

## AN OVERVIEW OF THE BRETHREN REVIVAL FELLOWSHIP

### *BEGINNINGS*

1959 Annual Conference (Ocean Grove, NJ), with concerns about trends in theology and practice:

- Views about the Bible
- Ecumenical involvements
- World mission philosophy
- Quality of Church of the Brethren produced literature
- Discarding Brethren ordinances and practices

More active involvement began in 1967 with the establishing of a mailing list and the regular publishing of the ***BRF WITNESS***.

### *ORGANIZATION*

- Loose-knit fellowship without actual membership
- A twelve-member steering committee
- Two part-time staff members employed
- Several congregations in Maine established
- Tax-deductible status for contributors of finances
- Regular financial reports available

### *GOALS*

- Work at revival in the Church of the Brethren
- Offer hope to people in the church who are discouraged with trends
- Counteract unbiblical trends in the church
- Produce sound and wholesome literature
- Provide training in systematic Bible instruction
- Function in volunteer and mission outreach

### *ACTIVITIES*

- Produce the ***BRF WITNESS*** bi-monthly
- Publish ***Brethren New Testament Commentaries***
- Sponsor Brethren Bible Institutes
- Keep in touch with the Church of the Brethren Maine Ministries
- Oversee the Brethren Mission Fund
- Provide opportunity for BVS/BRF Units to serve
- Plan occasional inspirational meetings
- Arrange one-day or weekend teaching workshops
- Maintain an Internet presence at <<http://www.brfwitness.org>>
- Communicate directly with denominational leaders
- Have a visible presence at Church of the Brethren Annual Conference
- Manage an Endowment and Annuity program

Brethren Revival Fellowship aims to continue working as a loyal concern group within the Church of the Brethren denomination. Our goal is to support and strengthen the Church, not to fragment it. We invite your prayers and support.

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**BRF is slanted:**

- In ***favor*** of teaching and preaching the Bible as the authoritative Word of God, without error in the original autographs.
- In ***favor*** of belief in the deity of Christ, His virgin birth, His visible second coming, and His substitutionary atonement.
- In ***favor*** of the Ten Commandments, the biblical codes of decency, the rights of others, and the need to carry out the responsibilities that should go with our privileges and freedoms.
- ***Against*** the new theology which rejects many orthodox Christian beliefs, and views God as being in the process of growth and change.
- ***Against*** the new morality which accepts situation ethics as its premise, and sets no limits to diversity within the church.
- ***Against*** the new evangelism which emphasizes dialogue instead of proclamation, and mutuality in mission instead of winning people to Christ.
- In ***favor*** of declaring that Jesus Christ is the only way of salvation, and we are slanted ***against*** the commonly held idea that other religions are pathways to salvation, or that one can be in a right relationship with God apart from repentance and faith in Jesus Christ.
- In ***favor*** of accepting biblical guidelines for human sexuality (chastity outside of marriage and lifelong fidelity in marriage) and we are slanted ***against*** premarital or extramarital relations, trial marriages, cohabitation outside of marriage and homosexual relations.
- In ***favor*** of affirming that the mission of the church is to evangelize the lost and to nurture believers, and we are slanted ***against*** discarding clearly mandated New Testament beliefs and practices which Brethren have historically observed.

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