

Church of the Brethren
Capital Expenditure Approval - #203
April 6, 2026

Minutes

Brethren Disaster Ministries - Disaster Response 12-Passenger Van

Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) staff recommended a capital expenditure of up to \$68,000 for the purchase of a new 12-passenger Ford Transit van with floor mats, title and registration, to be used at disaster rebuilding projects.

The rebuilding program of Brethren Disaster Ministries relies on trucks and vans to transport volunteers, tools and supplies to construction sites. Some of these vehicles also need to tow tool, shower, utility, flat bed, and travel (volunteer housing) trailers as needed for each project location where rebuilding support is needed. Our goal is to have enough vehicles to manage two projects at one time, with at least five trucks or vans at each site (ten vehicles).

These vehicles are driven and maintained by BDM long-term volunteers. The program goal is to have vehicles in good condition, requiring a reasonable amount of repairs and under 13 years old, unless in very good condition. Since vans are in short supply and it is difficult to find used vans with low mileage, a new van was ordered last year with the same features as the 2024 van, after that 2024 van was totaled during an accident. The towing and safety features that BDM requires are included in the purchase price.

The funds for the purchases will come from the insurance settlement from the accident with the 2024 van (\$50,105) and the balance from a Lilly Endowment grant awarded to BDM (up to \$17,895). The BDM budget will replace this capital expense over a 5-year depreciation schedule.

APPROVAL for this expenditure was given by Ed Woolf, Treasurer; David Steele, General Secretary; and Mission and Ministry Board members Michaela Alphonse, Daniel Butler, Edward Cesar-Fincher, Barbara Daté, Joel Gibbel, Tina Hunt, Robert Jackson, Josiah Ludwick, Kathy Mack, Sarah Mason, Rosanna McFadden, Deirdre Moyer, Karen Neff, Colby Patton, Eric Ramirez, Janice Shaw-Morgan, and Joanna Wave Willoughby.

Shannon McNeil Smith, recorder

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Francie Coale
Forvis, Auditors

Brethren Service Center
Church of the Brethren
Capital Expenditure Approval - #204
April 9, 2026

Minutes

Brethren Service Center

Francie Coale, Director of Buildings and Grounds and Shawn Flory Replogle, Executive Director of Organizational Resources recommend a capital expenditure of no more than \$51,407.94 to update the restrooms at the Brethren Service Center

Update of the four Brethren Service Center restrooms will include: removing existing wall tiles, toilets, sinks, and wall partitions; grinding the existing tile floor; leveling the grout lines; and applying epoxy coating. Updates will be completed with the installation of new drywall, sinks, faucets, toilets, vinyl baseboard and partition walls.

The capital outlay for this project will be provided by the Land, Building, and Equipment fund of New Windsor Buildings and Grounds. The cost will be depreciated over ten years (\$5,140.80 per year) and expensed in the Buildings and Grounds operating budget.

APPROVAL for this expenditure was given by Ed Woolf, Treasurer; David Steele, General Secretary; and Mission and Ministry Board members Michaela Alphonse, Daniel Butler, Edward Cesar-Fincher, Barbara Daté, Joel Gibbel, Tina Hunt, Robert Jackson, Josiah Ludwick, Kathy Mack, Sarah Mason, Rosanna McFadden, Deirdre Moyer, Karen Neff, Colby Patton, Eric Ramirez, Janice Shaw-Morgan, and Joanna Wave Willoughby.

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Church of the Brethren
Capital Expenditure Approval - #206
May 12, 2026

Minutes

Brethren Disaster Ministries - Disaster Response 12-Passenger Van

Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) staff recommended a capital expenditure of up to \$70,000 for the purchase of a new 12 Passenger Ford Transit van, partition, roof rack, and floor mats for use at disaster rebuilding projects.

