Report of the Church of the Brethren

Introduction

The year had barely begun when a massive earthquake devastated Haiti. Building on existing relationships there, the US church’s response was swift and multi-faceted—eventually involving disaster response, global mission, communications, workcamps, ministry, and more. People with specialized skills traveled to Haiti. Congregations and individuals of all ages gave money and assembled household and health kits. The community prayed.

Thankfully, most of the church’s work does not require as comprehensive a response as this effort. But it is gratifying to see what can be accomplished together in those moments when the world’s sorrows demand our attention.

For the tasks that are large, and also for the tasks that are small or routine, the employees and volunteers of the Church of the Brethren seek to hear God’s voice and to do God’s will. This report tells the story, in broad strokes, of the Church of the Brethren’s involvement in God’s activity. When we as a people are reminded of our story, we are strengthened for those days when the world around us loses its stability.

Office of the General Secretary

For the last two years, the Church of the Brethren Mission and Ministry Board has been working with the theme “Hearers and doers of the word,” which has its foundation in the beloved text from the first chapter of James. The importance of hearing and assimilating the word into both our personal and community lives has infused all of the work of the board and its staff. The Church of the Brethren understands that service to the world is an outward expression of the inner transformation we experienced through our baptism in Christ, and that the two—hearing and doing—serve together inseparably as our light, our guide, our life, and our breath.

In this letter written to churches spread across the Mediterranean world, James lifts up his concern for helping the poor, loving one’s neighbor, extending hospitality, living a peaceable life, and healing through anointing. Central is James’ fundamental faith in Jesus Christ.

The call to be hearers and doers of the word requires that we fully engage the word, and the staff of the Church of the Brethren did just that to begin this year of ministry. In January 2010, Eugene Roop, president emeritus of Bethany Theological Seminary, led staff to a greater biblical and theological understanding of radical, compassionate discipleship. This two-day focus on Bible study set the tone and direction for the year.
Administration
The general secretary, Stanley J. Noffsinger, serves on the denomination’s Leadership Team, which also includes the moderator, moderator-elect, and secretary of the Annual Conference. It met three times during 2010 to provide leadership for committees and general oversight of Annual Conference and to serve as a link between Annual Conference and the Mission and Ministry Board.

Along with reviewing and facilitating the actions and recommendations of Annual Conference, the Leadership Team oversaw the writing of a Church of the Brethren Moderator’s Manual. Contributing authors were Jeff Bach, Curtis Dubble, Marty Farahat, Leslie A.B. Frye, Tara Lea Hornbacker, Jim Miller, Judy Mills Reimer, David Shumate, and Fred Swartz. Past moderators Jim Beckwith, Chuck Boyer, Earle Fike, Jr., Jim Myer, Elaine Sollenberger, and Phillip Stone also shared wisdom and reflection. A copy of the manual will be given to each moderator-elect.

The general secretary oversees the employees of the Church of the Brethren and serves as staff for the Mission and Ministry Board. Nancy Miner is manager of the Office of the General Secretary.

Ecumenical Relations
The Church of the Brethren relates to the greater church community through a number of ecumenical associations. The general secretary represents the Church of the Brethren to the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, the World Council of Churches, Christian Churches Together in the USA, the Council of Moderators and Secretaries of Anabaptist Churches, and US Religions for Peace. Noffsinger serves as a vice president at large for the NCCC, with a term of 2008-2012. He also provides staff leadership for the Committee on Interchurch Relations.

The year included opportunities for the general secretary to represent the voice of the church in the nation’s capital. In June, members of Churches for a Middle East Peace were invited to the White House to meet with Dennis McDonough, National Security Council chief of staff, to discuss ongoing tensions between Israel and Palestine. Declaring that all peoples of the area deserve a sustainable peace, the delegation encouraged the administration to act boldly to move negotiations to direct talks between the two parties, work toward a two-state solution that grants Israel security, and strongly name the importance of Jerusalem being accessible to the home of three faith families, Jewish, Christian, and Muslim.

A second meeting at the White House included the general secretary and heads of communions from the National Council of Churches, at the invitation of the president. The invitation was extended in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the modern ecumenical movement and the church’s role in society at large. The delegation was honored to have significant conversation with the president on issues of poverty, extension of the safety net for unemployed people affected by the global recession, job training, education, peace in the Middle East, and a lifting of the travel ban between Cuba and the United States. A special reception hosted by the White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships was given in honor of the work of the NCCC and its member communions.

During this last year in the World Council of Churches Decade to Overcome Violence, the Church of the Brethren has been actively involved in considering the relevance of peace in this violent world. In July, the ecumenical convocation “Peace Among the Peoples” was co-sponsored by the Church of the Brethren and a number of other churches, national and state
ecumenical groups, peace and justice organizations, and educational institutions. The event was held at Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary in Elkhart, Ind. Of the over 200 persons who attended, 18 were members of the Church of the Brethren. Jarrod McKenna from Perth, Australia, who spoke at National Youth Conference the previous week, was a special guest presenter. Scott Holland, Bethany Theological Seminary’s director of peace studies, served on the steering committee, and Noffsinger served on the advisory committee.

In November in the Dominican Republic, the historic peace churches (Church of the Brethren, Friends, and Mennonites) held the last in a series of continental gatherings, this one for the Americas. The theme was “Hunger for Peace: Faces, Paths, Cultures.” Marcos and Suely Inhauser, Church of the Brethren national mission directors in Brazil, led the gathering of 77 participants from 17 countries. Donald Miller, former general secretary and faculty emeritus of Bethany Theological Seminary; Irvin and Nancy Heishman, mission coordinators in the Dominican Republic; and Felix Arias Mateo served on the steering committee that planned the four-day event. Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford, news director for the Church of the Brethren, provided daily Newsline reports, and Bethany’s Enten Eller coordinated Internet services and webcasting in English and Spanish for all group work and worship sessions. Brethren from the Dominican Republic, Haiti, Brazil, and the United States were in attendance.

These continental gatherings have strengthened relationships among the peace churches in each region. They have also encouraged and emboldened participants in their understanding of the gospel message of reconciliation and given some a new awareness that being a people of peace is at the heart of discipleship.

In May 2011, the historic peace churches are attending the International Ecumenical Peace Convocation of the World Council of Churches in Kingston, Jamaica, where they will share reports from the continental peace church gatherings.

Mission and Ministry Board
The Mission and Ministry Board is the board of directors for the Church of the Brethren, Inc. For the year 2010-2011, the composition of the elected members was 6 women and 12 men; 2 members are Hispanic, one member is African American, and 14 are white. The board includes 4 ex officio members, representing Bethany Theological Seminary, Brethren Benefit Trust, On Earth Peace, and the Council of District Executives. The Leadership Team also attends the Mission and Ministry Board meetings, which occur in March, October, and just before Annual Conference.

In addition to worshipping as a gathered body and hearing reports on its wide-ranging ministries, the board took the following actions in 2010:

• Engaged in an appreciative inquiry process leading to the development of a strategic plan to help guide the board through the decade.
• Appointed Tim Binkley, an ordained minister and archivist in Dallas, Texas, to the Brethren Historical Committee.
• Engaged in a training event led by the Intercultural Advisory Committee.
• Adopted revisions to the Church of the Brethren Financial Policies.
• Adopted “A Resolution in Support of the National Council of Churches of Christ, USA: Ending Gun Violence.”
• Approved the nominations of the Rev. Kantilal Somchand Tandel, Nityanand Manilal Thakore, Darryl Raphael Sankey, and Ramesh William Makwan as trustees to the General Brotherhood
Board – Church of the Brethren Trust in India, and submitted the nominations to the Assistant Charity Commissioner.

