

Request for Nominations for Denominational Offices

Please do your part to nominate people for next year's Annual Conference ballot. You can help shape the future of the Church of the Brethren! As you pray about this, who comes to mind – whom is the Lord prompting you to nominate for leadership in this Body of Christ?

Please share this document with the leaders and members of your congregation and urge them to submit nominations. Nominees are needed from every part of the church!

The offices to which we will elect leaders this coming year are listed on the next page of this document, along with our election procedures. More detailed information about each office open for nominations is provided at www.brethren.org/ac/nominations. Please note that some nominations must be made according to specific categories and that certain areas of expertise are needed for some offices. If you know persons who work in one of the areas from which nominees need to come this next year, please make a special effort to prayerfully submit the names of persons you know who can make a valuable contribution to the denomination.

Please study the "Call to Accountability" charts found at www.brethren.org/ac/wp-content/uploads/sites/18/2021/06/Call-to-Accountability.pdf – they show how we are working toward a balance of gender, age, ethnic/racial, rural/urban, and professional representation among our leadership. The delegate body decided many years ago – and has reaffirmed several times – that this is crucial. We need to keep working at this!

Please submit nominations online by clicking on the **Nominations** button on www.brethren.org/ac and then the "Complete a nomination form" link.

Note: ***You must provide the email address*** of the person you are nominating, so we can send an email to invite your nominees to submit their information online. We cannot consider those who do not respond. Please follow up with those you nominate to make sure they received our email. Please contact us if they did not.

If you do not have access to the Internet, you may request a paper nomination form from the Annual Conference Office (847-429-4366 or 800-323-8039 x 366).

Submit all nominations by December 1, 2021.

The earlier, the better! Thank you for your help.

The Nominating Committee depends upon your knowledge of the gifts and availability of diverse persons who can serve. We ask you to be diligent in your prayers and in your discernment of those who can lead and inspire us in our efforts to follow Jesus together.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Annual Conference Office at annualconference@brethren.org or 847-429-4364 or Annual Conference secretary Jim Beckwith at acsecretary@brethren.org

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Offices Open for Nomination for the 2022 Ballot

Moderator-elect (one person, 3-year term) Ineligible (past four moderators): Carol Scheppard, Samuel Sarpiya, Donita Keister, Paul Mundey

Annual Conference Secretary (one person, 5-year term) Ineligible: James M. Beckwith

Annual Conference Program & Arrangements Committee (one person, 3-year term)

Ineligible (members completing a term in 2022): Carol Hipps Elmore

Church of the Brethren Mission and Ministry Board (one person, 5-year term)

from Area 1: Southern PA, Middle PA, Western PA, Mid-Atlantic [Atl NE has the max. of 2 on MMB]

Church of the Brethren Mission and Ministry Board (one person, 5-year term)

from Area 2: Northern Ohio, Southern Ohio/Kentucky, *Northern Indiana*,

South/Central Indiana, Michigan, Illinois/Wisconsin

Districts not represented on MMB since 2017 are shown in italics.

Bethany Theological Seminary Board of Trustees – CoB Colleges (one person, 5-year term)

Bethany Theological Seminary Board of Trustees - Clergy (one person, 5-year term)

skill set requested: persons aware of the dramatic changes taking place in higher education, especially seminary education, or persons aware of the issues of division in the denomination and changes in the larger church, or persons of color who can help the seminary have conversations about diversity.

Brethren Benefit Trust Board (one person, 4-year term)

skill set: Investment expertise, knowing risks/rewards of investment vehicles, questions to ask of investment managers, and decisions to be made due to market fluctuations.

On Earth Peace Board (one person, 5-year term)

skill set requested: to help OEP “develop and walk with leaders and communities who work for justice and peace.” To participate in the board’s “values-based consensus” decision making process, each board member must complete a specialized 2-5 day training program in anti-racism, for which OEP covers costs.

Pastoral Compensation & Benefits Advisory Committee - clergy (one person, 5-year term)

Election Procedures

1. From July until December 1st each year, Nominating Committee gathers *nominations* from across the denomination, seeking female and male, younger and older nominees from various professional, rural and urban, geographic location perspectives and skill sets.
2. The Nominating Committee meets in early January to prepare a *ballot* of four names for each position. That ballot is distributed only to the current Standing Committee members (those who served at the previous Annual Conference), who keep that ballot confidential. Standing Committee’s vote reduces the ballot to two nominees per position. This is the tentative final ballot that will be presented at Annual Conference. It is announced to the denomination at large in February. (AC Minutes 2001)
3. In fairness to all nominees, any *nomination from the floor at Conference* must be made by name only at the time the ballot is introduced to the delegate body. Biographical information and written consent by the nominee must be submitted to the Conference secretary at that time for publication and distribution. (AC Minutes 1979)
4. Each year the Nominating Committee explains the *goals*, needs, and procedures of our election process to the Standing Committee and the delegate body. Delegates are reminded to work towards a balance of age/gender/ethnic representation (AC Minutes 2001) – see the *Call to Accountability* report at www.brethren.org/accountability. Standing Committee’s 1983 “Call to Accountability of Representation on Annual Conference Ballots” also authorized Nominating Committee to use at-large categories in the structure of ballots to correct any imbalances of representation.
5. Congregations, districts, and agencies are called to do quality *leadership development*, giving leadership experience to a wide variety of persons to prepare them for possible denominational leadership, in particular to identify and call forth ethnic/minority leadership. All nominees for denominational leadership are encouraged to have participated in at least one *intercultural experience* in the past five years. (AC Minutes 2001 and 2007)