



## **Brethren Witness Initiative 2009 Listening Process**

The current economic condition has forced the Church of the Brethren to reshape many programs and has led to the closing of Brethren Witness/Washington Office. In order to develop and shape an interactive Brethren Witness program for the denomination, pastors, church members, Brethren-related organizations, and ecumenical partners are all invited into a listening process that will help establish priorities and direction for the program.

Questions to guide us in this process include, “How can the unique voice of the Brethren be heard beyond our denomination?” and “How can we have a ‘big voice’ for peace and justice with our limited resources?”

While informal but deliberate conversations about the Brethren Witness program are taking place at many levels, the following more formal process has begun in which all are invited to participate:

1. **Electronic Survey** – The Church of the Brethren website beginning June 20 will host an online survey designed for individual and congregational feedback about priorities and activities in the Brethren Witness program. The survey can be found at [www.brethren.org/witnesssurvey](http://www.brethren.org/witnesssurvey). Interested individuals are invited to answer questions and leave confidential comments for use in determining the future shape of witness ministries. The survey will be open from June 20 through August 20.
2. **Personal Interviews** – Jay Wittmeyer, Executive Director of Global Mission Partnerships, and other staff will conduct a series of interviews with a broad range of denominational stakeholders and related peace and justice organizations. Interviewees will include current and past Annual Conference leadership, pastors, district executives, as well as other denominational members. Interviews will be concluded by the beginning of September.
3. **Letters/E-mail** – Letters, e-mails, and other communications providing constructive opinions, feedback, and suggestions for future programming may be addressed to Jay Wittmeyer, Executive Director of Global Mission Partnerships, Church of the Brethren, 1451 Dundee Ave. Elgin, IL 60120, or by phone 800-323-8039 ext. 226, or at [jwittmeyer@brethren.org](mailto:jwittmeyer@brethren.org).

Based on the responses and insight gained through this discovery process, Global Mission Partnerships, in consultation with the Church of the Brethren’s executive leadership, will develop and implement strategic initiatives to guide our ongoing public witness. Findings will be posted on the Church of the Brethren website ([www.brethren.org](http://www.brethren.org)) in late September.