

The 67<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention of the Unity of the Brethren  
Temple Brethren Church  
July 6 – 8, 2017

Decision for Referendum & Election of Lay Representative

July 24, 2017

**Decision for Referendum:** The following decisions passed by the 67<sup>th</sup> Unity Convention are being sent to all congregations of the Unity of the Brethren for a referendum vote. Except where noted, the Unity of the Brethren By-Laws, Article IV. Conventions, Paragraph 5 states that the following convention decisions shall become valid only after a simple majority of the congregations of the Unity of the Brethren have approved the decisions in a referendum by a simple majority vote in a meeting called for this purpose:

1. Decisions concerning financial matters.
2. Any decisions failing to receive a two-thirds majority vote by the Convention's membership.
3. Constitution revisions (Requires two-thirds majority vote by two-thirds of the congregations).  
(There were no Constitution revisions at this Convention.)
4. By-Laws revisions.

Election of a Lay Representative to the Synodical Committee: Each congregation elects one lay representative at a meeting called for the referendum vote. This person serves until the next convention. Included in the responsibilities of the lay representative are to attend Synodical Committee meetings and to keep their church informed of all proceedings, announcements, etc.

These items are to be acted upon in a congregational meeting, and the results emailed or mailed to the Synodical Executive Committee Secretary:

Angie Hairrell  
11482 FM 2155  
Somerville, TX 77879  
[hairrell@gmail.com](mailto:hairrell@gmail.com) or [secretaryUoB@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryUoB@gmail.com)

These results must be received no later than September 30, 2017. Failure to return the referendum by the stated deadline will result in the congregation being counted as favorable towards all decisions of the Convention. The congregation's secretary must sign the form (if emailed – type name). Please make a copy of the results for your records.

Sincerely,

**Angie Hairrell,** Unity Secretary

The following motions concern financial matters:

1. **Elimination of the Board of Grants and Bequests** (recommended by the Synodical Committee)  
**MOTION:** In the biennium that follows this Convention, the Executive Committee, the Synodical Committee and the Board of Grants and Bequests shall take appropriate measures to transfer management and oversight of the funds currently managed by the Board of Grants and Bequests to the Synodical Committee. The Executive Committee of the Synodical Committee shall have all management and oversight responsibilities for the funds, and have the authority to accept or disburse funds as they deem appropriate in general compliance with the existing policies and purpose of the Board of Grants and Bequests. A report of any new income or disbursements shall be made to the Synodical Committee at the first meeting following such activity. Upon completion of this transfer, the Executive Committee shall draft proposed Constitution and By-Laws changes to eliminate the Board of Grants and Bequests for consideration at the 68th Convention of the Unity of the Brethren. (Page 11 of the Convention Minutes)
  
2. **Establishment of a Fundraising Program for Improvements at the Hus School Encampment**  
**MOTION:** The Hus School Board of Trustees, in conjunction with the Synodical Committee, shall initiate a fundraising program to pay for planned improvements at the Hus School Encampment. Funds raised through this effort shall be used for administrative, planning and construction costs associated with the improvements presented to this Convention or for other related improvements that are deemed necessary by the Hus School Board of Trustees. Reports shall be made to the Synodical Committee on the fundraising activities and on progress related to the implementation of these improvements. (Page 15 of the Convention Minutes)
  
3. **Provide grants to local churches to help fund upgrades for technology that is needed to improve their worship experience.**  
The purpose of this motion to help churches afford the technology, especially the small churches. The details will be worked out by the Synodical Committee.  
**MOTION:** The Synodical Committee shall develop guidelines and implement a matching grant program to assist local churches who are seeking to enhance their worship experience through the use of technology (i.e. A/V equipment, computer systems, Wi-Fi equipment, internet, etc.). This grant program shall be funded through the Church Extension Fund and shall terminate 3 years from the time it is established. (Pages 16-17 of the Convention Minutes)

The following motion concerns By-Laws Amendments:

4. **Restructuring of the membership appointments of three standing Boards.** This restructuring is needed to bring their membership appointments in line with other standing Boards and provide better participation on these Boards by minimizing the time commitments of volunteers who serve as a representative on two or more committees. The Boards affected by this change are:

- Board of Christian Education
- Hus School Board of Trustees
- Board of Foreign Missions

Membership on the other two standing Boards (Home Missions and Brethren Journal Business Committee) are already appointed by the Synodical Committee and have similar wording as being proposed here. This restructuring involves by-law changes as shown below.

