

**Church of the Brethren**  
**Mission and Ministry Board**  
**Minutes**

December 2, 2022

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The Church of the Brethren Mission and Ministry Board was requested by action of the 107th Jilla Sabha (District Meeting) of the First District Church of the Brethren in India to appoint trustees to the Church of the Brethren General Board Trust (known as the CBGB Trust) Public Trust Registration No: E-1419/Surat, which is in accordance with the bylaws of the CBGB Trust. This action was necessary to fill two vacancies caused due to the deaths of earlier trustees.

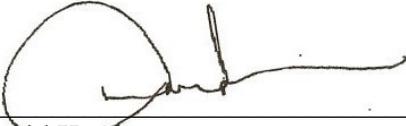
Voting members of the Mission and Ministry Board were asked in a November 3, 2022, e-mail from the General Secretary's office to vote electronically on the following slate of nominees to the CBGB Trust:

- 1) Rev. Ganeshkumar Gamanlal Patel (resident of Parsi Faliya, At & Post Lakahli, Taluka Vyara, District Tapi), and
- 2) Licensiate Preacher Sanjaykumar Dhirajlal Bhagat (resident of Near Jain Gurukul, Taluka Jhagadia, District Bharuch)

**Responding to the request** were Mission and Ministry Board members Michaela Alphonse, Lauren Seganos Cohen, Barbara Daté, Carl Fike, Joel Gibbel, Heather Gentry Hartwell, John Hoffman, Josiah Ludwick, Kathy Mack, Meghan Mauldin, Rosanna McFadden, Karen Shively Neff, Joel Peña, J. Roger Schrock, Paul Schrock, Colin Scott, and Joanna Wave Willoughby.

Of the 17 responding Board members, 16 had consensus in favor of the slate of nominees and one member expressed concern.

Recorded by Nancy Miner  
Approved and respectfully submitted by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David K. Shumate  
Secretary

December 2, 2022  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Brethren Disaster Ministries**  
Capital Expenditure Approval - #184  
December 7, 2022

**Minutes**

**Disaster Response Truck**

Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) staff recommended a capital expenditure of up to \$63,000 be approved for the purchase of a 2023 truck with a utility bed, ladder rack, spare tire and bed liner.

The BDM rebuilding program relies on trucks and vans to transport volunteers, tools, and supplies to construction sites. The vehicles must have towing capacity for tool, shower, flat bed, and utility trailers. Utility body trucks are often used by the long-term leadership when they drive from site to site to ensure that the volunteers have what they need. The utility bed allows for more secured storage of often needed supplies or tools, which reduces the number of trips to purchase supplies.

The purchase of this truck is the delayed replacement of a 2004 Chevy 2500 with a utility body that needed many repairs and was sold in November 2021. It was not replaced sooner while we only had one site open this year and had more vehicle options available at that site.

The volunteer schedule is currently set to resume two projects starting in Sept 2023. Ordering the truck now would allow for it to be ready for the added volume of volunteers in the second half of 2023.

Extensive research was done at different dealers in several states. This type of vehicle has proven difficult to find with the features needed. The truck has an aluminum Utility Body that would be new for BDM. While slightly higher in price, this should reduce the need to replace rust damage as has happened frequently with many of the current steel utility body trucks.

A good offer with a discount was made by a dealer in Lititz, Pa., through a salesman who attends a Church of the Brethren. The quote includes a longer, aluminum bed, a \$500 rebate on the standard bed that would be replaced, and a discount given off MSRP that other dealers did not offer.

The cost of the truck and equipment will be covered by the BDM Land Building and Equipment Fund and will be depreciated over 5 years.

**APPROVAL** for this expenditure was given by Roy Winter, executive director for Service Ministries; Service; David Steele, General Secretary; Ed Woolf, Treasurer; and Mission and Ministry Board members Lauren Seganos Cohen, Barbara Daté, Carl Fike, Joel Gibbel, Heather Gentry Hartwell, John Hoffman, Josiah Ludwick, Kathy Mack, Meghan Horne Mauldin, Rosanna McFadden, Karen Shively Neff, Joel Peña, J. Roger Schrock, Paul Schrock, Colin Scott, and Joanna Wave Willoughby. **ABSENT** from the process was MMB member Michaela Alphonse.

