

The 2021 Standing Committee Member's Report to District Conference

The 2021 Standing Committee of the Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren met via Zoom conference call beginning on Sunday evening, June 27, at 6:00 p.m. and concluded on Wednesday, June 30, at noon, (Eastern Time). Zoom calls were again necessary due to the COVID-19 pandemic and were followed by a virtual Annual Conference. The delegates from the 24 districts of the denomination were present on the call along with the leadership of the conference officers.

The primary purposes for the meeting were:

- (1) to officially seat the 2021 Standing Committee.
- (2) to receive subcommittee reports and recommendations and to choose new subcommittee members for the Nominating Committee and the Appeals Committee.

There were breakout discussions interspersed throughout the calls to allow for delegates to get better acquainted in order to elect new members to subcommittees for the coming year and to discuss recommendations brought by the various subcommittees.

Standing Committee heard the report of the Review of the Judicial Role and Appeal Process Committee. The ROJRAP Committee brought several changes to polity to align with proposed changes in the appeal process. The committee also brought to Standing Committee a new process for listening sessions to be carried out by the Standing Committee if necessary or desired. The new process and the recommendations for polity changes were passed by the Standing Committee. They will be presented to the full delegate body of Annual Conference in 2022.

Standing Committee then heard the report of the Nominating Committee. They discussed the ongoing concern of nominations from the floor which circumvents the extensive vetting process done by the Nominating Committee and Standing Committee months before Annual Conference. The new Nominating Committee will continue the study and present recommendations to the 2022 Standing Committee.

Each Standing Committee member (and their District) was asked by the Nominating Committee to be responsible for providing a minimum of five nominees for the committee to consider for the initial ballot for the Standing Committee vote in January. Nominees can be from our own district or anywhere else in the denomination. We are encouraged to use the forms for 2022 nominations on the website: brethren.org/ac). They were reminded to be aware of the directive through the Call to Accountability to seek balance in the ballot in terms of age, gender, and ethnic representation, both as SC delegates participate in the nominations process and as they vote on the Standing Committee ballot.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Maurer
Standing Committee delegate