**MOTION:** The By-Laws of the Unity of the Brethren shall be amended as follows:

*Board of Christian Education*

- Article XIII.B.8 (delete)
- Article XIII.B.9 (delete)
- Article XIII.C.2 (changed to read) One member shall be the Youth Coordinator.

**Article XIII will now read:**

- A. The Board shall:
1. Coordinate and share information among the Unity’s educational groups and between congregations toward common and more effective work for the Lord;
  2. Develop goals and objectives for approval and evaluation by the Synodical Committee;
  3. Strengthen church members’ knowledge of the Christian faith by recommending and/or developing educational resources (e.g., a bibliography of resources for Christian education, confirmation materials, Sunday School teaching materials, and devotional materials) and events (e.g., confirmation retreats, Sunday School training opportunities, and lay leader training opportunities);
  4. Counsel and encourage the local Sunday Schools in their ministry;
  5. Work so that members would be brought into the best possible knowledge of the Word of God, using pure teaching of the Word of God, Christian songs, and prayers;
  6. Publicize events and meetings through *The Brethren Journal* and the Unity of the Brethren website so as to encourage a broad base of participation; and
  7. Publish and distribute the Catechism, certificates, and other denominational literature.
  - ~~8. Appoint a member to the Hus School Encampment Board of Trustees and Directors from the committee members (Article XIV, Section C, Paragraph 3); and~~
  - ~~9. Appoint a member to the Board of Foreign Missions from the committee members (Article XV, Section A, Paragraph 1.c.).~~
- B. The Convention of the Unity of the Brethren shall elect a Chairperson of the Board of Christian Education, which shall be comprised of seven (7) qualified members interested in this responsibility of the Unity of the Brethren.
1. Five (5) members shall be appointed by the Synodical Committee from the membership of the Unity of the Brethren, recognizing interest as well as demographic and geographic distribution.
  2. One member shall be the Youth Coordinator ~~and one member shall be a representative from the Hus School Encampment Board of Trustees.~~

3. The term of office for all members except the Youth Coordinator shall be 2 years, subject to re-election or re-appointment with a maximum of 4 consecutive terms.
4. If a vacancy is created on the Board, the executive officers of the Synodical Committee shall appoint a new member to fill the term of the vacant position.
5. The third vice-president shall serve as the Synodical Committee liaison with this board. (By-Laws Article VIII, Section F, Paragraph 1).

### *Hus School Board of Trustees*

- Article XIV.C.2 (changed to read) The treasurer and six (6) other members shall be appointed by the Synodical Committee from the membership of the Unity of the Brethren, recognizing interest as well as demographic and geographic distribution.
- Article XIV.C.3 (delete and renumber subsequent paragraphs or references)
- Appendix A-Article III.B (changed to read) Membership on the Board of Trustees is as follows: a Chairperson elected by the Convention, a Treasurer and six other members appointed by the Synodical Committee.

### **Article XIV, C will now read:**

- C. The Encampment shall be governed by a Board of Trustees of eight (8) members to ensure proper administration:
  1. A chairperson elected by the Convention. This chairperson may be a member of the Synodical Committee
  2. The treasurer ~~of the Board of Trustees~~ and ~~one~~ **six (6)** other members shall be appointed ~~from the membership of the Unity~~ by the Synodical Committee **from the membership of the Unity of the Brethren, recognizing interest as well as demographic and geographic distribution.**
  3. ~~Two members shall be appointed by the Christian Sisters Union Executive Committee, one member by the Board of Christian Education, one member by the Brethren Youth Fellowship Leadership Team, and one member by the Friends of the Hus Encampment.~~ **4-3.** Terms: two years; may be reelected/re-appointed for a maximum of four terms or eight years.

