



*Left window panel drawings submitted by the children of the Manassas and Fairview congregations.  
Right window panel drawings submitted by the children of the Friendship congregation.*

# We Are All God's Children

1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 25-27

## 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-Atlantic District Conference

October 6 & 7, 2023

Manassas Church of the Brethren  
10047 Nokesville Rd., Manassas, VA 20110





## We Are All God's Children

1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 25-27



<sup>12</sup> For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

<sup>25</sup> that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup> If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. <sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

October 6 7 PM

## Friday Night Concert

We are all God's Children, we are all very unique and share a wide variety of gifts and talents, so members of our body will be sharing their musical talent with the wider church. Vocal and instrumental music selections will be shared either in person or via a recording. Selections will be appropriate for a worship setting.

**To livestream the Friday night concert on You Tube:**

<https://bit.ly/2023-MAD-Conference-Concert>

or



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## **ATTENTION PLEASE**

There will be filming and photography in this general area today. Your presence here constitutes your release, permission and consent to be photographed and/or recorded on any media. Pictures and/or recording of you may appear in future projects and your presence here grants the right to use your likeness without any compensation whatsoever in perpetuity.

*Thank you for your cooperation.*

## **2023 MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**

Saturday, October 7, 2023

Manassas Church of the Brethren

\*Times are approximate\*

7:45 am	Continental Breakfast	Fellowship Center
8:00 am	Registration	Fellowship Center Lobby
	Exhibits – until 3:00 pm	Fellowship Center
8:50 am	Gathering / Singing	Sanctuary
9:00 am	Bible Study	
9:35 am	Business Session 1	
	Seating of Head Table and Greeting	
	Seating of Delegates	
	Call to Order / Roll Call	
10:10 am	Presentation of Slate	
	Slate Approval	
	Stretch Break	
10:15 am	Interim DEM Team Report	
	Leadership Team Report	
	2023 Budget / District Presentations	
	Reports: Standing Com	
	Office of Ministry	
	Church of the Brethren	
	DEM Search Committee	
10:55 am	Announcements / Prayer / Directions	
11:05 pm	Workshops	Designated Areas
12:00 noon	Lunch and Exhibits	Fellowship Center
1:00 pm	Workshop Drop-Ins	Designated Areas
1:30 pm	Business Session 2	Sanctuary
	Approval of Budget	
	Revision of Constitution and Bylaws	
	Columbia United Christian Church Closing	
	Hymn-sing	
	Reports: SVMC	
	Bethany Seminary	
	Bridgewater College	
	Shepherd's Spring	
	Camp Mardela	
	Jr. High Presentation	
	Information for New Business Item for District	
	Conference 2024	
3:30 pm	Consecration of New Leadership	

## **CONFERENCE PERSONNEL**

### **Conference Officers**

Melvin Cheshire	Moderator
Calvin Park	Moderator-Elect
Judy Braun	Clerk

### **Program and Arrangements Committee**

Eddie Edmonds, *Interim DEM Team Liaison*  
Ryan Dommer Doris Grossnickle  
Sue Ellen Wheatley

### **District Staff**

Interim District Executive Minister Team  
Kim McDowell Joe Detrick  
Eddie Edmonds Gretchen Zience  
Jo Ann Landon, Administrative Assistant

### **Friday Night Concert**

Music from Around the District

### **Bible Study Leader**

Rev. Jody Gunn  
Interim - Easton Church of the Brethren  
Grief and Spiritual Care Chaplain Talbot Hospice

### **Music Coordinator**

Susan Dommer  
Music Director, Manassas Church of the Brethren

### **On-site Coordinator**

Anna Williams  
Manassas Church of the Brethren

### **Time Keeper**

Doris Grossnickle

***Thank you*** to the staff and many volunteers at Manassas Church of the Brethren for their time and tremendous effort to make their home church a welcoming and comfortable home for the Mid-Atlantic District Conference.

## **WORKSHOPS 11:05 am to Noon**

**Serving the Least of These: CWS Hygiene Kit Assembly** Churches and individuals from across the Mid-Atlantic District are donating the necessary supplies for us to assemble CWS Hygiene Kits. During this session, we'll learn some about the history and impact of CWS Kits and then spend the majority of our time assembling Hygiene Kits out of the donated supplies.

*Presenter: Calvin Park, District Moderator-elect and Pastor, Brownsville Church of the Brethren*

### **Voices Together – Hymn Sing**

Come and sing selections from this 2020 Hymnal published by MennoMedia!

*Presenter: Susan Dommer, Music Director, Manassas Church of the Brethren*

**Handbells: A Musical Journey** During our time together, learn some of the basics of handbell ringing and how to incorporate bells into your service.

*Presenters: Larry Henning, Westminster Ringers Music Director*

*Debbie Henning, Westminster Church of the Brethren Music Director,  
Accelerando Music Director*

**Fearless Conversation** Together, we will follow the Beloved model for Crucial Christian Conversations to share with each other personal stories and experiences about standing with people of color. Discussion prompts provided by The Church of the Brethren will be used to guide the conversation.

*Presenters: Britnee Linton, Co-Pastor at Union Bridge CoB, SCLMT chair;*

*Mandy Park, Member of Spirituality and Congregational Life Ministry Team*

### **Thriving Pastors + Healthy Congregations = Flourishing Ministry**

Thriving pastors and healthy congregations make for a vibrant and flourishing ministry.

Given that the majority of Brethren congregations are served by part-time, multi-vocational pastors, there can be opportunities and tensions around roles and expectations.

Incorporating recent research on resiliency in leadership, we'll look at ways the pastors and congregations can flourish as both partners strive for resilient leadership together.

*Presenter: Nancy Sollenberger Heishman, Director, Office of Ministry*

### **Walk and Talk With This Year's District Conference Moderator, Melvin Cheshire**

This year's District Conference moderator will be outside on the walking path and prayer labyrinth to meet with conference attendees and provide different discussion topics. Individuals can walk and talk or pray at their own pace and comfort level. This activity is weather permitting.

Go to <http://www.madcob.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Workshop-Registration-2023-Fillable-PDF-1.pdf> for registration forms.

## **AFTERNOON DROP-INS 1:00 – 1:30 pm**

Budget Q & A

Health Kit Assembly Wrap-up

Handbell Petting Zoo – drop in and try it out!

Labyrinth Meditation Walk – self-paced, relationship building,  
prompt questions provided

## **EXHIBITS**

Friday from 5:00 pm

Saturday 7:45 am – 3:00 pm

*Visit the following exhibits in the Fellowship Center:*

Bethany Theological Seminary

Brethren Disaster Ministries

Brethren Volunteer Service

Bridgewater College

Camp Mardela

Eder Financial

Meat Canning Project

On Earth Peace

Part Time Pastor; Full Time Church - Office of Ministry

Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center (SVMC)

## **Mid-Atlantic District Conference Guidelines** **For Exhibit Space and Literature Distribution**

**PURPOSE:** District Conference exhibits are primarily for the purpose of information and interpretation of District, denominational and related agencies.

While District Conference is a forum bringing together Brethren with a variety of interest and opinions, it is not a public forum like the “public square” where practically no limits on speech and activity are permitted. We come together as a Christian communion – that part of Christ’s Body called “The Church of the Brethren” – which calls for some discipline as to the kinds of activity and information permitted. In academic and secular settings, constitutional rights and the need for stimulation of clashing ideas will be protected. At District Conference, we come as those already affirming that Christ is Lord, and we are convened as the faithful people of God.

In light of traditional views about non-resistance, for example, it would be inappropriate to extend exhibition space to the Army recruitment office or events urging war or military action. Nor would it be appropriate to provide space and a forum for persons promoting atheism or the banning of Bibles. Clearly, some limitations for use of space are appropriate.

As the group charged with responsibility for planning and organizing District Conference activities each year, the Program and Arrangements Committee is faced with trying to establish appropriate limits. It has adopted the following statement of policy as to limits:

**All information and literature distributed by exhibitors should be compatible with authorized District Conference activities and in support of the unity of the body. District Conference Program and Arrangements Committee reserves the right to restrict the distribution of information or literature which it judges threatens the unity of the body.**

In some cases, like the examples used above, there is such clear Church of the Brethren statements or traditions that the correct decisions are easily made. In other cases, the decisions are not as clear.

The following guidelines will be applied by the Program and Arrangements Committee as it seeks to evaluate requests for space.

1. Priority will be given to exhibits of District and denominational programs and agencies which are directly connected to those programs which support the ideals, purposes, and principles of the Church of the Brethren.
2. All printed material will be distributed to the delegates and to others within the arena where business is being conducted only by Conference appointed tellers and ushers and with the approval of the Conference officers.

3. No person or group, other than District Conference Officers and Ministry Teams and District Leadership Team is to distribute literature or use space in the Conference facilities except by authorization of the Program and Arrangements Committee.
4. No person or group having authorization for space or distribution of literature shall extend the use of that authorization to others or use it for the distribution of literature of others without prior consent of the Program and Arrangements Committee. Unauthorized use of space may cause the forfeiture of the right of the authorized user.
5. Unless literature or other information is clearly similar to materials or information traditionally distributed by Exhibitors at District Conference, it must be cleared by Program and Arrangements Committee.
6. Program and Arrangements Committee may restrict or exclude exhibitors or materials which:
  - a. Conflict with Annual and District Conference statements;
  - b. Appear to lobby for particular action on business pending at District Conference (this is not intended to prevent the distribution of information on the issues);
  - c. Disrupts or threatens to disrupt the Bond of Peace, the Unity of the Body, by personal criticisms, disparagement of others, or lack of kindness to those with differing views;
  - d. Goes beyond the scope of activities for which the particular exhibitor or organization is authorized.
7. Sales are limited by those groups meeting the above standards and special approval from Program and Arrangements Committee 60 days prior to District Conference. Groups selling articles will accept full responsibility for the security of the items and any monies involved.
8. Any objection to decisions of the Program and Arrangements Committee can be appealed, in writing, to the District Leadership Team. The decision of the Leadership Team is final.

Adopted by Program and Arrangements Committee  
March 4, 1997

Affirmed by Program and Arrangements Committee  
March 28, 2005

### **Prior Conference Moderators**

Harry M. Gardner	1967	Mary Louise Dotterer	1995
Earl M. Zigler	1968	Fred Wilhelm	1996
DeWitt L Miller	1969	C. Henry Hunsberger	1997
Paul W. Kinsel	1970	Ann Eberly	1998
Carl F. Smith	1971	John Earl Hutchinson	1999
Glenn F. Timmons	1972	Scott Duffey	2000
C. Henry Hunsberger	1973	Linda Barkdoll	2001
Ralph L Detrick	1974	Ken Wenger	2002
Byron Berkey	1975	Jim Benedict	2003
Mary Smeltzer	1976	Charlotte Bear	2004
Floyd R Mason	1977	John Thompson	2005
Edward K Ziegler	1978	Jeffrey Carter	2006
Louise D Bowman	1979	Gretchen Zience	2007
J. David Eberly, Jr.	1980	Dale Posthumus	2008
Paul L Groff	1981	Michael Staubs	2009
Wendell Flory	1982	Cinda Showalter	2010
Sue Snyder	1983	James Lohr	2011
Wayne F Buckle	1984	Kimberly McDowell	2012
James S Flora	1985	Kathy Benedict	2013
Carol Spangler	1986	Craig Stutzman	2014
David Fouts	1987	Glenn McCrickard	2015
Paul D Steiner	1988	Lois Ann Glessner	2016
Beverly W Kline	1989	Brian Bachman	2017
J. Paul Wampler	1990	Linda Lambert	2018
J. David Eberly, Jr.	1991	Sona Wenger	2019
Connie B. Davis	1992	Allen O'Hara	2020
John Thompson	1993	Allen O'Hara	2021
Donna F. Steiner	1994	Ellen Wile	2022



## **Alphabet Soup / Glossary**

As with any good-sized organization, the Church of the Brethren has defined some acronyms we use to simplify the way we talk about ourselves. For those new to our church, it can be a bit confusing. Below is a list of some of the acronyms we use in our denomination, as well as some that are specific to the Mid-Atlantic District.

<b>ACRONYM</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>
AC	Annual Conference
ACC	Annual Conference Council
BBT	Brethren Benefit Trust (now known as Eder Financial)
BDM	Brethren Disaster Ministries
BP	Brethren Press
BPF	Brethren Peace Fellowship
BSC	Brethren Service Center
BVS	Brethren Volunteer Service
CCMT	Calling and Credentialing Ministry Team
CETT	Continuing Education Task Team
COB	Church of the Brethren
CODE	Council of District Executives
CORE	Church Outreach, Renewal and Evangelism
EFSM	Education for Shared Ministry
EYN	Church of the Brethren in Nigeria
FPMT	Finance and Property Ministry Team
HPI	Heifer Project International
LCT	Leadership Calling Team
LT	Leadership Team
MAA	Mutual Aid Association
MITT	Ministry Interviewing Task Team
MRF	Ministry Report Form
NCP	New Community Project
NOAC	National Older Adult Conference
NYC	National Youth Conference
OSMT	Outreach and Service Ministry Team
OEP	On Earth Peace
OMA	Outdoor Ministries Association
PATT	Program and Arrangements Task Team
PJTT	Peace and Justice Task Team
RfM	Readiness for Ministry
SCLMT	Spirituality and Congregational Life Ministry Team
SS	Shepherd's Spring, Inc.
SVMC	Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center
TRIM	Training in Ministry

## **Business Conduct**

No one shall speak more than twice on the same question. The first speech shall be limited to three minutes and the second to two minutes. This shall not include the explanation of a report or a paper called for by the Moderator.

All appeals from the rulings of the Moderator shall be decided by the voting body.

**Robert's Rules of Order shall be the standard for any point not covered by these rules.**

### **Parliamentary Procedures in Brief**

In order that the delegate body may participate readily in the parliamentary aspects of the business sessions, the following summary of the more common kinds of action may be helpful.

When you want to bring before the Conference for its consideration a particular subject or item of business:

The proper motion is: MAIN MOTION – A main motion requires a second, is debatable, is amendable, and requires a majority vote to pass (or two-thirds vote if previously agreed on by Conference action.)

FORM: "I move that...." Or "I move the adoption (acceptance, approval) of this report."

When you want to modify or in some way appropriately dispose of a matter of business, you may (motions listed in ascending order of precedence):

#### ***MOVE TO LAY ON THE TABLE, OR TAKE FROM THE TABLE***

(Requires a Second, is not debatable, is not amendable, simple majority to pass)

OBJECT: to lay aside business in such a manner that its consideration may be renewed later.

FORM: "I move that this matter be laid on the table" or "I move to take from the table...."

#### ***MOVE THE PREVIOUS QUESTION***

(Requires a Second, is not debatable, is not amendable, two-thirds vote to pass)

OBJECT: to stop debate on the immediately pending question.

FORM: "I move the previous question." Please note that merely calling "question" from the floor is not the same as a motion for the previous question and does not obligate the moderator take a vote.

#### ***MOVE TO POSTPONE TO A SET TIME***

(Requires a Second, is debatable, is amendable, simple majority to pass)

OBJECT: unlike tabling, the business is considered at a later time without needing to be "taken from the table."

## **Business Conduct** *(continued)*

FORM: "I move that this matter be postponed to..."

### ***MOVE TO COMMIT, REFER, OR RECOMMIT***

(Requires a Second, is debatable, is amendable, simple majority to pass)

OBJECT: to place the business in the hands of a few for later reporting to the Conference (for major changes)

FORM: "I move that this matter be referred to a committee of ...to be names by... with instruction..."

### ***MOVE TO AMEND***

(Requires a Second, is debatable, is amendable, simple majority to pass)

FORM: "I move to amend the motion by striking out...."

"I move to amend the motion by inserting...between...and..."

"I move to amend the motion by adding....after...."

"I move to amend the motion by striking out....and inserting...."

"I move to amend by striking out... and substituting this (read or state the substitute.)"

When you want to take an action governing the conduct of business, you may *introduce*:

### ***PRIVILEGED AND INCIDENTAL MOTIONS***

Although they are not related to the pending question, these motions take precedence over the current business. These motions are not debatable.

### ***MOVE TO ADJOURN OR RECESS***

OBJECT: to dismiss a meeting or to provide for an intermission

FORM: "I move that we adjourn... (recess while...or until...)"

### ***RAISE A QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE***

OBJECT: to get the attention of the moderator at once, to ask a question, or to attend to some matter that cannot wait.

FORM: "I rise to a question of privilege."

### ***RISE TO A POINT OF ORDER***

OBJECT: to raise the question as to whether there has been a breach of order.

FORM: "I rise to a point of order."

## **DEDICATION OF DELEGATES**

### 2023 Mid-Atlantic District Conference

Moderator: Fellow Children of God, we have been called here together in Jesus' name to do the work of the church

**Delegates: We have answered this call**

Moderator: We come together as children, ready to listen, to learn, to wonder

**Delegates: As God's children we will listen, we will learn, we will embrace the wonder of God's mystery**

Moderator: As members of one family, God invites us to love one another, to offer care and support to one another, to seek unity

**Delegates: We will love one another, we will offer one another support, and we will seek unity within God's family**

Moderator: May God's Spirit guide us as we discern God's intention for our life together. Let us pray together this unison prayer:

**Unison Prayer: God of grace, walk with us today as we seek your plan and direction. Guide us as we discern your will and as we conduct the business of your family, the church. As you have called us your children, empower us to extend that same grace to one another. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

## **SLATE AND NOMINEE INFORMATION**

SLATE  
2023 MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT CONFERENCE

**For terms beginning in 2024**

**October 7, Manassas, VA**

Candidates	Affirm ✓	Do Not Affirm ✓
<b>Moderator Elect:</b>		
Sharon Linton (Frederick) 2025		
<b>Leadership Team:</b>		
Dana Jones - Area 2 (Baltimore First) 2026 (2)		
Dawn Weller - Area 5 (Bush Creek) 2026 (1)		
<b>Leadership Team At- Large:</b>		
Jan Flora (Westminster) 2026 (1)		
Lindsay Wenger (Woodbridge) 2026 (2)		
<b>Leadership Calling Team</b> (called by Leadership Team)		
Jody Gunn - Area 1 (Easton) 2026		
Vacant - Area 2		
Gloria Kindy - Area 3 (University Park) 2026		
Gabriel Dodd – Area 7 (Beaver Creek) 2026		
Michael Staubs – Area 8 (Mountain View) 2026		
<b>Camp Mardela Board At-Large</b>		
Vacant		

## **Geographic Areas for District Representation**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Member Congregations</b>
<b>1</b>	Bethany, Community of Joy, Denton, Easton, Fairview, Greenhill, Ridgely
<b>2</b>	Columbia United Christian, GraceWay, First Baltimore, Friendship, Long Green Valley, Reisterstown, Woodberry
<b>3</b>	Arlington, Flower Hill, University Park, Washington City
<b>4</b>	Dranesville, Hollywood, Manassas, Midland, Nokesville, Oakton, Woodbridge
<b>5</b>	Bush Creek, Edgewood, Glade Valley, Meadow Branch, Piney Creek, Pipe Creek, Sam's Creek, Union Bridge, Westminster
<b>6</b>	Frederick, Grossnickle, Harmony, Locust Grove, Monocacy, Myersville, Pleasant View, Thurmont
<b>7</b>	Beaver Creek, Broadfording, Brownsville, Downsville, Hagerstown, Longmeadow, Manor, Sharpsburg, Welty
<b>8</b>	Allensville, Fellowship, Johnsontown, Moler Avenue, Mountain View, Pleasant Ridge, Stone Bridge, Welsh Run

**TOTAL NUMBER OF CHURCHES IN THE**  
**MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT = 59**

## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

**NAME:** Sharon Linton

**SLATE/BALLOT POSITION:** Moderator Elect

**CONGREGATION:** Frederick Church of the Brethren

**VOCATION:** N/A

### **NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Past: N/A

Present: N/A

### **DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Past: N/A

Present: District Delegate

### **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Present and past: Present: Audit Committee, Operations Committee, Past Church Board Chair, Christian Education, Nurture Commission, Finance Committee, Media Center Committee

**OTHER ACTIVITIES** related to church or community that would be of interest to the delegate body - Present and Past: President of Frederick Memorial Hospital Auxiliary, 1998-2000, Frederick Memorial Hospital Board, 1998-2000.

