

**Church of the Brethren**  
**Emergency Disaster Fund**

June 30, 2021

Appropriation 21-17 — General Ledger # 58055 — Project 2380-B

**Minutes**

**PAG Hurricanes Eta and Iota Response in Honduras**

Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) staff requested an additional allocation of \$30,000 from the Emergency Disaster Fund to continue Proyecto Aldea Global's (PAG) hurricane recovery programming in Honduras.

Coming at the end of the record-breaking 2020 Atlantic hurricane season, powerful Category 4 Hurricanes Eta (Nov. 3) and Iota (Nov. 16) made landfall in Nicaragua within 15 miles of each other, causing widespread destruction, landslides and flooding in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) reported that 8.8 million people in the region were affected by the storms, with 4.6 million (more than half the population) from Honduras alone.

Proyecto Aldea Global (PAG), a long-time BDM partner, has been working in Honduras for decades. In the past 10 years BDM has supported sending canned meat and EDF grants for PAG's relief work from a variety of storms. After Hurricane Eta, PAG quickly organized a relief program that included providing 8,500 family food bags for a week of provision, used clothing, sleeping mattresses, health kits, blankets, shoes, and family hygiene kits. These items reached 50 communities before Hurricane Iota struck. The relief work continued after Hurricane Iota, reaching more communities and providing medical aid in more remote regions.

An initial \$25,000 grant to PAG supported immediate feeding programs, transportation costs for a container of food from the U.S., and home repairs. A second grant of \$25,000 provided for the rebuilding of homes and water systems damaged by the floods and landslides in more remote areas that large international relief programs are missing. The relief, which has also included distributions of food supplies and medical care, is focused on repairing or rebuilding 80 community water systems and building simple family homes.

Church World Service is also rebuilding homes in this area. A grant of \$40,000 for the CWS response was requested concurrently with this grant.

Previous grants to this project:  
    \$25,000 on 11-19-2020  
    \$25,000 on 3-10-2021

**APPROVAL** for this allocation was given by Roy Winter, executive director, Service Ministries; Ed Woolf, treasurer; David Steele, general secretary; and Mission and Ministry Board members Marty Barlow, Lauren Seganos Cohen, Thomas Dowdy, Carl Fike, Lois Grove, Heather Gentry Hartwell, Dava Hensley, John Hoffman, Diane Mason, Meghan Mauldin, Joel Peña, Roger Schrock, Paul Schrock, Colin Scott, Christina Singh, and Patrick Starkey.

Nancy Miner, recorder

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**Church of the Brethren**  
**Emergency Disaster Fund**

June 30, 2021

Appropriation 21-18 — General Ledger # 58050 — Project 2379-A

**Minutes**

**CWS Hurricane Eta Response in Nicaragua, Honduras, and Guatemala**

Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) staff requested an additional allocation of \$40,000 from the Emergency Disaster Fund to support the Church World Service (CWS) rehabilitation program in Honduras for families impacted by Hurricanes Eta and Iota.

Coming at the end of the record-breaking 2020 Atlantic hurricane season, powerful Category 4 Hurricanes Eta (Nov. 3) and Iota (Nov. 16) made landfall in Nicaragua within 15 miles of each other causing widespread destruction, landslides, and flooding in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua.

The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) reported that 8.8 million people in the region were affected by the storms, with 4.6 million (more than half the population) from Honduras alone. Damage reports make it clear that hundreds of thousands of homes were damaged or destroyed, roads and bridges were washed away, there were many landslides caused by rain and flooding, and much of the crops were lost in the floods. At the end of 2020, at least 200,000 people remained in shelters, less than half the population had access to safe drinking water and many still needed help with food, sanitation, drinking water, and shelter.

Church World Service has long-term partners in Nicaragua, Honduras, and Guatemala that provided emergency relief programs and were supported by an initial EDF grant of \$10,000. CWS has updated their response plan to include rehabilitation of livelihoods and housing in Honduras. The goal of the program is to support 70 highly at-risk families impacted by the hurricanes in rebuilding their homes and livelihoods.

A grant of \$30,000 for the Proyecto Aldea Global (PAG) response was approved concurrently with this grant. All programming will be coordinated by and between CWS and PAG.

