



# **CENTERED ON CHRIST**

58<sup>th</sup> Annual Mid-Atlantic  
**District Conference**

October 10 & 11, 2025

Union Bridge Church of the Brethren  
124 S. Main St., Union Bridge, MD 21791





# CENTERED ON CHRIST

Logo design by Jess Mosholder

Based on Colossians 1:16-19

**16** for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. **17** He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. **18** He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. **19** For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,

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## Friday Evening, October 10

- Pastor & Spouse Dinner 5:30 PM
- *Brethren History Trivia Game*  
7:00 PM

Ice Cream provided by Eder Financial

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## **ATTENTION PLEASE**

There may 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 a 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.*

## **2025 MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**

Saturday, October 11, 2025

Union Bridge Church of the Brethren

\*Times are approximate\*

8:00 am	Continental Breakfast	Fellowship Hall
	Registration	Entrance Lobby
	Exhibits – until 3:00 pm	Fellowship Hall
8:50 am	Gathering / Singing	Sanctuary
9:00 am	Seating of Head Table and Greeting	
	Seating of Delegates	
9:10 am	Sermon, Scott Linton	
9:25 am	Feet Washing	Sanctuary
9:45 am	Business Session 1:	
	Call to Order / Roll Call	
	Presentation of Slate	
	Slate Approval	
	DEM Report	
	Leadership Team Report	
	Standing Committee Report	
	Church of the Brethren Report	
	BVS/FaithX Report	
	Eder Financial Report	
10:50 am	Announcements / Prayer / Directions	
11:00 pm	Workshops	Designated Areas
12:00 noon	Lunch and Exhibits	Fellowship Hall
1:00 pm	Business Session 2	Sanctuary
	2026 Budget Presentation	
	Approval of Budget	
	Reports: On Earth Peace	
	SVMC	
	Bethany Theological Seminary	
	Shepherd's Spring	
	Camp Mardela	
3:05 pm	Youth Presentation	
3:15 pm	Communion	
3:30 pm	Consecration of New Leadership	
	Transition of DC Leadership / Passing of the Gavel	
4:00 pm	Closing	

## **CONFERENCE PERSONNEL**

### **Conference Officers**

Sharon Linton	Moderator
Frank Lezotte	Moderator-Elect
Judy Braun	Clerk

### **Program and Arrangements Committee**

Ryan Dommer	Doris Grossnickle
Britnee Linton	

### **On-site Coordinator Team**

Beth Bowman	Joyce Hibberd
Kaye Horr	Brenda Palsgrove
Union Bridge Church of the Brethren	

### **Lunch**

Bush Creek Church of the Brethren

### **Tech Team**

Jeff McKee	Ed Palsgrove
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### **Musicians**

Audrey Bowman	Mary Sue Grossnickle
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### **Parliamentarian**

James Benedict

### **Timekeeper**

Doris Grossnickle

### **District Staff**

Doug Veal, District Executive Minister  
Jo Ann Landon, Administrative Assistant

***Thank you*** to the staff and many volunteers at Union Bridge 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. Thank you to Bush Creek Church of the Brethren for preparing today's lunch.

## WORKSHOPS 11:00 am to Noon

### **On the Other Hand: Seeing Both Sides of Divisive Issues**

Speaking out of his own faith journey and encounters with differing perspectives within the church, Annual Conference Moderator Don Fitzkee will reflect on some of the issues that divide us and offer thoughts on how people who read the same Bible arrive at different conclusions. Are changing perspectives evidence of corrupted faith or new light springing forth from the Word? He's heard it both ways.

*Presenter:* Don Fitzkee, AC Moderator

### **Risk Taking as a Worship Tool**

One of the hindrances to pure, Holy Spirit led worship is often ourselves. Sometimes we unintentionally put up a guard restricting our openness. What would it look like if we were vulnerable during worship? How can we step into Spirit-led risks in our worship together? Presented by district Spirituality & Congregational Life Ministry Team

*Presenter:* Dylan Rinehart, Pastor of Thurmont COB

### **FaithX & BVS – Faith in Action as an Older Adult**

Are you looking for meaningful ways to serve others and deepen your faith as an older adult? Come learn about **Church of the Brethren FaithX** and **Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS)**—two programs that offer hands-on service opportunities grounded in peace, justice, and community. FaithX offers short-term service trips for all ages, including a trip specifically for adults ages 55 and older. BVS provides long-term placements in which adults over the age of 18 can spend 6 months or more in a volunteer placement to advocate justice, work for peace, serve human need, and care for creation. Whether you're interested in a one-week experience or a year-long commitment, this workshop will explore how you can engage in purposeful service—and how you can inspire people of all ages in your church to carry on the Church of the Brethren's legacy of service.

*Speaker:* Marissa Witkovsky-Eldred, Brethren Volunteer Service | Coordinator of Short Term Service

### **The Ministry of Shepherds Spring ... 35 years and beyond:**

successes, challenges, and opportunities. Where and how congregations and volunteers can invest their time, talents, and resources in this special ministry setting.

*Presented by:* David Rogers, Chair of the Board, and members of the Board.

## **EXHIBITS**

Friday from 5:00 pm

Saturday 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

*Visit the following exhibits in the Fellowship hall:*

Anabaptist Disabilities Network

Bethany Theological Seminary

Brethren Disaster Ministries

Brethren Volunteer Service/FaithX

Camp Mardela

Church of the Brethren

On Earth Peace

Spirituality and Congregational Life (Gestalt Pastoral Care)

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	Fred Wilhelm	1996
Earl M. Zigler	1968	C. Henry Hunsberger	1997
DeWitt L. Miller	1969	Ann Eberly	1998
Paul W. Kinsel	1970	John Earl Hutchinson	1999
Carl F. Smith	1971	Scott Duffey	2000
Glenn F. Timmons	1972	Linda Barkdoll	2001
C. Henry Hunsberger	1973	Ken Wenger	2002
Ralph L. Detrick	1974	Jim Benedict	2003
Byron Berkey	1975	Charlotte Bear	2004
Mary Smeltzer	1976	John Thompson	2005
Floyd R. Mason	1977	Jeffrey Carter	2006
Edward K. Ziegler	1978	Gretchen Zience	2007
Louise D. Bowman	1979	Dale Posthumus	2008
J. David Eberly, Jr.	1980	Michael Staubs	2009
Paul L. Groff	1981	Cinda Showalter	2010
Wendell Flory	1982	James Lohr	2011
Sue Snyder	1983	Kimberly McDowell	2012
Wayne F. Buckle	1984	Kathy Benedict	2013
James S. Flora	1985	Craig Stutzman	2014
Carol Spangler	1986	Glenn McCrickard	2015
David Fouts	1987	Lois Ann Glessner	2016
Paul D. Steiner	1988	Brian Bachman	2017
Beverly W. Kline	1989	Linda Lambert	2018
J. Paul Wampler	1990	Sona Wenger	2019
J. David Eberly, Jr.	1991	Allen O'Hara	2020
Connie B. Davis	1992	Allen O'Hara	2021
John Thompson	1993	Ellen Wile	2022
Donna F. Steiner	1994	Melvin Cheshire	2023
Mary Louise Dotterer	1995	Calvin Park	2024



## **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
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."

## **Guidelines for Sacred Sharing**

Conversation is a key building block of relationships. Genuine conversation isn't about persuading others to our point of view. It is about sharing our story and perspective with others, and respectfully listening to the stories and perspectives of others. It is about developing empathy for another human being who has had different life experiences. Genuine conversation can help us move beyond conflict, placing it in perspective as we discover shared pain and shared passions, shared hurts and shared hopes.

Such sharing must be approached with care and delicacy. We are called to witness with compassion and care in our conversations. To that end, here are a few guidelines for sacred sharing:

**Transparency** – Create an environment of transparency in these conversations by sharing with honesty, allowing others to get to know you as well as God knows you.

**Use "I" Statements** – It's easy to talk about the Church or others around you, but in the interest of building relationships, we want you to put yourself out there. Try to use "I" statements rather than "you", "they", "the conservatives", "the liberals", or "the church,"

**Don't Name Names** – It is important to speak from personal experience; however, wherever possible, talk about situations or events in your life without naming names. This allows our experiences to be instructive while avoiding gossip.

**Don't Convince** – We encourage you to share your opinion. A difference in opinion is welcome; unity does not equal uniformity. However, remember that the purpose of conversation is not to convince others to your way of thinking, but to seek understanding.

**Listen** – Be sure to listen while others are speaking. Resist the temptation to think about what you want to say next and don't have a side conversation with someone else. Really listen. This is an expression of value and respect.

**Pause** – After a person shares, leave a pause to allow the entire group to feel the weight of what was shared. No one should feel rushed to get their thoughts out during the discussion time.

**Don't Fix or Rescue** – When someone is sharing a deeply personal or painful story, we often rush to offer advice or make them feel better about the situation. Resist this temptation. This usually stops people from sharing any further and hinders them from going deeper than they might have gone. Simply sit with and listen to them as they share. If you feel led to reach out, ask for permission to enter in, to offer an expression of comfort, to pray with them.

## **DEDICATION OF DELEGATES**

2025 Mid-Atlantic District Conference

**Moderator:** For the discernment of God's will and the courage to act upon it.

**Delegates:** We dedicate ourselves to humble and prayerful service.

**Moderator:** For the trust placed in us by our local churches to represent their voice.

**Delegates:** We accept this sacred responsibility.

**Moderator:** For unity in this conference and wisdom in our decisions, for the good of the whole church.

**Delegates:** We dedicate ourselves to seeking consensus.

**Moderator:** For a spirit of mutual understanding, respecting all viewpoints within the body of Christ.

**Delegates:** We dedicate ourselves to listening with open hearts and minds.

**(In Unison)**

**Almighty God, you have given us the will to do these things. Graciously give us the strength and compassion to perform them. Strengthen and renew all of us in your promise, so that we may serve this world in all its need, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## **SLATE AND NOMINEE INFORMATION**

**SLATE / BALLOT**  
**2025 MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT CONFERENCE**

For terms beginning in 2026

October 11, Union Bridge COB

Candidates	Affirm ✓	Do Not Affirm ✓
<b>Moderator Elect:</b>		
Sandi Evans Rogers (Westminster) 2026		
<b>Clerk:</b>		
Suzanne S. Bowdle (Denton) 2028 (1)		
<b>Leadership Team:</b>		
Area 1 - Ken George (Ridgely) 2028 (1)		
Area 7 - Shalome Lane (Beaver Creek) 2028 (1)		
Area 8 - Michael Staubs (Mountain View) 2028 (1)		
<b>Leadership Team At- Large:</b>		
Tom Jouannet (Grossnickle) 2028 (2)		
<b>Leadership Calling Team</b> (called by Leadership Team)		
Area 5 - Vacant 2028		
Area 6 - Vacant 2028		
Area 8 Vacant 2028		
<b>Standing Committee Representatives</b>		
Calvin Park (Brownsville) 2028 (1)		
<b>Program and Arrangements</b>		
Laura Frye (Brownsville) 2028 (1)		
Doris Grossnickle (Grossnickle) 2028 (2)		
<b>Camp Mardela Board, At-Large</b>		
<i>Currently Vacant</i>		

## **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>	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, Sam's Creek, Union Bridge, Westminster
<b>6</b>	Frederick, Grossnickle, Harmony, Locust Grove, Monocacy, 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

**TOTAL NUMBER OF CHURCHES IN THE**  
**MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT = 53**



## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

**NAME:** Sandi Evans Rogers

**SLATE/BALLOT POSITION:** Moderator Elect

**CONGREGATION:** Westminster COB

**VOCATION:** Interim Pastor

### **NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Past:

Present: OEP COB Gun Violence Prevention Action Team;  
Womaen's Caucus Steering Team

### **DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Past:

Present: CCT

### **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Present and past: Intentional Interim Pastor, Associate Pastor

**OTHER ACTIVITIES related to church or community that would be of interest to the delegate body - Present and Past:** MOM'S Demand Action, Frederick Co-Local Lead

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

Peace and Justice, being Jesus in the Neighborhood

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

A community of faith where we experience and share the love Jesus lived and died for with all Abba's kids. Where we authentically share life with one another, welcome one another, accept one another, value one another, forgive one another, and love one another as we love ourselves.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

**NAME:** Suzanne S. Bowdle

**SLATE/BALLOT POSITION:** Conference Clerk

**CONGREGATION:** Denton Church of the Brethren

**VOCATION:** Science Teacher

### **NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Past: Annual Conference Delegate

Present:

### **DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Past: MITT Committee Member

Present: Camp Mardela Board Member

### **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Present and past: Deacon, Board Member, Church Clerk, Sunday School Teacher, Choir Member

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

Counselor/Director at Camp Mardela for over 40 years.

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

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

To continue the work of Jesus in a loving, peaceful manner that invites all persons to be part of God's community.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

**NAME:** Kenneth W. George

**SLATE/BALLOT POSITION:** Area 1 Representative

**CONGREGATION:** Ridgely CoB

**VOCATION:** Retired/part-time pastor position

### **NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Past:

Present:

### **DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Past:

Present:

### **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Present and past: Everything required of a pastor- Part-time position, full-time job!

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

Contributor to the meditations in the Living Word Bulletins (Brethren Press), Volunteer at Camp Mardela, Member of Caroline County Christian Clergy Association (4CA), Contributor to the Pastoral Ponderings column in the local paper (Caroline Review), Speaker during the Lenten Series sponsored by the 4CA

**SPECIFIC MINISTRIES** or areas of ministry within the life of the church of interest to you: I want to continue learning through Bethany Theological Seminary's TRIM program. My goal is ordination.

**YOUR VISION FOR THE CHURCH** : With membership dwindling, I want to find ways to help the church grow. As God and the Holy Spirit led me to the pulpit, so do I count on their vision to help in this endeavor. It may require trying new things that we may not be used to, but it will take courage and patience to bring this about.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

**NAME:** Shalom Black Lane

**SLATE/BALLOT POSITION:** Leadership Team Area 7 representative

**CONGREGATION:** Beaver Creek

**VOCATION:** Local Government Administration

### **NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Past: multiple years as Annual Conference delegate and attendee

### **DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Past: Peace & Justice Committee; District Conference delegate; summer staff at Shepherd's Spring; counselor at Camp Mardela and Camp Eder; District Youth Cabinet

### **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Present and past: Church Board member and commission chair, Children's Church teacher, worship leader, interim ministry team, youth leader

**OTHER ACTIVITIES** related to church or community that would be of interest to the delegate body - Present and Past: Girl Scout Troop Leader; Leadership programs for Washington County, Franklin County, and Loudoun County

**SPECIFIC MINISTRIES** or areas of ministry within the life of the church of interest to you: Peace and social justice work; strategic planning and management; policy creation and interpretation.

**YOUR VISION FOR THE CHURCH** : Our beloved community is at a time of transition and change, but local churches and Districts can help to bind us together by providing resources to foster strong and consistent affirmations of our common values. With Christ as our example, the Church of the Brethren equips members for lives of service, at any and every age.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

**NAME:** Michael Staubs

**SLATE/BALLOT POSITION:** Leadership Team -Area 8 Representative

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

**VOCATION:** Ordained Pastor 2010

### **NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Past: N/A

Present: N/A

### **DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Past: Moderator / Moderator Elect

Present: N/A

### **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Present and past: Senior Pastor – 28 years

### **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

Served as Community Spiritual Director - WV Emmaus Community 2015-2020

Led 4 Mission teams – 3 to Port Au Prince Haiti / 1 to Chisec, Guatemala

Trained at Christian Healing Ministries – Jacksonville, Florida

Substitute Teacher – Berkeley County Schools – 7 years

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

Healing / Deliverance Ministry

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

The church today should be an imitation of the church in Acts where the ministry gifts of the Holy Spirit are allowed to operate freely. We should be calling out the gifts of preaching and teaching in the local church so as to meet the needs of the local church.

As well we should be teaching the church to share the gospel message succinctly and with passion.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

**NAME:** Thomas Jouannet

**SLATE/BALLOT POSITION:** At-large Leadership Team

**CONGREGATION:** Grossnickle Church of the Brethren

**VOCATION:**

### **NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Past:

Present:

### **DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Past: Member and then chair of Finance and Property Commission (6 years); Member on Shepherd's Spring Board.

Present: Atlantic large leadership team

### **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Present and past: Deacon, Ministry commission, Board Chair, Finance.

**OTHER ACTIVITIES** related to church or community that would be of interest to the delegate body - Present and Past: Volunteer cook with Myersville Fire Company, Lions Club, Wolfsville Ruritan.

**SPECIFIC MINISTRIES** or areas of ministry within the life of the church of interest to you: Shepherd's Spring Church Camp, building up the Church to become more vibrant in the Neighborhood.

**YOUR VISION FOR THE CHURCH:** Continuing to reinvigorate the Church and bring Jesus to others.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

**NAME:** Calvin Park

**SLATE/BALLOT POSITION:** Standing Committee

**CONGREGATION:** Brownsville

**VOCATION:** Pastor

### **NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Past: AC Worship Planning Team; ACTS Course Instructor

Present:

### **DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Past: District Moderator; CEEMT Member; CETT Member

Present: CCMT Member

### **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Present and past: Currently serve as pastor for the Brownsville congregation. I have served as both a senior pastor and as a youth pastor within the CoB. This has given me the opportunity to work with Christian education committees and church boards and to connect with both our larger denomination as well as the communities in which we minister

**OTHER ACTIVITIES** related to church or community that would be of interest to the delegate body - Present and Past: I've worked with community organizations such as food banks and have worked together with other churches on ecumenical worship services or ministries

**SPECIFIC MINISTRIES** or areas of ministry within the life of the church of interest to you: I'm particularly passionate about discipleship and spiritual formation, helping individuals along their unique faith journeys. Within that realm I'm particularly passionate about youth ministry and family ministry.

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

We are a unique church, us brethren. We have a wide diversity of theological opinion, spoken language, ethnicity and culture, social status, income, and upbringing. In many ways it reminds me of the early church. The Apostle Paul constantly encourages the churches to which he writes that they are one in Christ, that their differences are a feature, not a bug. The reality of disparate people coming together as one church was part of the incredible witness the early church had to the power of the Holy Spirit. I believe we are called to continue witnessing in the same way to the Holy Spirit's power today.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

**NAME:** Laura Frye

**SLATE/BALLOT POSITION:** Program and Arrangements Team

**CONGREGATION:** Brownsville

**VOCATION:** Human Resources Manager

### **NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Past: Served as a Delegate at Annual Conference

Present: N/A

### **DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Past: Played music at District Conference; Served as site coordinator for District Conference

Present: N/A

### **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Present and past: Member of Board; Board Chair(man); Praise Team; Worship Leader; Outreach Committee; Music & Worship Committee; Christian Education Committee; Nursery Helper; Sunday School Teacher

**OTHER ACTIVITIES** related to church or community that would be of interest to the delegate body - Present and Past: Served as a volunteer for multiple youth organizations in the community

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

I'm most interested in community outreach. I believe it is critical for the church to be part of their community and reach out to those in need.

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

I see the Church of the Brethren as a Christ-centered community where all are truly welcome, no matter their story. I feel strongly that we're called to live out our faith by serving others and reaching out with compassion. The church should be a space where people are heard, relationships grow, and lives are changed through love and shared purpose. I hope we can keep being a hopeful, healing presence in the world.



## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

**NAME:** Doris Grossnickle

**SLATE/BALLOT POSITION:** Program and Arrangements

**CONGREGATION:** Grossnickle Church of the Brethren

**VOCATION:** Media Specialist

### **NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Past: N/A

Present: N/A

### **DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES**

Past: I have served on the Program and Arrangements committee for the past three years.

Present: Program and Arrangements Committee

### **CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES**

Present and past: Deacon, Ministry commission

**OTHER ACTIVITIES** related to church or community that would be of interest to the delegate body - Present and Past: Youth leader, Sunday School Teacher, VBS director

**SPECIFIC MINISTRIES** or areas of ministry within the life of the church of interest to you: Deacon ministries are rewarding because it allows me to serve all ages of God's children from visiting nursing homes to helping at Vacation Bible School. Serving on the Programs and Arrangements committee has allowed me to experience the wider Brethren body and the ministries that unite us as one.

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

Stand firm in our belief that Christ is our savior who was sent to redeem our sins and we are to be the non-judgmental light and love in this broken world.



**DISTRICT STAFF AND MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS**

## **District Executive Minister Report 2025 District Conference**

At the end of June, I completed my first year as your district executive minister. Coming into this role, I certainly had expectations for what it would be like to be your DEM, and while some of those have come true, there has also been many things that I would never have expected or thought of before starting in this role. The majority of this has been things that have been very wonderful to experience and to learn from, while there certainly have been experiences and situations that have proved challenging. Overall, I have been greatly enjoying my ministry here in the Mid-Atlantic District and continue to appreciate your trusting me in this role.

I set a goal of worshipping with every congregation in the district within two years of beginning my ministry among you. I continue to work on my goal of visiting each congregation for worship. As of the submission of this report, I have worshiped in thirty-one of the congregations in the district. I will continue to work on attending worship with every congregation in the district by the end of next June. If I have not yet been to your congregation, I welcome invitations to visit your congregation over the next several months.

I continue to connect with my district executive colleagues through the Council of District Executives. I attended the winter meeting in Melbourne, Florida from January 22 to January 29. This included an educational training session for newer district executive ministers as well as the regular meeting of the Council.

We held our second in-person meeting prior to Annual Conference from June 30 to July 2. In addition to our regular work of hearing updates from all of the districts, discussing ongoing work of various CODE committees, and meeting with agency and denominational staff, we spent a significant amount of time in the Standing Committee meeting this year. We met with Standing Committee to work on nominations for the denominational level as well as observing and listening to the discussions around both the query from the Illinois/Wisconsin district and the query we sent this year.

CODE will be holding an additional in-person meeting this year from October 13 to 15. I will be planning to travel out early on the 13<sup>th</sup> and return late on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Next year's winter CODE meeting will be held in Miami, Florida from January 28 through February 1. I will be traveling to the meeting on January 27 and returning on February 2. This will include both the regular winter CODE meeting as well as some additional time for a cross-cultural experience largely with the Haitian Brethren community in the area.

After Annual Conference, I was asked and agreed to serve the

## **District Executive Minister Report** (continued)

remainder of an unexpired term on the Ministry Advisory Committee for the denomination. This group is made up of representatives from institutions having educational and/or administrative oversight regarding the set-apart ministry in the Church of the Brethren.

I began holding meet-and-greet sessions across the district in January. I am planning on holding one session in each area of the district.

Westminster hosted the first meeting in January, Manassas held the second in February, Easton held the third session in March, and 1<sup>st</sup> Baltimore held the fourth session in May. As of the submission of this report, Moler Avenue was scheduled to hold a session on August 17 and Hagerstown will be holding a session on November 9. I will be working on scheduling a session in Areas 3 and 6.

Pastoral placement work continues to be a joy while facing ongoing challenges. The number of open congregations in our district, and across the denomination, far outstrips the supply of pastors currently. Since last district conference, the Dranesville congregation called Joey Moss from interim to pastor as of January 1, 2025, the Grossnickle congregation called Kinley Simmers as of April 1, 2025 and the Manassas congregation called Mark Pickens to a part-time associate pastor position as of July 1, 2025. Currently, we have ten pastoral openings in the district.

Since last year's District Conference, we have licensed one person to the set-apart ministry, Gideon Elliott from Mountain View congregation. In that same time, we have ordained three people to the set-apart ministry: Matt Rittle of the Arlington congregation, Yakubu Bakfwash of the Graceway congregation, and Keith Carter of the 1<sup>st</sup> Baltimore congregation.

I had opportunities to visit both of the camps in our district, Camp Mardela and Shepherd's Spring. In May, I enjoyed visiting the yard sale at Camp Mardela on one weekend and then attending the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at Shepherd's Spring the next weekend. Both continue to provide a wonderful summer camping ministry as well as other opportunities to use their facilities.

In April, I attended the annual benefit dinner for the Mid-Atlantic Disaster Auction at Bush Creek. I then attended the Mid-Atlantic Disaster Auction in early May. It was wonderful to learn that these events raised significant funds for the ongoing work of the Church of the Brethren Disaster Ministries.

Another significant aspect of my work is meeting with various committees and task teams of the district. These include the Calling and Credentialing Ministry Team, the Spirituality and Congregational Life

## **District Executive Minister Report** (continued)

Ministry Team, the Leadership Calling Team, and the Program and Arrangements Committee, the Personnel Relations Team, the Leadership Advisory Team, and the planning committee for the Dunker Church service.

As I mentioned in a newsletter article earlier this year, the CORE (Church Outreach, Renewal and Evangelism) Ministry Team needs new members. This is an opportunity for anyone interested in renewal, evangelism, and church planting to work with the district to address these important issues.

On May 1, we welcomed two new people to the district staff as Regional Ministry Associates: Charlotte Bear and Rusty Curling. Even though it has only been a short time since they began, I am very excited to continue to work with them to expand their task of connecting with local congregations. As originally envisioned, we have a third spot available for the Regional Ministry Associate team and continue to seek candidates to fill out the team.

I am very grateful for the grace that was extended to me for missing last year's District Conference after the unexpected passing of my mother just before the conference began. I want to express my thanks for the many prayers and cards that I received after that news was shared with the district.

This is of course a very short snapshot of the work that I am doing as your new district executive minister. I am glad to be here, and to be working with you all in the important ministries of our district. I continue to pray that our congregations, our pastors, and our members, will be renewed in their faith and are inspired to continue the work of Jesus, peacefully, simply, and together.

In Christ,  
Doug Veal  
District Executive Minister

**Regional Ministry Associate Charlotte Bear**  
**Report to 2025 District Conference**

With my position as a Regional Ministry Associate for the Mid-Atlantic District being only recently created, I continue to explore varied approaches as I reach out to my assigned congregations. I have been able to initiate contact with every one of these congregations via email, telephone, or a handwritten note and have had multiple contacts with quite a few of them – sometimes with pastors, sometimes with lay leaders. I served as pulpit supply for one congregation and, in several cases, have assisted with, or am in the process of assisting with, congregational problem-solving matters. I anticipate visiting each one of these congregations for worship sometime in the next year. I have also had the opportunity to meet in person with several pastors, have made plans to meet with another, and am in the process of scheduling a lunch gathering with the Northern Virginia pastors.

In this RMA role, I have already experienced its potential for helping our churches maintain better connections. I encourage and welcome anyone – whether pastor, laity, or district leadership – to reach out to me with any concerns relevant to my assigned congregations, or with any suggestions or ideas that might help me serve more effectively.

Peace & grace to all,

*~Charlotte Bear*

Congregations w/ Charlotte Bear as Regional Ministry Associate	
Arlington	Woodbridge
Dranesville	Brownsville
Hollywood	Allensville
Manassas	Fellowship
Midland	Johnsontown
Nokesville	Moler Avenue
Oakton	Mountain View

**Regional Ministry Associate Rusty Curling**  
**Report to 2025 District Conference**

I have been contacting congregations and setting up meeting times. Since I am not presently serving in a congregation on Sunday mornings I'm trying to set up Sunday visits, to experience worship with the congregation, meet some of the members and the pastor if I don't already know them, briefly introduce myself and the new position of RMA and mostly listen.

At the time of this writing, I have visited with Community of Joy in Salisbury, had kind of unofficial visits with Denton and Easton since I was already scheduled to fill the pulpit for these congregations and have a visit scheduled for August 17 with Baltimore First Church. Hopefully by the time of conference I will have visited several more congregations and will have plans for more. My schedule was already packed when I took this position, but my Fall calendar is pretty wide open for lots of opportunities.

As relationships are built I also hope to offer some services, including pulpit supply, helping with church renewal strategies, and connecting ministers and congregations so they can share and learn from each other.

My strategy at the beginning is to offer a listening ear and help to congregations. Very often I have heard from congregations, "What has the District done for us lately?" Well I hope we can help to make that answer by living it.

I also hope to come to the District with ideas that can help our congregations not just to survive but to thrive in the challenging environment they are ministering in.

If you are on the Eastern Shore, the Baltimore area or the DC area north of the river, I hope to see you soon.

Blessings In Christ,

Rusty Curling



## **District Leadership Team 2025 Report**

*Take care of the group of people you are responsible for. They are God's flock. Watch over that flock because you want to, not because you are forced to do it. That is how God wants it. Do it because you are happy to serve.*

*1 Peter 5:2*

Greetings to all who fellowship with the Mid-Atlantic District through your worship, prayers, support, and engagement! The year that has passed since this body last gathered for District Conference has been a full one, presenting challenges requiring prayerful consideration and revealing opportunities for joyful celebration. The Leadership Team of the district has earnestly sought to have as many perspectives as possible represented in conversations, sometimes even in contrast to their own desires and beliefs.

Roughly a month after every District Conference, the Leadership Team holds their final meeting of the calendar year. This is when the chair and vice chair are chosen, departing members conclude their time of service, and new members are welcomed. Ben Bear and Lindsay Wenger were both called to serve another year as the chair and vice chair, respectively. After graciously giving of their time and talents, the three team members that rotated off Leadership Team this past year were: Erin Olinger, Area 4 Representative and Communications Ministry Team liaison; Calvin Park, 2024 District Moderator and Calling & Credentialing Ministry Team chair; and Craig Stutzman, Standing Committee. They each provided valuable insights and perspectives to the work being done within and on behalf of the district. Please be sure to thank them for serving the district and take time to hear about their experiences if you get the chance.

There were more new faces joining the Leadership Team this year than usual. The three incoming members who filled the aforementioned roles are: Terrie Cox, Area 4 Representative; Frank Lezotte, Moderator-elect; and Scott Linton, Standing Committee. The Area 8 Representative position that had been vacant was filled during the spring by Mike Staubs. The two new Regional Ministry Associates – Charlotte Bear and Rusty Curling – began their work with the district this past spring and join the Leadership Team in a non-voting ex officio capacity. The Leadership Team approved two requests of \$2500 for financial

## **District Leadership Team 2025 Report** (continued)

support this spring. One was gifted to Shepherd's Spring to underwrite the expenses incurred for providing food for their 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration on May 17. Camp Mardela received the second gift after finding out that a new Maryland law now requires background checks for all of their summer camp volunteers. The Leadership Team recognizes that the district has limited funds and seeks to be responsible stewards of its resources. At the same time, both camps have a long history with the district, having once been owned and operated by the district until they became independent nonprofits in the 2000s. The unique relationship between the camps and the district – along with the expectation that these expenses will be covered or not needed in future years – led to the decision to support these two ministries with these one-time gifts.

In an effort to reestablish a stronger relationship between the two camps and the district, a new liaison role was created: Camp Connector. This role exists on a trial basis as the district seeks to find meaningful ways to engage with both camps in their respective ministries. A member of the Leadership Team will now be tasked with relating to their assigned camp and sharing updates at the quarterly meetings. Terrie Cox has agreed to be the Camp Connector for Shepherd's Spring while Rusty Curling will fill that role in relating to Camp Mardela.

One of the more challenging responsibilities of the Leadership Team is working with congregations in the district who are exploring whether they might want to disaffiliate from the denomination. There are currently four congregations that have shared with district leadership that they are having these sorts of discussions. Whenever these notices are received, the District Executive Minister reaches out to that congregation to hear their concerns and to offer having a small team of district representatives come meet with the congregation and/or its leadership. The leadership of at least one of these congregations has resisted following the district's guidelines for congregations choosing to disaffiliate from the district and denomination, which has resulted in needing to engage the district's legal counsel. This has been done to ensure that all members of the congregation seeking to depart has had a chance to hear from and ask questions of district leadership, as well as to guarantee that any members seeking to remain with the Church of the Brethren have the

## **District Leadership Team 2025 Report** (continued)

support and resources entitled to them. It is always the desire of the district to work amicably with congregations in discernment whenever possible.

On the administrative front, Jo Ann Landon continues to provide excellent organization and support to the district office, staff, and ministry teams. It is not uncommon to hear from Church of the Brethren members in other parts of the country how much they appreciate her work when they reference communications with the district office. Similarly, Doug Veal has been an excellent representation for the district both on a local and denominational scale. He has demonstrated remarkable patience and levelheadedness during tense moments, provided firm and accurate information when challenged, and always seeks to act with the love of Christ in even the most difficult encounters. The flexibility of Charlotte Bear and Rusty Curling has been valuable as they seek to fulfill the relational work of the Regional Ministry Associate positions, helping district leadership to better understand how their role may be best utilized as well as what types of limitations there may be.

Going forward, there will be difficult conversations to have as well as occasions for celebration. The Leadership Team that was called for 2025 has been amply capable of working together to truly seek the leading of the Holy Spirit, trusting one another through the relationships built between them and the sincere desire to be and create the church God calls us to be. Surely that same Holy Spirit will be amongst the attendees of the 2025 District Conference as new leadership is called to guide this district in the year ahead.

Serving with you,  
Ben Bear, Chair

## **Calling and Credentialing Ministry Team 2025 Report**

CCMT is regularly engaged in the process of assisting new candidates that are beginning the discernment process into ministry. Our work continues as discerners may choose to advance into the licensing process. This process then culminates with an individual completing the educational and interview requirements to finally become either ordained or commissioned into the ministry in the Church of the Brethren. On November 8<sup>th</sup>, our team as well as the Ministry Interview Task Team and our District Executive participate in the relicensing process for our licensed ministers. This day is a series of interviews with every licensed but not ordained minister to establish if they remain on track for ordination/commissioning and to ensure the licensees are continuing to reach ministry goals..

Over the last 2 years CCMT has seen a tremendous surge in our licensed ministers completing their work and moving toward or completing ordination. Over the past few years this team has been over inundated with credentialing tasks. And it is a great joy that we celebrate 5 newly ordained ministers just over the course of this year. We are preparing to engage in a new push to work with our district congregations to encourage creating cultures of calling within our churches. This will help us work toward addressing our critical shortage of new ministers in our district. And will be a key focus for this committee in 2026.

Every 5 years CCMT participates in our reordination process to ensure our already ordained and commissioned ministers are keeping up with educational and credentialing requirements. We have completed our duties on this front with the majority of our ordained ministers having their credentials already renewed while we are waiting for the return of some outstanding items of paperwork with some others.

This team appreciates the guidance and wisdom that we received from our District Executive Doug Veal as well as Administrative Assistant Jo Ann Landon. I would also like to write a word of appreciation for the hard work and dedication of our CCMT members- Jenn Flora (secretary), Rachel Black, Janet Myers, and Calvin Park. Your prayers are appreciated as we continue the work we have been called to perform on this team.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pastor Scott Linton, CCMT Chair

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

**September 2024–August 2025**

The goals of the CMT are to develop ways to connect with all the Mid-Atlantic District (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 strides in redesigning the MAD website, creating and subsequently updating the MAD Facebook page, and developing informational materials describing the work of the MAD.

We continue to recruit new members and welcomed Adam Lane (Beaver Creek) to the team in 2024.

During 2024/2025, our main focus has been to compile and distribute the MAD newsletter, *The Journey*, to all the churches every couple of months. Everyone on the team participates in writing articles, interviewing folks, reaching out to churches about their interesting activities, resourcing pictures to accompany articles, and formatting the document. Jo Ann Landon assists us throughout the process by sending us news events that she receives and by distributing the newsletter to the MAD churches.

CMT has looked at the MAD Facebook page to decide if this is a useful platform for the District. At this time, no one has been identified to serve as the administrator, so this project is on hold. We would like to work more closely with Jo Ann to help her maintain the MAD website, and CMT members have looked at suggested options to convert the website to more easily managed software. Congregations could assist in keeping the website current by reviewing your church's page in the directory section of the site and identifying changes that should be made.

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. We are always looking for new members and with an ever-expanding team, we can continue to improve communications among the MAD churches.

CMT Membership—Members of the team are the following: John Fleming (Manassas), Adam Lane (Beaver Creek), Jan Siegel (University Park; liaison to the MAD Leadership Team), Louise Scalzi (Westminster), and Gretchen Zience (chair) (Oakton). There are other members serving in ad hoc roles, such as Ben Bear, who assist as needed.

## **Finance and Property Ministry Team 2025 Report**

The District ended 2024 with a loss of \$19,441.68. Receipts from congregations totaled \$116,686.98. Some churches contributed in greater amounts than what they had pledged; however, others were at or below the level of their initial pledges for the year. Congregational giving through July of this year does not reach the level needed to meet the 2025 budget. We realize churches are struggling and we appreciate all that you are able to give toward District operations.

Please keep in mind that increased costs at the District level are necessary to maintain our excellent staffing. Even with numerous volunteers at all levels throughout the District, we continue to rely heavily on the District Executive Minister and the Administrative Assistant, working out of the District Office in the Westminster Church of the Brethren along with the addition of two of the potential three part-time Regional Assistants. Funding for Conference and Travel expenses is also important.

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. As congregations work toward budgets for the coming year, we encourage you to increase your level of District giving. If the Mid-Atlantic District is not currently a line-item in your church budget, it will help us if you add an amount designated toward the District. 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  
Thomas Jouannet  
Doug Potvin  
Danny Rumpf  
Barb Watt, Treasurer

## **Outreach and Service 2025**

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

We sincerely thank all the volunteers who continue to give of their time and talents supporting Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM)! Your willingness to help provide childcare, 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 and other tragic events, as well as to those who volunteer.

The Mid-Atlantic District (MAD) was well represented in 2024 by 53 volunteers who served 394 volunteer work-days working on BDM rebuild project sites in Dawson Springs, KY (tornado response) and Letcher County in southeastern KY (flood response); and 3 Children's Disaster Services (CDS) volunteers who served 41 volunteer work-days responding to Hurricanes Fletcher and Milton in Ashville, NC and Clearwater, FL, respectively.

MAD volunteers are serving 10 weeks in Letcher County in southeastern KY throughout 2025 and are scheduled to serve 8 weeks at yet to be determined BDM project sites in 2026. Several MAD volunteers have helped clean up and inventory damaged homes following the May 13, 2025, rain event which brought over 5 inches of rain in a very short period and caused flash flooding in Westernport, MD and other areas of Allegany County, MD.

Brethren Disaster Ministries provides help to people in need of childcare 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 childcare, 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 and 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, by email: [jeffmckee26@gmail.com](mailto:jeffmckee26@gmail.com) or cell phone: 443-547-5958. More information on BDM and on current work locations may also be found online at: <http://www.brethren.org/bdm/> or by calling 800-451-4407.