**SPECIFIC MINISTRIES** or areas of ministry within the life of the church of interest to you:

Wherever I'm called, mostly within the financial areas

**YOUR VISION FOR THE CHURCH** : To spread the word of God and win more souls for Christ.



## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

**NAME:** Dana M. Jones

**SLATE/BALLOT POSITION:** Area 2 Rep. Leadership Team

**CONGREGATION:** First Church of the Brethren - Baltimore

**VOCATION:** Independent Contractor providing administrative services

### **NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Past: None

Present: None

### **DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Past: None

Present: Leadership Team

### **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Present and past: Administrative Services - Church Board, Treasure, Deacon/ New Members

**OTHER ACTIVITIES** related to church or community that would be of interest to the delegate body - Present and Past:

**SPECIFIC MINISTRIES** Communication & Community Outreach

### **YOUR VISION FOR THE CHURCH :**

We become a light in the community through outreach.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

**NAME:** Dawn A. Weller

**SLATE/BALLOT POSITION:** Area 5 Leadership Team

**CONGREGATION:** Bush Creek COB 4821A Green Valley Road  
Monrovia, Md. 21770

**VOCATION:** Preaching, Pastoral Care, Evangelism, Outreach,  
Ministering the Lord's truth, Being able to open people's hearts to the  
Holy Spirit.

### **NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Past:

Present:

### **DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Past:

Present:

### **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Present and past: Preaching, Deacon, Board member on several  
committees, pulpit supply, pastoral care, being a part of outreach,  
Evangelism.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES** related to church or community that would be of  
interest to the delegate body - Present and Past: I have been involved  
in women's ministry, involved with VBS, many activities that involve  
ministry and fellowship.

**SPECIFIC MINISTRIES** or areas of ministry within the life of the church  
of interest to you:

Evangelism, Outreach, Christian Ed, Any type of ministry that can reach  
out to the community.

**YOUR VISION FOR THE CHURCH** : I would like to help the church  
grow stronger in the Lord's truth, for them to see the many gifts within  
themselves; to lead them to know and feel the Holy Spirit. To have them  
want to reach out within the community and be Jesus in their  
neighborhood.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

**NAME:** Janet (Jan) Flora

**SLATE/BALLOT POSITION:** District Leadership Team At-Large

**CONGREGATION:** Westminster (MD)

**VOCATION:** Retired/Aging Services

### **NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Past:

Present:

### **DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Past: Leadership Team, Calling and Credentialing Team

Present:

### **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Present and past: Worship, Witness, Fellowship, Gifts Discernment, Personnel Relations Teams. Leadership Team Chair, current

**OTHER ACTIVITIES** Currently serving on Carroll County Arts Council Board of Directors, Carroll County Public Library Friends Board (past).

### **SPECIFIC MINISTRIES**

Calling/Credentialing of ministers, Brethren Disaster Ministries

**YOUR VISION FOR THE CHURCH** : What drew me to the Church of the Brethren in 1977 was the peace position and emphasis on service. I felt acceptance and welcome from the local church for where I was in my life and support for continued spiritual growth without being told what to believe. I continue to see the CoB as a place for studying the teachings of Jesus and applying them to present day situations while understanding the historical context of Jesus' time. My vision of the CoB at all levels is to be an umbrella that holds diversity and allows for differing views while holding common values – peace, love, understanding and civil discourse about our differences.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

**NAME:** Lindsay Wenger

**SLATE/BALLOT POSITION:** District Leadership Team Member

**CONGREGATION:** Woodbridge CoB

**VOCATION:** Clinical Project Manager

### **NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Past:** I have served as an Annual Conference delegate and table discussion facilitator at two previous conferences in recent years.

**Present:** I am willing to continue serving in these roles for future conferences.

### **DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Past:** I have been volunteering on the District Leadership Team (DLT) and am in my third year. I have also volunteered for sub-committees, as needed.

**Present:** I am in my second year serving as the DLT Chair.

### **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Present and past:** I have been an active member of Woodbridge CoB since childhood. I have been on the Board for many years, beginning as a young adult representative, then Vice Chair, and now as Chair for the last three years. I have filled the pulpit as a youth speaker and in adulthood, and volunteer as Worship Leader once a month.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES** related to church or community that would be of interest to the delegate body - **Present and Past:** I have been participating in volunteer work and outreach through the church and in other aspects of the community since childhood. I am a passionate activist, constantly advocating for and finding ways to support and lift up the oppressed, impoverished, and imprisoned.

**SPECIFIC MINISTRIES** or areas of ministry within the life of the church of interest to you:

I am a strong empath and deeply feel all the pain we see in this world. Because of this, I have trouble narrowing my ministry and advocacy areas of interest. I have always been very impressed by the Brethren passion for disaster ministries, and strongly support our continued focus on inclusion of all God's children.

**YOUR VISION FOR THE CHURCH** : I have a strong personal connection with God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. I pray for all God's children to experience the peace that surpasses all understanding which washes over you when you commit your life to the spirit and open your heart to all of God's creations. I envision a future where divisive discord is put to rest, those who have enabled harm and oppression in the name of their religion have atoned themselves with the Lord, and we could all truly embody the radically selfless love of our Savior.

"Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me."

## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

**NAME:** Jody Ellingson Gunn

**SLATE/BALLOT POSITION:** Leadership Calling Team, Area 1

**CONGREGATION:** Easton

**VOCATION:** Chaplain and Pastor

### **NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Past: Church of the Brethren Ministers' Association Committee  
Member 4 years

Present:

### **DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Past: Young Adult Ministry; Chair of District Executive Search  
Committee; Camp Mardela Board

Present: TRIM Coordinator

### **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Present and past: Pastoral Leadership (solo pastor; second staff  
(Nurture, Outreach; Interim)); Gifts Discernment Committee; Bible  
Study/Sunday School Leader; Board Chair and Member of Leadership  
Team

**OTHER ACTIVITIES** related to church or community that would be of  
interest to the delegate body - Present and Past: Involvement in local  
COB, ecumenical, and interfaith groups plus parachurch youth  
organizations over the years. Have participated in NYC, workcamps, and  
Interdistrict Roundtable as chaperone and leadership.

**SPECIFIC MINISTRIES** or areas of ministry within the life of the church  
of interest to you:

Helping people find their calling in the church and beyond, plus being  
involved with the faith formation with people of all ages.

**YOUR VISION FOR THE CHURCH** : My vision for the church is to take  
seriously the words of Jesus in how we approach all people and the  
world.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

**NAME:** Gloria Kindy

**SLATE/BALLOT POSITION:** Nominating Team

**CONGREGATION:** University Park

**VOCATION:** Registered Nurse

### **NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Past: None

Present: None

### **DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Past: N. Ohio District Peace Committee, Shepherd's Spring Committee/Board

Present: None

### **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Present and past: Deacon, SS teacher, Board chair, Witness chair, Nurture chair, Choir member, Worship Committee, Annual conference delegate, District conference delegate

**OTHER ACTIVITIES** related to church or community that would be of interest to the delegate body - Present and Past: Served in BVS from 1976-1978 on BVS Peace Team, was a counselor or leader at 10 COB camps and NYC

**SPECIFIC MINISTRIES** or areas of ministry within the life of the church of interest to you:

Peace and justice work, outreach

**YOUR VISION FOR THE CHURCH** : A community of people committed to living Jesus' way of discipleship, welcome, peace and justice.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

**NAME:** Gabriel Dodd

**SLATE/BALLOT POSITION:** Leadership Calling Team, Area 7

**CONGREGATION:** Beaver Creek, Hagerstown

**VOCATION:** Pastor, Spiritual Director, Student

### **NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Past: Youth Peace Travel Team, Speaker at National Jr. High Conference, Spiritual Director for National Youth Conference, Workshop Leader, Annual Conference Delegate

Present: none

### **DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Past: Companions in Spiritual Exploration Committee (Shenandoah), Area Youth Coordinator (Shenandoah), Speaker at District Conference (Shenandoah)

Present: Co-advisor for Senior High Youth Ministry (MAD)

### **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Present and past: Pastor for Youth and Young Families (2015-2020 - Shenandoah District), Pastor (2020-current - Beaver Creek)

**OTHER ACTIVITIES** related to church or community that would be of interest to the delegate body - Present and Past: I am active in the Hagerstown Area Religious Council, a peer-directed group of spiritual directors, and am currently studying for my Doctor of Ministry in Spiritual Formation and Spiritual Direction at Fuller Theological Seminary.

**SPECIFIC MINISTRIES** or areas of ministry within the life of the church of interest to you:

I am interested in the ministry of spiritual formation for congregations and all ages, and the ministry of spiritual direction.

**YOUR VISION FOR THE CHURCH** : I am convinced that a church can only be successful when it is serious about its spiritual health. Those who build a relationship with God, will always be acting in peace under God's care and mercy. This relationship with God is built by knowing, loving, and serving Jesus. My vision for the church is to re-discover the emphasis on prayer and discernment so that we might be closer to our creator.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

**NAME:** Michael Staubs

**SLATE/BALLOT POSITION:** Leadership Calling Team

**CONGREGATION:** Mountain View Church of the Brethren

**VOCATION:** Pastor

### **NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Past: NA

Present: NA

### **DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Past: District Moderator - Elect / Moderator

Present: Licensed Pastor District Assigned Mentor

### **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Present and past: Senior Pastor

**OTHER ACTIVITIES** related to church or community that would be of interest to the delegate body - Present and Past: Served WV Emmaus Community as Spiritual Director 6 yrs Served as Listener in Local High School program

**SPECIFIC MINISTRIES** or areas of ministry within the life of the church of interest to you:

Healing Prayer Ministry / Healing Rooms

**YOUR VISION FOR THE CHURCH** : I see a church where the whole Gospel is preached and lived; where people find healing for their bodies and rest for their souls; a place where the love of Jesus is expressed in word and action as we live daily into our faith.



**DISTRICT STAFF AND MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS**

**District Interim Executive Minister Team**  
**Report to District Conference**

*“Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18)*

Over the past year, our interim DEM team (Kim McDowell, Joe Detrick, Eddie Edmonds and Gretchen Zience) has been privileged to serve with all of you in the ministry of the Mid-Atlantic District. We’ve found cause for much gratitude at God’s gifts in this work!

*\*Within and among congregations*, the love of Jesus is evident in mutual care, joyful worship, and service to our communities

*\*Exceptional staff, Leadership Team members and volunteers* are providing creative and faithful guidance to the ministries of the District

*\*As a team, we’ve valued collaboration deeply.* Reciprocal support, shared expertise, & discernment make this cooperative interim model one for which we’re thankful.

Below are some of the areas in which we’ve been spending time:

**Relating to congregations and pastors**

Each of us has made contact through visits, preaching, and calls with all the congregations and pastors that fall under our assigned areas of responsibility. (These are roughly divided geographically into thirds of the District.)

In churches small and large, there is striking and deep commitment to Christ and one another. Issues common to many include declining numbers and energy and resulting fears about sustainability and pastoral leadership. Since the last District Conference, the Columbia United Church has closed its doors, and the Myersville congregation has voted to begin the process.

**Credentialing and placement of pastors**

Church of the Brethren polity grants the responsibility to Districts for oversight of pastoral leadership through credentialing and placement. Richard Wehrle, pastor at Midland, received an MDiv this year from Bethany Seminary. MAD currently has twelve licensed ministers who are in the ordination preparation process. The DEM team works with Calling & Credentialing to maintain contact with these, many of whom are already serving churches.

A number of pastoral placements have been completed in the last 15

**District Interim Executive Minister Team**  
**Report to District Conference** (Continued)

months, some begun by Gene Hagenberger before he retired. The task of placement is complicated by the very small number of pastors (three at the time of this writing) in the denominational pool. We have been inviting churches to consider new ways of developing and claiming pastoral leadership, such as creating lay ministry teams.

New (credentialed) pastoral placements that have not yet been recognized include Chris Mohler (Broadfording,) Dawn Weller (Bush Creek), Meghan Knight (Denton,) Joey Moss (Interim, Dranesville), Keith Carter (Baltimore First,) Becky Henry (Glade Valley,) Greg Laszakovits (Interim, Grossnickle,) M Gresh (Long Green Valley), Janet Myers (Nokesville), and Phil Curran (University Park.) We welcome these leaders into the roles in which they're serving!

**Serving as DEM members of Ministry & Task Teams, and consultants to the Leadership Team**

Each of our team members relates to several of the Ministry and Task Teams named by the Leadership Team. (These include Calling & Credentialing, Ministry Interviewing, Continuing Education, Assessment, Ethics, SVMC, Church Outreach, Renewal & Evangelism, Communications, Finance & Property, Outreach & Service, Spirituality & Congregational Life, Leadership Calling, and Program and Arrangements) Ministers are being called & trained, the meat canning project and Disaster response auction serve many, new ideas for growing in spirit and faith are being shared, and our gathering here is planned with care and imagination. Those serving on Ministry and Task Teams are providing diverse opportunities for the District to resource its congregations and reach out to those beyond us.

Gretchen continues to serve as a liaison with the Leadership Team and offers highly able consultation and assistance in reviewing, editing, and communications.

**Working with congregations withdrawing from the District and Denomination**

Because of differences in theological, biblical and ecclesial understandings, four churches are in the process of separating from the Mid-Atlantic District and the Church of the Brethren. These include Pipe Creek, Pleasant Ridge, Stone Bridge and Welsh Run. Both our DEM

**District Interim Executive Minister Team**  
**Report to District Conference** (Continued)

team and a number of others from the Leadership Team, District Conference officers, Shalom Team and wider District have spent many hours meeting with these congregations, developing and sharing policies for withdrawal and attending the first votes taken. We've engaged the services of two law firms (one in MD, one in PA) to prepare the documents needed to finalize separation agreements. Once those are complete, the Leadership Team will approve the agreements and each of the four churches will take a second and final vote before settlement.

Each congregation has been asked to present a list of the reasons for withdrawing. A summary of these will be shared by the Leadership Team with the District Conference before delegates vote to approve the closing of the churches. Different understandings of authority and accountability in the church, sexuality, racism and biblical authority are among reasons frequently mentioned. In Brethren thought, there is a tension between respect for individual conscience vs. trust in corporate discernment. Our DEM team has been struck by a misconception among those departing about the role of Elgin staff, Annual Conference officers, or District leadership. Some believe that these have the authority – and a mandate – to enforce statements of the church. Yet in fact, none are commissioned in church structure to be enforcers and much is left to the discretion of individual congregations, or to a lesser extent, districts. Brethren theology and polity are very non-hierarchical. Positively put, Brethren have Pietist roots that value personal faith convictions and Anabaptist roots that lift up the power of communal wisdom. Both guide our prayerful choices.

While we lament the breaking of unity, shared purpose and commitment in these separations, we pray for a fuller and freer expression of faith for those who are leaving, and we wish them Godspeed.

**Relating to denominational bodies**

As a DEM team, we represent the Mid-Atlantic District in the larger denomination through participation in the Council of District Executives (CODE), Annual Conference, and other events such as the National Older Adult Conference. Kim serves as the official representative to CODE and has attended meetings in Florida, Richmond, IN and at Annual Conference. Eddie and Joe both participated in NOAC at Lake

**District Interim Executive Minister Team**  
**Report to District Conference** (Continued)

Junaluska in North Carolina. We find ourselves strengthened by these connections from which we draw ideas, spiritual nurture, and collegiality.

**Encouraging envisioning**

While we've felt that there's too little time for developing creative ideas and efforts with and for congregations in the District, we've spent some time exploring ideas around congregational renewal and new models of being church, pastoral support groups, women in ministry, and connections among District congregations. We're grateful for the work being done by Ministry Teams to help us imagine and envision steps that may be helpful to all of us.

Our deep thanks go to Jo Ann Landon, without whom the work of the District would not get done! She has been a committed partner in all you and we do. Thanks, too, to Barb Watt for her time and expertise as the Treasurer for the District! We are grateful to both of them, and to those who serve on the District Leadership Team, Ministry Teams, and in other roles. Thank you!

In shared service to Christ-

Kim McDowell, Joe Detrick, Eddie Edmonds, Gretchen Zience  
Interim District Executive Minister Team

## **District Leadership Team Report**

August 2023

Beloved Siblings,

The District Leadership Team has been holding hybrid meetings since the last District Conference. Much of the work of the Leadership Team involved management of finances and resources, sorting through district business, and facilitating the work of the various ministry teams. Interim DEMs Kim McDowell, Joe Detrick, and Eddie Edmonds have been doing an outstanding job engaging with and providing support for congregations and ministry teams. DEM administrator Gretchen Zience has provided excellent support to the interim DEMs and others. Administrative Assistant Jo Ann Landon has continued her outstanding service to the district and has gone above and beyond to provide her support. We can't say enough how much we appreciate and value her time and talents! Finally, I would like to specifically express my gratitude to Co-Chair Ben Bear and the rest of our Leadership Team for their invaluable insights and contributions. I sincerely thank all district personnel and volunteers for their faithful efforts and ongoing commitment.

The Leadership Team has collaborated with the Search Committee to consider the input received from church leadership to develop the position description and staffing plan for a full-time DEM. The DEM position is currently open and accepting applicants. We have also been involved in working to reconcile division which has emerged during this challenging time, particularly regarding theology and Annual Conference polity and Statements. The District Reconciliation Team has been meeting with congregations who wish to discuss any questions or concerns. We have also entered into the withdrawal process with some congregations. Having carefully evaluated denominational polity and practices from other districts, the Leadership Team has offered guidance to withdrawing congregations. We have also been providing assistance and resources so that any members of these withdrawing congregations who vote to stay within the Church of the Brethren are able to transfer their membership to neighboring congregations.

The Leadership Team is excited about the ways in which our district has

## **District Leadership Team Report** (continued)

continued to work together toward common goals of outreach for our communities and world. From the individual contributions of each congregation to the wider efforts of the district missions and ministries, we have been stepping up to the challenge to be Jesus in our neighborhoods.

I have been pleased to see that District and Denominational leadership has stayed true to our path of moving in the direction of inclusion and affirmation of all peoples, especially those who have been marginalized, oppressed, imprisoned, and impoverished. We know that we still have a long road ahead, and that communication and education are key to embodying the people Jesus called us to be. We wish to remain in faithful communication with our Mid-Atlantic congregations and wider denomination in our efforts to continue the radically loving and inclusive work of Jesus.

“They will know we are Christians by our love.”

Lindsay Wenger (she/her)  
District Leadership Team Chair

**Search Committee**  
**New District Executive Minister, Mid-Atlantic District,**  
**Church of the Brethren**

Greetings in the strong name of Jesus Christ!

What follows is an update on our search for new executive leadership for our beloved District. As communicated in our spring letter to the District, we have met regularly since our formation in December 2022. During this time, we have seen our efforts bear much fruit, resulting in an active search for new leadership currently in motion. Though we cannot know precisely how things will materialize, we hope to have a new District Executive Minister in place in 2024.

The foundation for our efforts has been crafted from information and data gleaned from a survey sent earlier this year to all Mid-Atlantic District pastors, board/leadership team chairs, and District leadership team members. The completion rate of the survey was impressive, representing the input of over fifty of our fifty-nine congregations.

Your response showed an evident passion for renewed vision and vitality in our District. To that end, we are searching for a District Executive Minister who will major in church renewal, emphasizing outreach and mission aligned with our denomination's compelling vision that calls us to be Jesus in the neighborhood.

District leadership realizes that a single individual cannot accomplish the renewal priorities desired by the District for our new District Executive Minister. Thus, the District Leadership Team has committed to also calling several regional representatives to come alongside the new District Executive Minister to assist her/him in mission and ministry. Though we are not searching for those individuals at this time (they'll be called when the new District Executive Minister is in place by a process yet to be determined by the District Leadership Team), it is essential that we interpret our search in the context of this understanding; otherwise, our vision for a new District Executive Minister can appear unrealistic, given the broad geography of our District and the number of congregations needing to be served.

Our search team represents the diversity of our District and our denomination. We have learned to work productively as a team, honoring



**Search Committee**  
**New District Executive Minister, Mid-Atlantic District,**  
**Church of the Brethren** (continued)

and yielding to one another, yet voicing our convictions forthrightly. Our experience gives us hope for our District and the efforts of our new District Executive Minister; we have demonstrated by God's grace that diversity is not a deficiency but a greenhouse for growth and forward movement for Christ. We pray our experience inspires others to believe the future is bright with promise and new beginnings.

Open communication has been vital to our process. Thus, we welcome your questions, concerns, or comments. We also solicit your prayers as we continue our search, seeking God's choice for Mid-Atlantic's new District Executive Minister.

Sincerely, in Christ,

Mid-Atlantic District District Executive Minister Search Committee

Ruth Aukerman, Yakubu Bakfwash, Britnee Linton (secretary), Paul Munday (chair), Mandy Park, Dianne Nelson, Matt Rittle, Danny Rumpf (liaison to the Mid-Atlantic District Leadership Team), Gene Walbridge.