- Approved a proposal for the board to engage in a special conversation at the March 2011 meeting, to learn how to more effectively engage each other on difficult issues as a community of Christ’s people.
- Provided input on the process of revising the Ministerial Leadership Paper.
- Adopted the 2011 budget for Church of the Brethren, Inc., with a net income of $105,580 for all ministries (core and self-funded ministries combined).
- Affirmed the recommendation of the Committee on Interchurch Relations that the Mission and Ministry Board and Standing Committee review and evaluate the purpose of the CIR, with the Leadership Team facilitating the process.
- Approved $900,000 in eight allocations from the Emergency Disaster Fund to assist disaster response and recovery projects in Haiti.
- Approved meeting dates and locations for the year 2014.

Stewardship and Donor Development

The stewardship and donor development team, directed by Ken Neher, addresses stewardship challenges of our culture and our church, working to transform members into “faith-full” Christian stewards.

Carol Bowman, coordinator of stewardship formation, created resource materials for One Great Hour of Sharing, Global Mission and Advent offerings, and annual stewardship resources. She collaborated with Congregational Life Ministries to maintain the stewardship resources lending library, led workshops, and educated about whole-life stewardship. She was in contact with about 200 congregational leaders. Bowman participates with the Ecumenical Stewardship Center and the One Great Hour of Sharing steering committee in resource production and planning.

Ray Glick, coordinator of donor visitation and planned gifts, looked after a team of volunteer visitors who interact with donors across the country. Through small group visits throughout the church, the general secretary and board members met face to face with supporters of the ministries of the Church of the Brethren. Glick also carried responsibilities for promoting wills and other planned gifts, and corresponded with many Church of the Brethren ministry supporters. Planned giving resources were added to the website.

Mandy Garcia, who joined the team mid-year as coordinator of donor invitation, produced the biweekly eBrethren newsletter, which grew to more than 10,000 subscribers. This online communication is being coordinated with periodic direct mail invitations, which had been handled by Stratmark Group, Inc., for over a decade but at year-end were shifted to being produced in-house. Online gifts surpassed $100,000 for the first time.

There were 773 congregations and over 3,000 individuals who provided financial support for the ministries of the Church of the Brethren. Through their generosity, the gifts they have received from God have been transformed into gifts of love for people all around the world.
Global Mission Partnerships

The Global Mission Partnerships office encompasses the church’s ministries in overseas mission, service, development, and witness. This effort includes international church planting and evangelism, response to human need, advocacy for the voiceless, and peacemaking.

Highlights of 2010 included:

- Reestablishing our voice in Washington, D.C.
- Walking closely with the Haitian Church of the Brethren through the aftermath of the earthquake, highlighted by a feetwashing service of over 100 people and seven baptisms.
- Being an active presence in southern Sudan through the referendum vote for the establishment of an independent nation.
- Sending Brethren to live in North Korea and teach students at a university in Pyongyang.
- Celebrating the centennial of Brethren missions in China and the 40th anniversary of the Church of North India.

The ministries of Global Mission Partnerships are overseen by executive director Jay Wittmeyer, with office support from program coordinator Anna Emrick.

Brethren Volunteer Service

“Some of us have served in BVS in the past, others of us will serve in BVS in the future; but now we are thankful for you, because you serve for us.”

That was the encouraging message from one congregation, in a Christmas card to a volunteer serving through Brethren Volunteer Service. What a profound statement of belonging and support—that BVS and its volunteers belong to the Church of the Brethren, and that BVS serves on behalf of the whole church. The names and addresses are sent to congregations each year, and the church’s response is overwhelming. It’s not uncommon for a single volunteer to receive 50 Christmas cards from people they’ve never met.

Building on its history with Selective Service, BVS and the Church of the Brethren signed a memorandum of understanding with Selective Service that lays the groundwork for church members who are conscientious objectors to do alternative service in the event of a draft. While no draft is expected nor is the agreement binding, it states both parties’ intent to cooperate in the event a draft is enacted. The Church of the Brethren was one of three organizations, along with the Mennonite Church USA and Christian Aid Ministries’ Conservative Anabaptist Service Programs, to sign such agreements in 2010.

BVS added two more intentional community houses that are connected with local congregations—a house opened by Peace Church of the Brethren in Portland, Ore., and the BVS house in Elgin, Ill.

Thanks to a grant from the Fund for Theological Education and the Lilly Endowment, volunteers participated in a special program exploring vocation and how God calls us into ministry. The grant supported the work of facilitator Jim Lehman and Dana Cassell, volunteer for vocation and community living.

The fall unit, with 31 volunteers, was the largest in 15 years. Orientations were held at Harrisonburg, Va.; Camp Myrtlewood and Portland (Ore.) Peace Church of the Brethren; Camp Ithiel in Atlantic Southeast; and New Windsor, Md.

The BVS think tank met twice to help the team look to the future and improve the operation. Members were Jim Stokes-
Buckles, Sara Cook, Thomas Dowdy, Dorothy Haner, Bonnie Kline Smeltzer, Jim Lehman, Ben Walters, and Jim Ellison from the Fund for Theological Education.

Members of the 2010 Youth Peace Travel Team were Marcus Harden, Tim Heishman, Cambria Teter, and Hannah Wysong. The team is co-sponsored by BVS, the Youth/Young Adult Office, On Earth Peace, and the Outdoor Ministry Association.

At the BVS luncheon at Annual Conference, BVS presented its annual Partners in Service Award to Grace Lefever, who served in BVS in the early 1950s and has been a resource for many recent orientation units. The speaker was Ben Walters, who reflected on the relationship between the Cincinnati Church of the Brethren and the intentional community house there.

In 2010, 72 volunteers entered BVS. Volunteers served throughout the United States and in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, France, Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Japan, the Netherlands, Northern Ireland, and the Republic of Ireland. At year-end there were 83 volunteers serving in BVS.

Volunteer staff are Don Knieriem and Dana Cassell, with Sharon Flaten completing a term of service last September. Other staff are Callie Surber, orientation coordinator; Kristin Flory, coordinator of Brethren Service, Europe; Todd Bauer, Latin America coordinator; and Dan McFadden, director.

Global Food Crisis Fund

“Working Together Works!” was the theme of World Food Day 2010. The theme is fitting for the Global Food Crisis Fund, as donor gifts are greatly multiplied through collaboration with smallholder farmers, grassroots community groups, and hunger action partners at home and abroad.

Highlights of the year included the hosting of the national Foods Resource Bank (FRB) gathering by a cluster of Brethren churches in the Field of Hope growing project in Maryland; Annual Conference presentations by world hunger journalist Roger Thurow; and expansion of the denomination’s agricultural presence in North Korea.

Among new grant recipients were a Lenca Indian program in Honduras, a Bible school gardening program in Sudan, an environmental stewardship venture in Kenya’s Rift Valley, and water resource developments in Niger and Haiti. The Church of the Brethren was lead sponsor of FRB food security programs in Guatemala, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, and North Korea. A DVD produced by the Global Food Crisis Fund recounted the work of FRB partners in Nicaragua and Guatemala. Titled “Sowing Seeds … Harvesting Hope,” the video was distributed to all Church of the Brethren congregations.

Giving to the Global Food Crisis Fund for the year was $182,200, one-third less than the previous year. However, Brethren support for disaster and hunger ministries together increased by more than $1 million, the bulk of the increase given for relief and reconstruction in Haiti. Global Food Crisis Fund grants for the year totaled $144,000, plus $102,000 channeled from Foods Resource Bank. In addition, the 30 Church of the Brethren congregations that were engaged in growing projects with FRB raised an additional $272,000 to invest in food security development overseas.

The Global Food Crisis Fund is managed by Howard Royer, working under part-time contract and as a volunteer. Shantilal Bhagat, Peggy Boshart, and Ralph Royer serve as the grant resource panel that screens proposals and recommends grant responses.
Global Mission Partnerships
(International Ministries)

Dominican Republic
In 2010, Iglesia de los Hermanos furthered efforts toward self-determination, seeking to redefine its partnership with Global Mission Partnerships by decreasing the role of mission coordinators and managing its own ministries. While the maturity of a mission point into a full-fledged independent denomination is a welcomed goal, the transition to independence can be contentious and difficult, especially when property, institutions, or foreign funds are involved. Such has been the case in the DR.

