

Annual Conference announces ballot

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, repre-

sentative 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 Virgina 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.



Elienne Nsanzimana

A pig-raising project in Rwanda is among the recipients of final grants for 2021.

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.

Prayer for Ukraine

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.”



Keith Funk

Pastor Alexander Zazhytko and his wife, Tonia, in their church house.

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.”

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.”



Brethren Volunteer Service Winter Unit 330, from left: Johannes Stitz of Westphalia, Germany, serving at SnowCap Food Pantry in Fairview, Ore.; Marvin Blenkle of Berlin, Germany, serving with Harrisburg (Pa.) First Church of the Brethren and bcmPEACE; Tate Johnson of McPherson, Kan., and McPherson Church of the Brethren, serving at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center in Little Rock, Ark.; and Florian Wessler of Westphalia Germany, also serving at SnowCap. The next orientations are July 31-Aug. 19 at Camp Wilbur Stover in Idaho and Sept. 18-Oct. 7 at Camp Brethren Heights in Michigan. Apply at www.brethren.org/bvs.

The next orientations are July 31-Aug. 19 at Camp Wilbur Stover in Idaho and Sept. 18-Oct. 7 at Camp Brethren Heights in Michigan. Apply at www.brethren.org/bvs.

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.