

Fitzkee and Hollenberg head ballot

Don Fitzkee of Lancaster (Pa.) Church of the Brethren in Atlantic Northeast District, and Gene Hollenberg of Union Center Church of the Brethren in Nappanee, Ind., in Northern Indiana District, are nominated for moderator-elect on the 2024 Annual Conference ballot. The Conference takes place in Grand Rapids, Mich., on July 3-7.

Fitzkee is a pastor of worship and has been a teacher as well as a non-salaried “free minister.” His leadership in the

denomination has included service on the Mission and Ministry Board, when he served a term as chair. He has preached at Annual Conference and has been a district representative on Standing Committee. For 17 years he worked for COBYS Family Services in Pennsylvania. In previous decades, while in Brethren Volunteer Service, he was an editorial assistant for MESSENGER.

Hollenberg is executive director of Camp Alexander Mack in Milford, Ind. His leadership in the denomination has included service as chair of the Outdoor Ministries Association and as an instructor for the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership. At the district level, he has been district board chair and district conference moderator. As a school supervisor, he assisted in coordination of a three-year program exploring systemic racism in the South Bend (Ind.) school district.

Also on the ballot:
Program and Arrangements Committee: Addie Hostetler

Lucatorto of Good Samaritan Church of the Brethren, Cranberry Township, Pa.; **Laura Sellers** of Happy Corner Church of the Brethren, Clayton, Ohio

Mission and Ministry Board, Area 4: Pearl Miller of Warrensburg (Mo.) Church of the Brethren; **Colby Patton** of Wichita (Kan.) First Church of the Brethren

Mission and Ministry Board, Area 5: Robert Aguirre of Glendale (Calif.) Church of the Brethren; **Erik Brummett** of Live Oak (Calif.) Church of the Brethren

Bethany Seminary Board of Trustees, representing the colleges: David McFadden of Manchester Church of the Brethren, North Manchester, Ind.; **Jamie White** of Stone Church of the Brethren, Huntingdon, Pa.

On Earth Peace Board: Jennie L Waering of Roanoke (Va.) Central Church of the Brethren; **Mark Ottoni-Wilhelm** of Northview Church of the Brethren, Indianapolis, Ind.



Don Fitzkee



Gene Hollenberg

Global Food Initiative grants

The following grants were given by the GFI late last year and early this year:

- \$9,050 to the Stone Soup Cafe community garden and soup kitchen in Fairbanks, Alaska.
- \$8,030 to place a Brethren Volunteer Service worker with Fundacion Brethren y Unida in Ecuador.
- \$6,380 to construct a water tank for the Church of the Brethren in Burundi.
- \$4,500 to fund a Dryland Vegetable Production workshop hosted by L’Eglise des Freres au Congo.
- \$3,500 to a coffee start-up business in Tijuana, Mexico, associated with Bittersweet Ministries.
- \$2,429.50 for three Church of the Brethren participants to attend an ECHO Conference in South Sudan.

■ \$1,976.92 to the Capstone 118 urban agriculture initiative in New Orleans for salt water intrusion.

Dawson Springs project extended

The Brethren Disaster Ministries rebuilding project site in Dawson Springs, Ky., has been extended until Aug. 17, 2024. This project is rebuilding homes as part of the 2021 tornado recovery in Hopkins County. Brethren Disaster Ministries opened the project site in January 2023.

In related news, the Brethren Disaster Ministries rebuilding program was one of the recipients of recent large grants from the Emergency Disaster Fund. A grant of \$37,400 continued funding for the Brethren Disaster Ministries response to summer flooding last year.

Other recent large grants of more

than \$10,000 have included:

- \$60,200 for political and economic crises in Haiti, helping fund food distributions by L’Eglise des Freres d’Haiti (the Church of the Brethren in Haiti).
- \$50,000 for the Lebanese Society for Education and Social Development’s Turkey-Syria Earthquake Response.
- \$42,000 for the Goma congregation of L’Eglise des Freres au Congo (Church of the Brethren in the Democratic Republic of Congo) to aid people displaced by conflict, and \$20,000 for school kits.
- \$30,000 for the International Orthodox Christian Charities’ recovery work in Marshall County, Ky., following December 2021 tornadoes.
- \$25,000 for L’Arche International to aid displaced Ukrainians with disabilities.
- \$18,500 for longterm flood relief by the Rwanda Church of the Brethren.

Youth and young adults set 2024 themes

The **National Youth Cabinet** has chosen the theme for National Youth Sunday, with the suggested date of May 5: “Your life; God’s direction” (Jeremiah 29:11).

The Young Adult Steering Committee has chosen the theme for Young Adult Conference, to be held May 24-26 at Camp Shepherd’s Spring in Sharpsburg, Md.: “Transformed by God” (Romans 12:1-2, *The Message*).

Global Church of the Brethren Communion

The **Global Church of the Brethren Communion** has formally organized and has approved adding Honduras Church of the Brethren as a founding member “due to their faithful participation in meetings leading to this date,” reported Global Mission executive Eric Miller.

The 12 national bodies in the communion are located in Brazil, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Honduras, India, Nigeria, Rwanda, Spain, Uganda, United States, and Venezuela.

Elected as board and officers were Joel S. Billi of Nigeria (moderator), Darryl Sankey of India (vice moderator), Eric Miller of the United States (treasurer), Alexandre Gonçalves of Brazil (secretary), Oswaldo Lezama of Venezuela, and Etienne Nsanzimana of Rwanda.



The National Youth Cabinet (from left): adult advisor Tony Price, pastor of Cedar Grove Church of the Brethren in Ohio; Nik Gameti of Naperville, Ill.; Autumn Sauder of Mount Joy, Pa.; Sebastian Eikler of Goshen, Ind.; Calla Stoltzfus of Elizabethtown, Pa.; Felisha Diamond of Eden, N.C.; and staff member Becky Ullom Naugle, director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries.



The Young Adult Steering Committee (from left): Rachel Johnson, a senior at Messiah College and a licensed minister in Atlantic Northeast District; Luke Haldeman, who works for Mennonite Central Committee and Spring Creek Church of the Brethren; staff member Becky Ullom Naugle, director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries; Thomas McMullin, an elementary school teacher in Iowa; Lauren Flora, director of special events at Bridgewater (Va.) College; Ruth Ritchey Moore, a teacher for immigrant children from Central and South America; and Hannah Smith, a junior at Elizabethtown (Pa.) College.

Personnel

Rachel Gross retired after 45 years as director of the Death Row Support Project, which got its start in and continues to receive support from the Church of the Brethren. She and her husband, Bob Gross, began DRSP in 1978 to provide meaningful correspondence for people under sentence of death in the US.

Arlyn Morales began Dec. 4, 2023, as coordinator of

Spanish-Language Ministry Training at the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership. She is a graduate of the academy’s Seminario Bíblico Anabautista Hispano de la Iglesia de los Hermanos (SeBAH-COB) and has pastored Iglesia Berith, Oasis de Esperanza in Lebanon, Pa.

Shana Peachey Boshart has begun as program facilitator for the Shine

curriculum in a new grant-funded position that will facilitate development of Shine Everywhere. Peachey Boshart served for 20 years as conference minister for Christian formation in the Central Plains Mennonite Conference and worked in faith formation for the Mennonite Church USA.

Marissa Witkovsky-Eldred was promoted from

interim to coordinator of short-term service for the Church of the Brethren, working with Brethren Volunteer Service and FaithX.

Veronica Treadwell retired from Eder Financial on Dec. 31, 2023, after nearly 33 years. She started work for Brethren Benefit Trust in April 1990. Most recently she was accounts receivable/accounts payable associate.



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