

Mission and Ministry Board sets budget

The Mission and Ministry Board, led by chair Carl Fike and assisted by chair-elect Colin Scott and general secretary David Steele, approved a budget parameter for Core Ministries of \$5,217,000 for 2023 at a pre-Annual Conference meeting in Omaha, Neb. The proposal is for a break-even budget.

In financial reporting, the board learned that the total asset balance as of May represents a \$4.7 million decrease from the beginning of the year. The investment balance has decreased \$5 million, including market performance and draws. However, giving to denominational ministries is up significantly over last year, representing the highest giving total since May 2010.

In response to high inflation, the board approved a 3 percent cost-of-living adjustment for employee compensation, taking effect immediately. Another 3 percent increase begins in January.

A position for an executive director overseeing Discipleship Ministries and the Office of Ministry was approved, including financial implementation through use of unrestricted reserves from the Bequest Quasi-endowment. General secretary David Steele thanked Discipleship Ministries staff Josh Brockway and Stan Dueck for serving as co-coordinators since an executive director was last in place.

The board adopted new initiatives recommended by the Strategic Planning Committee, including a “foreground vision” titled “Putting Away Our Swords (Kingian Non-Violence Training)” for board members and director-level staff to be trained in Kingian nonviolence.

International guests were welcomed



David Steele recognized Beckie Miller Zeek, Dava Hensley, and Christina Singh for completing their terms of service.

from three countries: Ariel Rosario, church president, and Anastacia Bueno from the Dominican Republic; Santos Terrero, church president, and Maribel Roa and Welinthon Perez from Spain; and Etienne Nsanzimama, church president, and Theoneste Sentabire from Rwanda.

Middlebury (Ind.) Church of the Brethren was recognized as a new member of the Open Roof Fellowship.

The board called an Executive Committee for 2022-2023: Lauren Seganos Cohen, Kathy Mack, and J. Roger Schrock, to serve with chair Carl Fike and chair elect Colin Scott.

Personnel

Emily Bowdle of Denton (Md.) Church of the Brethren joined the Brethren Volunteer Service (BVS) team as orientation assistant, serving as a BVS volunteer. She also has volunteered at Camp Myrtlewood in Myrtle Point, Ore., and the Asian Rural Institute (ARI) in Tochii-ken, Japan.

Michael Brewer-Berres began July 18 as interim program assistant for BVS. She served as the BVS orientation assistant, working as a BVS volunteer 2021-2022. Her first BVS project placement was at Quaker Cottage in Belfast,

Northern Ireland.

Carrie Eikler in July resigned as coordinator of the English-Language Ministry Training Programs for the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership. She joined the academy staff in 2014. She coordinated the Training in Ministry (TRIM) and Education for Shared Ministry (EFSM) programs, among other responsibilities.

Galen Fitzkee completed his year of BVS on Aug. 12, serving as an associate with the Office of Peacebuilding and Policy in Washington,

D.C. He has begun a job as legislative associate for the Mennonite Central Committee National Peace and Justice Ministries Office.

Sharon Flaten has joined the staff of Bethany Seminary as assistant of Recruitment and Student Development in Nigeria. She first traveled to Nigeria in 2009. From March 2019 to July 2021, while enrolled at Bethany, she worked with students in the Certificate for Biblical Peacemaking in Nigeria.

Chelsea Goss Skillen begins Oct. 24 as director of

BVS. She is a graduate of Bridgewater (Va.) College and of Regis University, where she earned a master's in Organizational Leadership. Her two years as a BVS volunteer included one year as orientation assistant. She has worked with New Community Project, Camp Bethel, and a refugee program in Australia, and most recently co-founded a business to empower and educate authors to share their stories and helped run a production and publishing company.

Gene Hagenberger has



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Church ministries respond to extreme flood events

After devastating flooding hit areas of Missouri, eastern Kentucky, and other states, staff of Brethren Disaster Ministries were busy monitoring the situation and identifying

needs. Conference calls and meetings were held with FEMA, Kentucky Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), and district leadership in Missouri and Arkansas and Southern Ohio and Kentucky districts.

District staff were in touch with Church of the Brethren congregations in affected areas of Kentucky. As of early August, the buildings of the Flat Creek and Mud Lick congregations were not affected.

By mid-August, Material Resources had sent three shipments of relief goods to Kentucky on behalf of Church World Service including cleanup buckets, hygiene kits and toothpaste, school kits, and blankets.

Children's Disaster Services also responded at the request of the national Red Cross. A first team of volunteers began serving in Kentucky on Aug. 6. Another team responded in St. Louis.



Glenn Thompson



Joyce Smith

Online donations to assist those affected by flooding can be made at www.brethren.org/give-kentucky-flooding.

In addition, CDS had volunteers serving families seeking asylum in the Washington, D.C., area, who had been bused from Texas and dropped off in the nation's capital with few provisions. Families were receiving support from churches and mutual aid groups. Local and regional Church of the Brethren congregations were assisting in a variety of ways.

retired as Mid-Atlantic District executive minister, after more than 13 years. During his tenure, he served in various roles on the Council of District Executives and represented the council on the Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee. Previously, he pastored congregations in Virginia, Middle Pennsylvania, and Mid-Atlantic districts.

Mid-Atlantic District has called an interim executive minister team. **Kim McDowell**, who heads the team, serves in a regional role and is representative to the Council of District Executives. Also serving in regional roles are **Joe Detrick** and **Eddie Edmonds**.

Gretchen Zience provides volunteer administrative support as liaison to the district administrative assistant.

Andrew Hamilton began July 23 executive minister for Southeastern District. He holds degrees from John Brown University in Arkansas; Ashland (Ohio) Theological Seminary; the University of St Andrews, Scotland; and Evangelical Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania. He has pastored churches in Northern Ohio and Atlantic Northeast Districts, and has served on the Mission and Ministry Board.

Zechariah Houser resigned Aug. 12 as coordinator of short-term service, after having

worked with FaithX and BVS recruitment for about a year.

Martha "Martie" Hummer on Aug. 20 joined the Brethren Disaster Ministries project leadership team as a BVSer, serving at the Waverly, Tenn., rebuilding site.

Beth Martin of Beaver Falls, Pa., began Aug. 15 as marketing director for Eder Financial (formerly Brethren Benefit Trust). She holds a bachelor's in English and writing from Slippery Rock University and in 2023 will complete a master's in marketing communications at St. Bonaventure University.

Annabeth (AB) Roeschley has begun as executive director of the Brethren Mennonite

Council (BMC). **Roeschley** brings years of advocacy experience in the Mennonite Church, and succeeds former executive director **Carol Wise** who is now interim pastor at La Verne (Calif.) Church of the Brethren.

Allison Snyder in early July completed two years as intern for the Brethren Historical Library and Archives. **Ashley Scarr**, of San Diego (Calif.) First Church of the Brethren, began June 27 as the 2022-2023 intern.

Julie Watson resigned June 17 as administrative secretary for Northern Ohio District, due to health concerns. She worked for the district for more than eight years.