

## 2. Report: Negotiating and Drafting Agency Covenants

After adopting new polity regarding Annual Conference agencies, the 2022 Annual Conference directed Standing Committee and any organization requesting agency status to develop a covenant which acknowledges the agency's organizational structure and expectations regarding the agency's role in the life of the denomination before recommending agency status to the delegate body. Further instructions concerning implementation stated that "updated covenant agreements must be created by Standing Committee with each current agency by the end of two years after the institution of this polity. An additional year will be granted at the request of Standing Committee with the support of the agency."

At a subsequent meeting, the Standing Committee called a sub-committee composed of five members tasked with negotiating and drafting agency covenants. Bob Stein, a Standing Committee delegate from the Western Pennsylvania District, was chosen as Chair.

Since our initial meeting in January 2023, we have made significant progress towards our goal. We have developed a common format for present and future agency covenants. Each of the current agencies have reviewed and coordinated their individual versions along the lines of the common format. We are hoping to present draft versions of all three covenants (Bethany Theological Seminary, Eder Financial, and On Earth Peace) to Standing Committee at the 2024 meeting prior to Annual Conference. Further progress updates on this process will be presented at Annual Conference. If the covenants are approved by the Standing Committee this year, the Annual Conference will consider agency status for all three institutions in 2025. We are requesting an additional year to complete our work from the Annual Conference in view of the magnitude of this task.

On behalf of the committee, this report was respectfully submitted on March 6, 2024.

### **Sub-committee Members**

Myron Jackson (Missouri/Arkansas)

Don Shankster (Pacific Southwest)

Ellen Wile (Mid-Atlantic)

David Young (Southern Plains)

Chaired by Bob Stein (Western Pennsylvania)