

Election Procedures for 2011 Annual Conference

Goals for Annual Conference Elections and Appointments (Adopted by the 1979 Annual Conference)

In view of the opportunities and needs of our denomination there are great possibilities for growth in our life together and in our mission in the world. There are things that we can do to strengthen our quality of life within our denomination that can also increase our effectiveness in the world.

We believe that we are called by God to take responsibility for our life and work together. This includes hearing concerns for our people and responding. This includes facing changes that take place in our world. This includes being open to and evaluating new awareness.

A major challenge which is increasing in importance, which we have not faced squarely and which must be dealt with honestly, with integrity and love, is representative leadership. Our biblical and Church of the Brethren heritage impresses upon us the responsibility to sense the 'fullness of time' and to answer God's call to decide. We believe now is the time for us to establish goals to move us forward and we recommend the adoption of the following:

- to provide for fair and equitable participation by all of our people - men, women, various ages, racial and ethnic minorities, rural and urban segments of our church;
- to recognize and utilize the spiritual gifts and skills of our people;
- to meet the needs of our denomination in the task to be performed, and the people to be served;
- to call out those of deep Christian commitment and qualifications for specific tasks to serve the larger church;
- to seek to be faithful in our mission of proclaiming the Good News and doing the work of world ministry;
- to develop an effective plan that will be in practice by 1982.

Recommendations for Implementing the Goals for Annual Conference Elections and Appointments

The following nominating procedures have been adopted by Annual Conference and/or Standing Committee in the effort to implement the above Annual Conference action of 1979:

1. That Standing Committee will submit the first ballot of four names. That ballot would be distributed to only Standing Committee who would vote and reduce the initial ballot to its

tentative final form. This tentative final ballot would be distributed to the denomination at large in February. (AC 2001)

2. The Nominating Committee chairperson explain the goals, needs, and all procedures to the Standing Committee...since first year Standing Committee members are usually not aware of the needs of the boards and committees. This brief educational process should be repeated when the official ballot is presented to the Conference delegates. (AC 1979)
3. That in fairness to all nominees, a nomination from the floor must be made by name only at the time the ballot is being introduced to Annual Conference delegates. Biographic information and written consent by the nominee must be submitted to the Conference secretary at this time for publication and distribution. (AC 1979)
4. In 1983, Standing Committee issued a “Call to Accountability for Equality of Representation on Annual Conference Ballots,” in which the Nominating Committee was authorized to use at-large categories in the structure of ballots to correct any imbalances of representation.
5. Annual Conference delegates are reminded annually to reaffirm age/gender/ethnic representation as defined by the “Call to Accountability for Equality of Representation on Annual Conference Ballots.” (AC 2001)
6. Congregations, districts, and denominational agencies shall redouble their efforts to do quality leadership development. Persons need to be called out and prepared prior to being chosen for denominational leadership. Leadership experience in a community of faith and sensitivity to the guidance of the Spirit are extremely valuable to those called. Persons with such background can serve the church well. (AC 2001)
7. Agencies, districts, and congregations are encouraged to redouble their efforts to identify and call forth ethnic/minority leadership in our denomination. Nominees for denominational leadership are encouraged to have participated in at least one Intercultural event in the past five years. (AC 2001) (AC 2007)

Annual Conference Elected Positions for 2010

1. Moderator-elect, one person, 3-year term

Term of Service

Persons elected to the office of Moderator serve three years, serving one year in three successive offices:

- Moderator-elect. The Moderator is elected one year in advance of beginning a year of service. The Moderator-elect serves as a voting member of Standing Committee. The Moderator-elect serves as Moderator when the Moderator is unable to perform the duties of Moderator.
- Moderator. The Moderator-elect becomes Moderator at the close of Annual Conference a year following election and continues in this office until the following Annual Conference.

