



# THE UNITY OF THE BRETHREN

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

**April 28, 2021**

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

Let's get ready for the 69th Biennial Convention of the Unity of the Brethren, which will be held on **Friday, July 9, 2021** at the Hus Encampment, Caldwell, TX. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information regarding the convention. Please remember the Convention in your prayers for God's will to be done and to pray for all the participants.

This year, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we will have a one-day convention with limited capacity to only voting and essential members (see invitation letter). Face masks will be required and social distancing will be practiced as much as possible.

Registration & Check-In: Friday, July 9 at 8:00 a.m.; complimentary breakfast at 8:00 a.m.

Enclosures and information as follows:

- 1) **Questionnaires** – the deadline for the 2020 questionnaire is **May 15, 2021**.
- 2) **Convention Credentials Form** (copy more as needed) – Each page contains two Credential forms – complete two forms for each delegate/alternate.
  - a. Please fill out all information – name, address, email, phone number - for each delegate and alternate and have it signed by your Minister and/or Board President and Secretary. Mail one copy of the signed credential form(s) and the delegate fee(s) to Liz Ripple by **June 18, 2021**. The second copy is to be brought by the delegate to the registration table at the convention.
  - b. Please return \$100.00 for each delegate with the credentials form to Liz Ripple (keep a copy for your records). Do not send money for alternates. Please make the check payable to Unity of the Brethren. This fee covers the administrative costs, mileage and meals reimbursement of the Convention members. Delegates – please check with your congregation to ensure that the \$100.00 payment has been submitted prior to your departure to the Convention.

According to the Unity of the Brethren 2019 By-Laws: Congregations are entitled to one delegate per 50 members or the greater fraction thereof. This translates into the following number of entitled delegates per number of members:

<u>Number of members:</u>	<u>Number of delegates:</u>
75 or less	1
76-125	2
126-175	3
176-225	4
226-275	5
276-325	6

- c. Lodging and food expenses outside the convention are considered separate and should be covered by your congregation.
- 3) **Invitation letter** to the Convention from the Executive Committee.
  - 4) **Hotel Information/Lodging** suggestions are included in the invitation letter.
  - 5) **DEADLINE FOR REPORTS:** Reports (all Officers, Committee/Board Chairpersons and Organizations) to be included in the Convention Packets are due by **JUNE 18, 2021**. Liz Ripple will contact all Chairs/Organizations for your reports. The packets will be available for all members of the Convention. Reports will be emailed or sent by regular mail prior to the convention to give everyone time to read the reports.
  - 6) If you have not yet submitted your Annual Assessments for 2019 and/or 2020 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 \$40.00 for each member. Please note that annual assessments should be sent directly to Kayla Marek, Financial Secretary, (kmarek2012@gmail.com) mailing address: 1804 Mallard Ln, Taylor, TX 76574.
  - 7) This information (secretary's letter, invitation letter with hotel information, 2019 & 2020 questionnaires, credentials form) will also be posted on the Unity website – [www.UnityoftheBrethren.org](http://www.UnityoftheBrethren.org) – see Convention 2021.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

*Liz Ripple*

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