



THE UNITY OF THE BRETHREN

“In essentials, UNITY; in non-essentials,
LIBERTY; and in all things, LOVE.”

April 22, 2017



Matthew 19:26
Jesus looked at them and said,
“With man this is impossible,
but with God all things are possible.”

TO: All Congregations (Ministers, Synodical Committee Lay Members, Committee Chairpersons, Ministerial Students, Unity Organizations and Youth Director)

This letter serves as your invitation to the 67th Biennial Convention of the Unity of the Brethren, which will be held July 6-8, 2017 (Thursday-Saturday) at Temple Brethren Church, Temple, TX. The theme this year is *Possibilities*. *Matthew 19:26*, “Jesus looked at them and said, ‘With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.’”

It is the hope of the Executive Committee that this convention be a learning experience. We want to invite and encourage all, not just the delegates, to participate in the Convention.

Special events this year will include a special memorial service to honor Rev. Gordon Hejl, Rev. Albert Michalik, and Rev. Milton Maly on Friday evening and the Ordination of Rev. Tim Chaplin on Saturday.

Registration & Check-In for Delegates will be Friday, July 7 at 8:00 a.m.; complimentary breakfast at 8:00 a.m., with Convention Activities beginning at 9:00 a.m. Thursday, July 6th, is reserved for the Pastor’s and their spouses only.

Listed below are items (with due dates) that will need to be taken care of prior to the Convention. Please note that all forms (fillable files or links) are provided on the Unity Website.

- 1) **Unity Questionnaires.** Most have been submitted. I will contact you if I still need your church’s information.
- 2) **Annual Assessments.** If you have not yet submitted your Annual Assessments for 2015 and/or 2016 to the Brethren Fund, please do so at this time. This assessment is based on the active communicant membership reported on the Unity Questionnaire and is currently \$35.00 for each member. Please note that annual assessments should be sent directly to **Liz Ripple, Financial Secretary; 311 W State Hwy 71; Fayetteville, Texas 78940; 979-378-2239; lizripple@hotmail.com.**
- 3) **Number of Delegates.** According to the Unity of the Brethren By-Laws, Congregations are entitled to one delegate per 50 members or the greater fraction thereof. If you have questions regarding the number of delegates your church is allowed, contact Liz Ripple, Financial Secretary.

- 4) **Registration Form.** Deadline is **May 31, 2017**. Complete the registration information for each person attending the Convention.

- 5) **Convention Credentials Form.** Deadline is **May 31, 2017**.
 - a. Complete all information for each delegate and alternate and have it signed by your Minister and/or Board President and Secretary. Each page contains two Credential Forms – complete two forms for each delegate/alternate. Copy additional forms, as needed. **Mail one copy of the signed credential form(s) and the delegate fee(s) to Angie Hairrell, Secretary, 11482 FM 2155 Somerville, TX 77879 by May 15, 2017. The second copy must be brought by the delegate to the registration table at the Convention.**
 - b. The cost per delegate is \$250. Do not send money for alternates. Please make the check payable to Unity of the Brethren. This fee covers the administrative costs, mileage and meal reimbursement of the Convention members. Meal tickets will be in the packet for each delegate and Synodical Committee member. Delegates – please check with your congregation to ensure that the \$250.00 payment has been submitted prior to your departure to the Convention.
 - c. Lodging and food expenses outside the Convention are considered separate and should be covered by your congregation.

- 6) **Invitation letter** to the Convention the from Temple Brethren Church includes **Hotel Information/Lodging** recommendations.

- 7) **DEADLINE FOR REPORTS:** Reports (all Officers, Committee/Board Chairpersons and Organizations) to be included in the Convention Packets are due no later than **May 31, 2017**. Report packets will be sent to all members of the Convention prior to the Convention to allow time for everyone to review the reports and therefore reduce the time needed to conduct business at the Convention.

All information will be posted on the Unity website – www.UnityoftheBrethren.org. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. You can also join the FaceBook event to receive reminders and updates.

Please remember the Convention and all participants in your prayers and for God's will to be done through the work of the Convention.

Angie Hairrell

Angie Hairrell, Secretary (2015-2017), Unity of the Brethren
11482 FM 2155
Somerville, TX 77879
979-219-1582 hairrell@gmail.com