

MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT
EVENTS

January 2024
(and beyond)



Engaging the Query

The Mid-Atlantic District received a query from the Arlington congregation that was distributed at the 2023 Mid-Atlantic District Conference and will be included in the business for the 2024 District Conference. A “query” is a congregation’s way of asking a question to the broader denomination. Should the 2024 District Conference pass the query, it would be received by Standing Committee as a possible item of business for the 2025 Annual Conference. Standing Committee reviews and recommends action for all such received business prior to Annual Conference.

THE QUERY repeats Standing Committee’s assertion that LGBTQ+ people experience discrimination even in Brethren contexts, including “violence, bullying, and a general sense of dismissal.” It wonders if changes to denominational statements would help minimize risks of future harm.

AS A DISTRICT, we are seeking to engage and understand the query prior to discerning and voting on it at District Conference in October of 2024. Regional and online engagement sessions will be held to provide information, answer questions, and share in meaningful dialogue.

You’re Invited!

| | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| Oakton CoB Nov. 11, 2023 10:00-11:30am | Westminster CoB Jan. 20, 2024 10:00-11:30am | Denton CoB Jan. 20, 2024 3:00-4:30pm | Brownsville CoB Feb. 3, 2024 10:00-11:30am | Online via Zoom Feb. 20, 2024 7:00-8:30pm |
|---|--|---|---|--|

At these sessions, we will **not be deciding** whether to advance the Query to Annual Conference; that vote will take place at the 2024 Mid-Atlantic District Conference. Rather, we hope to find a **better understanding** of the Query and the motivations behind it. Participants are invited to engage the query, tuning away an “us-versus-them” model. We hope all participants can **share, listen, seek to understand, and learn** from the convictions of others.

“Therefore... be it resolved: that we commit ourselves to forbearance which recognizes and respects differences of opinion and differing degrees of spiritual insight. We will show deference in disputable matters (Romans 14:1) while practicing prayerful study and conversation in core beliefs.” – Excerpted from the 2008 Church of the Brethren Resolution: Urging Forbearance

The Query: What You Should Know

The full Query is being shared with each congregation in the District, along with an accompanying letter from the Arlington Church of the Brethren. Digital copies may also be requested from the District office. **You are encouraged to read both the Query and the accompanying letter in-full.** Below are some highlights from the Query and the letter.

What the Query does not ask:

- The Query **does not** seek to provide clear answers on where the Church of the Brethren stands on human sexuality.
- The Query **does not** ask congregations or individuals to change current practices or deeply-held convictions.
- The Query **does not** seek an open and affirming stance for the denomination.

What the Query does ask:

- The Query **does** seek to respect the spiritual integrity and credentialing of both LGBTQ+ affirming ministers and congregations, as well as ministers and congregations who understand such affirmations as inconsistent with their deeply held convictions.
- The Query **does** ask congregations to continue living in fellowship with other congregations even when beliefs and practices differ among us, finding a path forward for all to live peacefully as members of the Church of the Brethren.
- The Query **does** ask us to prayerfully consider how we might encourage pastoral approaches that reduce the risks of harm toward LGBTQ+ siblings in faith.

Some reasons for the Query, according to Arlington:

- The church has largely failed to honor positive encouragements in the 1983 paper on Human Sexuality, such as calls to reduce the discrimination of and advocate for the legal rights of LGBTQ+ people.
- Several suggestions and language used have become out-of-date in the 40+ years since its passing.
- Brethren believe that theological unity cannot be created by human forces; “conformity is humanity’s pattern.” (*Statement on Biblical Authority, 1979*)
- Brethren have always believed in ‘no force in religion’ and have valued the prayerful discernment of the local community in matters of faith and practice.
- Standing Committee led Annual Conference in a time of silent confession in 2023, stating that expressions of theological differences too often cause pain toward one another and specifically toward our LGBTQ+ siblings.
- The time of confession was named as a “first step.” Arlington wonders: What’s the next step?

Feb. 11
3-6pm



REUNION at Camp Mardela

Meet other past and current BVS volunteers

Share your stories

Have a potluck together, bring food to share

301 Deep Shore Road, Denton, MD

<https://www.campmardela.org/event-details/bvs-reunion>

It is almost time for FaithX registration to open for our 2024 service

What are FaithX service trips?

