

Emergency Disaster Fund supports Africa cyclone relief

Emergency Disaster Fund grants support relief efforts in southern Africa following Cyclone Idai. Two large grants have gone to longterm partner organizations: \$40,000 to ACT Alliance, and \$30,000 jointly to IMA World Health and Lutheran World Relief.

The allocation to IMA World Health and Lutheran World Relief supports the Chipinge and Chimanimani regions of Zimbabwe, providing funding for temporary shelters, distribution of relief kits, and water filters. In Mozambique, the organizations are sending school kits to support safe spaces for children living in temporary camps.

The grant to ACT Alliance supports its country-level organizing bodies in the affected nations. A combination of local and international organizations will implement a comprehensive response supporting basic human needs of water, food, shelter, and sanitation for the most vulnerable people.

Also, a grant of \$45,000 will continue the Brethren Disaster Ministries rebuilding project in the Carolinas, aiding homeowners recovering from hurricanes Matthew and Florence. The grant will enable recovery efforts to continue in North and South Carolina through the summer as a double site, and then as a single site through at least April 2020.



Brethren Disaster Ministries volunteers from Bethany Church of the Brethren in Northern Indiana District, and volunteers from Pacific Southwest District enjoy spending time with a homeowner (center, in black) and her daughter, and their dog, while working on her Hurricane Matthew-damaged house in the Carolinas.

Church renews agreement with Selective Service

The Church of the Brethren has renewed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Selective Service System, the federal department responsible for the nation's preparation for a military draft and draft registration. Selective Service has worked with the historic peace churches to plan for alternative service for conscientious objectors in the event of a draft.

The renewed MOU was signed by general secretary David A. Steele and Global Mission and Service executive Jay Wittmeyer on March 4. The previous MOU was signed in 2010.

The denomination has a long-standing agreement with Selective Service as

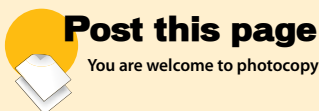
a result of work by the historic peace churches (Church of the Brethren, Mennonites, and Quakers). Brethren Volunteer Service is recognized as an agency through which conscientious objectors may do alternative service.

In the event of a draft, conscientious objectors would make a claim for such classification, likely on a case-by-case basis. Church members would provide documentation demonstrating an objection to serving in the military, how they arrived at that belief, and how that belief has influenced their life. Denominational staff recommend that, at the time of registering with the Selective Service, young people file a "statement of conscience" with the

Church of the Brethren to be kept in case it is required.

"By signing this MOU with Selective Service and by maintaining the Brethren Volunteer Service program, the Church of the Brethren demonstrates that it is committed to its historical position as a peace church," said Wittmeyer. "While membership in the church does not guarantee a drafted individual would qualify for alternative service, we do believe it makes a strong case to demonstrate one's belief in nonresistance."

Find the *Call of Conscience* curriculum with instructions for the statement of conscience at www.brethren.org/CO.



Post this page

You are welcome to photocopy this page. For more Newsline stories and to subscribe to Newsline's free email news service go to www.brethren.org/news

On Earth Peace adopts new values, vision, and mission

On Earth Peace at a board meeting on April 4-6 approved a new set of core values and new vision and mission statements. For more effective governance, a major board reorganization plan was affirmed.

The new set of core values:

- **Jesus-centered spirituality.** *We follow Jesus into the work of justice and peace. We share in spiritual practices and develop faith resources to help undergird our programs.*
- **Positive peace.** *We learn, teach and practice dynamic forms of peacemaking which see conflict as an important tool to meet needs, address injustice, correct imbalances of power, and seek healing and reconciliation.*
- **Anti-racism/anti-oppression.** *We commit to name and undo barriers to participation in our programs based on identi-*

ty, and to work for full inclusion and equity for all who wish to join in our work. We commit to the long-term transformation of On Earth Peace, the church, and society.

- **Intergenerational leadership.** *We nurture peacemakers and leaders, and honor the wisdom, skill, and experience of all generations.*

- **Beloved community.** *We commit to raising the levels of relationships until justice and peace prevail, and all people attain their full human potential.*

The new vision statement:

A world in Beloved Community, liberated from oppression, violence, and war.

The new mission statement:

We develop and walk with leaders and communities who work for justice and peace.

The new organizational design calls for a board of 8 to 10 members that will function with a structure of 3 committees: executive committee, resource management committee, and board governance and development committee. The Anti-Racism Transformation Team will continue to function, with its integration into the structure of the organization more clearly defined.



New degree at Bethany

In fall 2019, Bethany Theological Seminary will offer its first new graduate degree in 50 years—the Master of Arts: Theopoetics and Writing. The MATW is the only degree available in theopoetics. In 2016, Bethany launched the specialized graduate certificate in theopoetics and theological imagination, also the first of its kind.

The new degree, which is a collaboration with the seminary’s neighbor on the campus in Richmond, Ind.—Earlham School of Religion—is a major feature of the comprehensive curriculum revision that faculty have been undertaking. Bethany’s newly revised master of divinity was launched in fall 2018, and the revised master of arts will be offered in fall 2019. The certificate in theology and science was launched this academic year, and the certificate in biblical peacemaking will be offered in fall 2019.

Personnel notes

Gimbiya Kettering resigned as director of Intercultural Ministries on May 31, after serving in the position since Jan. 7, 2013. She was on the staff of Discipleship Ministries and worked closely with the Intercultural Ministries Advisory Committee. She focused the work on the Annual Conference mandates in the 2007 statement “Separate No More: Becoming a Multi-Ethnic Church.” With her leadership the ministry continued the Revelation 7:9 Award, initiated the Dikaios and Discipleship study tours focused on racial justice, worked on “Continuing Together” conversations including a Native American Heritage Month project with the Office of Peacebuilding and Policy, led workshops in vari-

ous settings, and contributed articles to MESSENGER. Going forward, Discipleship Ministries will be “partnering with the Intercultural Ministries Advisory Committee to envision the strategy and staffing needed to live into the vision of Revelation 7:9,” said co-coordinator Joshua Brockway.

Jason and Nicole Hoover on April 30 concluded their work with Global Mission and Service as church liaison officers with Iglesia de los Hermanos (the Church of the Brethren in the Dominican Republic). They began in the DR on Aug. 1, 2016. The couple, along with children Ethan and Miriam, are remaining in the DR to work with Solid Rock International.