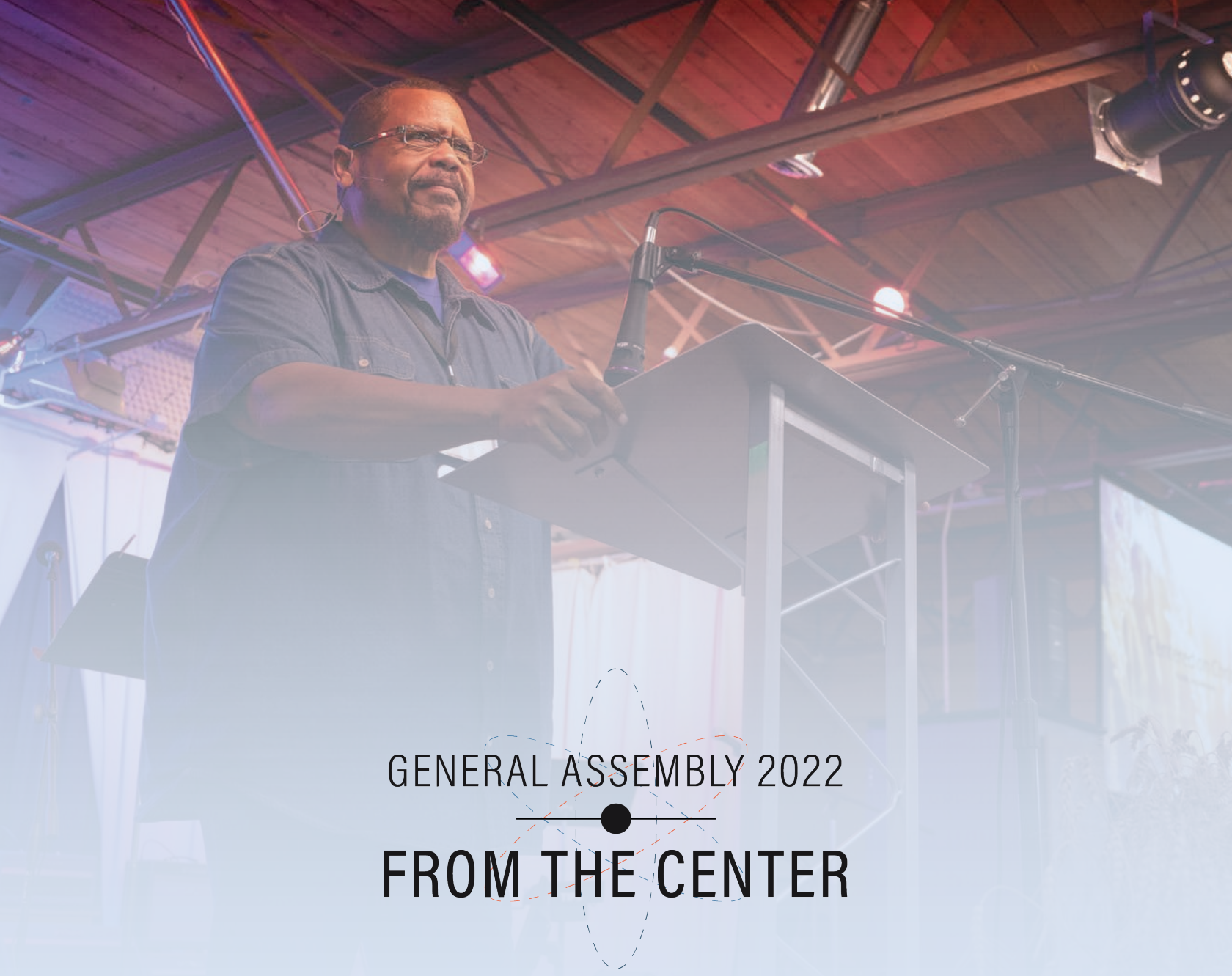




Brethren in Christ U.S.

