

Mission and Ministry Board considers future of General Offices

The Mission and Ministry Board of the Church of the Brethren on June 17 approved a Statement of Intent regarding the future of the General Offices in Elgin, Ill., which is the denomination's headquarters.

According to the statement, "the board is exploring options for relocation of the denominational headquarters and will be pursuing the responsible sale of the current headquarters property."

The decision follows years of discussion about the changes affecting the Church of the Brethren, how best to carry out the ministry of the denomination, and what responsible stewardship requires.

Board chair Kathy Mack presided at the Zoom meeting; the statement was approved with one abstention.

The timing of the June 17 decision was intentional to disseminate the information before Annual Conference and give Conferencegoers the ability to bring informed questions, sugges-



tions, and dreams to the event, according to board leadership.

Consideration of details related to the sale of property or relocation of headquarters and staff has not yet begun. There will be no immediate changes to staff roles, jobs, or locations. The process that has been put in motion with the Statement of Intent is expected to take a significant amount of time.

Pacific Northwest members face evacuations

"Please join us in praying for our brothers and sisters in the Pacific Northwest District," stated an Aug. 3 Facebook post. Fast-moving wildfires forced evacuations across Okanogan County, Wash. Members of the Whitestone and Ellisforde Churches of the Brethren, along with their neighbors, were ordered to leave their homes as firefighters worked to contain the fires.

Catholic Medical Mission Board begins renting space at Brethren Service Center

The Catholic Medical Mission Board (CMMB) has begun renting warehouse space at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md., in an area formerly occupied by the Church of the Brethren's Material Resources program.

"We are very excited to welcome CMMB to the Brethren Service Center. They have provided opportunities for some of our former Material Resources staff," said Shawn Flory Replogle, executive director of Organizational Resources for the Church of the Brethren. He added that the presence of CMMB brings the Brethren Service Center to full occupancy, helping ensure its long-term sustainability.

"CMMB was searching for a new home for our Access to Medicines distribution program and couldn't be more pleased to partner with the Church of the Brethren to extend our mission," said Mary Beth Powers, CMMB president and CEO.

CMMB is a faith-based nonprofit that works with local partners to strengthen healthcare systems and expand access to medicines and medical supplies in underserved communities around the world. Through its Access to Medicines Program, the organization has distributed more than \$6.3 billion in donated medicines and medical supplies to 114 countries over the past 25 years.

Learn more at cmmmb.org.



Courtesy of Global Mission

Members of the Church of the Brethren's South Sudan team.

South Sudan pastors ordained for Church of the Brethren ministry

Agrowing Church of the Brethren congregation in the Mangateen Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp in South Sudan celebrated the ordination of two pastors in June: **Daniel Mawer** and **Paul Makuar**.

Mawer and Matthew Gatluak helped establish the congregation after being displaced from their home area of Unity State. Although neither reside in the camp, their wives and children remain in a refugee

camp in Gulu, Uganda.

Pastor and bishop Expert Bukene, together with Felicien Nkuzimana, district executive of the Church of the Brethren in Burundi, led training for pastors and evangelists in Juba before the ordinations. Gatluak returned to Mayom, Unity State, to be with his mother during her final illness and was therefore unable to participate in the ordination.

Mawer and Gatluak plan to continue leading the Mangateen congregation, while Makuar will begin a new church in Amadi, outside Juba.

Athanasus Ungang, Church of the Brethren Global Mission country director for South Sudan, reported that the Mangateen congregation began last year with about 50 worshipers meeting in a community center and has since grown to about 240. While the congregation hopes to build a church, resources remain limited, and like many pastors in the region, Mawer and Gatluak also plan to learn vocational skills to support themselves while continuing their ministry.



Courtesy of Global Mission

Daniel Mawer Gatpan and Paul Makuar Gatduel.

Remembrance: Suely Zanetti Inhauser

Suely Zanetti Inhauser, 75, died on July 22 after living for several years with a progressive motor neuron disease. With her husband, Marcos Inhauser, she was a longtime leader of Igreja da Irmandade (the Church of the Brethren in Brazil).

Both studied at Bethany Theological Seminary, where Suely earned a Master of Arts in theology. She served as assistant pastor of a Church of the Brethren congregation in Michigan, where she was ordained to the pastoral ministry. After returning to Brazil, she pastored the Mennonite Church in Campinas from 1993 to 2003. In 2000, the Inhausers launched a church-planting effort and later served through Global Mission as national co-directors and then co-coordinators for Brazil. In 2013, Suely preached at the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference.

In more recent years, after her diagnosis, "more than 600 people... came to visit her and tell her how significant her life and ministry was," her family wrote in a remembrance shared on Facebook. "Couples testified to her that they remained married because of her teachings and therapy. God gave her the opportunity to hear these testimonies firsthand two years after the diagnosis." She is survived by her husband of 52 years, three children, and grandchildren.

Personnel

Jeff Thomson began June 22 as director of Brethren Disaster Ministries. Thomson brings extensive disaster response experience, having deployed to more than 20 disaster sites, often in leadership roles. His professional background includes work in cabinet making and the hospitality industry. He will work remotely from his home in Kansas, where he attends a Baptist church.

Mark Watson resigned as Client Services manager for Eder Financial.



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