## **Calling and Credentialing Ministry Team Report**

CCMT continues to take seriously the educating and credentialing processes to assist candidates through discernment of call. In working closely alongside candidates for licensing, commissioning, and ordination, CCMT continues efforts to move candidates through programs at an appropriate pace. On November 6, the team, along with the Ministry Interview Task Team and the Interim District Executives performed the annual reviews with candidates which informs the team of each candidate's educational progress. Based on those interviews, recommendations and deadlines (if necessary) are given to the candidates to guide them and keep them on track for accomplishing their ministry goals. Renewed relationship with Donna Rhodes at SVMC has helped us keep students on their educational track. The ACTS program, facilitated by SVMC, is constructed to be a 4 year educational program. Jody Gunn continues as leadership in our district TRIM program.

These have not been easy times for CCMT. Once again, the team spent additional time understanding the polity and denominational guidance surrounding departing congregations and ministers from the COB. It should be understood that the District cannot recognize dual-credentialing between the Church of the Brethren and Covenant Brethren Church as the schismatic nature of the CBC seems to jeopardize a minister's vows to set-apart ministry in our covenant. These deliberations remain painful as we navigate God's calling for our denomination. As a result of these conversations and challenges, a letter, reaffirming the denomination's stand on this issue, was sent out from the Calling and Credentialing Ministry team explaining these guidelines.

The team appreciates the guidance and wisdom of the Interim DEMs Kim McDowell, Eddie Edmonds, Joe Detrick and Administrative Assistant Jo Ann Landon. I am also very appreciative of the work of CCMT members- Calvin Park, Jenn Flora (secretary), Rachel Black, Scott Linton. Your prayers are appreciated as we continue the work we have been called to perform on this team.

Respectfully submitted,  
Twyla Rowe, CCMT Chair

## Church Outreach, Renewal, and Evangelism (C.O.R.E.) Report

Getting the Good News Out!

The CORE team consists of Ellen Wile (Easton), chair, Martin Hutchison (Community of Joy), Jennifer Summy (Easton), Paul Munday (Frederick) and Tom Jouannet (Grossnickle)

CORE stands for Congregational Outreach Renewal and Evangelism.

**The Mini-Grant Program awards grants of \$500 to approved applications from churches to increase community involvement. Examples of grants awarded to churches in our district are and have been after-school and multicultural activities, community book studies, increase of website use, social media communication, and improving property space for community use.**

There is a "Mid-Atlantic COB Resource Sharing" page on Facebook. Please use this for sharing your church's Good News! Be encouraged and be proactive about sharing our outreach, renewal and evangelism experiences.

There has been discussion on finding brothers and sisters whose energy is geared toward church planting.

Add your Good News to the following! –

- Hagerstown COB has a Community Breakfast and Picnic!
- Ridgely COB: Every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month they share a community dinner with 100 participants from the local and wider community!
- Jan Flora (Westminster) attended this year's New and Renew Conference, May 17-19 for the denomination!

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen W. Wile

## **Church Outreach, Renewal, and Evangelism (C.O.R.E.) Report**

(continued)

Mini-Grant applications are reviewed on a rolling basis by the CORE Ministry Team.

Application can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/COREJITNMiniGrants>

Or you can scan this QR code to access the application



## **Communications Ministry Team (CMT)**

**October 2022–August 2023**

The goals of the CMT are to develop ways to connect with all the MAD churches, to promote MAD events, and to improve communications among our churches. The team was originally formed in 2012 and made significant progress in achieving these goals in the five years that followed formation.

The team previously made significant strides in redesigning the MAD website, creating and subsequently updating the MAD Facebook page, and developing informational materials describing the work of the MAD. During 2023, we have made progress with several of these CMT goals.

For example, we have started sending an informational document to the churches about what the District Leadership Team has been focused on in their periodic meetings, called “Connecting with the Mid-Atlantic District.” The document also highlights what several individual churches are accomplishing in their goals to be “Jesus in the Neighborhood.” We will continue to send these reports to the congregations and look forward to hearing from you about what is happening in your church.

In an effort to update the MAD website, we worked with a consultant from the Pacific Northwest District who provided valuable website training to the District office staff and our MT. We have begun the task to updating our website with long overdue changes. Please review your church’s page in the directory and let us know of changes that should be made.

We are in the process of updating an informational brochure about the MAD that we will make available to the churches.

Finally, please contact the current CMT chair if you share our view of this team’s importance to the District and would like to help us make a difference.

**CMT Membership**—Members of the team are Erin Olinger (Midland) and Gretchen Zience (chair) (Oakton). Several other members are serving in ad hoc roles to assist as needed.

## **Finance and Property Ministry Team Report**

The District ended 2022 with a surplus of \$14,937. Receipts from congregations totaled \$151,767. Many churches contributed in greater amounts than what they had pledged. Using investment funds from the Greater Grace Church loan helped us stay positive.

Thank you to all congregations for your financial support throughout the year. We especially appreciate receiving quarterly contributions, which helps the District stay up-to-date on bill payments. It is important that we have all contributions in by December 31 of each year, so that our audit can be completed soon after the beginning of the following year.

The Finance and Property Ministry Team would welcome new members to this group. If you are interested in joining this team, please contact Everett Fisher or the District Office.

The Finance and Property Ministry Team

Everett Fisher, Chair

Doug Potvin

Danny Rumpf

Gene Walbridge, Consultant

Barb Watt, Treasurer

Gretchen Zience, Interim DEM Team Rep

## **Outreach and Service 2023**

### **Mid-Atlantic District Disaster Coordinator's Report for 2023**

The Mid-Atlantic District (MAD) continues to be well represented by its volunteers working on Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) rebuild project sites in Dawson Springs, KY (tornado response) and Eastern KY (flooding response), having served approximately 200 volunteer work-days through August 2023, and scheduled to serve another 170 work-days this fall. MAD volunteers also served another 58 work-days in Crisfield, MD, during January 2023 to repair a home that was damaged during an October 2021 storm, which caused extreme high tides and resulted in numerous homes being flooded in Dorchester and Somerset Counties. This was a continuation of work started during 2022 for which BDM had received a \$30,000 Lowes Home Improvement and National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster grant to repair homes damaged in the October 2021 storm. There is still a need to repair/rebuild homes on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and there may be volunteer opportunities in the future.

We sincerely thank all the volunteers who continue to give of their time and talents supporting BDM! Your willingness to help with child care, rebuild homes, provide household support, cook meals, or help support BDM and its volunteers through your prayers, encouragement, donations, or other means, have made a tremendous difference to those whose lives have been impacted by natural disasters.

Brethren Disaster Ministries provides help to people in need of child care and/or assistance to regain full use of their home after it has been damaged or destroyed by natural disasters. The program provides a helpful and safe environment for volunteers to assist in the repair or rebuilding of homes and child care, and hope to the homeowners. This is a great opportunity for people to use their talents and gifts, teach others construction and household skills, learn new skills, enjoy the comradery of fellow volunteers, and help those who are hurting. Volunteer housing is provided, often at local churches or community buildings, where weekly volunteers and leaders stay, eat, and become more connected with the community. Volunteers DO NOT have to be COB members. If you have a heart for service and Disaster Relief recovery or a desire for a new challenge, please contact us and we can acquaint you with what to expect during a volunteer week and get you started toward a very rewarding experience. If you wish to volunteer, please contact your church BDM advocate or Jeffrey McKee, Mid-Atlantic District Disaster Coordinator, at email: [jamckee26@msn.com](mailto:jamckee26@msn.com) or cell phone: 443-547-5958. More information on BDM and on current

## **Outreach and Service 2023** *Continued*

work locations may also be found online at: <http://www.brethren.org/bdm/> or by calling 800-451-4407.

There is still a need for a full group to travel to Dawson Springs, KY, the week of September 17-23, 2023. There are also opportunities to volunteer in 2024 as shown below. Full groups are limited to 15 volunteers, half groups are limited to 7 volunteers. Weeks not listed below have already been assigned, but there may be openings for individuals or small groups within those weeks, and there may be opportunities for work at a second project. If you have the desire to volunteer for a specific week, please let me know and I'll check on availability.

<b><u>Date</u></b>	<b><u>Group</u></b>	<b><u>Location</u></b>
March 17-23, 2024	Half Group	TBD
March 24-30, 2024	Full Group	TBD
March 31 – April 6, 2024	Full Group	TBD
May 26 – June 1, 2024	Half Group	TBD
June 30 – July 6, 2024	Full Group	TBD
July 7–13, 2024	Half Group	TBD
August 4-10, 2024	Half Group	TBD
August 11-17, 2024	Full Group	TBD
August 18-24, 2024	Full Group	TBD
August 25-31, 2024	Full Group	TBD
September 1-7, 2024	Half Group	TBD
September 15-21, 2024	Half Group	TBD
November 10-16, 2024	Half Group	TBD
December 8-14, 2024	Half Group	TBD
December 15-21, 2024	Full Group	TBD

For opportunities to volunteer with Children's Disaster Services, please call 800-451-4407, email [cds@brethren.org](mailto:cds@brethren.org) or check out the CDS website for information and training <http://www.brethren.org/cds/>

Peace and Blessings,

Jeff McKee

Mid-Atlantic District Disaster Coordinator



## Outreach and Service 2023 *Continued*

### Mid-Atlantic District Disaster Response Auction Committee Report 2023

The Mid-Atlantic District Disaster Response Auction Committee's activities returned to some semblance of normalcy in 2023 with our Annual Benefit Dinner being held on April 1, and our Auction being held on May 6. We had a great turnout of 128 people for the Benefit Dinner, which raised almost \$6,500. We thank all of those who attended, donated baked goods and other items for the dinner Auction, and particularly those volunteers from Bush Creek COB and Union Bridge COB who continue to host and prepare the delicious dinners!

Our annual Auction was very successful as well, raising over \$61,000. We continue to be amazed at the generosity of so many who attend the Auction and continue to donate your time, talents, and financial resources to support Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM). Thanks to your generosity and support of the Auction purchases, Booklet and Patron Ads, and generous donations we donated \$85,000 to the BDM Emergency Disaster Fund in 2023, which is the highest amount the MAD has donated since the Auction started in 1981, and brings the total amount donated to BDM over 43 years to over \$2.2 million. The Committee also voted to donate \$25,000 to the Eastern Shore of Maryland Long-Term Recovery Group to help rebuild/repair homes flooded in the October 2021 storm.

The Auction Committee thanks those who continue to make and donate auction items, including quilts, comforters, wall hangings, and other pieces, theme baskets and specialty items, and food items; patrons and advertisers in the Auction booklet; participants who make financial donations and purchase items; and the many volunteers who help at the Auction and Benefit Dinner. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to Lester Boleyn, Barbara Coolidge, Doretta and Jim Dorsch, David Fogle, Lou Gloyd, Bruce Hollenberg, Alice Houck, John Laudermilch, Jim Lohr, Daryl Long, Frances Miller, Jack Myrick, Brenda Palsgrove, Arnold Platou, Dorothy Saville, Myrtle Sturtz, Connie Welsh, and Robert Wilson, who serve on the Auction Committee.

**The Committee needs churches/volunteers who would be willing to take over the Smoothies/Pretzel Booth (I really miss the smoothies!), Popcorn/Water/Candy Booth, and coordination of the Plant Booth.** The Committee is always in need of volunteers and fund-raising ideas, and welcomes new members to work on advanced planning for the Auction and other activities. We also need help on

## **Outreach and Service 2023** *Continued*

Friday before the Auction and the day of the Auction to set up, clean up, and help move auction items.

Thanks to everyone who continues to support the Mid-Atlantic District and Brethren Disaster Ministries. Your contributions make a huge difference in the lives of those impacted by natural and man-made disasters!

We look forward to seeing you at the following 2024 events. Please mark your calendars!

- MADDRA Benefit Dinner at Bush Creek COB – April 6, 2024, at 6:30 pm
- MADDR Auction – May 4, 2024, 7:00 am to 4:00 pm at the Carroll County Agricultural Center, Shipley Arena, Westminster, MD

Peace and Blessings,

Jeff McKee

Chairperson, Mid-Atlantic District Disaster Response Auction Committee

### **Meat Canning**

The 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Meat Canning Project is a joint effort of the Mid-Atlantic and Southern Pennsylvania Districts. The goal of the canning project is to help feed people in need, both locally and overseas. The canning portion of the project took place April 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> at Christian Aid Ministries (CAM) in Ephrata, PA. Volunteers from both Districts, approximately 120 for the week, had a good time working and fellowshiping together. Mid-Atlantic District volunteers had a good turnout, with some new volunteers on the schedule. This we are grateful for and thankful for those who came.

Through the generosity of congregations, Mid-Atlantic's 2023 contribution to the Meat Canning Fund was \$18,696.00. Again, thank you for those donations that help to make this project happen. With combined funds from both Districts, approximately 18,000 lbs. of chicken were purchased

## Outreach and Service 2023 *Continued*

and processed (9,670 cans). Chicken prices were even higher than last year at \$1.185 per lb. (last year \$1.08 per lb.). This year's distribution was approximately 134 cases (3,216 cans) each to Mid-Atlantic and Southern PA Districts and approximately 135 cases (3,238 cans) went to Brethren Disaster Ministries to be distributed overseas by way of Miami Haitian Church of the Brethren.

The team will meet in November to begin planning the 2024 project, tentatively planned for April 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>. Your congregation can participate in any or all the following ways:

- Donate money – We will need donations towards the 2024 project. It would be helpful in planning chicken purchases if these funds are received by the first of the year, but we are thankful for donations anytime.
- Be a Meat Canning Coordinator at your church or ask a volunteer to serve as one for your congregation if you don't already have one. Please call the district office to share contact information.
- Volunteer for a canning shift. Information is sent to churches after the first of the year.
- Pick up and distribute canned chicken to feed the hungry – to use in your food pantry, a food pantry you work with or a need in your community, FREE. Pick up is at the Brethren Service Center, New Windsor, MD. However, you must contact the district office to schedule a pick-up. At least 24 hours' notice is required.

If you have any questions, want to volunteer, or donate, please contact a Mid-Atlantic team member: Lou Gloyd, Steve Horr, Brenda Thomasson, Jo Ann Landon (Staff) or myself, Billy Horton or call the district office 443-960-3052.

Again, our team thanks you for all you do to support the Meat Canning Project to feed the world's hungry people.

In His Service,

Billy Horton, Mid-Atlantic Team Coordinator

## **Spirituality & Congregational Life Ministry Team (SCLMT)**

Our Ministry Team meets every other month for 90 mins to 2 hours. In May we had some intentional prayer time together. After praying together and talking together about the needs of this district and the passions of our group, we have decided to rethink our direction a little bit. Our four priorities of focus: pastors, youth, the camps, and healthy/imaginative conversations. We see so much value in what the pastors bring to each congregation, what the camps bring to our district, and the desire so many parents long for to have help raising their children through the love of Christ. Along with these important aspects, we wish to take on the initiative to truly develop a culture of calling and equipping disciples who are innovative, adaptable, and fearless.

With this in mind, we have established a few ideas we hope to live into as a ministry team. For starters, we hosted a deacon training in September at Union Bridge Church of the Brethren. Our hope by offering this training is something that can assist in nurturing our congregations, supporting our pastors, and spiritually renewing the deacons that work so hard in their congregations. Another goal is to develop a Pastors Retreat. Our pastors work tirelessly to serve God's Kingdom in new ways while continually nurturing and teaching their congregants. Being a pastor these days is very diverse and rest is often needed. We hope to have the Pastors Retreat in 2024. We also plan to have a Fearless Conversations session at District Conference every year. People often find it intimidating to share their new ideas and talk about vulnerable topics because they fear they will be shot down, made fun of, ridiculed, or more. Our goal for this workshop will be to offer a space to have necessary conversations in a loving and compassionate manor. This workshop may involve story telling and reflection, insight on areas of justice, or leadership development.

Mandy North, Jackie Bear, Missy Sumbry (middle school age), Gabe Dodd and Jan Walker (high school age) are still working tirelessly inviting youth and young adults to grow in their walk with Christ. Manassas Church of the Brethren hosted a middle school retreat focusing on Brethren values. Jan took some young adults on a Brethren Disaster Ministries trip. Jan and Gabe are continually in conversation about the best ways to reach our high schoolers amidst a very quickly changing culture.

We have very much enjoyed working together to establish the worship services. We would like to have another one in the future, but

**Spirituality & Congregational Life Ministry Team (SCLMT)**

(continued)

this year we are putting that on hold so we can really focus on some of these other areas to strengthen our congregations. If you have any interest in helping to develop a Pastor's Retreat or know of good leaders to lead workshops in these areas, please do not hesitate to contact Britnee Linton, the chair of the committee: [britnee.linton@gmail.com](mailto:britnee.linton@gmail.com).

Blessings,

The Spirituality and Congregational Life Ministry Team

## **2023 Standing Committee Report**

The Annual Conference Standing Committee met July 1-4, just prior to the start of the 2023 Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren meeting in Cincinnati, Ohio. As representatives from Mid-Atlantic District, we joined delegates from 24 districts in the denomination; our meetings were led by officers Tim McElwee (Moderator), Madalyn Metzger (Moderator-Elect), David Shumate (Secretary), and David Sollenberger (Immediate Past Moderator). In addition to handling its committee business, we also participate as district delegates to the full Annual Conference meetings.

The Standing Committee reviews and makes recommendations on business items ahead of the Annual Conference sessions, hears reports from staff and agencies, and serves as the judicial authority for the Church of the Brethren. Later, the entire Annual Conference delegate body, with representation from all denominational congregations and districts, then acts on business by voting to reject, amend, or accept the recommendations that come from Standing Committee.

Each Standing Committee session began with a time of worship led by several of our members. After some time of getting to know one another, Standing Committee delegates shared joys and challenges from their districts — out of which emerged common struggles related to churches discerning departure from the denomination and numerical decline. But beyond our troubles, we also heard refrains of common joy as district churches find creative ways to be in partnership with each other and in their communities. We learned that several other districts are in the midst of staffing changes, similar to MAD.

During its meetings, Standing Committee received several reports from its subcommittees and task teams addressing a variety of topics, including: Negotiating Agency Covenants, Reviewing Organizational Structure, Process for Addressing Concerns with Annual Conference Agencies, Receiving and Implementing Annual Conference Statements, and more. Standing Committee added a short section to the Standing Committee Manual entitled “Polity, Position, Policy, and Practice” (which may be expanded in future years), and we finalized a Service of Confession and Repentance which was later engaged by the larger Annual Conference delegate body.

## **2023 Standing Committee Report** *Continued*

Standing Committee considered and made recommendations on a variety of old and new denominational business items. The Annual Conference later:

- Received an Interim Report from the Standing with People of Color Committee and extended the work of the committee an additional year to 2025.
- Received an Interim Report from the Breaking Down Barriers-Increasing Access to Denominational Events Committee.
- Accepted concerns and called a Study Committee on Calling Denominational Leadership which includes Eric Bishop, Erika Clary, and Emmett Witkovsky-Eldred.
- Adopted changes to conference rules regarding Nominations from the Floor of Annual Conference.
- Adopted 2023 Guidelines for Continuing Education.
- Adopted Amended Articles of Organization for Eder Financial.
- Adopted a 5.3% Cost of Living Adjustment to the Minimum Cash Salary Table for Pastors.
- Adopted the resolution “With Actions and Truth: A Lament of the Doctrine of Discovery,” with minimal amendments.

Except for handling denominational appeals and nominating activities, our work is normally conducted during the few days prior to Annual Conference. However, due to the amount of current workload, Standing Committee and its various subcommittees and task teams held several Zoom meetings during the year prior to in-person Cincinnati sessions. This may be due to the current business concerns and circumstances that the denomination is facing, but it may also be that Zoom is facilitating a “new normal” way for Standing Committee to conduct its work between Conferences.

Nominating good people to advance God's Kingdom purposes for the Church of the Brethren is a top priority of the Standing Committee. We encourage all district congregations and individuals to give serious consideration to nominating people willing to serve Christ in the broader

## **2023 Standing Committee Report** *Continued*

Church. The nomination process is simple, and you can find information and document links about the open positions at <https://www.brethren.org/ac/nominations/>.

Craig continues to serve on the Standing Committee task team reviewing the denomination's organizational structure and as an alternate on the Appeals Committee. Tim was elected to a 2-year term on the Nominating Committee. However, since the 2022 Annual Conference in Omaha, the Mid-Atlantic District was actually served by four people. Kim McDowell needed to resign as Standing Committee member when she became a member of the team of Interim District Executives now serving us. In her place, Ellen Wile capably stood in and worked on the task teams working to negotiate three new denominational agency covenant agreements (of course, with great assistance from each respective agency).