Some GMP mission programming has been managed in a way that is too independent of the Iglesia de los Hermanos, and is rightly criticized for being too paternalistic. In response, GMP has begun working to build the capacity of the Dominican church to manage these programs. Other programs, however, are clearly beyond the church’s capacity to manage at this time—in particular, a micro-finance program, which began with a $200,000 grant to alleviate poverty by providing small loans to church members. GMP has worked to safeguard this program by establishing an independent organization with a diverse and qualified board to oversee it.

Irv and Nancy Heishman, coordinators in the Dominican Republic, completed their service in December, after nearly eight years of very difficult ministry. In a five-month assignment there, Tom and Janet Crago did a financial assessment of the DR program, helped develop reporting procedures, and worked to establish an independent organization for the community micro-loan program.

Brazil
The Brethren mission in Brazil, led by Marcos and Suely Inhauser, is focused on planting an Anabaptist church that observes feetwashing, love feast, communitarian hermeneutics, and small groups to develop intimacy and caring. The church is working with eight family groups: Hortolândia, Estrela, Amanda, Jardim do Trevo, Campinas, Valinhos, Indaiatuba and Imirim. These average 12 people in regular attendance. Rio Verde holds a traditional worship service and has an average attendance of 40.

The family groups provide for sharing joys and concerns, prayer, communitarian interpretation of the Bible, and time at the table as a way to celebrate communion. Each group also provides some aspect of social care. Estrela, located in the most dangerous “favela” of the region, helped the community organize, negotiate with local authorities, and procure a promise for urban development. At the end of 2010, many moved into brand new houses. Other groups met needs by supplying clothes, food, employment, and medical attention.

The mission has struggled with the decreasing exchange rate of the dollar, forcing the emerging church to cut costs and boost local income. It has decided to meet in houses of church members and has decreased pastor salaries.

The mission believes it should avoid the temptation of dropping its principles in order to simply grow its audience. Brazilians are growing more secular and avoiding institutionalized churches, which are struggling with church identity, loss in membership, and decreasing income. There is confidence that being genuinely Anabaptist at this present time, being faithful to the gospel and Jesus’ teachings, and helping people to have a personal experience with the Savior Jesus Christ will bear fruit in this ministry.

Haiti
The earthquake of Jan. 12 dominated the priorities of the National Committee.
of L'Eglise des Freres in Haiti during the past year. Many church members were directly affected through loss of property and injury and the building being used by the first church planted there eight years ago was destroyed, but there was no loss of life to church members. In the fall, Haiti was gripped by fear from a deadly cholera epidemic, and one church member died.

Despite the many hardships, the churches continued to grow, with new members baptized and growth in attendance reported in every church or preaching point. Two preaching points were added and one preaching point was upgraded to the status of a church. Three church buildings were built and several new properties were purchased. One well was completed. Offerings collected at National Youth Conference were distributed to three schools being run by local churches. Mission coordinator Ludovic St. Fleur and three delegates from Haiti attended the historic peace church gathering in the Dominican Republic in November.

Two projects in Haiti were funded through the Global Food Crisis Fund. One was a vegetable growing project in the northwest town of Bombardopolis; operated through a local farmers association, it has an educational component for school children. The second project was a large cistern built to provide water for a school on the island of La Tortue.

The highlight of the year was the fourth annual Theological Training Seminar, held in August with keynote speakers Thomas Dowdy and Jim Myer. Other presenters were St. Fleur, Verel Montauban, Ilexene Alphonse, along with Leton Fleury of the Boca Chica congregation in the Dominican Republic. The seminar, which drew about 100 leaders representing all the 19 churches and preaching points, closed with a feetwashing ceremony and believers baptism for seven individuals.

Sudan
The Church of the Brethren seconded Michael Wagner to serve in Juba, southern Sudan with the Africa Inland Church (AIC). An organizational development consultant, he is developing financial reporting practices across AIC’s numerous institutions and programs. Since his placement in August, Wagner has been learning Juba Arabic, visiting AIC institutions, and being oriented on life in Sudan.

His placement came at a time of intense excitement and heightened anxiety for the people of southern Sudan, as they looked toward a Jan. 9, 2011, referendum vote on southern independence. Because of the threat of armed hostilities, the Sudan Council of Churches called on its partner churches to be in prayer. The referendum overwhelmingly supported secession, and the government of the new Southern Sudan is scheduled to raise a flag of independence on July 9.

India
The Church of the Brethren was invited to join the Church of North India and other founding members to celebrate its 40th anniversary in Nagpur in October. Robert Alley, as moderator and head of communion, and Jay Wittmeyer represented the church. The archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, represented the Anglican communion at the celebration. Church of the Brethren leaders also participated in a ground-breaking ceremony for a school, a youth conference, and an ordination service, and they fellowshiped with many Church of the Brethren-CNI congregations.

India Brethren were also visited on the journey. One meeting was with long-standing trustee M. M. Gameti, whom the Mission and Ministry Board has taken action to replace because of his age and health. India Brethren member Vivek Solanky continued studies at Bethany Seminary in
2010. GMP also supported the Rural Service Center with a grant.

The Church of the Brethren is in relationship with two groups in India: the Church of North India (CNI), a united church established in 1970 by the Church of the Brethren and five other charter denominations, and the India Brethren, who decided to not be part of CNI.

**Nigeria**

Nathan and Jennifer Hosler continued peacebuilding work with Ekklesiyar Yan’uwa a Nigeria (the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria), as peace studies instructors at Kulp Bible College and as staff to the EYN Peace Programme, the peacebuilding organization of the Nigerian church.

The Hoslers developed and taught classes in peace and reconciliation, preparing future church leaders to serve as peacemakers and leaders in a context plagued by violence. They also assisted the organizational development and expansion of the EYN Peace Programme, helping continue grassroots peace seminars and developing new projects. New projects included a peace resource library, a KBC peace club, and a Mubi-based interfaith dialogue initiative. The library, which opened at KBC in December with more than 250 books, seeks to provide a place where students, pastors, laypeople, and community members can further their study on subjects such as conflict, forgiveness, peace theology, and reconciliation.

In January, Roger and Mim Eberly participated in a peace-focused learning tour with EYN. It included preaching at EYN churches, attending an Interfaith Conference on Peaceful Coexistence (hosted by the EYN Peace Programme), and conducting a goodwill visit to an Islamic secondary school in Jos. The school had previously been destroyed and several students killed by Christians in sectarian fighting in Jos.

Northern Nigeria experienced violence throughout the year. Jos suffered renewed fighting in January, March, and December, and some EYN members were killed in January. In December, several non-EYN churches were bombed in Jos and attacked in Maiduguri during their Christmas Eve services. Bombings also occurred in the capital city of Abuja in October and December.

**Other activities**

Grace Mishler continued service in Vietnam, teaching in the department of social work at the National Vietnam University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Ho Chi Minh City, training others to compassionately mainstream the physically disabled. Mishler is legally blind and a strong witness for the disabled.

Robert and Linda Shank were finally able to arrive in North Korea in October. They had committed in January 2010 to teach at the Pyongyang University of Science and Technology (PUST), but were first posted in China at the affiliated Yanji University of Science and Technology to develop curriculum—and then were repeatedly delayed throughout the year. Linda is teaching English, and Robert is teaching agriculture.

