

## BBT is now Eder Financial

**B**rethren Benefit Trust (BBT), which has been serving Church of the Brethren employees

and organizations for up to eight decades, is now known as Eder Financial. The name Eder is taken from the Eder River in Schwarzenau, Germany, where the Brethren movement began in 1708.

On May 4, the State of Illinois officially changed the corporate name to Eder Financial Inc. This was a transition “to accommodate one of BBT’s strategic goals—to adopt new names to better serve its members and clients,” said a release from Eder Financial.

At the same time, the following names also were changed: the Brethren Foundation Inc. became Eder Deferred Gifts

Inc., and Brethren Foundation Funds became Eder Organizational Investing Inc.

“These new identities reflect BBT’s heritage and will resonate with Church of the Brethren members while being attractive to others outside the denomination who are of like mind and who want to use Eder’s services,” the release said.

The organization’s established services and programs are not changing, including retirement services, insurance services, deferred gifts management, organizational investing opportunities, an online investment platform, benevolent grants for pastors and other church employees in financial difficulties, and educational workshops.

“The difference is that Eder Financial will now begin serving members and clients of like mind that are outside the Church of the Brethren,” the release said, quoting president Nevin Dulabaum: “With changing demographics and affinity within the Church of the Brethren, a move to serve Anabaptist organizations and others of like mind will allow Eder Financial to fulfill its commitments to its members for decades to come.”

The name change is the last of five strategic goals to be launched in recent months, including first to change operations to be in a growth rather than maintenance mode, second to open up marketing and promotional efforts in a new way, third to create the right staff positions and hire the right people for those positions, and fourth to become a work-from-home organization allowing the hiring of staff from across the country. Eder Financial continues to have a small suite of offices at the Church of the Brethren General Offices in Elgin, Ill.



## 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.

## Conference announces preacher change

**A** change in the preacher schedule for the 2022 Annual Conference taking place July 10-14, in Omaha, Neb., has been announced. Previously announced preacher Eric Bishop had to cancel. The Program and Arrangements Committee invited Anna Lisa Gross to preach on Tuesday evening, July 12.

Gross will preach on “The Joy of Little Deaths,” with the scripture texts from Psalm 147:1 and Luke 15:11-32. She is an ordained minister who is co-interim district executive for South/Central Indiana District and has been serving as a part-time pastor at Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren in Northern Indiana District.

Find the full schedule of preachers for the Conference at [www.brethren.org/ac2022/worship](http://www.brethren.org/ac2022/worship).



## Shipment sends relief for Ukraine

**T**his shipment has been in the works for quite a while but *finally* is on its way,” reported Loretta Wolf, director of Material Resources. She and her staff work out of the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md., to collect, warehouse, and ship relief goods for a number of ecumenical and humanitarian partner organizations.

In May, Material Resources worked on a Lutheran World Relief shipment to respond to the Ukraine situation. Wolf said, “We loaded five trailers with donated items to fly from Dulles Airport to Poland and to Ukraine.”

The shipment consisted of approximately 9,600 quilts, 4,160 school kits, 18,500 personal care kits, 4,080 baby care kits, and 21,330 pounds of soap.

## Bethany graduates the class of 2022

**B**ethany Theological Seminary honored the graduates from the class of 2022 during commencement on May 7. This year’s class included 7 master of divinity graduates, 8 graduating with master of arts degrees, and 17 earning graduate certificates.

### Master of divinity:

Amos Dan Doka (Wazo, Nigeria)  
Sharon Ruth Flaten (Bridgewater, Va.)  
Eric M. Kauffman (Mifflinburg, Pa.)  
Jennifer Kay Jensen (McPherson, Kan.)  
Scott Patrick Linton (Frederick, Md.)  
Matthew Paul Rittle (Arlington, Va.)  
Julia Anne Wheeler (Pomona, Calif.)

### Master of arts:

Angela Lynn Adams (Malden, Ill.)  
Kayla Rae Collins (Richmond, Ind.)  
Lark Lundberg (Rockford, Ill.)

Zachary Thomas Mays  
(Saint Petersburg, Fla.)  
Nolan Ryan McBride (Elkhart, Ind.)

### Master of arts in theopoetics and writing:

Alexander Randy McBride (Elkhart, Ind.)  
Audriana Nicole Svay  
(North Manchester, Ind.)

### Master of arts in spiritual and social transformation:

Susuyu Ayuba Lassa (Jos, Nigeria)

### Certificate in theopoetics and theological imagination:

Kayla Rae Collins (Richmond, Ind.)  
Tina Marie Fisher (Gainesville, Va.)  
Lark Lundberg (Rockford, Ill.)  
Zachary Thomas Mays  
(Saint Petersburg, Fla.)  
Matthew Paul Rittle (Arlington, Va.)

Ingrid Rogers (Menlo Park, Calif.)

### Certificate in just peace and conflict transformation:

Alexander Randy McBride (Elkhart, Ind.)  
Jamie Elaine McBride (Elkhart, Ind.)

### Certificate in intercultural biblical interpretation:

Scott Patrick Linton (Frederick, Md.)

### Certificate in biblical peacemaking:

Sunday Aimu (Jos, Nigeria)  
Musa Anto Dauda (Jos, Nigeria)  
Titus Zira Fate (Jos, Nigeria)  
Rosa John (Jos, Nigeria)  
Katherine Usen (Jos, Nigeria)  
Eugenia Lazarus Zoakah (Jos, Nigeria)

### Certificate in theology and science:

Jamie Elaine McBride (Elkhart, Ind.)  
Jonathan David Zinnel (Middleton, Wis.)