

E-HEADLINER

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MINISTER SEARCH COMMITTEE FORMED AND WORKING

A search committee has been formed to conduct the search process for the next District Executive Minister. The committee consists of JW Rhoades (Chairperson-Trinity), Carol Elmore (Vice Chairperson-Roanoke, Oak Grove), Lupita Ortiz (Secretary-Iglesia Cristiana Nueva Vida), Greg Fleshman (Mount Union), Gayle Harms (Jones Chapel), Anne Mitchell (Lighthouse), Sam Riner (Pleasant View), Dewey Williard (Fraternity), and Jim Worline (Lynchburg).

The group has been actively meeting and is currently in a phase of gathering feedback from individuals throughout a district-wide survey form. The group is working closely with Nancy S. Heishman, Director of Ministry for the Church of the Brethren and Hannah Jarrett, Virlina District Board Chairperson.

The Virlina Search Committee for our next DISTRICT EXECUTIVE MINISTER wants to hear from YOU! Go to <https://www.virlina.org/> for a link (red and black circle, near the top of the page) to a SURVEY. It must be completed by June 20, so go now! AND, please be in prayer for the process, as we ask God to work through it. Virlina is a special place and we want a leader to help us continue the work of Jesus... Peacefully. Simply. Together. And, we thank you!

DISTRICT RESOURCE CENTER HOLIDAY HOURS - JULY 4, 2022

The District Resource Center will close on Friday, July 1, at 6 p.m. in observance of the July 4 holiday. The office will reopen on Tuesday, July 5, at 9 a.m.

BRETHREN BENEFIT TRUST NOW EDER FINANCIAL

Brethren Benefit Trust (BBT), which has been serving Church of the Brethren employees and organizations for up to eight decades, is now known as Eder Financial.

On May 4, the State of Illinois officially changed the corporate name of Church of the Brethren Benefit Trust Inc. to Eder Financial Inc., making the transition to accommodate one of BBT's strategic goals—to adopt new names to better serve its members and clients. At the same time, the names of its two affiliates were also changed—Brethren Foundation Inc. became Eder Deferred Gifts Inc., and Brethren Foundation Funds became Eder Organizational Investing Inc. These new identities reflect BBT's heritage and will resonate with Church of the Brethren members while being attractive to others outside the denomination who are of like mind and who want to use Eder's services.

The familiar services of BBT are not changing. Nor is the staff or the board. The only thing that is changing is the name. Eder Financial will continue offering retirement solutions to employees of Brethren congregations and affiliated organizations, employee-based insurances to employees of Brethren congregations and affiliated organizations, deferred gifts management and long-term-care insurance to all Brethren members, organizational investing opportunities for Brethren congregations and affiliated organizations, benevolent grants for pastors and church and district employees who find themselves in severe financial difficulty, educational workshops and opportunities, as well as an investment platform that conforms to Eder Values Investing screens (formerly known as Brethren Values Investing) and promotes advocacy initiatives to encourage for-profit companies to be respectful of God's creation

The difference is that Eder Financial will now begin serving members and clients of like mind that are outside the Church of the Brethren.

"With changing demographics and affinity within the Church of the Brethren, a move to serve Anabaptist organizations and others of like mind will allow Eder Financial to fulfill its commitments to its members for decades to come," said Nevin Dulabaum, president.

What will be the distinctives of the Eder way? Great products, concierge service, competitive fees, values that come from being a faith-based organization, a proactive mindset to partner with our members and clients through their personal or organization's journey, plenty of investment choices to meet their needs, strong investment returns, a firm moral compass, and a passion to serve.

The identity change is actually the last of Eder's five strategic goals to be launched. The first was to change operations to be in a growth rather than maintenance mode. The second was to open up the firm's marketing and promotional efforts in a new way. The third was to have the right positions, and the right people in those positions, a transition that began in January. The fourth was to become a permanent work-from-home organization, which now will allow Eder to hire staff from across the country.

"The strategic steps Eder is implementing will demonstrate to Church of the Brethren members that we are committed to serving them well while building relationships that enable us to serve individuals beyond the denomination," Dulabaum said. "Our desire is to be a partner to those who benefit from our services."

The conversion from the Church of the Brethren Benefit Trust identity to that of Eder Financial is going to be a soft and incremental process beginning in the upcoming weeks, with people witnessing the conversion to Eder Financial throughout the summer.

Eder Financial has a small suite of offices at the Church of the Brethren General Offices in Elgin, Ill., although staff members are now operating in a work-from-home arrangement. The company employs 25 people of faith who are committed to serving others. It currently is seeking directors of Pension, Marketing, Communications, Sales, and Data.

Eder Financial is overseen by a 12-member board of directors. They may serve up to two four-year terms. Board members have organizational, financial, accounting, legal, HR, or ministry backgrounds and experience. The organization began in 1943 with the creation of the Brethren Pension Plan. Brethren Insurance Services was added in the 1950s, and organizational investing and deferred gifts in 1990.

The foregoing is adapted from the May 26, 2022 "Brethren Newline."