In China, the Church of the Brethren was invited to the centennial celebration of the introduction of Western medicine to Pingding. The celebration, hosted by the Yangquan Friendly Hospital and the Pingding Hospital, commemorated Brethren mission efforts in the region for being non-colonial and focused on serving the poor coal-mining community. The church was represented by Wittmeyer, Mary-Jo Flory-Steury (whose father was born in Pingding), and Ruoxia Li of Dubuque, Iowa.
In Spain, Dominican Brethren immigrants led by Santos Terrero have started congregations in the north near Oviedo. Other like-minded individuals have joined together to explore forming a Church of the Brethren in Spain. In November, Wittmeyer traveled with Carol Yeazell and Fausto Carrasco, Terrero’s brother, to visit pastors and explore the possibility of beginning a mission point in Spain.

**Emerging Global Mission Fund**

This special-purpose fund supports new international mission efforts and training for domestic church planting. The fund generated approximately $62,000, which was primarily allocated toward the mission efforts in Haiti and Brazil.

**Brethren Witness/Washington Office**

Jordan Blevins began mid-year in a shared position between the Church of the Brethren and the National Council of Churches. The cost-effective arrangement responds to input from church members after the Washington Office was closed in 2009.

The position in Washington enables the Church of the Brethren to maintain involvement with important partners such as Bread for the World, Churches for Middle East Peace, the National Farm Worker Ministry, Center on Conscience and War, National Religious Campaign Against Torture, Ecumenical Advocacy Days, Latin America Working Group, Heeding God’s Call, Truth Commission on Conscience and War, Prisoner Visitation and Support, Interfaith Worker Justice, National Campaign to End the Korean War, Iraq Veterans Against the War, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Centurion’s Guild, and other ecumenical and nonprofit groups.

With the help of other departments, Brethren witness sent Action Alerts throughout the year and supported ecumenical statements on a number of issues, based on guidance from Annual Conference statements. It also worked to keep conscientious objection as a high priority, updating CO materials and files.

In response to recommendations that Brethren witness be strengthened in regard to service, a new position of “service advocate” has been created. Katherine Boeger of Live Oak (Calif.) Church of the Brethren began in February 2011. She is coordinating recruitment for service in both BVS and GMP and acting as a peace advocate resource person.

**Congregational Life Ministries**

Former Annual Conference moderator Shawn Flory Replogle closed the July 2010 National Youth Conference declaring, “The Church of the Brethren has never been more relevant than it is right now.” The nearly 2,900 high school youth and advisors attending this conference in Fort Collins, Colo., were gathered, called, formed, and sent back out into the world to be “More Than Meets the Eye,” a theme based on 2 Corinthians 4:6-10, 16-18 and exploring aspects of belonging, identity, brokenness, grace, love, and joy. Volunteer coordinators Emily LaPrade and Audrey Hollenberg worked with director for youth and young adult ministries Becky Ullom, the National Youth Cabinet, and a host of volunteers to provide opportunities for worship, service, study, reflection, recreation, and fellowship. Participants also donated 737 school kits for disaster response and 1,845 items for a local food bank, in addition to $16,502 in offerings for Haitian school children.

Relevance was also seen as 100 diverse
Brethren from 30 congregations met in April at Camp Harmony in Western Pennsylvania. “Celebrating Diversity in Harmony” was the theme of the annual intercultural celebration and consultation, which featured training in interpersonal peacemaking, worship, a fellowship meal with area churches, and empowering relationship building. Ruben Deoleo, director for intercultural ministries, planned this event with the Intercultural Steering Committee.

The New Church Development Advisory Committee (NCD), led by Congregational Life Ministries executive director Jonathan Shively, hosted the biennial training and networking conference “Plant Generously, Reap Bountifully” in May. Nearly 150 participants attended the three-day event held at Bethany Theological Seminary. The gathering featured keynote presentations, workshops, community outreach experiences, worship, prayer, and visiting. Additionally, NCD hosted a three-day work session in November at the General Offices in Elgin. Thirty representatives from 16 districts joined Church of the Brethren staff and Bethany Seminary faculty to develop strategies to provide assessment, training, coaching, and funding for new churches.

Nineteen members of the Spiritual Directors’ Network gathered for their annual retreat at Shepherd’s Spring in May, and then, with coordination by director for spiritual life and discipleship Joshua Brockway, spiritual directors served at a variety of denomination-wide events throughout the year.

Donna Kline, director of denominational deacon ministry, trained over 700 deacons in 16 sessions around the country. A pre-Annual Conference training session prepared 60 deacons for continuing service in their congregations. At least 30 additional people received deacon training through the internet.

Online learning became a key strategy for supporting pastors and church leaders in 2010. Director for transforming practices Stan Dueck worked collaboratively with Enten Eller of Bethany Seminary to offer training webinars and webcasts that generated over 8,000 “hits” to date.

Congregations celebrated life stages and considered significant issues during April’s child abuse prevention month and May’s older adult month focused on “Walking in the Newness of Life: The Adventure Continues….” In addition to shaping the monthly emphasis, director of family life and older adult ministries Kim Ebersole oversaw the Older Adult Ministry-mentored reading program, which had its first participant complete the independent study course. Planning for the Sept. 5-9, 2011, National Older Adult Conference (NOAC) also began.

Efforts to communicate with congregations and their leaders increased, with the former Caregiving deacon resource expanding to engage leaders for vital congregations growing disciples. Newly named Basin & Towel, the magazine distributed three issues containing ministry insights, stories, and examples. Monthly e-mail bulletins include “Connecting Generations,” which focuses on transitions associated with aging, and “Deacon Updates.” Website presence expanded with new ministry area pages, event news and registration, and pages devoted to evangelism, worship, and resources for current issues such as disabilities, bullying, and cyber safety.

Coordinator of workcamp ministry Jeanne Davies oversaw junior high, senior high, young adult, and intergenerational workcamps with over 350 participants in 15 settings. “With Glad and Generous Hearts” rooted in Acts 2:46, participants engaged Christian practices of praying, learning, sharing, serving, celebrating, and sharing the
good news of Jesus. Preparation for the 2011 workcamp season began with the appointment of volunteer coordinators Carol Fike and Clara Nelson.

Nine spiritually maturing and talented young adults accepted the call to explore set-apart ministry as a vocation through Ministry Summer Service, a partnership program with the Office of Ministry and Brethren colleges providing scholarship support. Five young adults served in congregations or camps, while four made up the Youth Peace Travel Team. The Youth Peace Travel Team, also supported by On Earth Peace, Outdoor Ministries Association, and Brethren Volunteer Service, provided leadership and peace education at a variety of camps and conferences.

Partnership and collaboration are core practices of Congregational Life Ministries. In addition to those named throughout this report, Congregational Life worked closely with the ecumenical online resource Evangelismconnections.org; the Fellowship of Brethren Homes; the Pennsylvania State Council of Churches; Interdenominational Hispanic Executives; National Council of Churches; Elizabethtown College and the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies; Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership; Mennonite Central Committee; New Life Ministries; Springs of Living Water; as well as dozens of congregations and pastors, all 23 districts, and other Church of the Brethren agencies.

Congregational life had the privilege of introducing and hosting exceptional leadership from both within and beyond the Church of the Brethren, including Stuart Murray Williams, Eric Law, Rose Madrid Swetman, Jim Henderson, Shane Claiborne, Jarrod McKenna, Alan Roxburgh, Barbara Date, Mark Vincent, Angie Lahman Yoder, Carol Scheppard, Dennis Webb, Jim Myer, David Sollenberger, Celia Cook-Huffman, Paul Mundey, Chip Arn, and others.

Undergirding its work with prayer, study, and faith, Congregational Life Ministries staff collectively wrote over 30 articles and devotionals, conducted numerous consultations, coached dozens of leaders, facilitated countless meetings, organized multiple conferences, and tended to the administrative needs of the denomination, all supported by the administrative assistance of Joy Willrett and Mariana Barriga.

