

Final Brethren Faith in Action grants for 2020

The Brethren Faith in Action Fund made its final grants for 2020. The fund was created with money generated by sale of the upper campus of the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md.

- \$5,000 for **Akron (Ohio) First Church of the Brethren** to expand its radio ministry.

- \$5,000 for **Camp Alexander Mack** in Milford, Ind., to increase wireless connectivity.

- \$5,000 for **Camp Carmel** in Linville, N.C., to help fund a virtual camp, rebuild a rain shelter, and construct an outdoor classroom/amphitheater.

- \$5,000 for **Camp Mardela** in Denton, Md., to help replace the roof of the King Retreat Center.

- \$5,000 for **Camp Placid** in Blountville, Tenn., to renovate an existing building as an Outdoor Learning Center.

- \$5,000 for **Circle of Peace Church of the Brethren** in Peoria, Ariz., for outdoor “pop up” worship services.

- \$5,000 for **Haitian Church of the Brethren Fellowship** in Naples, Fla., to purchase audiovisual hardware and musical instruments.

- \$3,500 for the Family Pantry outreach at **Memorial Church of the Brethren** in Martinsburg, Pa.

- \$5,000 for **Sebring (Fla.) Church of the Brethren** to make facility improvements to upgrade accessibility.

- \$2,400 for **Shepherd’s Spring**, a camp and outdoor ministry center in Sharpsburg, Md., for the accreditation application process with the American Camping Association.



Photo by PAG

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PAG delivers food and other relief supplies to Hondurans whose homes were destroyed in the hurricanes that hit Central America in November.

Brethren Disaster Ministries directs EDF grants

Brethren Disaster Ministries has directed grants from the Emergency Disaster Fund (EDF) to aid people affected by recent disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic.

- \$25,000 for hurricane relief in Honduras by **Proyecto Aldea Global**, following Hurricanes Iota and Eta.

- \$10,000 for the **Church World Service** response to hurricanes in Nicaragua, Honduras, and Guatemala.

- \$60,000 for the **domestic COVID-19 Relief Program** for the remainder of 2020. The program provides grants to Church of the Brethren congregations and districts for pandemic-related initiatives. Previously in 2020, \$135,000 had been designated, providing 35 grants.

- \$15,000 for the COVID-19 response of **Ekklesiyar Yan’uwa a Nigeria** (EYN, the Church of the Brethren in Nigeria) for the remainder of 2020.

- \$14,000 for a flood mitigation project of **Shalom Ministries** in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

- \$6,000 for COVID-19 response in the DRC through **Shalom Ministries**, helping some of the most vulnerable people in Church of the Brethren communities.

- \$10,000 for **Lutheran World Relief and IMA World Health** as part of Corus International’s response to the August port explosion in Beirut, Lebanon.

- \$10,000 for a pandemic-related feeding program of the **Church of the Brethren in Venezuela**.

- \$2,000 for flood response carried out by the **Venezuelan church**.



Last fall, Brethren Disaster Ministries celebrated two house blessings for homes that were repaired or rebuilt in the Carolinas. “We were all truly blessed in serving you Darvella, as well as Roosevelt and Inez,” said a Facebook post. “Welcome Home! We pray that you are blessed with many more years in your homes!”

Workcamp Ministry is now FaithX

The Workcamp Ministry has begun operating under the name Faith Outreach Expeditions or FaithX. The new name will be used for all short-term service opportunities offered by Brethren Volunteer Service. For more information see www.brethren.org/faithx.



Global Brethren gather in two online meetings

Virtual meetings of the Global Brethren Communion were held in November and December. In November, 15 people represented 5 of the 11 denominations. The December meeting included 22 representatives from 10 denominations.

COVID-19 continues as a major concern, as do violence and political upheaval, with conversation about how these have prevented evangelism and meeting together as churches.

A committee was appointed to begin the work of proposing a constitution and bylaws to define the structure and purpose of the organization.

BBT extends COVID-19 emergency grants

Brethren Benefit Trust has extended its COVID-19 emergency grant program as part of the Church Workers' Assistance Plan. The initial program ran through July 2020, with a second round of grants made through November last year. A third block of money is now available for applications received through March 31. Contact Debbie Butcher at 847-622-3391 or pension@cobbt.org.

NOAC 2021 will be virtual

National Older Adult Conference 2021 will be held online Sept. 6-10 on the theme "Overflowing with Hope" (Romans 15:13).

The decision to go online with the event was made by the NOAC Planning Team based on concerns about COVID-19: restrictions at the site in Lake Junaluska, N.C., limiting in-person gatherings; an age group particularly vulnerable to the virus; numerous deadline considerations; and uncertainty about transportation and lodging options come September.

The team announced it is "working on developing creative ways to joyfully experience NOAC online." Members are Christy Waltersdorff (coordinator), Glenn Bollinger, Karen Dillon, Jim Martinez, Rex Miller, Pat Roberts, Paula Ziegler Ulrich, and staff Josh Brockway and Stan Dueck of Discipleship Ministries.



Personnel notes

Gary Benesh and **Wallace Cole** began last fall as interim co-executives for Southeastern District, working as non-salaried volunteers. They are co-pastors of Friendship Church of the Brethren in Wilkesboro, N.C.

Connie Burkholder started as interim executive minister for Illinois and Wisconsin District on Jan. 1. She has previous experience as district executive minister for Northern Plains District 1996-2006. She is a member of the ministerial team of Monitor Church of the Brethren in McPherson, Kan.

Terry Goodger resigned as program assistant for Brethren Disaster Ministries at the end of 2020, to take another job. She had been program assistant for the disaster rebuilding program since June 2017. She previously worked for the Material Resources program for 10 years, 2006 to 2016, serving as office coordinator at the Brethren Service Center in New Windsor, Md.

Daniel Radcliff began Oct. 26, as client manager for the Brethren Foundation at Brethren Benefit Trust (BBT). He holds a degree in Business Management and Leadership from Judson University in Elgin, Ill. Previously he was a financial advisor for Edward Jones. He and his family are members of Highland Avenue Church of the Brethren in Elgin.

Tracy Repmann began as assistant director of Financial Operations for BBT on Sept. 28. She holds a degree in accounting from the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign and has training in financial management.

Jennifer Lynn Summy began Jan. 4 as administrator of Camp Mardela in Denton, Md. She is a graduate of Lebanon Valley College in Annville, Pa., working to complete a master's degree in Business Administration and Ministry from Mount Vernon (Ohio) Nazarene University. She recently spent a year as a worship coordinator for the World Race.



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