

## Ministerial ethics training uses new workbook

**A** new ministerial ethics workbook is featured in the current renewal cycle for ministry credentialing. Ordained and commissioned ministers across the Church of the Brethren are required to take ministerial ethics advanced-level training every five years in order to renew their credentials. Licensed ministers and those new to the denomination take basic-level training. The training is the responsibility of the Office of Ministry, working with district leaders and ministry commissions.

At the invitation of the Office of Ministry, retired pastor Jim Benedict wrote a workbook titled *Ethics for the Set-Apart Minister*, with versions for both basic and advanced training. He brings expertise in the field of medical ethics and decades serving in pastoral ministry.

Orientation for trainers was held at the Church of the Brethren General Offices in Elgin, Ill., in preparation for the credentialing renewal process currently underway in the districts. Nine leaders from six districts received orientation to serve as facilitators for the process that is to be completed by the end of 2020.

In addition to English, the workbook is available in Spanish with sessions led by Ramón Torres of Reading, Pa.; and in Haitian Kreyol with sessions led by Ilexene Alphonse

of Miami, Fla. Other facilitators include Joe Detrick, Lois Grove, Dave Kerkove, Janet Ober Lambert, Dan Poole, Jim Eikenberry, and Nancy Sollenberger Heishman, director of the Office of Ministry.



*Ministry ethics trainers received orientation: (from left) Janet Ober Lambert of the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership; Nancy Sollenberger Heishman of the Office of Ministry; Jim Benedict, author of Ethics for the Set-Apart Minister; Lois Grove; Dan Poole of Bethany Seminary; Joe Detrick; Jim Eikenberry; Ilexene Alphonse who will lead training in Haitian Kreyol; and Ramón Torres who will lead training in Spanish.*

## Seminar seeks creative solutions to violence

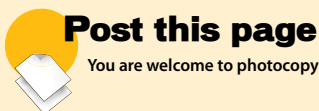
**T**he 2019 Christian Citizenship Seminar gathered 47 high school youth and advisors from 14 congregations in 12 states, April 27-May 2 in New York and Washington, D.C. It focused on “Creative Solutions to Violent Conflict

Worldwide” with leadership from the Youth and Young Adult Ministry and Office of Peacebuilding and Policy.

Participants learned about how churches, governments, and non-governmental organizations can proactively build peace and defuse vio-

lence without resorting to military force. In between sessions about the military budget, unarmed civilian protection, and advocacy, participants visited the United Nations, explored New York, and met with their members of Congress on Capitol Hill.

Youth lobbied their senators and representatives to support funding for unarmed civilian protection, a strategy for preventing violence by providing a protective, nonviolent presence to observe and accompany civilians living amid conflict. They also shared how their background as members of a historic peace church informed their desire to see less militarism and more efforts to build peace in foreign policy.



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## Personnel notes

The Church of the Brethren information technology (IT) department has announced two promotions. **Francie Coale** has been named director of IT for the denomination's General Offices and Brethren Service Center after serving as director of IT at the center in New Windsor, Md. She also continues as director of buildings and grounds at the Brethren Service Center. **Fabiola Fernandez** began May 13 as manager of IT at the General Offices, where she had been a system specialist.

**Everett Teetor** resigned effective June 14 as accounting assistant for Brethren Benefit Trust, where he has been employed since July 23, 2018. Previously he was an intern in BBT's finance department. He is a member of Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren in Elgin, Ill.

**Zoe Vorndran** begins June 24 as intern in the Brethren Historical Library and Archives. She graduated from Manchester (Ind.) University this year and while a student was archives assistant for the Funderburg Library. She is a member of Lincolnshire Church of the Brethren in Fort Wayne, Ind.

**Tim Courtright** will begin July 15 as executive director of Camp Swatara near Bethel, Pa. He has been executive director of Kenbrook Bible Camp north of Lebanon, Pa. Camp Swatara also hired **Allison Mattern** of Palmyra (Pa.) Church of the Brethren as Family Camping Center manager, following the resignation of **Rick and Sarah Balmer**. Mattern holds a degree in environmental science from Slippery Rock University.

## Castañer hosts Heifer's 75th

**G**lobal Mission and Service invites Brethren to a celebration of the 75th anniversary of Heifer International, commemorating its roots in the Church of the Brethren and its historic ties to the community and hospital of Castañer, P.R.

On Friday, Oct. 4, participants will gather in San Juan, Puerto Rico's capital city. Saturday, Oct. 5, they will spend the day in Castañer to attend the celebration and tour the hospital. On Sunday, Oct. 6, they will worship



with congregations, return to San Juan, and travel home.

Participants are responsible for their own expenses. Global Mission and Service offers to assist in coordinating flight and hotel bookings and will arrange transportation for

## Leaders issues statement on withdrawal process

**The Leadership Team of the Church of the Brethren** has provided district executives with a congregational withdrawal process. This “best practices” document was developed in consultation with the Council of District Executives in keeping with current polity. It was prepared for district leaders who are working with congregations that may be considering withdrawing from the denomination.

The Leadership Team is not encouraging any congregation to withdraw. If withdrawal becomes necessary, however, this document gives guidance for proceeding in accordance with polity.

The Leadership Team of the denomination includes the Annual Conference officers—moderator Donita Keister, moderator-elect Paul Munday, and secretary James Beckwith—along with general secretary David Steele and district executive Cindy Sanders, who represents the Council of District Executives.

The “Congregational Withdrawal Process” document does not change Church of the Brethren polity related to property ownership. The intent of the document is to encourage intentional conversations between district leadership and congregations through a defined process, to pull together the denominational polity regarding church property, and to give guidance to ministerial and congregational leadership.

The Leadership Team urges a reconciling spirit in all congregational withdrawal conversations. The document also asks districts to be consistent with all aspects of Church of the Brethren polity as they work with congregations and ministers considering withdrawal, fostering a respectful spirit toward all parties and giving serious attention and care to those church members who choose to remain a part of the Church of the Brethren.

Those seeking more information are to contact their district executive.