Serving on Standing Committee is a privilege as we discern the mind of Christ amidst our beloved denomination. Please continue to hold the work of the Standing Committee, the Annual Conference, our district, and the entire denomination in your prayers!

Thank you!

Craig Stutzman (serving 2nd term with final AC in 2024)

Tim Hollenberg-Duffey (serving 1st term with final AC in 2025)

Standing Committee representatives



## Camp Mardela Report 2023

This summer this joyful refrain echoed through the woods this summer:

Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness,  
Gentleness, & Self-Control.

As we talked about these fruits of the spirit, we enjoyed a “sweet” summer. This was the first year we were able to fully return to normal operation and it was thrilling to see camp come fully alive this year, while simultaneously reflecting on our 75th anniversary. This year our goals were summarized as GROWTH. Here are some of the exciting things that have grown and ripened this year, some things that are still growing, and some seeds that are still being planted.

**Administration:** This is Jen Summy’s 3rd year at Camp Mardela. As she spends more time at camp, she is stepping into her prime at camp, as seen in the many improvements she has made to camp. Of course, none of this would be possible without the support of the dedicated staff, volunteers, board, and churches who have helped shape the culture and ministry of Camp Mardela since its inception. We welcomed Curtis Hartman back onto the Board as the Board Chair. Curtis has served in this role previously, and is a trusted leader at Camp Mardela.

**Camp Programs:** This year, we were able to hold our Winter Retreat in their traditional format, with 40 campers coming Friday night and staying overnight through Sunday morning over 2 weekend programs, ranging from 1st-10th grade. It was great to have so many people enjoying camp during these slower, winter months.

This summer, we offered some additional discounts and scholarships for campers. We had 53 campers utilize the Early Bird discount and 24 for the Bring a Friend discount. We were able to give about \$3,200.00 in scholarship funds to 30 campers through the Church Pays Half discount from 3 churches - Denton, Ridgely, and Fairview. We were also able to give \$3,000.00 in independent scholarships to 20 campers - largely through the Children’s Home Foundation, as well as other individual donors. As a result, we reached our camper goal for this year! We had 120 total campers last year, and we wanted to increase our camper numbers by 25%, which we hit right on the nose this year! We ran 8 camps this summer, and unfortunately, we had to cancel Me & You camp because of low registration. Despite that, we are still thrilled that we reached our goal, and we want to continue to grow our programs to see more campers benefit from Camp Mardela’s programs.

We also held our annual Family Camp on Labor Day weekend, where we

## **Camp Mardela Report 2023** (continued)

invited people to celebrate the 75th anniversary of Camp Mardela with historical displays, previous Camp Administrators as guest speakers, traditional camp activities, and fellowship with camp friends.

The Birding Retreat is a new program this year and is a joint effort with Camp Swatara. This event will be held October 20th-22nd. Participants will travel to several well-known birding locations on the Eastern Shore, as well as enjoy the accommodations of Camp Mardela in between. Registration for this event is still open for anyone who wants to join.

**Camp Projects:** Our primary project this year has been Krabill Hall. We installed a new dishwasher donated by Greenhill. We replaced the floor in the dishwashing room, made plumbing improvements, and upgraded refrigeration units. With all of this accomplished, one big project remains - adding heat and air conditioning to Krabill Hall. Many people have been interested in using Krabill Hall in the winter months, but since it is not heated, we have to shut down the hall from December-March, severely limiting the events, programs, and rental groups we can host in this valuable space. We are fundraising to install ductless mini-split units that will heat AND cool this space, making it more usable throughout the year. Our total fundraising goal is \$50,000 and we are just over 20% of that goal. We plan to start installing the units this winter.

We've worked on several other big projects around camp - replacing the floating dock in the swimming pond, improving signage around camp, creating more benches around camp, and more! Our Thursday volunteers continue to come faithfully to help accomplish our project goals.

**Volunteers/Staff:** This summer with more campers meant more volunteers! We had almost 100 volunteers come to help with our programs - almost as many volunteers as campers! We depend on these volunteers to be the primary leadership for our camp programs. While we are grateful for all the volunteers who were able to help, we continue to struggle finding volunteers who can stay for whole programs. Many volunteers were only able to help during the day, or only able to stay overnight and leave for work during the day. We are looking for ways to make leadership for these camps more consistent for campers, and more practical for the volunteers. We also have volunteers who help throughout the year with fundraisers, events, and with the Thursday volunteer group. This year we recognized Amy Hutchison and Jim Lohr as "Volunteers of the Year" at Camp Appreciation Day.

This summer we had 8 seasonal staff. We struggled to retain staff in the

## **Camp Mardela Report 2023** (continued)

past several years, so it was wonderful to have 5 of those 8 be returning staff! Even with 8 staff, with the increase in campers, we still felt short staffed. We were able to offer a greater summer salary and improved training and staff management, and this helped with our staff's overall summer experience. However, we still struggled to find all the staff we needed, and are hoping for greater recruitment and retention efforts next year.

**Rental Groups:** We have 32 rental groups on the books for this year - a 10% increase from 2022. This year, we had some great groups - including a wedding and another camp program called Camp Keith. There are only 9 weeks this year where we had no camp events or rental groups at camp, with most of those open weeks in the winter. We are glad that camp is being used and enjoyed by so many, and would like to continue to make camp available throughout the year - primarily by making Krabill a year-round use facility.

**Fundraisers:** We've had several successful fundraisers this year. We raised about \$14,000 at the Camp Auction, \$2,100 at our Yard Sale/BBQ Chicken Sale, \$400 through Restaurant fundraisers, and \$1,000 through our Scrip gift card fundraiser. Our Camp Supper is projected to raise \$7,000 and \$2,000 at our Sights & Sounds of Christmas event. These fundraisers make up about 20% of our operating budget, and we are thankful for the support of these fundraisers. We just started a new fundraiser to help raise money for the heat and air conditioning in Krabill Hall. We've restarted our Brick Fundraiser. You can order a brick or make a donation online at [www.campmardela.org/keeping-krabill-cool](http://www.campmardela.org/keeping-krabill-cool). The bricks ordered will be dedicated at next year's Camp Appreciation Day at the Peace Pole garden.

**Supporters:** We are still immensely grateful for the support we get from this district and the camp community. Individual and Church Donations towards Camp Mardela make up about 50% of our operating budget. It is primarily the generosity of this community that has sustained Camp Mardela for so long, and we would be remiss to not show our utmost gratitude towards all who generously give to make the ministry of camp possible. If you have ever donated towards our mission, I want to say a huge and heartfelt "thank you" for your contributions to Camp Mardela. Each and every person who helps camp, in whatever form that may be, makes a huge and lasting difference, and we could not do this without every single one of you.

## **Shepherd's Spring Report 2023**

**How did covid impact Shepherd's Spring:** As with many others covid was a very challenging time with 100% of retreats and Global Village groups being cancelled for over a year. In 2020 we were projecting the strongest camp in many years. Instead, the entire camp season was cancelled. In 2021 we made the decision to proceed with camp but in a very modest manner. Our precautions worked as there were no cases of covid that developed as a result of the camp program. Thankfully due to the faithful support of many churches and individuals we were able to use the time to complete multiple projects that we had not been able to address previously. We also received several grants which made it possible to continue in operation as well as one loan, which we are now in the process of paying back.

**The Global Village opened in 2009. What is its current condition:** The Village is in good condition with multiple upgrades having been made. Since the beginning of 2023: a concrete floor has been added to the Kenya house; the refugee house has been enclosed with tin; the steps leading from Guatemala to Appalachia have been completely replaced; The benches in the center area have all been restored and gravel has been spread through the entire circle once again making it useful for group meetings; Gravel has been placed in the areas of the pathways that tend to become muddy during storms; Stone fire pits have been added to the houses that were lacking them in the past and a large yurt has been purchased and will be placed along the sidewalk leading from the lodge to the village. An additional service that we have added has been to contract with a local exterminator company to maintain each of the village houses clear of bees, mice, snakes and spiders as this has been a concern of multiple youth visiting the program. It seems to be working fine. When the village was constructed it planned to have two yurts in the Tibet area. A yurt is a circular tent like structure that Tibetans and Mongolians live in. However, after one yurt was purchased and set up on the platform that was built for it we found that due to the lack of sunlight in the woods it did not get a chance to dry out completely and deteriorated quickly. Due to many requests from attending groups we replaced the yurt but are moving it out of the woods into the sunlight. In 2024 we hope to use the platform where the yurts were originally intended to set to construct a new Honduras house and thus increase the number of countries represented in the village.

**What is the status of the Global Village program itself following covid:** In 2022 we saw numerous groups feeling safe to once again resume making field trips with their school groups and the program maintained a very full schedule as a result. This led to our submitting a

## **Shepherd's Spring Report 2023** (continued)

grant application to Washington County, where we are located, to seek funding for additional staffing. The grant was funded and an additional staff person (Aaron St. Phard) was hired. Beginning in the fall of 2023 we will begin working with fifth grade students in the GATE program in Washington County. GATE is a program operating in all of the elementary schools for Gifted and Talented youth who demonstrate a consistent ability to perform at an advanced level. The focus is on science, math and reading. Kaite Reed, the director of our Global Village has experience as an Associate Professor teaching science at the college level and has modified programs to specifically target these students.

**What is going on with the Retreats program:** We seem to have gone from one extreme (no one during covid) to the other. Beginning last year groups began venturing out and nervously scheduling retreats. Now that it appears covid has retreated groups are returning once again and filling our schedule.

**Are the numbers of youth attending camp continuing to decline:** No. Beginning in 2009 we began to experience a decrease in the number of youth attending camp. For 12 years that decline continued. We have noted that in the past two years that trend has definitely reversed and is significantly climbing. This year the first week was near capacity and the second week was full with a waiting list. In addition to our classic camp we are beginning a Global Citizen camp that spends a week teaching science through fun activities and games. We are also adding an adventure camp for teens this year that takes campers off grounds to participate in some memorable adventures. We hope to see both of these new programs grow significantly in the years to come. We are also conducting a week of day camp for girls from Hagerstown who are participating in the summer program with Girls 'Inc. In 2021 50 girls participated followed by 80 in 2022. They are returning once again in 2023. We are also continuing and growing our Family and Grandparent's Camp. In 2021 we received full accreditation with the American Camping Association.

Bruce T. Anderson  
Executive Director



Greetings COB friends! 2023 has been an exciting year for our community. We completed the infrastructure portion of our independent living expansion. We are now in the presale portion of the expansion and are actively marketing these units. We welcomed Tim Luipersbeck to our team as the Director of Marketing and communications. He comes with a vast amount of experience and a deep knowledge of our local community.

With the official ending of the pandemic, both of our campuses are seeing operations normalize and we are beginning the hard work of reconnecting with the community, organizations, volunteers and all of those who supported our mission.

Our Benevolent care fund continues to grow, and we are grateful for all who have generously given to support those who need are services but do not have the resources to pay for those services.

We have also re-engaged our Auxiliary and our first meeting this year was well attended. We are excited to re-energize this mission that supports many of our efforts.

We are excited to announce a partnership with Scout Solar who will be providing 100,000 square feet of solar panels which will be installed in various locations to provide covered parking, and a solar powered and covered outdoor pavilion which will include an outdoor kitchen, seating, lighting and fans.

2023 has been a year of regrouping, reengaging, and recovery. We are still faced with many of the challenges that are a result of the last 3 years. Workforce challenges remain the most difficult and pervasive issue. Finding good staff who want to work in healthcare is critical issue for us. Additionally inflationary pressures are impacting supply costs, food costs and other repair and maintenance costs.

More than ever, we are grateful for all of our partners and supporters and their belief in the mission of Fahrney Keedy. It is because of all of our partners that we are able to continue serving the most vulnerable.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen Coetzee, LNHA

President/CEO

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Please see the [Sample Slate on Page 18](#)**



## **UPDATED MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT** **CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**

The Leadership Team has updated the Mid-Atlantic District Constitution and Bylaws. A printed copy of the updated document is provided to in-person delegates and an electronic copy has been emailed to online delegates as a separate addendum to the conference booklet. The addendum shows the original document with the proposed changes clearly marked using the "Track Changes" feature in Microsoft Word.

# 2024 Proposed BudgetSummary

Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren Proposed Budget Summary 2024						
	2023 Budget	YTD 06/30/2023	Proposed 2024 Budget	Explanation	% of Change	\$ Change
<b>Income</b>						
4011 Outreach	173,878	59,177	157,335	past 2 yr average of outreach giving	-9%	(16,343)
4021 Interest/Dividend Income		2,304				-
4023 Admin Fee BBT		(786)				-
4025 Interest Income from Loan GG	31,484	16,771	30,444		-3%	(1,040)
4034 In Kind Donations						-
4042 Individual Contributions		1,315				-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>205,162</b>	<b>77,781</b>	<b>187,779</b>	-	-8%	<b>(17,383)</b>
<b>Expense</b>						
<b>Staff Services &amp; Office Operation</b>						
<b>Executive Salary Pkg</b>						
500 Executive Salary			80,000			80,000
501 Housing				Employee election from Salary		-
502 Executive Pension 11%			8,800	Package \$ 96,000		8,800
RCWF Pension 1%			800			800
503 Executive Insurance			5,400			5,400
504 Executive Prof Growth			500			500
505 Sabbatical Fund			500			500
						-
<b>Interim DEM Salary Pkgs</b>						
51-2 DEM Salaries	70,110	37,978	-	No proposed budget salary to come from Executive package		
51-32 Pension 11%	3,011	1,779				
51-31 RCWF Pension 1%	274					
51-5 Supplemental Insurance	4,701	2,546				
<b>Regional Assistants</b>						
(3) Regional Part-time Assistants to Executive			15,000			15,000
Social Security/ Medicare			1,148	7.65%		1,148
<b>Admin Asst Salary Pkg</b>						
530 Adm. Assistant Salary	37,091	19,974	38,946		5%	1,855
531 Adm. Assistant Pension	4,080	2,366	4,284	11% of Salary	5%	204
RCWF Pension 1%	371		389	1% of Salary	5%	19
534 Social Security/ Medicare	2,837	1,528	2,979	7.65% of Salary	5%	142
						-
<b>Insurance</b>						
5411 Renters & Vehicle Insurance	1,500	1,672	1,700		13%	200
5412 Worker's Compensation	650	630	650		0%	-
						-
<b>Office Expenses</b>						
5422 Computer Services	1,700	892	1,751		3%	51
5423 Office Fees/Subscriptions	500		500		0%	-
5425 Office/Warehouse Rent	5,000	2,504	5,000		0%	-
5426 Postage	300	77	250		-17%	(50)
5427 Supplies/Copies	4,000	753	3,000		-25%	(1,000)
5428 Telephone	1,500	414	1,500		0%	-
5430 Website	350	212	400		14%	50
5433 PayPal Expense		10	20		100%	20
5434 Interest Expense/Bank Fees	100	3	50		-50%	(50)
						-
5435 Background Checks		69				-
5436 Conferencing/zoom meetings	500	121	300		-40%	(200)
6560 Payroll Expenses	100	115	300		200%	200
						-
<b>Professional Services</b>						
5431 Accountant/Treasurer	7,250	3,825	7,250	COB not increasing fee	0%	-
5432 Attorney		2,178				-
						-
<b>Travel &amp; Conferences</b>						
5441 Travel, Meals & Conferences	7,000	1,276	7,000		0%	-
54415 DEM Mileage	7,000	8,394	7,000		0%	-
54412 Regional Assist Travel			1,000		100%	1,000
54413 Travel for Others	1,000	131	500		-50%	(500)
5443 CODE Dues	840	945	950		13%	110
						-
<b>Sub-total Staff Services &amp; Office Operation</b>	<b>161,765</b>	<b>90,192</b>	<b>197,867</b>		22%	<b>36,102</b>
						-
<b>Other Expenses</b>						
5454 CORE Grants	-		500			500
<b>Sub-total Other Expenses</b>	<b>-</b>		<b>500</b>			<b>500</b>
						-
xxx SEARCH COMMITTEE	3,000	163	-		-100%	(3,000)
						-
<b>Total Operation Expenses</b>	<b>164,765</b>	<b>90,355</b>	<b>198,367</b>		20%	<b>33,602</b>
						-
<b>MINISTRY TEAMS</b>						-

### 2024 Proposed Budget Summary (continued)

Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren Proposed Budget Summary 2024						
	2023 Budget	YTD 06/30/2023	Proposed 2024 Budget	Explanation	% of Change	\$ Change
	<b>Calling &amp; Credentialing</b>					-
601	Program	300	279	300	0%	-
602	Ministerial Scholarship	500		500	0%	-
603	Susquehanna Valley Satellite	5,000	2,512	5,000	0%	-
604	TRIM/EFSM	2,500	1,500	2,500	0%	-
605	Readiness for Ministry	665	-	665	0%	-
	<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>8,965</b>	<b>4,291</b>	<b>8,965</b>		-
	<b>Finance &amp; Property</b>					-
632	Review	4,500	-	4,500	0%	-
	<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,500</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>-</b>
	<b>Outreach &amp; Service</b>					-
641	Program	100	0	100	0%	-
	<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>-</b>
	<b>District General</b>					-
651	Leadership Team	800	736	800	0%	-
653	District Directory	150		150	0%	-
654	Standing Committee Delegates	4,200	646	4,200	0%	-
671	Annual Conference Assessment	6,100	5,300	6,100	0%	-
	<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>11,250</b>	<b>6,682</b>	<b>11,250</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>-</b>
	<b>Church Extension &amp; Evangelism</b>					-
682	CORE	-	-	-	100%	-
	<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>-</b>
	<b>Spirituality &amp; Congregational Life</b>					-
692	Senior High	500	0	500	0%	-
699	NYC	500	500	500	0%	-
	Other	200	-	200	0%	-
	<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>-</b>
	<b>Communications</b>					-
710	Program	500	-	500	0%	-
	<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>500</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>-</b>
	<b>Ministry Teams Total</b>	<b>26,515</b>	<b>11,473</b>	<b>26,515</b>		-
	<b>Total Operations &amp; Ministry Teams</b>	<b>191,280</b>	<b>101,829</b>	<b>224,882</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>33,602</b>
	<b>Unrealized Gain/Loss Investment</b>		<b>(10,833)</b>			-
	<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>191,280</b>	<b>90,996</b>	<b>224,882</b>	<b>18%</b>	<b>33,602</b>
	<b>Profit/Loss</b>	<b>13,882</b>	<b>(13,215)</b>	<b>(37,103)</b>		<b>173,887</b>

## **Columbia United Christian Church**

Columbia United Christian Church (CUCC), after 52 years of worship, life, and work together, voted last fall to disband. The congregation was triply affiliated with the Church of the Brethren, the Disciples of Christ, and the United Church of Christ. Its regular place of worship was at The Meeting House, one of Columbia's interfaith centers, where it shared space with Baptist, Catholic, Jewish and other congregations. The church's process of discernment, assisted by facilitators that included Paul Munday from the Mid-Atlantic District, led to the decision to close.

A final worship service and celebration of shared ministry was held on November 20, 2022. Cherished hymns and songs, stories, and scripture framed the service of celebration. Representatives from all three denominations were present, as were many past and current members of the church. During the service, members gave thanks for the ways elements in the space (such as the communion table, the Bible, the chairs and the hymnals) had been symbols of common faith and fellowship lived out together over the years. The following statement was read in unison:

"We gather together, on our last official Sunday as the community of faith at Columbia United Christian Church, honoring our shared ministry and reaffirming our shared purpose-- to continue Jesus' work of love, to be peacemakers and justice seekers, to be bearers of healing and hope. Though we leave this building which has been a spiritual home for us and so many others, we carry with us holy inspiration and the wisdom of countless generations who have found myriad ways to honor and celebrate the sacred which surrounds and sustains us."

Members of CUCC have made varied choices about faith communities -- some "migrating" together to a nondenominational church in Columbia, others doing other things. Much gratitude is due for the many ways in which CUCC served as the body of Christ in its community. We give thanks for the life of this congregation in our District, share in the sadness at its dissolution, and commend its members to the purpose they expressed in the closing service!

This year's District Conference will be acting to formally disorganize the congregation by vote during the business session.