Nancy Miner, recorder

**Distribution:**

Ed Woolf  
Salvador Campero  
Francie Coale  
David Steele

Mission and Ministry Board  
Guiding Team  
Communications Team  
Finance Team  
BKD, Auditors

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

November 14, 2022

Appropriation 22-32 — General Ledger # 58385 — Project 2401-A

**Minutes**

**BDM – Waverly, Tennessee, August 2021 flooding response**

Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) staff requested an additional allocation of \$47,250 to finance the completion of a rebuilding project supporting August 2021 Flood Recovery in Waverly, Tennessee.

On August 21-23, 2021, a line of storms and rain moved through middle Tennessee, causing catastrophic flash flooding. The city of Waverly experienced the most impact as runoff from upstream on the Trace Creek headed west through town. While evaluating Waverly as a potential rebuilding site, BDM found FEMA had approved 954 families for Individual Assistance funds. Even with this assistance, Disaster Case Management in the area reported that there were still 600 families with some form of need they could not meet on their own, including 250 homes that were destroyed. Six months after the flooding, one church was still serving three meals a day to survivors, many of whom did not have homes or workable kitchens.

The repair and rebuilding recovery continues, with several long-term groups leaving during the warm weather months. The number of volunteers has also decreased as more recent disasters in neighboring states and across the country drew more media attention, including the deadly 2021 winter tornadoes, 2022 flooding impacting Kentucky and Missouri, and Hurricane Ian in Florida. Since April 2022, BDM has been serving this lower attention area with few other groups to help repair and rebuild homes. With this allocation, BDM plans to continue this work through the middle of December, when several of the other groups will return to continue the work.

BDM has been serving qualified families identified by the Humphreys County Long Term Recovery Group through their Disaster Case Management operations. Weekly volunteers have been prepared more than ever to listen to homeowners share their stories as part of the healing process.

The initial \$30,000 allocation for this project, estimated to cover the first three months of the project, stretched further than anticipated, covering until almost the end of July, due to fewer volunteers available or desiring to serve in the heat of the summer. Once groups returned to full numbers of volunteers this fall, the expenses were higher than anticipated, primarily due to the rise in the cost of fuel and travel. More leaders served on the site in September and October as BDM is working on training and mentoring new leaders. Although additional tool replacement was needed on the project, the cost was fortunately offset by a large donation to the Emergency Disaster Fund for that purpose.

As of September 2022 financial reporting, there is a \$21,096 expense overage from the initial allocation of \$30,000 and actual expenses of \$51,096. Additional EDF funding is needed to cover the overage and to continue to run a full site to complete work through the end of 2022.

Previous grants to this project:  
\$30,000 on March 3, 2022

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 Michaela Alphonse, Lauren Seganos Cohen, Barbara Daté, Carl Fike, Joel Gibbel, Heather Gentry Hartwell, John Hoffman, Josiah Ludwick, Kathy Mack, Meghan Mauldin, Rosanna McFadden, Karen Neff, Joel Pena, J. Roger Schrock, Paul Schrock, Colin Scott, and Joanna Wave Willoughby.

Nancy Miner, recorder

Distribution:

General Secretary  
Mission and Ministry Board  
Communications Team  
Finance Team  
Mission Advancement  
BKD, auditors

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

November 18, 2022

Appropriation 22-35 — General Ledger # 58055— Project 2420-A

**Minutes**

**Puerto Rico Hurricane Fiona Response**

Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) staff requested an additional allocation of \$49,500 from the Emergency Disaster Fund to support the Church of the Brethren Puerto Rico District's small farmer recovery program following Hurricane Fiona.

Hurricane Fiona made landfall in southwestern Puerto Rico on September 18, 2022. Over 30 inches of rain fell in some areas, washing out bridges and roads, causing landslides, and flooding homes, streets, and crops. Puerto Rico's infrastructure, especially the power grid, has long faced issues and has not fully recovered from Hurricane Maria 5 years prior.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reports that as of Nov. 10, 2022, individual financial assistance has been provided to 707,842 Puerto Rican individuals or families, meaning more than 21 percent of the residents have qualified for aid.