TEMPERED RESILIENCE - JULY 9-10, 2022

Brethren Academy for Ministerial Leadership is offering Tempered Resilience: How Leaders are Formed in the Crucible of Change. This in-person class, in conjunction with the Annual Conference, features Tod Bolsinger, author of "Tempered Resilience: How Leaders are Formed in the Crucible of Change." The class will take place on July 9-10. Register online by June 6. Please download an informational flyer at <https://files.constantcontact.com/071f413a201/1624f306-61fe-44f1-baf2-b9472e5589b9.pdf>.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE WITNESS TO THE HOST CITY - JULY 10-14, 2022

Each year, Annual Conference chooses to bless the host city through a special donation. When Annual Conference takes place in Omaha, Nebraska, July 10-14, there will be an effort to provide support for Girls, Inc. of Omaha. The Annual Conference website states, this organization has been serving girls ages 5-18 for over 45 years and are "Committed to nurturing girls to be strong, smart, and bold, they offer homework help and enrichment classes in music, art, and science; encourage exercise and good nutrition; provide clothing and hygiene supplies; and equip girls with basic life skills related to budgeting and banking, public speaking, voting and citizenship, and how to apply for a job." Click <https://www.brethren.org/ac2022/activities/witness-to-the-host-city/> to see what supplies are needed.

WORLD HUNGER AUCTION - AUGUST 13, 2022

The World Hunger Auction will be held on Saturday, August 13, 2022 starting at 9:00 a.m. This is the culmination to our year-long fund-raising activities, The World Hunger Auction, is held each August at Antioch Church of the Brethren, 2996 Callaway Road, near Rocky Mount, VA. The auction includes the sale of crafts, quilts, toys, produce, baked and canned goods, special services and much more. Come early for the best selection. Let the highest bidder win, for doing what we can opens the door for God to do much more.

The purpose of the World Hunger Auction has been to provide as much funding as possible to those facing hunger-related issues. With the exception of some expenses, all the money that is raised goes to organizations working toward that goal. The ten congregations of the Church of the Brethren that sponsor the auction are blessed with the opportunity to serve. However, they do not receive any of the funds. Funds received are distributed to local, national and worldwide programs that address hunger. You are invited to take part in this opportunity to touch those in need.

MINISTERS AND SPOUSES RETREAT - MARCH 10-11, 2023

Our annual MINISTERS AND SPOUSES RETREAT is scheduled for March 10-11, 2023 at the Eagle Eyrie Baptist Conference Center on U.S. 501 near Lynchburg, VA. Leadership for the retreat will be David Radcliff, Director of the New Community Project and former denominational staff person. Registration forms will be available prior to the end of the year.

This retreat is sponsored by the Commission on Ministry of the Virginia District Board. It is for all ordained, commissioned and licensed ministers of the Virginia District, as well as lay speakers, and spouses. There is much time for fellowship and quiet reflection, in addition to worship and the program. CEU's are available for commissioned and ordained ministers. The 2023 event has been scheduled to avoid conflict with the annual Youth Roundtable at Bridgewater College and the Christian Growth Institute's Spiritual Development Retreat at Brethren Woods. Make sure to save the date!

UKRAINE DISASTER RESPONSE OFFERINGS RECEIVED

We have been receiving offerings from congregations for disaster relief in Ukraine. If your congregation wishes to receive an offering for this purpose, please mark the check memo as "Ukraine - 33502" and forward to the District Resource Center. We will forward this through denominational or ecumenical channels.

SCAMMER AND SPAMMER FRAUD PREVENTION WORKSHOP

Among the well-attended workshops at Ministry and Mission Day in Virginia District on May 7 was a presentation by Zach Tabor, a member of the Nineveh Church of the Brethren, and Doug Harrison related to "Scammer and Spammer Fraud Prevention." The handout for that workshop was sent to pastors and contact persons with the June 2022 MEMO FOR MINISTERS. If your congregation or a group within your congregation would like to have Zach and Doug do a presentation, you may contact Zach at zach_tabor@hotmail.com or (540) 309-1784.

ARK TREASURE HUNT!

We are excited to present an event for congregations, families, groups, and adventure enthusiasts in our district to go and explore together! The Treasure Hunt or THE ARK, began on April 1st in Henry County, VA; and began on June 1st in Franklin County, VA, and on July 1st in Roanoke County. Your quest is to find five ARKS OF THE COVENANT hidden outdoors in plastic containers. In each ARK are different color rubies or stones. Collect five different color rubies and receive a prize from the Virginia District Resource Center suitable for a family or small group. The Bible is necessary for some of the clues.

Virlina District
Church of the Brethren

3402 Plantation Road, NE
Roanoke, Virginia 24012

Phone: 540 362-1816
Fax: 540 362-1817
Toll Free: 1-800-VIRLINA
E-mail: EHeadliner@aol.com



*Continuing the work of Jesus.
Peacefully.
Simply.
Together.*



Your first clue will be posted on-line the first day of the month at noon. Solve it, and you are on your way exploring and being an ARK seeker. A paper copy of the clues will be available from the District Resource Center. This fun project originated from our Moderator-Elect, Noel Naff, to provide opportunities for togetherness, fun, and Bible Study. Visit the www.virlina.org website or contact Mary St.John, Director of District Conference, Nurture, and Witness at (540) 362-1816 or virlina2@aol.com.

THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE E-HEADLINER IS PROJECTED FOR JULY 1, 2022

