



TOGETHER



Church of the Brethren

Dear Church:

Romans 12 reminds us that we are one body in Christ. The world around us tells a different story. It says: Take care of yourself first. Build your brand. Protect your interests. Don't rely on anyone else.



Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford

But the church says something radical in response: *We belong to each other.* Your suffering affects me. My joy is incomplete unless it is shared with you.

Suffering is real. People are grieving losses of loved ones, jobs, health, relationships, stability. They fear deportation, war, the threat of kidnapping, and death. Many carry quiet burdens no one sees. And yet there are also moments of hope and celebration.

The church is called to hold all this together. We live out this calling together—because we believe God works through the whole body. We are part of something larger than ourselves. We are part of a fellowship of churches around the world, communities that are bound together and finely woven.

In a time when trust in institutions is low and cynicism is high, people around us are watching the church—not to see if we have all the answers, but to see if we love one another well.

Read on to see how the Church of the Brethren is encouraging, sustaining, serving, growing, and loving. See how we belong to each other.

Together in Christ,

David Steele
General Secretary

T O G

On the cover: When young adults took a FaithX trip to visit the Church of the Brethren in Uganda, local experts guided them in two service projects: sewing school uniforms and building desks and bunkbeds. Photo by Colby Patton.

Annual Conference



Glenn Riegel



Glenn Riegel



Brittany Chadwick



Material Resources

FaithX in Uganda



R



Gedeon Terrero Matas

■ The new moderator of the **Global Church of the Brethren Communion**, which met regularly by Zoom, is Pastor Santos Terrero of Iglesia de los Hermanos, Una Luz en las Naciones. His church in Spain hosted an in-person meeting of the Global Communion in early 2026.

■ Leaders of the US church **strengthened relationships through visits to sister churches** in a number of countries, including



Gedeon Terrero Matas

Service project in Spain

South Sudan, Uganda, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Burundi. The Communauté des Églises des Frères au Burundi was invited to apply for membership in the Global Church of the Brethren Communion.

■ The Global Mission office sponsored a **peace conference in Tanzania** with the emerging Church of the Brethren there. The office



Sharon Bruggner Norton

also arranged travel for various leaders to visit emerging Church of the Brethren groups in other countries, which provides covenant community for each other.

■ **Haiti Medical Project** is finding solid management through a working group that meets

regularly to discuss various projects and workflow.

■ **A monthly international prayer guide** and other communication through Newline, newsletters, and *Messenger* bring people together across the miles.

■ Projects in seven countries benefited from the **Global Food Initiative**. Grants supported grain mills, clean water, agricultural extension training, school garden and nutrition education, and church-based agricultural projects.



Chris Elliott

Microfinance program in Burundi

ENCOURAGE



BDM

■ The primary location for the **Rebuilding Program** was Eastern Kentucky, which was affected by flooding in 2022. Short-term responses in North Carolina and Tennessee aided survivors of Hurricane Helene. In total, 676 volunteers gave 40,376 hours that served 42 families, saving local people \$1,404,681.

■ **Children’s Disaster Services** sent 61 volunteers to care for 759 children affected by seven disasters.

Children’s Disaster Services



Tammy Tucker

These included wildfires in the Los Angeles region, a terrorist attack in New Orleans, flooding in Texas, and tornadoes in Missouri.

■ When **Hurricane Melissa** brought extensive damage to the Caribbean, the Church of the Brethren supported churches in Cuba through their relationship with the Church of the Brethren in Venezuela. Another storm-related EDF grant supported agricultural recovery programs in Haiti.



EYN Media

Nigeria

■ Major grants made through the Emergency Disaster Fund supported **relief and recovery** programs in conflict areas affecting Brethren in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Nigeria, and South Sudan.



Eglise des Freres au Congo

Democratic Republic of Congo

■ **Material Resources** marked 81 years of leading the way in shipping relief goods around the world. In its final year before closing at the end of 2025, employees facilitated shipments totaling 902 tons of donated goods valued at more than \$15.5 million.

■ **Brethren Disaster Ministries** focused on the larger picture through a process funded by a \$50,000 planning grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. Staff gathered information and envisioned ways to improve and expand.





USIAIN

SERVE





Arkansas

Rachel Johnson

■ At the international FaithX trip in **Uganda**, young adults from the US visited the Church of the Brethren in Uganda, toured church ministries, and took part in service projects at a church-run orphanage and elementary school. Among the ministries visited were a grinding mill and farmland related to projects funded by the Global Food Initiative.

■ Across the **FaithX** trips in 2025, participants ranged in age from 11 to 70. More than a third were first-

time attendees. With the theme “Living with Purpose,” the week-long, short-term service trips were grounded in Ephesians 4:1-3. In addition to the trip to Uganda, there were 10 in the US.



