

Request for Nominations for Denominational Offices 2021

You can help shape the future of the church! Each member of the Church of the Brethren is invited to recommend possible nominees for the 2021 Annual Conference ballot. As you pray about this, who comes to mind? Whom will the Lord prompt you to nominate?

Please make this document available to the leaders and members of your congregation and urge them to submit nominations. We need nominees from every part of the church.

Offices Open for Nomination for the 2021 Ballot and our *Election Procedures* are listed on the next page and detailed information about these offices is provided in the separate *Information about Offices Open for Nomination for the 2021 Ballot*, which can be found at www.brethren.org/2021nominations. Please note the specific categories from which some of the nominations must be made. If you know persons who work in one of the areas from which nominees need to come this year, please make a special effort to prayerfully submit the names of persons you know who can make a valuable contribution to the denomination.

Also please note the *Call to Accountability* document at www.brethren.org/accountability, which reminds us to work towards a balance of gender, age, ethnic/racial, rural/urban, and professional representation among our leadership.

There are two ways to submit nominations:

- (1) **Online** via the “**2021 Nominations**” link at the www.brethren.org/ac website. That is very helpful to us. **You must provide the email address** of the person you are nominating in order to submit the nomination online. We will send an email to your nominees to invite them to submit their information online. We cannot consider those who do not respond. Please follow up with the persons you nominate to make sure they have received our email and contact us if they did not.
- (2) If you cannot submit online, you may request a paper **Elected Office Nomination Form** from the Conference Office (annualconference@brethren.org or 847-429-4365) and have your nominee fill out the **Nominee Information Form – 2021** before sending it. Note that **persons being nominated must sign the form**. We must have their permission to consider them as possible nominees.

All nominations should be submitted to the Annual Conference Office via the online process or via postal mail to 1451 Dundee Ave., Elgin, IL 60120 ... **by December 1, 2020**. The earlier, the better. Thank you for your help!

The Nominating Committee depends upon your knowledge of the gifts and availability of diverse persons who can serve. We ask you to be diligent in your prayers and in your discernment of those who can lead and inspire us in our efforts to follow Jesus together.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact:

Conference Office Director Chris Douglas at cdouglas@brethren.org
or 847-429-4364 or 800-323-8039 x 364

or Annual Conference Secretary James M. Beckwith at acsecretary@brethren.org

Offices Open for Nomination for the 2021 Ballot

Annual Conference Program & Arrangements Committee (one person, 3-year term)

Ineligible (members completing a term in 2021): Jan Glass King and Emily Shonk Edwards

Church of the Brethren Mission and Ministry Board (one person, 5-year term)

from Area 3: Atlantic Southeast, *Puerto Rico*, Shenandoah, Southeastern, Virgina, West Marva)

Church of the Brethren Mission and Ministry Board (one person, 5-year term)

from Area 5: Idaho-W. Montana, *Pacific Northwest*, Pacific Southwest

Districts not represented on MMB since 2016 are in italics.

Bethany Theological Seminary Board of Trustees – CoB Colleges (one person, 5-year term)

Bethany Theological Seminary Board of Trustees - Laity (one person, 5-year term)

skill set requested: persons aware of the dramatic changes taking place in higher education, especially seminary education, or persons aware of the issues of division in the denomination and changes in the larger church, or persons of color who can help the seminary have conversations about diversity.

Brethren Benefit Trust Board (one person, 4-year term)

skill set requested: Auditing or organizational accounting expertise.

On Earth Peace Board (one person, 5-year term)

skill set requested: to help OEP “develop and walk with leaders and communities who work for justice and peace.” To participate in the board’s “values-based consensus” decision making process, each board member must complete a specialized 2-5 day training program in anti-racism, for which OEP covers costs.

Pastoral Compensation & Benefits Advisory Committee - Laity (one person, 5-year term)

Election Procedures

1. From July until December 1st each year, Nominating Committee gathers *nominations* from across the denomination, seeking female and male, younger and older nominees from various professional, rural and urban, geographic location perspectives and skill sets.
2. The Nominating Committee meets in early January to prepare a *ballot* of four names for each position. That ballot is distributed only to the current Standing Committee members (those who served at the previous Annual Conference), who keep that ballot confidential. Standing Committee’s vote reduces the ballot to two nominees per position. This is the tentative final ballot that will be presented at Annual Conference. It is announced to the denomination at large in February. (AC Minutes 2001)
3. In fairness to all nominees, any *nomination from the floor at Conference* must be made by name only at the time the ballot is introduced to the delegate body. Biographical information and written consent by the nominee must be submitted to the Conference secretary at that time for publication and distribution. (AC Minutes 1979)
4. Each year the Nominating Committee explains the *goals*, needs, and procedures of our election process to the Standing Committee and the delegate body. Delegates are reminded to work towards a balance of age/gender/ethnic representation (AC Minutes 2001) – see the *Call to Accountability* report at www.brethren.org/accountability. Standing Committee’s 1983 “Call to Accountability of Representation on Annual Conference Ballots” also authorized Nominating Committee to use at-large categories in the structure of ballots to correct any imbalances of representation.
5. Congregations, districts, and agencies are called to do quality *leadership development*, giving leadership experience to a wide variety of persons to prepare them for possible denominational leadership, in particular to identify and call forth ethnic/minority leadership. All nominees for denominational leadership are encouraged to have participated in at least one *intercultural experience* in the past five years. (AC Minutes 2001 and 2007)