

Bethany celebrates commencement

Bethany Theological Seminary in Richmond, Ind., conferred 14 master's degrees and 12 graduate certificates during the commencement ceremony on May 13.

The graduates, their hometowns, and their degrees or certificates:

Wazani Ijarafu Adamu, Jos, Nigeria, certificate in biblical peacemaking

Philip James Collins, Dearborn Heights, Mich., master of divinity

Daniel Dauda, Jos, Nigeria, certificate in biblical peacemaking

Mychael De'Angelo Dia-Bethune, Charlotte, N.C., certificate in theopoetics and theological imagination

Carla Lynne Gillespie, Tipp City, Ohio, master of divinity

Mary Beth Gray, Westlake, Ohio, master of arts in theopoetics and writing, certificate in just peace and conflict transformation

Nicholas Paul Gutierrez, Akron, Ohio, master of arts, master of arts in theopoetics and writing

Travis Eugene Hartman, Leesburg, Ind., master of arts

Sewuese Isaiah, Jos, Nigeria, certificate in biblical peacemaking

Isaiah Torkuma Jam, Jos, Nigeria, certificate in biblical peacemaking

Margo Janey McKenzie, Middletown, Del., certificate in theopoetics and theological imagination

Gabriel Nelson, Freeland, Mich., master of divinity

Clifford Sterling Nunn, Richmond, Ind., master of divinity

Ezra Parah, Jos, Nigeria, certificate of achievement in theological studies

Staci Ann Peterson, Cincinnati, Ohio, master of divinity

Ingrid Rogers, Menlo Park, Calif., master of arts in theopoetics and writing

Lucky Simon, Jos, Nigeria, certificate in biblical peacemaking

Alina Rose Sayre Skujins, Greenville, S.C., certificate in theopoetics and theological imagination

Hope Elizabeth Woodard Staton, Indianapolis, Ind., master of divinity, certificate in intercontextual biblical interpretation

Timothy Lloyd Troyer, Huntington, Ind., master of divinity

Desiree Marie Weaver-Spidel, Elizabethtown, Pa., master of arts in spiritual and social transformation

Richard Curtis Wehrle, Midland, Va., master of divinity, certificate in intercontextual biblical interpretation



Bethany president Jeff Carter takes a selfie with guest speaker Jana Carter (no relation) and board chair Eric Bishop, before the commencement ceremony.

Bethany Seminary

Global Food Initiative grants

- \$25,000 for the Soybean Value Chain project of Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria's (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria).

- \$15,500 for nine agriculture micro-projects of churches affiliated with Asociación Iglesia de Los Hermanos Venezuela (ASIGLEH, the Church of the Brethren in Venezuela).
- \$8,000 for a community

garden in the rural parish of Llano Grande, Ecuador, which has historic ties to the Church of the Brethren.

- Up to \$9,950 for three trainees from ASIGLEH to spend three months in Ecuador in a work-study arrangement with Fundación Brethren y Unida.

- \$5,616 for the community garden project of the Gijon congregation of Iglesia



YEARS OF GLOBAL FOOD INITIATIVE

Evangelica de los Hermanos (the Church of the Brethren in Spain).

- \$4,898 for a new refrigerator and freezer for a food dis-

tribution program of Alpha and Omega Community Center in Lancaster, Pa.

- \$3,490 for a Dryland Vegetable Production Workshop April 13-14 in Uganda.

- \$2,166 for a Conservation and Sustainable Agriculture workshop May 3-4 in Burundi.

- \$1,125 to First Church of the Brethren in Eden, N.C., for a community garden.



Cheryl Bunnhaugh-Coyford

The New & Renew conference

brought some 50 participants to the General Offices in Elgin, Ill., in mid-May, with about as many joining online. The theme for the event was “Disciples—Called, Equipped, and Into the Neighborhood!”

The keynote speaker was Jessie Cruickshank, an expert in the fields of discipleship and neuroeducation. The conference included worship services and some 20 workshops in English and Spanish on topics related to discipleship, church growth, youth ministry, conflict and trauma, and more.

Emergency Disaster Fund grants

- \$71,800 for completion of a Brethren Disaster Ministries rebuilding project supporting tornado recovery in Dawson Springs, Ky.

- \$120,000 for the International Orthodox Christian Charities response in Ukraine. This US-based NGO has been effective at reaching people that few other aid groups can because of its close connections with Orthodox Christian churches in Ukraine and neighboring countries.

- \$75,000 for the Church World Service response focusing on Ukrainian refugees sheltering in Moldova.

- \$50,000 for the Proyecto Aldea Global (PAG) small animal livelihood programing as part of recovery efforts following hurricanes in 2020.

- \$37,500 for the response by Eglise des Freres au Congo (the Church of the Brethren in the DRC) to the large-scale displacement of people due to violence. Also, \$5,000 for the church’s relief work following heavy rainfall in South Kivu Province.

- \$17,000 for the Hurricane Fiona relief program of la Comunidad de Fé, the Haitian community within the Church of the Brethren in the Dominican Republic.



Sammy Deacon

Brethren Disaster Ministries volunteers at work in Dawson Springs, Ky.

- \$8,750 for Child Life Disaster Relief to increase capacity to equip and train volunteers. This small nonprofit partners with the Children’s Disaster Services of the Church of the Brethren.

- \$5,300 for the Rwanda Church of the Brethren to feed and provide soap for 112 vulnerable children and their families, including members of the Batwa community.

Brethren Faith in Action Fund grants

- \$5,000 for Beacon Heights Church of the Brethren in Fort Wayne, Ind., to sponsor a refugee family.

- \$5,000 for Harrisburg (Pa.) First Church of the Brethren to upgrade

audiovisual technology.

- \$5,000 to Oakton Church of the Brethren in Vienna, Va., for its outreach ministry Oakton Partners in Learning, providing tutoring services to students in Fairfax County schools.

- \$4,950 for Unify Christians, a predominantly Haitian congregation in Atlantic Southeast District, to purchase a projector, screen, and accessories to enhance ministry in multiple languages.

- \$4,500 to La Iglesia de los Hermanos Nuevo Comienzo (New Beginning Church of the Brethren) in Kissimmee, Fla., for its outreach ministry serving the Hispanic community.

- \$2,662.20 for Springfield Church of the Brethren in Akron, Ohio, to fund a Back-to-School Blast community event.



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