FaithX

Virginia

■ **Brethren Volunteer Service** orientation units 337 and 338 were held at Camp Colorado and Camp Mardela. In these two units, 19 individuals built community, shared stories, and prepared for a year of volunteer service. Counting both new and continuing volunteers, 43 people served across eight states and three countries in nonprofit organizations committed to meaningful, community-centered change.



Iowa

BVS

Benjamin Hoffmann

Shine



Wendy McFadden

■ Faith formation starts small, with young ones learning about faith through Sunday school teachers and the Shine curriculum. A Lilly-funded **Shine Everywhere** initiative is giving curriculum creators a better understanding of what families are seeking, and that input is influencing the next round of teaching materials.

■ **Young people from junior high through young adults** continued growing and learning at the Na-

tional Junior High Conference, held at Juniata College; the Young Adult Conference, held at Camp Brethren Woods; and Christian Citizenship Seminar, held in Washington, D.C.

■ In anticipation of the quadrennial National Youth Conference in 2026, youth advisors were invit-

National Youth Cabinet



Anna Schweitzer

ed to **Estes Park, Colo.**, to get a first-ever NYC preview. People from 14 districts toured the campus, met



Becky Ullom Naugle

Young Adult Conference

others from across the country, and spent time in an educational event.

■ Brethren Press launched a **new youth curriculum** called *Reach* and published *Between You and Me*, a book of poetry by Audri Svay.

■ Working with the Ministry Office, an Annual Conference committee launched a survey on ministers' experiences on **sabbath renewal** and produced a brief video featuring a committee member who wrote a Covenant Bible Study, *Sabbath: God's Call to Peace*.

■ The **L.E.A.D. conference** planning team offered a series of webinars to continue momentum between the biennial conferences.



Caden Beyer

GROW



Caden Beyer

National Junior High Conference at Juniata College

Your **love** for one another is growing —2 Thessalonians 1:3, NLT

LOVE

National Older Adult Conference



■ **Intercultural Ministries** carried out 16 gatherings attended by some 500 people. The office was deeply involved in supporting immigrant communities and equipping the church for faithful advocacy—working alongside others to

support the Deportation Defense Response program.

■ A growing number of resources and events are being offered in **Spanish and Haitian Creole**. These include Annual Conference sessions, workshops at other conferences, books, papers, ministry training, coaching, and online meetings.



Libby Polzin Kinsey

■ The **Ministers' Association** held its yearly continuing education event on the topic of disability, accessibility, and the church.

■ The **Office of Peacebuilding and Policy** witnessed to the church's commitments on areas of concern such as peace, immigration, service, creation care, and support for those on Death Row.

■ The **Mission and Ministry Board** spoke out about the deportation of immigrants, weapons transfers, and gun violence.



Intercultural exchange in Florida

Walt Witschek

■ "Learning to Wash Feet" is a new five-session **video resource** for use in Sunday school classes and small groups.

■ A grant-funded initiative on **rural and small-town churches** has launched in partnership with Ashland Theological Seminary.

■ Participants at **National Older Adult Conference** gathered for worship, presentations, service projects, and insight sessions. More than 500 met in person, with others taking part online.



Nate Hosler



Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford

Many of the Church of the Brethren's ministries are in a centralized budget called Core Ministries. In addition, the organization has special-purpose funds that support Brethren Disaster Ministries and the Global Food Initiative. Two ministries, Conference Office and Material Resources, are considered self-funding because they cover their expenses with income from fees.

Combined giving to **Core Ministries** from congregations and individuals totaled \$2 million. This is \$65,000 below budget and \$109,000 behind 2024. Congregational giving was \$1.35 million, a decrease of \$117,000, and individual giving was \$694,000, an increase of \$8,000 from last year. With a transfer of \$125,000 in designated funds, total income to Core Ministries ended the year \$97,000 above budget.

Director-level expenses finished the year at \$5.5 million, which was \$214,000 above budget, primarily due to rising costs, inflation, and expenses related to a ransomware attack at the end of 2024. As a result of higher expenses, Core Ministries ended the year with a net deficit of \$138,000. This lowered the Core Ministries' net asset balance to just under \$2 million.

Material Resources closed at the end of 2025, following a decision made in 2023 by the Mission and Ministry Board. The program covered expenses by charging fees for its services, including shipping disaster relief materials for Brethren Disaster Ministries and other organizations. Material Resources finished the year with a deficit of \$225,000, which increased the deficit balance of the program's net assets to \$496,000.



