

A photograph of a man and a woman walking away from the camera on a wide, gravelly path. The woman is on the left, wearing a black dress, and the man is on the right, wearing a red shirt, blue jeans, a red cap, and a large red backpack. He has his arm around her shoulder. The path is flanked by lush green vegetation and trees. In the background, a valley with a river or stream is visible, surrounded by green hills under a cloudy sky.

Walk by faith



Church of the Brethren

2022 Report of the Church of the Brethren

Walk *by faith*

—2 Corinthians 5:7

Dear Church:

What does it mean to walk by faith? It's not really about traveling down a road on foot (though once in a while that might happen). Some translations of this scripture verse say we *live* by faith. So walking by faith is about everything we do.

Walking by faith describes well how the Church of the Brethren navigated yet another year of disruption, not knowing what the next bend in the road would bring. So many things were different. Local groups met to watch the virtual National Older Adult Conference together. FaithX participants served in their own communities rather than traveling far away. Brethren from around the world met by Zoom.

As we look back on 2021, we can see how rich the journey has been, even in the midst of adversity. Together we preached the good news, fed the hungry, served our neighbors, encouraged one another, witnessed for peace.

We walk by faith. We go with God.

Together in Christ,



David Steele
General secretary



Sarah Steele

On the cover: Listening to a friend after
the earthquake in Haiti. Photo by Eric Miller.

Maryland



Global Food Initiative

District disaster auctions, held for the first time since 2019, raised \$530,000 for the Emergency Disaster Fund. Donations to the fund totaled \$1.7 million, an increase of \$582,000 from the prior year. The Global Food Initiative Fund received \$215,000 in donations, an increase of \$9,000.

Thank you for your gifts!

The Church of the Brethren carried out ministries totaling over \$8.5 million in 2021. Total giving to all ministries of the Church of the Brethren totaled \$7.7 million in 2021, up \$3.1 million from 2020. This is the highest total since 2005 and is primarily due to generous bequest giving and an increase in restricted giving. Giving was up in almost all categories, and the Church of the Brethren is deeply grateful for the faithful generosity of donors.

For Core Ministries, combined congregational and individual giving was \$2.3 million, an increase of \$48,000 from 2020. Expenses con-

tinued to be underspent due to the pandemic, finishing the year \$543,000 below budget. The Core Ministries Fund ended the year with a net surplus of \$212,000.

Brethren Press closed the year with a surplus of \$118,000, thanks to a \$100,000 special distribution from the Gahagen Trust for children's curriculum and a temporary shift of some staff costs to Core Ministries. In Material Resources, donations have not returned to pre-pandemic levels, and the resulting decrease in service fees and processing income led to a deficit of \$21,000. With the lower expenses of a virtual Annual Conference, the Conference Office finished with a surplus of \$46,000.

2021 Total \$7,806,048



Core Ministries	\$4,803,528
Brethren Disaster	\$1,434,745
Material Resources	\$692,345
Conference Office	\$340,618
Brethren Press	\$340,647
Global Food Initiative	\$194,165

2020 Total \$7,783,629



Core Ministries	\$4,666,548
Brethren Disaster	\$1,827,617
Material Resources	\$570,001
Conference Office	\$145,189
Brethren Press	\$358,411
Global Food Initiative	\$215,863

2021 Total \$7,267,673



Core Ministries	\$4,391,429
Brethren Disaster	\$1,451,745
Material Resources	\$712,928
Conference Office	\$294,644
Brethren Press	\$222,762
Global Food Initiative	\$194,165

2020 Total \$7,655,852



Core Ministries	\$4,289,061
Brethren Disaster	\$1,834,355
Material Resources	\$691,959
Conference Office	\$261,555
Brethren Press	\$363,059
Global Food Initiative	\$215,863

Internal transfers between ministries have been included. For complete financials, see the audited financial report.

Rwanda



David Sollenberger

Walk in his ways

—Deuteronomy 26:17

Dominican Republic



The Church of the Brethren is growing rapidly in countries around the world, as people are drawn to the ways the Brethren understand and apply the teachings of the Bible. The Global Brethren Communion held meetings online, and for the first time there was also a meeting of a global women's group.

