

Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford



Students from Bethany Seminary lead worship for the Mission and Ministry Board.

## Mission and Ministry Board approves 2022 budget

**A**t its fall meeting on Oct. 15-17, the denomination's Mission and Ministry Board approved a 2022 budget and moved Brethren Press into Core Ministries, among other business.

The meeting was held online and in-person at the General Offices in Elgin, Ill. Chair Carl Fike, who served previously as chair-elect, was assisted by new chair-elect Colin Scott and general secretary David Steele.

Students from Bethany Seminary attended and led Sunday morning worship. Dan Ulrich, Weiland Professor of New Testament Studies at Bethany, led a session on "New Testament Models of Giving."

**2022 budget:** The board approved a total budget for all denominational ministries of \$7,822,300 in income and \$7,840,330 in expense. The decision included Core Ministries as well as "self-funding" budgets for Brethren Disaster Ministries, Annual Conference, Global Food Initiative, and Material Resources. The board approved a Core Ministries balanced budget of \$4,959,000.

**Brethren Press:** The board moved Brethren Press into Core Ministries, ending many decades of self-funding status. The financial situation of the publishing

house has been under discussion for some years, with the pandemic putting more pressure on sales figures.

### In other business

- The board made changes to the denomination's bylaws, which will be brought to Annual Conference for approval. The changes update language and titles, clarify duties of various positions and groups, and make other non-substantial changes.

- A new five-member Stewardship of Properties Committee was called including board members Dava Hensley (chair) and Roger Schrock, staff representative Shawn Flory Replogle, and Church of the Brethren members Miller Davis and Brian Messler.

Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford



Leading the board meeting are chair Carl Fike (right) and chair-elect Colin Scott.

## Five to preach for 2022 Conference

**Preachers have been announced** for the Annual Conference to be held in Omaha, Neb., on July 10-14, 2022: moderator **David Sollenberger**; **Leonor Ochoa**, a church planter in Atlantic Northeast District; **Eric Bishop**, chair of the board of Bethany Seminary; **Nathan Rittenhouse**, a Standing Committee member from Shenandoah District; and **Belita Mitchell**, a past moderator and retired pastor.

The worship team includes Dawn Ottoni-Wilhelm, Paula Bowser, and Tim Hollenberg-Duffey, with Carol Elmore as chair. Scott Duffey is music coordinator. Find out more at [www.brethren.org/ac](http://www.brethren.org/ac).



## Students receive nursing scholarships

**Three students** have received nursing scholarships for 2021: **Kasie Campbell** of Meyersdale (Pa.) Church of the Brethren, **Emma Frederick** of Roaring Spring (Pa.) First Church of the Brethren, and **Makenzie Goering** of McPherson (Kan.) Church of the Brethren. The Health Education and Research Endowment awards up to \$2,000 for RN and graduate nurse candidates and up to \$1,000 for LPN candidates.



**Post this page** You are welcome to photocopy this page. For more Newsline stories, go to [www.brethren.org/news](http://www.brethren.org/news)



## Material Resources sees banner week

**October included the busiest week** in years at the Material Resources warehouse. More than 100,000 pounds of donated materials were received in one day, when staff unloaded six trailers—from Ohio, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania—and three U-Haul trucks, cars, pickup trucks, and a bus filled with donations for Lutheran World Relief (LWR). Other days saw a trailer arrive from Illinois with 17,500 pounds of LWR donations, a half trailer and a U-Haul truck of LWR donations from Pennsylvania, and a staff driver picking up more donations for Church World Service.

## GFI grants aid Haiti, DRC, Honduras, New Orleans

**The Global Food Initiative (GFI)** announced four grants recently:

- \$15,000 to help L’Eglise des Freres d’Haiti (the Church of the Brethren in Haiti) establish an agriculture supply store.
- \$11,000 for an urban poultry and vegetable garden project of the Viviendo en Amor y Fe church in Tegucigalpa, Honduras.
- \$6,262 for a pig breeding project of the Congolese Brethren at the Lusenda congregation in Fizi.
- \$1,000 for the goat enterprise of Capstone 118 in the Lower 9th Ward.

# Brethren survey affirms essential characteristics

**O**utcomes of an international survey asking what characteristics are essential to be Church of the Brethren have been released. A committee of the Global Church of the Brethren Communion (an organization of the 11 registered denominations around the world) developed the survey and provided it in English, Spanish, Haitian Kreyol, and Portuguese.

The committee hopes the survey will lay a foundation for ongoing dialogue among the worldwide church bodies and will help develop criteria for new churches to join.

There were 356 “valid participations” with ages ranging from under 20 to over 80. The participation by country was 76 percent US—with 1 percent “Hispanic in the US,” 11 percent Dominican Republic, 4 percent Brazil, 3 percent Spain, 2 percent Uganda, with smaller percentages from other countries.

Respondents strongly affirmed all of the named characteristics, with majority responses for all being “essential,” followed by “important”:

- Being a church that identifies with the Radical Reformation
- Being a noncreedal New Testament church
- Being a church that practices the universal priesthood of all believers
- Being a church that practices community interpretation of the Bible
- Being a church that teaches and exercises freedom of thought
- Being a church that practices voluntary association as an exercise of individual freedom
- Being a church that teaches and lives the separation of Church and State
- Being a pacifist church
- Being a church that teaches and exercises conscientious objection
- Being an agape church
- Being a church that practices baptism by triple/trine immersion
- Being a non-sacramental church
- Being a church that promotes a simple lifestyle
- Being a church that practices loving service to the needy neighbor
- Being a church where fellowship supersedes the institution
- Being an inclusive church, welcoming the different
- To be an ecumenical church
- To be a church that works for the preservation of Creation

Download the detailed report from [www.brethren.org/global](http://www.brethren.org/global).

## Personnel

**Kim Gingerich** began Oct. 25 as program assistant for the rebuilding program of Brethren Disaster Ministries, based at the Brethren Service Center. She was interim program assistant starting May 17, 2021. Previously, beginning in January 2014, she was a

longterm disaster project leader at rebuilding sites.

**Jenna Stacy Mehalso** leaves her role as program coordinator at Camp Bethel, in Virlina District, on Dec. 31. She has given eight years of leadership to the camp.