2022

*Annual
Report*



GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2022 FROM THE CENTER

Salina, Kansas | July 22-25, 2022

General Assembly was a joyful time of connection and fellowship this summer. Over 400 people from around the U.S. – and missionaries from around the world – gathered to worship, pray, and make decisions together that will impact the Brethren in Christ for years to come.

The theme, From the Center, reminded us that Jesus is the core of our faith. If he remains at our center, we will continue to grow strong as we love God and love others.



DEAR FRIENDS,

Welcome to the 2022 Annual Report of Brethren in Christ U.S.! Our stories not only inform us, they also warm our hearts. We are heartened by work on the local, regional, and global levels as we hear how so many different members of the body of Christ work together loving God, one another, and those around them. I encourage everyone to read about the areas in which ministry has taken place this year.

This Annual Report highlights our missionary team's historic gathering this summer, a Michigan congregation reaching out to its community with a food pantry, and how compassion funds swiftly sent aid to flood victims in Southern Asia. One article illuminates the path of our church in the days ahead, reminding us of the Project 250 goals we established for ourselves through regional and congregational input. Finally, our national director, Alan Robinson, challenges us to remain united as we share Jesus in our increasingly fractured world.

We are all inspired to press forward, aware of the many opportunities we have to contribute our time and effort as we share the Gospel with those around us. May we continue to appreciate how our Lord has blessed us as we both remember and look ahead!

Tom Law
General Conference Board Chair

LEADERSHIP TEAMS

Leadership Council

Alan Robinson, national director | **Heather Beaty**, bishop, Susquehanna Conference | **Ron Howell**, bishop, Midwest Conference
Warren Hoffman, interim bishop, Pacific Conference | **Bryan Hoke**, bishop, Atlantic Conference | **Jonathan Lloyd**, director, World Missions
Mitchell Martin, director, Finance and Shared Services | **Aner Morejon**, bishop, Southeast Conference
Rob Patterson, bishop, Allegheny Conference | **Lynn Thrush**, bishop, Great Lakes Conference

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Pacific Conference



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member-at-large*



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Midwest
Conference



Rachel Diaz
secretary, Southeast
Conference



Sherri Flohr
Allegheny
Conference



Adam Forry
Atlantic Conference



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Great Lakes
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Jonah Langenderfer
member-at-large



Jacob Lougheed
member-at-large



Brian Mbuu
member-at-large



Kevin Noll
member-at-large



Alan Robinson
national director,
ex officio member



Jose Rodriguez
member-at-large



Naomi Smith
Susquehanna
Conference



Julie Stout
treasurer,
member-at-large

SETTING THE TABLE

A food bank brings a community together

Early in 2019, Jan Pasteiner took the twenty minute drive north to Flint, Mich., from her home in Goodrich. She pulled up to the donation center for the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan (FBEM) to drop off supplies that the youth group at her home congregation, Lakeview Church, had collected. Jan had previously volunteered with FBEM and was known to the staff. One of the coordinators stopped her on her way out with an idea: “Our research indicates that Goodrich needs our services, and we think your church is the perfect location for a food pantry.”

Looking back, Jan can't quite identify what lit up in her soul in that moment, saying that it must have been a “God thing.” But after years of searching, she had finally found something that would impact her, Lakeview Church, and their entire community more deeply than she could have anticipated.

She texted her pastor, Jon Grimshaw, as soon as she got back to her car: “I know what we're doing next!”

Small but Mighty

Lakeview Church in Goodrich, Mich., is a small congregation with a weekly attendance of 30 to 40 people. It's a common size for BIC U.S. congregations, 53 percent of which

have 50 or fewer regular attendees. Though small, these congregations are often uniquely poised to meet the needs of their communities just as Lakeview has done.

Over his decade of leadership at Lakeview, Pastor Jon Grimshaw has led the congregation in many outreach programs, but none gained traction. That is until Jan connected with the food bank. It opened her eyes to the needs in her own community, and she couldn't look away. “People in our community are struggling to put food on their table,” she says through passionate tears. “This is how we can reach them.”