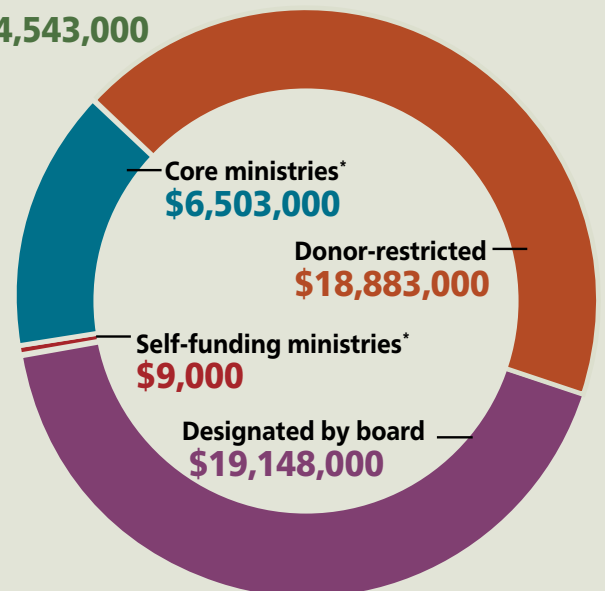
EYN Media

The **Conference Office** budget, self-funded through registration fees, finished the year with a deficit of \$25,000. This expense lowered the Conference Office net asset balance to \$374,000.

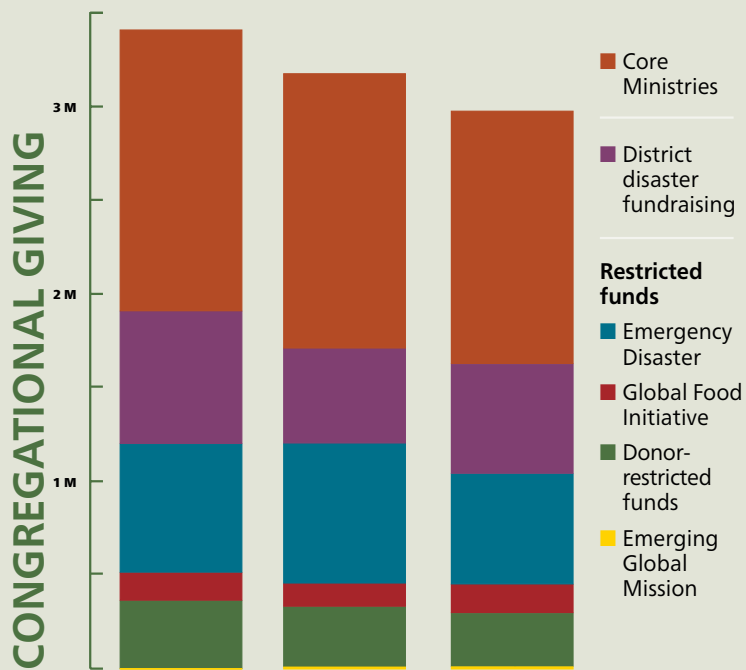
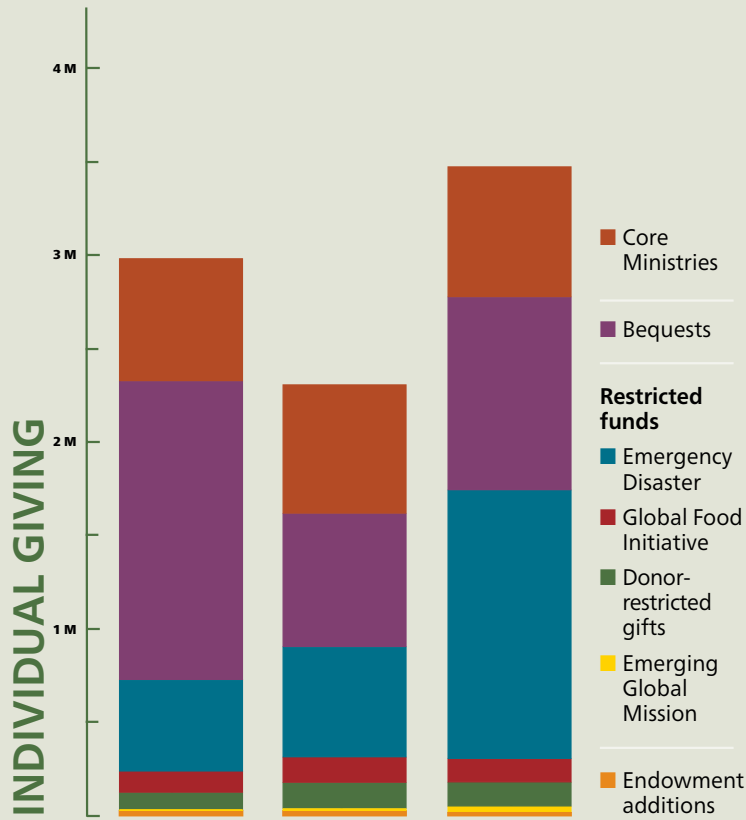
Donations to the **Emergency Disaster Fund** totaled \$2.6 million, an increase of \$766,000 from 2024. Giving to the **Global Food Initiative Fund** totaled \$278,000, an increase of \$19,000.

