

Request for Nominations for Denominational Offices

The calling of denominational leadership begins when members of our congregations nominate gifted individuals for next year's Annual Conference ballot. Your nominations help shape the future of the Church of the Brethren! As you prayerfully consider the open positions, who is the Lord prompting you to nominate for leadership in this family of the Body of Christ?

We encourage you to share this request with the leaders and members of your congregation and urge them to submit nominations. Nominees are needed from every part of the church!

The offices to which we will elect leaders this coming year are listed on the next page of this document, along with our election procedures. More detailed information about each office open for nominations is provided at www.brethren.org/nominations in the "Information about Offices Open for Nomination" document. Please note that some nominations must be made according to specific categories and that certain areas of expertise are needed for some offices. If you know people who work in one of the areas from which nominees need to come this next year, please make a special effort to prayerfully submit the names of people you know who can make a valuable contribution to the denomination.

Please study the enclosed "Call to Accountability" charts, which can also be found at www.brethren.org/accountability – they show how we are working toward a balance of gender, age, ethnic/racial, rural/urban, and professional representation among our leadership. The delegate body decided many years ago – and has reaffirmed several times – that this is an important aspirational goal.

Please submit nominations online via the "2024 Nominations" link at the www.brethren.org/ac website.

Note: ***You must provide the email address*** of the person you are nominating, so we can send an email to invite your nominees to submit their information online. We cannot consider those who do not respond. Please follow up with those you nominate to make sure they received our email. Please contact us if they did not.

If you do not have access to the Internet, you may request a paper nomination form from the Annual Conference Office (annualconference@brethren.org or 847-429-4365 or 800-323-8039 x 364).

Submit all nominations **by December 4, 2024.**
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:

The Annual Conference Office at annualconference@brethren.org
or 847-429-4364 or 800-323-8039 x 364

or the Annual Conference Secretary at acsecretary@brethren.org

Offices Open for Nomination for the 2024 Ballot

Moderator-elect (one person, 3-year term) Ineligible (past four moderators): Donita Keister, Paul Munday, David Sollenberger, Tim McElwee

Annual Conference Program & Arrangements Committee (one person, 3-year term)
Ineligible (member completing a term in 2024): Nathan Hollenberg

Church of the Brethren Mission and Ministry Board (one person, 5-year term)
from Area 4: *Missouri-Arkansas, Northern Plains, Southern Plains**, Western Plains
*Districts not represented on MMB the past 5 years are shown in italics. *no representation for the past 10 years*

Church of the Brethren Mission and Ministry Board (one person, 5-year term)
from Area 5: *Idaho, Pacific Northwest, Pacific Southwest*
*Districts not represented on MMB the past 5 years are shown in italics. *no representation for the past 10 years*

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

The board requests nominees who are aware of the dramatic changes taking place in higher education, especially seminary education; or those who are 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; or persons who have corporate or executive leadership experience.

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

The board requests nominees who can 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.

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. The Standing Committee’s vote reduces the ballot to two nominees per position. This is the tentative final ballot that will be presented at the Annual Conference. It is announced to the denomination at large in February (*AC Minutes 2001*).
3. Anyone *making a nomination from the floor* of Annual Conference is required, before presenting the name of a nominee, to offer a rationale for why the existing ballot for a particular position is inadequate. The Annual Conference delegates will be asked to vote on whether to accept a new nomination based on the presented rationale. If a majority of delegates vote to approve, the person may then present the name of an additional nominee. If the motion fails, the intended nomination shall not be presented nor named (*AC Minutes 2023*). If/when a nomination is allowed, biographical information and written consent by the nominee must be submitted to the Annual Conference secretary immediately 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*).