

The Leadership Team of the Church of the Brethren

authorized by polity recorded in the *Manual of Organization and Polity* chapter 1, section III.C. pages 9-10 of www.brethren.org/ac/documents/polity-manual/1-annual-conference.pdf

The Leadership Team provides executive leadership for the committees of Annual Conference and general oversight of Annual Conference.¹ It is a liaison between Annual Conference and Church of the Brethren Inc. Specific functions of the Leadership Team shall include:

- a. Coordinate denominational envisioning and assume responsibility for how denominational vision shall be implemented, giving consideration to emphasizing a unified vision among denomination, districts, and congregations;
- b. Delegate tasks from the actions of Annual Conference;
- c. Interpret Annual Conference decisions and denominational polity;
- d. Review recommended changes to Annual Conference policies and guidelines;
- e. General oversight for Annual Conference, in consultation with the Annual Conference Program and Arrangements Committee and the director of the Annual Conference Office;
- f. General oversight of Annual Conference budget in consultation with the board of directors;
- g. Serve as executive committee for Annual Conference;
- h. Participate in the hiring and periodic review of the director of the Annual Conference Office at the invitation of the general secretary;
- i. Propose and review bylaw changes for the Corporation to Standing Committee, in consultation with the board of directors.²

1. Membership

The Leadership Team consists of the current moderator, moderator-elect, Conference secretary, a district executive, and the general secretary of Church of the Brethren Inc., who serves as convener. The district executive will be appointed by the Council of District Executives, approved by Annual Conference, and will serve a three-year term.³

2. Duties⁴

- a. Interpretation, revision, and publication of polity.

Maintain and publish the denomination's *Manual of Organization and Polity* and respond to questions seeking interpretation of the church's polity.

¹ Leadership Team may also bring items of business to Annual Conference; see section IV of this chapter of the polity manual.

² Because the Bylaws of the Church of the Brethren, Inc. state that amendments to the bylaws can only be amended through the Annual Conference query process or through a proposal by the Mission and Ministry Board to Annual Conference as a new item of business, Leadership Team can only propose bylaw changes to the Mission and Ministry Board (which is the board of directors), and the board will decide whether to recommend them to Annual Conference.

³ 2010 Minutes, "Church of the Brethren Bylaws Revision," 241. 2018 Minutes, "Amendments to the Bylaws of the Church of the Brethren Inc.," 289.

⁴ These tasks were originally assigned to the Annual Conference Council by the 2001 Review and Evaluation Report (the first five in creating the Council and the last one in response to an evaluation of the IAF) in the 2001 Minutes (2000-2004), "Report of the Annual Conference Review and Evaluation Committee, 497-501. After the 2008 restructuring, they were assigned to the Leadership Team; see October 16, 2014, Leadership Team minutes.

- b. Oversight of Annual Conference directives to assure that they are lodged with the appropriate agency and that Annual Conference directives are met.

Review Conference's actions, assign them to the appropriate agencies, and establish a means of seeing that the assignment is completed. Report the assignment to Standing Committee and/or Conference.

- c. Resolve differences between agencies as to jurisdiction, fundraising, or other matters.

Act as coordinator or mediator in matters where there is a lack of clarity or authority affecting the Conference agencies, calling for the help of persons skilled in process observation, mediation, and conflict resolution as needed.

- d. Serve as executive committee for the Annual Conference.

Resolve disputes or answer questions when neither the Annual Conference nor the Standing Committee is in session.

- e. Assume supervisory responsibility for the planning and arrangements for Annual Conference.

The Program and Arrangements Committee and the director of the Annual Conference Office have hands-on responsibility for planning the Conference program and making arrangements for each event. The Leadership Team is the final authority for making policy decisions.

- f. Convene the Inter-Agency Forum; it should meet at least annually.⁵

The Inter-Agency Forum (IAF) includes the chief executive officer and board chair of the Annual Conference agencies and of Church of the Brethren, Inc., two representatives of the Council of District Executives, and the Annual Conference officers. The immediate past moderator presides at the meeting.

⁵ Polity also states that the immediate past moderator convenes the IAF (section III.B.1.d.3)(a) of this chapter), so our practice has become that the general secretary, as chair of the Leadership Team, coordinates agenda items for the IAF meetings and works together with the immediate past moderator to co-convene the IAF meetings, over which the immediate past moderator presides.