The rest of the Lakeview congregation quickly caught the vision, and they got to work making it a reality.

The Table Food Pantry opened in late 2019 in a small corner of the children's ministry room, but they soon outgrew the space. With funding from the BIC Foundation's Matching Grant Program, they expanded The Table to be a fully functioning market-style food pantry, complete with shopping carts and industrial-sized refrigerators and freezers.

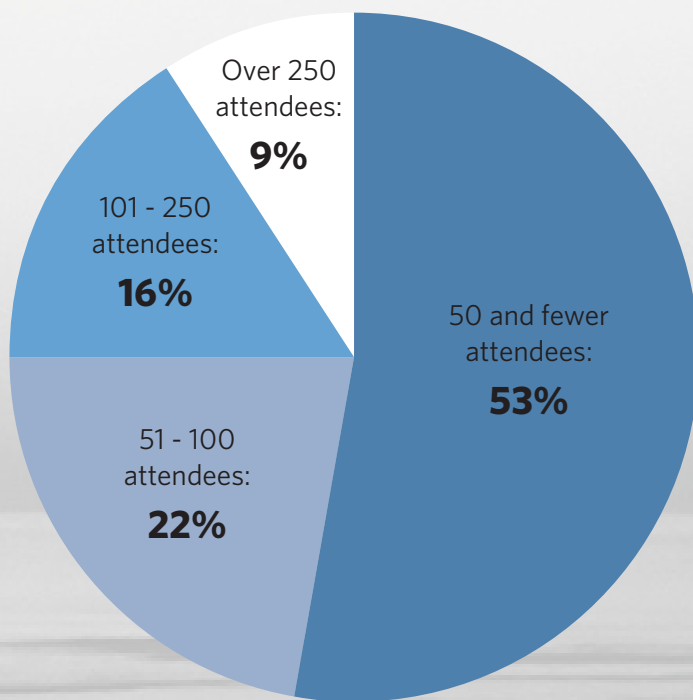
Each Sunday afternoon, an impressive volunteer team shows up to run The Table, including Lakeview members, local librarians, school teachers, and even former food pantry clients. They have one thing in common: a desire to serve their



Jan Pasteiner (left) and Pastor Jon Grimshaw (right) stand in The Table Food Pantry with Beth Symanzik (center), a key volunteer.

AVERAGE SIZE OF BIC U.S.

CONGREGATIONS



community. This whole-community involvement is key to The Table's success, and Jan's interactions with these volunteers are just as vital to the ministry as the food pantry itself.

Feeding a Community

The Table now serves over one hundred families and distributes \$30,000 to \$40,000 worth of groceries each month. "To think that a little church is now helping to provide that volume of food is just astonishing to me," says Pastor Jon. "But I think that it's a testament to what is possible when you look at your resources and ask God what is possible."

As for Jan, she couldn't be happier organizing food donations, setting up displays in the market each week, and coordinating her volunteers. "I think I was born to be a grocer," she says with a laugh.

20,668 

WORSHIPPERS

on average attended weekly services at

236 congregational sites across 20 states

HOW WE GOT HERE

A closer look at Project 250

We go to all the world, his kingdom hope unfurled. No other name has power to save but Jesus Christ the Lord."

This stirring refrain from the hymn "Facing a Task Unfinished" closed Alan Robinson's National Director's Report to the 2018 General Assembly. In the report, he identified a need for a new strategic plan that could identify the unfinished task set before BIC U.S. and guide us to engage it. This strategic plan became Project 250, a set of five priorities identified by Leadership Council in close collaboration with BIC U.S. pastors.

In February 2019, Leadership Council held a retreat to give attention to this need and to develop a process to discern key priorities. Later that spring, a four-question survey under the title "Multiplied Strategies to Reach People" went out to all BIC U.S. pastors. The survey aimed at answering the question: How is your congregation reaching people and what has been impacting that outreach?

