

## Mission grants made to international partners

**T**he Global Mission office has announced grants made to international partners in 2021. Close to \$700,000 was distributed, made possible through donations and significant financial support from Brethren World Mission, the Brethren Mission Fund, and the Royer Foundation. Global Mission also distributed funds on behalf of the Global Women's Project. These amounts do not include grants from the Global Food Initiative or the Emergency Disaster Fund.

**Democratic Republic of Congo:** \$10,000 to the administrative budget of the church in the DRC.

**Dominican Republic:** \$22,000 to the administrative budget of the church in the DR.

**Haiti:** \$478,131, including grants to the Haiti Medical Project, \$80,000 to purchase property for the Delmas Church, and \$35,000

for the church building in Saut-Mathurine.

**Honduras:** \$500 for theological training.

**India:** \$2,000 to the administrative budget of First District Church of the Brethren in India.

**Mexico:** \$250 for program supplies.

**Nigeria:** \$41,214 mostly for rebuilding churches that have been destroyed in violence.

**Rwanda:** \$57,857 for the building of church headquarters, scholarships for Twa students, and seminary training for pastors.

**South Sudan:** \$36,000 for mission programming.

**Spain:** \$19,706 including theological training for leaders of the church in Spain.

**Uganda:** \$6,410 including a Christmas event at an orphanage.

**Venezuela:** \$23,955 including church building and outreach to indigenous peoples.

## EDF grants aid Ukraine refugees

**B**rethren Disaster Ministries directed grants from the Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) to relief for displaced Ukrainians and to a National Youth Conference (NYC) service project making school kits.

A grant of \$50,000 was given to the International Orthodox Christian Charities, a US-based NGO, for its work to support Ukrainians displaced in neighboring countries, host families and institutions providing humanitarian assistance for refugees, and protection for women and children.

A grant of \$37,500 helps fund a project to collect Church World Service school kits at NYC. Brethren Disaster Ministries and the Brethren Disaster Relief Auction in Pennsylvania are partnering in the project to assemble at least 3,000 kits. The auction has contributed \$20,000. NYC participants will bring additional donations.



Aniel Rosario

## DR Brethren move toward reconciliation

**S**mall but important steps were taken earlier this year toward reconciliation within Iglesia de los Hermanos (Church of the Brethren in the Dominican Republic), which suffered a division beginning in February 2019 when pastors of Haitian descent walked out of the annual Asamblea citing discrimination, among other reasons. They organized La Comunidad de Fe (Community of Faith) as an autonomous nonprofit.

Since then, attempts have been made by representatives from the US church and the leadership of Eglise des Freres d'Haiti (Church of the Brethren in Haiti) to reunite the DR church.

When Iglesia de los Hermanos held its 2022 Asamblea Feb. 18-20, representatives from the leadership of La Comunidad de Fe were in attendance. More recently leaders from the board of Iglesia de los Hermanos attended the Asamblea of La Comunidad de Fe April 9-10. A joint pastors' retreat was planned for late May, as the two groups pursued a process of reconciliation.

## Personnel notes

**James Deaton** resigned as managing editor for Brethren Press, as of May 24, to take a position as communications content editor for the Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church. He began his work with Brethren Press on Oct. 29, 2007. Over almost 15 years he edited curriculum, books, and the bulletin series; supervised freelance writers, editors, and designers; overseen the Church of the Brethren Yearbook; and managed the production process for the publishing house. Projects of note during his tenure included additions to the Inglenook Cookbook series—*The New Inglenook Cookbook* and *Inglenook Desserts*; representing the Church of the Brethren on the Committee on the Uniform Lessons Series; and making improvements in how the *Church of the Brethren Yearbook* collects directory and statistical data.

**Margaret (Maggie) Elwell** will join Bethany Seminary this fall as assistant professor of Peace Studies. She is an assistant clinical professor in the University Honors program at the University of Maryland. She has done undergraduate work in English and religion and holds a master's degree in teaching, a master of divinity, and a doctorate in Religion and Society. She earned her degrees from Swarthmore College, Johns Hopkins University, and Princeton Theological Seminary, where she earned the Senior Fellowship for Best Thesis and

a Doctoral Merit Fellowship and directed the Center for Theology, Women, and Gender.

**Sam Locke** began May 2 as executive director of institutional advancement at Bethany. Most recently he was director of development for Indiana Legal Services, a nonprofit law firm based in Indianapolis providing free legal services to low-income people. He previously worked in fundraising for the Presbyterian Church (USA). Originally from Connersville, Ind., he earned undergraduate degrees in education and political science from Indiana University, a master's in public administration from the University of Wyoming, and a master of divinity from Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis.

**Dauda Gava**, provost of EYN's Kulp Theological Seminary in Nigeria, was international scholar-in-residence at Bethany for the spring semester.

**Linetta Ballew** has been hired as executive director of Brethren Woods Camp and Retreat Center in Keezletown, Va., where she has been acting director. She has worked in camping ministries for 19 years including as program director and assistant director at Brethren Woods and as co-administrator of Camp Swatara in Bethel, Pa. She holds degrees from Bridgewater (Va.) College and Eastern Mennonite Seminary, where she earned a master of divinity.



**Galen Fitzkee (at right), a Brethren Volunteer Service worker at the Office of Peacebuilding and Policy, is pictured at a Cuba Working Group event. National Council of Churches leader Leslie Copeland-Tune was present along with faith partners from the Cuba Working Group of the Washington Interfaith Staff Community at a dinner with Cuban ambassador Lianys Torres Rivera and vice-minister of Foreign Affairs Carlos Fernandez de Cosio Dominguez.**

## On Earth Peace board considers staffing

**On Earth Peace held its spring board meeting** via Zoom on April 7-9, led by co-chairs Melisa Leiter Grandison and Irvin Heishman.

The meeting opened with a report on the current interim staffing arrangement. Responsibilities previously carried by the executive director are now divided among the three staff: Marie Benner-Rhoades, Matt Guynn, and Darlene Johnson. The board is preparing to consider proposals for a new staffing structure.

Staff have stepped up development work, with interns assisting in making calls to donors. The board is assisting with planning a Dec. 3 concert fundraiser at Manchester Church of the Brethren in North Manchester, Ind., in-person and online, featuring Friends with the Weather.

In other business, the board continued work to become “unapologetically multiracial/multicultural”; held conversations about the On Earth Peace branding; considered recommendations that board members be trained in Kingian Nonviolence; celebrated progress made with National Youth Conference staff “for training for all adult advisors with guidelines in place to protect queer youth from bullying as well as providing identified safe space and advisors”; and reviewed polity recommendations being brought to Annual Conference, five years after On Earth Peace asked for clarification of polity relating to agencies.

Board member Beverly Eikenberry was appointed as treasurer. Two candidates were affirmed as new board members, beginning in 2023: Tamera Shaw, a program coordinator in the Psychology Department at George Mason University, and Jessie Houff, community arts minister at Washington (D.C.) City Church of the Brethren and Community Arts coordinator and an adjunct professor at Wesley Theological Seminary.