

## Youth cabinet is named

**The National Youth Cabinet** has been named for the years 2021-2022:

- Haley Daubert, Montezuma Church of the Brethren, Dayton, Va.
- Elise Gage, Manassas (Va.) Church of the Brethren
- Giovanni Romero, York Center Church of the Brethren, Lombard, Ill.
- Luke Schweitzer, Cedar Grove Church of the Brethren, New Paris, Ohio
- Benjamin Tatum, Oak Grove Church of the Brethren, Roanoke, Va.
- Isabella Torres, Iglesia Un Nuevo Renacer Fellowship, Mountville, Pa.



courtesy of Aneet Shrivastava

## Annual Conference pivots to online

**The Program and Arrangements Committee has announced** that the 2021 Annual Conference will be an online event, responding to pandemic conditions.

“While we know that meeting in person eventually will be safe again,” said the announcement, “we sadly do not believe that it will happen in time to safely have an in-person event at the end of June 2021. We are nevertheless excited about the new opportunities an online gathering offers. . . . We are throwing wide the doors to thousands of Brethren who never before have been able to participate fully in Annual Conference.”

Worship services will be open to all, free of charge.

A one-time price of \$99 is offered for nondelegates to register for business sessions, insight and equipping sessions, networking events, a virtual concert, and resource sessions and Bible studies led by featured speakers Tod Bolsinger and Michael Gorman.

Delegate fees remain at \$305 and include access to the whole Conference, the right to vote, and participation in “table talk” about the proposed compelling vision.

## EYN churches attacked at Christmas

**In a Christmas Eve attack by Boko Haram** on the town of Garkida in northeast Nigeria, four churches were set ablaze, five people were killed and many injured, five people were reported missing, and the Garkida General Hospital was looted, among other destruction.

Located in the Gombi area of Adamawa State, Garkida is the site of the first mission work in Nigeria by the Church of the Brethren and is the founding community of Ekklesiyar Yan’uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria).

Another Christmas Eve attack targeted Pemi, a village in the Chibok area of Borno State, where seven people were killed, an EYN church and houses were burned, and EYN evangelist Bulus Yakura was abducted.

At least three more communities along the Biu Road were attacked Dec. 26, with three churches and many houses destroyed.

## General secretary issues statement on Jan. 6 attack on the US Capitol

**A statement from David Steele, general secretary of the Church of the Brethren,** issued following the Jan. 6 attack on the US Capitol and Congress:

“Wednesday was Epiphany, the day marking the arrival of the Magi, seekers of the young Prince of Peace. Yet the violent actions in our nation’s capital revealed the violence of Herod rather than the peace of God.

“While the Church of the Brethren has always had an ambivalent relationship to institutions of power and government, we have consistently sought *‘the things that make for peace’* (Luke

19:42). Brethren address the government on matters of justice in our commitment to care for all people, and we participate in nonviolent protest when necessary. But the recent actions were not nonviolent protest. They laid bare racism and hatred, and breached the country’s democratic processes.

“May we together confess our brokenness, that the deep divisions within our country are also present in our church; and commit to pray for the healing of our country and our church as we all together pray and work for the peace of Christ—the shalom of God.”



Cheryl Bunnbaugh-Clyford

*Present for the 2020 presentation of the benefit check were (from left) LeAnn Harnist, MAA board; MAA general manager Kimberly Rutter; Church of the Brethren general secretary David Steele and treasurer Ed Woolf; Karl Williams from Brotherhood Mutual.*

## Insurance benefit supports Ministerial Assistance Fund, compelling vision

The Church of the Brethren Leadership Team has distributed a Ministry Partner Program payment of \$50,000 from the Mutual Aid Agency (MAA) and Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company: \$25,000 went to the Ministerial Assistance Fund; \$24,000 went to the compelling vision effort for technological support for Annual Conference and translation of documents into Spanish and Kreyol; \$1,000 went to the Finance Office for related expenses.

### Disaster rebuilding reduced to one site at a time

Brethren Disaster Ministries projects are reduced to one rebuilding site at a time through 2021, because of pandemic surges. The Hurricane Florence recovery site in Bayboro, N.C., will close at the end of March. The tornado recovery site in Dayton, Ohio, will reopen after Easter.

## Personnel notes

**Erika Clary** has been named coordinator of National Youth Conference 2022, to serve through Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS). From Brownsville Church of the Brethren in Knoxville, Md., she recently completed degrees at Bridgewater (Va.) College. She served on the National Youth Cabinet in 2018.

**Victoria Ehret** began Jan. 25 as interim district executive for Atlantic Southeast District. She has been serving the district as director of ministry in a quarter-time position.

**Sonja Sherfy Griffith** has resigned as district executive of Western Plains District, as of March 31. She started in the half-time position on Jan. 1, 2010, also continuing to pastor First Central Church of the Brethren in Kansas City, Kan. Her leadership in the denomination has included participation in the Cross-Cultural Ministries Team. In 2011, she received the Revelation 7:9 Diversity Award recognizing her as one of those who helped found the Intercultural Consultation.

**William (Bill) Kostlevy** will retire as director of the Brethren Historical Library

and Archives on April 17. He has been the Church of the Brethren archivist for almost eight years, since March 1, 2013. During his tenure, BHLA has responded to more than 3,000 requests for information and hosted more than 500 researchers and more than 1,000 visitors to the archive. His service to the denomination included leadership of the Church of the Brethren Historical Committee.

**Pauline Liu** has been named to a position coordinating volunteers for BVS, a job she held as an interim starting July 20, 2020. Previously, she worked as BVS orientation assistant for three months beginning May 18, 2020, and from 2018 to 2019 was a BVS volunteer at a L'Arche community in Ireland.

**Meghan Horne Mauldin** has been named to fill the unexpired term of Carol Yeazell on the Church of the Brethren Mission and Ministry Board. Yeazell resigned from the board for personal reasons. Mauldin is a member of Mill Creek Church of the Brethren in Tryon, N.C. From 2008 to 2009, she was a BVSer and assistant coordinator for the former Workcamp Ministry.

**Angelo Olayvar** joined the Office of Peacebuilding and Policy in Washington, D.C., in January as an intern. He is a junior at Eastern Mennonite University hoping to pursue a career in human rights law.

**Shawn Flory Replogle** has been named executive director of Organizational Resources in the Finance Office of the Church of the Brethren, a job he held as an interim starting April 13, 2020. He holds degrees from Bridgewater (Va.) College, Bethany Seminary, and Friends University. An ordained minister, he was moderator of Annual Conference in 2010.

**Hannah Shultz** resigned as coordinator of short-term service with BVS on Jan. 27 to accept a position with Georgia Interfaith Power and Light. During her year-and-a-half with BVS, since Aug. 5, 2019, she shifted the former Workcamp Ministry online in response to the pandemic, helped recreate it as Faith Outreach Expeditions (FaithX), supervised BVsers who serve as assistant coordinators, and worked to design in-person, hybrid, and online options for short-term service events.



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