During the early relief phase of the response, District Executive Minister Pastor José Calleja Otero requested emergency assistance to support the distribution of potable water to the rural and mountain areas without access to water due to the continued power outages. A \$5,000 grant assisted District Disaster Coordinator (DDC) José Acevedo and other leaders with transporting and distributing water to families in areas with the greatest need.

Possibly the hardest hit sector by Hurricane Fiona was agriculture. This is particularly devastating to smaller scale farmers who also lost crops in Hurricane Maria. DDC José Acevedo, who retired after a career with the US Department of Agriculture, completed a survey of small farmers in the communities around the CoB congregations to assess need and ability to recover from another disaster, finding that they are the group most affected by the storm. Most don't qualify for any type of crop insurance, which is prohibitively expensive even if one does qualify. José also reported that it was these same farmers who helped clear the roads so that aid could reach the rural communities and assisted with the water and food distributions.

The district, through José Acevedo, identified and met with 32 small scale farmers whose loss of crops due to Hurricane Fiona was at a level which would prevent them from recovery without assistance. A plan has been developed to assist these farmers with small grants up to \$2,000/farmer for up to 50 percent of the cost to replant their crops. Grants of \$550 to \$2,000 will be provided to 32 small scale farmers without insurance. The total expense of this phase of the project, which also provides a small contingency for unexpected needs, costs of travel, and costs to host meetings, is \$49,500. GFI staff is also working on plans to support these farmers in transitioning to more sustainable crops. It is likely that a separate grant from GFI will support this phase of the recovery program.

Previous grants to this project:

\$5,000 on September 27, 2022

**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 Michaela Alphonse, Lauren Seganos Cohen, Barbara Daté, Carl Fike, Joel Gibbel, Heather Gentry Hartwell, John Hoffman, Josiah Ludwick, Kathy Mack, Meghan Mauldin, Rosanna McFadden, Karen Neff, Joel Pena, J. Roger Schrock, Paul Schrock, Colin Scott, and Joanna Wave Willoughby.

Nancy Miner, recorder

Distribution:

General Secretary  
Mission and Ministry Board  
Communications Team  
Finance Team  
Mission Advancement  
BKD, auditors

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

November 29, 2022

Appropriation 22-36 — General Ledger # 58400— Project 2411-A

**Minutes**

**Kentucky December 2021 Tornado Response**

Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) staff requested an additional allocation of \$64,625 from the Emergency Disaster Fund to fund an initial six-month rebuilding site in western Kentucky to support reconstruction following the December 2021 tornadoes.

On December 10-11, 2021, a devastating outbreak of 61 confirmed tornados swept through eight states with Kentucky, Illinois, and Missouri being the most impacted. Two extraordinary storms traveled over 100 miles each, producing the largest outbreak of tornados in December on record and, with 90 confirmed deaths, the deadliest.

From 24 counties in Kentucky alone, FEMA received over 15,000 applications for requests for assistance. An estimated 75 percent of the town of Dawson Springs was leveled, with over 400 of the 1,200 housing units lost. There were 15 deaths in Dawson Springs and 12 in the nearby town of Bremen.

An initial EDF allocation of \$8,000 funded a short-term rebuilding response in Dawson Springs – a trial for a possible future long-term site in the area. BDM teams worked for three weeks on two new homes that were identified by local partners at Habitat for Humanity Pennyryle Region (Habitat) and the Fuller Center Disaster ReBuilders. This response enabled introductions to these local work partners to continue conversations about possible longer partnerships in the future and was supported by generous gifts to the EDF in 2021 in response to these winter tornadoes.

BDM's current full-time rebuilding site in Waverly, Tenn., is scheduled to close on Dec. 17, 2022, when the supplies and equipment will be available to support recovery from another disaster. The 2023 BDM schedule of weekly volunteer groups is filled for all but a few of the available weeks of the entire year.

