Cheryl Brumbaugh-Cayford

The Annual Conference officers *met with the Program and Arrangements Committee, the Conference staff, and a worship team to begin planning the 2026 Annual Conference. The meeting in late August was at the General Offices in Elgin, Ill. From left:* ***Debbie Noffsinger****, Conference assistant;* ***Amber Harris****, Program and Arrangements Committee;* ***Andy Duffey****, worship team;* ***Gail Heisel****, Program and Arrangements;* ***Jim Chinworth****, worship team;* ***Laura Sellers****, Program and Arrangements;* ***Dennis Beckner****, Annual Conference moderator-elect;* ***Don Fitzkee****, Annual Conference moderator;* ***David Shumate****, Annual Conference secretary;* ***Cristal Herrera****, worship team;* ***Marty Keeney****, music coordinator; and* ***Rhonda Pittman Gingrich****, director of Annual Conference.*

Gifts to immigrant legal and mutual aid fund top $44,000

Legal and Mutual Aid Fund supporting immigrant Church of the Brethren members and families affected by detention and deportation has received $44,830 in donations as of Sept. 23. The fund aids the Deportation Defense Response initiative created by four Church of the Brethren districts with the Intercultural Ministries office and On Earth Peace.

The donations have been put to work immediately and grants have been made to 18 individuals and families. The grants of between $1,500 to $2,500 help cover legal expenses, application and form fees (such as asylum, work permits, religious work permits), and mutual aid (such as rent, food, and supplies). All grants are applied for and distributed through local congregations.

To give financially to help reach the initial goal of $100,000, mail contributions to Atlantic Southeast District, Church of the Brethren, 64954 Orchard Dr., Goshen, IN 46526. Checks should be payable to Atlantic Southeast District with "DDR" in the memo line. Congregations may apply for assistance for their members: email ddrcobcoordinator@gmail.com for a link to the application form.

Other Church of the Brethren funds give grants

Emergency Disaster Fund grants:

- $25,000 supports the Deportation Defense Response Team and the Legal and Mutual Aid Fund.
- $33,000 supports the Brethren Disaster Ministries response to Hurricane Helene, helping to fund a new partnership in eastern Tennessee with International Orthodox Christian Charities. Brethren Disaster Ministries volunteers are working with the Johnson County Long Term Recovery Group from Sept. 21 to Nov. 15, based in Mountain City, Tenn.

Global Food Initiative grants:

- $2,500 supports Ellisforde (Wash.) Church of the Brethren's work with the Tonasket Emergency Food Bank.
- $2,500 supports Akron (Ohio) First Church of the Brethren's Community Blessing Box.

Brethren Faith in Action grants:

- $5,000 supports the Gun Buy Back Program of Spirit of Peace Church of the Brethren in Lansing, Mich. The grant helped purchase handguns and rifles for destruction by the Lansing Police and Ingham County Sheriff's Office on Oct. 18.
- $5,000 supports Sunnyslope Church, a joint Church of the Brethren and United Church of Christ congregation, increase hospitality through a technology update and purchase of equipment for Packing Friendship, kitchen essentials, and resources for children's programs.
- $5,000 supports the WildWood Gathering Church of the Brethren to develop a retreat to deepen relationships and strengthen community culture.
- $3,639.75 supports Prince of Peace Church of the Brethren's marketing and community outreach through Facebook ads, yard signs, an espresso ministry, and interaction with the local elementary school.

Leaders at the Peace Conference in Tanzania included (from left) Expert Bukene, Bwambale Sedrack, Rhobinson Baiye, Nathan Hosler, and Jennifer Hosler.

Tanzania hosts peace conference

A Church of the Brethren peace conference held Aug. 15-17 in Mwanza, Tanzania, brought together church leaders as potters of hope, molding visions of *amani* (peace) and *tumaini* (hope) into forms that can serve their communities.

The emerging Church of the Brethren in Tanzania hosted the conference and its bishop, Rhobinson Baiye, asked two Church of the Brethren denominational staff—Jennifer Hosler, manager of the Global Food Initiative, and Nathan Hosler, director of the Office of Peacebuilding and Policy—to lead the teaching.

Other church leaders provided support and added teachings related to their African contexts including Bwambale Sedrack, national director of the Church of Brethren in Uganda; Expert Bukene, bishop of the Church of the Brethren in Burundi; and Esther and Amos Muhagachi from the Mennonite Church in Tanzania.

Sedrack said the conference offered "vital lessons to Uganda, which continues to wrestle with legacies of past conflicts while facing new pressures of political polarization, migration, climate change, economic inequality, youth unemployment, and violent extremism." What became clear to him is that "peace cannot be imposed from above; instead, it is cultivated within church communities."

Brethren Volunteer Service Unit 338, *the Fall 2025 unit of BVS, completed orientation in September. The 10 new volunteers include 6 from EIRENE, a longterm partner organization based in Germany. Front row, from left:* ***Mika Hennecken*** *of Neunkirchen-Seelscheid, Germany, is serving at Abode Shelter, Fremont, Calif.;* ***Julian Ernst*** *of Stuttgart, Germany, is serving at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center, Little Rock, Ark.;* ***Lydia Neuhauser*** *of Hummelstown, Pa., is serving at the Asian Rural Institute, Tochigi, Japan;* ***Cäcilia Dohmes*** *of Düsseldorf, Germany, is serving at La Puente Home, Alamosa, Colo.;* ***Josiah Esch*** *of Lancaster, Pa., is serving at SnowCap Community Charities, Portland, Ore.; and* ***Sonja Hasenbrink*** *of Singen, Germany, also is serving at La Puente Home. Back row, from left:* ***Sam Reichenbach*** *of Manchester Church of the Brethren in North Manchester, Ind., is serving at CIP Center for China Asia Pacific, Beijing, China;* ***River Norton*** *of Goshen, Ind., is serving at East Belfast Mission/The Larder, Belfast, Northern Ireland;* ***Biko De Sausa Vilela Neumann*** *of Berlin, Germany, also is serving at Abode Shelter; and* ***Matthias Roos*** *of Frankfurt, Germany, is serving at the Bernardo Kohler Center, Austin, Texas.*

Personnel

Angella F. Haranzo began Sept. 21 as half-time associate district executive minister for Virlina District. She has been the district's interim director of district conference, nurture, and witness. Following service as children's director at the Daleville and Troutville congregations, she pastored Vinton Church of the Brethren for the last 13 years. She holds an associate's degree in paralegal studies from Dominion College of Virginia and is a 2013 graduate of the district's Christian Growth Institute.

Candice Rollf began Oct. 1 as part-time administrative assistant for the Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership, a partnership of Bethany Seminary and the Church of the Brethren Ministry Office. She holds a bachelor's degree from Stephens College with an emphasis in business.

Due to budget cuts, **Diane Stroyeck**, subscription specialist for Messenger, working in the Brethren Press and Communications department of the Church of the Brethren, had her work hours reduced from full-time to half-time as of Oct. 20.

Post this page You are welcome to photocopy these news pages. For more Newsline stories, go to **www.brethren.org/news**