Brethren Service Center

As a new well was being drilled in Haiti by Brethren Disaster Ministries, near the 17 homes BDM built in 2010, a gushing artesian well surged forth. This remarkable and unexpected fountain of water brought the proverbial “cup of cold water” just as the cholera outbreak started, not only saving lives, but bringing hope when desperately needed. The ministries and agencies of the Brethren Service Center (BSC) in New Windsor, Md., also bring a remarkable and unexpected fountain of hope to many around the world, especially in Haiti this last year.

Brethren Disaster Ministries has led the Brethren response to the Jan. 12 Haiti earthquake, collaborating with Eglise des Freres Haitiens (the Haitian Church of the Brethren), Global Mission Partnerships, Church World Service, and IMA World Health. Material Resources has collected and processed donated supplies, including Church of the Brethren household kits, while facilitating shipments to Haiti for many other organizations. With Brethren support, IMA World Health is strengthening health care systems and treating disease.
SERRV has been supporting artisan groups in Haiti affected by the earthquake. Congregations and districts around the country have raised special funds, collected supplies, and sent volunteers to support this comprehensive, ongoing response.

The constant flow of volunteer workers, meeting attendees, retreat guests, and special work groups that ebbed in and out of the Brethren Service Center provided hundreds of additional people using the campus and supporting the broader work of BSC agencies. This led to 125 campus tours with 1,291 participants for new employees, ecumenical partners, churches, volunteers groups, and schools in 2010.

The Brethren Service Center is a community that fosters ministry to human need around the world and nurtures commitment to service, peace, and justice in the name of Christ. The collaboration between Brethren ministries and partner agencies at the Brethren Service Center is extensive. Ministries of the Church of the Brethren are joined by On Earth Peace and the Church of the Brethren Mid-Atlantic District. The partner agencies on campus are SERRV, a fair trade organization; IMA World Health, which provides essential healthcare products and services to those in need; and Caring Carroll, a local faith-in-action nonprofit.

Roy Winter, executive director of the Brethren Service Center and Brethren Disaster Ministries, represented the church on the IMA World Health board and executive committee, the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster board and executive committee, the Church World Service board, and the CWS Emergency Response Program executive committee. Kathleen Campanella, director of public and partner relations, represents the church on the Heifer International board by serving on the executive committee and as chair of the covenant agency committee. She is also on the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce Public Relations Committee.

**Brethren Disaster Ministries**

Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) coordinates with districts and individuals to provide disaster-related aid, including home rebuilding and services for children. BDM is also the international emergency response program of the Church of the Brethren. Donations to the Emergency Disaster Fund provide disaster-related grants and volunteer training and support, while undergirding disaster response projects and the program budget.

**Emergency Disaster Fund**

The year 2010 marked the 50th anniversary of the Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF). Established in 1960, the fund enables the church to bring relief, hope, and healing to the most vulnerable survivors caught in emergency situations and disasters around the world.

When the catastrophic earthquake destroyed much of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on Jan. 12, 2010, existing hurricane recovery programs immediately expanded. The response phase included unique sheltering, school meals, teacher support, six months of food distribution, and seed programs; special Haiti Household Kits and water filtration buckets; and a medical work team. Long-term earthquake recovery continues through the construction of earthquake-resistant homes, safe water and sanitation, trauma recovery, and sustainable agricultural production.

The response was expanded by supporting and collaborating with a network of partners in medical programming, support of disabled Haitians, and emotional/spiritual/trauma recovery. EDF allocations totaling $922,500 supported this work in 2010.

The Emergency Disaster Fund also provided grants for emergency relief and
recovery following the historic Pakistan floods; the 8.8 earthquake and tsunami in Chile; drought conditions and food crisis in southern Sudan; crop failure in Niger; floods caused by Tropical Storm Agatha in Guatemala; violence and unrest in Kyrgyzstan; and a mudslide that engulfed several villages in Uganda. International grants not including Haiti totaled $181,000.

In the United States, allocations totaling $256,500 were issued for the domestic disaster recovery programs of Brethren Disaster Ministries and partners, covering 20 states and American Samoa.

Donations to the fund totaled $2,083,232, with $1,195,868 sent for the Haiti earthquake response.

**Home Rebuilding**

Unusual opportunities led BDM volunteers to respond in six different communities recovering from various types of disaster. Following a devastating tsunami in the South Pacific, BDM led an ecumenical recovery effort with the United Church of Christ and the Christian Reformed Church to rebuild homes on the US territory of American Samoa. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provided volunteer travel so BDM volunteers could rebuild homes while training local Samoans in construction trades as part of a local apprenticeship program.

After a tornado struck a Sioux Reservation near Dupree, S.D., BDM joined other voluntary agencies and FEMA in securing and winterizing temporary housing prior to the cold winter for Native Americans living in impoverished conditions. BDM also provided leadership, tools, and volunteers for a six-week Church World Service ecumenical build in response to severe flooding in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Volunteers completed BDM’s flood recovery program mid-year in Hammond, Ind., while repair and rebuilding continued in Winamac, Ind., and areas along the Tippecanoe River. Long-term project leader Steve Keim and BVS volunteer Jeremy McAvoy directed the Winamac rebuild efforts. Hurricane Katrina reconstruction continued in St. Bernard and Orleans parishes of Louisiana with project consultants John and Mary Mueller providing guidance and leadership, assisted by BVS volunteers Steve Schellenberg and Josh Schnepf and numerous project leaders. Late in the year, BDM laid the groundwork to open a new project in Ashland City, Tenn., in response to massive flooding in May 2010.

In August, a leadership seminar focused on retraining, sharing best practices, and strengthening teamwork for over 100 project leaders and district coordinators.

BDM staff expertise was sought to rewrite the recovery manual for National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster and to help FEMA develop a housing strategy based on partnerships with voluntary agencies. Associate director Zachary Wolgemuth actively participated in these working groups and provided administrative oversight for BDM rebuild projects with coordinator Jane Yount, while secretary Elizabeth Mullich and Shannon Pratt-Harrington, BVS administrative volunteer, provided support. During the year, 141 homes in the US were restored by 1,531 volunteers, who gave more than 9,852 workdays at an estimated value of $1,646,858.

**Children’s Disaster Services**

“Children’s Disaster Services. May I help you?”

“Yes, I’d like to schedule six workshops.”

“Yes, I’d like to schedule four workshops.”

“Yes, I want to schedule three workshops this year as a pilot for our
These calls came from the State of Hawaii Administration for Children and Families, the CSX Rail Freight Company, and Camp Quality, a camp for children with cancer. The requests are the result of many presentations about Children’s Disaster Services (CDS) this year–ranging from an audience of over 1,200 participants in a teleconference sponsored by the Administration for Children and Families, to a large conference room with more than 500 at a plenary session at the FEMA ISF #6 conference, to an audience of one on a short airplane ride. The result of over 2,200 people learning about CDS is an unprecedented number of workshops being scheduled for 2011.

Although over 125 CDS volunteers were on standby five times this year, no responses were needed. This allowed time for the development of a Rapid Response program in western New York, the updating of training materials, development of new partnerships, and increased advocacy for the unique needs of children after the disaster.

Five CDS workshops trained 107 volunteers and grew our ranks to 619 volunteers, which is up 33 percent from three years ago.

Judy Bezon, associate director, provided administrative oversight with support from LethaJoy Martin, program assistant. Bezon also worked with the National Commission for Children and Disaster subcommittee on sheltering, resulting in a document that is congruent with our work and will shape the work of all organizations working with children in shelters.

Material Resources
During a very busy 2010, Material Resources distribution center managed a 149 percent increase in shipments and a 482 percent increase in the value of shipments from last year. Staff facilitated 4,373 shipments totaling 1,216 tons of blankets, health kits, school kits, baby kits, and medical supplies valued at more than $63 million to 62 countries around the world and 41 states in the US.

The Haiti earthquake response doubled the 2010 donations through April (526,733 pounds), while bringing four times as many volunteers (29 groups totaling 728 persons) to assist. A total of 15 shipments (248,271 pounds) containing kits, medicine, blankets, tarps, tents, and Church of the Brethren household kits were sent to Haiti.

