

# Summary of the Actions

## of the 2016 Church of the Brethren Annual Conference

(See Official 2016 Minutes when published)

### Reports

*Reports of (1) the Church of the Brethren, (2) On Earth Peace, (3) Bethany Theological Seminary, (4) Church of the Brethren Benefit Trust, (5) the Program and Arrangements Committee, (6) the Pastoral Compensation and Benefits Advisory Committee, (7) Christian Churches Together in the USA, (8) the World Council of Churches, and (9) the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA, along with the financial statements of Church of the Brethren, Inc.; On Earth Peace Assembly, Inc.; Bethany Theological Seminary; and Church of the Brethren Benefit Trust, Inc. were received.*

### New Business Items

#### **1. Query: Same Sex Weddings**

The 2016 Annual Conference adopted a motion from the floor to refer the concerns of the query to the Leadership Team in consultation with the Council of District Executives to bring clarity and guidance concerning the authority of Annual Conference and districts regarding the accountability of ministers, congregations, and districts, bringing recommendations to the 2017 Annual Conference.

#### **2. Query: On Earth Peace Reportability/Accountability to Annual Conference**

#### **5. Query: Viability of On Earth Peace as an Agency of the Church of the Brethren**

Recognizing that the Review and Evaluation Committee has the responsibility to consider the balance and unity of denominational agencies, the 2016 Annual Conference adopted Standing Committee's recommendation to refer the "Query: On Earth Peace Reportability/Accountability to Annual Conference" and the "Query: Viability of On Earth Peace as an Agency of the Church of the Brethren" to the Review and Evaluation Committee for their consideration.

#### **3. Query: Continuing the Study of Our Christian Responsibility to Care for God's Creation**

The 2016 Annual Conference adopted Standing Committee's recommendation that a Creation Care study committee be appointed to work, in consultation with Brethren Benefit Trust and other relevant organizations, to develop ways to support and extend our knowledge of renewable energy production with our financial investments and involvement in community projects to reduce our contributions to greenhouse gas concentrations and reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. The study committee shall consist of 3 members elected by Standing Committee.

[Note: Standing Committee will elect the study committee through a process to be determined by Nominating Committee.]

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#### **4. Query: Living Together as Christ Calls**

The 2016 Annual Conference adopted Standing Committee's recommendation that the concern of the query be adopted and be referred to the Mission and Ministry Board.

#### **Unfinished Business Items**

##### **1. Vision of Ecumenism for the 21st Century**

*Action of the 2016 Annual Conference:* Annual Conference received an interim report from the committee.

##### **2. Review and Evaluation**

*Action of the 2016 Annual Conference:* Annual Conference received an interim report from the committee.

##### **3. Vitality and Viability**

*Action of the 2016 Annual Conference:* Annual Conference received an interim report from the committee.

#### **Election and Appointments** – see separate document