Just short of the one-year anniversary of the tornadoes, work is still available from the previously established work partnerships and would support the goal of building 20 new homes in 2023, including some as part of a program to help impacted and qualified renters to own a new Habitat home. Volunteer housing has been identified for the first six months of 2023 in Princeton, Ky., at the Ogden Memorial United Methodist Church, which is approximately 20 miles from Dawson Springs. The initial six months of a rebuilding project in Dawson Springs, Ky., is budgeted at \$64,625. Estimates for transportation to the project and vehicle use on the project are high for this site due to the increase in fuel prices.

Previous grants to this project:  
\$8,000 on May 31, 2022

Grant funds will cover operational expenses for volunteer support, including housing, food, leadership, and transportation expenses on the site. BDM is hopeful that an alternative housing location can be secured to continue this site beyond July 1, 2023, when a new allocation would be requested or any remaining funds could be used.

**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 Michaela Alphonse, Lauren Seganos Cohen, Barbara Daté, Carl Fike, Joel Gibbel, Heather Gentry Hartwell, John Hoffman, Josiah Ludwick, Kathy Mack, Meghan Mauldin, Rosanna McFadden, Karen Neff, Joel Pena, J. Roger Schrock, Paul Schrock, Colin Scott, and Joanna Wave Willoughby.

Nancy Miner, recorder

Distribution:

- General Secretary
- Mission and Ministry Board
- Communications Team
- Finance Team
- Mission Advancement
- BKD, auditors

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

December 1, 2022

Appropriation 22-38 — General Ledger # 58055 — Project 2410-B

**Minutes**

**Eglise des Freres au Congo (Church of the Brethren in the Congo)**

Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) staff requested an additional allocation of \$41,000 from the Emergency Disaster Fund to support the response of the Eglise des Freres au Congo to the large-scale displacement of people due to violence.

Throughout much of the Democratic Republic of Congo, and in the province of North Kivu in particular, there has been a long history of being torn apart by repeated violence and wars. In the eastern part of the country, the most recent conflict erupted in May 2022 when a well-armed rebel group attacked a Democratic Republic of Congo army camp outside of the town of Kibumba, about 12 miles northeast of Goma, the capital city of the North Kivu Province. The violence has spread to other areas, resulting in more than 234,000 people displaced in this part of Eastern DR Congo, according to the United Nations. Currently the worst fighting is in the territories of Rutshuru and Nyiragongo, also north of Goma.

About 70 percent of the displaced households (about 164,000 people) fled to the greater Goma area and have built temporary shelters with tarps and trash to survive this crisis. Goma is also the site of a 2021 volcano eruption that resulted in a joint BDM/Congolese Church of the Brethren response, from which the city of Goma and the Goma Church of the Brethren are still recovering. The Goma church is eager to respond to the needs of the people who are now fleeing the violence, but it has very limited resources.

Two previous Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) grants totaling \$15,000 supported 2,176 people with immediate food needs and have helped some very vulnerable people. Since these grants were disbursed the numbers of displaced people in the region have grown and the situation is even more desperate.

With the protracted violence and additional appeals for assistance, BDM staff requested that the Congolese Church develop a longer-range vision for responding to disasters and crises, including war. The plan provided by the leadership outlines a vision that recognizes the importance and value of all people, including the displaced families, and sets the following priorities for support for displaced people:

1. Healthcare assistance
2. Humanitarian assistance
3. Water and housing
4. Economic security
5. Environmental protection

In a written proposal, the Eglise des Freres au Congo requested a grant of \$41,000 to continue and expand its support for families in the Goma area who have been displaced by the current crisis. The church has identified 800 displaced households (about 6,400 people) that are particularly vulnerable and need immediate assistance. The response is planned with two distributions.

Phase 1: Distribution of food, soap, and tarps to improve temporary shelters. The food includes maize flour, dried beans, rice, vegetable oil, and salt.

Phase 2: Distribute malaria medication to 3,000 (out of the 6,400) of the displaced people most at risk for illness. Malaria is endemic in DR Congo and this medication may help prevent a flare up of cases in the Internally Displaced Person (IDP) camps.

Prior grants for this appeal:

\$5,000 on May 27, 2022

\$10,000 on June 30, 2022

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 Michaela Alphonse, Lauren Seganos Cohen, Barbara Daté, Carl Fike, Joel Gibbel, Heather Gentry Hartwell, John Hoffman, Josiah Ludwick, Kathy Mack, Meghan Mauldin, Rosanna McFadden, Karen Neff, Joel Pena, J. Roger Schrock, Paul Schrock, Colin Scott, and Joanna Wave Willoughby.

