

DECEMBER
2021



FEMAILINGS

*Greetings in the Spirit of Christ,
who has come, is coming, and will
come again!*

We pray for the year ahead, and
reflect on memories of 2021:

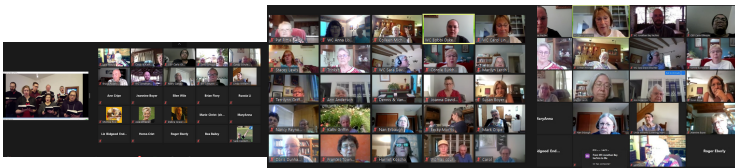
- We celebrated our 50th anniversary reflecting on our origin story, as fierce, faithful people asked the Church of the Brethren to take women seriously as persons and as leaders. That charge sparked our year of **generating power**.
- We interviewed dozens of people for Messenger Radio and Dunker Punks Podcast, amplifying stories of **speaking truth to power** and **barriers to leadership**.

Listen at <https://tinyurl.com/brawx2d4>
and arlingtoncob.org/dpp



Dunker Punks Podcast

- We gathered during Annual Conference to celebrate **spiritual gifts of resilience** and **mutual blessing**.



- We facilitated a workshop on Leadership in the CoB with Annual Conference and Nominating Committee leadership, exploring *how our elections work*.



- We **celebrated stories and wisdom** of four souls in our 2nd Speaking Truth to Power panel.

video available



- We hosted Counting the Cost: Leadership in the CoB with Annual Conference and Nominating Committee leaders to explore *elections and volunteer service behind the scenes*.

Emotional Costs

Mission and Ministry Board

- Must have courage to speak up and ask questions.
- Need patience as much as courage.
- Compassionate listening is critical.
- "Must be willing to respect the whole fabric of the Church of the Brethren."
- Significant emotional distress is resistance to change within the CoB.
- Greatest reward is seeing change.



Watch at womenscaucus.org/videos

- Our first Thinkers gathering brought a variety of people and perspectives together to explore *how our elections and volunteer service can work better*. Read what we've been learning at womenscaucus.org!



The Parable of the Prudent Daughter

This is an excerpt from Parables for My Daughters by Gimbiya Kettering. For more information about this project, contact her at gimbiya@gmail.com.

Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two children. The younger, a son, said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of my inheritance. Now!' So the father divided his property between them.

"Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe recession, and he began to be in need. He found a job caring for pigs and longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

When the son came to his senses, he said, 'My father's overseers have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no

longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your overseers.' So he got up and went to his father.

"But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

"The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

"But the father said to his slaves, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So the father began to celebrate.

"Meanwhile, the older child, the daughter, was in the field. When she came near the house, she heard music and dancing. So she called one of the slaves and asked him what was going on. 'Your brother has come,' he replied, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because your brother is back safe and sound.'

"The older sister became angry and refused to go in. So her father went out and pleaded with her. But she answered his father, 'Look! My brother has also sinned against me. He will not apologize for leaving me here alone to work for you. I have never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I



He will not apologize for leaving me here alone to work for you.

Images from Global Women's Project Advent Calendars 2019 and 2020. Go to globalwomensproject.org to download 2021's color-and-read-by-day calendar.

could celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours who has squandered your property, you kill the fattened calf for him!

“My daughter,” the father said, “you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.”

While the father lived, the son came and went, died again and was found again. He returned alive only to be lost again. Each time carrying away another piece of the family treasure, first the ring and robe, then a cow. The daughter stayed by her father and planted the seed and harvested the crop and learned when to rotate the crop to rest the land. In the dirt overturned by the plow, she found stone arrowheads and pottery shards. When she showed these to her father, he said ‘These were made by the Philistines that God drove out to make the land ours.’

“The daughter kept them, a treasure of her own, until her brother stole them and sold them to a collector.

“When the father died, as promised, he left everything in his will to his older daughter, who had worked the land and been obedient to him. Her brother brought a lawyer to challenge the will but it was to no avail, the land and the slaves were hers. Except no one belongs to another person and the land was not really hers as it had never really been her father’s. So, she returned the land to the indigenous people and freed the slaves. And without wealth, the daughter was in need. Her own people, the people who had feasted with her father, said she squandered her wealth and they gave her nothing.”



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As the calendar year changes, Caucus anticipates:

- recommending changes to the process for preparing the AC ballot that can diversify and increase the pool of leadership candidates
- examining the disproportionately large role women play in providing voluntary service for their congregations and the denomination
- hearing more stories from women whose lives stimulate us into justice-building

We need you in this work! Join Caucus as a *Supporter* (to know about the efforts and impact of Caucus), a *Thinker* (growing our knowledge base), a *Doer* (planning events), and as a *Funder* (providing financial support). Let us know the way(s) you want to engage: womaenscaucuscob@gmail.com.



Your financial gifts, particularly at this time of year, enable Caucus to support women and advocate for people on the margins. Womaen's Caucus is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)3 charity and all donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowable by law. Thank you for your generosity!

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