The warehouse was outfitted with a new wireless inventory/receipt system for Lutheran World Relief inventory.

Material Resources is directed by Loretta Wolf, with direct support from Scott Senseney, warehouse coordinator; Terry Riley, office manager; and Shari Norris, program assistant. Truck drivers Ken Bragg and Max Price also help load containers and unload boxcars. Cristian Villegas operates the quilt baler. Volunteers are guided by Brenda Giles to assist her with packing kits for Lutheran World Relief and Church World Service. Donations and purchases for IMA World Health programs are received by Sam Moledina and packed by Rosella Reese. The staff is supported by temporary employees and many volunteers.

New Windsor Conference Center
The New Windsor Conference Center extends hospitality to Church of the Brethren agencies, districts and congregations. The conference center also serves the organizations located at the BSC, the wider ecumenical community, and the broader business community by providing a peaceful, service-oriented, Christian retreat environment.

Despite the appointment of a strong team of employees and volunteers, the embrace of a firm networking plan for
increased bookings, and effective expense management resulting in expenses far below budget, the conference center continued to experience financial difficulty. These difficulties, caused by a weak economy and the resultant cutbacks by many long-term visitors, are being analyzed.

While business has slowed, the center was pleased to enjoy a consistently “Excellent” feedback rating from visitors while serving just over 33,000 meals, entertaining 3,700 overnight guests (470 of whom were volunteer workers) with an average stay of 4 nights per person, hosting 289 conferences, and serving 16 banquets.

The management team consists of Shelly Wagner, director; Walter Trail, managing chef; Cori Hahn, conference coordinator; Connie Bohn, program assistant; and Harry Torres, housekeeping supervisor. This team is supported by housekeepers Ella Mae Patterson and Chris Watson; dining services staff Fay Reese, Rita Taylor, and David Zaruba; resident volunteers; and temporary (on call) workers.

Buildings and Grounds, Brethren Service Center
Buildings and grounds manages the facilities of the Brethren Service Center by providing warehouse, office, lodging, and residential space for the Church of the Brethren and partner agencies to carry out their missions. Overall care of the seven buildings and 26-acre grounds is provided by director Ed Palsgrove, maintenance mechanic Ron Anders, and maintenance assistant Felix Hill. Volunteer Sue Snyder assists with office tasks, while volunteers Gene Wile and Tom Druck assist with maintenance.

Energy conservation efforts continue with the conversion of many office and warehouse lighting fixtures to electronic ballasts and T8 fluorescent tubes. A concerted effort is in place to increase recycling of office and warehouse waste, and we continue to encourage safe workplace practices.

A new Siemens telephone and voice-mail system replaced the 20-year-old Rolm system in April. In December new carpet and low-water-consumption toilets were installed in Old Main third-floor guest rooms.

The current economic situation requires creativity and good stewardship to maintain aging buildings and infrastructure. The challenge is heightened as partner agencies seek financial savings by reducing office space.

Brethren Press

The church’s publishing and communication ministries are changing rapidly, as e-publishing and digital communication increasingly take the place of traditional media. Whatever the format, however, the role of Brethren Press continues to be to help Brethren grow in faith, discipleship, and understanding. It does this by publishing Sunday school curricula, books that illuminate Brethren identity, worship resources, a denominational magazine, a website and news service, and other essential resources.

Wendy McFadden, executive director and publisher, oversees the work of Brethren Press, which includes four budgets—Brethren Press, Gather ’Round, Messenger, and communications. Karen Stocking provides finance and production assistance to the entire team.
Publishing House

Old Testament scholar Bob Neff was a contributor to *The Witness of the Hebrew Bible for a New Testament Church*, edited by Christina Bucher, David A. Leiter, and Frank Ramirez. But he didn’t know the book was published in his honor until an announcement after his speech at the Brethren Press Breakfast at Annual Conference. The 13 contributors challenge readers to consider ways the writings of the Old Testament contribute to Christian faith and practice.

Other books published in 2010 were *A Dunker Guide to Brethren History* and *A Dunker Guide to the Bible*, both edited by Walt Wiltschek; and *The Chronicler*, a Covenant Bible Study by Robert W. Neff and Frank Ramirez. This year’s devotionals were *Thirsting for God*, by Amy S. Gall Ritchie, and *Emmanuel: God Is with Us*, by Edward L. Poling. The Advent devotional was the first to be available in large print.

The Church of the Brethren Yearbook shifted from book to CD format, which made it possible to add web links and searchability. The resource was prepared by Jean Clements, Yearbook specialist. Much of the technical work was done by managing editor James Deaton, who edits and oversees many of the house’s publications.

The publishing house added “search inside” capability for current Brethren Press titles on Amazon.com. Groundwork was laid for adding downloadable titles to brethrenpress.com and entering the e-book market.

*Gather ’Round: Hearing and Sharing Good News*, a curriculum for children, youth, and their families, began its fifth year last fall with a number of changes made in response to user feedback. The materials are co-published with Mennonite Publishing Network, and are promoted also by the United Church of Christ, Moravian Church, Disciples of Christ, United Church of Canada, and Mennonite Brethren. The Gather ’Round staff, which is shared with MPN, includes Anna Speicher, director and senior editor; Cyndi Fecher, managing editor; Rose Stutzman, editor; and Lina Dagnew, project assistant.

Brethren Press also published the quarterly *A Guide for Biblical Studies* (in regular and large-print editions), Living Word Bulletin Series, and Annual Conference Wrap-up and Sermons DVDs. The publishing house co-published New Earth, an ecumenical outdoor ministries curriculum used by most Brethren camps. McFadden chairs the New Earth steering committee.

Free resources included the quarterly *Seed Packet* newsletter, the annual Brethren Reminder, and the *Source* mailing to congregations. The copyright and permissions section of the Brethren Press website was enhanced, and now includes an online permissions request form.

Jeff Lennard, director of marketing and sales, works with warehouse-shipping specialist Steve Bickler and two part-time customer service specialists, Margaret Drafall and Moala Penitani. Penitani succeeded Kirk Carpenter, who resigned in the fall.

Though sales declined to $704,550 from $772,540 the year before, the publishing house was able to finish the year with net income of $4,250.

Communications

The communication team employed a broad range of media—print, e-mail, Internet, video, and social media—to tell the Church of the Brethren story within the denomination and to the rest of the world. Facebook became an integral part of the reporting of both Annual Conference and National Youth Conference, and Twitter was added to the coverage of NYC.
The communication team was also responsible for annual reports, exhibits, the Tapestry reproducible newsletter, the online prayer calendar, and the editing of numerous denominational statements and messages. Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford provided research and writing assistance to the Office of the General Secretary and Brethren Witness, which helped the church speak articulately on issues of the day.

**Messenger**

Messenger magazine reported on key events in the Church of the Brethren; uncovered unique stories such as the legacy of mission work in China and the Bible at the Antietam meetinghouse; and offered thought-provoking commentary on topics such as mission travel, scripture and authority, and the environment. As a contribution to the churchwide Special Response process, the magazine began a series of articles exploring viewpoints on homosexuality. Bob Neff wrote a year-long Bible study on wisdom literature. At least 112 congregations received significant mention during 2010.

Walt Wiltschek left the editorship in February to become campus minister at Manchester College, though he continued a few responsibilities on a freelance basis. He was succeeded by interim editor Randy Miller, working from La Verne, Calif. Subscription specialist Diane Stroyeck managed the magazine’s database and kept the home office running. Other Brethren Press employees assisted with various sections of the magazine.

**News Services**

The denominational news services office naturally focuses on “Hearing and Doing”—receiving and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ—as its daily work.

