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
- Several 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 and other books
- 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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