FaithX trips are short-term service experiences that challenge us to be more aware of ourselves, our communities, and our world. Through FaithX trips, participants grow in Christian discipleship, formed by the command to love God and neighbor, and inspired by Christ's example of humbly serving others. We hope that by serving, we will deepen our faith and grow our compassion as global citizens and children of God.

Who can attend a FaithX service trip?

FaithX trips provide opportunities for all ages to serve! Traditional junior and senior high youth trips are happening during summer, but we also have a few brand new trip options! In February, FaithX is hosting a service trip for older adults (55+) at Camp Ithiel in Florida – registration is open now for this trip! During summer, a family trip with childcare provided will allow attendees of any age to experience service together. Additionally, our summer schedule includes adult trips in the US with Brethren Disaster Ministries and in Ecuador, a We Are Able trip for persons with intellectual disabilities, options for combined junior and senior high youth groups to attend together, and the opportunity to create a custom trip that works for your unique group's needs!

When does FaithX registration open?

Registration for summer FaithX trips will open on January 10, 2024 at 7:00pm eastern time. Registration for the winter older adult trip is open now and will close on February 1, 2024. Go to www.brethren.org/faithx to register!

How do I get more information about FaithX service trips?

Visit www.brethren.org/faithx to view the 2024 FaithX schedule and learn more about FaithX service trips. If you did not receive a 2024 FaithX brochure in the mail, reach out to the FaithX Office to have one sent to you. The FaithX Office can be contacted at faithx@brethren.org or 847-429-4337.

Marissa Witkovsky-Eldred (she/her/hers)

Brethren Volunteer Service | **Coordinator of Short Term Service**

mwitkovsky-eldred@brethren.org

Office: (847) 429-4337 or (800) 323-8039 x337 | Cell: (814) 505-5431

Church of the Brethren

1451 Dundee Avenue

Elgin, IL 60120



Who Is My Neighbor?

Luke 10:25-29

February 23-25, 2024
Bridgewater College

ROUNDTABLE

Regional Youth Conference

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO PROVIDE MEALS

The Mid-Atlantic District will be partnering with some of the SO PA District congregations who are willing to prepare a meal for approximately 30 people for lunch with a light snack.

Please contact your district office if your congregation is willing to provide a meal or funds.

The Meat Canning Committee is very grateful to the congregations that provide the meals and funds.

Disclaimer: All info is as of the date of publication; times, needs, restrictions, etc. may change between now and April. Please volunteer and know that we will contact you with updates if necessary. Thanks!

HOTELS IN CAM AREA

Econolodge

2031 N Reading Rd,
Denver 717-336-7000

Comfort Inn

1 Denver Rd, Denver
717-336-7541

Hampton Inn & Suites

380 E Main St., Ephrata
717-733-0661

2024 Meat Canning Committee

Mid-Atlantic District

19 Bond St, Westminster, MD 21157 443-960-3052

aamad@brethren.org

Lou Gloyd

Steve Horr

Billy Horton

Brenda Thomasson

Kim McDowell, *Interim DEM Team*

Jo Ann Landon, *Staff*

Southern PA District

3375 Carlisle Road Suite A, Gardners, PA 17324

717-778-2254

Kim Geisewite

Ralph Miller

Clarence Stouffer

Roger Turner

Cindy Barclay,

SOPA District Witness Commission Chair

Georgia R. Markey, *Interim DEM*

gmarkey@brethren.org

Directions to Christian Aid Ministries

2412 Division Highway, Ephrata, PA

717-354-2434

From Lancaster: Go north on Rt. 222 to Rt. 322. Go approximately 4 miles east on Rt. 322 to Christian Aid Ministries. Facility is on the left.



From York: Take Rt. 30 east to Rt. 222 North, then follow the above directions.

Meat Canning Project



4 Days

April 1 - 4

Processed at:
Christian Aid Ministries

Sponsored by:
Southern PA &
Mid-Atlantic Districts COB

"I was hungry and
you gave me food"

Matthew 25:35



This quote from Jesus' story about the last judgment is a reminder that we render service to God even as we respond to human need. The spirit of generous sharing, and the hunger that exists in many parts of the world come together in our Meat Canning project.

