

The 2020 Standing Committee Members' Report to District Conference

The 2020 Standing Committee of the Annual Conference of the Church of the Brethren met via Zoom conference call on Sunday evening, June 28, at 6:30 p.m. Eastern Time for their reorganizational meeting, since the COVID-19 pandemic had made it necessary to cancel the 2020 Conference. 31 of the 34 district delegates from the 24 districts of the denomination were present on the call along with the leadership of the conference officers.

The two primary purposes for the meeting were:

- (1) to officially seat the 2020 Standing Committee.
- (2) to receive subcommittee reports and choose new subcommittee members.

There were three breakout discussions interspersed throughout the call to allow for delegates to get better acquainted in order to elect new members to subcommittees for the coming year.

Standing Committee heard the report of the Review of the Judicial Role and Appeal Process Committee. The ROJRAP Committee had worked not only to bring a new Standing Committee Appeal Process the previous year, but would be recommending next year (2021) several changes to polity to align with that appeal process. The committee would also bring to Standing Committee next year a new process for listening sessions to be carried out by Standing Committee if necessary or desired. The committee made no motions this year. The report was only informational. The new process and the recommendations for polity changes will come to next year's Standing Committee. The ROJRAP recommendations will not be business items for the 2021 Annual Conference delegate body. They will be business items for the 2021 Standing Committee. If SC would recommend them to the full delegate body, they would not be presented to Annual Conference as a whole until 2022.

Standing Committee then heard the report of the Nominating Committee. A change in the balloting process will no longer require SC members to vote for two out of the four candidates for each office. They will have the option to vote for none, or one, or two of the four. Nominating Committee believes this is a fair and important change because it allows Standing Committee to vote in the same manner as the full delegate body votes. The Annual Conference ballot does not force delegates to vote for candidates they do not want to vote for. The Nominating Committee members also did the additional work of following up with the 2020 deferred ballot.

Each Standing Committee member 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. SC delegates are 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.

Standing Committee also elected members to its subcommittees – Fred Bernhard will serve on the Two-Thirds Committee, and Becky Maurer continues on the Nominating Committee which is encouraging all districts to submit a minimum of five nominees for Annual Conference offices. (Nominations can be for persons from our own district or anywhere else in the denomination. We are encouraged to use the forms for 2021 nominations on the website: brethren.org/ac).

Respectfully submitted,

Fred Bernhard and Becky Maurer
Standing Committee delegates

