

Nomination for the Brethren Historical Committee

The staff of Organizational Resources through the Brethren Historical Library and Archives (BHLA) nominates **Dr. Jeff Bach** for a four-year term on the Brethren Historical Committee, beginning July 1, 2026. Committee members are eligible to serve up to two four-year terms on the Committee, with at least one year off the Committee before being eligible to serve again. If approved, Dr. Bach would fulfil his first term on June 30, 2030, and be eligible for a second, four-year term.

Dr. Bach is a member of the Stevens Hill Community Church of the Brethren, in the Atlantic Northeast District. He has served as a pastor, a was a 1983 graduate and then professor at Bethany Theological Seminary, and before retirement was the Director of the Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies and Associate Professor of Religious Studies at Elizabethtown College. As Director of the Young Center, in 2014 Dr. Bach was instrumental in planning and helping to raise money to establish the Hess Special Collections and Archives at Elizabethtown College which houses the special collections of the Young Center and the college archives. Dr. Bach is the author of *Voices of Turtledoves: The Sacred World of Ephrata*, a definitive study of the mystical and communal life of the Ephrata Cloister, published in 2003.

The Brethren Historical Committee serves to enhance the interest in and study of Church of the Brethren history. It works at that purpose in the following ways:

1. Stimulate interest in Brethren history
2. Provide suggestions of publications on Brethren history
3. Encourage historical research and suggest subjects to researchers
4. Encourage the study of Brethren history by students and others
5. Initiate and conduct historical research on behalf of the church
6. Provide guidance for general policies for the operation of the BHLA
7. Serve as advisory/consultative group for the BHLA director