CDS has met the needs of children since 1980 by setting up childcare centers in shelters and disaster assistance centers across the nation. Specially trained to respond to traumatized children, volunteers provide a calm, safe and reassuring presence during the chaos created by tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, wildfires, and any natural or human-caused disaster. Volunteers must take the 25-hour

## Outreach and Service 2025 Continued

### Mid-Atlantic District Disaster Coordinator's Report (continued)

CDS training before being able to volunteer with CDS. The next training session will be held October 17-18, 2025, in Elizabethtown, PA. For opportunities to volunteer with Children's Disaster Services, please contact Ms. Laurene Holsinger, MAD CDS Area Coordinator, at [lholsinger162@comcast.net](mailto:lholsinger162@comcast.net); or contact CDS at 800-451-4407, email [cgs@brethren.org](mailto:cds@brethren.org), or check out the CDS website for information and training opportunities at <http://www.brethren.org/cds/>.

There is still a need for up to 6 volunteers to travel to BDM's Johnson County, TN project (Hurricane Helene response) September 28-October 4, 2025.

Volunteers are still needed for the following weeks in 2026:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Group Size</u>
Jan 25-31	TBD	Up to 15
Feb 1-7	TBD	Up to 15
Mar 29 – Apr 4	TBD	Up to 15
Apr 5 – 11	TBD	7
Jun 28 – Jul 4	TBD	7
Jul 26 - Aug 1	TBD	Up to 15
Aug 9-15	TBD	7
Aug 30 – Sep 5	TBD	Up to 15
Sep 20-26	TBD	7
Dec 13-19	TBD	7

Weeks not listed above have already been assigned, but there may be openings for individuals or small groups within those weeks. If you have the desire to volunteer for a specific week, please let me know and I'll check on availability.

Peace and Blessings,  
Jeff McKee  
Mid-Atlantic District Disaster Coordinator

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

The Mid-Atlantic District Disaster Response Auction (MADDR) Committee held its annual Benefit Dinner on April 5 and Disaster Response Auction on May 3, 2025. The Benefit Dinner was attended by 125 people and raised a total of \$8,436: \$5,991 from the dinner and \$2,445 from the delicious baked goods auctioned at the dinner. We thank all of those who attended, donated baked goods and other items for the dinner Auction, and especially the volunteers from Bush Creek and Union Bridge COBs who continue to host and prepare the scrumptious dinners!



## Outreach and Service 2025 *Continued*

### Mid-Atlantic District Disaster Response Auction Committee Report (continued)

The MAD Disaster Response Auction was very successful as well, raising \$75,234, the most we've ever raised! The Auction Booklet raised an additional \$22,485. We continue to be amazed by so many who attend the Auction and continue to donate their time, talents, and financial resources to support the Mid-Atlantic District and Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM). Thanks to all who give generously and support the Auction through purchases, Auction Booklet and Patron Ads, and donations. Thanks to you we donated \$96,000 to the BDM Emergency Disaster Fund in 2025, which brings the total amount donated to BDM over the last 45 years to almost \$2.4 million. In addition, \$10,000 was donated to BDM in August to support clean-up and repairs to the many houses that were damaged or destroyed by the May 13, 2025, rain event which brought over 5 inches of rain in a very short period and caused flash flooding in Westernport, MD and other areas of Allegany County, MD. Your contributions make a huge difference in the lives of those impacted by natural and man-made disasters!

The MADDRA 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 those who served on the Auction Committee: Lester Boleyn, Doretta and Jim Dorsch, Lou Gloyd, Bruce Hollenberg, Laurene Holsinger, Alice Houck, John Laudermilch, Jim Lohr, Daryl Long, Frances Miller, Brenda Palsgrove, Arnold Platou, Dorothy Saville, Myrtle Sturtz, Jimmy Weller, Matt Weller, Connie Welsh, and Robert Wilson.

**The Committee needs churches/volunteers who would be willing to take over the Smoothies/Pretzel Booth, Popcorn/Water/Candy Booth, and Ice Cream Booth at the Auction.** 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 Friday before the Auction and the day of the Auction to set up, clean up, and help move auction items. Please contact me at [jeffmckee26@gmail.com](mailto:jeffmckee26@gmail.com) or 443-547-5958 if you know of anyone who is interested in volunteering.

## **Outreach and Service 2025** *Continued*

### **Mid-Atlantic District Disaster Response Auction**

#### **Committee Report** (continued)

We look forward to seeing you at the following 2026 events. Please mark your calendars!

- MADDRA Benefit Dinner at Bush Creek COB – April 11, 2026, at 6:00 pm
- MADDR Auction – May 2, 2026, 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 Report 2025**

The 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, in other areas or overseas. The canning portion of the project took place April 21st – 24<sup>th</sup> at Christian Aid Ministries (CAM) in Ephrata, PA. Volunteers from both Districts, approximately 105 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 2025 contribution to the Meat Canning Fund was again \$17,000.00, the same as 2024. Thank you for those donations that help to make this project happen. With combined funds from both Districts, approximately 17,920 lbs. of chicken were purchased and processed (9,720 cans). This year's distribution was approximately 135 cases (3,240 cans) each to Mid-Atlantic and Southern PA Districts and approximately 135 cases to the Shady Grove Ruritan Club (Waynesboro/Greencastle area).

From the Southern PA district – “This group got involved in Western North Carolina at first by providing campers for displaced persons to live in while they were getting their lives back together. Since Hurricane Helene, they have been working on a regular basis with groups who provide meals at a soup kitchen feeding clean-up volunteers and locals

## **Outreach and Service 2025** *Continued*

### **Meat Canning Report 2025** *Continued*

alike. They have also provided food for distribution to those in need in several small communities near Ashville. They intend to use the chicken in their soup kitchen as well as distribute it to those in need”.

The Mid-Atlantic District's portion has been used by 17 congregations to help supply their food pantries or food pantries they work with in their areas.

The team thanks you for all you do to support the Meat Canning Project to feed hungry people. Donations for the project are welcome all year round.

Meat Canning Committee Mid-Atlantic members,  
Lou Gloyd, Steve Horr, Brenda Thomasson  
Doug Veal, DEM  
Jo Ann Landon, Administrative Assistant

## **Spirituality & Congregational Life Ministry Team (SCLMT) 2025**

The Spirituality and Congregational Life Ministry Team continues to meet regularly to work toward its overall goals of assisting congregations with resources and District-wide, inter-congregational opportunities for leadership development.

Due to a variety of circumstances, our team faced the unique challenge in 2025 of needing to fill multiple terms. Therefore, we began the year with an almost entirely new team, which necessitated taking time early in 2025 to reorient to our goals in light of our new team makeup.

We continue to offer a “Fearless Conversations” workshop at District Conference. In 2025, the topic was “Risk-Taking as a Worship Tool,” led by team member Dylan Rinehart. If you have an idea for a future workshop to address a “Fearless Conversation” you want to have, we would love to hear from you.

This year, our district youth coordinators planned and held the District Youth Retreat at Camp Mardela on the theme of faith and doubt, including readings from the life of Thomas. There were 23 people in attendance from multiple congregations, including youth advisors. The planned Reimaging Youth Ministry workshop was canceled in 2024 due to low registration, and our team opted to forgo another training opportunity in 2025 in favor of planning a Fall 2026 Pastor’s Retreat. We are excited about reviving this retreat, which the Mid Atlantic District has held in the past. We hope congregations will encourage their pastors to take this opportunity to connect with one another and be ministered to themselves. Save the date and look for registration to open in early 2026!

Blessings,

The Spirituality and Congregational Life Ministry Team

Mandy Park (Chair), Matt Welch, Dylan Rinehart, Joey Moss, Darlene Meyers, Missy Sumbry (District Jr. High liaison), Jan Walker (District Sr. High liaison), Jan Flora (Leadership Team liaison), Doug Veal (District Executive Minister).

## **2025 Standing Committee Report**

The Annual Conference Standing Committee met June 29-July 2, just prior to the start of the 2025 Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren meeting in Greensboro, NC. As representatives from Mid-Atlantic District, we joined delegates from 23 districts in the denomination; our meetings were led by officers Dava Hensley (Moderator), Don Fitzkee (Moderator-Elect), and David Shumate (Secretary). In addition to handling our 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 districts maintaining connection. We also shared stories of creative partnership and calling new ministry models.

During its meetings, Standing Committee received several reports from its subcommittees and task teams addressing a variety of topics, including: Nomination Policies, Review of Special Response Process, and an Organizational Structure White Paper for Review and Evaluation. Standing Committee also held a listening session with the Bridgewater Church of the Brethren.

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

- Received the Final Report from the Standing with People of Color Committee.
- Approved 4 recommendations from the Breaking Down Barriers-Increasing Access to Denominational Events Committee.
- Approved 8 recommendations from the Calling Denominational Leadership Study Committee.
- Adopted the Query: Reducing Harm: Interim Steps to Address Suffering and answered its question in 2 parts. First, lamenting

## **2025 Standing Committee Report** *Continued*

and not endorsing “conversion to heterosexual orientation [as] another option.” Second, naming that our positions on sexuality are out of step with current realities even while now is not a good time to renew study. In the meantime, the conference lifted guidance that can build safer communities for LGBTQ+ siblings.

- Accepted the concerns of the Query: Concerns about Current Practices Related to Matters of Sexuality and referred to the Review and Evaluation Committee.
- Renewed Agency Status of all 3 Annual Conference Agencies.
- Adopted a 2.6% Cost of Living Adjustment to the Minimum Cash Salary Table for Pastors.

Except for handling denominational appeals and nominating activities, our work is normally conducted during the few days prior to Annual Conference. However, we held two zoom meetings in this working year as we finalized subcommittee work related to agencies and denominational structure.

Tim completed his year as chair of the Nominating Committee, but we still remind you that the nomination process is simple, and you can find information and document links about the open positions at <https://www.brethren.org/ac/nominations/>.

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!

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

Scott Linton (1st term with final AC in 2027)

Standing Committee representatives



This year was a year of reimagining what Camp Mardela can do. With our second BVS-er in a row - Justine Eckert - this brought new energy and ideas to camp, and we saw camp used in ways we had never imagined before. There was a creative and adventurous spirit that pervaded the atmosphere - fitting for our summer theme "Got Spirit?". We could feel God opening new doors and allowing new things to take root and grow, in our programs, projects, events, and rental usage.

**Programs:** Our total campers at winter retreats and summer camp was 150 - exactly the same number from 2024. While we were hoping for an increase, we were happy to see attendance hold steady and not decrease. We are still looking at ways to expand our ministry outreach to more kids who would benefit from the immersive discipleship of camp. We had a few new program features this year, including a day trip to Rehoboth Beach, a learning garden, making rain barrels, and a reptile class at Martinak State Park. We also had record-breaking camp attendance at Twix, Me & You, The Wild, Youth Trip Camp, and Day Camp since 2020. With these camps growing, we are optimistic that we can see our programs continue to grow next year.

**Projects:** The biggest project we had this year was our new learning garden. Initiated by Justine, we created a fruit and vegetable garden behind Krabill Hall. We got approval from the health department to serve any produce from the garden, which allowed us to frequently share fresh food with our campers. Our campers also got to learn about where food comes from, and help pick produce from the garden and enjoy the process of stewarding God's creation as well. We also replaced our ice machine thanks to a family's generous contributions, and have been working on giving the King Retreat Center a face lift by replacing beds and furniture, and are working with a volunteer to build more comfortable bunks for our dorm rooms. The next major projects we hope to tackle are replacing the flooring in the King Retreat Center & the bath house, creating a forestry plan, getting a new camp vehicle, and renovating the cabins.



**Volunteers & Staff:** This year we had 18 program staff throughout the year, and 60 program volunteers. The reason for the increase in program staff was because 50% of our staff was part-time or per-week. This proved to be a helpful arrangement with the schedule constraints of this year's staff, however the ideal for future years is to have staff who are able to commit to a full summer. We were grateful for everyone who was able to help, and with all of these staff we were able to get the coverage we needed. We did see that more program volunteers were able to help for whole program weeks, and this helped significantly with the consistency and smoothness of our camp programs. Camp truly would not be possible without these volunteers generously sharing their time and talents with Camp Mardela.



Our BVS volunteer this year - Justine - has years of camp program experience, and was able to help tremendously with all of the camp's operations. She not only aided in administrative tasks, but was able to take on leadership roles like directing Youth Camp, coordinating our maintenance volunteers, taking initiatives to clean and organize camp, and so much more. She left August 31st for her second year of BVS service in Northern Ireland.

**Events & Rentals:** We have seen a HUGE increase in rental groups this year. We have already had 30 rental groups, with 20 more scheduled before the end of the year. That's a 30% increase from 2024. Having Krabill Hall heated and air conditioned has played a major role in making our facilities more accessible



year-round. We've had all kinds of groups - weddings, grief retreats, cheerleaders, homeschoolers, men's groups, women's groups, church retreats, and more. We are happy to share our space with so many wonderful groups that help us sustain and expand our ministry.



We had a few new events this year - a Valentine's dinner and a Josh Wilson concert. For its first year, the Valentine's dinner was a success. We over-estimated our attendance predictions, but everyone who came deeply enjoyed themselves, and said they would come back next year. We plan to offer this dinner February 13-14 next year to give more people the opportunity to come. We also had contemporary Christian artist Josh Wilson perform a concert at our pavilion. We had about 180 people in attendance, and it was a truly transformative experience. Many new people got to experience camp, and this was a brand new form of outreach we got to share with this community. Many requested

annual concerts. With our limited staff and resources, we are unsure if we can offer this caliber event every year, but are looking into ways to host more similar events in the meantime.

Some of our upcoming events for the rest of the year include our Ham & Turkey Camp Supper - September 20th 4pm-7pm (\$15/meal), Outback Fundraiser in Salisbury - October 3rd 11am-10pm (15% of each order goes to camp), Birding Retreat - October 31-November 2 (Registration - \$40/dorm, \$60/bedroom, \$50 food for the weekend), Christmas at Camp - December 12th-13th 6pm-8pm (free admission: food stand, music, Christmas trains, lights, cookie decorating, and more!).

**Support:** While we've seen our rental, auction, and miscellaneous fundraiser income increase significantly, this has not made up the deficits in registration, building fund donations, camper scholarships, and individual donations. Our yard sale and valentine's dinner also came in under budget. We would greatly benefit from some more generous donors.

Camp is an incredibly valuable ministry in the lives of the individuals who come here, and it is worth sustaining. It is immersive discipleship, and a sacred space in God's creation for all who enter into it. We are incredibly grateful for the support we have that has sustained us for over 75 years, and this support plays a vital role in maintaining and growing the ministry of Camp Mardela. We thank those who already support us, and if you are not currently involved, we prayerfully ask you to consider supporting this ministry.



**We would like to extend an offer for churches to partner with our ministry. There are 2 levels of giving we are offering (\*events subject to schedule availability):**

- **Supporter (\$500-\$2,000):** Use of camp for 1 church-sponsored event\* per year
- **Sustainer (\$2,000+):** Use of camp for unlimited church-sponsored events\* per year

**We don't want camp to simply be a line item on the church budget, but a ministry that can also support your church's mission, and we hope that we can mutually support each other in our shared missions of transforming lives with the gospel of Jesus Christ.**



**Stay in the Loop:** If you would like to hear regular updates about what Camp Mardela is doing, you can follow our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/campmardelacobmd](https://www.facebook.com/campmardelacobmd), follow us on Instagram [@camp\\_mardela](https://www.instagram.com/camp_mardela), visit our website at [www.campmardela.org](https://www.campmardela.org), or come visit us at 301 Deep Shore Road, Denton, MD and see what we're all about!





Hundreds, even thousands, of children, adults, and folks from around the world have experienced the ministry of Shepherd's Spring for over 35 years and continue to reflect on how God's nature has impacted their lives on this beautiful campus.

*" . . fun and laughter and friendships during summer camps, canoe adventures on the Potomac, spelunking in the nearby caves; water games with newfound friends in the big pool, dogging balls in the Gaga pit, foursquare and basketball and frisbee golf, and venture hikes; smores and more around the firepit, tasty breakfast/lunch/dinner . . . and more; and, the whisper of God's voice on the heart in the midst of those times of reflection and study and prayer. . . "*

*" . . Retreat groups, family reunions, congregation picnics, study groups, craft and special interest, Labyrinth walks, bible study around the fireplace, warm and cozy overnights in the lodge or the Poplar Village Cabins, as the light snow dusts the campus and the deer pass by your window, view of their tracks around the campus. . . "*

*" . . hands-on experiences in the Heifer Global Village, where students from across the country immerse themselves in the life of other cultures, learn about their challenges, and appreciate how God cares for a diverse humanity."*

Now, the Board of Directors (**and we invite you**) is reflecting on the overall operation and model of Shepherd's Spring, and crafting a new strategic plan for the next 35 years, seeking to improve our stewardship of God's nature, become more prudent in our financial management, improve the physical condition of SS, add new features, better communicate and market, and enlist more volunteers to join us along the way.

During this District Meeting, a breakout session will provide a transparent

## **Shepherd's Spring Report 2025** (continued)

update, cast a vision for the future, enlist your suggestions, renew your personal involvement, and pray for God's wisdom to be good stewards of Shepherd's Spring.

We are now in a transition period following the retirement of Bruce Anderson, who has served as Executive Director for the past six years. Now, David Rogers, Chair of the Board, and the Board of Directors will oversee the daily operations and will search for a new Executive Director in the months ahead.

Over the next several weeks, we will ask for your suggestions. We will keep you updated on progress and continue to seek your support. Calls/texts, questions/suggestions about SS to David Rogers: [drogers@shepherdsspring.org](mailto:drogers@shepherdsspring.org), [derogers47@gmail.com](mailto:derogers47@gmail.com); or 301-223-8193 SS or 703-623-2887.

Pick up a two-page update available today in the breakout session and at registration.

**Board Members: David Rogers, Chair; Chris Stockslager, Vice Chair; Sarah Black, Bonnie Cheshire, Pam Dodd, Ed Palsgrove, and Kathy Powderly (Two vacant positions to be filled soon).**



Greetings COB friends!

2024-2025 has been a time of growth and hope for our community. We are seeing strong community growth as more community residents choose our community for the retirement and care needs. We are so grateful for the ongoing support from our friends in the Mid-Atlantic Conference. Your continued engagement in our mission at Fahrney-Keedy is invaluable in our ability to provide excellent care at an affordable rate to our vulnerable seniors.

Our new model home for the independent living expansion project is due to be completed on September 4<sup>th</sup> and it will be an exciting addition and help to show our plans for the cottages that we are adding to our community. We are now able to proceed with immediate builds as we have entered into a new agreement with the department of aging.

Our Benevolent care fund continues to grow, and we are grateful for all who have generously given support to those who need our services but do not have the resources to pay for those services. This endowment once fully funded will provide the much-needed ongoing support to meet the needs of those individuals.

Our Solar project came online in February of 2025 and is now producing enough power to provide electrical usage for all our main facilities. The added benefit is that it provides covered parking for most of our staff and provides shaded areas for our residents to have outdoor activities and events. Our apple fest and car show which began last year and occurs on the first Saturday in October, occurs under our largest solar array and was very successful. We have many vendors and participants already scheduled to attend this second year of this new annual event at our community. We thank our wonderful auxiliary for spearheading this event.

