

Craig Thompson



## Brethren Disaster Ministries completes Dayton project, continues hurricane rebuilding

**B**rethren Disaster Ministries has completed its tornado rebuilding project in Dayton, Ohio. Grants of \$10,000 from the Greater Dayton Disaster Relief Fund and \$5,000 from the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster covered some of the costs.

A Hurricane Florence rebuilding project in Pamlico County, N.C., continues through April with support from an Emergency Disaster Fund grant of \$52,000.

### More grants

- \$30,000 from the EDF for the Lebanese Society for Education and Social Development's winter weather aid for Syrians who are displaced within Syria and in Lebanon.
- \$25,000 from the EDF to the Congolese Brethren in Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo, for repairing 23 damaged homes and building 31 new homes following the eruption of Mount Nyiragongo.
- \$5,000 from the EDF for a shipment of hygiene kits to displaced people in Yemen in partnership with Corus, the new umbrella for merged programs of Lutheran World Relief and IMA World Health.
- \$5,000 from the Brethren Faith in Action Fund (BFIA) to East Dayton (Ohio) Fellowship for signage to promote outreach ministries.
- \$4,697.17 from the BFIA to Lorida (Fla.) Iglesia de los Hermanos for outreach and worship ministries.
- \$763.72 from the BFIA to Ellisforde (Wash.) Church of the Brethren for audio/video and computer equipment for online worship.

## On Earth Peace ends executive position

At its board meeting Oct. 7-9, the board of On Earth Peace discussed challenges of staffing with a growing cohort of interns and a persistent structural deficit.

After careful consideration, including two hours of racial caucusing to explore how internalized racial superiority and inferiority play into decisions, the board decided to eliminate the position of executive director as of the end of 2021 while continuing to fully support expansion of the internship program. During an interim period in 2022, executive responsibilities will be distributed among staff, board, and interns.

The board also updated bylaws, with a reduction of the size of the board from 15 to 12 as the most significant change.



### The Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee

met last October: (top row, from left) Bob McMinn, Deb Oskin, Art Fourman; (bottom) Gene Hagenberger, Dan Rudy, Nancy Sollenberger Heishman. The group worked on the 5-year review of pastoral compensation and benefits to be presented to Annual Conference, updated the "Guidelines for Pastors' Salary and Benefits," reviewed and recommended changes to the "Guidelines for Continuing Education," and received an update from a former member of the committee, Ray Flagg, who is helping develop a "Pastoral Compensation Calculator" for a new "Integrated Annual Ministry Agreement."



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## Bethany Seminary board affirms anti-racism efforts

**B**ethany Seminary's board has made a statement in support of the seminary's work to pursue racial justice. The school in 2019 created a framework designed to intentionally confront racial hierarchy, implicit bias, and systemic racism, growing out of a strategic vision goal "to promote cultural, racial, and theological diversity throughout the institution."

The board of trustees statement:

*"As Children of God, we join with others to pursue the path of righteousness in the midst of social turmoil. We humbly and fully commit ourselves as members of the Bethany Theological Seminary Board of Trustees to stand against all forms of racism, discrimination, bias, privilege, abusive power, colonialism, and racial hierarchy. We recognize these insidious elements are pervasive on individual, interpersonal, institutional, and systemic levels. We also grieve the ugly and harmful mental, physical, spiritual, educational, social, economic, ecological, and societal effects these foundations impose upon our human family.*

*"To this end, we are dedicated to eliminating all such structures in this Seminary and working to uphold justice, equity, diversity, interconnectedness, and accessibility. In doing so, we fully acknowledge and accept that this journey will require us as individuals and as a collective Board to be faithfully and consistently committed to seeking God's will in the ways and spirit of Jesus, Our Lord and Savior. We also understand that our work will be challenging, uncomfortable, and painful but, in doing so, remain resolved that all facets of our Bethany learning community—including this Board—will become transformed into new and greater instruments through our efforts to fulfill the Seminary's mission so that the world flourishes. It is in this spirit that we call upon our entire Bethany family to join us as we, together, strive to address this vital charge.*

*"It is our hope and prayer for God to act in and through us as we intentionally work to fulfill this important and necessary calling. With humble hearts, may we always be reminded that sincere dedication to hope, continued learning, self-examination, and evaluation will be integral to our efforts, and that there is no ending to this journey. And, with Jesus as our example and inspiration, may our efforts as a Board contribute in positive ways that bring about a new and beloved community at Bethany Theological Seminary."*

## Nigeria Crisis Response continues in 2022

The Nigeria Crisis Response budget for 2022 has been set at \$183,000, supported by a grant of \$210,000 from the Church of the Brethren Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF). Plans were made to end this collaboration between the Church of the Brethren and Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) in 2021, but were revised due to ongoing violence in northeast Nigeria.

Working with EYN's Disaster Relief Management, program priorities are repairing homes, peacebuilding and trauma recovery, agriculture, livelihood, education, food and medical and home supplies, and staff engagement.



### National Youth Conference worship and music coordinators

met with Youth and Young Adult Ministries staff: (top row, from left) Erika Clary, NYC coordinator; Becky Ullom Naugle, director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries; Bekah Houff, university pastor at Manchester University in Indiana; (center) Walt Wiltschek, Illinois and Wisconsin District executive; Cindy Laprade Lattimer, co-pastor of Stone Church of the Brethren in Huntingdon, Pa., and co-chaplain at Juniata College; Shawn Flory Replogle, executive director of Organizational Resources for the Church of the Brethren; (bottom) Jacob Crouse, a music leader at the Washington (D.C.) City Church who does audiovisual engineering for the American College of Cardiology. Houff, Lattimer, Replogle, and Wiltschek are worship coordinators, and Crouse is music coordinator.

## Personnel notes

**Jen Jensen** began Dec. 13, as Thriving in Ministry program manager in the Office of Ministry. Her work includes the Part-Time Pastor; Full-Time Church program. Most recently she worked for Kindred Hospice of McPherson, Kan. She was director of Spiritual Life and Service for McPherson College for five years. She is a graduate of the University of Nebraska and plans to complete a master of divinity at Bethany Seminary in May.

**Doug Phillips** retired Dec. 31, as executive director of Brethren Woods, after 39 years in leadership of the camp in Shenandoah District. Originally from Johnstown, Pa., he attended Eastern Mennonite University, completing courses in camping and youth ministries. In 1982, he began as director of Brethren Woods. During his tenure, the facility and programs grew from 2 buildings, a fulltime director, and a part-time staff member, to 30 structures and 6 full-time staff. The district has appointed assistant director Linetta Ballew as acting director.

**Lynn Evans** of Pottstown, Pa., has begun as long-term volunteer office manager at rebuilding sites of Brethren Disaster Ministries.