Report by Kim McDowell, Interim District Executive Minister Team

**DISTRICT FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren  
Statement of Financial Position/Balance Sheet  
As of July 31, 2023

	Jul 31, 23
<b>ASSETS</b>	
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Checking/Savings	
1 · CASH ACCOUNTS	
101 · NW\$B Checking	84,784.70
104 · NW\$B Money Market (GG Loan Payments)	184,485.54
13 · Petty Cash	100.00
Total 1 · CASH ACCOUNTS	269,370.24
Total Checking/Savings	269,370.24
Other Current Assets	
130 · Clearing/ Holding Account	-2,831.62
Total Other Current Assets	-2,831.62
Total Current Assets	266,538.62
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
18 · FIXED ASSETS	
181 · FURNITURE ,FIXTURES & EQUIPMENT	
1811 · Furn. Fixtures & Equip. Cost	13,908.91
1812 · Furn. Fixtures & Equip. Deprec	-13,908.91
Total 181 · FURNITURE ,FIXTURES & EQUIPMENT	0.00
182 · VEHICLE	
1821 · Vehicle Cost	15,628.15
1822 · Vehicle Depreciation	-15,628.15
Total 182 · VEHICLE	0.00
Total 18 · FIXED ASSETS	0.00
Total Fixed Assets	0.00
<b>Other Assets</b>	
17 · INVESTMENTS	
171 · EDELMAN FINANCIAL (BBT)	
1711 · Don Rowe Endowment	87,704.84
1713 · General Investment Fund	197,102.76
Total 171 · EDELMAN FINANCIAL (BBT)	284,807.60
190 · ACNB WEALTH ADVISORS (ACNB Wealth Advisors - C...	
1901 · Broker CD Wealth Advisors (CD opened May 31, 202...	104,000.00
1902 · ACNB Flexinsured Account (Flexinsured Account)	648.98
Total 190 · ACNB WEALTH ADVISORS (ACNB Wealth Advisor...	104,648.98
Total 17 · INVESTMENTS	389,456.58
Total Other Assets	389,456.58
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>655,995.20</b>

Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren  
Statement of Financial Position/Balance Sheet  
As of July 31, 2023

	Jul 31, 23
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Other Current Liabilities	
<b>2 · LIABILITIES</b>	
20 · SHORT TERM LIABILITY	
203 · PAYROLL PAYABLE	
2022 · Pension Payable	404.97
2031 · Federal Taxes Payable	138.00
2032 · Medicare Payable	89.64
2033 · Social Security Payable	383.26
2034 · Maryland Taxes Payable	194.08
Total 203 · PAYROLL PAYABLE	1,209.95
Total 20 · SHORT TERM LIABILITY	1,209.95
Total 2 · LIABILITIES	1,209.95
Total Other Current Liabilities	1,209.95
Total Current Liabilities	1,209.95
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	1,209.95
<b>Equity</b>	
<b>3 · FUNDS</b>	
30 · TEMP RESTRICTED	
301 · AUCTION FUND	
301-4 · AUCTION INCOME HISTORICAL	
301-401 · Interest Income	455.29
301-402 · Other Income - Auction	815,479.39
301-403 · Quilts	189,272.50
301-404 · Benefit Dinners	27,889.37
301-405 · Booklet Donations	337,698.53
301-406 · Auction Donations	118,393.64
Total 301-4 · AUCTION INCOME HISTORICAL	1,489,188.72
301-5 · AUCTION EXPENSES HISTORICAL	
301-501 · Admin. Fee	-48,688.95
301-502 · Postage & Supplies	-8,433.06
301-503 · Printing/Booklet	-98,286.14
301-504 · Quilts	-16,467.08
301-505 · Rent	-36,507.78
301-507 · Contribution to Program	-1,192,369.00
Total 301-5 · AUCTION EXPENSES HISTORICAL	-1,400,752.01
Total 301 · AUCTION FUND	88,436.71
302 · MEAT CANNING FUND	
302-4 · MEAT CANNING HISTORICAL INCOME	
302-401 · Interest Income	832.56
302-402 · Meat Canning Income	428,614.40
Total 302-4 · MEAT CANNING HISTORICAL INCOME	429,446.96

**Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren**  
**Statement of Financial Position/Balance Sheet**  
As of July 31, 2023

	Jul 31, 23
302-5 · MEAT CANNING HISTORCAL EXPENSES	
302-501 · Admin. Fee & Postage	-23,130.45
302-507 · Contribution to Program	-422,855.05
Total 302-5 · MEAT CANNING HISTORCAL EXPENSES	-445,985.50
302 · MEAT CANNING FUND - Other	19,361.07
Total 302 · MEAT CANNING FUND	2,822.53
304 · NOAC Activity (NOAC Activity)	
304-401 · NOAC Income	12,967.00
304-501 · NOAC Expenses	-10,867.00
Total 304 · NOAC Activity (NOAC Activity)	2,100.00
305 · NEW PASTOR RETREAT ACTIVITY	
305-401 · New Pastor Retreat Income	11,894.47
305-501 · New Pastor Retreat Expenses	-11,468.19
305 · NEW PASTOR RETREAT ACTIVITY - Other	-0.65
Total 305 · NEW PASTOR RETREAT ACTIVITY	425.63
310 · Salt & Light Ministry	100.00
311 · Leadership Team Books (Money for books for Leader...	293.80
Total 30 · TEMP RESTRICTED	94,178.67
33 · MINISTRY TEAM DESIGNATED FUNDS	
330 · NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE FUND	3,456.55
331 · DISTRICT CONFERENCE FUND	1,287.80
332 · CONT.EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND	2,040.86
333 · DISASTER FUND	44,814.19
334 · MINISTERIAL TRAINING EVENT FUND	5,913.07
336 · DON ROWE STUDENT ENDOWMENT FUND	
3361 · Unrealized Gain/Loss Don Rowe (BBT Student En...	52,285.94
336 · DON ROWE STUDENT ENDOWMENT FUND - Other	20,695.38
Total 336 · DON ROWE STUDENT ENDOWMENT FUND	72,981.32
338 · JR. HIGH CONFERENCE FUND	1,768.81
339 · SENIOR HIGH PROGRAM FUND	2,120.80
340 · YOUNG ADULT PROGRAM FUND	146.54
343 · PEACE & JUSTICE FUND	123.92
347 · DISTRICT HABITAT FUND	150.00
Total 33 · MINISTRY TEAM DESIGNATED FUNDS	134,803.86
35 · LEADERSHIP DESIGNATED FUNDS	
351 · OPERATING RESERVE FUND	
351-1 · Operating Reserve Fund (Yr. End Surplus/Defifi...	256,323.78
351-2 · GG 25% Operating Reverse (25% Operating Distr...	10,055.09
Total 351 · OPERATING RESERVE FUND	266,378.87
353 · EQUIPMENT & SECY FUND	14,324.02



**Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren**  
**Statement of Financial Position/Balance Sheet**  
As of July 31, 2023

	Jul 31, 23
<b>355 · CHURCH EXTENSION FUND</b>	
3551 · Dundalk Restart (Restart of Dundalk Church Of th...	
3551-20 · 2020 GraceWay Support	-22,000.00
3551-19 · GraceWay Support 2019	-39,916.05
3551-10 · Dundalk Restart Support 2018	-33,833.09
3551-9 · Dundalk Restart Support 2017	-29,256.64
3551-12 · Dundalk Restart Support 2016	-6,696.58
<b>Total 3551 · Dundalk Restart (Restart of Dundalk Church...</b>	<b>-131,702.36</b>
355 · CHURCH EXTENSION FUND - Other	150,662.40
<b>Total 355 · CHURCH EXTENSION FUND</b>	<b>18,960.04</b>
<b>356 · SPECIAL MINISTRIES FUND</b>	<b>1,078.36</b>
<b>360 · GREATERGRACE/GOOD SHEPHERD FUND</b>	
143 · Greater Grace Church Loan	-783,771.20
360-3 · GOOD SHEPHERD Principal & Cash (Sale of the ...	1,028,268.70
362 · Good Shepherd Allocated (paymen	-292,386.80
370 · Endowment Greater Grace (50%)	142,516.13
<b>Total 360 · GREATERGRACE/GOOD SHEPHERD FUND</b>	<b>94,626.83</b>
<b>Total 35 · LEADERSHIP DESIGNATED FUNDS</b>	<b>395,368.12</b>
<b>Total 3 · FUNDS</b>	<b>624,350.65</b>
3900 · Net Assets	41,872.02
Net Income	-11,437.42
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>654,785.25</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>655,995.20</b>

**Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren**  
**Statement of Financial Income and Expense**  
January through July 2023

	Jan - Jul 23
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
4 · INCOME	
401 · CONGREGATIONAL OUTREACH	
4011 · Outreach giving/Pledges	69,717.54
Total 401 · CONGREGATIONAL OUTREACH	69,717.54
402 · INTEREST INCOME	
4021 · Interest/Dividend Income	2,691.10
4023 · Admin Fee BBT	-785.91
4025 · Interest Income from Loan GG	18,406.42
Total 402 · INTEREST INCOME	20,311.61
404 · OTHER BENEV. GIFTS	
4042 · Individual Contr.	2,315.00
Total 404 · OTHER BENEV. GIFTS	2,315.00
Total 4 · INCOME	92,344.15
Total Income	92,344.15
Gross Profit	92,344.15
Expense	
5 · EXPENSES	
51-1 · INTERIM DEM SALARY PACKAGE (SALARY PACKAGE FOR INTERIM DEM I...	
51-2 · Interim DEM Salary (Interim DEM Salary)	20,854.35
51-3 · Interim DEM Pension (Pension for Interim DEM)	2,053.20
51-4 · Interim DEM HOUSING	22,964.25
51-5 · Interim DEM Supplement Pension	2,937.90
Total 51-1 · INTERIM DEM SALARY PACKAGE (SALARY PACKAGE FOR INTERIM ...	48,809.70
53 · ADMIN. AST. SALARY PGK	
530 · Admin. Asst. Salary	23,064.59
531 · Admin. Asst. Pension	2,737.37
534 · Company S/S & Medi- Admin	1,764.44
Total 53 · ADMIN. AST. SALARY PGK	27,566.40
54 · DAILY OPERATIONS	
541 · INSURANCE	
5411 · Renters/Liability/vehicle Ins	1,652.00
5412 · Worker's Compensation Insurance	630.00
Total 541 · INSURANCE	2,282.00
542 · OFFICE EXPENSES	
5422 · Computer Services	1,034.00
5425 · Office/Warehouse Rent	2,921.10
5426 · Postage	120.16
5427 · Supplies/Copies	850.33
5428 · Telephone	469.10
5430 · Web Site (Internet)	243.65
5433 · Web Donation Fee / Pay Pal Exp (Fee charged by Pay Pal)	10.08
5434 · Bank Charges / Finance Charge	3.23
5435 · Background Checks	69.00
5436 · Confering/Zoom Meetings	141.23
6560 · Payroll Exp. Direct Deposit Fee (QB Fee for Direct Deposit)	129.24
Total 542 · OFFICE EXPENSES	5,991.12

Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren  
Statement of Financial Income and Expense  
January through July 2023

	Jan - Jul 23
543 · PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	
5431 · Accountant/Treasurer	4,229.19
5432 · Attorney	2,466.00
Total 543 · PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	6,695.19
544 · TRAVEL & CONFERENCES	
5441 · Travel, Meals, & Conference	313.00
54413 · Travel for Others (Travel & Mileage reimbursement for others.)	131.33
54414 · DEM Mileage	9,325.14
5443 · CODE Dues	945.00
Total 544 · TRAVEL & CONFERENCES	10,714.47
545 · OTHER EXPENSES	
5455 · Search Committee	162.75
545 · OTHER EXPENSES - Other	1,057.36
Total 545 · OTHER EXPENSES	1,220.11
Total 54 · DAILY OPERATIONS	26,902.89
Total 5 · EXPENSES	103,278.99
6 · MINISTRY TEAMS	
60 · CALLING & CREDENTIALING	
601 · Program	279.37
603 · Susquehanna Valley Ministry Ce	2,511.73
604 · TRIM/EFSM	1,500.10
Total 60 · CALLING & CREDENTIALING	4,291.20
64 · OUTREACH & SERVICES	
641 · Program	0.30
Total 64 · OUTREACH & SERVICES	0.30
65 · DISTRICT GENERAL	
651 · Leadership Team	737.75
654 · Standing Committee Delegates	2,340.33
671 · Annual Conference Assessment	5,299.80
Total 65 · DISTRICT GENERAL	8,377.88
69 · SPIRITUALITY & CONGREGATIONAL	
699 · NYC	500.00
Total 69 · SPIRITUALITY & CONGREGATIONAL	500.00
70 · COMMUNICATIONS TEAM	
710 · Program	910.00
Total 70 · COMMUNICATIONS TEAM	910.00
Total 6 · MINISTRY TEAMS	14,079.38
Total Expense	117,358.37
Net Ordinary Income	-25,014.22
Other Income/Expense	
Other Expense	
702 · TRANSFERS / INTERFUND EXPENSES (Interfund Expenses)	
4022 · Unrealized (Gain) /Loss Invest. (General Operating Account)	-13,576.80
Total 702 · TRANSFERS / INTERFUND EXPENSES (Interfund Expenses)	-13,576.80
Total Other Expense	-13,576.80
Net Other Income	13,576.80
Net Income	-11,437.42

District Congregational Outreach Report as of 7/31/23						
	Pledged	Pledged	Actual	Pledged	Actual Received	Giving Over Pledged
Congregation	2021	2022	2022	2023	2023	
Allensville						-
Arlington	3150		3,937.50	3,150.00	787.50	
Beaver Creek	4000		4,000.00	4,000.00	3,000.00	
Bethany	1000		1,000.00	1,000.00		
Broadfording	3000		3,000.00	3,000.00	1,500.00	
Brownsville			10,284.00	9,000.00	5,297.00	
Bush Creek	2000	2000	1,845.00	2,000.00		
Columbia United			500.00			
Comm. Of Joy					2,774.95	
Denton			2,500.00		2,500.00	
Downsville	450		450.00	495.00	750.00	
Dranesville			2,600.00		1,500.00	
Dundalk						
Easton	3500		3,500.00	3,500.00	2,000.00	
Edgewood			500.00			
Fairview	5700		5,700.00		5,700.00	
Fellowship			2,400.00		650.00	
First Baltimore			1,100.00		750.00	
Flower Hill						
Frederick			10,000.00			
Friendship						
Glade Valley	1014		1,230.00	1,230.00	1,230.00	
Greenhill		1750	1,750.00	1,750.00	1,750.00	
Grossnickle	6500		6,500.00		4,875.00	
Hagerstown	6000	5000	6,300.00	6,500.00	1,625.00	
Harmony			500.00			
Hollywood						
Johnsontown	1750	1575	1,575.00		1,575.00	
Locust Grove	2000					
Long Green Valley	1000		1,150.00	1,150.00	550.00	
Long Meadow	400		400.00			
Manassas			16,059.00		6,612.50	
Manor			1,000.00			
Meadow Branch	500		500.00	500.00		
Midland		2500	2,992.59		949.59	
Moler Avenue	1000		1,600.00			
Monocacy	100		100.00			
Mountain View			1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	
Myersville	2200		1,900.00	1,900.00	1,900.00	
Nokesville			2,000.00	2,000.00	1,000.00	
Oakton	5200		5,200.00	1,200.00	1,950.00	
Piney Creek	1200		1,200.00			
Pipe Creek						
Pleasant Ridge						
Pleasant View						
Reisterstown						
Ridgely			6,000.00		500.00	
Sam's Creek			500.00			
Sharpsburg			300.00		150.00	
Stone Bridge	300		150.00			
Thurmont	8243		1,000.00			
Union Bridge			11,750.00		5,875.00	
University Park			3,500.00			
Washington City			1,000.00			
Welsh Run			1,131.00			
Welty	1100		1,100.00		1,100.00	
Westminster			13,750.00		5,750.00	
Woodberry			1,000.00		1,000.00	
Woodbridge			4,938.00		2,616.00	
TOTALS	61,307.00	12,825.00	152,892.09	43,875.00	69,717.54	-

**The District Board of the Mid-Atlantic District  
of the Church of the Brethren  
Financial Statements and  
Supplementary Information  
Years Ended December 31, 2022 and 2021**

**The District Board of the Mid-Atlantic District  
of the Church of the Brethren  
Financial Statements and  
Supplementary Information  
  
Years Ended December 31, 2022 and 2021**

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# STURGILL & ASSOCIATES LLP

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

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## Independent Accountants' Review Report

### Leadership Team

The District Board of the Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren  
Westminster, Maryland

We have reviewed the accompanying financial statements of Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren (a nonprofit organization) which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2022 and 2021, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements. A review includes primarily applying analytical procedures to management's financial data and making inquiries of management. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

### Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement whether due to fraud or error.

### Accountants' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to conduct the review engagement in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services Committee of the AICPA. Those standards require us to perform procedures to obtain limited assurance as a basis for reporting whether we are aware of any material modifications that should be made to the financial statements for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We believe that the results of our procedures provide a reasonable basis for our conclusion.

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Members: American Institute of Certified Public Accountants • Private Companies Practice Sections

Hanover  
118 Carlisle St., Suite 204  
Hanover, PA 17331

1

Westminster  
20 Liberty Street, P.O. Box 546  
Westminster, MD 21158

### **Independent Accountants' Review Report – continued -**

We are required to be independent of Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements related to our review.

#### **Accountants' Conclusion**

Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

#### **Supplementary Information**

The accompanying supplementary information included in the Schedules of Revenues and Expenses by Funds is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the basic financial statements. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from, and relates directly to, the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The supplementary information has been subjected to the review procedures applied in our review of the basic financial statements. We are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the supplementary information. We have not audited the supplementary information and do not express an opinion on such information.

*Sturgill & Associates LLP*

Westminster, Maryland  
July 27, 2023



**The District Board of the Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren**  
**Statements of Financial Position**  
**December 31, 2022 and 2021**

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 204,689	\$ 278,103
Investments	366,372	418,034
Note receivable - GDCF	<u>798,706</u>	<u>823,229</u>
<b>Total assets</b>	<u>\$ 1,369,767</u>	<u>\$ 1,519,366</u>
<b>Liabilities and net assets</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Payroll liabilities payable	\$ 727	\$ 1,192
Deferred revenue	<u>-</u>	<u>150</u>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	727	1,342
<b>Net assets</b>		
Without donor restrictions	1,220,418	1,291,973
Without donor restrictions - board designated	<u>128,090</u>	<u>138,948</u>
Total without donor restrictions	1,348,508	1,430,921
With donor restrictions	<u>20,532</u>	<u>87,103</u>
<b>Total net assets</b>	<u>1,369,040</u>	<u>1,518,024</u>
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<u>\$ 1,369,767</u>	<u>\$ 1,519,366</u>

See accompanying notes and independent accountants' review report.

**The District Board of the Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren**  
**Statements of Activities**  
**Years Ended December 31, 2022 and 2021**

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<b>Net assets without donor restrictions</b>		
Support		
Congregational support	\$ 158,724	\$ 168,108
Investment income (net)	(15,661)	70,094
Revenue from activities	<u>10,204</u>	<u>10,135</u>
Total support	153,267	248,337
PPP contribution	-	27,250
Net assets released from restrictions		
Restrictions satisfied by payments	<u>175,858</u>	<u>62,336</u>
Total unrestricted support	329,125	337,923
Expenses		
Activity funds	203,841	96,894
Support services	<u>207,697</u>	<u>184,064</u>
Total expenses	<u>411,538</u>	<u>280,958</u>
Increase (decrease) in net assets without donor restrictions	(82,413)	56,965
<b>Net assets with donor restrictions</b>		
Contributions	109,287	91,977
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>(175,858)</u>	<u>(62,336)</u>
Increase (decrease) in net assets with donor restrictions	<u>(66,571)</u>	<u>29,641</u>
Increase (decrease) in net assets	(148,984)	86,606
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>1,518,024</u>	<u>1,431,418</u>
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 1,369,040</u>	<u>\$ 1,518,024</u>

See accompanying notes and independent accountants' review report.

**The District Board of the Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren**  
**Statements of Functional Expenses**  
**Years Ended December 31, 2022 and 2021**

	<b>2022</b>			<b>2021</b>		
	Activity Funds	Support Services	Total	Activity Funds	Support Services	Total
Administrative fees	\$ 3,321	\$ -	\$ 3,321	\$ 3,512	\$ -	\$ 3,512
Annual conference	7,672	-	7,672	7,500	-	7,500
Calling and credentialing	6,637	-	6,637	6,140	-	6,140
Church extension and evangelism	750	-	750	1,500	-	1,500
Conference expense	2,398	-	2,398	1,355	-	1,355
Depreciation	-	-	-	-	61	61
District general	-	6,025	6,025	-	6,167	6,167
Finance and property	-	4,400	4,400	-	4,000	4,000
Insurance	-	3,491	3,491	-	3,588	3,588
Office	237	8,959	9,196	39	8,115	8,154
Outreach and services	166,437	-	166,437	55,850	-	55,850
Printing	7,060	-	7,060	2,294	-	2,294
Professional services	-	7,250	7,250	-	7,251	7,251
Rent	4,168	5,008	9,176	1,629	5,007	6,636
Salaries and benefits	-	163,165	163,165	-	142,138	142,138
Scholarships	3,735	-	3,735	14,575	-	14,575
Senior high	900	-	900	-	-	-
Spirituality and fellowship	34	-	34	500	-	500
Supplies	359	-	359	-	-	-
Training	133	-	133	-	-	-
Travel	-	9,409	9,409	-	7,737	7,737
Total expenses	<u>\$ 203,841</u>	<u>\$ 207,697</u>	<u>\$ 411,538</u>	<u>\$ 96,894</u>	<u>\$ 184,064</u>	<u>\$ 280,958</u>

See accompanying notes and independent accountants' review report.