Through the Global Mission office, the church in the US encouraged and supported the Brethren in Haiti, the

Dominican Republic, Brazil, Venezuela, Spain, Honduras, the Great Lakes region of Africa, and Nigeria. The US Brethren also maintained relationships with the Church of North India and the Second District Church of the Brethren in India. Peace work in South Sudan is being evaluated after a particularly difficult year.

The Global Food Initiative gave grants to community gardens and food pantries in six US states and supported agricultural development in seven other countries.

Venezuela



Dominican Republic



Uganda



Uganda



Louisiana

Walk in love

—Ephesians 5:2



Eric Miller

Haiti

Brethren Disaster Ministries responded to a demanding combination of crises—the pandemic, a volcano eruption in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and an earthquake in Haiti—as well as a major Afghan resettlement effort and hurricanes and tornadoes.

The Nigeria Crisis Response continued to help with recovery in the more stable areas of Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria), but lawlessness has escalated alarmingly.

Indiana



North Manchester Public Library



Honduras



Ohio

In the US, homes were rebuilt or repaired in North Carolina, Ohio, Nebraska, and Iowa.

With a large focus on refugee and migrant crises, Children's Disaster Services cared for 13,728 children, significantly more than in the past 10 years. Their unique work was highlighted in the Brethren Press book *Maria's Kit of Comfort*.

Material Resources prepared 105 shipments totaling 528 tons of supplies and shipped them to 21 states and 21 countries.

Walk *humbly*

—Micah 6:8

Brethren Volunteer Service adapted its orientations, holding one virtually and one in person. With nine new volunteers entering the program, there were a total of 32 serving in four countries and 13 states.

Despite the pandemic, seven in-person FaithX experiences gave 86 youth and adults the opportunity to serve in areas close to their homes.

The Brethren Historical Library and Archives hosted virtual library tours on social media that highlighted his-

torical artifacts and documents within the collection.

Because travel was limited, Mission Advancement staff increased written and phone communication as a way to keep donors up to date about the ministries of the church.

Uganda



Brethren Volunteer Service

FaithX

Maryland



FaithX



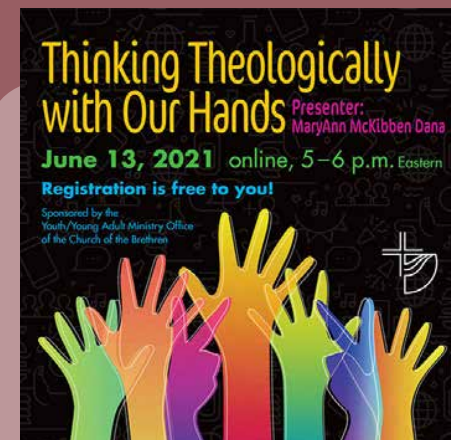
FaithX

Virginia



Walk in newness of life

—Romans 6:4



In response to the stresses of the pandemic, an online Leadership Summit on Wellbeing offered church leaders presentations on various aspects of health. The annual Christian Citizenship Seminar and Young Adult Conference were both held virtually. The biennial National Older Adult Conference, also held online, attracted more than 600 people.

Shine: Living in God's Light adjusted to meet the changing needs of congregations by offering both digital and print formats for Sunday school. New in 2021 were *Current*, a downloadable intergenerational resource, and a vacation Bible school curriculum.



Colorado



Kansas

The Part-Time Pastor; Full-Time Church program connected both virtually and in person with multivocational pastors, and gave special attention to the struggles of young pastors.

Walk in wisdom

—Proverbs 28:26

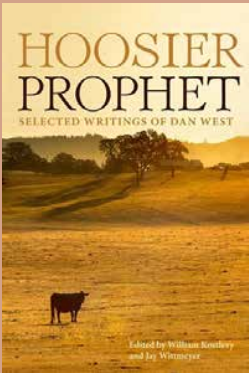
Intercultural Ministries hosted conversations on healing racism and held a retreat on healing racial trauma. Grants to work at healing racism were awarded to 13 congregations.

In a critical year for peacebuilding, the Office of Peacebuilding and Policy worked on a range of issues, including economic peacemaking, US-Africa policy, global vaccine access, militarism, Latin America,

immigration, conscientious objection, and weapon sales.

Hoosier Prophet: Selected Writings of Dan West, from Brethren Press, introduced a new generation to West's commitment to peace education, service, and simple living.