The rebuilding program of Brethren Disaster Ministries relies on trucks and vans to transport volunteers, tools and supplies to construction sites. Some of these vehicles also need to tow tool, shower, utility, flat bed, and travel (volunteer housing) trailers as needed for each project location where rebuilding support is needed. Our goal is to have enough vehicles to manage two projects at one time, with at least five trucks or vans at each site (ten vehicles).

These vehicles are driven and maintained by BDM long-term volunteers. The program goal is to have vehicles in good condition, requiring a reasonable amount of repairs and under 13 years old, unless in very good condition. Since vans are in short supply and it is difficult to find used vans with low mileage, a new van was ordered last year with the same features as the 2026 van which was recently purchased to replace a 2024 van that was totaled during an accident. The towing and safety features that BDM requires are included in the purchase price.

The funds for the purchases will come from the balance from a Lilly Endowment grant awarded to BDM.

APPROVAL for this expenditure was given by Ed Woolf, Treasurer; David Steele, General Secretary; and Mission and Ministry Board members Michaela Alphonse, Daniel Butler, Edward Cesar-Fincher, Barbara Daté, Joel Gibbel, Tina Hunt, Robert Jackson, Josiah Ludwick, Kathy Mack, Sarah Mason, Rosanna McFadden, Deirdre Moyer, Karen Neff, Colby Patton, Eric Ramirez, Janice Shaw-Morgan, and Joanna Wave Willoughby.

Shannon McNeil Smith, recorder

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Church of the Brethren
Emergency Disaster Fund

April 13, 2026

Appropriation 26-5 — General Ledger #58055— Project 2462A

Minutes

International Orthodox Christian Charities – Israel – Hamas War Response

The staff at Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) request an additional allocation of \$50,000 from the Emergency Disaster Fund to support the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) response to the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza. The grant will provide 300 children psychosocial, recreational and nutrition support to improve their mental well-being and help them to better cope with the trauma of war.

On Oct. 7, 2023, a Hamas led militant group attacked communities and military bases in Israel. During this attack, 1,195 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed, including 815 civilians. Another 251 Israelis and foreigners were taken captive into the Gaza Strip. In response, Israel declared a state of war with Hamas on Oct. 8, followed by a blockade of the Gaza Strip on Oct. 9, including cutting off electricity and blocking all food and fuel shipments. Israel began air strikes through missile attacks and bombing on Oct. 11, resulting in one of the most destructive bombing campaigns in modern history. The Israeli military began the invasion of the Gaza Strip on Oct. 28. In the last 30 months the invasion and systematic destruction of buildings and homes in the Gaza Strip continued with only brief pauses for several ceasefire agreements. The destruction of buildings, homes, and infrastructure is staggering.

During 2024 and into mid-2025, Israeli operations moved decisively into southern Gaza, particularly Khan Younis and Rafah, where the majority of Gaza's displaced population had sought refuge. Rafah's destruction marked a critical turning point for humanitarian response. As Gaza's primary entry point for aid and medical evacuations, Rafah's damage and subsequent Israeli control severely undermined humanitarian logistics. Aid agencies reported an inability to move supplies safely or consistently, while malnutrition, preventable disease, and civilian deaths mounted. At this point nearly the entire population of Gaza had been displaced at least once, many multiple times, often into tented settlements lacking sanitation, adequate food, or protection from the elements.

Although an Israel-Hamas ceasefire agreement in October 2025 enabled the release of remaining Israeli hostages, it did not bring an end to civilian suffering. In 2026, Gaza remains in a condition of prolonged humanitarian emergency rather than recovery. Israeli forces continue to be deployed in significant portions of the territory, restricting civilian movement and access to agricultural land, the coastline, and key infrastructure. Airstrikes, demolitions, and sporadic ground operations have continued despite the formal ceasefire, causing ongoing civilian

casualties and renewed displacement. Large areas remain contaminated with unexploded ordnance, making return unsafe and slowing humanitarian and early recovery work.