**The District Board of the Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren**  
**Statements of Cash Flows**  
**Years Ended December 31, 2022 and 2021**

	<u><b>2022</b></u>	<u><b>2021</b></u>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Increase (decrease) in net assets	\$ (148,984)	\$ 86,606
Adjustments to reconcile increase (decrease) in net assets to net cash used in operating activities		
Depreciation	-	62
Unrealized (gain) loss on investments	51,381	(12,334)
Increase (decrease) in payroll liabilities payable	(465)	425
Increase (decrease) in deferred revenue	<u>(150)</u>	<u>(501)</u>
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities</b>	<b>(98,218)</b>	<b>74,258</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Proceeds from note receivable	24,523	23,564
Proceeds from investment account	3,343	-
Funds reinvested	<u>(3,062)</u>	<u>(12,436)</u>
<b>Cash provided by investing activities</b>	<b><u>24,804</u></b>	<b><u>11,128</u></b>
<b>Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>(73,414)</b>	<b>85,386</b>
<b>Beginning cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b><u>278,103</u></b>	<b><u>192,717</u></b>
<b>Ending cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b><u>\$ 204,689</u></b>	<b><u>\$ 278,103</u></b>

See accompanying notes and independent accountants' review report.

**The District Board of the Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**December 31, 2022 and 2021**

**Note A. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

**Organization**

The Mid-Atlantic District of the Church of the Brethren (the Organization) operates as a religious corporation and serves its member churches within the District, currently totaling 59, spanning a geographical area including portions of Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. The affairs of the Mid-Atlantic District are managed by the District Leadership Team, and individual congregations are served by the District Executive who assists and gives oversight to pastors and congregations, and guidance related to pastoral placement, evaluations, etc., in accordance with denominational polity.

The Organization is exempt from income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code under the exemption granted to the General Board of the Church of the Brethren.

**Method of Accounting**

The Organization's financial statements are prepared using the accrual method of accounting and accordingly reflect all significant receivables, payables and other liabilities.

**Basis of Presentation**

The financial statements of The Mid-Atlantic District of the Church of the Brethren have been prepared in accordance with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles ("US GAAP"). In accordance with ASU 2016-14, The Mid-Atlantic District of the Church of the Brethren is required to report net assets according to the following:

**Net assets without donor restrictions:** Net assets that are not subject to donor-imposed restrictions and may be expended for any purpose in performing the primary objectives of the organization. These net assets may be used at the discretion of The Mid-Atlantic District of the Church of the Brethren's management and board of directors.

**Net assets with donor restrictions:** Net assets subject to stipulations imposed by donors, and grantors. Some donor restrictions are temporary in nature; those restrictions will be met by actions of The Mid-Atlantic District of the Church of the Brethren or by the passage of time. Other donor restrictions are perpetual in nature, where by the donor has stipulated the funds be maintained in perpetuity.

Donor restricted contributions are reported as increases in net assets with donor restrictions. When a restriction expires, net assets are reclassified from net assets with donor restrictions to net assets without donor restrictions in the statement of activities.

See independent accountants' review report.

**The District Board of the Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**December 31, 2022 and 2021**

**Note A. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies – continued**

**Use of Estimates**

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

**Fair Value of Financial Instruments**

The Organization has a number of financial instruments, none of which are held for trading purposes. The Organization estimates that the fair value of all financial instruments at December 31, 2022 and 2021 does not differ materially from the aggregate carrying values of its financial instruments recorded in the accompanying statement of financial position. The estimated fair value amounts have been determined by the Organization using available market information and appropriate valuation methodologies.

**Investments**

The Organization carries investments in marketable securities with readily determinable fair values and all investments in debt securities at their fair values in the Statement of Financial Position. Unrealized gains and losses are included in investment income in the accompanying Statement of Activities.

**Property and Equipment**

Acquisitions of property and equipment in excess of \$1,000 are capitalized. Computer equipment, which is deemed immaterial, is expensed. Property and equipment are carried at cost and depreciation is computed using primarily the straight-line method. Depreciation expense for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021 was \$-0- and \$62, respectively.

**Contributions**

Contributions received are recorded as net assets without donor restrictions or net assets with donor restrictions, depending on the existence and/or nature of any donor restrictions. Donations to Board Designated activities are recorded as net assets without donor restrictions.

A special event of the Organization that is restricted to raising funds for a specific purpose is reported as net assets with donor restrictions. When a restriction expires, the net asset with donor restriction is reclassified to net assets without donor restrictions and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions.

See independent accountants' review report.

**The District Board of the Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**December 31, 2022 and 2021**

**Note A. Organization and Summary of Significant Accounting Policies - continued**

**Contributed Services**

The Organization receives a substantial amount of services donated by its members in carrying out the Organization's ministry. No amounts have been reflected in the financial statements for those services since they do not meet the criteria for recognition.

**Cash and Cash Equivalents**

The Organization defines its cash and cash equivalents to include all monies in banks and highly liquid investments with original maturity dates of less than 3 months. The carrying value of cash and cash equivalents approximates fair value because of the short maturities of those financial instruments.

**Paycheck Protection Program**

The Organization received a PPP loan in 2021 established by the CARES Act and elected to account for the funding as a conditional contribution by applying ASC Topic 958-605, Revenue Recognition. Under this standard, revenue is recognized when conditions are met, which include meeting FTE and salary reduction requirements and incurring eligible expenditures.

**Note B. Availability and Liquidity**

The following represents the Organization's financial assets at December 31, 2022 and 2021:

Financial assets at year-end:	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 204,689	\$ 278,103
Notes receivable	798,706	823,229
Investments	366,372	418,034
Total financial assets	1,369,767	1,519,366
Less amounts not available to be used within one year:		
Long-term receivable	773,183	798,706
Net assets with board designations	127,371	138,948
Net assets with donor restrictions	20,532	87,103
	<u>921,086</u>	<u>1,024,757</u>
Financial assets available to meet general expenditures over the next twelve months	<u>\$ 448,681</u>	<u>\$ 494,609</u>

See independent accountants' review report.

**The District Board of the Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**December 31, 2022 and 2021**

**Note C. Notes Receivable**

In June 2018 the Organization sold the property known as Good Shepherd to Greater Grace Christian Fellowship, Inc. (GGCF) for the sum of \$1,000,000. The Organization received \$100,000 in cash and a \$900,000 note from GGCF. The note bears interest at 4% per year for the first five years, requiring monthly payments of \$4,750.53. After the fifth year GGCF may pay off the loan in full or part. If not paid in full, interest will be renegotiated every five years until paid in full. The balance as of December 31, 2022 and 2021 is \$798,706 and \$823,229, respectively.

**Note D. Property and Equipment**

Property and equipment at December 31, 2022 and 2021 consists of the following:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	\$ 13,909	\$ 13,909
Vehicle	<u>15,628</u>	<u>15,628</u>
	29,537	29,537
Less: accumulated depreciation	<u>(29,537)</u>	<u>(29,537)</u>
	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

**Note E. Investments**

The Organization's investments at December 31, 2022 and 2021 are as follows:

	<u>2022</u>		<u>2021</u>	
	<u>Face Value</u>	<u>Market Value</u>	<u>Face Value</u>	<u>Market Value</u>
Brethren Foundation:				
Balanced fund	\$ 125,142	\$ 236,296	\$ 125,731	\$ 288,011
Short term fund	20,635	25,470	20,484	25,575
Certificate of deposit	<u>104,606</u>	<u>104,606</u>	<u>104,448</u>	<u>104,448</u>
	<u>\$ 250,383</u>	<u>\$ 366,372</u>	<u>\$ 250,663</u>	<u>\$ 418,034</u>

See independent accountants' review report.



**The District Board of the Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**December 31, 2022 and 2021**

**Note E. Investments - continued**

The Organization applies Accounting Standards Codification (ASC) 820, Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures, which defines fair value, establishes a framework for measuring fair value, and requires certain disclosures about fair value measurements. That framework provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to observable inputs (level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (level 3 measurements). The three tiers of the fair value hierarchy under FASB ASC 820-10 are described as follows:

Level 1: Quoted prices for identical assets or liabilities in active markets.

Level 2: Significant other observable inputs other than Level 1 prices such as quoted prices for similar assets or liabilities; quoted prices in markets that are not active; or other inputs that are observable or can be corroborated by observable market data.

Level 3: Significant unobservable inputs that reflect a reporting entity's own assumptions that market participants would use in pricing an asset or liability.

The organization's investments are considered as Level 1 in the fair value hierarchy.

The following schedule summarizes the investment return and its classification in the Statements of Activities for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021.

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Interest and dividends	\$ 38,035	\$ 38,632
Investment fees	(2,315)	(2,499)
Unrealized gains (losses)	(51,381)	33,961
Total investment income-unrestricted	<u>\$ (15,661)</u>	<u>\$ 70,094</u>

**Note F. Commitments and Contingencies**

Effective June 1, 2016, the Organization entered into a seventeen-month lease agreement with the Westminster Church of the Brethren requiring monthly payments of \$350. Upon expiration of the initial term, the lease automatically renews each year unless either party gives written notice of intent not to renew. Total rent for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021 was \$4,200.

See independent accountants' review report.

**The District Board of the Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**December 31, 2022 and 2021**

**Note G. Restrictions on Net Assets**

Net assets available for the following purposes at December 31:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
<b>Without donor restrictions:</b>		
Annual meeting	\$ -	\$ -
Church extension fund	11,450	(3,119)
Continuing education scholarship fund	2,041	2,581
Disaster fund	43,947	45,755
District conference fund	1,424	8,317
District habitat fund	150	150
Don Rowe student development fund	72,920	89,427
Equipment and secretary fund	12,604	9,640
Good Shepherd fund	769,136	826,141
Greater Grace	125,889	97,386
Junior high conference	1,709	1,694
Ministerial training events	5,903	5,752
National youth conference	2,957	2,957
Operating reserve	294,908	334,943
Peace and justice fund	124	124
Senior high program	2,121	2,521
Special ministries	1,078	47
Staff sabbatical fund	-	6,458
Young adult program	147	147
	<u>\$ 1,348,508</u>	<u>\$ 1,430,921</u>
<b>With donor restrictions:</b>		
Auction fund	\$ 12,269	\$ 77,213
Meat canning	7,440	9,070
Pastor retreat	426	426
Salt & Light Ministry	100	100
Leadership team book	294	294
	<u>\$ 20,529</u>	<u>\$ 87,103</u>
<b>Release from restrictions:</b>		
Auction fund	\$ 159,027	\$ 42,773
Meat canning fund	16,831	19,563
	<u>\$ 175,858</u>	<u>\$ 62,336</u>

See independent accountants' review report.

**The District Board of the Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**December 31, 2022 and 2021**

**Note H. COVID-19 and Payroll Protection Program**

During the year ended December 31, 2021 the COVID-19 pandemic did impact operations especially in person activities and travel. The Organization was able to apply for, and received, the Payroll Protection Program (PPP) made available through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). The amounts received on March 19, 2021 was \$27,250. These funds were used to cover allowable expenses during the year ended December 31, 2021. The forgiveness application was filed and total forgiveness received for the loan. Therefore, the Organization elected to follow ASC Topic 958-605 (see Note A) to recognize the funds as a contribution in the years the expenses were incurred.

**Note I. Subsequent Events**

The Organization has evaluated subsequent events through July 27, 2023, the date which the financial statements were available to be issued.

See independent accountants' review report.

## **Supplementary Information**

**The District Board of the Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren**  
**Schedules of Revenues and Expenses by Funds**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2022**

	<u>Without Donor</u>	<u>W/O Donor Rest</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>With Donor</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Restrictions</u>	<u>Board Designated</u>	<u>W/O Donor Rest</u>	<u>Restrictions</u>	
<b>Revenues, gains, and other support</b>					
Congregational support	\$ 150,142	\$ -	\$ 150,142	\$ -	\$ 150,142
Benevolent gifts from individuals	8,405	-	8,405	-	8,405
Other income	177	-	177	-	177
Total congregational support	158,724	-	158,724	-	158,724
Investment income (net)	(15,661)	-	(15,661)	-	(15,661)
<b>Revenue from board designated activities</b>					
Church extension	-	317	317	-	317
Disaster fund	-	1,900	1,900	-	1,900
District conference	-	2,982	2,982	-	2,982
Equipment and secretary fund	-	3,200	3,200	-	3,200
Graceway fund	-	960	960	-	960
Junior high program	-	60	60	-	60
Ministerial training events	-	265	265	-	265
Senior high program	-	500	500	-	500
<b>Revenue from temporarily restricted activities</b>					
Auction	-	-	-	94,086	94,086
Meat canning	-	-	-	15,201	15,201
Total before release from restrictions	\$ 143,063	\$ 10,204	\$ 153,267	\$ 109,287	\$ 262,554
Release from restrictions	175,858	-	175,858	(175,858)	-
Total revenues, gains and other support	\$ 318,921	\$ 10,204	\$ 329,125	\$ (66,571)	\$ 262,554

See independent accountants' review report.

**The District Board of the Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren**  
**Schedules of Revenues and Expenses by Funds – continued**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2022**

	Without Donor Restrictions	W/O Donor Rest Board Designated	Total W/O Donor Rest	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Total revenues, gains, and other support	\$ 318,921	\$ 10,204	\$ 329,125	\$ (96,571)	\$ 262,554
<b>Expenses and losses</b>					
Calling and credentialing	6,637	-	6,637	-	6,637
Church extension and evangelism	250	-	250	-	250
District general	6,025	-	6,025	-	6,025
Finance and property	4,400	-	4,400	-	4,400
Spirituality and fellowship	34	-	34	-	34
Staff services and office operation	197,272	-	197,272	-	197,272
<b>Expenses for board designated activities</b>					
Annual conference	-	7,672	7,672	-	7,672
Cash flow/operating reserve	-	500	500	-	500
Continuing education scholarship	-	540	540	-	540
Disaster fund	-	3,708	3,708	-	3,708
District conference	-	2,203	2,203	-	2,203
Don Rowe endowment fund	-	3,195	3,195	-	3,195
Equipment and secretary fund	-	237	237	-	237
Graceway fund	-	960	960	-	960
Junior high program	-	45	45	-	45
Ministerial training events	-	133	133	-	133
Senior high program	-	900	900	-	900
Special ministries fund	-	969	969	-	969
<b>Expenses for donor restricted activities</b>					
Auction	159,027	-	159,027	-	159,027
Meal canning	16,831	-	16,831	-	16,831
Total expenses	390,476	21,062	411,538	-	411,538
Change in net assets from operations	(71,555)	(10,858)	(82,413)	(96,571)	(148,984)
Net assets at beginning of year	1,291,973	138,946	1,430,921	87,103	1,518,024
Net assets at end of year	\$ 1,220,418	\$ 128,090	\$ 1,348,508	\$ 20,532	\$ 1,369,040

See independent accountants' review report.

**The District Board of the Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren**  
**Schedules of Revenues and Expenses by Funds**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2021**

	Without Donor Restrictions	W/O Donor Rest Board Designated	Total W/O Donor Rest	With Donor Restrictions	Total
<b>Revenues, gains, and other support</b>					
Congregational support	\$ 162,904	\$ -	\$ 162,904	\$ -	\$ 162,904
Benevolent gifts from individuals	4,680	-	4,680	-	4,680
Other Income	524	-	524	-	524
PPP contribution	<u>27,250</u>	-	<u>27,250</u>	-	<u>27,250</u>
Total congregational support	195,358	-	195,358	-	195,358
Investment income (net)	70,094	-	70,094	-	70,094
<b>Revenue from board designated activities</b>					
Church extension	-	250	250	-	250
Disaster fund	-	2,175	2,175	-	2,175
District conference	-	2,170	2,170	-	2,170
Equipment and secretary fund	-	3,424	3,424	-	3,424
Graceway fund	-	900	900	-	900
National youth conference	-	500	500	-	500
Senior high program	-	216	216	-	216
Staff sabbatical fund	-	500	500	-	500
<b>Revenue from temporarily restricted activities</b>					
Auction	-	-	-	78,628	78,628
Meat canning	-	-	-	13,055	13,055
Leadership team books	-	-	-	294	294
Total before release from restrictions	\$ 265,452	\$ 10,135	\$ 275,587	\$ 91,977	\$ 367,564
Release from restrictions	<u>62,336</u>	-	<u>62,336</u>	<u>(62,336)</u>	-
Total revenues, gains and other support	\$ 327,788	\$ 10,135	\$ 337,923	\$ 29,641	\$ 387,564

See independent accountants' review report.

**The District Board of the Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren**  
**Schedules of Revenues and Expenses by Funds - continued**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2021**

	<u>Without Donor Restrictions</u>	<u>W/O Donor Rest Board Designated</u>	<u>Total W/O Donor Rest</u>	<u>With Donor Restrictions</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total revenues, gains, and other support	\$ 327,788	\$ 10,135	\$ 337,923	\$ 29,641	\$ 367,564
<b>Expenses and losses</b>					
Calling and credentialing	8,140	-	8,140	-	8,140
Church extension and evangelism	1,500	-	1,500	-	1,500
Depreciation	62	-	62	-	62
District general	6,167	-	6,167	-	6,167
Finance and property	4,000	-	4,000	-	4,000
Spirituality and fellowship	500	-	500	-	500
Staff services and office operation	173,835	-	173,835	-	173,835
<b>Expenses for board designated activities</b>					
Annual conference	-	2,500	2,500	-	2,500
Cash flow/operating reserve	-	5,000	5,000	-	5,000
Continuing education scholarship	-	900	900	-	900
Disaster fund	-	150	150	-	150
District conference	-	1,115	1,115	-	1,115
Don Rowe endowment fund	-	13,675	13,675	-	13,675
Peace and justice fund	-	90	90	-	90
Graceway fund	-	900	900	-	900
Special ministries fund	-	88	88	-	88
<b>Expenses for donor restricted activities</b>					
Auction	42,773	-	42,773	-	42,773
Meat canning	19,563	-	19,563	-	19,563
Total expenses	256,540	24,418	280,958	-	280,958
Change in net assets from operations	71,248	(14,283)	56,965	29,641	86,606
Net assets at beginning of year	1,220,725	153,231	1,373,956	57,462	1,431,418
Net assets at end of year	\$ 1,291,973	\$ 138,948	\$ 1,430,921	\$ 87,103	\$ 1,518,024

See independent accountants' review report.



## **RELATED AGENCY REPORTS**



# Church of the Brethren

Dear Friends and Family of Faith in the Mid-Atlantic District,

Greetings in the name of Christ! My thoughts and prayers are with you, as you plan and prepare for your District Conference. I hope it will be a time of earnest conscientiousness and responsibility related to carrying out the denomination's mission, and a time of praise and celebration for the ways your congregations are putting Christ's love into action. May we feel God's presence among us.

I'm looking forward to our 237<sup>th</sup> recorded Church of the Brethren Annual Conference, scheduled for July 3–7, 2024, in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Annual Conference is a special time in the life of our denomination. Yes, it is an occasion to facilitate the business of the church through the various business sessions, study committees, agency reports, and queries. But it is also a time for Brethren from all walks of life to celebrate our unique place and ministry in – and as – the Body of Christ. From inspirational worship services to quality leadership development, open dialogue to rejuvenating fellowship, Annual Conference invites us to welcome, encourage, and engage with one another as a community of faith.

In her book, *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again*, author Rachel Held Evans wrote that Christianity can't be an individual endeavor. Following Christ is a group activity – and one that, simultaneously, has been messy and incarnate since the beginning. Because, as Held Evans writes, "the church is not a group of people who believe all the same things; the church is a group of people caught up in the same story, with Jesus at the center."

As Brethren, we know this to be true. Since our founding more than 300 years ago, we've been a faith family that has chosen another way of living: the way of Christ. We are a people called to live and experience our faith together – in community – in service to and with God, each other, and our neighbors. Each of us brings our own unique perspectives and experiences to this community. And it is through our willingness to share our faith journeys with one another that we can experience and see God's vision for us more fully and, therefore, be transformed together by God's Spirit.