2024-2025 has been a positive year and we are seeing the progress of our austerity measures. We have made a true team effort to curtail extraneous expenses while maintaining our overriding mission to provide the best care for our vulnerable senior population.

More than ever, we are grateful for all our partners and supporters and their belief in the mission of Fahrney Keedy. It is because of these faithful donors that we are able to execute on our mission of caring for the most vulnerable and to enrich the lives of the seniors who choose our community as their retirement home.]

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen Coetzee, LNHA President/CEO

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**Please see the Sample Slate on Page 19**

Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren Proposed Budget Summary 2026									
		Yr end 2024	2025 Budget	YTD 06/30/2025	Proposed 2026 Budget		Explanation	% of Change	\$ Change
Income									
4011	Outreach	116,686.98	144,257	42,129	137,292		past 2 yr. average of outreach giving	-4.8%	(6,965)
4021	Interest/Dividend Income	16,025.01		4,748					-
4022	Unrealized G/L, Eder General	12,291.02							-
4023	Eder Financial Admin Fee	(1,775.16)		(913)					-
4025	Interest Income from Loan GG	33,138.07	29,372	9,910	28,235			-3.9%	(1,137)
4027	ACNB Unrealized G/L Mutal Fund	305.99							-
4034	In Kind Donations								-
4042	Individual Contributions	3,025.00		2,180	7,500				7,500
	Transfer from Funds				50,000		Funds from Myersville & Greater Grace Church Sales		
	Total Income	179,696.91	173,629	58,054	223,027		-	28.5%	49,398
Expense									
	Staff Services & Office Operation						Salary includes Housing & Medical Insurance Higher includes medical COLA AC 2.6%, Housing Increase & 5% increase medical insurance		
	DEM (Executive) Salary Pkg								
500	DEM (Executive) Salary & Housing	47,722.78	96,940	48,470	104,643			-7.4%	7,703
	DEM (Executive) Pension 11% & RCWF 1%	5,726.89	11,632	5,817	12,557			-7.4%	925
502	DEM (Executive) Insurance	472.86	976	511	1,098			-11.1%	122
503	DEM (Executive) Insurance	472.86	976	511	1,098			-11.1%	122
504	DEM (Executive) Prof Growth	(85.21)	500	500	500			0.0%	-
505	Sabbatical Fund		500	500	500			0.0%	-
51-1	Interim DEM Salary Package	44,147.49							-
	Regional Assistants								
	(3) Regional Part-time Assistants to Executive		15,000	3,334	24,000			-100.0%	9,000
	Admin Asst Salary Pkg								
530	Adm. Assistant Salary	38,945.52	40,231	20,115	41,277		AC COLA 2.6%	2.6%	1,046
531	Adm. Assistant Pension & RCWF	4,684.92	4,827	2,414	4,953			2.6%	126
534	Social Security/ Medicare	2,979.35	3,078	1,539	3,158		7.65% of Salary	2.6%	80
	Insurance								
5411	Liability/Renters Insurance	1,718.00	1,750	1,737	1,750			0.0%	-
5412	Worker's Compensation	497.00	650	518	650			0.0%	-
	Office Expenses								
5422	Computer Services	1,740.00	1,790	360	500			-72.1%	(1,290)
5423	Office Fees/Subscriptions	195.21	500		500			0.0%	-
5425	Office/Warehouse Rent	5,014.32	5,000	2,509	5,000			0.0%	-
5426	Postage	509.46	300	236	300			0.0%	-
5427	Supplies & Copies	948.19	2,000	829	1,500			-25.0%	(500)
5428	Telephone	660.78	1,500	341	750			-50.0%	(750)
5430	Website	452.40	400	254	400			0.0%	-
5433	PayPal Expense	29.39	-	-				100.0%	-
5434	Interest Expense/Bank Fees	10.00							-
5435	Background Checks	15.50		(612)					-
5436	Conferencing/zoom meetings	269.00	210	209	400			90.5%	190
6560	Direct Deposit Charges	80.00	80	-	-			-100.0%	(80)
	Professional Services								
5431	Treasurer/Financial Services	7,260.04	7,325	3,625	7,325			0.0%	-
5432	Attorney Services	(3,762.00)							-
	Travel & Conferences								
5441	Travel, Meals & Conferences	7,017.35	7,000	5,062	6,000			-14.3%	(1,000)
54415	DEM Mileage	6,804.07	7,000	1,843	4,000			-42.9%	(3,000)
54412	Regional Assist Travel		1,000	133	1,000			100.0%	-
54413	Travel for Others		500		250			-50.0%	(250)
5443	CODE Dues	643.00	950	643	700			-26.3%	(250)
5455	Search Committee	2,954.96							-
	Sub-total Staff Services & Office Operation	177,642.17	212,788		223,711			5.1%	10,923
	Other Expenses								
	CORE Grants		500		500				-
	Sub-total Other Expenses		500		500				-
Total Operation Expenses		177,642.17	213,288	99,720	224,211			5.1%	10,923

Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren Proposed Budget Summary 2026								
		Yr end 2024	2025 Budget	YTD 06/30/2025	Proposed 2026 Budget	Explanation	% of Change	\$ Change
								-
	MINISTRY TEAMS							-
	Calling & Credentialing							-
601	Program	55.73	300	15	300		0.0%	-
602	Ministerial Scholarship		500		500			-
603	Susquehanna Valley Satellite	3,750.00	5,000	3,750	5,000		0.0%	-
604	TRIM Coordinator/ EFSM	1,500.05	2,500	1,500	1,500		-40.0%	(1,000)
605	Readiness for Ministry	0.05	665		665			-
	Sub-totals	5,305.83	8,965	5,265	7,965			(1,000)
								-
	Finance & Property							-
632	CPA Review	5,775.00	5,200	-	4,000	Changing Firms	-23.1%	(1,200)
	Sub-totals	5,775.00	5,200	-	4,000		-23.1%	(1,200)
								-
	Outreach & Service							-
641	Program	0.35	100	0	100		0.0%	-
	Sub-totals		100	0	100		0.0%	-
								-
	District General							-
651	Leadership Team	158.80	800	51	800		0.0%	-
653	District Directory		150		150		0.0%	-
654	Standing Committee Delegates	3,064.56	4,200		4,200		0.0%	-
671	Annual Conference Assessment	5,426.40	5,500	5,426	5,500		0.0%	-
	Sub-totals	8,649.76	10,650	5,478	10,650		0.0%	-
								-
	Church Extension & Evangelism							-
682	CORE			-	-		100.0%	-
	Sub-totals			-	-		100.0%	-
								-
	Spirituality & Congregational Life							-
692	Senior High		500	0	500		0.0%	-
699	NYC	500.00	500	500	500		0.0%	-
	Other		200		200		0.0%	-
	Sub-totals	500.00	1,200	500	1,200		0.0%	-
								-
	Communications							-
710	Program		500	-	500		0.0%	-
	Sub-totals		500	-	500		0.0%	-
								-
	Ministry Teams Total		26,615	11,243	24,415			(2,200)
								-
Total Operations & Ministry Teams		197,566.85	239,903	133,295	248,626		3.6%	8,723
								-
	Profit/Loss	(17,862.50)	(66,275)	(55,241)	(25,599)			

**DISTRICT FINANCIAL REPORTS**



**Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren**  
**Statement of Financial Position/Bal. Sheet 25-24**  
As of July 31, 2025

	Jul 31, 25	Jul 31, 24	\$ Change
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Checking/Savings			
1 · CASH ACCOUNTS			
101 · ACNB Checking	9,845.58	15,640.33	-5,794.75
104 · ACNB Money Market (GG Loan Payments)	71,260.42	103,421.40	-32,160.98
13 · Petty Cash	100.00	100.00	0.00
<b>Total 1 · CASH ACCOUNTS</b>	<b>81,206.00</b>	<b>119,161.73</b>	<b>-37,955.73</b>
<b>Total Checking/Savings</b>	<b>81,206.00</b>	<b>119,161.73</b>	<b>-37,955.73</b>
<b>Other Current Assets</b>			
130 · Clearing/ Holding Account	0.00	603.95	-603.95
1499 · Undeposited Funds	-1,460.00	1,460.00	-2,920.00
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>-1,460.00</b>	<b>2,063.95</b>	<b>-3,523.95</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>79,746.00</b>	<b>121,225.68</b>	<b>-41,479.68</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>			
18 · FIXED ASSETS			
181 · FURNITURE ,FIXTURES & EQUIPMENT			
1811 · Furn. Fixtures & Equip. Cost	13,908.91	13,908.91	0.00
1812 · Furn. Fixtures & Equip. Deprec	-13,908.91	-13,908.91	0.00
<b>Total 181 · FURNITURE ,FIXTURES &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total 18 · FIXED ASSETS</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Other Assets</b>			
14 · LOANS RECEIVABLE			
143 · Greater Grace Loan \$900,000 (Loan to Greater Grace Ch...	732,896.56	757,824.68	-24,928.12
<b>Total 14 · LOANS RECEIVABLE</b>	<b>732,896.56</b>	<b>757,824.68</b>	<b>-24,928.12</b>
17 · INVESTMENTS			
171 · EDELMAN FINANCIAL (BBT)			
1711 · Don Rowe Endowment	86,325.85	81,077.27	5,248.58
1713 · General Investment Fund	229,273.93	216,063.26	13,210.67
<b>Total 171 · EDELMAN FINANCIAL (BBT)</b>	<b>315,599.78</b>	<b>297,140.53</b>	<b>18,459.25</b>
190 · ACNB WEALTH ADVISORS (ACNB Wealth Advisors - Cet...			
1901 · ACNB Treasury Bond Wealth Advis (Flexinsured Acc...	0.00	104,649.04	-104,649.04
1902 · ACNB Mutal Funds			
1902-1 · Mutals Funds Principal	50,000.00	50,000.00	0.00
1902-2 · Mutual Funds Dividend/Reinvest (Reinvestment...	3,581.95	0.00	3,581.95
<b>Total 1902 · ACNB Mutal Funds</b>	<b>53,581.95</b>	<b>50,000.00</b>	<b>3,581.95</b>
1903 · Cash Account Investmment ACNB	115,058.47	0.00	115,058.47
<b>Total 190 · ACNB WEALTH ADVISORS (ACNB Wealth Advisor...</b>	<b>168,640.42</b>	<b>154,649.04</b>	<b>13,991.38</b>
<b>Total 17 · INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>484,240.20</b>	<b>451,789.57</b>	<b>32,450.63</b>
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>1,217,136.76</b>	<b>1,209,614.25</b>	<b>7,522.51</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1,296,882.76</b>	<b>1,330,839.93</b>	<b>-33,957.17</b>

**Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren**  
**Statement of Financial Position/Bal. Sheet 25-24**  
As of July 31, 2025

	Jul 31, 25	Jul 31, 24	\$ Change
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>			
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Current Liabilities			
Other Current Liabilities			
2 · LIABILITIES			
20 · SHORT TERM LIABILITY			
203 · PAYROLL PAYABLE			
2022 · Pension Payable	0.00	-591.43	591.43
2025 · Medical Insurance	0.04	4.82	-4.78
2031 · Federal Taxes Payable	688.00	140.00	548.00
2032 · Medicare Payable	194.44	94.11	100.33
2033 · Social Security Payable	831.44	402.43	429.01
2034 · Maryland Taxes Payable	767.90	605.86	162.04
2035 · Life & LTD Insurance	0.04	0.00	0.04
Total 203 · PAYROLL PAYABLE	2,481.86	655.79	1,826.07
Total 20 · SHORT TERM LIABILITY	2,481.86	655.79	1,826.07
Total 2 · LIABILITIES	2,481.86	655.79	1,826.07
Total Other Current Liabilities	2,481.86	655.79	1,826.07
Total Current Liabilities	2,481.86	655.79	1,826.07
Total Liabilities	2,481.86	655.79	1,826.07
<b>Equity</b>			
3 · FUNDS			
30 · TEMP RESTRICTED			
301 · AUCTION FUND			
301-4 · AUCTION INCOME HISTORICAL			
301-401 · Interest Income	839.39	455.29	384.10
301-402 · Other Income - Auction	895,531.26	847,703.90	47,827.36
301-403 · Quilts	237,810.00	212,072.50	25,737.50
301-404 · Benefit Dinners	40,100.37	33,880.37	6,220.00
301-405 · Booklet Donations	381,103.53	358,258.53	22,845.00
301-406 · Auction Donations	125,940.44	120,474.17	5,466.27
Total 301-4 · AUCTION INCOME HISTORICAL	1,681,324.99	1,572,844.76	108,480.23
301-5 · AUCTION EXPENES HISTORICAL			
301-501 · Admin. Fee	-53,884.87	-51,066.17	-2,818.70
301-502 · Postage & Supplies	-7,775.00	-7,774.00	-1.00
301-503 · Printing/Booklet	-111,217.81	-105,299.87	-5,917.94
301-504 · Quilts	-16,467.08	-16,467.08	0.00
301-505 · Rent	-44,327.78	-40,627.78	-3,700.00
301-507 · Contribution to Program	-1,445,369.00	-1,349,369.00	-96,000.00
Total 301-5 · AUCTION EXPENES HISTORICAL	-1,679,041.54	-1,570,603.90	-108,437.64
Total 301 · AUCTION FUND	2,283.45	2,240.86	42.59
302 · MEAT CANNING FUND			
302-4 · MEAT CANNING HISTORICAL INCOME			
302-401 · Interest Income	832.56	832.56	0.00
302-402 · Meat Canning Income	462,662.80	447,341.40	15,321.40
Total 302-4 · MEAT CANNING HISTORICAL INCOME	463,495.36	448,173.96	15,321.40
302-5 · MEAT CANNING HISTORICAL EXPENSES			
302-501 · Admin. Fee & Postage	-24,590.03	-23,972.18	-617.85
302-507 · Contribution to Program	-456,855.05	-439,855.05	-17,000.00
Total 302-5 · MEAT CANNING HISTORICAL EXPENSES	-481,445.08	-463,827.23	-17,617.85
302 · MEAT CANNING FUND - Other	19,361.07	19,361.07	0.00
Total 302 · MEAT CANNING FUND	1,411.35	3,707.80	-2,296.45

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**Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren**  
**Statement of Financial Position/Bal. Sheet 25-24**  
**As of July 31, 2025**

	Jul 31, 25	Jul 31, 24	\$ Change
375 · Designated Donation FUND (Donation that are design...	-3.11	-3.11	0.00
304 · NOAC Activity (NOAC Activity)			
304-401 · NOAC Income	12,867.00	12,867.00	0.00
304-501 · NOAC Expenses	-12,755.43	-12,755.43	0.00
Total 304 · NOAC Activity (NOAC Activity)	111.57	111.57	0.00
305 · NEW PASTOR RETREAT ACTIVITY			
305-401 · New Pastor Retreat Income	11,894.47	11,894.47	0.00
305-501 · New Pastor Retreat Expenses	-11,468.24	-11,468.24	0.00
305 · NEW PASTOR RETREAT ACTIVITY - Other	-1.85	-1.85	0.00
Total 305 · NEW PASTOR RETREAT ACTIVITY	424.38	424.38	0.00
310 · Salt & Light Ministry	100.00	100.00	0.00
311 · Leadership Team Books (Money for books for Leader...	293.80	293.80	0.00
Total 30 · TEMP RESTRICTED	4,621.44	6,875.30	-2,253.86
33 · MINISTRY TEAM DESIGNATED FUNDS			
330 · NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE FUND	4,456.55	3,956.55	500.00
331 · DISTRICT CONFERENCE FUND	2,872.39	2,015.33	857.06
332 · CONT. EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND	2,040.86	2,040.86	0.00
333 · DISASTER FUND	22,264.37	22,598.69	-334.32
334 · MINISTERIAL TRAINING EVENT FUND	2,443.97	2,249.14	194.83
336 · DON ROWE STUDENT ENDOWMENT FUND			
3361 · Unrealized Gain/Loss Don Rowe (BBT Student En...	63,505.02	59,699.69	3,805.33
336 · DON ROWE STUDENT ENDOWMENT FUND - Other	24,437.31	23,689.06	748.25
Total 336 · DON ROWE STUDENT ENDOWMENT FUND	87,942.33	83,388.75	4,553.58
338 · JR. HIGH CONFERENCE FUND	1,681.81	1,806.81	-125.00
339 · SENIOR HIGH PROGRAM FUND	1,995.80	2,120.80	-125.00
340 · YOUNG ADULT PROGRAM FUND	146.54	146.54	0.00
343 · PEACE & JUSTICE FUND	123.92	123.92	0.00
347 · DISTRICT HABITAT FUND	150.00	150.00	0.00
Total 33 · MINISTRY TEAM DESIGNATED FUNDS	126,118.54	120,597.39	5,521.15
35 · LEADERSHIP DESIGNATED FUNDS			
351 · OPERATING RESERVE FUND			
351-1 · Operating Reserve Fund (Yr. End Surplus/Defici...	258,609.96	256,741.78	1,868.18
351-2 · GG 25% Operating Reverse (25% Operating Distr...	3,558.21	14,306.65	-10,748.44
351 · OPERATING RESERVE FUND - Other	0.00	-1,190.74	1,190.74
Total 351 · OPERATING RESERVE FUND	262,168.17	269,857.69	-7,689.52
353 · EQUIPMENT & SECY FUND	14,533.30	16,696.76	-2,163.46
354 · STAFF SABBATICAL FUND	500.00	0.00	500.00
355 · CHURCH EXTENSION FUND			
3551 · Dundalk Restart (Restart of Dundalk Church Of th...			
3551-20 · 2020 GraceWay Support	-22,000.00	-22,000.00	0.00
3551-19 · GraceWay Support 2019	-39,916.05	-39,916.05	0.00
3551-10 · Dundalk Restart Support 2018	-33,833.09	-33,833.09	0.00
3551-9 · Dundalk Restart Support 2017	-29,256.64	-29,256.64	0.00
3551-12 · Dundalk Restart Support 2016	-6,696.58	-6,696.58	0.00
Total 3551 · Dundalk Restart (Restart of Dundalk Church...	-131,702.36	-131,702.36	0.00
355 · CHURCH EXTENSION FUND - Other	178,907.77	164,656.21	14,251.56
Total 355 · CHURCH EXTENSION FUND	47,205.41	32,953.85	14,251.56

**Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren**  
**Statement of Financial Position/Bal. Sheet 25-24**  
**As of July 31, 2025**

	Jul 31, 25	Jul 31, 24	\$ Change
356 · SPECIAL MINISTRIES FUND	2,889.12	3,102.82	-213.70
370 · GREATER GRACE ENDOWMENT FUND (50% of loan ...	821,391.79	849,894.91	-28,503.12
380 · Congregation Departing Fees (Money collected for us...	17,206.00	17,206.00	0.00
390 · ERTC Tax Credit (ERTC Credit from COVID19 IRS)	11,605.08	0.00	11,605.08
<b>Total 35 · LEADERSHIP DESIGNATED FUNDS</b>	<b>1,177,498.87</b>	<b>1,189,712.03</b>	<b>-12,213.16</b>
<b>Total 3 · FUNDS</b>	<b>1,308,238.85</b>	<b>1,317,184.72</b>	<b>-8,945.87</b>
3900 · Net Assets	36,775.27	36,775.27	0.00
Net Income	-50,613.22	-23,775.85	-26,837.37
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>1,294,400.90</b>	<b>1,330,184.14</b>	<b>-35,783.24</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	<b>1,296,882.76</b>	<b>1,330,839.93</b>	<b>-33,957.17</b>

**Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren**  
**Statement of Financial Activity 25-24**  
January through July 2025

	Jan - Jul 25	Jan - Jul 24	\$ Change
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
4 · INCOME			
401 · CONGREGATIONAL OUTREACH			
4011 · Outreach giving/Pledges	54,626.65	58,066.87	-3,440.22
Total 401 · CONGREGATIONAL OUTREACH	54,626.65	58,066.87	-3,440.22
402 · INTEREST INCOME			
4021 · Interest/Dividend Income	5,471.39	3,397.02	2,074.37
4023 · Admin Fee Eder Financial	-913.07	-865.67	-47.40
4025 · Interest Income from Loan GG	12,356.67	17,971.64	-5,614.97
Total 402 · INTEREST INCOME	16,914.99	20,502.99	-3,588.00
403 · MISCELLANEOUS INCOME			
4044 · Pay Pal Donation	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00
Total 403 · MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00
404 · OTHER BENEV. GIFTS			
4042 · Individual Contr.	2,180.00	0.00	2,180.00
Total 404 · OTHER BENEV. GIFTS	2,180.00	0.00	2,180.00
Total 4 · INCOME	73,721.64	79,569.86	-5,848.22
Total Income	73,721.64	79,569.86	-5,848.22
Gross Profit	73,721.64	79,569.86	-5,848.22
Expense			
5 · EXPENSES			
50 · DEM SALARY PKG			
500 · DEM - Salary	44,882.18	7,444.12	37,438.06
501 · DEM - Housing	11,666.62	0.00	11,666.62
502 · DEM - Pension	6,781.80	0.00	6,781.80
503 · DEM - Insurance	595.64	0.00	595.64
505 · DEM - Sabbatical Fund	500.00	0.00	500.00
Total 50 · DEM SALARY PKG	64,426.24	7,444.12	56,982.12
51-1 · INTERIM DEM SALARY PACKAGE (SALARY PACKAGE FOR I...			
51-2 · Interim DEM Salary (Interim DEM Salary)	0.00	18,999.36	-18,999.36
51-3 · Interim DEM Pension (Pension for Interim DEM)	0.00	1,923.00	-1,923.00
51-4 · Interim DEM HOUSING	0.00	22,885.08	-22,885.08
51-5 · Interim DEM Supplement Pension	0.00	2,751.60	-2,751.60
Total 51-1 · INTERIM DEM SALARY PACKAGE (SALARY PACKAGE F...	0.00	46,559.04	-46,559.04
53 · ADMIN. AST. SALARY PGK			
530 · Admin. Asst. Salary	23,467.92	22,718.22	749.70
531 · Admin. Asst. Pension	2,820.10	2,630.18	189.92
534 · Company S/S & Medi- Admin	1,795.29	1,737.94	57.35
Total 53 · ADMIN. AST. SALARY PGK	28,083.31	27,086.34	996.97
55 · REGIONAL MINISTRY ASSOCIATES (Regional Ministry Associat...			
550 · Regional Ministry Salary	3,999.96	0.00	3,999.96
Total 55 · REGIONAL MINISTRY ASSOCIATES (Regional Ministry As...	3,999.96	0.00	3,999.96
54 · DAILY OPERATIONS			
541 · INSURANCE			
5411 · Renters/Liability/vehicle Ins	1,737.00	1,718.00	19.00
5412 · Worker's Compensation Insurance	518.00	515.00	3.00
Total 541 · INSURANCE	2,255.00	2,233.00	22.00

**Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren**  
**Statement of Financial Activity 25-24**  
January through July 2025

	Jan - Jul 25	Jan - Jul 24	\$ Change
<b>542 · OFFICE EXPENSES</b>			
5422 · Computer Services	420.44	1,015.00	-594.56
5425 · Office/Warehouse Rent	2,927.66	2,925.02	2.64
5426 · Postage	235.89	198.07	37.82
5427 · Supplies/Copies	1,063.52	1,065.90	-2.38
5428 · Telephone	398.31	385.04	13.27
5430 · Web Site (Internet)	293.82	257.65	36.17
5433 · Web Donation Fee / Pay Pal Exp (Fee charged by Pay Pal)	0.00	29.39	-29.39
5435 · Background Checks	-711.50	0.00	-711.50
5436 · Conferring/Zoom Meetings	219.00	219.90	-0.90
6560 · Payroll Exp. Direct Deposit Fee (QB Fee for Direct Depo...	0.04	80.00	-79.96
<b>Total 542 · OFFICE EXPENSES</b>	<b>4,847.18</b>	<b>6,175.97</b>	<b>-1,328.79</b>
<b>543 · PROFESSIONAL SERVICES</b>			
5431 · Accountant/Treasurer	4,229.19	4,229.19	0.00
5432 · Attorney			
5432-01 · Reimb Lawyer Fee/Churches (Reimbursement from...	0.00	-3,762.00	3,762.00
5432 · Attorney - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total 5432 · Attorney</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>-3,762.00</b>	<b>3,762.00</b>
<b>Total 543 · PROFESSIONAL SERVICES</b>	<b>4,229.19</b>	<b>467.19</b>	<b>3,762.00</b>
<b>544 · TRAVEL &amp; CONFERENCES</b>			
5441 · Travel, Meals, & Conference	5,130.09	4,341.22	788.87
54412 · Travel for Regional Ministry (Travel & Mileage , Meals ...	133.00	0.00	133.00
54414 · DEM Mileage	2,613.30	4,451.48	-1,838.18
5443 · CODE Dues	643.00	643.00	0.00
<b>Total 544 · TRAVEL &amp; CONFERENCES</b>	<b>8,519.39</b>	<b>9,435.70</b>	<b>-916.31</b>
<b>545 · OTHER EXPENSES</b>			
5455 · Search Committee	0.00	2,954.96	-2,954.96
<b>Total 545 · OTHER EXPENSES</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2,954.96</b>	<b>-2,954.96</b>
<b>Total 54 · DAILY OPERATIONS</b>	<b>19,850.76</b>	<b>21,266.82</b>	<b>-1,416.06</b>
<b>Total 5 · EXPENSES</b>	<b>116,360.27</b>	<b>102,356.32</b>	<b>14,003.95</b>
<b>6 · MINISTRY TEAMS</b>			
<b>60 · CALLING &amp; CREDENTIALING</b>			
601 · Program	815.67	36.28	779.39
603 · Susquehanna Valley Ministry Co	3,750.00	2,500.00	1,250.00
604 · TRIM/EFSM	1,500.00	1,500.05	-0.05
605 · Readiness for Ministry	0.00	0.05	-0.05
<b>Total 60 · CALLING &amp; CREDENTIALING</b>	<b>6,065.67</b>	<b>4,036.38</b>	<b>2,029.29</b>
<b>64 · OUTREACH &amp; SERVICES</b>			
641 · Program	0.00	0.15	-0.15
<b>Total 64 · OUTREACH &amp; SERVICES</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.15</b>	<b>-0.15</b>
<b>65 · DISTRICT GENERAL</b>			
651 · Leadership Team	2,545.97	48.98	2,496.99
654 · Standing Committee Delegates	1,788.97	1,529.57	259.40
671 · Annual Conference Assessment	5,263.88	5,426.40	-162.52
<b>Total 65 · DISTRICT GENERAL</b>	<b>9,598.82</b>	<b>7,004.95</b>	<b>2,593.87</b>
<b>69 · SPIRITUALITY &amp; CONGREGATIONAL</b>			
692 · Senior High	0.05	0.00	0.05
699 · NYC	500.00	500.00	0.00
<b>Total 69 · SPIRITUALITY &amp; CONGREGATIONAL</b>	<b>500.05</b>	<b>500.00</b>	<b>0.05</b>
<b>Total 6 · MINISTRY TEAMS</b>	<b>16,164.54</b>	<b>11,541.48</b>	<b>4,623.06</b>

**Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren**  
**Statement of Financial Activity 25-24**  
January through July 2025

	Jan - Jul 25	Jan - Jul 24	\$ Change
66900 · Reconciliation Discrepancies (Discrepancies between bank sta...	0.00	-306.26	306.26
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>132,524.81</b>	<b>113,591.54</b>	<b>18,933.27</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>-58,803.17</b>	<b>-34,021.68</b>	<b>-24,781.49</b>
<b>Other Income/Expense</b>			
<b>Other Income</b>			
701 · TRANSFERS/ INTERFUND INCOME (Funds transfer internally)			
4022 · Unrealized G /L Eder General (General Operating Account)	6,761.75	10,245.83	-3,484.08
4027 · ACNB Unrealized G/L Mutal Funds	1,428.20	0.00	1,428.20
<b>Total 701 · TRANSFERS/ INTERFUND INCOME (Funds transfer internally)</b>	<b>8,189.95</b>	<b>10,245.83</b>	<b>-2,055.88</b>
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>8,189.95</b>	<b>10,245.83</b>	<b>-2,055.88</b>
<b>Net Other Income</b>	<b>8,189.95</b>	<b>10,245.83</b>	<b>-2,055.88</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>-50,613.22</b>	<b>-23,775.85</b>	<b>-26,837.37</b>

Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren  
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual  
January through July 2025

Ordinary Income/Expense	Budget Jan -		
	Jan - Jul 25	Jul 25	Over/Under Budget
Income			
4 - INCOME			
401 - CONGREATIONAL OUTREACH	54,626.65	84,149.94	-29,523.29
402 - INTEREST INCOME	16,914.99	17,133.48	-219.49
404 - OTHER BENEV. GIFTS	2,180.00		
Total 4 - INCOME	73,721.64	101,283.42	-27,561.78
Total Income	73,721.64	101,283.42	-27,561.78
Cost of Goods Sold	0.00		
Gross Profit	73,721.64	101,283.42	-27,561.78
Expense			
131 - Suspense Account	0.00		
5 - EXPENSES			
50 - DEM SALARY PKG	64,426.24	64,903.98	-477.74
53 - ADMIN. AST. SALARY PKG	28,083.31	28,079.38	3.93
55 - REGIONAL MINISTRY ASSOCIATES (Regional Ministry Associates to help the D	3,999.96	15,000.00	-11,000.04
54 - DAILY OPERATIONS			
541 - INSURANCE			
5411 - Renters/Liability/Vehicle Ins	1,737.00	1,750.00	-13.00
5412 - Worker's Compensation Insurance	518.00	650.00	-132.00
Total 541 - INSURANCE	2,255.00	2,400.00	-145.00
542 - OFFICE EXPENSES			
5422 - Computer Services	420.44	1,044.19	-623.75
5423 - Office Fees/Subscription	0.00	291.69	-291.69
5425 - Office/Warehouse Rent	2,927.66	2,916.69	10.97
5426 - Postage	236.89	175.00	60.89
5427 - Supplies/Copies	1,063.52	1,166.69	-103.17
5428 - Telephone	386.31	875.00	-476.69
5430 - Web Site (Internet)	293.82	233.31	60.51
5435 - Background Checks	-711.50		
5436 - Confering/Zoom Meetings	219.00	122.43	96.57
6500 - Payroll Exp. Direct Deposit Fee (OB Fee for Direct Deposit)	0.04	46.69	-46.65
542 - OFFICE EXPENSES - Other	0.00		
Total 542 - OFFICE EXPENSES	4,847.18	6,871.69	-2,024.51
543 - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES			
5431 - Accountant/Treasurer	4,229.19	4,272.94	-43.75
Total 543 - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	4,229.19	4,272.94	-43.75
544 - TRAVEL & CONFERENCES			
5441 - Travel, Meals, & Conference	5,130.09	4,083.31	1,046.78
5445 - DEM Mileage	2,613.30	4,083.31	-1,470.01
5442 - Travel for Regional Ministry Travel & Mileage, Meals etc.	133.00	583.31	-450.31
5443 - Travel for Others (Travel & Mileage reimbursement for others.)	0.00	291.69	-291.69
5442 - CORE Dues	645.00	650.00	-5.00
Total 544 - TRAVEL & CONFERENCES	6,519.39	9,591.62	-1,472.23
545 - OTHER EXPENSES			
5455 - Search Committee	0.00		
5454 - CORE Grants	0.00	291.69	-291.69
5451 - Miscellaneous expense	0.00		
5452 - Rental Property Expense	0.00		
5453 - Transfer Between Funds	0.00		
545 - OTHER EXPENSES - Other	0.00		
Total 545 - OTHER EXPENSES	0.00	291.69	-291.69
54 - DAILY OPERATIONS - Other	0.00		
Total 54 - DAILY OPERATIONS	19,850.76	23,827.94	-3,977.18
5 - EXPENSES - Other	0.00		
Total 5 - EXPENSES	116,360.27	131,811.30	-15,451.03
6 - MINISTRY TEAMS			
60 - CALLING & CREDENTIALING			
601 - Program	816.67	175.00	640.67
602 - Ministerial Scholarship	0.00	291.69	-291.69
603 - Susquehanna Valley Ministry Ce	3,750.00	3,750.00	0.00
604 - TRIMEFSM	1,500.00	1,458.31	41.69
605 - Readiness for Ministry	0.00	387.94	-387.94
60 - CALLING & CREDENTIALING - Other	0.00		
Total 60 - CALLING & CREDENTIALING	6,066.67	6,062.94	2.73
63 - FINANCE & PROPERTY			
632 - Review/Audit	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total 63 - FINANCE & PROPERTY	0.00	0.00	0.00
64 - OUTREACH & SERVICES			
641 - Program	0.00	58.31	-58.31
Total 64 - OUTREACH & SERVICES	0.00	58.31	-58.31
65 - DISTRICT GENERAL			
651 - Leadership Team	2,546.97	466.69	2,079.28
653 - District Directory	0.00	87.50	-87.50
654 - Standing Committee Delegates	1,788.97	0.00	1,788.97
671 - Annual Conference Assessment	5,263.88	5,500.00	-236.12



Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren  
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual  
January through July 2026

	Budget Jan -		
	Jan - Jul 25	Jul 25	Over/Under Budget
Total 65 - DISTRICT GENERAL	9,598.82	6,054.19	3,544.63
69 - SPIRITUALITY & CONGREGATIONAL			
6912 - SAC Other	0.00	116.69	-116.69
692 - Senior High	0.05	291.69	-291.64
699 - NYC	500.00	500.00	0.00
Total 69 - SPIRITUALITY & CONGREGATIONAL	500.05	908.38	-408.33
70 - COMMUNICATIONS TEAM			
710 - Program	0.00	291.69	-291.69
Total 70 - COMMUNICATIONS TEAM	0.00	291.69	-291.69
Total 6 - MINISTRY TEAMS	16,164.84	13,326.51	3,139.03
Total Expense	132,524.01	144,936.81	-12,312.00
Net Ordinary Income	-69,803.17	-43,553.39	-15,249.79
Other Income/Expense			
Other Income			
701 - TRANSFERS/ INTERFUND INCOME (Funds transfer internally)			
4026 - ACNB Unrealized G/L Gov't Bonds (Unrealized Gain Or Loss Gov't Bonds)	0.00		
4022 - Unrealized G/L Eder General (General Operating Account)	5,761.75		
4027 - ACNB Unrealized G/L Mutual Funds	1,428.20		
Total 701 - TRANSFERS/ INTERFUND INCOME (Funds transfer internally)	8,189.95		
410 - FUND INCOME	0.00		
Total Other Income	8,189.95		
Other Expense			
Total Other Expense	0.00		
Net Other Income	8,189.95		
Net Income	58,811.72	43,553.39	7,859.83

# Outreach Donations

as of July 2025

Congregation	2022	2023	2024	2025
Allensville				
Arlington	3,937.50	3,150.00	3,500.00	2,625.00
Beaver Creek	4,000.00	5,000.00	4,000.00	2,000.00
Bethany	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	
Broadfording	3,000.00	3,000.00	3,250.00	1,750.00
Brownsville	10,284.00	8,997.00	2,332.00	
Bush Creek	1,845.00	2,000.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Columbia United	500.00			
Comm. Of Joy		2,774.95		
Denton	2,500.00	2,500.00	1,000.00	2,500.00
Downsville	450.00	750.00	250.00	250.00
Dranesville	2,600.00	3,000.00	3,200.00	800.00
Dundalk				
Easton	3,500.00	4,000.00	4,000.00	2,200.00
Edgewood	500.00	500.00		
Fairview	5,700.00	5,700.00	5,700.00	
Fellowship	2,400.00	2,450.00	2,500.00	1,200.00
First Baltimore	1,100.00	900.00	1,500.00	750.00
Flower Hill				
Frederick	10,000.00	10,000.00	3,500.00	
Friendship				50.00
Glade Valley	1,230.00	1,230.00	1,230.00	600.00
Greenhill	1,750.00	1,750.00	900.00	800.00
Grossnickle	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00	3,250.00
Hagerstown	6,300.00	4,875.00	6,700.00	3,350.00
Harmony	500.00	500.00	500.00	100.00
Hollywood				
Johnsontown	1,575.00	1,575.00	1,575.00	1,575.00
Locust Grove				
Long Green Valley	1,150.00	1,100.00	920.00	460.00
Long Meadow	400.00			
Manassas	16,059.00	11,571.75	10,680.00	5,550.00
Manor	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,100.00	
Meadow Branch	500.00	500.00	500.00	
Midland	2,992.59	2,806.47	3,880.98	2,089.15
Moler Avenue	1,600.00			
Monocacy	100.00			
Mountain View	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00
Nokesville	2,000.00	2,000.00	1,000.00	
Oakton	5,200.00	3,900.00	3,925.00	2,025.00
Piney Creek	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	
Pleasant View				
Reisterstown				
Ridgely	6,000.00	1,000.00	250.00	500.00
Sam's Creek	500.00			
Sharpsburg	300.00	300.00	300.00	150.00
Thurmont	1,000.00		1,000.00	1,000.00
Union Bridge	11,750.00	11,750.00	11,750.00	2,687.50
University Park	3,500.00	2,400.00	4,400.00	3,400.00
Washington City	1,000.00		1,000.00	
Welty	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00	1,100.00
Westminster	13,750.00	11,500.00	12,000.00	6,000.00
Woodberry	1,000.00	1,000.00		
Woodbridge	4,938.00	4,160.00	5,544.00	2,865.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>149,711.09</b>	<b>132,963.17</b>	<b>116,686.98</b>	<b>54,626.65</b>

## **INDIVIDUAL DONORS 2024/2025**

Many thanks to the individuals who have generously donated to the district for outreach, meat canning, the Disaster Fund and designated funds. Together we can work to share the good news of God's love and to serve our neighbors.

Ruth Aukerman  
Albert and Charlotte Bear  
Everett Fisher  
Janet and David Flora  
Kaye and Steve Horr  
Nancy and Billy Horton  
Doris Jenkins  
Sherry Miller  
Ronald Rudy  
Susan Rudy  
Pamela Shook  
Fred V Wilhelm  
Gretchen Zience

Many thanks to all who supported the Disaster Response Auction by purchasing booklet ads, attending and supporting the benefit dinner and auction and all your purchases and donations at the auction.

