

# UB 2. Update to Polity Regarding Annual Conference Agencies

## Origin of the Study

In response to a recommendation from On Earth Peace entitled “Polity for Agencies,” which the 2017 Annual Conference returned, while accepting its concern regarding lack of applicable polity, the 2017 Annual Conference adopted the recommendation of Standing Committee:

that the Leadership Team be tasked to update current polity. The update shall include:

- the definition of an Annual Conference agency
- the process to become an Annual Conference agency
- the process by which issues of conflict or dispute between the policies and/or practices of the Annual Conference agencies and the polity, policies, and positions of Annual Conference can be resolved
- the process to review agency status if conflicts cannot be resolved.

The Leadership Team shall consult with each Annual Conference agency in making this update.

## 2018 Report of the Leadership Team on this Assignment

The Leadership Team has been working in its several meetings this past year to update the “Annual Conference Agencies” section of chapter 2 of the *Manual of Organization and Polity* in response to the assignment given by the 2017 Annual Conference. At the January 2018 Inter-Agency Forum meetings, the Leadership Team consulted with the executives and the board chairs of the Annual Conference agencies regarding a possible framework for defining and reviewing agency status and for resolving conflicts or disputes that involve an agency. Further conversation is needed to more fully consider how updated polity might reflect a covenantal basis for our life together as a church. The role of the Review and Evaluation Committee in reviewing the status of the agencies every decade will also be a part of further conversations with the agencies and their boards. The Leadership Team respectfully requests additional time to work on this assignment.

Leadership Team

David A. Steele, general secretary, chair

Samuel Kefas Sarpiya, moderator

Donita J. Keister, moderator-elect

James M. Beckwith, secretary

David D. Shetler, Council of District Executives representative

Chris Douglas, Conference director, staff support

**Action of the 2018 Annual Conference:** General secretary David A. Steele, as chair of the Leadership Team, presented the report. *Annual Conference received Leadership Team’s interim report and granted additional time to work on the assignment.*

**2019 Interim Report of the Leadership Team on this Assignment**

The Leadership Team has worked on updating the “Annual Conference Agencies” section of chapter 2 of the *Manual of Organization and Polity* in response to the assignment given by the 2017 Annual Conference. At the 2018 and again at the 2019 Inter-Agency Forum meetings, the Leadership Team consulted with the Annual Conference agencies about the proposed polity and further consultation is anticipated. The Leadership Team plans to have a revision of polity ready to propose as an item of unfinished business for the 2020 Annual Conference.

**Leadership Team**

- David A. Steele, general secretary, chair
- Donita J. Keister, moderator
- Paul Munday, moderator-elect
- James M. Beckwith, secretary
- Cynthia S. Sanders, Council of District Executives representative

**Action of the 2019 Annual Conference:** General secretary David A. Steele, as chair of the Leadership Team, presented the report. *Annual Conference received the Leadership Team’s interim report from and granted an additional year to work on the assignment.*

**2020 Interim Report of the Leadership Team on this Assignment**

The Leadership Team was working to finalize its proposal for updating our polity regarding Annual Conference agencies when the Conference Officers decided to postpone any polity change proposals until after the Compelling Vision process is completed. That decision will allow any proposed polity change to be considered in light of the Compelling Vision. The Leadership Team will therefore reconsider its recommendation, in consultation with the Annual Conference agencies, after the work on Compelling Vision is completed. We will plan to propose a revision of polity to the 2021 Conference.

**Leadership Team**

- David A. Steele, general secretary, chair
- Paul Munday, moderator
- David Sollenberger, moderator-elect
- James M. Beckwith, secretary
- Cynthia S. Sanders, Council of District Executives representative