So, I invite you to join me and our denominational community in Grand Rapids next summer. Let's gather together knowing each of us is welcome and worthy – integral parts of the Body of Christ, answering God's call to build authentic relationships and community with ourselves, each other, and those around us.

In grace and peace,  
Madalyn Metzger  
2024 Annual Conference Moderator



## Church of the Brethren

May 2023

*Though the Brethren as a group have existed for nearly three hundred years, we subscribe to no formal creed. We simply try to do what Jesus did. Jesus brought a message of life, love, and hope. But he offered much more than inspiring words: He understood that people's spiritual needs also include day-to-day human ones – food, health, rest, comfort, friendship, and unconditional acceptance. "I am the way," he told his followers. He showed them how to trust, how to care, and how to help. Steadily, lovingly, even radically, Jesus went about saving the world – by serving its people. Because we believe his message, we seek to do the same.*

– Church of the Brethren Identity Pamphlet

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Greetings to you in the name of Christ our Savior!

It is an honor and privilege to write to you on behalf of the staff, volunteers, and Mission and Ministry Board of the Church of the Brethren. We are praying for you, your congregations, and your district as you gather to worship, sing praises, pray, fellowship, and accomplish the tasks set before you by your District Moderator.

I am grateful for the many ways your district and local congregations faithfully strive to live out the Gospel – to simply try to do what Jesus did. The vital ministries of our Church of the Brethren congregations small to large are at the heart of our Church. We should never diminish the essential role that each unique part of the body plays in our common ministry together.

As we know all too well, there are a number of loud voices on either side of the issues we face inside and outside the church that are demanding our attention and have dominated much of our time these past number of years. My efforts at intentional listening are to hear the voice of the Church – listening for God's voice arising not from the loudest few, but from the gathered community. As I listen, there is no doubt that some of you clearly resonate with the dominant voices, yet the prevailing voice is one of hope – hope in one Body in Christ continuing our ministry and work together.

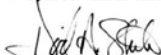
We have not been doing "together" very well as a Church. I am aware that many are weary of the struggle, yet as disciples of Jesus we are called to another way of living – a way that is not always easy and requires struggle. I would invite you to join me in our continued struggle to follow Jesus. It is my hope that we might change our adversarial posture to one of serving one another – one in which we stoop to wash the feet of our brother or sister in Christ. I believe such a change in posture positions us to listen more intently to one another – thus better able to love and care for the other. I believe that such a posture of service would be transformational for our Church and our neighborhoods.

*Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.*

1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, Illinois 60120 847-742-5100 800-323-8039 Fax: 847-742-6103

My friends, I do hope you can see that our work together is worthwhile. We are doing good ministries together locally in our congregations and districts and denominationally. Our efforts at offering the cup of cold water model to the world that we are about another way of living – the way of Jesus. May we not forget that through our simple acts of service, we too are working to save the world – in Jesus' name.

Your servant in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Steele", written in a cursive style.

David Steele  
General Secretary



## Church of the Brethren

March 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The earthquake in Turkey and Syria, war and violence from Ukraine to Africa, and a US school shooting are some of the things that have challenged BDM to respond creatively and prayerfully to deep hardships and loss in 2022 and the beginning of 2023. Whether responding to a natural disaster, violence, or other crisis, BDM staff and volunteers journeyed with survivors and families toward recovery and hope, often transforming lives, in places like Waverly, Tenn.; Uvalde, Texas; Dawson Springs, Ky.; and North Fort Meyers, Fla.

Encouragement for this ministry is found throughout the sacred scripture, such as Galatians 6:9a, 10a: "Let us not lose heart in doing good, . . . while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people". It is also found in our partners such as Pamlico County (N.C.) Disaster Recovery Coalition, which shared: "[Not] only have you (BDM) helped to repair hurricane damaged homes, but you have also helped to restore and mend broken hearts. The light you have shown, and the relationships you have built with survivors and their families, will long have an impact on them and their generations."

Children's Disaster Services (CDS) volunteers responded this past year with deep compassion to the school shooting in Uvalde (Texas), floods, wildfires, and hurricanes. In Uvalde, specially trained volunteers (Critical Response Childcare teams) supported children and families of the 19 children killed by a lone shooter. These volunteers had 385 contacts with children as they helped them process the trauma and build resiliency in the face of this tragedy.

After Hurricane Ian made landfall in late September 2022, causing catastrophic damage along southwest Florida, CDS volunteers were initially housed by rebuilding volunteers with homes in the area. CDS teams served for six weeks in Florida shelters, with over 400 child contacts. During 2022, a total of 86 CDS volunteers served 1,065 children on eight responses. CDS also held three volunteer training workshops resulting in 40 newly trained volunteers, bringing the total CDS volunteer base to 576 by year's end.

In March 2022, the BDM rebuilding program network of volunteers finished four years of repairing and rebuilding homes in the Carolinas following Hurricanes Matthew (2016) and Florence (2018). The program transitioned to Waverly, Tenn., for the remainder of the year, in response to devastating August 2021 flooding, when over 17 inches of rain fell in 24 hours. In October, a three week short-term response supported new home construction in Dawson Springs, Ky., where tornadoes destroyed around 650 homes in December 2021. Volunteer leadership on the projects was provided by 47 disaster project leaders from across the country who served to welcome and support 572 volunteers. The rebuilding program site moved to Dawson Springs, Ky., in January 2023 to continue the tornado recovery with local partners.

A local hybrid response to the October 2021 tidal flooding in Maryland's Somerset and Dorchester counties was led by members of the Mid-Atlantic District, with support from BDM staff, vehicles, and equipment. In 2022, two homes were repaired by 35 volunteers through a grant award from

*Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.*

Brethren Disaster Ministries, 601 Main Street, P.O. Box 188, New Windsor, Maryland 21776-0188  
410-635-8731 800-451-4407 Fax: 410-635-8739

Lowes Home Improvement and the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (NVOAD). This funding included \$30,000 in Lowes Gift Cards to purchase construction materials for the homes and \$4,200 to support volunteer housing and meals. This work will be completed in 2023.

In early February 2023, the world watched the rescue of survivors of the Turkey-Syria earthquake that has taken more than 50,000 lives. BDM responded quickly with Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) grants to partners working in both countries. The quake adds to the list of global catastrophes, including the Russian invasion of Ukraine in early 2022, resulting in a war that has displaced more than 12 million Ukrainians and, reportedly, caused nearly 7,000 Ukrainian deaths by the end of 2022. BDM responded to this crisis with EDF grants (totaling \$215,000 in 2022) in collaboration with five key partners. Additional grants are expected early in 2023.

The BDM global response includes dual programs in Haiti that continue the 2021 earthquake response, with \$166,969 in funds, while also addressing the acute overlapping crisis caused by the total collapse of the Haitian government. With severe hunger on the rise, a special program is helping to provide food to vulnerable families in the communities around the Haitian Brethren churches through a \$39,000 grant. Smaller EDF grants supported global Churches of the Brethren in Uganda (\$27,500) and Venezuela (\$10,000) with flood recovery programs, as well as the South Sudan Mission (\$11,000).

The Nigeria Crisis Response, a continued response to terrorism since 2014, provided support to four camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs), food distributions, medical assistance, livelihood training centers for widows and orphans, seeds and fertilizer, new wells for drinking water, and home repairs for the most vulnerable. Additional EDF grants included support for vulnerable Syrian refugees and Lebanese in Lebanon, continued hurricane and flood recovery in Honduras, and support for programming of the Rwandan Church of the Brethren.

The total BDM programmatic expenses in 2022 were \$1,676,048. This includes the expenses from EDF allocations that support specific programs such as \$274,393 for U.S. responses (Rebuilding, CDS, etc.); \$190,076 for the Nigeria Crisis Response; \$281,469 for other Global CoB partners; and \$364,909 for all other global responses.

This ministry is only possible because the whole church is working together. Individual members and supporters, volunteers, churches, districts, and the auctions are part of the body of Christ coming together to pray, serve, give hope, and help families heal. Through all this we pray that more people come to God and know God's amazing love.

Thank you for your support and encouragement. You are an integral part of the body bearing witness to God's love for all who are lost and need Christ.



Roy Winter, Executive Director for Service Ministries

*On behalf of BDM staff:*

*Jenn Dorsch-Messler, Sharon Franzén, Kim Gingerich, and Michael Scalzi*

*Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.*

Brethren Disaster Ministries, 601 Main Street, P.O. Box 188, New Windsor, Maryland 21776-0188  
410-635-8731 800-451-4407 Fax: 410-635-8739



## ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023 BRETHREN VOLUNTEER SERVICE

*CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF BVS!*

### BVS BY THE NUMBERS

Volunteers  
currently serving:

**27**

*(18 in the US, 3 in  
Europe, 1 in Latin  
America, 4 in  
Asia, 1 in Africa)*

Currently active  
BVS project sites:

**About 50**

Number of US  
states home to  
BVS project sites:

**16 (plus D.C.)**

Current BVS  
monthly stipend:

**\$250**

Total volunteers  
serving in BVS  
since 1948:

**7,000+**

### A diamond jubilee of service around the world

In 1948, young adults encouraged by Brethren leader Dan West brought a surprise motion to the floor of Annual Conference that left an indelible mark on the denomination.

While service had long been part of the Church of the Brethren, delegates embraced that proposal to formally start Brethren Volunteer Service, enabling young Brethren and others to respond energetically to the devastation of World War II in Europe, to hunger in Puerto Rico, and to a variety of needs around the US.

Seventy-five years later, BVS continues to be one of the great touchstones of Brethren faith: a source of leadership development, faith formation, relationship building, identity, mutual service, and more.



The anniversary is being celebrated with a new book from author Jim Lehman, *A Year of Living Differently*, published by Brethren Press, as well as special commemorations at Annual Conference, National Older Adult Conference, and elsewhere, plus some local and regional celebrations. A 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary Facebook group drew about 500 members who shared stories, and photos, while a monthly e-newsletter delivered other highlights.

We are grateful to everyone who has been part of that story, one that is still being written around the world.

### BVS welcomes a new director

Chelsea Goss Skillen began as the new director of BVS in October 2022.

Emily Tyler resigned in February 2022 after three years in the position, and former director Dan McFadden provided interim leadership for eight months.

Originally from the Richmond, Va., area, Chelsea did an undergraduate degree at Bridgewater (Va.) College and has a master's in Organizational Leadership from Regis University. She spent two years as a BVSer previously.



### NEWS & NOTES

Other new staff welcomed this past year included Marissa Witkovsky-Eldred as interim coordinator of short-term service; Walt Wiltschek as part-time office coordinator; and Virginia Rendler, who is starting as interim volunteer coordinator in July 2023. Pauline Liu completed her service as volunteer coordinator in February.



## Mid-year retreats

Each year, current BVSers in the US gather for a mid-year retreat to take a break, talk about their experiences, reconnect with one another, and prepare for the remainder of their service time. In March 2023, a group of 20 volunteers (including two German volunteers serving with other placement organizations) met at Camp Ithiel in Gotha, Fla., for several days together that included discussion, a service project, games and relaxation, and a trip to the beach.

Volunteers serving in Europe planned to gather in late June in Galway, Ireland for a similar retreat. BVS marked 50 years of working in Northern Ireland in 2022.

Explore the BVS  
Facebook group  
and e-news!



## UPCOMING ORIENTATIONS

BVS will be welcoming new volunteers at two orientation units in the summer and fall of 2023. The summer unit will take place **Aug. 1-9 at Inspiration Hills Camp in Burbank, Ohio**, while the fall unit will be held **Sept. 26-Oct. 4 at Camp Koinonia in Cle Elum, Wash.** About 25-30 volunteers are expected again this year. A strong partnership with EIRENE in Germany continues to benefit BVS' overall recruitment.

## Faith X: Another way of serving



Short-term service opportunities through FaithX (formerly the workcamp program) in 2023 included 11 total trips with about 170 youth and advisors participating. Experiences were available in nine states plus Washington, D.C., and Spain.

FaithX introduced a new pricing model this year based on participants' ability to pay, with subsidized, standard, and supporter (extra donation) options available. The 2023 FaithX theme was "Voices for Peace," drawn from Romans 15:1-6.

## PARTNERS IN SERVICE

This year's BVS Partners in Service Award was given to Jim Lehman, a member of Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren in Elgin, Ill., who has been a long-time supporter of BVS.



Most recently, Jim curated and wrote the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary book, *A Year of Living Differently*. Jim has also written other BVS publications in the past and has connected with many volunteers over the years, chronicling BVS' history.

The award is presented each summer at the BVS luncheon held during Annual Conference.

Brethren Volunteer Service • 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120 • [brethrenvolunteerservice.org](http://brethrenvolunteerservice.org) • 847-429-4395



Dear followers of Christ,

**What does God need from the Church of the Brethren now (and are we prepared to give it)? What does it mean for us to be a “peace church” in today’s world?**

Founded in 1974, On Earth Peace is an agency of the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference which seeks to embolden the Church of the Brethren as a historic and living peace church. Our name comes from the angel’s song at Jesus’ birth, “On Earth Peace and Good Will to All,” and we work to lift that song in today’s world.



Historically, our Brethren identity as a peace church was defined in part by our relationship to war: *Following Christ, we were against war*. Even as time passed and many Brethren didn’t agree with pacifism, the Church’s identity as a force for peace and against war remained vital. What is the core of our peace commitment today? What are we against, and what are we for—in God’s name?

**In a church and world that is very polarized, what does it mean to you to be a follower of the Prince of Peace?** In some ways, the war we were against has come home, and the sorely-needed peace (and justice) is more complicated than our ancestors in the faith may have known. Some parts are still the same—the all-surpassing love of Christ as a foundation of that peace—and yet the world in which we proclaim God’s love has changed, and so must our engagement with it.

**On Earth Peace believes the Church of the Brethren has been called for such a time as this.** We as Brethren are a relational, warm, discipleship-centered community. We help put hands and feet to God’s call to love all people. On Earth Peace seeks to help the Church of the Brethren become what it can be, “for the glory of God and our neighbor’s good.”

**Here are three OEP initiatives we believe can help the Church of the Brethren become what’s needed in today’s world.**

- **1000 Brethren Kingian Nonviolence Training.** We are seeking to train a new generation of Christian leaders in nonviolence, to focus our “peace” and aid in our community ministries.
- **Standing with People of Color Study/Action Process.** Together with the Southern Ohio/Kentucky District, OEP is leading a two-year denomination-wide study/action process focused around key conversations we’re asking the church to have.
- **Church of the Brethren Gun Violence Prevention Organizing Team.** A hearty band of Brethren from across the country has come together to galvanize all Brethren to stand and act together on the scourge of gun violence in the US.

Please consider whether your family can support this ministry financially. We hope your congregation will include our ministry as part of your outreach giving in your 2024 budget.

Write to us at [OEP@OnEarthPeace.org](mailto:OEP@OnEarthPeace.org) and share how God is moving you towards peace or justice in these times. Visit [www.OnEarthPeace.org](http://www.OnEarthPeace.org) to learn about our work and find upcoming events.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Guynn".

Matt Guynn  
For OEP’s executive team, with Darlene Johnson and Marie Benner-Rhoades

P.O. Box 188, New Windsor Maryland 21776-0188 • Phone: 410-635-8704 • <https://OnEarthPeace.org> • [OEP@OnEarthPeace.org](mailto:OEP@OnEarthPeace.org)



# Eder Financial

BOLD. BALANCED. TRUSTED.

## Eder Financial District Conference Report 2023

Greetings to the moderator, delegates, and members, as you gather for your District Conference!

Did you know Eder Financial can make a positive impact on your life, directly or indirectly, whether you qualify to use our services or not?

That's because we serve congregations and their staff so they can better perform their ministries for their members.

Eder provides a fantastic retirement plan and employee-based insurances for pastors, congregational, district, and camp employees. We can also manage special funds, like ministry funds, memorial funds, cemetery funds, and building funds for congregations and other church-related organizations.

We also provide several free workshops that help congregations learn how to grow their endowments, encourage people to include the congregation in their end-of-life financial decision-making, how to run the church as a business with good governance, and more. Ask the Eder representative attending your conference how we can bring a workshop to your congregation.

Can we serve you and your congregation if we aren't already? Give us a chance. You'll be glad you did. Ask us if your congregation, district, and camp are using our services. We welcome the conversation.

Eder Financial is now in its second year with its new name, having changed from Church of the Brethren Benefit Trust in May 2022. The transition has been well received in the denomination because of our core business model –

- We seek to serve congregations and organizations as partners, making choices and decisions surrounding participation in a retirement plan as easy as possible. It is important that we make it easy for all who can enroll to enroll, as many Americans are on track to have insufficient savings in retirement. We work to help ensure that our members are not faced with that problem, by helping them enroll early in their careers, saving to the plan consistently, and using an asset allocation model to help grow their funds. Not sure how to do that? We can help.
- We provide a concierge service model with our insurance products, answering questions and addressing all concerns proactively and satisfactorily. Our ancillary insurances of life, vision, dental, short- and long-term disability have held premium rate increases virtually flat over the past five years, which means eligible employees can protect themselves with various insurances while not suffering high premium rate increases year after year.
- Part-time employees can participate in both the Eder Retirement and Insurance plans. Ask us if you or someone you know qualifies.
- We manage funds of organizations in a manner that allows easy access, several tools for managing investments, and reports and resources that assist in the management of the funds. We would be glad to set up a demonstration for you and your organization of our fantastic customer web portal.
- And we provide education to give people information and to help them know what questions they should be asking so that they can be successful, whether helping to grow their congregations' financial base or to manage their own retirement plan or insurance offerings.

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1505 Dundee Ave. • Elgin, IL 60120-1619 • [ederfinancial.org](http://ederfinancial.org) • 847-695-0200 • 800-746-1505 toll-free • 847-742-0135 fax



# Eder Financial

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We also help tenured pastors and congregational, district, and camp staff who have extraordinary financial needs, if they meet certain guidelines. In 2022 the Church Workers' Assistance Plan that Eder manages granted \$250,000 to about 40 people who found themselves in financial distress with nowhere else to turn.

Most of the funds under our management conform to Eder Values Investing, which means you can utilize our services and know that your resources are being managed in accordance with the values in the Church of the Brethren tradition.

## **Serving others who have common bonds and convictions**

Committed to serving as a Church of the Brethren Annual Conference agency, Eder is moving to include other people and organizations of faith that profess a like-mindedness with Eder Financial's values as an organization grounded in Christian faith. Program strength, product options, and lower costs come from a strong volume of business. Therefore, Eder will grow stronger in the long term by offering its ministries to others who seek competitive products backed by concierge service. If you know of a congregation, not-for-profit, or other faith-based organization that would benefit from Eder's services, please let us know.

## **EDER FINANCIAL BOARD and staff**

The 12-person Eder Financial Board consists of people who have knowledge and experience in accounting, finance, investments, law, employee benefits, human resources, actuarial science, or represent pastors, district executives, and organizations that are Brethren or have common bonds and convictions. If you or someone you know would like to serve on the Eder Financial Board, let us know. We are always looking for people who are dedicated to service, want to do meaningful volunteer work, and are committed to being an active member of a board.

We also have 27 people on our staff, working in retirement, employee insurance, organizational investing, finance, investments, client relations, marketing, public relations, IT, data, special projects, and business development. We are a family friendly, faith-based organization that strives to provide concierge level service to our members and clients while also providing a fulfilling work environment in a permanent work-from-home setting. If you or someone you know is interested in an Eder Financial job, let us know.

## **CONCLUSION**

Despite the expansion of its charter to bring in other members and clients of like mind from beyond the Church of the Brethren, Eder Financial remains committed to the denomination. Our organization was created by the Annual Conference to serve pastors, employees, churches, and organizations. That commitment to service has not wavered. We are here to help our members and clients achieve their financial goals. As we adopt new taglines, new goals, new language to articulate our vision, bridging our past with our future, one of our more recent BBT taglines melds quite nicely with Eder's future vision of walking alongside those we serve. "Building financial security. Bettering the world. Together." If you and/or your congregation have not walked with us in the past, let us do so in the future. In other words, those who have not given Eder Financial a look for a few years, or ever, should do so. Together, Eder will help you reach your financial goals which will help strengthen your ministry to the church.