**APPROVAL** for this allocation was given by Roy Winter, executive director, Service Ministries; Ed Woolf, treasurer; David Steele, general secretary; and Mission and Ministry Board members Marty Barlow, Lauren Seganos Cohen, Thomas Dowdy, Carl Fike, Lois Grove, Heather Gentry Hartwell, Dava Hensley, John Hoffman, Diane Mason, Meghan Mauldin, Joel Peña, Roger Schrock, Paul Schrock, Colin Scott, Christina Singh, and Patrick Starkey.

Nancy Miner, recorder

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**Church of the Brethren**  
**Emergency Disaster Fund**

July 23, 2021

Appropriation 21-21 — General Ledger #58365— Project 2369-A

**Minutes**

**BDM – Dayton, Ohio Tornado Response**

The staff at Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) requested an additional allocation of \$50,867 from the Emergency Disaster Fund to finance the completion of the tornado rebuilding work in Dayton, Ohio, in 2021.

Memorial Day weekend 2019 brought record breaking tornado activity to the state of Ohio, with the National Weather Service recording 19 tornadoes on May 27-28. The twisters affected 10 counties across the state, with most of the property damage occurring in the Miami Valley areas of Harrison Township, Trotwood, Northridge, Old North Dayton, Brookville, Beavercreek, and Celina.

The Southern Ohio/Kentucky District of the Church of the Brethren responded quickly in the days following the tornadoes to begin clean-up and debris removal. This district level response was instrumental in the establishment of a community-led long-term recovery committee. When the Miami Long-Term Recovery Operations Group was established and had sufficient case management and funding for building materials, the BDM national program moved in to support home repairs and rebuilding.

Project supplies from the closed Tampa, Fla., site were moved to Dayton in June of 2020, although delayed due to restrictions on travel due to COVID-19. Memorial Presbyterian Church in Dayton, which houses the offices for the Presbytery of the Miami Valley, became the host and volunteer housing location, with plenty of room for multiple groups. Southern Ohio/Kentucky BDM leadership worked for months with them and with local officials to approve the volunteer housing.

The start of the project was modified to adapt to the COVID-19 realities. With no housing available to host volunteers, all out-of-state volunteer groups were cancelled for July 2020. Initially, only local BDM volunteers were accepted, for a week at a time, with groups limited to 8-10 people and with extensive COVID-19 protocol required. BDM returned to hosting out-of-state volunteers in August 2020, still limiting the number of volunteers each week. 219 volunteers (including repeat volunteers) served until just before Thanksgiving, completing work on 12 homes without any reported COVID-19 illness. The project, suspended for a short time in early 2021 due to limited volunteers and cold weather, reopened in April 2021, with local volunteers preparing for the full overnight housing site reopening at the beginning of May. Volunteers are scheduled through September 2021, when the site is planned to close.

Several grants have been received or awarded to support this site, reducing the amount of EDF funds needed. EDF grant funds will provide for tools, equipment, volunteer housing, volunteer meals, and leadership.

**APPROVAL** for this allocation was given by Roy Winter, executive director, Service Ministries; Ed Wolf, treasurer; David Steele, general secretary; and Mission and Ministry Board members Lauren Seganos Cohen, Barbara Daté, Carl Fike, Heather Gentry Hartwell, Dava Hensley, John Hoffman, Josiah Ludwick, Kathy Mack, Meghan Mauldin, Karen Neff, Joel Pena, J. Roger Schrock, Paul Schrock, Colin Scott, Christina Singh, Joanna Wave Willoughby, and Rebecca Zeek.

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**Church of the Brethren**  
**Emergency Disaster Fund**

August 25, 2021

Appropriation 21-23 — General Ledger # 58380— Project 2392-A

**Minutes**

**BDM and CoB in Haiti – Haiti Earthquake Response**

Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) staff requested an additional allocation of \$75,000 from the Emergency Disaster Fund for the 2021 Haiti earthquake emergency relief and short-term recovery programming.

On August 14, 2021, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake brought devastation, destruction, and many deaths and injuries to the southern part of Haiti. The earthquake was followed by Tropical Storm Grace on August 16 and 17, which added to the destruction of these same communities with heavy rain and mudslides. These disasters come in the midst of political unrest from ongoing riots and protests and the assassination of the Haitian president on July 7, 2021. The compounding of these crises, plus hurricanes and food insecurity, continues even as the country has not yet fully recovered from the weaker 7.0 magnitude earthquake in 2010 that destroyed much of the capitol city of Port-au-Prince.