For the **46th** year, the Mid-Atlantic and SO PA Districts are co-sponsoring a Meat Canning project which previously has enjoyed a generous response and enthusiastic support. The project is scheduled for April 1 - 4, 2024 at the Christian Aid Ministries facility.

The 2024 Meat Canning goal is to can approximately 17,000 pounds of chicken in 4 days of processing.



Starting funds are good, but we need to raise money if we intend to meet our goal. Excess money is held for next year's event. Expenses include the cost of the chicken, use of CAM's facility, labels, boxes, miscellaneous supplies, as well as shipping costs, when applicable. Congregations are encouraged to take offerings during January, February, March and April for this ministry of sharing and to forward these funds to their respective District Office.

The Meat Canning Project is a great way for us to minister to those in need during these difficult economic and disaster ridden times.

As in the past, a portion of the meat from this project will be provided to both Districts to be shared with local food banks and meal programs. The Meat Canning Committee has decided to wait until Spring 2024 to determine how a donation of meat or funds will be made to denominational ministries.

In order for the committee to provide adequate help for each shift, it is important that you inform your District Office ASAP when you will be available to volunteer.

Mid-Atlantic District call 443-960-3052

Southern PA District call 717-778-2254

Shift assignments will be made by the District Offices on a first-come-basis. Once you have pledged volunteers,

YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR FINDING REPLACEMENTS

if you are unable to fulfill your commitment.

No shows create schedule problems and an increase in inspector fees.



Daily Work Schedule & Responsibilities

Shift #1 - 7:15 a.m. to NOON

Assist in starting the day's process, participate in the cutting, canning and labeling. (15 volunteers needed)

Shift #2 - 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Participate in the total process of the program. (15 volunteers needed)

CAM Requirements

First and foremost it is the desire of CAM to honor and glorify God. We appreciate all the people that are volunteering their time and effort at the Ephrata warehouse. We kindly request that the following guidelines be respected.

- Parents should share with CAM the responsibility for the safety of their youth.
- Proper use and respect for equipment and reasonable care for the building.

Girls/women must wear a dress or skirt at the knee. No low cut tops. Skirts are provided if you wear pants, it can be worn over your pants.

Men/boys must wear long pants and shirts with sleeves. No shorts or Tank Tops!

Note: Room temperature is 55 degrees, dress accordingly.

- NO SMOKING or TOBACCO use.
- NO CHEWING GUM.
- NO use of foul language.

Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren
2024 Disaster Response Auction Booklet



Dear Pastors, Disaster Coordinators, Witness Chairs and Donors.

We deeply appreciate and thank you for your past support of the Mid-Atlantic Disaster Response Auction Booklet.

If you have not advertised in the booklet previously we invite you to consider doing so this year.

The 43rd Annual Mid-Atlantic Disaster Response Auction will be held Saturday, May 4, 2024, starting at 9:00 am at the Carroll County Agricultural Center in Westminster, Maryland. Your support will enable us to provide even more assistance to more disaster victims this year.

In 2023, \$85,000 was given to the Emergency Disaster Fund of the Church of the Brethren to help victims recover from many disasters all around our world.

During 2023 the Emergency Disaster Fund supported these efforts and more:

- BDM – Nigeria Crisis Response
- Turkey/Syria Earthquake Response
- Hurricane Fiona Response – D.R.
- Russia/Ukraine War Response
- Kentucky 2021 Tornado Response
- Tijuana, Mexico (Bittersweet Ministries) Hurricane Hilary Home Rebuilding
- Haiti Earthquake recovery
- South Sudan Violence and Flooding Recovery
- Child Life Disaster Relief (CLDR) Local Team Capacity Building
- Rwanda Church of the Brethren – feeding vulnerable children
- Eglise des Freres au Congo (Church of the Brethren in the Congo) - Relief for Families Displaced due to Violence & Emergency Flood Relief
- PAG Hurricanes Eta and Iota Response in Honduras
- Washington City Church of the Brethren Asylum Seeker Support
- Eastern Ky Rebuilding – 2022 Summer Flooding Response

Your local church is an important part of this effort!