### **Appendix A-Article III.B will now read:**

Membership on the Board of Trustees is as follows: a Chairperson elected by the Convention, ~~two members appointed by the Synodical Committee; two members appointed by the Executive Committee of the Christian Sisters' Union; one member appointed by the Board of Christian Education; one member appointed by the Executive Committee of the Brethren Youth Fellowship Leadership Team; and one member appointed by the Executive Committee of the Friends of the Hus Encampment~~ **a Treasurer and six other members appointed by the Synodical Committee.**

### *Board of Foreign Missions*

- Article XV.A.1.b (changed to read) Six (6) other members shall be appointed by the Synodical Committee from the membership of the Unity of the Brethren, recognizing interest as well as demographic and geographic distribution.
- Article XV.A.1.c. (delete and renumber subsequent paragraphs or references)

#### **Article XV will now read:**

- A. A Board of Foreign Missions is established by the Unity of the Brethren for the supervision of its program of World Missions. It shall be responsible to the Convention and under the supervision of the Synodical Committee.
  1. The Convention of the Unity of the Brethren shall elect a Chairperson of the Board of Foreign Missions, which shall be comprised of seven (7) qualified members interested in this responsibility of the Unity of the Brethren.
    - a. The chairperson may be, but need not be, a member of the Synodical Committee.
    - b. ~~Three (3)~~ **Six (6)** other members shall be appointed by the Synodical Committee from the membership of the Unity of the Brethren, recognizing interest as well as demographic and geographic distribution.
    - ~~d.~~ **c.** The term of office for all members shall be two years, subject to re-election or re-appointment for a maximum of four terms or eight years.
    - ~~e.~~ **d.** The first vice-president shall serve as the Synodical Committee liaison with this board. (By-Laws Article VIII, Section D) The liaison shall maintain contact by communication between the board and the Synodical Committee in order to ensure concerted action, cooperation, and to relay information at the executive level. The liaison position is a non-voting position for boards on which the liaison serves.

(Pages 15-16 of the Convention Minutes)



# Referendum Results

The \_\_\_\_\_ Congregation, in a meeting held on \_\_\_\_\_, 2017, took action on the enclosed decisions of the 67<sup>TH</sup> Biennial Convention of The Unity of the Brethren. The results are indicated below:

**Yes No** Approved ALL By-Law and Financial decisions of the 67<sup>TH</sup> Unity Convention by a simple majority vote.

**Note: A “No” vote indicates that none were approved. See “partial approval” below if approval was not inclusive for all decisions.**

**OR**

Partial Approval

( ) Approved all By-law amendments and financial decisions of the Convention WITH THE EXCEPTION of those decisions indicated below. **List below by reference number which ones did not pass.**

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*Return this page or email results to Angie Hairrell, Unity Secretary, by September 30, 2017. Make a copy of this page for your records.*

## Election of Synodical Committee Representative:

As provided in Article VI. Synodical Committee, Paragraph A.3, of the Unity of the Brethren By-Laws, each congregation shall elect one lay representative at a meeting called for the referendum vote following each Convention. If your congregation is represented by a lay person among the officers of the Synodical Executive Committee, you will be able to elect another representative. **There are no alternate representatives elected.** If a vacancy occurs with your representative in the next 2 years, you must notify the President or Secretary of the Unity. Vacancies will be filled by appointment of the Synodical Committee in accordance with the wishes of the affected congregation. (Article VI, Paragraph K.)

The person listed below was elected as this congregation's representative to the Synodical Committee to serve as a representative until the next Unity Convention:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Secretary of the Board of Elders

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**\*\* NOTE: \*\***

Please submit the Referendum results and the Synodical Committee Representative by **September 30, 2017** to Angie Hairrell, Unity Secretary by email or mail.

[hairrell@gmail.com](mailto:hairrell@gmail.com) or [secretaryUoB@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryUoB@gmail.com)

11482 FM 2155; Somerville, TX 77879

*Please keep a copy of these results for your records.*