The United Nations reports more than 72,289 Palestinian fatalities and another 171,912 were injured. Gaza's health system is only partially functional, with hospitals chronically short of fuel, medicine, specialist staff, and equipment. Food insecurity remains widespread, with many households being almost entirely dependent on humanitarian assistance. Water and sanitation systems have not been fully restored, contributing to ongoing outbreaks of diarrheal diseases, hepatitis, and skin infections, particularly among children. Shelter conditions remain dire, while 1.9 million (more than 90 percent) of the 2.1 million people living in the Gaza Strip are displaced or living in damaged buildings or makeshift shelters. Reconstruction has barely begun; restrictions on building materials and ongoing insecurity prevent meaningful rebuilding of homes, schools, and medical facilities.

In the midst of this crisis, the children of Gaza are enduring a humanitarian catastrophe that has dismantled the foundations of a safe childhood. The months of relentless conflict and recurring displacement have left an entire generation at risk of profound, permanent psychological trauma. UNICEF reports that over one million children now urgently require mental health support. In this chaotic environment, structured play and recreational activities are not luxuries; they are life-saving therapeutic interventions essential for halting the rapid decline of childhood well-being. However, the mind cannot heal while the body is hungry. The collapse of food security in the Gaza Strip has created a dire nutritional emergency. Chronic hunger, and in some cases malnutrition, directly hinders the cognitive and developmental potential of these children.

An evaluation at the end of the 2025 program found significant positive effects on the children's mental and physical well-being. Building on lessons learned, the 2026 proposal from IOCC requests support for 300 conflict-affected children in Central Gaza. The program will enhance the psychological and physical well-being of these children by providing a protective environment that integrates therapeutic recreational activities with nutritional support. Children will participate in 12 specialized therapeutic activity sessions with trained facilitators.

These sessions will utilize creative expression (drawing and storytelling) to safely externalize traumatic memories, and social reintegration activities to rebuild the communal trust often shattered by conflict. To provide immediate relief from anxiety, children are also taught grounding and self-regulation techniques, such as sensory grounding and breathing exercises, giving them tangible tools to manage fear in a high-stress environment. The goal is for at least 80 percent of the 300 participating children to demonstrate a measurable reduction in signs of acute distress (such as withdrawal or hyper-vigilance) as verified by pre- and post-activity assessments.

The children will also receive nutrient-dense snacks during every session, such as pastries stuffed with cheese, vegetables, or chocolate; dates and fresh seasonal fruits; fruit juices; fortified biscuits; canned milk; etc., with daily specifics dependent upon market availability. In so doing, the project ensures that every participant has the cognitive stamina and mental focus needed to

fully engage in the activities. The goal is for children to maintain the physical energy levels and cognitive focus necessary for therapeutic engagement, mitigating the risks of physical wasting and exhaustion caused by displacement, while supplementing the children's general nutrition.

APPROVAL for this allocation was given by Ed Woolf, Treasurer; David Steele, General Secretary; and Mission and Ministry Board Members Michaela Alphonse, Daniel Butler, Edward Cesar-Fincher, Barbara Daté, Joel Gibbel, Tina Hunt, Robert Jackson, Josiah Ludwick, Sarah Mason, Rosanna McFadden, Deirdre Moyer, Karen Neff, Colby Patton, Eric Ramirez, Janice Shaw-Morgan, and Joanna Wave Willoughby.

Shannon McNeil Smith, recorder

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Forvis, auditors

Church of the Brethren
Emergency Disaster Fund

April 14, 2026

Appropriation 26-6 — General Ledger #58055— Project 2407C

Minutes

International Orthodox Christian Charities – Russia—Ukraine War Response

The staff at Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) request an allocation of \$75,000 from the Emergency Disaster Fund to support the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) response to the humanitarian crisis caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The grant will support the economic training and empowerment of women impacted by the war.