- You can help by placing an ad in the booklet. We are once again offering the ad sizes below in black and white or color. The ad can include a photograph or artwork. Ad sizes and prices are as follows:
 - Full page...\$160 black/\$200 color
 - Half page...\$85 black/\$105 color
 - Third Page...\$60 black/\$75 color
 - Eighth Page...\$25 black/\$35 color
 - Patron Listing...\$10, \$25, \$35, or more
 - Donations of any amount
- Encourage your members to place business, personal or patron ads and print announcements about the auction in your newsletter and bulletin.
- Please print the enclosed bulletin insert and put it in your bulletin by Sunday, January 14, 2024.
- You can also help by posting the flyer included that is requesting special sale items.

Here are more ways you can help make the auction a success.

- Create craft items
- Donate baked goods
- Donate plants, shrubs and trees
- Assemble gift baskets
- Hold a fundraiser to support the auction
- Donate high quality items to publish in the booklet
- Volunteer to help
- Publicize and attend the Auction!

Please return your advertising space reservation form by Friday, February 9, 2024!

Please call booklet designer Debbie Noffsinger at 847-714-4482 or email auctionbooklet@comcast.net if you have questions.

Thank you for your continued support of our Disaster Response Auction!

Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren
2024 Disaster Response Auction

The 43rd Annual Disaster Response Auction will be held on May 4, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. at the Carroll County Agricultural Center in Westminster, Maryland.



Photo by Jerrn Dorsch-Messler

In 2023, \$85,000 was given to the Emergency Disaster Fund of the Church of the Brethren to help victims recover from many disasters all around our world.

During 2023 the Emergency Disaster Fund supported these efforts:

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- Washington City Church of the Brethren Asylum Seeker Support
- Eastern Ky Rebuilding – 2022 Summer Flooding Response

Thank you for your support of our Disaster Response Program!

On the back of this page are many ways you can help make the Auction a success.



Put May 4th on your calendar!

Come to the auction and invite your friends ...together we can make a difference to many people near or far recovering from disasters.

You can support Disaster Response in various ways:

- Prayer
- Donate as a Patron, Supporter or Sustainer for as little as \$10 and get your name printed with your church in the Auction booklet.
- Purchase church, business, or personal ad space in the Auction booklet Full page (\$160 black/\$200 color), Half Page (\$85 black/\$105 color), Third Page (\$60 black/\$75 color) and Eighth Page (\$25 black/\$35 color). Check with your church office for info.
- Make quilts, comforters and wall hangings or other handcrafts to sell.
- Donate special items such as high quality woodwork, paintings and artwork. Antiques, furniture and collectibles also are a valuable donation.
- Encourage your church group or children's Sunday School class to collect items to make special gift baskets, school bags full of new books, etc. to auction off. Get creative!
- Contribute a gift certificate from your business for the auction.
- Donate quality auction items (value of \$10 or more) such as craft items, food, baked goods, flower and vegetable plants, trees and shrubs for booth sales.
- Groups and individuals can sponsor special events such as plays, dinners, and musical presentations to raise and provide monetary gifts to the auction.
- Volunteer to help at the Auction.

– Decide now how you can help!

If you have special items of high value to donate, email a photo to auctionbooklet@comcast.net by February 9th to have your item published in the booklet. Then inform your Disaster Coordinator or call Jeff at 443-547-5958.

If you have regular items to donate inform your church's Disaster Coordinator or call Jeff at 443-547-5958.

To place an ad or to donate as a patron in the booklet see your pastor, your Disaster Coordinator or call Debbie at 847-714-4482.

These commitments are due February 9, 2024.

Please post this on a bulletin board in your church. Thank you!

Special Item Donation

Mid-Atlantic Disaster Response Auction

**Do you have a special item of high value
that you would be willing to donate to the
Disaster Response Auction on May 4, 2024?**

Such as...



Valuable Crafts



Antiques



Gift Baskets



Artwork



Destinations



Fine Woodworking

**Please call Jeff McKee at 443-547-5958 or
email a photo with description to auctionbooklet@comcast.net**

A photo and description needs to be received by February 9th to be published in the booklet!

Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren

2024 Disaster Response Auction Booklet

Advertising Space Reservations

Form and check must be **RECEIVED** no later than
Friday, February 9, 2024!