The Mission and Ministry Board moved forward on its Strategic Plan, with progress on assessing the organization's skills, resources, and programs, and affirmation of new initiatives toward recognizing racial injustice and understanding discipleship.



Illinois



Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford

Calvary Church of the Brethren





Ohio

Brethren Volunteer Service

Walk in the light

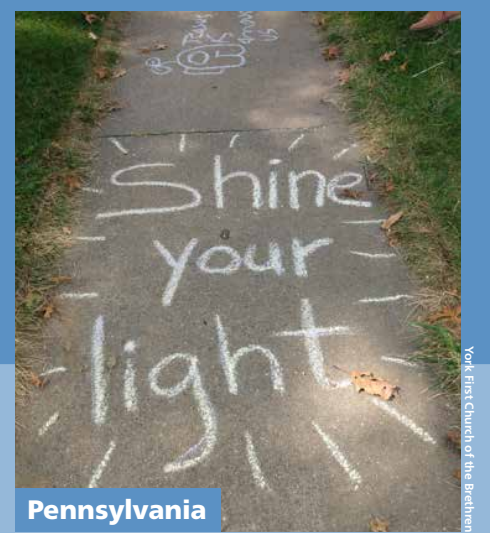
—Isaiah 2:5



Pennsylvania

The Church of the Brethren held its first-ever virtual Annual Conference in 2021, with 519 delegates and 705 nondelegates. In an effort to keep the church connected during challenging times, the Program and Arrangements Committee also planned a virtual denominational worship service in February 2021.

Messenger magazine addressed a wide range of topics in 2021, including the pandemic, hunger, race, spiritual wellness, disability, church growth, church statistics, ecology, the opioid crisis, and peacemaking.



Pennsylvania

York First Church of the Brethren



Illinois

The Church of the Brethren was represented at meetings of the World Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches. The NCC approved an updated edition of the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible (NRSVue).

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE MISSION AND MINISTRY BOARD, WHOSE MEMBERS ARE ELECTED BY ANNUAL CONFERENCE, THE CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN ENGAGES IN MINISTRIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES AND AROUND THE WORLD:

ANNUAL CONFERENCE • BRAZIL • BRETHREN ACADEMY FOR MINISTERIAL LEADERSHIP • BRETHREN DISASTER MINISTRIES • BRETHREN FAITH IN ACTION FUND • BRETHREN PRESS • BRETHREN HISTORICAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES • BRETHREN SERVICE CENTER • BRETHREN VOLUNTEER SERVICE • BURUNDI • CHILD PROTECTION • CHILDREN'S DISASTER SERVICES • CHINA • CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP SEMINAR • CHURCH PLANTING • COACHING • CONGREGATIONAL ETHICS • CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION • CREATION CARE • CURRICULUM AND BOOKS • DEACONS • DEATH ROW SUPPORT PROJECT • DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO • DISABILITIES • DOMINICAN REPUBLIC • ECUMENICAL RELATIONS • EMERGENCY DISASTER FUND • EVANGELISM • FAITHX • FELLOWSHIP OF BRETHREN HOMES • FINANCE OFFICE • GENERAL OFFICES • GENERAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE • GLOBAL BRETHREN GATHERING • GLOBAL FOOD INITIATIVE • GLOBAL MISSION • GLOBAL WOMEN'S PROJECT • GOING TO THE GARDEN • HAITI • HEALING RACISM HOME REBUILDING • HONDURAS • HUMAN RESOURCES • INDIA • INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY • INTERCULTURAL MINISTRIES • INTERGENERATIONAL MINISTRIES • MATERIAL RESOURCES • MESSENGER MAGAZINE • MINISTRY OFFICE • MISSION ADVANCEMENT • NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE • NATIONAL OLDER ADULT CONFERENCE NEW AND RENEW • NEWSLINE • NIGERIA • NIGERIA CRISIS RESPONSE • NURSING SCHOLARSHIPS • OFFICE OF PEACEBUILDING AND POLICY • OLDER ADULTS • OUTDOOR MINISTRIES • RWANDA • SHINE • SOUTH SUDAN • SPAIN • YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE

Visit www.brethren.org/annualreport for the full written report, a video report, and a digital version of this pictorial report.