In 2010, the good news shared through this office included the Brethren response to the Haiti earthquake, daily reports during Annual Conference and National Youth Conference, reporting on Mission and Ministry Board meetings, onsite coverage from a historic peace churches meeting in Latin America—and, of course, regular and ongoing coverage of news from across the church throughout the year.

There are multiple ways to receive and share news about and for the Church of the Brethren. These include Newsline, a free e-mail news service appearing every other week, with special issues as needed (subscribe at cobnews@brethren.org); online news pages at www.brethren.org; other online news features such as photo albums; press releases; the news section of *Messenger*; and onsite coverage from Annual Conference and other major Brethren gatherings, in cooperation with a strong team of volunteer photographers and writers. News services maintains an extensive digital photo archive for the organization.

Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford serves as director of news services. Many others on the denominational staff and staff of other Annual Conference agencies, district staff, and church members contributed to news coverage for the denomination.

**Website**

Responding to input from users, the Church of the Brethren website, www.brethren.org, underwent an update in 2010 that improved the look and made it easier to find information. The redesign was managed by Jim Lehman, interim director of identity and relations. He was succeeded in May by Jan Fischer Bachman, whose more focused title, website producer, reflects the church’s growth in web-based communication.

As website producer, Fischer Bachman oversees the organization and content of the website, works with outside vendors to keep the technology up-to-date, assists other staff in making use of online forms and
registrations, and responds to questions addressed to the webmaster. She is assisted by Amy Heckert, website specialist, who handles day-to-day updates and works with employees who have sub-administrator responsibilities.

Office of Ministry

“How can we cultivate a culture of call? What are the practices that nurture and encourage well-being and build connections among our ministers? What are the ways we can value and uplift bi-vocational ministry for our small membership churches?”

These are just a few of the questions that Office of Ministry staff and its partners in ministry across the denomination are asking as part of the rewrite of the Ministerial Leadership Paper. Leadership that is called out, well trained, and appropriately educated is a vital part of the life of the church. Currently, we find ourselves in a time of great transition in the church, in need of faithful leadership and consistency in the ways we call forth and train such leaders. Executive director Mary Jo Flory-Steury is giving oversight to the rewrite of the paper, in consultation with the Ministry Advisory Council and the Council of District Executives. Dana Cassell is serving as primary writer on a contract basis.

Sustaining the ministerial leaders of the Church of the Brethren is a vital part of the work of the Office of Ministry. Flory-Steury works closely with the Ministers’ Association officers and the Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee to provide a system that fosters living well, life-long learning, and peer support for our clergy.

Serving as consultant and assisting districts with calling their district executive staff, Flory-Steury worked with West Marva District, which called Kendal Elmore to serve as district executive minister. David Shetler was called to Southern Ohio District. Southeastern and South/Central Indiana districts began search processes that continue into 2011. Southern Ohio and South/Central Indiana districts made the transition from full-time to part-time executive staff positions during this process.

Calling and mentoring young adults is vital to growing current and future ministerial leadership. The Office of Ministry continued its co-sponsorship of Ministry Summer Service and shared oversight of the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership, a ministry training partnership of Bethany Theological Seminary and the Office of Ministry.

A special honor and blessing for Flory-Steury was representing the Church of the Brethren, along with Jay Wittmeyer, at the 100th anniversary celebration of Church of the Brethren medical work in China. In addition to bringing greetings from the church, she was able to visit the sites of her father’s and grandparents’ mission work.

Worth celebrating are ordination and licensing figures for 2010: 40 individuals (31 men and 9 women) were ordained, and 71 (54 men and 17 women) were licensed to the ministry. Three men were received through transfer of ordination from other denominations. These numbers are an exciting indication of commitment to prayerful discernment in calling out gifted and faith-filled individuals for ministerial leadership.

Margie Paris, program assistant, offers administrative service to the Office of Ministry, assisted by Jean Clements.

Ministry Assistance Fund
In 2010 the Ministry Assistance Fund disbursed $17,463.30 through 12 grants that
helped with medical expenses, insurance needs, and housing payments. The fund received donations of $15,960.85, including the offering received at the Ministers’ Association gathering in Pittsburgh and a grant from the Wenger Trust. This fund, which assists with the short-term financial needs of our ministers, is dependent on donations from congregations, ministerial groups, and individuals.

**Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership**

At the Brethren Academy, women and men are equipped for leadership in the church through three training programs: Training in Ministry, Education for a Shared Ministry, and district-based Academy Certified Training Systems. Those who have completed seminary degrees and training programs are offered continuing education opportunities through the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence program, which is funded by a Lilly Endowment Inc. grant.

**EFSM/TRIM**

Seventy students from 19 districts participated in TRIM, and nine students from six districts participated in EFSM. In November, the Brethren Academy began offering a TRIM-level course at McPherson College. District TRIM coordinators met in October and were able to participate in sessions of the Mission and Ministry Board meeting.

**Academy Certified Training Systems**

The Brethren Academy entered a partnership with the Mennonite Education Agency to provide a Spanish language training program for the Church of the Brethren. Seminario Biblico Anabautista Hispano (SeBAH-CoB) is a certificate-level program that will parallel the Academy Certified Training System programs available to English-speaking students.

Recertification for the Academy Certified Training Systems began. The Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center program, supported by five districts, was reviewed in early March, and the Christian Growth Institute of Virlina and Shenandoah districts has submitted materials for its review.

**Sustaining Pastoral Excellence**

The two tracks of this Lilly-funded program—Vital Pastor and Advanced Foundations of Church Leadership—focus on holistic health (intellectual, spiritual, emotional, relational, physical), greater connectedness to the whole, and participants seeing themselves as transformational leaders. The fifth Vital Pastor national pastors’ retreat was held in November, with 30 pastors in seven cohort groups presenting critical questions and learnings from two years of study. The total number of pastors who have completed the Vital Pastor program is now 143. A new cohort of 11 district executives began the Advanced Foundations of Church Leadership program in November.

The Brethren Academy sponsored a live webcast on *The Chronicler* with Old Testament scholars Steve Schweitzer, Bob Neff, and Frank Ramirez in October. A recording of the webcast can be found at the Bethany Seminary website. Podcasts that focus on the chapters of the Covenant Bible Study *The Chronicler* are also available.

The Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership is directed by Julie Mader Hostetter. Marilyn Lerch is half-time coordinator of Training in Ministry. Linda and Glenn Timmons are coordinators for the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence program. Mary Eller serves as administrative secretary. Lindsey Frye, a Bethany Seminary student, is the translator and facilitator for the Spanish language training program (SeBAH-CoB) through the seminary work-study program.
Operations

Administration
If you wonder where gift receipts are prepared, who keeps the computers running, how registration is done for Annual Conference, who researches old documents, or who provides cool air and heat for the General Offices, you can look to employees in the Operations unit. Oversight for these areas comes from Judy Keyser, associate general secretary of Operations and treasurer, who has direct supervision of the directors of the Brethren Historical Library and Archives, the Conference Office, and Human Resources. The other three areas are supervised by LeAnn Wine, executive director for systems and services. These are buildings and grounds (Elgin), finance, and information services.

A highlight for Keyser was serving on the board’s Strategic Planning Working Group, which has been coordinating development of new directional objectives for the organization.

Integral to the work of Operations is Ed Woolf, manager of office and gift operations. He managed estates, handled gift instruments that require lifetime payments, and dealt with other administrative issues such as legal documents.

Annual Conference
Completing their first full conference-planning cycle were Chris Douglas, director of the Conference Office, and Jon Kobel, conference assistant. Debbie Noffsinger assisted part-time as registration coordinator for five months leading up to the conference.

The Pittsburgh conference was attended by 3,281 delegates and non-delegates. Moderator Shawn Flory Replogle provided leadership under the theme “Taking Jesus Seriously.”