- Past Moderator. The Moderator becomes the Past Moderator after serving one year as Moderator, concluding with the Annual Conference. The Past Moderator serves as a voting member of Standing Committee for one year. (Minutes 2005-2008, p. 1172)

Eligibility

Any active member of the Church of the Brethren may serve as Moderator. During the three years of service, a Moderator cannot be employed by or serve on the board of directors of Church of the Brethren, Inc. (aka the Mission and Ministry Board) or of any agency reportable to Annual Conference. (Minutes 2005-2008, p. 1172)

Qualifications:

- a) Consecrated Christian living in home, church, and community.
- b) Faithful service in local church and district.
- c) Loyalty to the ideals and programs of the Church of the Brethren.
- d) A working knowledge and understanding of the program of the Church of the Brethren.
- e) Ability to exercise mature judgment in the solution of problems of the Church of the Brethren.
- f) Acceptance of the declaration of principles and purpose as set forth in the credentials for members to district and general conference of the Church of the Brethren.
- g) Familiarity with parliamentary procedures and skill in presiding over a deliberative assembly.
- h) Capacity to cultivate desirable relations.
- i) Demonstrated leadership in programs of the Church of the Brethren locally and translocally.

Procedure: The Nominating Committee of Standing Committee is to present 4 (four) names for moderator-elect. Standing Committee will, by vote, then reduce the number to 2 (two) names, which will be presented to Annual Conference.

For more specific information about this position you may call: The Annual Conference Office, (800) 323-8039.

2. Annual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee, one person, 3-year term

Number of Members: Three elected members-at-large, the moderator, moderator-elect, Annual Conference secretary, Annual Conference treasurer, and the executive director of Annual Conference.

Procedure: For each member-at-large vacancy the Nominating Committee of Standing Committee presents at least four names. These are reduced by Standing Committee. The 1979 Annual Conference instructed the Nominating Committee of Standing Committee to: “. . . assure through the election process that the elected committee be comprised of more than a single classification” (Minutes 1955-1964, p. 176).

Term and Schedule: Staggered terms of three years each. . . . They shall not be eligible to succeed themselves (Minutes 1955-1964, p. 176). Program and Arrangements Committee meets

five times a year: August, September, November at next year's Conference site, prior to Conference (at Conference location), and brief reorganization meeting toward the end of Conference.

For more specific information about this position you may call: The Annual Conference office, (800) 323-8039.

3. The Mission and Ministry Board, 3 persons, 5-year terms

- One from Area 3 (Atl SE, W. Marva, Shenandoah, Southeastern, Virlina)
- One from Area 4 (No. Plains, Western Plains, Mo-Ark, So. Plains)
- One from Area 5 (Idaho, Ore-Wash, Pac. SW)

Composition of the Mission and Ministry Board: The Mission and Ministry Board shall be composed of seventeen members. Ten shall be elected by Annual Conference, including two each from the five geographic areas of national membership. Although these members shall come from specified geographic areas, they shall represent the interests of the entire Church of the Brethren. Five members of the board shall be elected at-large by the board and affirmed by Annual Conference. The chair and chair-elect will also be board members.

The Mission and Ministry Board consists of the directors of the Church of the Brethren, Inc., the principal administrative body for program development and implementation for the national and global mission of the denomination.

Eligibility: Any active member of the Church of the Brethren who fulfills the qualifications herein set forth may serve on the Mission and Ministry Board except persons employed by the Church of the Brethren, Inc., or anyone employed or serving on the board of an agency reportable to Annual Conference, nor can a member be the executive/minister or associate executive/minister of a district. A member cannot serve as a congregational or Standing Committee delegate to Annual Conference. (Minutes 2008, p.1194)

Qualifications: Persons considered for election to the Mission and Ministry Board who exhibit qualities of consecrated Christian living in home, church, and community. They shall be persons who are committed to the mission of the church and conversant with issues of the day. They shall possess competencies needed in the work of the board and be willing to give the major time and effort required for active participation in dealing with the concerns before the board and the church.

Procedure: The Nominating Committee of Standing Committee will present four names for each area vacancy to be filled (by Annual Conference). Standing Committee will, by vote, reduce the number to two names for each at-large vacancy which will be presented to the Annual Conference. The 1979 Annual Conference instructed the Nominating Committee of Standing Committee to: “. . . work to provide a fair and equitable participation of all our people, including various ages, racial and ethnic minorities, rural and urban segments of our church. They should work also for a more equal balance of men and women on the board.” Minutes 1970-1974, p. 572)

Term and Schedule: The normal term of office shall be five years. Board members shall not be eligible for a second term until two years after completion of a prior term of office, except that any person serving a part of a term of three years or less shall be eligible for re-election (Minutes 1970-1974, p. 436). The Mission and Ministry Board meets three times a year: October, March, and at Annual Conference.