Listening sessions across the regional conferences helped further define the priorities of our church body, and in 2020, Leadership Council announced the five priorities of Project 250.

1. Reaffirming Our Identity as a Community of Christ-Followers
2. Making Lifelong Disciples
3. Multiplying Missional Congregations, Movements, and Leaders
4. Increasing Global Awareness and Impact
5. Growing to Reflect the Demographic Realities of Our Communities

Since its launch, Project 250 has placed an emphasis on collaboration and accountability among regional conferences and individual congregations through Impact Seminars, webinars, and region-specific initiatives. Most recently, congregations have been encouraged to better understand the unique demographic makeup of their communities and examine how they are involved in the global Church. We trust that God will continue to use these priorities as a vehicle in the ongoing, redeeming work of the church.

SO THAT THE WORLD MAY BELIEVE

Relationally rich for the good of the world

By Alan Robinson

Some things are hard - really, really hard. Perhaps at the top of the list of really, really hard things is to be a follower of Jesus who is becoming more like him. Becoming more like Jesus is made more challenging when the patterns and pressures of our contexts, our communities, and our cultures constantly attempt to squeeze and force us into their molds: molds that look nothing like Jesus. To not be conformed to the patterns of this world, as we are urged in Romans 12:1-2, is really, really hard.

One of the patterns and pressures of our current society is the tendency to embrace and increase division, polarization, and animosity. We see it all around us, and so easily we can be squeezed into this mold. Societal division and polarization are not new things. However, most people would agree that they have increased significantly in recent years. Many factors have contributed to the increase. Among these would be the prevalence and ease of social media, the turmoil caused by the global pandemic, and contentious political elections.

Followers of Jesus are not immune to these pressures and, without conscious and intentional decisions to be different, can so easily be squeezed into society's mold. Before long, the Church can begin to reflect society rather than the Savior.

Jesus was aware that his disciples would face these pressures. He desperately wanted his followers to stand out from society rather than being swallowed up by it. His prayer in John 17 reveals his longing for followers who resist division and polarization. "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also, for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me." (John 17:20-21)

Jesus was concerned for the relationships that would exist among his followers. He was also concerned for his relationship with those who were not yet his followers. His prayer for the unity of his disciples concludes with these words: "so that the world may believe that you have sent me." Jesus was concerned, passionately concerned, for those who did not yet believe. He came to seek and save the lost, and he prayed that the togetherness of his followers would be a missional witness to those who do not yet believe. The world needed Jesus to be sent and to come. The world needs the followers of Jesus to be together in mission so that they might believe in him.


From its earliest days, the primary self-identity of the Brethren in Christ was one of brothers and sisters. Our almost 250-year history has provided many challenges to this family. Through all these challenges we have remained steadfast in our desire to be a family of love-bonded brothers and sisters who seek to experience God's love and grace, believe and obey the Bible, worship God, follow Jesus, belong to the community of faith, witness to the world, serve compassionately, pursue peace, live simply, and rely on God. These values provide a center around which we can stand together in unity and love.

My prayer for the Brethren in Christ is that we remain true to our heritage, our identity, and our values as we focus on knowing and following Jesus. As we become closer to him, we will become a stronger and closer community of believers that is burdened for people who do not yet believe—just as Jesus was. And as we become more concerned for the world that does not yet believe, we will together live as Jesus lived—a sent and sacrificial life.

564 individuals baptized*



812 people began or renewed relationships with Jesus*



**"MAY THEY ALSO BE IN US SO THAT
THE WORLD MAY BELIEVE THAT
YOU HAVE SENT ME."**

JOHN 17:21

27 ministers
licensed

4 ministers
ordained

508 ministers currently
licensed or ordained

GLOBAL TEAM RETREAT

17 participants in the missionary development program

42 international church plants supported



49% OF GLOBAL TEAM served among least-reached people

74 GLOBAL WORKERS

including BIC U.S. employees and partners located in

21 COUNTRIES



Top left - Estol and Kristen Bathurst provide an update on their discipleship and Bible teaching work in Malawi. **Center** - The entire global team gathered on the old steps of Bethel BIC, the location of the 1894 General Conference (now General Assembly) where BIC missions efforts began. **Bottom right** - During the retreat, the World Missions team contributed to this artwork representing each person's unique contribution to the Kingdom of God, collectively caring for people around the world.

UNDER THE KANSAS SUN

Revisiting World Missions' birthplace

By Jonathan Lloyd

On a hot July morning in Kansas in 2022, nearly 80 men and women gathered under a blue- and white-striped tent to pray, reflect, and celebrate the work of World Missions at the former site of Bethel BIC. Large stone steps are all that remain of the church building, and a graveyard lies around it, quiet in the Kansas hills. International flags representing the countries in which this team serves snapped in the wind, and a drone flew overhead to record the event.

This gathering echoed a similar meeting at the same location 128 years prior where nearly 600 people gathered for the 1894 General Conference. There, the call for international missions was clearly heard throughout the BIC. A desire to be obedient to the Great Commission in Matthew 28 and a growing global awareness of people who had never heard the Gospel stirred the assembly. Our denominational World Missions outreach was born from this event.

This summer, when we returned to that location in Kansas, we had much to celebrate! Since 1894, the BIC have sent out more than 1,000 workers, and today there are more than 120,000 BIC people outside of North America. The group gathered in the tent included global workers who have been on the field for decades and others who were just getting ready for their first missions assignment. In a time of sharing, we were grateful to hear from a retired missionary, church leaders from India, and a Zimbabwean who is now pastoring a church in Kansas. Each of the speakers was thankful for the work God started in Kansas and the growth of the global BIC family.

As we reflected together on the history of BIC missions, we remembered some things that, along with the strong stone church steps, have not changed in the past 128 years. Jesus' Great Commission to "make disciples of all nations"



World Missions Director Jonathan Lloyd speaks about the origins of World Missions at the former site of Bethel BIC Church in Kansas.

is still a relevant scripture for our lives, and when we look at the world, we see that the need remains. (Approximately 3.3 billion people today live in ethnic groups with so few Christians that they likely never hear the gospel unless it is from someone outside their group.) In response to these Scriptures and understanding of the need, we continue to

send missionaries. The methods they use have changed somewhat, but their goal, that everyone would have a chance to hear and choose Jesus, remains the same.

On that windy Kansas morning we prayed for the future of BIC missions. Regardless of the changes that the future brings, God wants disciples from all people groups. And as long as there are still people who haven't heard the good news, we will continue

to send and support missionaries. Just as God has been faithful to bring fruit from our past missions efforts, he will be faithful in our future efforts as well.

The celebration in Kansas this summer was sweet. Imagine how much sweeter it will be when we celebrate with every nation, tribe, and tongue! (Revelation 7:9)

\$149,960

sponsored 815 children in the SPICE program

113

 ministry scholarships awarded to international leaders

UNITY AND TRUST

The Global Compassion Fund in action

In August 2022, monsoon flooding wrought devastation across the region of Odisha, India. Within 48 hours of receiving a request from the local Brethren in Christ conference, we released \$12,500 from the Global Compassion Fund to provide basic food and hygiene items for 1,000 families in four districts within the region.

Providing aid to Odisha is just one example of how the Global Compassion Fund contributes relief and assistance to communities around the world. Although meeting physical needs is important, the heart of the Global Compassion Fund is deeper and can be summarized in Jesus' prayer in John 17:23b: "So that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." Our giving is motivated by the love we have received from Christ and now offer to others.

Structurally, the Global Compassion Fund is dependent on trust. Because trust exists, donations given in advance enable a quick response when needs arise. "It's a relationally rich thing when we trust each other," says Jonathan Lloyd, World Missions director. Extending compassion is a witness to what Christ has done for us and an invitation to understand and experience more about the one who is ultimately behind our gift.

An outflow of our shared investment, trust, and calling, the impact of the Global Compassion Fund goes beyond the dollar value of financial assistance provided and continues to impact lives for the Kingdom.

