

Report of Standing Committee Delegate

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The Standing Committee of the Church of the Brethren Annual Conference is charged with reviewing items of business coming before the conference and making recommendations to the delegate body for consideration.

The Standing Committee of the 2016 Church of the Brethren met June 25-29 in Greensboro, North Carolina. All 37 delegates from 24 districts were present, as well as immediate past moderator David Steele. Moderator Andrew Murray chaired the meetings assisted by moderator-elect Carol Scheppard, and secretary, James M. Beckwith.

During its meetings Standing Committee made recommendations in response to five items of new business. Query: Same Sex Weddings—Standing Committee proposed a recommendation but also approved the officers' suggestion that the delegate body be asked whether it would accept this query as an item of business since previous conference action had decided "to continue deeper conversations concerning human sexuality outside the query process." Standing Committee specified that the suggested response to query: Same Sex Weddings would require a two-thirds majority vote, because it is a controversial issue. [The item

was accepted by the delegate body as an item of business by a 55.1% vote. The recommendation of Standing Committee failed to receive the necessary 2/3 vote and the concern of the query was then referred to the Leadership Team and the Council of District Executives.]

Standing Committee proposed referring both query: On Earth Peace Reportability/Accountability to Annual Conference, and query: Viability of On Earth Peace as an agency of the Church of the Brethren, to the Review and Evaluation Committee which has the responsibility for reviewing agencies of the Church of the Brethren and its report will be presented to the 2017 Annual Conference.

In response to query: Continuing the study of our Christian responsibility to care for God's creation, Standing Committee proposed forming a study committee which will work with Brethren Benefit Trust to respond to concerns of the query.

Standing Committee recommended that the concerns of the query: Living Together as Christ Calls (originated in PSWD) be referred to the Ministry and Mission Board.

Thank you for the opportunity of representing the PSWD on Standing Committee.