**The District Board of the Mid-Atlantic District  
of the Church of the Brethren  
Financial Statements and  
Supplementary Information  
Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023**

**The District Board of the Mid-Atlantic District  
of the Church of the Brethren  
Financial Statements and  
Supplementary Information**

**Years Ended December 31, 2024 and 2023**

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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, 2024 and 2023, 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

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  
August 11, 2025

**The District Board of the Mid-Atlantic District Church of the Brethren**  
**Statements of Financial Position**  
**December 31, 2024 and 2023**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<b>Assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 132,251	\$ 252,192
Investments	467,272	398,585
Prepaid expense	468	1,260
Note receivable - GGCF	744,359	773,183
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total assets</b>	<u>\$ 1,344,350</u>	<u>\$ 1,425,220</u>
<b>Liabilities and net assets</b>		
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Payroll liabilities payable	\$ 2,334	\$ 1,778
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	2,334	1,778
<b>Net assets</b>		
Without donor restrictions	1,218,894	1,228,806
Without donor restrictions - board designated	112,083	98,967
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total without donor restrictions	1,330,977	1,327,773
	<hr/>	<hr/>
With donor restrictions	11,039	95,669
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total net assets</b>	<u>1,342,016</u>	<u>1,423,442</u>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
<b>Total liabilities and net assets</b>	<u>\$ 1,344,350</u>	<u>\$ 1,425,220</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, 2024 and 2023**

	<u><b>2024</b></u>	<u><b>2023</b></u>
<b>Net assets without donor restrictions</b>		
Support		
Congregational support	\$ 124,633	\$ 144,110
Investment income (net)	67,165	63,881
Revenue from activities	<u>30,730</u>	<u>16,493</u>
Total support	222,528	224,484
Net assets released from restrictions		
Restrictions satisfied by payments	<u>192,263</u>	<u>34,691</u>
Total unrestricted support	414,791	259,175
Expenses		
Activity funds	222,063	89,068
Support services	<u>189,523</u>	<u>190,842</u>
Total expenses	<u>411,586</u>	<u>279,910</u>
Increase (decrease) in net assets without donor restrictions	3,205	(20,735)
<b>Net assets with donor restrictions</b>		
Contributions	107,632	109,828
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>(192,263)</u>	<u>(34,691)</u>
Increase (decrease) in net assets with donor restrictions	<u>(84,631)</u>	<u>75,137</u>
Increase (decrease) in net assets	(81,426)	54,402
Net assets, beginning of year	<u>1,423,442</u>	<u>1,369,040</u>
Net assets, end of year	<u><u>\$ 1,342,016</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,423,442</u></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, 2024 and 2023**

	2024			2023		
	Activity Funds	Support Services	Total	Activity Funds	Support Services	Total
Administrative fees	\$ 3,431	\$ -	\$ 3,431	\$ 3,236	\$ -	\$ 3,236
Calling and credentialing	5,306	-	5,306	6,801	-	6,801
Church extension and evangelism	-	-	-	1,281	-	1,281
Communications team	-	-	-	410	-	410
Conference expense	4,097	-	4,097	4,737	-	4,737
District general	-	6,413	6,413	-	10,035	10,035
Finance and property	-	5,775	5,775	-	5,100	5,100
Insurance	-	2,215	2,215	-	2,282	2,282
Junior high	-	-	-	200	-	200
Office	11,018	5,419	16,437	2,138	8,552	10,690
Outreach and services	175,696	-	175,696	48,114	-	48,114
Printing	6,202	-	6,202	6,807	-	6,807
Professional services	9,224	3,488	12,712	-	11,012	11,012
Rent	4,120	4,200	8,320	5,675	5,008	10,683
Salaries and benefits	-	144,594	144,594	-	130,609	130,609
Scholarships	1,495	-	1,495	4,785	-	4,785
Senior high	-	2,955	2,955	-	-	-
Spirituality and fellowship	500	-	500	269	-	269
Supplies	153	-	153	61	-	61
Training	821	-	821	4,554	-	4,554
Travel	-	14,464	14,464	-	18,244	18,244
Total expenses	\$ 222,063	\$ 189,523	\$ 411,586	\$ 89,068	\$ 190,842	\$ 279,910

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, 2024 and 2023**

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Increase (decrease) in net assets	\$ (81,426)	\$ 54,402
Adjustments to reconcile increase (decrease) in net assets to net cash used in operating activities		
Realized (gain) loss on sale of fixed assets	-	(3,000)
Unrealized (gain) loss on investments	(597)	(27,596)
(Increase) decrease in prepaid expenses	792	(1,260)
Increase (decrease) in payroll liabilities payable	556	1,051
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities</b>	<u>(80,675)</u>	<u>23,597</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>		
Proceeds from sale of fixed asset	-	3,000
Proceeds from note receivable	28,824	25,523
Purchase of investments	(50,000)	-
Funds reinvested	(18,090)	(4,617)
<b>Cash provided by investing activities</b>	<u>(39,266)</u>	<u>23,906</u>
<b>Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	(119,941)	47,503
<b>Beginning cash and cash equivalents</b>	<u>252,192</u>	<u>204,689</u>
<b>Ending cash and cash equivalents</b>	<u><u>\$ 132,251</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 252,192</u></u>

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, 2024 and 2023**

**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, 2024 and 2023**

**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, 2024 and 2023 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, 2024 and 2023 was \$-0-.

**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, 2024 and 2023**

**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.

**Note B. Availability and Liquidity**

The following represents the Organization's financial assets at December 31, 2024 and 2023:

Financial assets at year-end:	<b><u>2024</u></b>	<b><u>2023</u></b>
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 132,251	\$ 252,192
Notes receivable	744,359	773,183
Investments	<u>467,272</u>	<u>398,585</u>
Total financial assets	1,343,882	1,423,960
Less amounts not available to be used within one year:		
Long-term receivable	716,622	746,621
Net assets with board designations	96,666	98,967
Net assets with donor restrictions	<u>11,039</u>	<u>95,669</u>
	<u>824,327</u>	<u>941,257</u>
Financial assets available to meet general expenditures over the next twelve months	<u>\$ 519,555</u>	<u>\$ 482,703</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, 2024 and 2023**

**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, 2024 and 2023 is \$744,359 and \$773,183, respectively.

**Note D. Property and Equipment**

Property and equipment at December 31, 2024 and 2023 consists of the following:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Furniture, fixtures and equipment	\$ 13,909	\$ 13,909
Less: accumulated depreciation	(13,909)	(13,909)
	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

**Note E. Investments**

The Organization's investments at December 31, 2024 and 2023 are as follows:

	<u>2024</u>		<u>2023</u>	
	Face Value	Market Value	Face Value	Market Value
Brethren Foundation:				
Balanced fund	\$ 135,648	\$ 274,692	\$ 128,933	\$ 267,394
Short term fund	22,747	27,600	21,396	26,520
Certificate of deposit	164,980	164,980	104,671	104,671
	<u>\$ 323,375</u>	<u>\$ 467,272</u>	<u>\$ 255,000</u>	<u>\$ 398,585</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, 2024 and 2023**

**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, 2024 and 2023.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
Interest and dividends	\$ 51,135	\$ 38,564
Investment fees	(2,475)	(2,299)
Unrealized gains (losses)	18,505	27,617
Total investment income-unrestricted	<u>\$ 67,165</u>	<u>\$ 63,882</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, 2024 and 2023 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, 2024 and 2023**

**Note G. Restrictions on Net Assets**

Net assets available for the following purposes at December 31:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>
<b>Without donor restrictions:</b>		
Church extension fund	\$ 38,892	\$ 24,920
Congregation departing fund	17,206	-
Continuing education scholarship fund	2,041	2,041
Disaster fund	22,052	22,249
District conference fund	2,873	2,017
District habitat fund	150	150
Don Rowe student development fund	84,454	78,675
Equipment and secretary fund	12,377	14,324
Good Shepherd fund	655,123	712,129
Greater Grace	182,896	154,392
Junior high conference	1,607	1,607
Ministerial training events	2,344	1,809
National youth conference	3,957	3,456
Operating reserve	299,724	304,509
Peace and justice fund	124	124
Senior high program	2,121	2,121
Special ministries	2,889	3,103
Young adult program	147	147
	<u>\$ 1,330,977</u>	<u>\$ 1,327,773</u>
<b>With donor restrictions:</b>		
Auction fund	\$ 2,374	\$ 88,440
Meat canning	7,736	3,446
NOAC Activity	111	111
Office move	-	2,853
Pastor retreat	424	425
Salt & Light Ministry	100	100
Leadership team book	294	294
	<u>\$ 11,039</u>	<u>\$ 95,669</u>
<b>Release from restrictions:</b>		
Auction fund	\$ 169,853	\$ 13,290
Office move	4,356	148
Meat canning fund	18,053	18,864
NOAC conference	-	2,389
	<u>\$ 192,262</u>	<u>\$ 34,691</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, 2024 and 2023**

**Note H. Subsequent Events**

The Organization has evaluated subsequent events through August 11, 2025, the date which the financial statements were available to be issued.

See independent accountants' review report.

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## **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, 2024**

	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	\$ 115,227	\$ -	\$ 115,227	\$ -	\$ 115,227
Benevolent gifts from individuals	2,025	-	2,025	-	2,025
Other income	1,000	6,381	7,381	-	7,381
Total congregational support	118,252	6,381	124,633	-	124,633
Investment income (net)	67,165	-	67,165	-	67,165
<b>Revenue from board designated activities</b>					
Congregation deaptring fund	-	18,200	18,200	-	18,200
Disaster fund	-	1,500	1,500	-	1,500
District conference	-	4,673	4,673	-	4,673
Equipment and secretary fund	-	4,441	4,441	-	4,441
Ministerial training events	-	1,416	1,416	-	1,416
National youth conference	-	500	500	-	500
<b>Revenue from temporarily restricted activities</b>					
Auction	-	-	-	83,790	83,790
Office move	-	-	-	1,500	1,500
Meat canning	-	-	-	22,342	22,342
Total before release from restrictions	\$ 185,417	\$ 37,111	\$ 222,528	\$ 107,632	\$ 330,160
Release from restrictions	192,262	-	192,262	(192,262)	-
Total revenues, gains and other support	\$ 377,679	\$ 37,111	\$ 414,790	\$ (84,630)	\$ 330,160

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, 2024**

	Without Donor Restrictions	W/O Donor Rest Board Designated	Total W/O Donor Rest	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Total revenues, gains, and other support	\$ 377,679	\$ 37,111	\$ 414,790	\$ (84,630)	\$ 330,160
<b>Expenses and losses</b>					
Calling and credentialing	5,306	-	5,306	-	5,306
District general	6,413	-	6,413	-	6,413
Finance and property	5,775	-	5,775	-	5,775
Spirituality and fellowship	500	-	500	-	500
Staff services and office operation	177,335	-	177,335	-	177,335
<b>Expenses for board designated activities</b>					
Church extension	-	280	280	-	280
Congregation departing fund	-	994	994	-	994
Disaster fund	-	1,696	1,696	-	1,696
District conference	-	3,817	3,817	-	3,817
Don Rowe endowment fund	-	1,495	1,495	-	1,495
Equipment and secretary fund	-	6,388	6,388	-	6,388
Ministerial training events	-	821	821	-	821
Special ministries fund	-	8,504	8,504	-	8,504
<b>Expenses for donor restricted activities</b>					
Auction	169,853	-	169,853	-	169,853
Office move	4,356	-	4,356	-	4,356
Meat canning	18,053	-	18,053	-	18,053
Total expenses	387,591	23,995	411,586	-	411,586
Change in net assets from operations	(9,912)	13,116	3,204	(84,630)	(81,426)
Net assets at beginning of year	1,228,806	98,967	1,327,773	95,669	1,423,442
Net assets at end of year	\$ 1,218,894	\$ 112,083	\$ 1,330,977	\$ 11,039	\$ 1,342,016

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, 2023**

	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	\$ 137,465	\$ -	\$ 137,465	\$ -	\$ 137,465
Benevolent gifts from individuals	3,345	-	3,345	-	3,345
Other income	3,300	-	3,300	-	3,300
Total congregational support	144,110	-	144,110	-	144,110
Investment income (net)	63,881	-	63,881	-	63,881
<b>Revenue from board designated activities</b>					
Church extension	-	250	250	-	250
Disaster fund	-	8,416	8,416	-	8,416
District conference	-	3,535	3,535	-	3,535
Equipment and secretary fund	-	3,234	3,234	-	3,234
Junior high program	-	98	98	-	98
Ministerial training events	-	460	460	-	460
National youth conference	-	500	500	-	500
<b>Revenue from temporarily restricted activities</b>					
Auction	-	-	-	89,458	89,458
Office move	-	-	-	3,000	3,000
Meat canning	-	-	-	14,870	14,870
NOAC conference	-	-	-	2,500	2,500
Total before release from restrictions	\$ 207,991	\$ 16,493	\$ 224,484	\$ 109,828	\$ 334,312
Release from restrictions	34,691	-	34,691	(34,691)	-
Total revenues, gains and other support	\$ 242,682	\$ 16,493	\$ 259,175	\$ 75,137	\$ 334,312

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, 2023**

	Without Donor Restrictions	W/O Donor Rest Board Designated	Total W/O Donor Rest	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Total revenues, gains, and other support	\$ 242,682	\$ 16,493	\$ 259,175	\$ 75,137	\$ 334,312
<b>Expenses and losses</b>					
Calling and credentialing	6,801	-	6,801	-	6,801
Church extension and evangelism	1,281	-	1,281	-	1,281
Communications team	410	-	410	-	410
District general	10,035	-	10,035	-	10,035
Finance and property	5,100	-	5,100	-	5,100
Spirituality and fellowship	269	-	269	-	269
Staff services and office operation	175,707	-	175,707	-	175,707
<b>Expenses for board designated activities</b>					
Church extension	-	1,031	1,031	-	1,031
Disaster fund	-	30,114	30,114	-	30,114
District conference	-	2,942	2,942	-	2,942
Don Rowe endowment fund	-	4,785	4,785	-	4,785
Equipment and secretary fund	-	1,514	1,514	-	1,514
Junior high program	-	200	200	-	200
Ministerial training events	-	4,554	4,554	-	4,554
Special ministries fund	-	476	476	-	476
<b>Expenses for donor restricted activities</b>					
Auction	13,290	-	13,290	-	13,290
Office move	148	-	148	-	148
Meat canning	18,864	-	18,864	-	18,864
NOAC conference	2,389	-	2,389	-	2,389
Total expenses	234,294	45,616	279,910	-	279,910
Change in net assets from operations	8,388	(29,123)	(20,735)	75,137	54,402
Net assets at beginning of year	1,220,418	128,090	1,348,508	20,532	1,369,040
Net assets at end of year	\$ 1,228,806	\$ 98,967	\$ 1,327,773	\$ 95,669	\$ 1,423,442

See independent accountants' review report.

## **RELATED AGENCY REPORTS**





# Church of the Brethren

Greetings Mid-Atlantic District in the Name of Christ!

I hear you are preparing for a District Conference. I hope your Conference will feature enriching times of worship, spiritual growth, and fellowship (while including as little tedium, and acrimony as humanly possible). Along with many faithful co-laborers, I'm working on a conference too, and I have some of these same modest hopes for the 2026 Annual Conference.

Lord willing, we will meet as a church from June 28 to July 2 in Fort Wayne, Indiana, for the 239<sup>th</sup> recorded Church of the Brethren Annual Conference. Instead of our more typical Wednesday-Sunday schedule, the 2026 event will run from Sunday evening through Thursday noon, and will include a mix of worship, business, learning, service, and fellowship.

I don't have a choice whether I will attend—that was pretty much settled when I accepted the call to serve as Moderator—but I recognize you do have a choice. I hope you'll choose to invest your time and resources in gathering with the larger church in Fort Wayne.

These are perilous times for the church. Cultural, theological, and political differences are severing the common bonds that once held us together. We have been fighting over some things for so long that it's hard to imagine it any other way. But imagine we must!

Scholar Walter Brueggeman in his classic work *The Prophetic Imagination* argued that the role of a prophet is to imagine new possibilities. Paradoxically, Brueggeman suggested that a prophet's visions and dreams for a hopeful future often reappropriate themes and symbols from the past—a newness that is so old, he wrote, that it has been forgotten.

If we were to rummage through our collective attic, I wonder what forgotten spiritual treasures we Brethren might rediscover that could help us imagine something new. Who threw that old sheet over the theme of radical discipleship? How did all that dust accumulate on the Book we say is our creed? How did caring community, humble service, and nonviolent peacemaking get buried in that cardboard box full of old Christmas decorations?

Next summer is still a long way off, so I'm not entirely sure how the 2026 Conference will come together. But I can imagine we will look back to see if we can rediscover anything that will help us move forward as a more faithful and united church. Whether you are a Conference junkie who remembers the location and Moderator of every Big Meeting since 1958 or you have never attended, I hope to see you in Fort Wayne. It's an important time for the church to be together.

Blessings,  
Don Fitzkee  
2026 Annual Conference Moderator



## Church of the Brethren

Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings to you in the name of Christ our Savior!

It is an honor to write to you on behalf of the staff, volunteers, and the Mission and Ministry Board of the Church of the Brethren. We pray 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. I am humbled by the ways your district and local congregations faithfully live into the Jesus in the Neighborhood vision, and I wish to express my gratitude for the many ways you support your communities and the wider church.

You will find much about our denominational mission and ministries reflected in two printed resources available to you at your district conference and on the Church of the Brethren website ([www.brethren.org](http://www.brethren.org)). The *Church of the Brethren Annual Report* offers a glimpse of the ministries over the last year, and the *Advocating Generosity* booklet invites you to partner with us in our current ministries. You will also find these resources, together with our recent Church of the Brethren video report, at [www.brethren.org/annualreport](http://www.brethren.org/annualreport).

The Church of the Brethren's Mission and Ministry Board approved a 2025 budget that includes nearly \$500,000 in reductions. The budget aligns with ministry priorities, such as supporting congregations, developing leaders, and engaging in global and service ministries, in response to the changing needs of the church and its decreasing membership. As I mentioned last year, our denominational vision calls us to "develop a culture of calling and equipping disciples who are innovative, adaptable, and fearless." We recognize that as the needs of the churches across the denomination continue to evolve, our staff must also be innovative, adaptable, and fearless in our efforts to enhance support for congregations and their leaders.

We are renewing our efforts to connect with district executives to better understand the needs of congregations and their leaders. We are also seeking ways and opportunities to engage with congregations, encouraging our members to consider participating in our service ministries, and collaborate with us in our global partnerships. We believe this support is essential in fulfilling our vision to be and encounter Jesus in our neighborhoods. To that end, we are here to serve, so if you have any questions or needs, please let us know.

May we continue together to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Your servant in Christ,

David Steele  
General Secretary

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

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



## Church of the Brethren

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

***... let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth – 1 John 3:18***

*Every leader, volunteer group, and administrator has come with a wonderful attitude and will to work that is not often seen. BDM is a first-class organization with first class people from top to bottom. -- Shane Wirth, Habitat for Humanity of Pennyrile Region (Ky.)*

*CDS is the “gold standard of childcare.” -- Red Cross liaison, California wildfire response (2025)*

These reflections from people who work with and observe Brethren Disaster Ministries' (BDM) programs demonstrate that the staff and volunteers embrace and embody the call heard in 1 John. Their deeds and the truth are evident in how they live and all they do to bring healing, hope, and recovery to disaster survivors. Those who support BDM's ministries through prayer, financial contributions, in-kind donations, advocacy, and volunteering at all levels join as cherished partners in our mission to show God's love.