In addition to working on the logistics and program for Annual Conference, staff provided administrative help to the Annual Conference officers, Nominating Committee, Program and Arrangements Committee, Special Response Resource Committee, Vision Committee, Congregational Ethics Guidelines Study Committee, and Revitalization Committee.

Tampa, Fla., was selected as the 2015 location by the Program and Arrangements Committee because of a very favorable financial package offered by the Tampa Bay Convention Center and hotels. The dates will be July 11-15, 2015.

Containing costs has been a major focus of this past year. Savings were achieved by using a less expensive online registration system, cutting audiovisual costs, doing mailings in-house, and doing more mailings electronically. The Annual Conference office emerged from the 2009 conference with a record deficit of $283,396. From a gift from Brotherhood Mutual to the denomination, $117,000 was provided to Annual Conference toward that deficit. That gift, along with some contributions from congregations and individuals and very tight budget cutting, reduced the deficit to $28,820.

It is important to note that each time a committee is elected by Annual Conference, those meeting expenses come from the conference budget. Registration fees are then affected by those expenses.

Brethren Historical Library and Archives
The church lost a gifted staff member with the illness and death Oct. 23 of Ken Shaffer, director of the Brethren Historical Library and Archives since 1989. He had planned to retire at the end of December. Mary Osborne, who started as archival intern in August, ably managed BHLA for several months until new director Terry Barkley began Nov. 1. Denise Kettering served as
archival intern July 2009 to July 2010. Noted for her processing skills, she had previously interned in the library 2002-2003.

In 2010 the archives provided the following reference services: 234 written responses to requests for information, 132 responses to telephone requests, 133 responses to requests from Church of the Brethren agencies, help for 50 researchers who utilized the collection on site, and tours for 22 visitors. The archives added 66 volumes and 48 sets of archival records to the collection.

Archival research records assisted the Gawryluk family who resettled from Russia/Ukraine in 1950, via the New Windsor Service Center, and then moved to Baltimore. A copy of their resettlement file from the Brethren Service Commission (BSC) was sent to the daughter of the last surviving member of the original four-member family. She presented the file (with snapshots of the original four) to her father for Christmas.

The archives continues to participate with the Brethren Digital Archives (BDA) initiative for digitizing all Brethren periodicals published before 2000, and remains a major contributor in both materials and funding to the project.

**Human Resources**

A new payroll/human resources system, launched at the beginning of the year, streamlined access to information and the generation of reports. Other projects included replacing the Medicare Advantage Plan for retirees with a Medicare supplement plan and changing from a Flexible Spending Plan to a Health Savings Account plan.

The office was staffed by director Karin Krog, based in Elgin, and Cori Hahn, working part-time as coordinator in New Windsor.

New salaried staff in 2010:

**Brethren Historical Library and Archives:**
- Terrell Barkley, director of the Brethren Historical Library and Archives

**Congregational Life Ministries:**
- Joshua Brockway, director for spiritual formation and discipleship

**Global Mission Partnerships:**
- Michael Wagner, peace worker in southern Sudan, a seconded position with the Africa Inland Church-Sudan
- Jordan Blevins, advocacy officer in Washington, D.C., a seconded position with the National Council of Churches

**Stewardship and Donor Development:**
- Amanda Garcia, coordinator of donor invitation

Total regular full-time and part-time employees and Brethren Volunteer Service workers serving Church of the Brethren programs: 103

Ethnical/racial composition: Asian–1; Black–6; Hispanic–4; Caucasian–91; Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander–1

Total contract, shared, and temporary employees, as well as program volunteers: 19

**Systems and Services**

The overall work of the organization is supported by several basic, but critical functions—finance, information services, and buildings and grounds—that enable the more visible ministries of the church to flourish.

A major project was converting to a new financial software system that went live at the beginning of 2011. The new system replaces a 20-year-old legacy system and brings significantly improved capabilities in reporting and processing. LeAnn Wine, executive director of systems and services and assistant treasurer, managed the project.
Accountant Pat Marsh made important contributions, as did the information services staff.

Regular projects for the finance office included staffing the Annual Conference and National Youth Conference treasurer’s offices, coordinating the annual audit, reporting donation and financial details, and preparing the annual budget. The office is supported by Barbara York, accounts payable/payroll specialist; Nancy Watts, donation and accounts receivable specialist; and Barbara Watt, financial operations specialist in New Windsor.

Information services assisted with the major financial software conversion, upgraded other software and storage, and enhanced data security with new backup systems. Director Mark Hartwig also worked to build the organization’s webcasting capabilities. Francie Coale, coordinator, provides support for programs at the Brethren Service Center. Tim Stauffer, PC support specialist, works alongside Hartwig in Elgin.

The buildings and grounds department in Elgin maintained the General Offices as a hospitable environment for daily work and denominational meetings, attending regularly to issues of safety and cost-effectiveness. Extra projects included installation of a card access system and exterior painting of the Brethren Volunteer Service house in Elgin. Director Marvin Greener oversees the department. Other employees are Linda Newman, assistant to the director; Pierre Covington, mailroom and building support; and Brenda Hayward, receptionist.

Financial Results
Building an annual budget in the midst of economic challenges requires both careful analysis and faith that gifts and other income will offset expenses. When planning for 2010, it was important to be realistic about the impact the economy would have, but to count on faithful donors as well.

The budget for Core Ministries, the fund whose many ministries are funded primarily by donations, included a deficit of $380,930 to be covered by net assets. This allowed for stability during the uncertain economic climate in 2010. Thankfully, the deficit was smaller than expected—$327,750, according to pre-audit results.

Overall income for Core Ministries was short of budget. Individual giving had the largest shortfall at $221,200 under budget. Income from investments fell somewhat below budget by $44,290, despite improvement in investment performance. In good news, however, congregational giving exceeded budget and totaled $2,602,590. This generous amount is much appreciated; we know that congregations also struggle with finances.

Gifts to the Emergency Disaster Fund reached $2,082,210—more than $1 million higher than 2009—because of the Haiti earthquake. The Global Food Crisis Fund received $182,290, about $100,000 less than the year before. It is likely that giving to EDF affected individual giving to Core Ministries and the Global Food Crisis Fund.

Five self-funding ministries receive income from the sale of goods and services. Material resources ended with a net loss of $24,690. The New Windsor Conference Center was especially affected by the economy. A 30 percent shortfall in budgeted income resulted in a loss of $244,500, doubling prior years’ accumulated deficits. Options for the conference center are being reviewed because sales are substantially lower and accumulated deficits have reached an unsustainable level.

Brethren Press ended the year ahead of budget, with income over expense of $4,250; a continuing challenge is overcoming its accumulated deficit. Messenger finished with a positive $34,560, largely
because of transition in staffing. The Annual Conference fund was able to significantly reduce the deficit that had developed from the San Diego Annual Conference. The Conference Office received 9 percent more income than budgeted, saved on expenses, and received a large special gift to end the year with income over expense of $254,570 compared to a budgeted $32,040. While the Conference Office made remarkable progress financially in 2010, it faces several upcoming conference sites where attendance will likely be smaller, making it difficult to cover expenses. The above amounts were provided prior to completion of the 2010 audit. Complete financial information is available in the Church of the Brethren, Inc., audit report, published in June 2011.

**Conclusion**

Hearers and doers of the word. That’s what the Mission and Ministry Board members and Church of the Brethren staff seek to be every day. And that’s what can be seen all across the church—in those who trained Children’s Disaster Service volunteers or taught Sunday school, planted new churches or opened wide the doors of established congregations, prepared for ministry or served as delegates at Annual Conference, planted a crop for the hungry or reaped a harvest of hope, traveled far in the name of Jesus or witnessed at home, set right an injustice or preached the good news.

As servants of Jesus Christ, we are grateful to be called to further the ministries of the Church of the Brethren. We are also grateful for your partnership, through prayerful attention and generous gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

_Dale E. Minnich, chair_  
_Stanley J. Noffsinger, general secretary_