For more specific information about this position you may call: The office of the general secretary of the Church of the Brethren, (800) 323-8039.

4. On Earth Peace, one person, 5-year term

Number of Members: The bylaws of On Earth Peace Assembly provide for 15 members of the Board of Directors. Of the 15 members, the Annual Conference chooses five. OEPA's current financial supporters elect the remaining 10 members. (Current financial supporters are those who have made a contribution within 24 months of the election.)

Procedure: The Nominating Committee of the Standing Committee shall present at least four names for each position to be elected by the Conference. Standing Committee, by ballot, will then reduce the number of nominees to two for the one open OEPA Board position each year. These names shall be presented to the Annual Conference. OEPA Board members elected by OEPA's current financial supporters are confirmed by the Annual Conference.

Term and Schedule: All members are elected for a five (5) year term and are eligible for re-election for one additional consecutive term. The tenure rule of two successive terms shall apply. There shall be a lapse of at least one year before being eligible for election to additional terms. The OEPA Board of Directors may elect a successor board member to fulfill the unexpired term of any board member in the event of a vacancy due to the resignation or death of a trustee before the end of their term. Partial terms of two years or less shall not be counted in considering eligibility for re-election. These election procedures written as approved by the 1998 Annual Conference. The Board meets twice a year: the first Saturday in October and the third weekend of April.

For more specific information about this position, you may call: The executive director of On Earth Peace, (410) 635-8705.

5. The Brethren Benefit Trust, one person, 4-year term

Number of Members: The trustees of the Brethren Benefit Trust shall consist of twelve members. Four trustees are to be elected by Annual Conference; five trustees are to be elected by the trustees of the Brethren Benefit Trust and approved by Annual Conference; and three trustees are to be elected by a majority vote of the members of the Church of the Brethren Pension Plan (Minutes 1987, p. 476).

Eligibility: Persons eligible for election as a trustee by Annual Conference and by the trustees of the Brethren Benefit Trust shall meet the following qualifications: be a member of the Church of the Brethren; have a general knowledge of pension and insurance programs; have some expertise

in the field of benefits, insurance, accounting, law, investments, personnel administration or health care; and sensitivity to the concerns of the Church of the Brethren and to the participants they represent. Members of the Mission and Ministry Board, officers of the Annual Conference, employees and members of the boards of other agencies reportable to Annual Conference, and members of Standing Committee shall be ineligible to serve concurrently as trustees of the Brethren Benefit Trust. (Minutes 1987, pp. 476-477)

Procedure: The Nominating Committee of Standing Committee shall present at least four names for each vacancy. Standing Committee, by ballot, reduces the number to two names for each vacancy which will be presented to Annual Conference. The trustees elected by the trustees of the Brethren Benefit Trust will be affirmed by the Annual Conference.

Term and Schedule: Each term shall be for a period of four years. Trustees may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. There shall be a lapse of at least one year before being eligible for election to additional terms. The trustees of the Brethren Benefit Trust may elect a successor trustee to fill the unexpired term of any trustee in the event of a vacancy due to the resignation or death of a trustee before the end of a term. Partial terms of two years or less shall not be counted in considering eligibility for re-election (Minutes 1987 & 1993). The trustees of the Brethren Benefit Trust meet three times a year: November (Friday and Saturday) at the site of an agency served by BBT, April (Saturday and Sunday) in Elgin, Ill., and at Annual Conference on Tuesday evening.

For more specific information about this position you may call: The president of the Brethren Benefit Trust, (800) 746-1505.

6. Bethany Theological Seminary – Laity, one person, 5-year term

Number of Members: The Bylaws of Bethany Theological Seminary provide for 21 members of the Board of Trustees. Of the 21 members, the Annual Conference chooses nine, the Alumni Association chooses one to be confirmed by Annual Conference, the duly authorized and acting president of the Seminary is one, and ten at-large members are elected by the Board and confirmed by the Annual Conference.