Hurricane Helene struck Florida on Sept. 26, 2024, and moved north causing major flooding all the way to southern Virginia. It was a reminder of how devastating and unpredictable disasters can be but also highlighted the strength of the Church working together for our neighbor's good. All of BDM actively responded to this catastrophic event, including Children's Disaster Services (CDS) sending volunteer teams to North Carolina; multiple coordinating calls with the Southeastern and Atlantic Southeast Districts; volunteer and relief supply coordination with the Virginia District and North Carolina's Camp Carmel; the purchase of special supplies such as mold remediation materials; and providing Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) grants to support district level responses. The mission expanded when Hurricane Milton struck Florida two weeks later, compounding the damage from Helene and prompting the sending of additional CDS teams. Working together through Christ, the BDM network helped “bear one another's burdens.” Home rebuilding in North Carolina is scheduled to start in the fall of 2025. Hurricanes Helene and Milton were just two of many disasters and crises that BDM responded to in 2024..

Children's Disaster Services volunteers served in eight MARCs (multi-agency resource centers) in response to multiple tornadoes in the South Central, Midwest, and Southeastern US regions in the spring and summer of 2024 and also responded to one flooding event and four wildfires. In the fall, at the request of the Red Cross to care for children impacted by the hurricanes, three CDS teams served four weeks in shelters and a Family Assistance Center in the

*Continued on the following page*

Asheville, N.C., area and two teams served in shelters in the Tampa Bay, Fla., area. During the year CDS responded to 13 disasters, sending 68 volunteers who served 729 child contacts.

In early January 2025 wildfires in California stretched CDS to respond in multiple locations with four teams serving 515 children in the area in a little over a month. Spring tornadoes sent CDS to the plains states and Midwest to serve more children and families.

The Rebuilding Program completed 22 months of service to families impacted by the 2021 tornadoes in Dawson Springs, Ky. Additional support for this project site came from a Lowe's 2024 Winter Cycle Reconstruction Grant facilitated through NVOAD (National Voluntary

Organizations Active in Disaster). In response to the deadly 2022 flooding in Eastern Kentucky, a BDM volunteer group served survivors for a week in April 2024 in Letcher County and a new long-term site opened there in the fall. BDM's partner described its arrival in September as "perfect timing" because they were lacking volunteers just at the time that federal and state funding was becoming available to build new homes.

Smaller responses included collaboration with the leadership in three districts in Pennsylvania to coordinate local flood responses in the Eastwick/Cobbs Creek neighborhood of Philadelphia and in York County. Two EDF grants were provided for the York County response to purchase materials installed by BDM volunteers and to support a local partner providing Disaster Case Management.

Through our project sites, 39 families received support from 600 weekly volunteers who provided 4,636 hours of service on their homes. This free labor provided a cost savings of \$1,242,077 to the families and local partners. Sixty-five disaster project leaders served in 2024.

Tragically, in 2024 international responses once again focused much more on supporting families impacted by violence, a human-caused crisis, than on natural disasters. In January 2025, the rebel group M23 invaded and occupied villages and cities in the Eastern DR Congo, displacing millions including Church of the Brethren members in North and South Kivu provinces. BDM is partnering with DR Congo and Burundi church leaders to help develop, support, and coordinate responses. In South Sudan political and ethnic violence has escalated to the brink of a civil war. BDM and Global Mission staff are working with leaders from the South Sudan mission to expand humanitarian response plans while supporting the mission. EDF grants are already supporting families displaced by this violence.

A total of \$564,000 in EDF grants funded war-related relief and recovery programs in the DR Congo, Lebanon, Nigeria, Palestine, South Sudan, and

*Continued on the following page*

Ukraine. This was the first year that grants provided aid and relief to families impacted by the Israel-Hamas war in the Palestinian territories and attacks on Hezbollah in southern Lebanon. Smaller grants provided critical storm and flood relief in Burundi, the DR Congo, Dominican Republic, and South Sudan. Grants to partners in Mexico and the Dominican Republic supported the needs of refugees. Another area of ongoing focus is a response to the crisis in Haiti, including a failed government and sections of the country controlled by violent gangs, leaving families and congregations struggling to survive.

The Nigeria Crisis Response (NCR), in collaboration with EYN (Church of the Brethren in Nigeria), received \$225,000 in EDF funds in 2024. Amidst ongoing, and often increasing, violence and insecurity, NCR maintains its focus on sponsorship of camps for internally displaced people; supporting EYN refugees returning from Cameroon, food distributions; medical assistance; livelihood training centers for widows and orphans; seeds and fertilizer; new wells for drinking water; education assistance for orphan children; and home repairs for the most vulnerable.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy Winter". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Roy" and last name "Winter" clearly distinguishable.

Roy Winter, Executive Director for Service Ministries

*On behalf of BDM staff: Jenn Dorsch-Messler, Sharon Franzén, Kim Gingerich, Carolyn Neher, and Michael Scalzi*



# 2024-2025 *BVS* ANNUAL REPORT

Sharing God's love through acts of service

## QUICK STATS:

**2024 VOLUNTEERS: 54**

**ACTIVE PROJECT SITES: 56**

**LOCATIONS OF PROJECTS:  
16 US STATES, 12 COUNTRIES**

**BVS/FAITHX STAFF:  
4 + 1 BVS VOLUNTEER**

**VOLUNTEER BENEFITS:  
MONTHLY \$250 STIPEND,  
FOOD, HOUSING, HEALTH  
INSURANCE, TRANSIT**

**FAITHX PARTICIPANTS: 183**

**FAITHX TRIPS IN 2024: 10**

Brethren Volunteer Service continues to think creatively as we explore what service looks like and how we can best support our volunteers and engage with our community.

Currently, BVS staff work remotely. This allows staff to connect with BVS recruits & supporters in a wider range of locations without the carbon footprint. Plus, with digital files, we use less paper!

Staff Changes: Virginia Rendler moved from interim Volunteer Coordinator to permanent staff. Walt Wiltschek resigned from the position of office coordinator. BVSer Rachel Johnson joined the BVS team to help plan and lead the 2025 FaithX trips!

The biggest way you can support BVS is by sharing about it with others! Most of our volunteers come into BVS because someone they know encouraged them to apply. Who can you encourage to volunteer with BVS?

### DID YOU KNOW?

BVS has a monthly email newsletter!  
Sign up to stay connected!



BrethrenVolunteerService.org ; BVS@brethren.org



# MEET OUR STAFF



Director  
Chelsea Goss Skillen



FaithX Coordinator  
Marissa Witkovsky-Eldred



Volunteer Coordinator  
Virginia Rendler



European Coordinator  
Sara Cook



BVS Volunteer  
Rachel Johnson

## 2024 ORIENTATIONS

27 volunteers completed orientation in 2024. Summer orientations (Unit 335) met at Camp Colorado and fall orientation (Unit 336) at Camp Brethren Heights in Michigan.



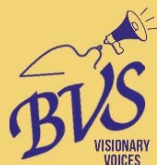
## 2025 ORIENTATIONS

This year's orientations will be held at Camp Colorado on July 27-Aug. 4, and at Camp Mardela on Sept 10-18. Anyone over 18 is welcome to apply!



## BVS VISIONARY VOICES

BVS has a new quarterly speaker series! Join us to hear from professionals in our community as they share on relevant topics that are linked to the four BVS goals.



In 2024, FaithX welcomed over 180 participants for 10 week-long service trips, including an international trip to Ecuador and a trip specifically for adults age 55+. The summer's theme, 'Beloved', based on 1 John 4:7, reminded participants to love in the way that God loves us.

In 2025, FaithX is hosting 9 trips with over 160 participants. Combo junior high and senior high trips have been especially popular, allowing entire youth groups to serve together.

**DID YOU KNOW?** FaithX offers custom trips for groups of any age!



[Brethren.org/faithx/](https://Brethren.org/faithx/) | [FaithX@brethren.org](mailto:FaithX@brethren.org)

## A Future with Hope: On Earth Peace's Next 50 Years

*"For surely I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD, "plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope." — Jeremiah 29:11 (NRSV)*



On Earth Peace's purpose as an **agency of the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference** is to help the Church of the Brethren become a relevant, vital, "living" peace and justice church equipped to create vital relationships and initiatives responding to contemporary issues of violence and injustice.

On Earth Peace's work as a ministry within the Church of the Brethren dates to 1974, when the organization was founded by 20th-century Church of the Brethren peace leader M.R. Zigler. In 2024, we celebrated our 50th anniversary with the theme Legacy & Hope. In 2025, we work to build a future with hope for the next 50 years. **In each generation, we have developed new ministries and programs relevant to the moment and developed leaders who are confident and ready to step up.** Today, we work to prevent gun violence, challenge political violence, and stand with people of color as our faith calls us. In Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Pilgrimage to Nonviolence, he reflects, "The sixth basic fact about nonviolent resistance is that it is based on the conviction that the universe is on the side of justice. Consequently, the believer in nonviolence has deep faith in the future." **Through the eyes of faith, On Earth Peace has a deep hope in the future of the Church of the Brethren and of the world we live in. Our small denomination may have been created for such a time as this. Core Brethren discipleship values, commitment to follow the Prince of Peace, and our commitment to community are balm in a divided world.**

OEP is an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit that has been an agency of the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference since 1998. While OEP is an agency of the denomination, no centralized denominational funding supports our work. All resources for our ministry come from individual and congregational donations or program income. **We are grateful to all individuals and congregations who remember us in their family or congregational giving. If you are unable to include us in your annual budget, please consider taking up a one-time special offering in 2025.**

### 2024 Highlights

- **4 Affinity Groups** formed to address issues in their communities, including working for belonging and inclusion, and preventing gun violence.
- **4 youth groups** applied Kingian Nonviolence in their communities.
- **14 participants in the Kingian Nonviolence Level One training of trainers** from the United States, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, and Cameroon.
- **3 issues of a children's resource, Agape Magazine**, covering topics including Resisting War, Making Peace, and Pursuing Justice.
- **20 interns** supported On Earth Peace's programs, fundraising, and communications work.
- **242 Brethren trained** to date in Kingian Nonviolence towards our goal of 1000 Brethren.
- **92 trainings and events** including Kingian Nonviolence introductions and advanced trainings, gun violence prevention and political violence organizing meet-ups, and 50th anniversary events.
- **327 people participated in 50th Anniversary celebration** events and fundraisers.





## Agape Magazine

In 2024, On Earth Peace published three issues of a digital magazine, *Agape: A Peacemaking Guide for Kids*, **designed for children in our constituency aged 8-12 who are eager to learn more about peacemaking**. Further issues are being published in 2025. Links to all issues of this digital magazine can be found on the On Earth Peace website: [https://www.OnEarthPeace.org/agape\\_magazine](https://www.OnEarthPeace.org/agape_magazine)

## Community Engagement Mini-Grants for Youth Groups

**OEP supports youth groups by offering up to \$500 in grant funding to support a youth-initiated project for peace and justice in their community.** We accompany youth through webinars and consultation as they connect with their neighborhoods. In 2024, OEP offered grants to youth in Gombe, Nigeria, and Findlay, Ohio. Please help us connect with youth groups in your district!

## Internship Program

Through our paid internship program, On Earth Peace connects with 18 to 24-year-olds, college and graduate students of any age, and recent graduates. OEP has hosted over 120 young adults in its internship program since 2016. In 2024, 20 interns and fellows worked as part of our team. **Please help us connect with young adults in your district!** All interns and fellows are trained in the 16-hour KNV Core Training in Kingian Nonviolence and participate in a multiracial, international cohort of interns. OEP interns and fellows support all the organization's work, including issue-based organizing, training, programs for children and youth, brand and messaging, and fundraising efforts. In early 2024, the staff and intern team worked hard to help a Palestinian OEP intern flee Gaza with her family; thanks to support from our entire community, we were able to raise sufficient funds to support their escape to safety.

*On Earth Peace Values: Jesus-Centered Spirituality; Positive Peace; Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression; Intergenerational Leadership; Beloved Community*

*Vision Statement: "We see a world in Beloved Community, free from oppression, violence, and war."*

*Mission Statement: "We develop and walk with leaders and communities who work for justice and peace."*

In 2025, we anticipate working with many of you to respond to the increasing political violence affecting our neighbors and communities. We name our support and commitment to LGBTQ+ persons, to immigrants, to people of color, to those affected by gun violence, to those most directly harmed by state violence and war, and to all who yearn and work for a world free from oppression, violence, and war. We will continue to walk with followers of Jesus in the Church of the Brethren as we seek together a path to become a living peace church. Please include us in your prayers.

In Christ's peace,

Matt Guynn  
Co-executive Director

Marie Benner-Rhoades  
Co-Executive Director



# Eder Financial

BOLD. BALANCED. TRUSTED.

## 2025 Eder Financial Report

You likely benefit from the service of Eder Financial, whether you have direct interaction with Eder Financial or not. That's because we offer employee-based retirement, insurance, and financial services to nonprofit organizations like ministries, retirement homes, camps, and similar institutions. Serving those of like mind within the broader faith-based and nonprofit community, Eder also manages special funds, like ministry funds, memorial funds, cemetery funds, and building funds for congregations and other church-related organizations.

In 2024, we helped those we serve focus on carrying out their personal or organization's mission by –

- Permanently securing annuity payments for 1,700 annuitants.
- Offering complimentary life insurance to organizations that offered our other insurance products to their employees.
- Creating a toolkit to help organizations raise and manage funds to maintain their economic viability in the future.
- Increasing the number of grants within one of the benevolent funds we manage to proactively address the growing needs of our members.
- Continuing to offer learning sessions that give individuals and organizations the information they need to thrive.
- Adding additional components to our medical plan that help improve quality of life.

As an institution that partners with organizations that serve others, we seek to make decisions around retirement as easy as possible, creating a simple path to participation for all who can enroll, as many Americans find themselves having insufficient savings in retirement. We work to ensure members are not faced with that problem by streamlining the enrollment process, encouraging them to contribute consistently, and using an asset allocation model to help them grow their funds. Part-time employees meeting the minimum hour requirement can participate in both the Eder Retirement and Insurance plans.

Concierge service is included with our insurance products, which allows members to have their questions and concerns addressed more personally. Our ancillary insurances, which include but are not limited to 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 while not suffering high premium rate increases year after year.

We take the business of managing money very seriously, whether it is an organization's investment fund or money an individual has chosen to put aside for a charitable gift fund. Eder Organizational Investing has over \$140 million in assets under management, serving approximately 200 clients. We manage funds for organizations in a way that allows easy access. Plus, we offer several investment tools, reports, and resources to assist organizations with fund acquisition and management. We would be glad to connect with you to share more.

Plus, our service model includes assisted help and education. We educate members on the questions they should ask to be successful, whether helping them grow their congregations' financial base or managing their personal retirement plan or insurance.

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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 Values Investing**

Eder has long believed that it should invest the funds it manages according to its values, which include but are not limited to peacemaking, stewardship, and community. Eder has a three-pronged EVI approach – screening, advocacy, and community development. Through screening, for example, each year Eder Financial's Board of Directors adopts two lists of companies that earn significant revenue from U.S. military operations. One list identifies the top 25 publicly traded defense contractors based on the size of contracts awarded by the Department of Defense, and the other list includes all publicly traded companies that generate more than 10 percent of their revenue from Department of Defense contracts. The firms on the lists are screened from Eder Financial's investment portfolios by all of our investment managers, and the organization avoids being a customer of any of these companies wherever possible.

A comparison of investment returns that are screened for Eder Values Investing by Eder's investment managers versus those managers' unscreened portfolios, shows that values-based screening almost always equals or exceeds unscreened portfolios. Eder Retirement Plan's investment funds have a history of strong performance. Our selection of funds offers opportunities for diversification and the potential for improved portfolio performance with thoughtful allocation. While we cannot guarantee market performance, Eder Values Investing ensures your investments are consistent with your values.

### **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, pastors, denominational executives, and organizations of like mind with Eder Financial. If you or someone you know would like to serve on the Eder Financial Board, please let us know. We are always looking for people who are dedicated to service, who want to do meaningful volunteer work, and who are committed to being an active member of a board.

We also have 30 people on our team 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.

### **Conclusion**

Our mission to inspire responsible stewardship by delivering high quality values-driven employee benefits, finance services, and educational resources, and our commitment to service has not wavered. We work to be proactive, not reactive. We strive to answer the questions our customers have before they ask, not waiting for questions to come our way but anticipating them. In short, we've got our members and clients covered. If you and/or your congregation have not considered Eder Financial for your needs, we invite you to explore what we have to offer.

### **Donna Rhodes**

Eder Financial Board Chair

### **Nevin Dulabaum**

Eder Financial President



## Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center Report to the 2025 Mid-Atlantic District Conference

*"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven."*  
Ecclesiastes 3:1

Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center is in a season of transition. At the end of April, Donna Rhodes retired as director of SVMC after many years of faithful service, and Audrey Hollenberg-Duffey began as the new director. Transition brings with it unique opportunities, and yet Ecclesiastes 3 reminds us that in all times and all seasons, God is present.

Even as SVMC embraces the new thing God is doing in our midst, we continue our mission to equip leaders for ministry as we partner with the Atlantic Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, Middle PA, Southern PA, and Western PA Districts, as well as Bethany Theological Seminary and the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership. Whether church leaders are at the beginning of their ministry journey or seeking renewal along the way, SVMC provides resources and education that meet them where they are. Our ACTS and TRIM courses are accessible through in-person gatherings or Zoom and are grounded in the principles and practices of the Brethren tradition. We also provide continuing education events that are relevant and engaging.

SVMC's staff leads the program to fulfill its mission: Audrey Hollenberg-Duffey, Director; Karen Hodges, Program Coordinator; and Ray Flagg, Treasurer.

### **Academic Year 2024-2025**

In the 2024-2025 academic year, enrollment totaled seventy registrations across thirteen courses. The Mid-Atlantic District has one student enrolled in ACTS.

### **Academic Year 2025-26**

By the time district conference occurs, we will be into the 2025-2026 schedule of courses. We have eleven courses planned for ACTS and TRIM students in the five partner districts. Anyone is welcome to take a class, regardless of their enrollment in a ministry training program.

### **Continuing Education Events 2025**

We have already hosted excellent continuing education events for clergy and interested laity on a range of themes, from caring for congregants during difficult times to the faithful use of technology. There is one more continuing education event this year.

Title: *Weakness Transformed in the Gospel of Matthew*

Leader: Dan Ulrich

Date/Time: Saturday, November 1 from 9:00 am-3:00 pm

Location: Stone Church of the Brethren and Zoom

Visit [www.etown.edu/SVMC](http://www.etown.edu/SVMC) to register and see future continuing education opportunities.

