

Biographical sketch for Jonathan Shively

Jonathan Shively is passionate about releasing the gifts of individuals and the church as we live into God's reign on earth. Currently this vocation is lived out through his ministry as the executive director for Congregational Life Ministries for the Church of the Brethren, a role he has filled since July 2008.

Jonathan combines vision, artistry and leadership in working with a gifted and energetic staff to fulfill denominational commitments to nurture family life ministries, spiritual growth and discipleship, congregational vitality, evangelism and new church starts, intercultural ministries, disabilities, youth and young adult ministries, older adult ministries, deacons, and "other duties as assigned."

Jonathan works directly with the national new church development advisory committee to envision and lead denominational commitments to church planting. He also serves as a resource leader for church board retreats and revitalizing congregations. Jonathan serves the wider church as part of the interdenominational board for Evangelism Connections, a web based networking and resource collaboration aimed at equipping churches and individuals to herald the good news of Jesus Christ in our daily living and throughout the world.

A native of Lancaster, PA Jonathan was nurtured, called and ordained through the Lancaster Church of the Brethren. He served seven years as pastor of the Pomona Fellowship Church of the Brethren in California and eight years as the director of the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership in Richmond, IN. Jonathan and his wife Kim have three children, Benjamin, Noah and Lydia. They live in Elgin, IL where they are active participants in the ministries of the Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren.

Jonathan's music degree from Elizabethtown College has equipped him as a musician, worship leader, composer, and choral director, and his ministry degrees from Bethany Theological Seminary and Fuller Theological Seminary have nurtured important commitments, insights and practices which undergird his current ministry.

Jonathan is seeking to follow Jesus using the gifts which God has given him, and is blessed to do so as part of the unique Christian community of faith called the Church of the Brethren.