Statement on US bombing of Iran

Church of the Brethren general secretary David Steele issued a statement in response to the US bombing of three nuclear facilities in Iran on June 22, calling for peaceful resolution of the conflict and citing the more than three centuries of Brethren opposition to war.

"Now, in this moment, the Church of the Brethren again expresses its opposition to military action that risks involving the United States in a larger conflict in the Middle East—a conflict that could invite involvement by other nuclear powers and exact catastrophic human costs," the statement said, in part. "We call for the immediate de-escalation of this conflict. We encourage Church of the Brethren members to join with denominational staff in contacting congressional representatives to advocate for peace."

The statement encouraged members and congregations to share the peace witness in their neighborhoods and "offer Christian caring to Iranian Americans and others from Middle Eastern backgrounds, as well as local Jewish and Muslim faith communities."

A visit to Nigeria *by general secretary David Steele and Global Mission executive director Sharon Norton included a worship service in Garkida, historic site of the first Brethren mission work in Nigeria and for many decades the headquarters of the Church of the Brethren Mission in Nigeria. They were hosted by Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria). The short visit was "impactful" reported EYN, and was effective in "strengthening the historic bond between the American and Nigerian Brethren."*

Ecumenical letter opposes rescissions

The Office of Peacebuilding and Policy was one of dozens of religious and humanitarian nonprofits jointly sending a letter to Congress opposing the White House rescissions proposal that was approved by the House in mid-June and subsequently also approved by the Senate.

"While the White House argues that these rescissions will make the United States safer, stronger and more prosperous, we, the undersigned 78 organizations, lament the proposal will achieve the opposite," the letter said, in part. "We urge you to oppose the rescission of any foreign assistance funds related to urgent human needs, including food, medical and humanitarian aid, and to global stability and resilience, such as peacebuilding, poverty-focused development assistance, climate resilience and good governance."

Global communion calls new leadership

The Global Church of the Brethren Communion meeting via Zoom on June 6 elected two new officers to its board: Santos Terrero of Spain as president, and Sharon Brugger Norton of the US as treasurer.

The agenda also included clarification that members of the board are no longer delegates from their national church, and must be replaced as delegates. Delegates do not need to be national church presidents or officers to serve.

Countries represented at the meeting included Brazil, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Haiti, Honduras, India, Rwanda, Spain, Uganda, the United States, and Venezuela. In conversation about new church bodies that may join, the group discussed the church in Burundi.

Santos Terrero of Spain, shown here leading worship in Spain, has been elected president of the board of the Global Church of the Brethren Communion.

Eder Financial publishes 2025 screening lists

Each year as part of Eder Values Investing initiatives, Eder Financial's board adopts two lists of companies that earn significant revenue from US military operations. These firms are screened from Eder's investment portfolios and it avoids being a customer of any of those companies. One list identifies the top 25 publicly traded defense contractors based on the size of contracts awarded by the Department of Defense, and the other includes all publicly traded companies that generate more than 10 percent of their revenue from such contracts. See ederfinancial.org/EVI#DOD-Lists.

Childcare teams serve in Texas

In response to a request from the Red Cross, Children's Disaster Services (CDS) sent two Critical Response Childcare teams to Kerrville, Texas, to care for children affected by the July 4 catastrophic flooding. The Critical Response Childcare team is a group of experienced CDS volunteers who have received additional training for mass casualty events.

At least 135 people, including more than 35 children, died in the flooding along the Guadalupe River. Some 27 children and counselors were killed at an all-girls Christian summer camp named Camp Mystic.

In another recent CDS response, two teams of volunteers served in St. Louis, Mo., following a May 16 tornado.

Personnel

James (Jim) Miner retired on June 26 as *Church of the Brethren Yearbook* specialist. He began in the position in November 2016. In April, his position was shifted out of Brethren Press to Mission Advancement. His work has included maintaining the official list of congregations and compiling denominational statistics. In previous employment, he worked in information technology at the General Offices in Elgin, Ill., for more than 15 years, from 1981 to 1997, and in total has worked for the Church of the Brethren for almost 24 years.

Melissa Fritz on July 8 concluded her work as a packer with the Material Resources program at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md., where she has been employed since Oct. 2, 2017.

This layoff is related to the impending closure of Material Resources at year's end. The Mission and Ministry Board in October 2023 decided to wind down the program over a period of up to 30 months at the recommendation of a subcommittee that had reviewed the program, including consideration of best practices in material aid, decreased number of partner organizations, decreasing volume of donations, and financial shortfalls.

Mishael Nouveau resigned June 27 as office manager for the Ministry Office, in the Discipleship and Leadership Formation department. Her work was based at the General Offices, where she had served since Jan. 29, 2018. It had been announced that due to budget cuts, Nouveau's work hours were to be reduced from fulltime to part-time on June 30.

Jazmin Gongora began June 17 as administrative assistant for Discipleship and Leadership Formation, based at the General Offices. She most recently was administrative assistant at School District 300 in Algonquin, Ill.

Jon Lucas Keller began July 28 as a Mission Advancement advocate for the Church of the Brethren. He most recently was grants manager for the Troy (Ohio) Foundation. He is a founding member of the racial justice team of Southern Ohio and Kentucky District.

Patrick Miller began July 14 as part-time Buildings and Grounds assistant at the General Offices. He was previously a building maintenance assistant for Children's Home and Aid in Carpentersville, Ill.

Fatima Kurth on July 18 resigned as an accountant at Eder Financial after having worked there for almost eight years, since October 2017.

Mary Parrett began July 14 as coordinator of Bethany BOLD, a service-based program for residential students at Bethany Seminary in Richmond, Ind.

Krista Dickson resigned July 31 as office administrator for Atlantic Northeast District, where she has been part of the team since 2012. **Kelly Bernstein** is transitioning from her role in communications to serve as office administrator.

Jose Rudy Amaya began June 1 as the first associate district executive minister intern for Pacific Southwest District. Born and raised in El Salvador, he became acquainted with the Church of the Brethren during his time at CHET, the training center for Iglesia del Pacto-Covenant Church where he holds a certificate in theology. He has been part of the Church of the Brethren for 20 years and is a member of the Conexión Pasadena congregation.

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