Eligibility: Of those members elected by the Annual Conference, three shall be from the ministry, three from laity, and three from the Church of the Brethren colleges.

Procedure: The Nominating Committee of the Standing Committee shall present at least four names for each position to be elected by the Conference. Standing Committee, by ballot, will then reduce the number of nominees to two for each position, and these names shall be presented to the Annual Conference. The nominee of the alumni and the at-large members elected by the Board are confirmed by the Annual Conference.

Term and Schedule: All members except the president will be elected for a five (5) year term and will be eligible for re-election for one additional consecutive term. The tenure rule of two successive terms shall apply. The Board meets twice a year at the Seminary in April and October, usually Friday-Sunday.

For more specific information about this position you may call: The president of Bethany Theological Seminary, (800) 287-8822.

7. Bethany Theological Seminary – Colleges, one person, 5-year term

Number of Members: The Bylaws of Bethany Theological Seminary provide for 21 members of the Board of Trustees. Of the 21 members, the Annual Conference chooses nine, the Alumni Association chooses one to be confirmed by Annual Conference, the duly authorized and acting president of the Seminary is one, and ten at-large members are elected by the Board and confirmed by the Annual Conference.

Eligibility: Of those members elected by the Annual Conference, three shall be from the ministry, three from laity, and three from the Church of the Brethren colleges.

Procedure: The Nominating Committee of the Standing Committee shall present at least four names for each position to be elected by the Conference. Standing Committee, by ballot, will then reduce the number of nominees to two for each position, and these names shall be presented to the Annual Conference. The nominee of the alumni and the at-large members elected by the Board are confirmed by the Annual Conference.

Term and Schedule: All members except the president will be elected for a five (5) year term and will be eligible for re-election for one additional consecutive term. The tenure rule of two successive terms shall apply. The Board meets twice a year at the Seminary in April and October, usually Friday-Sunday.

For more specific information about this position you may call: The president of Bethany Theological Seminary, (800) 287-8822.

8. Committee on Interchurch Relations, one person, 3-year term

Number of Members: Three members appointed by the Mission and Ministry Board and three members elected at large by the Annual Conference. (Minutes 1965-1969, p. 338)

Procedure: The Nominating Committee of Standing Committee shall bring a slate of at least four names for each vacancy, which shall be reduced by Standing Committee to two names, to be presented to the Conference.

Term and Schedule: Three-year term, with both elected and appointed members serving staggered terms. Members may succeed themselves once. The committee usually meets twice a year: spring and fall. Dates are set by the committee members (usually April or May and September or October) and usually for two days at a time. There is a reorganization meeting at Annual Conference.

For more specific information about this position you may call: The office of the general secretary of the Church of the Brethren, (800) 323-8039.

9. Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee - Laity, one person, 5-year term

Numbers of Members: The committee composed of five members representing pastors (1 member), district executives (1 member), and the laity (3 members), with one laity member being a compensation practitioner from the secular world, and an appointed Church of the Brethren, Inc. staff member serving as a non-voting liaison to this committee.

Procedure: Four names for the appropriate category will be presented to Standing Committee by its Nominating Committee. Standing Committee will select by vote two names to be presented to Annual Conference for election to staff the position which is open.

Term and Schedule: The term of office is for five years. Committee members are ineligible for re-election. The committee meets two times a year: October (Friday and Saturday) in Elgin, Ill., and at Annual Conference.

For more specific information about this position you may call: The office of ministry of the Church of the Brethren, (800) 323-8039; or the Annual Conference office, (800) 323-8039.

10. Representatives to the National Council of Churches of Christ and Church World Service (three persons appointed by Standing Committee, but with nominations from the denomination at large. Term is January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2015.)

Number of Members: The Mission and Ministry Board Executive Committee appoints three delegates and one alternate; the Annual Conference through its Standing Committee elects three delegates.

Procedure: The Nominating Committee of Standing Committee shall present at least two names for each vacancy. Standing Committee, by ballot, will select the persons who will serve as delegates.

Term and Schedule: The delegates are elected for the quadrennium beginning January 1, 2012 and ending December 31, 2015. The delegates attend an assembly which is usually held once a year in November.

For more specific information about this position, you may call: The office of the general secretary of the Church of the Brethren, (800) 323-8039.