The 2022 Annual Conference ballot is headed by candidates for moderator-elect and Conference secretary.

**Moderator-elect:** Marla Bieber Abe of Lynchburg (Va.) Church of the Brethren, a retired pastor, has served on the Program and Arrangements Committee and has been a messenger at Conference. She has served on the boards of Bethany Seminary and the Susquehanna Valley Ministry Center and on the New Church Development Committee.

**Madalyn Metzger** of Goshen City (Ind.) Church of the Brethren is vice president of marketing for Everence Financial. A trustee of Manchester University, she has served on the Intercultural Ministries advisory committee and chaired the board of On Earth Peace. She has provided leadership in diversity, equity, and inclusion for church-related institutions.

**Conference secretary:** Connie R. Burkholder of Monitor Church of the Brethren in McPherson, Kan., is a former district executive and pastor. She has been secretary of the Council of District Executives, representative to the National Council of Churches, a writer for Brethren Press, and on the planning committee for the Clergy Women’s Retreat. She has worked with Central American refugees in the Sanctuary Movement.

**David K. Shumate** of Daleville (Va.) Church of the Brethren is Virlina District executive minister. He is a former moderator and has served on the Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee, Review and Evaluation Committee, Ministry Advisory Council, New Church Development advisory committee, and Council of District Executives, where he served terms as chair and treasurer.

**Annual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee:** Jacob Crouse of Washington (D.C.) City Church of the Brethren; Rachel Bucher Swank of Mount Wilson Church of the Brethren, Lebanon, Pa.

**Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee:** Angela Finet of Mountville (Pa.) Church of the Brethren; Diane Mason of Fairview Church of the Brethren, Unionville, Iowa

**Mission and Ministry Board, Area 1:** Joel Gibbel of York (Pa.) First Church of the Brethren; Regina Holmes of Midland (Va.) Church of the Brethren. **Area 2:** Linda Fry of Mansfield (Ohio) Church of the Brethren; Rosanna Eller McFadden of Creekside Church of the Brethren, Elkhart, Ind.

**Bethany Seminary Board of Trustees, representing the colleges:** Katharine Gray Brown of Manchester Church of the Brethren, North Manchester, Ind.; Jonathan Paul Frye of Monitor. **Representing clergy:** Susan Stern Boyer of La Verne (Calif.) Church of the Brethren; Laura Stone of Manchester

**Brethren Benefit Trust Board:** Kevin R. Boyer of Plymouth (Ind.) Church of the Brethren; Carl Eubank of Happy Corner Church of the Brethren, Clayton, Ohio

**On Earth Peace Board:** Matt Boyer of La Verne; Doug Richard of Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren, Mifflinburg, Pa.

The 2022 Conference will have an online option for nondelegates giving access to livestreaming of business meetings, the Ted & Co performance of We Own This Now, concerts by the Bittersweet Gospel Band and Mike Stern & Friends, and selected equipping sessions. Register and find out more at www.brethren.org/ac2022.

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**Final grants for 2021**

**From the Emergency Disaster Fund:** $15,000 to Church World Service following December tornadoes; $3,000 to Trauma Healing and Reconciliation Services in Burundi for roof repairs following a storm.

**From the Global Food Initiative:** $15,270 to the Church of the Brethren in Rwanda for a pig project.

**From the Brethren Faith in Action Fund,** grants of $5,000 each to Camp Colorado in Sedalia, Colo., Camp Koinonia in Cle Elum, Wash., Camp Peaceful Pines in Dardanelle, Calif., University Park (Md.) Church of the Brethren, Washington (D.C.) City Church of the Brethren, and Whitestone Church of the Brethren in Tonasket, Wash.
General secretary David Steele called for prayer as Russia began its invasion of Ukraine. Brethren raised up prayers for peace in concert with other Christians around the world, including the National Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches.

Brethren Disaster Ministries began planning a Ukraine crisis response with ecumenical partners. Donations are received at www.brethren.org/give-ukraine-crisis or via check to the Emergency Disaster Fund, 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120, marked for “Ukraine Crisis.”

Among those calling for prayer was Quinter (Kan.) Church of the Brethren pastor Keith Funk, who has maintained a close relationship with pastor Alexander Zazhytko and a congregation in Chernigov (Chernihiv), Ukraine, that identifies as Church of the Brethren.

Funk visited Ukraine in 2015, and in 2016 welcomed Zazhytko on a visit to Western Plains District. As the invasion began, the two pastors were in daily communication. Zazhytko reported on the status of the 30 to 35 church members who were sheltering in their homes. As of March 10, they were unharmed despite daily bombing, the loss of power, water, and heat, and difficulty finding food.

Funk said, “I am assuring Alex that his brothers and sisters are praying here in the US. This is giving them encouragement and assurance. May we pray for safety and deliverance. May we pray for an end to this carnage.”

Personnel notes

Emily Tyler resigned as director of Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) Feb. 18, after three years in the position starting Feb. 4, 2019. She was employed by the Church of the Brethren for almost 10 years, since June 27, 2012, when she began as coordinator for BVS recruitment and the former Workcamp Ministry. As director of BVS, she oversaw this long-term program to train and support units of volunteers each year to serve full-time at projects in the US and internationally. During her tenure, the Workcamp Ministry transitioned to FaithX and BVS adapted to pandemic challenges. Tyler has begun as membership and communications specialist for the Association of Professional Chaplains in Hoffman Estates, Ill.

Dan McFadden began Feb. 21 as part-time interim director of BVS. He was BVS director for more than 20 years, from Dec. 1, 1995, to Nov. 2, 2018. He will continue part time as a therapist in Elgin, Ill.

Atlantic Southeast District has announced that the interim district executive position has been changed to a team of directors: Vicki Ehret is director of administration and representative to the Council of District Executives, Founa Augustin-Badet is director of Haitian ministries, Fausto Carrasco is director of Hispanic ministries, Ray Hileman is director of English ministries, Aida Lymaris Sanchez is director of program, and Eva Shoemaker is director of finance.

Michigan District has made changes to its executive team. Beth Sollenberger has been hired as part-time interim district executive minister. Also appointed to the team on a volunteer basis are Frances Townsend, Dan Rossman, Wendy Russell, and Frank Polzin, with Jennifer Betts Pendragon as administrative assistant.

Western Pennsylvania District is being represented by retired pastor Pete C. Kaltenbaugh Jr. during a time of transition in the district executive role.