

## WHY SHOULD I BE A MEMBER?

The original purpose of the Society was to provide survivors of deceased members financial help in a time of need, but as its membership and financial resources grew, so did its program of service and outreach.

1. Today the Society provides loans at a lower rate of interest to the denomination for building of churches, fellowship halls, educational buildings, and parsonages.
2. It supports numerous benevolent and charitable enterprises, and stands ready to support programs developed and implemented by the Synodical Committee.
3. The Society supports our youth and the future of the Unity through donations to the Unity Youth Coordinator as well as the Society's recently established college scholarship.
4. It has always adhered strictly to the teachings, doctrines, and beliefs of the Unity of the Brethren Church.

*In the words of the late Rev. Joseph Barton: "In the years of its existence it has wiped away many tears, and has extended brotherly sympathy and help when it is most needed. May the Lord continually be glorified by the task the Society performs, and by the lives of its members."*

**We would like for YOU to become a part of this great effort in our Church.**

## WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF THE MUTUAL AID SOCIETY?

The Mutual Aid Society was organized on August 15, 1905, at the Church Convention held in Shiner, Texas, by Rev. Henry Juren and Rev. Adolph Chlumsky. At that time By-Laws were written and accepted, thirty charter members received, and first officers elected. The first local unit was organized in West, with 10 members; the second in Taylor with 10 members; the third in Granger with 7 members. The original Charter was granted on July 5, 1906, and was extended for another 50 years in 1956. At the 28<sup>th</sup> Convention in Nelsonville in 1944, the Junior Department was organized. August 2005 marked **100 years that the Society has been serving the Unity.**

## HOW DO I HELP SURVIVORS OF DECEASED MEMBERS WHEN I JOIN THE SOCIETY?

Your assessments help pay the benefit of \$1,500.00 to the beneficiaries when a member dies.

## HOW DO I HELP OUR BROTHERS CHURCHES FINANCIALLY?

The assets of the Society are being loaned at a rate of interest below current rates offered by Banks and Savings and Loan Associations. Your membership will increase the rate of growth of assets, and in turn enable the Society to have more funds available for loans to Churches. **THIS HELPS THE UNITY TO GROW.**

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO JOIN?

Any member of the Unity of the Brethren Church, their spouse, child or grandchild may join through various membership options.

## MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS AND THEIR COSTS

### Individuals under Age 16

Enrollment by a parent or grandparent who is a member of a Unity of the Brethren congregation.

1. Junior Dept. Membership at the rate of \$1.00 per year. An extra \$1.00 is assessed from all members when death of a Jr. Dept. member occurs. Local dues of \$0.25 are collected from Jr. members of the Wall local. Death benefit is \$1,000.
2. Lifetime Membership - parents or grandparents can purchase a lifetime membership according to age at entry. No other assessments or fees will ever be collected. Rates are available on the Lifetime Membership application. Death benefit is \$1,500.

### Individuals over 60

Members over age 60 can join for the purposes of benevolence, voting and representation rights. Members pay \$100 per year until they have paid in \$1,500, at which time no more annual assessments are due. The death benefit for these members is only the amount that has been paid into the Society. If these members stop paying before \$1,500 has been paid in, membership ceases and all dues paid are forfeited.

**Individuals 16 years of age through 60 years of age**

Enrollment is open to members of a Unity of the Brethren congregation, their spouse, child or grandchild. Death benefit is \$1,500.

1. Mutual Aid members pay 15 assessments per year. The assessment rate is determined by their age at entry and is available on the membership application. Those members joining at age 20 or older also pay a one time entrance fee according to their age. Entrance fees are also available on the membership application. In addition to assessments, all members pay a \$4.00 per year administrative fee to cover annual expenses. Several locals also collect dues that range from \$0.25 to \$1.00 per member per year. A member who has belonged to the Society for more than 25 years, and has reached the age of 70, does not pay any further death assessments or administrative fees. A member who joins the Mutual Aid Society at the age of 16 and remains in continuous membership to age 65 shall pay no further death assessments or administrative fees.
2. Lifetime Membership can be purchased according to age at entry. No other assessments, fees or dues will ever be collected. Rates are available on the Lifetime Membership application. Note that current members can also 'pay up' their membership, which in most cases is less than paying the Lifetime Membership rate, depending on how long they have been a member. Contact the General Secretary if interested in 'paying up' and never paying annually again!

**HOW DO I JOIN OR ENROLL MY CHILD OR GRANDCHILD?**

Contact the President or the Secretary of your Mutual Aid Local. They will help you complete an application and answer any questions you may have. Or you may contact the General Secretary at the phone number or email address listed below. Any of these individuals will have copies of the membership application forms.

**MAY I RETAIN MY CERTIFICATE SHOULD I LEAVE THE UNITY OR MOVE TO AN AREA WHERE THERE IS NO MUTUAL AID LOCAL?**

If a member leaves the Unity of the Brethren Church, joins some other denomination, or moves to an area that is not served by a Mutual Aid Local, his membership is not affected; he can become a member-at-large or he can continue as a member of the Local that served him before the move.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Rev. Joseph J. Polasek. . . . . President
- Daniel Vojtek. . . . . Vice-President
- Natalie Outlaw. . . . . General Secretary
- Ruth Ann Wuensche. . . . . Treasurer
- Dorothy Hinson. . . . . Junior Department
- Ann Sebesta. . . . . Board Member

Contact Natalie Outlaw at 979-589-2012 or natalieoutlaw@yahoo.com for more information or to request a membership application. 2/4/15

**THE MUTUAL AID SOCIETY**

A Program Of The

**UNITY OF THE BRETHREN CHURCH**



Serving Under This Motto:

*“Bear Ye One Another’s Burdens,  
And So Fulfill the Law of Christ”  
- Galatians 6:2*