

## **Recommendations of Standing Committee regarding New Business Items**

### **NB 1. Polity for Agencies**

Standing Committee recommends that the recommendation from On Earth Peace entitled “Polity for Agencies” be returned with appreciation and respect, but that the concern of the recommendation regarding lack of applicable polity be accepted.

Standing Committee recommends to the 2017 Annual Conference 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.

*Standing Committee has determined that this item will require a simple majority vote.*

### **NB 2. Patient Hope in Matters of Conscience**

Standing Committee receives New Business item 2 “Patient Hope in Matters of Conscience” from On Earth Peace as another thoughtful reminder of our calling to, and history of, practicing forbearance with one another in the church when in faithful conscience we disagree.

We confess that in our current struggle, in which we are deeply divided on same gender issues, we, from all perspectives on the issues, have often not practiced forbearance well. We also confess that our inconsistent “practice of patiently living with differences in matters of conscience” has led to injustice.

Standing Committee recommends the insights of New Business item 2 “Patient Hope in Matters of Conscience” to the entire church for serious, prayerful consideration. As a continuation of the work already done on the “Living Together as Christ Calls” query, we further ask the Mission and Ministry Board, in consultation with On Earth Peace and others with expertise in this area, to provide resources and insight as to how to implement more consistently and fully the 2008 Annual Conference resolution “Urging Forbearance” into the life of the church.

Standing Committee recommends to the 2017 Annual Conference that Unfinished Business item 2 “Review and Evaluation” and Unfinished Business item 4 “The Authority of Annual Conference and Districts regarding the Accountability of Ministers, Congregations, and Districts” not be delayed for the purpose of developing guidelines as stated in this recommendation.

*Standing Committee has determined that this item will require a simple majority vote.*

### **NB 3. Brethren Values Investing**

Standing Committee recommends to the 2017 Annual Conference that the recommendation to amend the Church of the Brethren Benefit Trust’s Articles of Organization to change terminology from “socially responsible investing” to “Brethren Values investing” be adopted.

*Standing Committee has determined that this item will require a two-thirds majority vote because it is a change in polity.*

#### **NB 4. Polity for Electing Brethren Benefit Trust Board Directors**

Standing Committee recommends to the 2017 Annual Conference that the recommendation to amend the "Election" section of the Church of the Brethren Benefit Trust's Articles of Organization be adopted.

*Standing Committee has determined that this item will require a two-thirds majority vote because it is a change in polity.*

### **Standing Committee's Actions regarding Unfinished Business items**

#### **UB 1 Vision of Ecumenism for the 21st Century**

The committee will present its paper and its recommendations (page 189-202) for adoption by the delegate body.

*Standing Committee has determined that this item will require a simple majority vote.*

#### **UB 2 Review and Evaluation**

The committee will present its report and move that the recommendations printed in bold be adopted.

*Standing Committee has determined that recommendation #6 will require a 2/3 majority vote because it would change polity. The other recommendations will require a simple majority vote.*

*Standing Committee recommends a feasibility study for recommendation #1.*

#### **UB 3 Vitality and Viability**

The study committee will make an interim report and request an additional year for study.

*Standing Committee has determined that this item will require a simple majority vote.*

#### **UB 4 The Authority of Annual Conference and Districts regarding the Accountability of Ministers, Congregations, and Districts**

Leadership Team and the Council of District Executives will present their report and its recommendation that this statement of clarification about our current polity and standard practice be received as the answer to our assignment and that the church turn its attention to the framing of a compelling vision for how we will continue the work of Jesus together.

*Standing Committee has determined that this item will require a simple majority vote.*

#### **UB 5 Creation Care**

The study committee will make an interim report and request an additional year for study.

*Standing Committee has determined that this item will require a simple majority vote.*