

NB 6. Proposed Update of Polity Related to On Earth Peace

The following update to OEP polity is requested to make essential changes for the operation of our board in light of the extended process between Standing Committee and all Annual Conference agencies to create new covenants by 2025.

Introduction

On Earth Peace Assembly was founded in 1974 and began as a consultative body to denominational staff. It was incorporated on August 1, 1981, and in 1982 requested to be recognized by the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference as an organization related to the Church of the Brethren with permission to solicit funds among churches and church members and with the privilege of reporting each year to Annual Conference. After a year of study, the denominational board and On Earth Peace Assembly developed and ratified an agreement which was adopted by the 1983 Annual Conference to grant that On Earth Peace Assembly, Incorporated, functioning within its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws, be reportable and accountable to the denominational board, which would include On Earth Peace in its report to Annual Conference. On Earth Peace became a recognized body of the Church of the Brethren, contributing to the peace program of the denominational board. In 1998, On Earth Peace requested affiliation with the Annual Conference of the denomination as an Annual Conference affiliated agency. The request of On Earth Peace Assembly was adopted.

Purpose

This document seeks to outline the relationship between the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference (hereafter referred to as Annual Conference) and On Earth Peace Assembly, Inc. (hereafter referred to as On Earth Peace) as outlined in Polity Regarding Annual Conference Agencies as approved by the 2022 Annual Conference.

On Earth Peace Vision and Mission

Vision: A world in Beloved Community, liberated from oppression, violence, and war.

Mission: We develop and walk with leaders and communities who work for justice and peace.

Function as an Agency

Through our agency responsibilities and opportunities, On Earth Peace commits to embolden the Church of the Brethren to become a living peace and justice denomination. On Earth Peace works faithfully in partnership with the Annual Conference, the Church of the Brethren, Inc., and other Annual Conference affiliated agencies to continue the work of Jesus; peacefully, simply, together. On Earth Peace accepts requests from Annual Conference, within budgetary and staff limitations.

Governance and Reportability

On Earth Peace is an official agency of the Church of the Brethren as authorized by Annual Conference Standing Committee (hereafter referred to as Standing Committee) and will report to Standing Committee annually in a consultative

1 manner on matters of organization and function. Matters of concern or disagree-
2 ment between On Earth Peace and Standing Committee will be addressed ac-
3 cording to Annual Conference polity.

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5 On Earth Peace will report to Annual Conference delegates through an annual
6 live presentation during the annual business meeting. In addition, On Earth Peace
7 will be given the opportunity to provide continuing education events as part of
8 Annual Conference programming. An electronic financial report and a printed
9 annual report also will be made available to Annual Conference delegates.

10 **Bylaws**

11 As an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit ministry, On Earth Peace has authority
12 to develop and implement bylaws for the proper and efficient operation of its
13 organization and program.

14 **Board Membership, Composition, and Terms**

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16 The On Earth Peace Board of Directors (hereafter referred to as Board) consists
17 of no more than 12 members with a majority of the Directors having member-
18 ship in the Church of the Brethren or the Global Church of the Brethren. The
19 remaining members, if chosen outside the Church of the Brethren, shall possess
20 lived experience, knowledge and skills that are desired and/or required to help
21 bring expertise and vision to the Board so that it can fulfill its strategic goals.

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24 New Directors shall be affirmed by the Annual Conference. Each term is for a
25 period of five years. Directors may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms.
26 There shall be a lapse of at least one year following the completion of two con-
27 secutive terms before a director is eligible for appointment to additional terms.
28 The Board will select a successor director to fill the unexpired term of any direc-
29 tor in the event of a vacancy due to the resignation or death of a director before
30 the end of a term. Partial terms of two years or less shall not be counted in con-
31 sidering eligibility for re-election. The Board may appoint advisory people who
32 serve as non-voting members on the Board and/or its standing committees. The
33 Board Governance and Development Committee welcomes nominations
34 through the Annual Conference nomination process. Officers of Annual Con-
35 ference, members of Standing Committee, and members of leadership boards
36 of other agencies reportable to Annual Conference are ineligible to serve con-
37 currently as Directors of the On Earth Peace Board.

38 **Ex Officio Relationships**

39 An executive of OEP or a designee, shall serve as an ex officio member of the
40 Mission and Ministry Board without vote. A representative from the Council of
41 District Executives shall serve as an ex officio member of the On Earth Peace
42 Board without vote. Additional relationships may be developed with other in-
43 stitutions or agencies reportable to Annual Conference.

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46 Affirmed by the On Earth Peace Board on February 14, 2024 by electronic mail
47 for consideration by the 2024 Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren.