



**SOUTHERN DISTRICT of PENNSYLVANIA CHURCH of the BRETHREN**  
3375 Carlisle Road Suite A, Gardners, PA 17324  
Main Office: (717) 778-2264  
D.E.'s Office: (717) 778-2254  
SOPADistrict@brethren.org



## MEMO

TO: Congregational Witness Chairpersons  
Congregational Meat Canning Contact Persons

FROM: Georgia R. Markey, Interim DE

DATE: January 29, 2026

SUBJECT: 2026 District Meat Canning Project

Your District Witness Commission in conjunction with its Meat Canning Committee, and in partnership with the Mid-Atlantic District, has set the date for the 2026 Meat Canning Project to be held at CAM (Christian Aid Ministries, Ephrata, PA). The dates scheduled for this year's project are April 6 – 9, 2026. As in previous years, there will be two shifts (7:15 AM until Noon and 9:00 AM until 2:00 PM). At this writing, it is planned to process two batches of chicken per day. This of course, will depend upon monetary donations received in our two District Offices for this Project. Thus, as the local congregational leaders, your help is of the essence both in encouraging folks in your congregation to financially contribute to this project as well as encouraging persons to volunteer for the project. Your assistance is very much needed! Our two Districts currently have a limited amount of funds leftover from the previous year; however, it is insufficient to make 2026 totally funded. Your District Witness Commission is asking that funds be forwarded to the District Office during the upcoming months, thru March/April, 2026.

Please call Kim Geisewite, 570-295-9879, to sign up for your preferred time slot to send volunteer workers. Please note that when you reserve a time slot, you are committing your congregation to furnish that number of workers. If on the day you volunteered to serve, if you do not have the required number of workers, please do your best to secure additional volunteers. Also, the District Witness Commission and Meat Canning Committee are looking for congregations or individuals who would be willing to provide a 9:00 AM snack and lunch for two of the four days of canning. If there are congregations who are willing to help cover the cost of a meal, call Kim Geisewite and let her know that as well.

As it was the case in 2025, we are required to make sure that there is insurance coverage for volunteers. In most instances, congregations are required to carry liability insurance on events in which congregants participate. Your District also carries liability coverage. However, should there be persons who are guests of your congregation, they would need to

*Georgia R Markey*  
*Interim District Executive*

be covered by your congregation's liability coverage, as well as complete an Activity Participation Agreement and provide it to the District Office prior to your work day. FYI: This document, in essence, indicates that the individual injured would not bring suit against SOPA District Office, prior to the event, with an Insurance Rider (Certificate of Insurance) from that group's insurance company. The rider furnished by that Group's insurance carrier would indicate that they do have Liability Insurance on their participants.

This will be this project's forty-eighth (48<sup>th</sup>) year in action to minister to persons who we are to offer our love and offer "a cold cup of water". As in past years, the two Districts will retain a portion of the chicken for distribution within our two Districts. We have yet to determine the Church of the Brethren Mission emphasis, but hopefully well have that destination by the time of the project's start.

One additional item, please be reminded that those volunteering are to respect CAM's dress requirements as well as being aware that the temperature in the room is around 55 degrees, therefore, dress accordingly.

Thank you for your willingness to serve Christ and the Church in this project.

CC: District Witness Commission Members  
District Meat Canning Committee  
Mid-Atlantic District Office.