During 2022, we also sent money from the Global Compassion Fund to our partners in Pakistan, providing relief packets—including tarps, food, hygiene items, and blankets—to families impacted by devastating flooding.

\$97,947

in aid was distributed from the global compassion fund, providing relief from

Natural disasters and emergency	\$62,592
Hunger relief.....	\$17,200
Infrastructure.....	\$6,851
Other	\$11,304

48 INITIATIVES

supported through the partnership handbook

learn more: partnership.bicus.org



INTRODUCING THE LEGACY SOCIETY

"One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty."

Proverbs 11:24

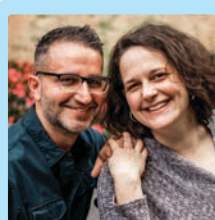
The Brethren in Christ U.S. Legacy Society was established in 2022 to recognize, thank, and honor those who give to BIC U.S., World Missions, a regional conference, or a BIC congregation through their Will, retirement plan, or other charitable giving. More than 60 people have become members this year, and their impact now exceeds \$2 million in ministry funding!



Grace Holland
Retired Missionary

My late husband and I believed in the mission of the church, therefore we provided a portion for this work from our estate. I have kept this provision in my Will and find joy in thinking of this ongoing ministry."

Legacy giving through our Will provides a means to give without limit or reservation when we are in the presence of Jesus and no longer need anything! We are so glad to have a way to extend our values even beyond our lifetimes."



Adam and Kim Forry
Pastoral Couple

We hope to continue growing the Legacy Society in 2023, and we invite you to consider partnering with us by making a gift provision in your estate plan. Members of the Legacy Society may be anonymous if preferred; a welcome gift, member communication, and gatherings are some benefits of membership we're planning for the Society. Contact Mark Templeton at templeton@bicus.org for further information.



Mark Templeton
Development Officer

FINANCIALS

Income	2022*	% of total	2021*	% of total
Congregations	\$ 3,760,149	78%	\$ 3,455,024	45%
Undesignated	2,726,172		2,630,054	
Designated	1,033,977		824,970	
Individuals/Organizations	2,059,026	43%	2,757,687	36%
Undesignated	289,632		215,790	
Designated	1,769,394		2,541,897	
Investment Gains/(Loss)	(1,269,464)	-26%	1,314,071	17%
Undesignated	129,416		113,684	
Designated	(1,398,880)		1,200,387	
Bequests	238,091	4%	181,344	2%
Undesignated	2,628		19,963	
Designated	235,463		161,381	
Registrations & Other	49,985	1%	21,989	0%
Total Income	\$ 4,837,787		\$ 7,730,115	

Spend

Global Ministry <i>missionary support, church planting, international ministry training and scholarships</i>	\$ 2,211,334	35%	\$ 2,130,466	41%
Regional Ministry <i>church planting, leadership development, conference leadership</i>	1,378,062	22%	1,263,181	24%
Global Projects <i>relief, aid, evangelism, and education partnerships with international churches</i>	1,195,289	19%	766,116	15%
Shared Services <i>finance, communications, human resources</i>	835,655	13%	676,076	13%
National Ministry <i>denominational leadership, ministerial credentialing</i>	497,166	8%	378,817	7%
Project 250	108,280	2%	10,801	0%
Related Agencies	62,035	1%	58,892	1%
DB Pension Costs	-	0%	(48,086)	-1%

Total Spend \$ 6,287,821 \$ 5,236,263

Change in Net Assets \$ (1,450,034) \$ 2,493,852

Net assets, January 1 \$ 18,702,128 \$ 16,208,276

Net assets, December 31 \$ 17,252,094 \$ 18,702,128

 Undesignated 3,332,910 2,579,335

 Designated 13,919,184 16,122,793

*All numbers are as of Dec. 31. Numbers for 2022 are preliminary. Audited 2022 financial statements will be published online summer 2023. The 2021 numbers are audited and final.



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