More than four years after the Russian military invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022, the subsequent war continues without signs of ceasing. As the largest conventional attack on a sovereign nation in Europe since World War II, each day of the fighting causes more civilian and military deaths, large-scale displacement of the Ukrainian people, and catastrophic damage to public and private buildings. Relentless attacks on cities, towns, and villages in the eastern, southern, and northeastern regions have created many humanitarian crises. Russia occupies roughly 20 percent of the country after gaining almost five thousand square kilometers of territory in 2025. Russia continues to bombard Ukrainian cities, while Ukraine maintains drone attacks on Russian oil infrastructure and military sites. According to the United Nations, fighting and air strikes have inflicted nearly 56,000 civilian Ukrainian casualties while 3.7 million people are internally displaced, 5.9 million are registered as refugees, and 10.8 million people need humanitarian assistance.

This complex crisis had the attention and intervention of much of the world for the first two years of the war. The United Nations continues serving the need with an expanded \$3.1 billion relief plan to address some needs of Ukrainians still inside the country and those living in the surrounding countries of Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Moldova, Romania, and Slovakia. These countries are housing and supporting Ukrainian refugees at a great cost. In the early years many of the world's largest nonprofit organizations were also mounting large scale relief programs. In the last couple of years many organizations have left or significantly decreased programming.

The ongoing focus of the Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) response is to identify and support those who remain underserved. By focusing on vulnerable populations and countries getting less news and attention, Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) grant funds will have a larger impact and be more effective in meeting the goals of the program. BDM partner International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), a US-based non-governmental organization (NGO), has a long history of humanitarian and development programming in Eastern Europe working through partnerships with the network of Orthodox churches. With about 67 percent of Ukrainians

identifying as Christian Orthodox, IOCC has been effective at reaching people in need that few other aid groups can reach by focusing response programming in Ukraine, Romania, and Poland.

Soon after the war began in 2022, a \$50,000 EDF grant supported the IOCC relief programs in Ukraine and for displaced Ukrainians who fled into Romania and Poland. This relief included providing shelter, food, clothing, psychosocial programs/therapy, education, and protection. The funds also provided training for clergy and church staff to help with the refugee crisis.

The April 2023 grant of \$120,000 transitioned from emergency relief programming to sustainable solutions so families could begin to support themselves again, with a focus on women-led households because so many of the men were fighting in the war. The grant was one part of a larger \$4.1 million program that included capacity building of local partners, mental health programming, livelihood programs in rural areas, training of community leaders, and the rehabilitation of buildings used for shelter.

The 2023 EDF grant provided education, training, and economic empowerment for women (both displaced and local) in four regions of Ukraine (Kyiv, Chernihiv, Zhytomyr and Dnipro). The program, which included funding from other organizations, originally targeted the provision of training to 240 participants. Due to efficiencies and cost savings the program was expanded to 440 participants and continued for a second year with the same level of funding. The program has fostered resilience and self-sufficiency, helping both displaced women and local women find good quality jobs.

The 2025 EDF grant built on the earlier programming, focusing on the Zakarpattia region of western Ukraine to strengthen women's economic resilience, promote self-sufficiency, and enhance their contribution to the local economic recovery. This was accomplished through business training, career development, small business grants, and paid internships with private companies. Through these initiatives, participants gained market-relevant skills to launch income-generating activities, including small businesses and professional employment.

The 2026 EDF grant request from IOCC continues the focus on equipping displaced and conflict-affected women with livelihood training and resources so they can support their families. The goal of the program is to provide women from the region of Odessa city, Odessa region, and Mykolaiv region with the following:

- Identify 60 project beneficiaries from the Odessa and Mykolaiv regions.
- Provide a general business training course for 57 project beneficiaries, with at least 52 completing the course.
- Provide business planning courses for 25 beneficiaries interested in applying for business grants.
- Provide a career guidance training program for 20 beneficiaries interested in applying for vocational grants.
- Issue business grants to the 17 beneficiaries with the highest quality business plans.
- Provide vocational training grants to 17 selected beneficiaries.

