

The 68th Biennial Convention of the Unity of the Brethren
Wall Brethren Church
July 11 – 12, 2019

Decision for Referendum & Election of Lay Representative

August 4, 2019

Decision for Referendum: The following decisions passed by the 68th 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).
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 or secretaryUoB@gmail.com

These results must be received no later than September 30, 2019. 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:

- **MOTION from the Bylaws Committee:** To pay from Major Gifts (formerly Grants and Bequests) \$8000 toward the salary of the Unity Youth Coordinator. (Pg. 9 of the Convention Minutes).
- **MOTION from the Bylaws Committee:** Approve current salary (\$23,000.00/yr and \$1800/yr for an expense allowance) with an increase in mileage reimbursement to meet the IRS employee rate. (Pg. 9 of the Convention Minutes) Note: Currently, the Youth Coordinator position is funded from the Unity Educational Ministries allotment from the Brethren Fund (currently at 13%), with voluntary contributions from congregations and Unity organizations, Mutual Aid (\$1,000/yr) and Grants & Bequests (changed to Major Gifts) (\$8,000/yr).
- **MOTION from the Bylaws Committee:** To approve an annual salary of \$9600 for the Executive Assistant AND to reimburse Executive Assistant mileage at the IRS employee rate. (Pg. 10 of the Convention Minutes)

The following motion concerns a Constitution Amendment:

- **MOTION by Rev Jim Heckman:** To approve the bylaw changes that were ratified in the 2017 referendum. **Second** by Rev. Curtis Holland. (Reference page 30 of the convention booklet) (Pg. 4 of the Convention Minutes)

Constitution:

V, B, 2: Delete (7) Chairman of Board of Grants & Bequests; (9) a Board for Grants & Bequests

V, B, 2: Convert parenthetical numerals to lower-case letters and list.

2. To execute its decisions and for the purpose of administering current matters of the Unity of the Brethren between regular biennial Conventions, the Convention shall elect: ~~(1)~~ (a) the Executive Officers of the Synodical Committee (By-Laws Article VI, Section A); ~~(2)~~ (b) a Chairperson of the Board of Christian Education; ~~(3)~~ (c) a Chairperson of the Board of Home Missions; ~~(4)~~ (d) a Chairperson of the Board of Foreign Missions; ~~(5)~~ (e) a Chairperson of the Pastoral Relations Committee; ~~(6)~~ (f) a Chairperson of the Hus School Encampment Board of Trustees; ~~(7) a Chairperson of the Board of Grants and Bequests;~~ ~~(8)~~ (g) an Editor and a Business Manager of *The Brethren Journal*; ~~(9) a Board for Grants and Bequests as outlined in the By-Laws;~~ ~~(10)~~ (h) a Pastoral Relations Committee as outlined in the By-Laws; and ~~(11)~~ (i) Lay and Ministerial Alternates. The officers of the Synodical Committee and other personnel may be elected from the membership of the Convention or from the membership of the denomination at large. (By-Laws Article VI, Section B.) (Effective 1995 Convention)

The following motions concern-By-Laws Amendments:

- **MOTION by Rev Jim Heckman:** To approve the bylaw changes that were ratified in the 2017 referendum. **Second** by Rev. Curtis Holland. (Reference page 30-34 of the convention booklet) (Pg. 4 of the Convention Minutes)
BYLAW CHANGES to ARTICLE XXI, Board For Grants & Bequests and additional changes to ARTICLE IV. Conventions, ARTICLE V. Officers, ARTICLE IX. Secretary, ARTICLE XI. Treasurer, APPENDIX C. By-Laws of the Board For Grants and Bequests, Article I, II, III, APPENDIX A – By-Laws of the Hus School Encampment, Article IV Finances, B & F.
- **MOTION from the Bylaws Committee**
Amend Bylaws Article II.B to read: ~~“A congregation shall choose its own name, such name, however, but be approved by the Synodical Committee”~~ **“A congregation shall choose its own name, such name, however, must be approved by the Synodical Committee. The congregation must include the statement “A congregation of the Unity of the Brethren” following its name in the congregation’s Constitution, By-Laws, signage, and official correspondence documents.”** and Amend Bylaws Article II.N to read: “All congregations shall provide prayerful and monetary support ~~for Home and Foreign Missions, the Ministerial Student Fund, the Bible Fund, and~~ to all ~~other~~ official funds established by the Unity of the Brethren.” (Pg. 8-9 of the Convention Minutes)
- **MOTION from the Bylaws Committee:** Amend Bylaws Article XX.A to read: “The Unity of the Brethren, being conscious of its responsibility to its pastors, has established ~~two~~ programs for pastors serving this denomination.” AND to eliminate Article XX.A.2. ~~“An income protection program.”~~ (Pg. 9 of the Convention Minutes)
- **MOTION from the Executive Committee Convention Group:** To amend Bylaws Article VI. ~~Synodical Committee~~, B.2 to read: “Tenure of office of the executive officers shall be limited to ~~two~~ 4 consecutive 2-year terms ~~(four years) in the same office, and four consecutive terms (eight years) not to exceed 8 consecutive years as Executive Officers of the Synodical Committee~~ on the Executive Committee. (Pg. 9-10 of the Convention Minutes)
- **MOTION from the Brethren Fund Convention Group:** That the Brethren Fund annual assessment be increased from \$35 to \$40 per member and that the funds be dispersed as follows (ARTICLE II. Congregations, L.). **Second** by Geri Polasek.

“The annual assessment for the Brethren Fund is ~~\$35.00~~ \$40.00 for each active communicant member, divided among the following ministries:

~~21%~~ 18% to the Hus School Encampment;

- ~~17%~~ **10%** to *The Brethren Journal*;
- ~~30%~~ **18%** to be placed in a Contingency Fund with the Synodical Committee having the authority to use the Contingency Fund where needed most in the work of the Unity of the Brethren;
- ~~13%~~ **35%** to Educational Ministries;
- ~~9%~~ **10%** to the Administrative Fund; and
- ~~10%~~ **9%** to the Executive Assistant position.

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, 2019** to Angie Hairrell, Unity Secretary by email or mail.

hairrell@gmail.com or secretaryUoB@gmail.com

11482 FM 2155; Somerville, TX 77879

Please keep a copy of these results for your records.