

## CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

# LAY SPEAKER: PRE-INTERVIEW GUIDE

### I. PRE-LAY SPEAKER

When a person becomes a candidate for the lay speaker ministry, the congregation shall notify the District Ministry Commission and arrange for a joint meeting of representatives of the church board and the District Ministry Commission to examine the candidate. Such an examination should include: the candidate's call; natural ability; moral and spiritual fitness; willingness to prepare for the duties of the ministry of lay speaker; the candidate's commitment to the history, beliefs, and priorities of the Church of the Brethren; and the candidate's personal faith perspective.

### II. THE INTERVIEW

- A. The District Ministry Commission is responsible for guiding the pre-lay speaker process. This document and related papers may be reproduced only for deliberation by the commission and/or its interview committee.
- B. The candidate fills out the Interview Guide and returns it to the District Ministry Commission before the interview.
- C. In addition to reviewing the Interview Guide, the District Ministry Commission or its interview committee prepares questions emerging from or related to it, as well as additional questions, pertaining to the candidate's faith and life.
- D. The District Ministry Commission is free to ask for additional materials which will assist them in the interview process. These materials could include transcripts, a physical examination, Readiness for Ministry testing, etc. Sufficient lead time should be allowed for these materials to be available before the interview.
- E. If the candidate is married, the spouse should be invited to join the interview.

### III. FOLLOWING THE INTERVIEW

- A. A recommendation regarding the candidate must be processed by the District Ministry Commission and the congregation so that each body may make a decision regarding the person's readiness for the ministry of lay speaker.

- B. The original document and related papers are to be retained in the district office. All other copies are to be destroyed by the District Executive/Minister at the conclusion of the pre-lay speaker process.

#### **IV. TERM OF SERVICE**

The term is for three (3) years and can be renewed by recommendation of the calling congregation and approval of the District Ministry Commission.

#### **V. NOTES TO THE CANDIDATE**

- A. The following questions are asked so that you can provide written responses in preparation for the interview with the District Ministry Commission or its interview committee. If there is more space needed for your answers, please include an extra sheet (or sheets) with this form.
- B. If you move your membership to another congregation within the district, that congregation and the District Ministry Commission must approve your continued lay speaker status.
- C. If you move your membership to a congregation in another district, you will need to re-apply for lay speaker status with its District Ministry Commission.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Affirmed by Council of District Executives, 6/97  
Revised 1/2000

CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN

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Date \_\_\_\_\_

**I. Personal Data**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ U.S. resident \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No  
          [*first*]                    [*middle*]                    [*last*]

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
                  [*street, box*]                                    [*city, town*]                                    [*state*]                                    [*zip*]

Phone [*including area code*]: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Office \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Membership is in \_\_\_\_\_ Congregation \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Marital status: Single \_\_\_\_ Married \_\_\_\_ Widowed \_\_\_\_ Divorced \_\_\_\_

If married, spouse's name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's congregation \_\_\_\_\_

Names/ages of children \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Your present school or occupation \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Circle level completed:            1 1 12                    1 2 3 4                    1 2 3 4  
  *High school*                    *College*                    *Graduate school*

Indicate degrees received and from where \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Describe yourself as a student: \_\_\_\_ Above average    \_\_\_\_ Average    \_\_\_\_ Below average

List school, community or other activities in which you have had a part:

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Your responsibility</i>	<i>One or two important learnings for you</i>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

What leadership responsibilities have you had? List the organization and the position.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

List part-time or full-time employment [*three most recent*]:

<i>Dates from/to</i>	<i>Organization/Employer</i>	<i>Your position</i>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Health:    \_\_\_ Average    \_\_\_ Above average    \_\_\_ Below average

Comment [*use additional sheets as necessary*]:

## **II. Lay Speaker Questions/Issues**

**A.** Have you read the “Lay Speaker” paper?    \_\_\_ Yes    \_\_\_ No

**B.** Why are you seeking to be a lay speaker?

**C.** Write a narrative about your call. How did you experience the call? What events and persons were influential in your faith journey?

**D.** What skills or talents do you have that you think could be effectively utilized in this ministry?

**E.** What experiences have you had that might benefit you as a lay speaker (volunteer, speaking in public, etc.)?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**F.** Are you aware of anything that might hinder your development and involvement in the lay speaker ministry (i.e., financial burden, family responsibilities, etc.)?

**G.** What doctrines, principles, and practices of the Church of the Brethren do you feel are most important? most relevant?

**H.** Which doctrines, principles, and practices of the Church of the Brethren do you feel are difficult to support?

**III. Ministerial Ethics**

I have read the current "Ethics in Ministry" paper and accept its requirements and procedures.  Yes  No

If no, please explain:

Have you ever been convicted of a felony or misdemeanor other than traffic offenses or had that conviction stricken from you record? (Note: The legality of asking this question may vary from state to state.)  Yes  No

If yes, describe the circumstances. [*Use additional sheets as necessary.*]

Has a formal complaint of sexual misconduct ever been filed against you?  Yes  No

If yes, describe the circumstances. (Use additional sheets as necessary.)

If I am commissioned as a lay speaker, I will accept the guidance and discipline of the district and denomination.

Signature\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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SPACES BELOW TO BE COMPLETED BY DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

Recommendation of interviewers \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Interviewer \_\_\_\_\_

Interviewer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation of District Ministry Commission: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Interviewer \_\_\_\_\_

Interviewer \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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