**Donna Rhodes**  
Board Chair

**Nevin Dulabaum**  
President

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**Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center  
Report to the 2023 Mid-Atlantic District Conference**

*"I planted. Apollos watered. God made it grow."  
1 Cor. 3:6 CEB*

**Planting Seeds for Ministry** is our theme for 2023 as we emphasize naming the gifts for ministry and encourage calling. The Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center provides Brethren ministry education opportunities to students who, for a variety of reasons, would not otherwise be able to answer God's call. Our students come from a variety of life stages and occupations, seeking to utilize and further develop their gifts for ministry. Respecting our diversity, SVMC is grounded in Brethren tradition and committed to growing leaders rooted in Christ.

SVMC fulfills its mission and ministry via the strong partnership including the districts of Atlantic Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Middle PA, Southern PA, and Western PA, in addition to Bethany Theological Seminary and Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership. Our courses and events include certificate-level training in ACTS, TRIM, and a wide array of Continuing Education opportunities.

SVMC's staff leads the program to fulfill its mission: Donna Rhodes, Executive Director; Karen Hodges, Program Coordinator; and Ray Flagg, Treasurer.

**SHIFT IN THE PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN SVMC AND BETHANY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

SVMC began 30 years ago (originally named Susquehanna Valley Satellite) as a delivery system for graduate courses in our geographic area. SVMC hosted Bethany Seminary graduate courses, and Bethany faculty traveled to Pennsylvania to lead the courses. As technology advanced, we realized a shift in enrollment numbers and students choosing virtual options for graduate courses. Steve Schweitzer and Donna Rhodes discussed this shift and arrived at this agreement:

*Beginning in January 2023, the relationship between Bethany and SVMC shifted its focus. Whereas SVMC has hosted graduate courses for Bethany in the past, with changing technology needs, offering more graduate courses via synchronous video, and demographic shifts in Bethany's student body, the new arrangement between Bethany and SVMC will emphasize Continuing Education Events, with content provided by Bethany faculty.*

**ACADEMIC YEAR 2022-23**

In the academic year of 2022-23, SVMC served thirty-seven students through twelve courses. Enrollment totaled seventy-four registrations. We will recognize students at their respective district conference for successfully completing their ACTS training.

**ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-24**

By the time district conference occurs, we will be into the 2023-24 schedule of courses and continuing education events. We have thirteen courses planned for ACTS and TRIM.

**CONTINUING EDUCATION EVENTS**

Excellent continuing education events are also planned. Our traditional day-long events include: 1) Choose Life: Deuteronomy's Message for Today, and 2) Walter Brueggemann's Prophetic Imagination: Reviewed Recovered, Restored. Our **Nurturing Ministry Skills** program focuses on skills for both clergy and laity and sessions are offered via Zoom. Planned for Autumn is a series on Priesthood of all Believers led by Denise Kettering-Lane.

Watch for advertisements or visit [www.etown.edu/SVMC](http://www.etown.edu/SVMC) to register.

(SVMC District Conference Report Continued)

### **Mid-Atlantic District and SVMC Partnership:**

Mid-Atlantic District had two ACTS students receive training through SVMC in the academic year 2022-23.

SVMC relies upon a close collaboration with our five partner districts, Bethany Theological Seminary, and the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership. We are especially thankful for the service of people from our five participating districts, and those who represent our collaborative relationship with Bethany Theological Seminary. They provide key leadership to guide and support our ministry. With appreciation, we thank the following persons from Mid-Atlantic District who serve faithfully on the SVMC Governing Board: Joe Detrick as Interim District Executive Team member, Rolland Kiracofe, and Nancy McCrickard. Mid-Atlantic students have joined other districts' courses via Zoom.

We are deeply grateful for our supporters' gifts, whether through financial gifts, prayer support, or the sharing of time and talents.

With appreciation, we thank the following contributors from Mid-Atlantic District who offered a monetary gift to SVMC July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023:

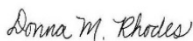
#### **Individuals:**

Ruth Aukerman  
Albert and Charlotte Bear  
Lester and Esther Boleyn  
Miller and Connie Burk Davis  
Rolland Kiracofe  
Glenn and Nancy McCrickard  
William Zepp

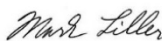
#### **Congregations:**

Easton  
Glade Valley  
Long Green Valley  
Manor  
Nokesville  
Westminster

SVMC continues to be a rich resource for the leadership of our congregations. We encourage you to think of people in your congregation who demonstrate gifts for ministry or who would like to learn more as a layperson. Pray for them and encourage those people to be in contact with SVMC to explore the opportunities available to them. Your connection to them may be the affirmation of their call that they need to hear. SVMC is thankful for our solid foundation and partnership with districts, congregations, and students.



Donna M. Rhodes  
Executive Director



Mark Liller  
Governing Board Chair

**SVMC - Revenues / Expenses through December 2022**  
(100.0% of Budget Year)

REVENUES	Current	YTD-2022	Budget-2022	YTD-2021	Difference YTD 2022 vs 2021	Percent of Budget
4010 Atlantic Northeast District	1,250.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	15,000.00	0.00	100.0%
4020 Southern Pa District	0.00	13,720.00	15,000.00	13,500.00	220.00	91.5%
4021 Mid-Pa District	0.00	8,500.00	8,500.00	8,500.00	0.00	100.0%
4022 Mid-Atlantic	1,250.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	100.0%
4023 Western PA District	0.00	9,000.00	9,000.00	9,000.00	0.00	100.0%
4030 Individuals	9,846.00	29,941.00	20,000.00	50,331.00	(20,390.00)	149.7%
4040 Congregations	4,805.50	28,227.08	25,000.00	37,861.19	(9,634.10)	112.9%
4050 Organizations/Trusts/Foundations	27,700.00	27,700.15	20,000.00	54.74	27,705.41	138.8%
4110 Seminary Students	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	3,325.00	(3,325.00)	0.0%
4120 Academy Students	1,840.00	18,970.00	20,400.00	18,460.00	510.00	93.0%
4125 TRIM Student Tuition	309.00	3,018.00	3,000.00	300.00	2,718.00	100.6%
4130 Continuing Ed Tuition/Fees	10.00	5,318.00	12,600.00	2,340.00	2,978.00	42.2%
4130.1 NMS Income	0.00	951.00	0.00	0.00	951.00	0.0%
4130.2 NMS Transfer	0.00	(270.93)	0.00	0.00	(270.93)	0.0%
4250 Interest	1.76	22.57	0.00	23.26	(0.69)	0.1%
4300 <i>Transfer from Reserve [1]</i>	6,770.00	6,770.00	38,000.00	6.00	6,776.00	17.8%
4500 Misc Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	20.29	(20.29)	0.0%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>53,382.26</b>	<b>169,626.88</b>	<b>191,000.00</b>	<b>161,725.19</b>	<b>7,901.69</b>	<b>88.8%</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
5010 BTS Faculty	0.00	36.07	100.00	0.00	36.07	36.1%
5022 Academy Faculty/Expenses	1,400.00	9,150.00	12,150.00	11,880.00	(2,730.00)	75.3%
5024 TRIM Honorarium	0.00	1,000.00	1,600.00	0.00	1,900.00	118.8%
5025 Continuing Ed Faculty/Expense	0.00	4,686.58	8,600.00	1,205.80	3,350.78	53.1%
5025.1 NMS Expense	0.00	380.07	0.00	0.00	380.07	0.0%
5035 Executive Director	5,326.74	63,920.88	63,921.00	61,434.00	2,486.88	100.0%
5050 Program Administrator	3,316.42	39,797.04	39,797.00	36,638.08	1,158.96	100.0%
5060 Receptionist/File Clerk	0.00	0.00	750.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
5110 Employer's FICA/Medicare	253.70	3,302.51	3,618.00	3,213.97	89.54	91.3%
5115 Unemployment Tax	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
5120 Prog. Coordinator BBT Ins	30.58	396.72	350.00	356.44	10.28	104.8%
5121 Executive Director BBT Ins	53.08	936.96	575.00	562.20	44.76	110.8%
5122 Prog Coordinator Supplement	0.00	0.00	6,550.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
5123 Executive Director Supplement	433.34	3,470.08	1,700.00	2,288.88	1,181.20	204.1%
5130 Executive Director Retirement	891.23	8,294.73	7,671.00	7,747.95	546.78	108.1%
5131 Program Coordinator Retirement	265.30	3,183.63	3,724.00	3,105.48	78.14	85.5%
5132 QSEHRA Reimbursement	365.36	5,450.00	5,450.00	4,542.75	907.25	100.0%
5140 W Comp/Liability Ins	4,016.00	4,016.00	4,700.00	7,300.00	(2,991.00)	65.5%
5150 Professional Growth: Exec Dir	0.00	225.00	1,000.00	1,013.00	(783.00)	22.0%
5151 Professional Growth: Prog Coord.	72.29	72.29	100.00	76.54	(4.26)	72.3%
5515 ACTS Travel Expenses	63.77	1,243.75	2,400.00	789.75	454.00	51.8%
5525 TRIM Travel Expenses	0.00	19.00	500.00	0.00	19.00	3.8%
5530 SVMC Staff Travel	243.35	1,500.04	2,500.00	376.32	1,123.72	60.0%
5540 SVMC Staff Annual Conf.	0.00	484.14	1,700.00	118.00	346.14	27.3%
6010 Accounting/Auditing	360.00	4,380.00	5,050.00	3,935.00	545.00	86.7%
6020 Equipment/Machines	0.00	735.91	1,500.00	614.79	1,211.12	49.1%
6050 Hospitality	432.00	508.86	1,000.00	268.32	300.54	58.9%
6055 Development/Promotion	360.49	1,086.81	2,500.00	2,267.38	(1,201.76)	43.4%
6060 Legal	0.00	96.85	500.00	70.00	26.85	19.4%
6070 Photocopies	0.00	2.16	400.00	0.00	2.16	0.5%
6080 Postage	178.66	850.74	1,000.00	845.18	(184.44)	65.1%
6090 Rent	820.00	5,330.00	5,000.00	4,920.00	410.00	106.0%
6100 Supplies	0.00	897.38	800.00	960.94	(163.56)	85.9%
6110 Telephone/Fax	115.00	1,315.00	1,800.00	1,525.28	(210.28)	73.1%
6120 Technology Tools	969.88	2,362.72	1,200.00	405.99	1,956.73	164.9%
6250 Miscellaneous	0.00	172.78	150.00	607.25	(434.47)	115.2%
6265 Bank/Credit Card Fees	17.49	205.13	100.00	64.39	140.74	205.1%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>19,776.66</b>	<b>169,617.94</b>	<b>190,956.00</b>	<b>160,742.78</b>	<b>8,874.86</b>	<b>88.9%</b>
<b>Income over Expenses</b>	<b>33,605.60</b>	<b>9.94</b>	<b>44.00</b>	<b>982.41</b>		

[1] Due to the year-end deficit of Revenues over Expenses (\$6,760.76), a transfer was made from prior year's surpluses of \$6,670.00.



**July 2023**  
**Report to the 2023 Mid-Atlantic Conference**

Dear Friends in the Mid-Atlantic District,

As ever, Bridgewater College remains committed to furthering the values of community we share with you—goodness, truth, beauty and harmony—and to empowering our students to lead lives of purpose and consequence.

This summer we have begun a multi-year renovation of Bowman Hall, one of our central academic buildings. Home to seven undergraduate programs and three graduate programs, nearly every student at Bridgewater takes at least one class in Bowman. Every classroom, office space and teaching lab will be transformed into modern flexible spaces that facilitate collaborative work and engaged learning, while furthering the deep connections among Bridgewater faculty and students.

The College announced a new undergraduate major in engineering in response to student interest, which will allow students to graduate with career-ready skills necessary for the fields of mechanical engineering, automation engineering and mechatronics. We also launched a varsity esports program, with competition to begin this fall.

The Bridgewater Academic and Social Experience (BASE) program, which provides an extra layer of personalized assistance for students with autism spectrum disorder and others who may benefit from the support, completed its first year. Bridgewater has always emphasized developing and caring for the whole person, and this holistic program exemplifies that care.

Retiring College Chaplain the Rev. Dr. Robbie Miller '79 delivered our commencement address on April 29. We will greatly miss Robbie's humble dedication and the spirit of service he exhibited throughout his 33-year career at the College. Our commitment to the care and well-being of Bridgewater students and to fostering spiritual life on campus has not changed with Robbie's retirement. We have retained the campus Chaplain as a full-time position in Student Life, and I am pleased to share with you we have hired the Rev. Erin Burt as our next Chaplain. Erin joined the College on Wednesday, July 5, and we are confident her years of experience and education will serve her well in providing faith exploration and spiritual development experiences for our students.

In 2022-23, 74 congregations and church groups contributed \$34,974 to the College. The 41 Church of the Brethren students enrolled in 2022-23 received \$88,750 in Church of the Brethren scholarships and more than \$1.3 million in College-funded financial aid. Seventeen Mid-Atlantic District congregations donated \$7,388, and six of our students came from the Mid-Atlantic District, receiving College-funded aid of more than \$210,000. Your support enables us to move forward, as we strengthen our academic programs, revitalize campus and celebrate our connections and accomplishments along the way.

David W. Bushman, Ph.D.

With best regards,

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## Be **BOLD**

**[S]** ince 1905, Bethany Theological Seminary has followed the example of Jesus by preparing others for lives of ministry and service. Our innovative learning community is grounded in an Anabaptist and Radical Pietist witness. We provide students with exceptional opportunities for advanced biblical and theological study that values both faith formation and academic freedom. We empower students to answer their calls from God and to lead through spiritual engagement, faith-filled thought, and transformative practice.

### BE BOLD AT BETHANY

With the support of a \$1M grant from the Lilly Endowment, Bethany Theological Seminary is launching Bethany BOLD, a new initiative that will prepare students to lead congregations as they respond to diversity and division. (BOLD stands for Build, Organize, Love, and Dare.) The rigorous and demanding program will challenge Bethany's best and brightest students to apply their faith and education to address real-world problems, including poverty and racial injustice. Students selected for Bethany BOLD will be required to engage in service in the Wayne County community, participate in educational activities (like lectures and training sessions) outside the seminary, and participate in purposeful reflection about their experiences in the program. Participants in Bethany BOLD receive full-tuition scholarships, free housing, and a monthly living stipend.

### OUR OFFICE IN JOS

Thanks to the generosity of alumni and friends, we are building a new office for our staff members in Nigeria.

This new space is adjacent to the Technology Centre in Jos, where Nigerian students attend classes in the Certificate in Biblical Peacemaking program. The newly constructed space will help staff better serve current and future students.

### NEW FACULTY

Two new professors joined the Bethany faculty last fall.

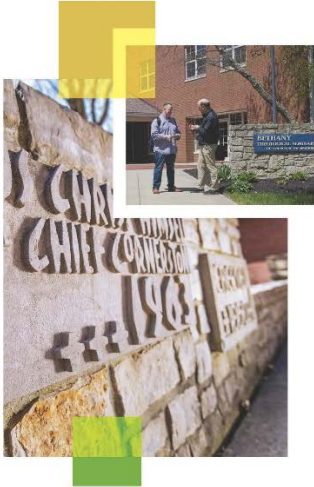
Dr. Margaret "Maggie" Elwell is assistant professor of peace studies and director of Bethany BOLD. Elwell earned both her MDiv and PhD from Princeton Seminary. She previously directed the Center for Theology, Women, and Gender at Princeton Seminary, taught at the University of Maryland, and was a middle school teacher in Baltimore City Schools.

Dr. Tamisha Tyler is visiting assistant professor of theology and culture and theopoetics. She joins Bethany as a Louisville Institute Post-Doctoral Fellow. Tyler earned her doctorate at Fuller Seminary. Her scholarly and teaching interests include the novels of Octavia Butler and Afrofuturism.



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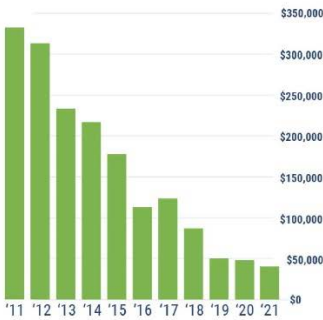


# There's a Place for You at Bethany!

**B**ethany Theological Seminary is committed to helping all qualified students to answer their call from God and receive an exceptional education without taking on additional educational or consumer debt. As many seminaries have struggled with enrollment, our vibrant community has grown — and we have room for more students, both studying from a distance or joining our on-campus community and living in our “Neighborhood” of houses a few steps from campus.

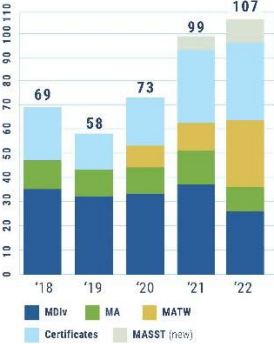
In recent years the Seminary has dramatically reduced total student borrowing, even as enrollment has grown. Students in our Bethany BOLD program, for example, receive reduced tuition, free housing, living stipends, opportunities for meaningful community engagement, and a course in Conscious Financial Living. Our goal is to help students earn Bethany degrees without taking on additional student or consumer debt.

TOTAL AMOUNT BORROWED BY ALL STUDENTS, PER YEAR



5-YEAR ENROLLMENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Historical Headcount



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**OUR MISSION:** As an innovative learning community, grounded in an Anabaptist and Radical Pietist witness, Bethany Theological Seminary empowers every student to lead through spiritual engagement, faith-filled thought, and transformative practice — so that the world flourishes.



“When I was considering graduate school programs, I didn’t want to put additional financial burdens on my parents. I have lived in community for most of my life, so that was an attractive aspect of the Neighborhood as well. Bethany has been a wonderful choice for me.”

/SUSUYU LASSA, MASST 2022



“Generous scholarships and free housing made it possible for my wife (Hope Staton, MDiv 2023) and I to give our undivided attention to our studies. We have been able to immerse ourselves in this community and take on leadership roles in chapel and other Seminary activities. Living here helped us to see how we can adapt to new situations, which we know will be great preparation for our careers in ministry and service — no matter where life takes us.”

/CLARKE STATON, MA AND MASST STUDENT



“I follow each student’s financial journey closely to ensure that they have the resources needed to make smart financial choices now and in the future.”

/TERRI MITCHELL, FINANCIAL AID AND ENROLLMENT ASSISTANT



“At Bethany, we believe that financial concerns should not be an obstacle to students answering a call from God to ministry and service. Providing an education that is exceptional, accessible, and affordable is our core mission.”

/REV. DR. JEFF CARTER, PRESIDENT

## Making Seminary Affordable

### 85 PERCENT TUITION DISCOUNT

Thanks to the generous support of alumni and friends, and the careful investment of our resources, Bethany is very affordable.

### GENEROUS FINANCIAL AID

Most students pay only the base tuition of \$1,100 per semester, qualifying for enough financial aid to cover the remaining costs.

### TYPES OF AID AVAILABLE

Academic Excellence Scholarship  
Church Covenant Grant  
Bethany BOLD  
Need-based grant  
Federal Work-Study  
Federal Stafford Loans  
International student aid



An exceptional biblical and theological education,  
**accessible and affordable for all.**

## Bethany At-a-Glance



### DEGREE PROGRAMS

- Master of Divinity
- Master of Arts
- Master of Arts: Theopoetics and Writing
- Master of Arts in Spiritual and Social Transformation



### CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

- Certificate of Achievement in Theological Studies
- Certificate of Achievement in Biblical Peacemaking
- Certificate in Intercultural Biblical Interpretation
- Certificate in Just Peace and Conflict Resolution
- Certificate in Theopoetics and Theological Imagination



### BETHANY ACADEMY FOR MINISTERIAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

- Education for a Shared Ministry
- Training in Ministry
- Educación para un Ministerio Compartido
- Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispano-de la Iglesia de los Hermanos
- Learn more at [bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy](https://bethanyseminary.edu/brethren-academy)

Bethany's impact is possible because of the generosity of our friends.

**Make a gift today at [bethanyseminary.edu/donate](https://bethanyseminary.edu/donate)**

### BETHANY QUICK FACTS

- **711** licensed or ordained pastors in the Church of the Brethren are graduates of Bethany Theological Seminary.
- **10 of 24** Church of the Brethren District Executives are Bethany graduates.
- This year, **six** Nigerian students graduated with graduate certificates. President Jeff Carter and Mark Lancaster, assistant to the president for international programs, traveled to Nigeria in May and met with church leaders, staff, and Bethany students and alumni.
- In May, we awarded **14** master's degrees and **12** graduate certificates.
- This year, **114** students were enrolled at Bethany, pursuing master's degrees or certificates.
- The Bethany BOLD program has created new partnerships between the Seminary and local non-profit organizations
- Total financial support from Congregations and Alumni during calendar year **2022** totaled **\$383,833.06**.



The written and pictorial Annual Report is posted on the  
Church of the Brethren website at  
<https://www.brethren.org/about/annualreport/>