Nancy Miner, recorder

Distribution:

General Secretary

Mission and Ministry Board

Communications Team

Finance Team

Mission Advancement

BKD, auditors

**Church of the Brethren**  
Emergency Disaster Fund

January 26, 2023

Appropriation 23-1 — General Ledger # 58195— Project 2273-L

Minutes

**BDM – Nigeria Crisis Response**

The staff at Brethren Disaster Ministries requested an additional allocation of \$240,000 from the Emergency Disaster Fund for Brethren Disaster Ministries to support the Nigeria Crisis Response through the 2023 planned response.

Since 2014 the Nigeria Crisis Response has provided more than \$5 million in ministry resources to five response partners, has helped Ekklesiayar Yan’uwa a Nigeria (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) endure the ongoing crisis, and has provided extensive humanitarian aid and recovery assistance for some of the most vulnerable people in the world. The ongoing violence has added to great economic disparity in the country, so much so that Nigeria has more people living in extreme poverty than any other country. The security situation is increasingly complicated as different groups spread terror and destruction in NE Nigeria, and now it is spreading throughout the country.

The ongoing violence and lack of security continues to heavily impact EYN. Travel plans have to be modified or canceled based on the current security situation. Several leaders have been killed, and others have been kidnapped for ransom. EYN leaders report that an increase in kidnappings, the continued killing of people, vandalism, and increased crime is making it unsafe to travel anywhere in Nigeria. The COVID-19 pandemic, related work stoppages, and travel restrictions have made the crisis even worse and heightened the criminality and violence.

The EYN Disaster Relief Management (DRM) team has continued with food distributions, medical assistance, and livelihood empowerment. Despite financial struggles, EYN continues to grow, starting new churches in areas where its displaced members have resettled and thus building more resilient communities and helping them reestablish a sense of home.

Education continues to be important for the Nigeria’s recovery but is no longer part of Nigeria Crisis Response planning. EYN has a permanent education department and provides this ministry through both national programs and local church schools. Peace building and trauma recovery continue through a partnership with Mennonite Central Committee. The 2023 response plan, developed in a coordinating meeting with EYN, continues key ministries to help sustain EYN and the thousands of displaced families in Nigeria. Program priorities focus on recovery activities that will help families become more self-supporting.

The 2023 Nigeria Crisis Response budget includes the EYN response programming, US travel, support, and Annual Conference travel for Nigerian staff. The budget was increased from 2022 to help offset the high inflation rate and devaluation of the Nigerian currency. Some line items were raised due to the concern of possible increased violence during the federal presidential election in February and extra travel expenses for the Centennial Celebration.

Prior EDF grants for this appeal (total of \$5,935,000):

    \$ 210,000 on 10/25/2021

    \$ 300,000 on 3/27/2020

    \$ 325,000 on 7/3/2019 at Mission and Ministry Board meeting

\$ 400,000 on 8/23/2018  
\$ 400,000 on 10/19/2017 at Mission and Ministry Board meeting  
\$ 500,000 on 2/27/2017  
\$ 1,000,000 on 3/12/2016 at Mission and Ministry Board meeting  
\$ 680,000 on 7/29/2015  
\$ 1,500,000 on 3/3/2015  
\$ 500,000 on 10/19/2014 at Mission and Ministry Board meeting  
\$ 100,000 on 9/20/2014  
\$ 20,000 on 9/5/2014

**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 Michaela Alphonse, Lauren Seganos Cohen, Barbara Daté, Carl Fike, Joel Gibbel, Heather Gentry Hartwell, John Hoffman, Josiah Ludwick, Kathy Mack, Meghan Mauldin, Rosanna McFadden, Karen Neff, Joel Pena, J. Roger Schrock, Paul Schrock, Colin Scott, and Joanna Wave Willoughby.

Nancy Miner, recorder

Distribution:

General Secretary  
Mission and Ministry Board  
Strategic Leadership Team  
Communications Team  
Finance Team  
Mission Advancement  
BKD, auditors