learn to recognize him in the world around us. We will focus on the words that God uses to describe himself in Exodus 34:6-7: compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, overflowing with loyal love, and faithfulness. As we learn to recognize God’s character in the world, we also begin to discern what is not like God. Armed with this knowledge, we can be more authentic to our mission and effective in our world.

Important Information for Parents

- The Kin Haas Memorial Mother’s Retreat is available outside the Northern Lights ballroom to the left.
- As a courtesy to our volunteers in children and youth programming, please pick your children up promptly after each session. We also ask that you drop your children off at the programming no earlier than 15 minutes prior to the start of the plenary sessions.
- There will be no children’s programming during the worship service Sunday morning.
- Youth will attend evening sessions with their parents every evening except Friday evening when they will meet in room 111.

Breakout Sessions

Saturday

When Tithes and Offerings Are Not Enough

Dr. Jay Moon, Professor of Evangelism and Church Planting at Asbury Theological Seminary, will be leading a breakout session on the theme of his book: *Missional Vibrancy and Financial Viability: Alternative Financial Models for Churches and Church Plants When Tithes and Offerings Are Not Enough*. This breakout session will provide creative encouragement, especially for carrying out Priority #3 of Project 250: “Multiplying Missional Movements, Congregations, and Leaders.”

Leader: Dr. Jay Moon

Location: Northern Lights Ballroom

Disciplemaking and Multiplication: Lessons from the Global Church

Jesus calls each of us to be disciples who also make disciples. Disciplemaking and multiplication are not just about transmitting knowledge or beliefs but also about fostering relationships, accountability, and a sense of community. It’s about living out one’s faith in such a way that it naturally draws others to inquire and participate in the journey.

In this breakout session hosted by World Missions, our experienced panelists will present disciplemaking principles spanning cultural boundaries, how the church has grown in their context, and what they’ve learned along the way.

Leader: Jonathan Lloyd

Panelists: Kris G., Chad Wenger, John Reitz

Location: Rooms 102-103

Opening the Door to the Kingdom

Join us as we look at the necessary – but often neglected – calling to evangelism. Our evangelism has too often been sporadic and weak even though our own experience of the gospel has been transformational. In this breakout session, Bishops Ron Bowell of the Midwest Conference and Bill Donner of the Pacific Conference offer insights gathered over years of experience. This session will start with a fresh look at the Gospel of the Kingdom. Through teaching, testimony, and workshop, we will consider the power of our partnership with the Holy Spirit to discern the physical, spiritual, and emotional circumstances of the people we encounter in conversation and to then address those circumstances with the hope of the gospel.

Leaders: Bill Donner and Ron Bowell

Location: Rooms 104-105

Salud Ministerial (Ministerial Health) – offered in Spanish only

Los ministros necesitan cuidar su salud en todos los aspectos: emocional, espiritual y físico. Estas áreas son importantes para hacer bien su trabajo y ser efectivos en su ministerio. Prestar atención a cada una ayuda a mantener un equilibrio que apoya su labor y bienestar personal.

(Ministers need to take care of their health in all aspects: emotional, spiritual, and physical. These areas are important for doing their job well and being effective in their ministry. Paying attention to each one helps maintain a balance that supports their work and personal well-being.)

Leader: Juan Pablo de la Cruz (Los Hijos de la Fe)

Location: Room 101

Breakout Sessions

Monday

7 Characteristics of the Advancing Church

There are defining characteristics of churches who are navigating societal challenges, growing in health, and experiencing Gospel impact within their communities. This seminar will unpack those characteristics and provide data-informed metrics to cultivate them within your church community.

Leader: Kim Valenzuela, PEAK

Location: Northern Lights Ballroom

The Multiple Faces of Multiplication

We know the world needs Jesus. One of the best ways to reach people for Jesus is starting or multiplying congregations. Priority 3 in Project 250 states that we desire to “multiply sites of missional vitality that draw people into a lifelong relationship of knowing, loving, and following Jesus.” How is that taking place in the BIC U.S.? What can congregations learn from the people and methods that are driving multiplication today so that more and more people will know, love and follow Jesus? Join the conversation with The Multiple Faces of Multiplication.

Leader: Bryan Hoke

Panelists: Bob Beaty (The Meeting House),

Ericka Henry (Holy District) and

Anler Morejon (Zion Church)

Location: Rooms 102-103

Preparing for Sunday

Sunday comes every week and with it comes a lot of preparation. In the midst of the preparation of the weekly grind of pastoral and church life, we can lose sight of why we do what we do or feel like things are becoming rote. This breakout session will be a conversation with three different pastors who share a common “why” but have different “how’s.” The hope for this session is to provide solidarity, encouragement, and story-generated ideas for those who do the good work of Preparing for Sunday.

Leader: Joshua Nolt (Lancaster)

Panelists: John Dixon (Crest Community Church) and

Adam Jones (Open Door Lexington)

Location: Rooms 104-105

Helping Our Churches Follow Jesus Well Through National Elections

During national elections, our attention is almost forcibly directed to whom-ever shouts the loudest. Whether it’s the televised news, our social media feeds, our podcasts, or our very political neighbor, our attention is almost always directed to dealing with the fires that people place in our laps and tell us, “This is what must be important to you right now!” In thinking about the example of Jesus we will address what it could look like today to practically respond in a Jesus-type way? What does it look like to respond like Jesus on social media, with our neighbors, with someone in our church? What does it look like today to respond like Jesus would?

Leader: Lynn Thrush

Panelists: Steve Airth (GracePoint),

Donna Harvey (Midwest Conference),

Jonah Langenderfer (Pleasant Hill) and

Ryan Stockton (Marsh Creek)

Location: Room 101

Sunday Evening Information Sessions

Why Awaken: The Truth About How Mutuality Actually Fulfills the Gospel

In this session, we'll discuss why Awaken is so unapologetically committed to embodying the value of mutuality in the church, and how this actually fulfills the Gospel mandate. Awaken exists because we believe that God's Kingdom reality looks like men and women leading together in the Church (and beyond) according to gifts and calling. We look forward to a time of celebrating the voices of women—their stories, their challenges, and the beauty of how partnership forms us as we follow Jesus.

Location: Rooms 102-103

Brethren In Christ Historical Society Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Brethren in Christ Historical Society will focus on stories from the Great Lakes Conference. We will hear stories about a town in Ohio being named after early BIC settlers; one of our very early church structures and our first integrated congregation; a church consolidation story as well as a church expansion story; and about significant city ministry taking place through the years. You are welcome to join us for an hour of storytelling.

Location: Room 111

Planning for Retirement

Did you know that Brethren in Christ U.S. sponsors a 403b Retirement Plan for all congregations and its employees to participate in? Join us for an informational session to learn more about how your congregation can make this plan available to your staff without any additional cost to the congregation.

Location: Room 101

Notes

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