APPROVAL for this allocation was given by Ed Woolf, Treasurer; David Steele, General Secretary; and Mission and Ministry Board Members Michaela Alphonse, Daniel Butler, Edward Cesar-Fincher, Barbara Daté, Joel Gibbel, Tina Hunt, Robert Jackson, Josiah Ludwick, Sarah Mason, Rosanna McFadden, Deirdre Moyer, Karen Neff, Colby Patton, Eric Ramirez, Janice Shaw-Morgan, and Joanna Wave Willoughby.

Shannon McNeil Smith, recorder

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Forvis, auditors

Church of the Brethren
Emergency Disaster Fund

April 30, 2026

Appropriation 26-7 — General Ledger # 58510 — Project 2468B

Minutes

BDM - Hurricane Helene Response

The staff at Brethren Disaster Ministries (BDM) request an additional allocation of \$132,000 to support the BDM response to the deadly and devastating September 2024 Hurricane Helene.

Late on Sept. 26, 2024, the huge and powerful Hurricane Helene made landfall in the Big Bend region of northern Florida, near the city of Perry, as a Category 4 storm with sustained winds of 140 mph. An extremely high, 10–20-foot tidal surge and heavy winds caused extensive destruction of property, at least 19 deaths, and widespread power outages. The storm weakened as it moved inland, quickly moving into Georgia as a Category 2 hurricane. It was downgraded to a tropical storm over east central Georgia a few hours later. Even as a tropical storm, Helene brought high winds, heavy rain, and flooding throughout much of Georgia. The storm continued into the mountain region of western North Carolina, eastern Tennessee, and southern Virginia. North Carolina saw devastating flooding and damage. The region had already been saturated with three days of rainfall prior to the arrival of the remnants of Hurricane Helene, exacerbating the storm's impact. In western North Carolina Hurricane Helene left a staggering toll in its wake: 107 lives lost, 150,000 homes badly damaged, over 2,000 landslides, and 12,000 people displaced. Over 8,000 roads and bridges were destroyed, and entire communities were wiped out. It is estimated that recovery from the hurricane—the deadliest storm to hit the U.S. mainland since Hurricane Katrina—will require more than \$60 billion. According to state leaders, more than 40 percent of North Carolina's population lives in one of the 39 disaster-stricken counties eligible for federal assistance.

In October 2024, Children's Disaster Services (CDS) volunteers traveled to serve in Fletcher and Asheville, N.C. During this response, 13 volunteers were part of three teams who cared for 193 children in two Red Cross shelters and a Red Cross Family Assistance Center.

In March 2025, the BDM Rebuilding Program deployed a site development team that established a partnership with the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church (WNCCUMC) in Spruce Pine, N.C. Spruce Pine, a town of 2,000 located in Mitchell County, took a beating from the North Toe River after receiving 24.12 inches of rain, which destroyed its historic brick riverfront and left neighbors without power, water, or cell service.

A two-week short-term rebuilding response in Spruce Pine, N.C., took place May 11-24, 2025. The housing facility for the 23 volunteers and leaders was at the First Presbyterian Church in Spruce Pine through BDM partner Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). BDM's work partner, WNCCUMC, provided the jobsite to serve one family to help them return to their home. During this project 25 volunteers focused on building a new home for one family, providing \$58,169 worth of service. The expenses for this project were higher than normal for BDM due to higher housing costs (\$2,050/week). The total expenses for this response were \$9,738.