The earthquake’s epicenter was near Saint-Louis-du Sud, the same area where EDF grants funded relief, agricultural programs, and rebuilding houses after extensive damage from Hurricane Matthew in 2016. The joint Brethren Disaster Ministries and Haitian Church of the Brethren response to the hurricane rebuilt many homes and led to a new church plant in Saut Mathurine. Ninety percent of the homes in the area were destroyed, as well as the temporary church building, and there were reports of many injuries, deaths, and people that are still missing.

An initial \$5,000 emergency grant was used to distribute food, household items, and tarps for temporary shelters. The National Committee of the Church of the Brethren in Haiti traveled to Saut Mathurine on August 19 to distribute emergency relief and offer support to church members, and they report the continued “dire need” for food, drinking water, shelter, and trauma healing.

Grant funds will support continued emergency relief and short-term recovery programming. Future grants will support home rebuilding and other long term recovery programs. Additional grants are also expected for partner response, including the Church World Service Response.

Previous EDF grants for this project:  
\$5,000 on 8/16/2021

APPROVAL for this allocation was given by Roy Winter, executive director, Service Ministries; Ed Woolf, treasurer; David Steele, general secretary; and Mission and Ministry Board members Lauren Seganos Cohen, Barbara Daté, Carl Fike, Heather Gentry Hartwell, Dava Hensley, John Hoffman, Josiah Ludwick, Kathy Mack, Meghan Mauldin, Karen Neff, Joel Pena, J. Roger Schrock, Paul Schrock, Colin Scott, Christina Singh, Joanna Wave Willoughby, and Rebecca Zeek.

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**Church of the Brethren**  
**Emergency Disaster Fund**

September 1, 2021

Appropriation 21-25 — General Ledger # 58050— Project 2394

**Minutes**

**CWS 2021 Haiti Earthquake Response**

Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) staff requested an allocation of \$50,000 from the Emergency Disaster Fund to support Church World Service (CWS) in their 2021 Haiti earthquake response.

On August 14, 2021, a 7.2 magnitude earthquake brought devastation, destruction, and many deaths and injuries to the southern part of Haiti. The earthquake was followed by Tropical Storm Grace on August 16 and 17, which added to the destruction of these same communities with heavy rain and mudslides. These disasters come in the midst of political unrest from ongoing riots and protests and the assassination of the Haitian president on July 7, 2021. The compounding of these crises, plus hurricanes and food insecurity, continues even as the country has not yet fully recovered from the weaker 7.0 magnitude earthquake in 2010 that destroyed much of the capitol city of Port-au-Prince.

Church World Service has a program office in Haiti and decades of relief, recovery, and development work in Haiti. With their capacity they developed a significant response program. The focus of the CWS programming in Pestel is north of the Church of the Brethren ministry area in Saut Mathurine. Both areas are remote and are underserved by larger international response groups.

Grant funds will assist with emergency relief, home repairs and rebuilding, water systems, livelihoods, and trauma recovery programming. The Church World Service and Church of the Brethren relief programs complement each other and are focused on different communities.

APPROVAL for this allocation was given by Roy Winter, executive director, Service Ministries; Ed Woolf, treasurer; David Steele, general secretary; and Mission and Ministry Board members Lauren Seganos Cohen, Barbara Daté, Carl Fike, Heather Gentry Hartwell, Dava Hensley, John Hoffman, Josiah Ludwick, Kathy Mack, Meghan Mauldin, Karen Neff, Joel Peña, J. Roger Schrock, Paul Schrock, Colin Scott, Christina Singh, Joanna Wave Willoughby, and Rebecca Zeek.

