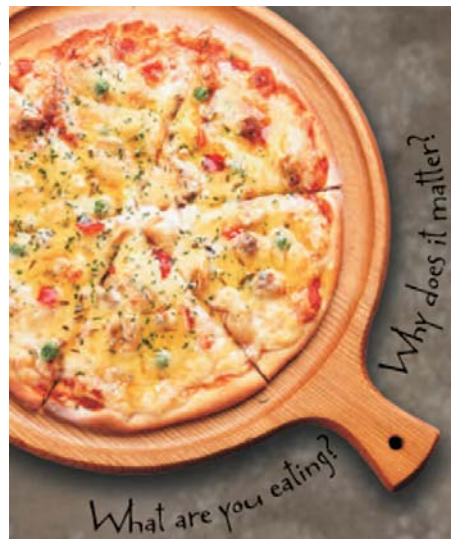




Church of the Brethren

Take Action on Global Hunger January 6, 2010

“One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, ⁹‘There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?’ ¹⁰Jesus said, ‘Make the people sit down.’ Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they ^{}sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, ‘Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.’ ¹³So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. ¹⁴When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, ‘This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.’” (John 6:8-14).*



On January 5, the [Financial Times](#) reported that global food prices had hit a record high, “surpassing the levels seen during the 2007-08 crisis.” [The Church of the Brethren](#) has consistently responded to the cries of those most in need – founding [Heifer International](#), supporting the work of [Church World Service](#), working through the [Global Food Crisis Fund](#) (GFCF), supporting the [Millennium Development Goals](#) of the United Nations, and encouraging the United States government to respond more to the needs of the world.

The news from the [Financial Times](#) and the scripture quoted above remind us, however, that there is still work to do. [The GFCF](#) is the primary way the Church of the Brethren assists in developing food security. For over 25 years [GFCF](#) has provided grants upwards of \$400,000 annually for seeds, livestock, tools, and training directed to helping the poor develop sustainable agriculture. [GFCF](#) invests in small-scale economic development, joins efforts to improve diet and health practices, champions soil conservation, and promotes awareness-raising and advocacy on hunger issues. Its grants have served community development programs in 32 countries. [Click here to support the work of the Global Food Crisis Fund.](#)

It is also important to recognize what we each can do personally to respond to hunger, and how decisions we make every day affect the plight of those who hunger. This spring, the Church of the Brethren’s [Christian Citizenship Seminar](#) will give high school youth the opportunity to do just that –to think about where our food comes from, why it comes from that particular place, and how it arrives to us. The number of questions we face about food and faith continue to

expand. Ask your questions, and struggle with the complexities. [Click here to register for Christian Citizenship Seminar.](#)

Church of the Brethren Policy:

2000 Annual Conference Statement, [Caring for the Poor](#) reads: “We recommend that congregations use their experience in ministry with the poor to inform themselves of legislative and political issues having impact on the poor and speak to those issues with their legislators at local, state, and national levels. The Biblical witness and our own experiences as a community of faith suggest that there is a corporate or societal responsibility to deal with the problems of the poor, such as the Year of Jubilee. This extends beyond personal, hands-on responses and includes advocacy on behalf of the poor.”

2006 Annual Conference Statement, [A Call to Reduce Global Poverty and Hunger](#) reads: “Through prayer, study, and concrete action, let us resolve to act so that those who know extreme poverty and hunger might enter more fully into the abundance of God’s love.”

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[Click here to receive](#) action [alerts](#) from the Church of the Brethren, and/or other e-communications.



For more information about the witness ministries of the Church of the Brethren, contact Jordan Blevins, Advocacy Officer for the Church of the Brethren:

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