

Facilities Assistance Fund Impact: Alpha & Omega COB

Prior to his death in 2014, John Stoner, active member at Harrisburg First Church of the Brethren, served as ANE's treasurer for more than 18 years. In 2019, the ANE District was blessed to receive funds from the Stoner Estate Fund for ANE ministries. Utilizing a portion of this reserve, the ANE Board approved establishing the Facilities Assistance Fund, open to ANE congregations as a grant for facility improvements or repairs.

Recently, Alpha & Omega COB completed a months-long process of restoring their Fellowship Hall after extensive water damage, made possible by support from the Facilities Assistance Fund. This is a story of Alpha & Omega COB's perseverance and faith, generosity from the ANE Family, and, ultimately, God's grace and provision.

The following content is from Alpha & Omega Facebook posts and a letter submitted by Pastor Joel Peña to the Stewardship Commission. Written by Joel Peña; Compiled by Marianne Fitzkee.



I'd like to briefly share the story of the flooding that had been occurring beneath the church basement floor for months and years. This flooding damaged the wooden supports, causing them to become moldy from lack of drainage, which in turn led to the floor beginning to sink. Upon discovering this in May of 2025, we had to remove the entire floor and wait until we could raise enough funds to begin mitigation and restoration work in the basement area. Volunteer work

was crucial in minimizing costs, but ultimately, it was necessary to hire additional services to move forward. This process has severely impacted our finances, but the Lord has been faithful, and little by little, with the help of our Church of the Brethren ANE District and the offerings we've received, we are making progress in restoring our basement.

We want to thank Brother Jonathan Vázquez for installing the new ceramic tile flooring, repairing the walls, and installing a water pumping system in case of another flood in the church basement.



We also want to thank the extraordinary team of volunteers, led by Celia López and Oswaldo Soto, who worked tirelessly to clean and then paint the walls and ceiling of our basement, which we had lost for five months, depriving us of its use for women's, youth, and children's classes, as well as for our special events. May God reward them with health, strength, and provision. Today we are almost finished, and we thank God for the family of God and because Jehovah Jireh and His Church have once again provided for our financial obligations. In God we trust.

With much effort and will we have recovered our Fellowship Hall, and we give thanks to God for His goodness, mercy and provision that comes in faith.

**To the Esteemed Members of the Stewardship Commission
Atlantic Northeast District, Church of the Brethren**

On behalf of the Board of Directors of **Alpha & Omega Church of the Brethren**, I would like to express our most sincere gratitude for considering and approving our request for financial assistance.

Your generous support has been instrumental in helping us meet the financial commitments we assumed for the **waterproofing,**

mitigation, and reconstruction of our church basement — a vital space where many of our weekly community activities take place, such as women’s classes, children’s programs, youth gatherings, social meetings, and workshops.



The total cost of the project was approximately **\$28,000**, of which **\$18,000** were graciously provided through the **Facilities Assistance Fund**. This contribution has greatly helped us fulfill our obligations to contractors and financial institutions, allowing us to uphold the integrity and reputation of our congregation. The remaining balance will be covered gradually through our own local resources.

Thanks to the recovery of our **Fellowship Hall (Basement)**, we have already seen renewed enthusiasm among our members and a fresh sense of motivation among our leaders as we resume activities in this restored space — especially now, with the arrival of the cold season in our city.

May God richly reward our District for this wonderful act of generosity.

With heartfelt appreciation,

“And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”

— *2 Corinthians 9:8 (NIV)*

Rev. Joel Peña

Pastor, Alpha & Omega Church of the Brethren