Investments totaled \$37.2 million at the end of 2025, up \$1 million from 2024. The investment gain in 2025 helped total **net assets** increase \$1.5 million, resulting in a year-end balance of \$44.5 million.

Net assets
\$44,543,000

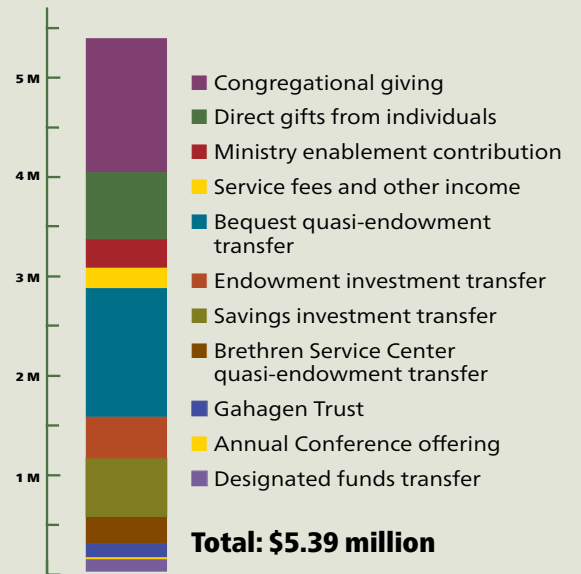


*Totals include Land, Building, and Equipment Funds



| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Congregational total | \$2,969,461 | \$2,297,603 | \$3,458,965 |
| Congregational total | \$3,413,369 | \$3,179,974 | \$2,980,023 |
| Combined giving total | \$6,382,830 | \$5,477,577 | \$6,438,988 |
| | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 |

CORE MINISTRIES 2025 INCOME



CORE MINISTRIES 2025 EXPENSE



Some departments generate income through subscriptions, sales, or fees. The numbers here show net expense. Internal transfers between ministries have been included.

EMERGENCY DISASTER FUND

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Beginning balance | \$2,186,595 |
| Donations | 2,607,901 |
| Less ministry enablement contribution | (234,710) |
| Less BDM expenses and grants | (1,890,362) |

Year-end balance \$2,669,424

GLOBAL FOOD INITIATIVE FUND

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Beginning balance | \$340,698 |
| Donations | 278,136 |
| Less ministry enablement contribution | (25,032) |
| Less expenses and grants | (199,524) |

Year-end balance \$ 394,278

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** • CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP SEMINAR • **CHURCH PLANTING AND REVITALIZATION** • COACHING • **COMMUNICATIONS** • CONGREGATIONAL ETHICS
CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTION • **CREATION CARE** • CURRICULUM AND BOOKS • **DEACONS DEATH ROW SUPPORT PROJECT** • DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO • **DISABILITIES DISCIPLESHIP AND LEADERSHIP FORMATION** • **DOMINICAN REPUBLIC** • ECUMENICAL RELATIONS • **EMERGENCY DISASTER FUND** • EVANGELISM • **FAITHX** • FELLOWSHIP OF BRETHREN HOMES • **FINANCE OFFICE** • GENERAL OFFICES • **GENERAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE** • GLOBAL CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN COMMUNION • **GLOBAL FOOD INITIATIVE**
GLOBAL MISSION • **GLOBAL MISSION DEVELOPMENT FUND** • GLOBAL WOMEN'S PROJECT
HAITI • HAITI MEDICAL PROJECT • **HONDURAS** • HUMAN RESOURCES • **INDIA INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY** • **INTERCULTURAL JUBILEE** • INTERCULTURAL MINISTRIES
L.E.A.D CONFERENCE • MATERIAL RESOURCES • **MESSENGER MAGAZINE** • MINISTRY OFFICE • **MISSION ADVANCEMENT** • NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH CONFERENCE • **NATIONAL OLDER ADULT CONFERENCE** • NATIONAL YOUTH CONFERENCE • **NEWSLINE** • NIGERIA
NIGERIA CRISIS RESPONSE • HEALTH CARE EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP • **OFFICE OF PEACEBUILDING AND POLICY** • OLDER ADULTS • **OUTDOOR MINISTRIES**
PART-TIME PASTOR; FULL-TIME CHURCH • **RACIAL JUSTICE** • REBUILDING PROGRAM
RURAL AND SMALL TOWN INITIATIVE • **RWANDA** • SHINE • **SOUTH SUDAN SPAIN** • **SPIRITUAL FORMATION** • STANDING WITH PEOPLE OF COLOR • **THRIVING IN MINISTRY** • **UGANDA** • **VENEZUELA** • **WEBINARS** • **WWW.BRETHREN.ORG**
YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES • **YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE**



Church of the Brethren

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

Produced by Wendy McFadden. Designed by The Concept Mill.