

**Unity of the Brethren
Bi-Annual Convention
July 5-7, 2007**

AGENDA

Thursday July, 5

- 4:30 Registration & Check-In
5:30 Evening Meal and Visitation
7:00 Worship and Communion
8:00 Break & Set Up
8:15 Session 1
- Opening Comments
 - Greetings from Guests, Organizations and others
 - General overview of the Convention proceedings
 - Discussion of Committee responsibilities
 - Missionary Reports
 - Reports from Officers and Denominational Boards
- 10:00 Conclusion of Session 1

Friday July 6

- 8:00 Breakfast
8:45 Morning Devotional – Rev. Milton Maly
9:15 Session 2
- Completion of Reports (if necessary)
 - Committee assignments
- 9:45- 11:45 Committee meetings (committee members)
- 12:00 Lunch
1:00 Guest Speaker – John Huss
2:00 Session 3
- 2:00- 3:00 Committee meetings (if needed)
 - 3:00- 6:00 General Assembly
 - Committee Reports & actions
- 6:00 Dinner
7:00 Worship

Saturday July 7

- 8:00 Breakfast
9:00 Session 4
- Wrap up of Committee Reports & actions (if needed)
 - Election of Officers and Denominational Committee Members
 - Installation of Officers and Denominational Committee Members
 - Other Business
 - Closing Comments
- 12:00 Lunch
1:00 Session 5 (only if additional time is necessary to complete the Convention Business)

Convention Committees and Suggested Discussion Topics

Finance Committee

Committee Chair: **Marvin Chlapek**

- Detailed overview of the current financial status and fund levels
- Salary/benefit increases for Director of Youth Ministries
- Identification of a permanent funding mechanism for the Director of Youth Ministries
- Outsourcing of day-to-day financial responsibilities such as check writing and bookkeeping to a professional accountant. The treasurer would provide oversight to this vendor.
- Identification of other funding needs for the next biennium
- Recommendation for increase/decrease to the Brethren Fund
- Recommendation for changes to the disbursements percentages of the Brethren Fund
- Alternative funding mechanisms
 - Fees & tuitions at the Hus Encampment
- Preparation of appropriate motions for presentation to the Convention

Constitution and By-Laws Committee

Committee Chair: **Rev. Tommy Tallas**

- General review of constitution and by-laws to update as needed
- Recommendation regarding definition of marriage
- Direction on how provisional churches are identified and incorporated into the Unity of the Brethren; definition of rights and responsibilities of these churches (i.e. travel expenses, voting, Brethren Fund, pastor privileges, etc.)
- Identification of when the terms of new officers and appointees begin
- Is the Director of Youth Ministries a voting member of the Convention?
- Guidelines for the use of funds held by the Board of Grants & Bequests; Are funds intended for use as a Foundation with only interest earnings available for expenditure, or can the principle funds be used as needed?
- Preparation of appropriate motions for presentation to the Convention

Hus School Encampment and Programming Committee

Committee Chair: **Mike Emery**

- General overview of existing camp facilities and programs
- Input to the Hus School Board of Trustees
 - Future development at the camp
 - New programs or events
 - Capital improvements (immediate and long-term)
 - Options to increase attendance at summer camp programs
 - Off campus activities during camp (i.e. hay rides, swimming, walks, skating, etc.)
- Funding needs and communication of these needs to the denomination
- Identification of funding sources
- Preparation of appropriate motions for presentation to the Convention

Interdenominational Outreach Committee

Committee Chair: **Kim Ulmer**

- Review of By-Laws in regard to Interdenominational Relations
- Is this important to the Unity of the Brethren? What goals are expected of these types of outreach programs? Determine the outcome that we hope to achieve.
- Identification of targeted denominations, organizations or programs
- Methods for interaction with other denominations on both local and denominational levels
- Funding requirements and identification of funding sources
- Preparation of appropriate motions for presentation to the Convention

Missions Committee

Committee Chair: **David Miller**

- General overview of current Mission Board programs and involvement.

- Input to the Mission Board regarding general direction and support.
 - Discussion of home vs foreign mission activities
 - On-going programs in Mexico, Honduras, Asia, Australia and elsewhere
 - Work crews to home or foreign mission fields
- Identification of people interested in Missions work
- Mission opportunities for young people
- Fund-raising and financial support
- Preparation of appropriate motions for presentation to the Convention

Church Growth & Denominational Programs

Committee Chair: Claren Kotrla

- Spiritual and financial support for provisional churches
- Discussion regarding the status of Faith Brethren and it's formal assimilation into the Unity of the Brethren
- Overall decline in membership and options for seeking new members (this needs to be specific and achievable for local churches)
- Financing options for new construction or remodeling of churches
- Identification of new pastors and assistance to churches seeking a pastor
- Input regarding *The Brethren Journal*
 - Changes to the current format or content
 - Provide *The Brethren Journal* in digital format to those who want
 - Suggestions to increase circulation
 - Suggestions to increase revenue from subscriptions, advertising, etc.
 - Suggestions for future articles and topics
- Preparation of appropriate motions for presentation to the Convention

Pastors Committee

Committee Chair: Rev. Larry Koslovsky

- Election of a Pastor to Pastors
- Mentoring of fellow pastors within the Denomination
- Statewide or regional gatherings for support, encouragement, and planning
- Continuing education
 - Development of annual requirements for ordained pastors
 - Development of required courses for licensed pastors
- Proposed modifications to the method for approving new pastors within the Denomination
- Identification/encouragement of people who may be interested in entering the clergy
- Common needs that can be addressed by the Denomination
- Preparation of appropriate motions for presentation to the Convention

Youth Work and the Brethren Youth Fellowship

Committee Chair: Kim Stewart

- General overview of current youth programs and activities
- Sharing of ideas and programs that churches use in youth work; what works and what doesn't
- Regional or statewide activities to bring small youth groups together
- Activities of interest to youth outside of the Hus School Encampment
 - Fishing retreat
 - Concerts
 - Ski trips – possibly with groups from other denominations
 - Mission programs
- Identification of additional funding needs and funding sources
- Insurance needs for activities away from the Hus School Encampment
- Identification of youth workers and sponsors at local churches – How is it done?
- Preparation of appropriate motions for presentation to the Convention