Ad for: _____

Ad type: Congregation Church Group Business

Contact Person _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Please check one:

- Full Pg BLACK: \$160 Half Pg BLACK: \$85 Third Pg BLACK: \$60 Eighth Pg BLACK: \$25
- Full Pg COLOR: \$200 Half Pg COLOR: \$105 Third Pg COLOR: \$75 Eighth Pg COLOR: \$35

Please check one:

- Use ad from previous publication
- Modify past ad (indicate changes in space below)
- I will email a print ready pdf file to: auctionbooklet@comcast.net
- Prepare an ad using the information enclosed or written below

I have enclosed \$ _____ for the cost of the ad. Check # _____.

| |
|---|
| Full Page 6 3/8" x 9 1/2" \$160 black \$200 color |
|---|

| |
|--|
| Half Page 6 3/8" x 4 1/2" \$85 black \$105 color |
|--|

| |
|--|
| Third Page 6 3/8" x 3" \$60 black \$75 color |
|--|

| |
|---|
| Eighth Page 3" x 2 1/8" \$25 black \$35 color |
|---|

Please print the information you would like included in your ad. Attach with a paper clip any high quality artwork and/or logos to be used in ad. Do not fold camera ready artwork.

Please send me _____ books to have available for my customers or congregation.

Please make your check out to:
Mid-Atlantic Disaster Response Auction

Send your check with this form to:
Mid-Atlantic Disaster Response Auction
1154 Delta Ct. Elgin, IL 60123

Questions call or email:
847-714-4482 auctionbooklet@comcast.net

Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren
2024 Disaster Response Auction Booklet
Patron Ad Sign Up Sheet

Make checks payable to your local congregation...give your contribution to the contact person named below.

Church name: _____

Contact person: _____ Phone: _____

Your name(s) as you want to appear in the booklet.

Can be individual, couple or family. **Please, use no more than 30 letters and spaces per listing.**

Print name(s) clearly as you want them in the booklet

Please circle the amount you wish to give.

| | Patron | Supporter | Sustainer | Sustainer Plus* | Check # | Cash |
|-----------|--------|-----------|-----------|--------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| 1) _____ | \$10 | \$25 | \$35 | \$50 or more _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2) _____ | \$10 | \$25 | \$35 | \$50 or more _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3) _____ | \$10 | \$25 | \$35 | \$50 or more _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4) _____ | \$10 | \$25 | \$35 | \$50 or more _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5) _____ | \$10 | \$25 | \$35 | \$50 or more _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6) _____ | \$10 | \$25 | \$35 | \$50 or more _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7) _____ | \$10 | \$25 | \$35 | \$50 or more _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8) _____ | \$10 | \$25 | \$35 | \$50 or more _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9) _____ | \$10 | \$25 | \$35 | \$50 or more _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 10) _____ | \$10 | \$25 | \$35 | \$50 or more _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11) _____ | \$10 | \$25 | \$35 | \$50 or more _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12) _____ | \$10 | \$25 | \$35 | \$50 or more _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13) _____ | \$10 | \$25 | \$35 | \$50 or more _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 14) _____ | \$10 | \$25 | \$35 | \$50 or more _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 15) _____ | \$10 | \$25 | \$35 | \$50 or more _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 16) _____ | \$10 | \$25 | \$35 | \$50 or more _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 17) _____ | \$10 | \$25 | \$35 | \$50 or more _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 18) _____ | \$10 | \$25 | \$35 | \$50 or more _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 19) _____ | \$10 | \$25 | \$35 | \$50 or more _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 20) _____ | \$10 | \$25 | \$35 | \$50 or more _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 21) _____ | \$10 | \$25 | \$35 | \$50 or more _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 22) _____ | \$10 | \$25 | \$35 | \$50 or more _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 23) _____ | \$10 | \$25 | \$35 | \$50 or more _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 24) _____ | \$10 | \$25 | \$35 | \$50 or more _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Total \$ _____ Check # _____

**Any donation over \$100 will be listed in a Special Contribution section.*

Contact Person: Please send one check from your church made out to: Mid-Atlantic Disaster Auction.

Send check with this form to: Mid-Atlantic Disaster Response Auction, 1154 Delta Ct., Elgin, IL 60123.

*******This form is due by Feb. 9, 2024 to be included in the booklet!*******

Questions: auctionbooklet@comcast.net or 847-714-4482