

New Business

1. Query: The Structure of Annual Conference

Whereas: the mission statement of Annual Conference is “Annual Conference exists to unite, strengthen, and equip the Church of the Brethren to follow Jesus”;

Whereas: the model for the earlier stages of Annual Conference for the Church of the Brethren as found in Acts 15:1-35, was simple in nature and grew out of the energy created through common mission and ministry;

Whereas: Annual Conference used to meet over Pentecost to heighten the symbolism and the reminder of being led by the Spirit;

Whereas: early Annual Conferences focused less on business but more on the power of the Spirit in fellowship and worship;

Whereas: people leave Annual Conference each year feeling the time together has not been effective in the stated purpose of uniting, strengthening, or equipping the Brethren for following Jesus;

Whereas: Annual Conference should be a time to reach across an increasing gulf between various cultures;

Whereas: the current Annual Conference structure does not necessarily create more unity, and/or listening within the body, especially as the body deals with controversial issues;

Whereas: the information age allows for rapid and extensive communication and participation not afforded to earlier times;

Whereas: Annual Conference has the potential of being a visionary and motivational gathering of the spiritual community;

Therefore: The Southern Ohio District of the Church of the Brethren asks: What ways are there to structure Annual Conference that might more effectively fulfill the mission of Annual Conference to unite, strengthen and equip the Church of the Brethren to follow Jesus?

Approved by the delegates of Southern Ohio District Conference at Donnels Creek Church of the Brethren on October 10, 2009.

Larry Tyner
Moderator

Amy Hager
Clerk

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