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**Church of the Brethren**  
**Emergency Disaster Fund**

September 16, 2021

Appropriation 21-26 — General Ledger # 58055 — Project 2387-B

**Minutes**

**Eglise des Freres au Congo – Volcano response**

Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) staff requested an additional allocation of \$25,000 from the Emergency Disaster Fund to provide the repairs or rebuilding of 54 homes damaged in the volcano eruption near Goma in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The eruption of Mount Nyiragongo, near the city of Goma on May 22 destroyed homes, businesses, livelihoods, and lives. The United Nations (UN) reports at least 32 people died, most from breathing toxic gases and accidents while evacuating the city. Property damage has been reported in the 17 surrounding villages and in Goma's suburbs, including over 1,500 homes. Congolese authorities report more than 4,000 households (around 20,000 people) are still displaced due to unsafe conditions, damaged homes, and toxic gases. The damaged property includes 11 schools and two churches in the city of Goma and Nyiragongo territory. UN reports note an increase in diseases such as cholera, malaria, acute respiratory infections and scabies, plus increased social tensions and rising gender-based violence.

An initial emergency grant of \$5,000 supported the Eglise des Freres au Congo in providing food relief to at-risk families. In June 2021, Eglise des Freres Au Congo requested \$45,286 to expand the emergency food distribution. A grant of \$25,000 was awarded to support part of the proposal, which the Church leadership choose to focus on food distribution.

With this grant, the Goma congregation plans to repair 23 homes damaged in the eruption and to build 31 new homes to replace those that were destroyed, providing shelter for 432 individuals, including 240 children.

Previous EDF grants for this appeal:

\$5,000 on May 26, 2021

\$25,000 on July 1, 2021

**APPROVAL** for this allocation was given by Roy Winter, executive director, Service Ministries; Ed Woolf, treasurer; David Steele, general secretary; and Mission and Ministry Board members Lauren Seganos Cohen, Barbara Daté, Carl Fike, Heather Gentry Hartwell, Dava Hensley, John Hoffman, Josiah Ludwick, Kathy Mack, Meghan Mauldin, Karen Neff, Joel Peña, J. Roger Schrock, Paul Schrock, Colin Scott, Christina Singh, Joanna Wave Willoughby, and Rebecca Zeek.

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**Church of the Brethren**  
**Emergency Disaster Fund**  
September 17, 2021

Appropriation 21-27 — General Ledger # 58050 — Project 2395

**Minutes**

**Church World Service – Afghanistan Evacuees Emergency Resettlement**

Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) staff requested an allocation of \$52,000 from the Emergency Disaster Fund to support joint Church of the Brethren and Church World Service (CWS) resettlement of Afghan evacuees entering the United States.

The United States government is estimating 75,000 Afghanistan nationals are fleeing to the US amid fears of persecution and retribution from the Taliban as the US troops withdraw from their country. Many are entering the US with a Humanitarian Parole status rather than being admitted as refugees; others have been given a special visa; and other Afghans already have an immigrant status in the US. The Humanitarian Parolee status allows people fleeing a compelling emergency (e.g., being targeted by the Taliban for supporting US troops) admission to the US, but they don't qualify for many of the resettlement services the US government provides to immigrants with regular refugee status. These government services are mostly provided through nine refugee resettlement agencies, including Church World Service, meaning that many of the 75,000 Afghan evacuees won't have access to health insurance, food programs, housing assistance, or cash assistance during part of their first year in the US.

CWS has asked its member denominations to issue joint appeals challenging congregations and members to help resettle Afghan evacuees and is requesting at least \$2 million to help resettle Afghan evacuees by helping them with health insurance, housing, food assistance, mental health support, school enrollment and, hopefully, community sponsorship. CWS has already been approved to resettle 3,410 Afghans who received humanitarian parole for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021, and will receive more evacuees in the 2022 fiscal year.

This financial support will become part of a Church of the Brethren initiative supporting Afghan evacuees. This broader appeal to our churches may include a website sharing details on how to support Afghan families, assistance to congregations seeking to resettle an Afghan family, advocacy for Afghan families, appeals and communications to Church of the Brethren districts and congregations, and Brethren Faith in Action grants for qualifying congregations.

**APPROVAL** for this allocation was given by Roy Winter, executive director, Service Ministries; Ed Woolf, treasurer; David Steele, general secretary; and Mission and Ministry Board members Lauren Seganos Cohen, Barbara Daté, Carl Fike, Heather Gentry Hartwell, Dava Hensley, John Hoffman, Josiah Ludwick, Kathy Mack, Meghan Mauldin, Karen Neff, Joel Peña, J. Roger Schrock, Paul Schrock, Colin Scott, Christina Singh, Joanna Wave Willoughby, and Rebecca Zeek.

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