An eight-week short-term response in Mountain City, Tenn., took place Sept. 21-Nov. 15, 2025, supporting recovery by partnering with International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC) and the Johnson County Long Term Recovery Group (JCLTRG). Volunteer housing was provided by two churches in Mountain City, Tenn. Weekly volunteers stayed, and meals were provided, at First Christian Church. Project leadership stayed at a former parsonage building of Nelson Chapel Baptist Church. Neither church charged a fee to host BDM volunteers because they saw this as their way to support the recovery through donations and tithes they had received. This project served an area with extensive hurricane impact and needs but that has received less attention than similarly damaged areas in North Carolina. During this project 109 volunteers helped repair 11 homes, providing \$204,565 worth of service. The expenses for this project were \$22,172.

BDM plans to continue the Hurricane Helene recovery program in North Carolina through 2026 and likely for several years. As the local recovery groups are still organizing their work and doing initial case management, a long-term rebuilding site has not been chosen. Two short-term sites opened in April 2026 and BDM is in the planning process with several other likely partners and response locations.

An eight-week rebuilding project in North Carolina began on April 12 (with a June 6 scheduled closing), working in partnership with two local Habitat for Humanity affiliates: Henderson County and Thermal Belt Habitat, and the Transylvania County Habitat. Volunteers are being housed at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Hendersonville. BDM volunteers will be working on both home repairs and new builds in this area. Recorded expenses for the first two weeks of this project are \$7,880 (some expenses are likely not recorded at this time). The anticipated total expenses for this project are estimated to be near \$24,800 (including recorded expenses).

A two-week project began in Ashe County on April 12, working with partner WNCCUMC (same partner as the Spruce Pine response), to build a new home for a couple whose house was destroyed when a mudslide rushed down the hill behind them during Helene. The couple are both in wheelchairs, with the husband being paraplegic. Over the weekend of April 25-26, this project is moving to Western Maryland for a one-week response repairing homes damaged by flooding. Both the West Marva and Mid-Atlantic Districts have supported relief and recovery from the May flooding through volunteers, relief items, and funding. West Marva district disaster coordinator Denny Skeweris also serves on the Western Maryland Long Term Recovery Group, with which BDM is partnering on this short response. BDM volunteers will be repairing several homes and will stay at Savage Mountain Youth Center in Lonaconing, Md. Expenses for the first two weeks of this project are \$2,712 (some expenses are likely not recorded at this time). This amount is considerably less because of very low start-up costs and the leadership at this site are not requesting stipends. The anticipated total expenses for this project are estimated to be near \$4,800 (including recorded expenses).

Additional rebuilding sites are under development to continue Hurricane Helene recovery through 2026. The most likely future project sites are outlined below. The intent is to host two rebuilding sites for 10 weeks in the summer and fall, and one site for the remainder of the year.

- Final preparations are already underway for a likely ten-week site in Yancey County June 7-August 15, 2026, which will be Project 1 for BDM. Yancey Long-Term Recovery Group and Beacon Network (local not-for profit organization)
- BDM Project 1 will likely move to partner with the Fuller Center Disaster ReBuilders program in Western N.C., starting mid-August through the end of the year and likely into 2027. They are currently working on building 50-56 new homes in the Black Mountain area.
- A second rebuilding site will open August 30 – October 31, 2026. The most likely partnership is a return to Ashe County, N.C., working with WNCCUMC for another 10-week relief project.

This grant is intended to continue the 2026 responses in Henderson, Transylvania, and Ashe counties (including a transition to Western MD for one week). The grant will also support continued Hurricane Helene recovery in North Carolina through the end of the year at new project sites still being developed.

APPROVAL for this allocation was given by Ed Woolf, Treasurer; David Steele, General Secretary; and Mission and Ministry Board Members Michaela Alphonse, Daniel Butler, Edward Cesar-Fincher, Barbara Daté, Joel Gibbel, Tina Hunt, Robert Jackson, Josiah Ludwick, Kathy Mack, Sarah Mason, Rosanna McFadden, Deirdre Moyer, Karen Neff, Colby Patton, Eric Ramirez, Janice Shaw-Morgan, and Joanna Wave Willoughby.

Shannon McNeil Smith, recorder

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