(SVMC District Conference Report Continued on Next Page)

SVMC District Conference Report Page 2

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

SVMC relies upon a close collaboration with our five partner districts, Bethany Theological Seminary, and the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership. With appreciation, we thank the following persons from the Mid-Atlantic District who serve SVMC faithfully:

- Governing Board: Doug Veal as District Executive, and Rolland Kiracofe. Thank you to Nancy McCrickard for serving on the Governing Board until April of this year
- Staff member Audrey Hollenberg-Duffey is a member of the Mid-Atlantic District
- The Mid-Atlantic District Commission

With appreciation, we thank the following contributors from the Mid-Atlantic District who offered a monetary gift to SVMC July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025:

Individuals:

Ruth Aukerman  
Albert and Charlotte Bear  
Lester and Esther Boleyn

Miller and Connie Burk Davis  
Tim and Audrey Hollenberg-Duffey  
William Zepp

Congregations:

Easton  
Glade Valley  
Hagerstown  
Long Green Valley

Manor  
Nokesville  
Westminster

We are deeply grateful for our partners' gifts, whether shared through financial support, prayer, or time and talents.

Even in this new season, 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 them to be in contact with SVMC to explore the opportunities available to them.

Blessings,



Audrey Hollenberg-Duffey  
Director



Mark Liller  
Governing Board Chair

**Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center - Revenues / Expenses through December 2024**

(100.0% of Budget Year)

REVENUES	Current	YTD-2024	Budget-2024	YTD-2023	Difference YDT 2024 vs 2023	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	10,200.00	15,000.00	10,800.00	(600.00)	68.0%
4021 Mid-Pa District	0.00	6,500.00	6,500.00	6,500.00	0.00	100.0%
4022 Mid Atlantic	0.00	3,750.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	(1,250.00)	75.0%
4023 Western PA District	0.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00	0.00	100.0%
4030 Individuals	4,500.00	28,582.73	20,000.00	27,025.00	1,557.73	142.9%
4040 Congregations	3,325.39	26,910.57	21,000.00	29,022.12	(2,111.55)	128.1%
4050 Organizations/Trust/Foundation	21,200.00	21,200.00	26,200.00	21,036.93	163.07	80.9%
4110 Seminary Students	0.00	0.00	0.00	600.00	(600.00)	
4120 Academy Students	2,530.00	21,739.00	19,000.00	18,300.00	3,439.00	114.4%
4125 TRIM Student Tuition	0.00	1,545.00	2,400.00	5,645.00	(4,100.00)	64.4%
4130 Continuing Ed Tuition/Fees	65.00	9,237.59	12,000.00	6,075.00	3,162.59	77.0%
4130.1 NMS Income	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,325.24	(1,325.24)	
4130.2 NMS Transfer	0.00	0.00	0.00	(704.33)	704.33	
4290 Interest	121.56	496.90	100.00	20.81	476.09	1.0%
4300 Transfer from Reserve	34,711.00	34,711.00	51,700.00	24,948.61	9,762.39	67.1%
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>67,702.95</b>	<b>188,872.79</b>	<b>202,900.00</b>	<b>179,594.38</b>	<b>9,278.41</b>	<b>93.1%</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>						
5010 BTS Faculty	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5022 Academy Faculty/Expenses	1,475.00	10,650.00	8,750.00	8,575.00	2,075.00	121.7%
5024 TRIM Honorarium	0.00	0.00	1,600.00	3,400.00	(3,400.00)	0.0%
5025 Continuing Ed Faculty/Expense	668.75	5,298.97	7,600.00	3,437.85	1,861.12	69.7%
5025.1 NMS Expense	0.00	0.00	0.00	620.91	(620.91)	
5035 Executive Director	5,945.58	71,346.96	71,347.00	67,755.84	3,591.12	100.0%
5050 Program Administrator	3,778.58	45,342.96	45,342.00	43,060.08	2,282.88	100.0%
5060 Receptionist/File Clerk	0.00	0.00	750.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
5110 Employer's FICA/Medicare	289.06	3,752.53	3,996.00	3,578.04	174.49	93.9%
5115 Unemployment Tax	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
5120 Prog. Coordinator BBT Ins	40.97	423.99	380.00	396.84	27.15	111.6%
5121 Executive Director BBT Ins	57.60	691.20	640.00	656.76	34.44	108.0%
5122 Prog Coordinator Supplement	0.00	0.00	6,150.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
5123 Executive Director Supplement	305.00	3,660.00	3,660.00	3,510.00	150.00	100.0%
5130 Executive Director Retirement	750.05	6,000.86	6,001.00	8,552.04	(448.82)	100.0%
5131 Program Coordinator Retirement	415.64	4,987.66	4,987.00	4,736.52	251.14	100.0%
5132 QSEHRA Reimbursement	466.17	6,150.00	5,850.00	5,850.00	300.00	105.1%
5140 W Comp/Liability Ins	2,896.00	3,126.00	4,700.00	3,678.00	(552.00)	66.5%
5190 Professional Growth: Exec Dir	0.00	115.00	750.00	370.00	(255.00)	15.3%
5191 Professional Growth: Prog Coord	0.00	23.37	100.00	100.00	(76.63)	23.4%
5515 ACTS Travel Expenses	227.43	1,436.66	1,500.00	1,762.15	(325.49)	95.8%
5525 TRIM Travel Expenses	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
5530 SVMC Staff Travel	260.93	1,708.63	1,500.00	1,571.19	137.44	113.9%
5540 SVMC Staff- Annual Conf.	0.00	1,156.14	1,700.00	630.27	525.87	68.0%
6010 Accounting/Auditing	360.00	4,740.25	4,900.00	4,732.00	8.25	96.7%
6030 Equipment/Machines	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	186.97	(186.97)	0.0%
6050 Hospitality	0.00	659.90	600.00	820.11	(160.21)	110.0%
6055 Development/Promotion	54.49	2,087.04	2,500.00	960.84	1,126.20	83.5%
6060 Legal	0.00	0.00	500.00	25.25	(25.25)	0.0%
6070 Photocopies	0.00	0.00	150.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
6080 Postage	46.84	697.53	500.00	617.47	80.06	139.5%
6090 Rent	450.00	5,400.00	5,000.00	4,910.00	490.00	108.0%
6100 Supplies	0.00	1,112.40	800.00	1,059.96	52.44	139.1%
6110 Telephone/Fax	165.00	2,040.00	2,500.00	2,040.27	(0.27)	81.6%
6120 Technology Tools	137.89	2,791.16	2,200.00	1,729.45	1,061.71	126.9%
6290 Miscellaneous	0.00	0.00	150.00	35.34	(35.34)	0.0%
6295 Bank/Credit Card Fees	10.00	472.90	225.00	235.23	237.67	210.2%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>18,800.98</b>	<b>188,872.11</b>	<b>202,428.00</b>	<b>179,594.38</b>	<b>9,277.73</b>	<b>93.3%</b>
<b>Income over Expenses</b>	<b>48,901.97</b>	<b>0.68</b>	<b>472.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>		



## July 2025 Report to the Mid-Atlantic Conference

Dear Friends in the Mid-Atlantic District,

At Bridgewater College, we believe the greatest possibilities in life are realized in what we build together. As we conclude our 145th academic year, we are grateful for your continued partnership and support.

*Connections: The Campaign for Bridgewater College* successfully concluded on June 30, raising \$36.7 million for current student scholarships, exceptional teaching, hands-on learning opportunities and capital projects including the recent renovation of Bowman Hall, which we celebrated last October with a dedication ceremony on Homecoming weekend.

All three of our academic schools are now named, with the third officially announced in November as the Greg L. and Betty P. Coffman School of Natural Sciences. The Coffmans' generosity will support faculty development, classroom and laboratory improvements and expanded opportunities for student research among the school's five academic departments.

We look forward to welcoming more than 400 first-year students to campus in the fall. As prospective students and their families continue to learn about our commitment to tuition transparency and the real value of a Bridgewater education, applications and interest continue to grow significantly.

Along with innovative new programs in criminology, game design, engineering and more, our commitment to accessibility is opening doors and reaffirming that Bridgewater College should be on students' lists of colleges to explore.

In 2024-25, 61 congregations and church groups contributed \$30,372 to the College. Church of the Brethren students enrolled in 2024-25 received more than \$300,000 in College-funded financial aid. Eleven Mid-Atlantic District congregations donated \$4,372, and six of our students came from the Mid-Atlantic District, receiving College-funded aid of more than \$59,000.

Our shared values remain the central foundation of the Bridgewater experience. No matter how much the world around us changes, the pursuit of goodness, truth, beauty, and harmony will remain central to the work we do at Bridgewater College.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David W. Bushman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David W. Bushman, Ph.D.



## **2025 Report to Church of the Brethren District Conferences**

Bethany Seminary

February 1, 2025

As Bethany Theological Seminary enters its 31st year in Richmond, Indiana, we are delighted to report that our educational mission is thriving! We continue to see strong enrollment as students from the Church of the Brethren (as well as other Christian traditions) come to Bethany as they respond to a call from God to ministry and service. Thanks to strong financial support from alumni and friends, our robust academic program is affordable and accessible to all qualified students.

We have responded to the changing needs and interests of students by investing in technology that extends our learning community around the world. We regularly update courses or add new ones to help students grow spiritually and intellectually and prepare to minister and serve in a wide array of contexts. Yet the education we provide remains grounded in the enduring values and distinctive witness of the Church of the Brethren.

A review of the past decades reveals a clear trajectory as the Seminary has moved through worry about the institution's survival, completed diligent work to ensure our long term financial sustainability, and arrived at a moment where we can imagine flourishing for generations to come. The key to our success is that Bethany is a truly student-centered institution. When we put our energy and resources into providing students with a truly transformative seminary education, there is no doubt that Bethany, and our distinctive Brethren witness, will continue to shine.

### **Leadership**

#### **Board of Trustees**

The Bethany Board of Trustees is led by Chairman Mark Clapper (Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania). Jacqueline Hartley (Elgin, Illinois) is vice chair and Jonathan Frye (McPherson, Kansas) is board secretary. New members of the board are Katy Gray Brown (North Manchester, Indiana), David McFadden (Milford, Indiana), and Dennis Webb (Evanston, Illinois).

#### **Campus Leadership**

Rev. Dr. Jeff Carter is in his 12th year as president of Bethany. He is assisted by an experienced leadership team that helps guide long-term planning and day-to-day decision making at the Seminary. This year Jeff has represented Bethany at meetings of the World Council of Churches, the Association of Theological Schools, and on visits to Nigeria. Locally, he remains engaged in the local community, working to build relationships with key

partners. Jeff continues to speak in congregations and at district and denominational events, and is working to strengthen the seminary's connection to the Brethren colleges.

### Major Initiatives

The Seminary is working with the six Brethren colleges to establish a pathway for high achieving students at the colleges to earn a graduate certificate or begin work on a master's degree through Bethany while they are still undergraduates. Bethany hopes to have memoranda of understanding with all of the institutions signed within a year. The program will not only strengthen ties between the colleges and the Seminary, but also to provide undergraduates a seamless, affordable, and accessible way to pursue theological education and prepare to answer a call to various forms of ministry and service.

Bethany held its first Commencement ceremony in Jos, Nigeria on May 21, 2024. That joyous occasion honored 22 graduates who had completed postgraduate diplomas and certificates between 2021-24. The event marked an important milestone in a multiyear effort to build and nurture relationships in Nigeria. For context, Bethany signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Ekkleisiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN) to offer an online educational program in 2016. The technology center where classes are now held was constructed in 2017. Bethany now has two full-time staff members in Jos — Sharon Flaten and Joshua Sati — who have built relationships with students, friends, and neighbors. President Jeff Carter and other Seminary leaders have traveled to Nigeria several times to meet with leaders of government offices, religious organizations, and academic institutions. We have also hosted visitors from Nigeria in Richmond. Especially notable is our connection to Rev. Dr. Daniel Mbaya, the president of EYN. He was keynote speaker at our first Nigeria commencement, and he visited our campus last summer.

Funded in part by a grant from the City of Richmond, Bethany has launched a new opportunity for leadership training and service that is open to students from all of the higher education institutions in Richmond. The Seminary has forged a new partnership with Indiana University East, which includes the opportunity for Bethany students to enroll in select courses offered at the University. These collaborations are part of Bethany's effort to deepen its connections to the local community.

At the 2024 Annual Conference, Bethany celebrated the public launch of Flourish: A Campaign for Bethany Theological Seminary. This fundraising effort seeks \$12 million to enhance the student experience, encourage faculty creativity and innovation, and to bolster the Seminary's annual fund. As of January 1, 2025, the Seminary had received 1209 gifts to the campaign and raised \$10.8 million. This total includes several leadership gifts, including \$1 million from Priscilla Wampler, and her late husband, Paul, to support the Bethany BOLD program; \$1.4 million from Kathy and Mark Melhorn in support of various needs; and an additional gift to ensure that the Seminary will continue to have a strong focus on Brethren studies. Bethany intends to complete the campaign in 2026.

## Academic Community

The Seminary continues to offer four master's degrees, as well as nine programs leading to graduate certificates or postgraduate diplomas. All courses are accessible to students from anywhere in the world via an internet connection. Bethany offers students many opportunities to put their faith and education into practice through community engagement and service learning activities. Some intensive courses continue to be offered far from campus in such locations as Atlanta, Los Angeles, and Iona, Scotland.

## Selected Faculty Activities

Dr. Jeff Carter led a continuing education event for pastors at the Idaho/Western Montana District Conference. He was also a presenter at the Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center's day-long fall symposium. His presentation was entitled, "The Question of Leadership: Why It Matters!" In addition, Carter was a presenter and closing speaker at the Church of the Brethren LEAD Conference hosted by the Ephrata Church of the Brethren. He also recently published an essay in *In Trust* magazine discussing Bethany's commitment to forming community in person and with technology.

Dr. Joelle Hathaway presented at the American Academy of Religion on "A New Icon of The Triumph of Orthodoxy" in a pedagogy section called "Teach This Image." She also published a visual curation and commentary for *The Visual Commentary on Scripture* titled, "Discerning the Body." One image each from artists Graeme Mortimer Evelyn, Nyoman Darsane, and Susan Dorothea White were put into conversation with 1 Corinthians 11:17-33 to consider what it means "to come together" as a Church in today's world. These three contemporary works were chosen as small windows into the pressing issues of global poverty, gender discrimination, and ethnic and racial oppression. Read in light of Paul's concerns for the celebration of the Lord's Supper, these images invite us to consider various challenges to the unity of the body of Christ. Link: <https://thevcs.org/discerning-body>

At the December 2023 meeting of the Academy of Homiletics, Dr. Dawn Ottoni-Wilhelm, Brightbill professor of preaching and worship and editor of the journal *Homiletic*, gave a panel presentation on publication trends in the field of homiletics, along with editors of the *International Journal of Homiletics*, Westminster John Knox Press, and Rowan and Littlefield.

Dr. Denise Kettering-Lane, associate professor of Brethren studies, presented papers at two conferences last fall. In September, she presented "Lessons from the Past for 21st-Century Brethren" at The Forum for Brethren Studies at Bridgewater College. She shared "The Krefeld Connection: Pietists and Immigration to Germantown, Pennsylvania" at the Heirs of Pietism II Conference held at United Theological Seminary in October.

Dr. Steve Schweitzer, academic dean, published "Introduction and Biblical Context Notes" on 1-2 Chronicles in *Anabaptist Community Bible*. Harrisonburg, VA: MennoMedia, 2025. Schweitzer presented a paper: "Proximity to an Elusive Utopia in Deuteronomy: How the

Book Presents Its Vision as Accessible but Not Realized” at the Utopian Studies Consultation, national annual meeting of the Society of Biblical Literature, in San Antonio, Texas. He also led a Continuing Education Unit event for Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center titled “Choose Life: Deuteronomy’s Message.”

Dr. Dan Ulrich, Wieand professor of New Testament studies, published commentaries about Hebrews 1:1-12 and Hebrews 10:5-10 at [workingpreacher.org](http://workingpreacher.org). Both passages appear this year in the Revised Common Lectionary.

Enrollment

As of the beginning of the 2025 Spring Semester, Bethany’s enrollment was as follows:

Certificates and postgraduate diplomas: 47

MA: 12

MATW: 21

MASST: 10

MDiv: 23

Total: 113\*

\*Note: some students are enrolled in more than one program at a time.

Fiscal Stewardship

	FY23	FY24
Assets	\$60,960,422	\$66,060,717
Endowment	\$47,080,825	\$51,587,976
Surplus/Deficit	\$3,308	\$11,126
Operating Budget	\$3,298,544	\$3,581,316

Fundraising	FY23	FY24
Bethany Fund	\$722,315.33	\$752,214.45
Total Giving	\$1,388,106.73	\$1,896,186.21
Number of Gifts	1,754	1,592

We are very thankful to all of those in the Church of the Brethren who support the mission of the Seminary.

Blessings,

Rev. Dr. Jeff Carter, President

Mr. Mark Clapper, Board Chair

# Anabaptist Disabilities Network

## Annual Report for the year ending January 31, 2025

### Serving the Anabaptist Community:

- **Breaking Down Barriers Study Committee** — CoB Annual Conference 2024
- **Workshops and Trainings** at Bethany Theological Seminary, CoB Annual Conference, and Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center
- **Webinar** with Mosaic Mennonite Conference on *Nurturing Accessible Family Ministry*
- Disability & Theology articles in, *Vision: A Journal of Church and Theology*

### Resourcing Congregations:

- **Consulting, preaching, teaching** in 7 congregations
- **Online Accessibility Audit:** In FYE 2025, three congregations received a seal of accessibility and on-going support from ADN to keep increasing access and belonging.
- **Barrier Free Grants:** In FYE 2025, we gave 8 grants.
- **Launched a Redesigned Website** with increased accessibility, refreshed resources, and information on removing barriers in the congregation.



### Sharing Your Stories:

- **Connections Newsletter**
  - Chronic Illness, Winter 2024
  - Cerebral Palsy, Summer 2024
  - Baptism & Intellectual Disabilities, Fall 2024
- **Opening Doors Blog** stories of belonging, tips for inclusion



### Be Involved

- **Become a Partner Congregation.**
  - Designate a **congregational disability advocate** in your congregation.
  - Give a **congregational donation** of \$500 to \$1000 annually.
- **Become a Building the Future Partner:** As an individual, donate \$1,000 per year.

### Current Staff

**Jeanne Davies**, Executive Director  
**Chika Sunoto**, Office Administrator  
**Emily Hunsbaker**, Communications Director

### Current Board

**Mitch Stutzman**, President  
**Laura Stone**, Vice President  
**Lyle Miller**, Secretary

**Chris Stauffer**, Treasurer  
**Rebekah Flores**  
**Jon-Erik Misz**, **Emily Krabill**

### Financial Summary:

<b>Income:</b> .....	<b>\$111,492</b>	<b>Expenses:</b> .....	<b>\$126,242</b>	<b>Assets (End of Year): ..</b>	<b>\$62,105</b>
Individual Contributions .....	\$87,444	Staffing .....	\$78,685	Operating Fund: .....	\$25,105
Congregational Contributions...	\$20,185	Barrier Free Grants .....	\$4,000	Reserve Fund: .....	\$37,000
Other Income.....	\$3,863	Resources & Other .....	\$43,557		

[www.anabaptistdisabilities.net](http://www.anabaptistdisabilities.net) • 574-343-1362 • [ADN@AnabaptistDisabilities.net](mailto:ADN@AnabaptistDisabilities.net)

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

