

## Guide for Understanding the New Structure

**Purpose of the New Structure:** to help us live out our vision and to utilize our spiritual gifts and human resources more effectively. The new structure does not change the role of District Conference as the primary governing body of the Church of the Brethren in Western Plains.

### **Glossary of New Terms:**

*Transformation Vision Team*—takes most of the functions of the present District Board and Executive Committee. Members are called to serve in particular areas of giftedness and passion on this smaller governing group. Members of the Transformation Vision Team are:

- *Chair*—convener, leader, ex officio member without vote on the Gift Discernment Team, counsels with District Executive on personnel and other matters, and convenes a Personnel Committee to make recommendations to the Team on personnel matters. (The Personnel Committee consists of the Chair, Vice Chair, Stewards Chair and Moderator, with the District Executive serving as ex officio without vote.)
- *Vice Chair*—a member of Transformation Vision Team designated by the Team to serve in the Chair's absence and to serve as a member of the Personnel Committee. The Vice Chair will be chosen from the Transformation Vision Team members excluding the Stewardship or Gifts Discernment Chairs.
- *Secretary*—an ex officio member designated by the Team to take minutes of the Team's meetings.
- *Ex officio members without vote*—the District Executive staff, Moderator Elect, Treasurer and Standing Committee member. The Moderator is ex officio member without vote except when functioning as a member of the Personnel Committee.
- *Vision Fulfillment Team Chairs*—see below for descriptions of these Teams.

*Vision Fulfillment Teams*—something like the present Commissions to work at area-by-area planning but with greater continuity of assignment and not requiring all members to attend the “board” meetings. These Teams are:

- *Gift Discernment Team*—leads in discerning and calling qualified persons to assignments in areas of their spiritual gifts, passion, and experience to carry out District ministries.
- *Transformation Training Team*—coaching network, pastor/leader training, and Gathering events
- *New Church Development Team*—advocacy of new church development, relationships with new church development projects and leaders.
- *Outdoor Ministries Team*—relationships with camp boards, promotion of camping, naming of camp managers and camp leaders, recommending curriculum, and long-range planning and financial oversight of camping programs.
- *Congregational Resourcing Team*—congregational life needs, including youth program, disaster response, BVS promotion, peace advocacy, Christian education, men/women's retreats, deacon ministry.
- *Stewardship Team*—financial overview and reporting, property management, risk management, supervision of Treasurer and Financial Secretary, and stewardship education.
- *Ministry Team*—credentialing of ministers, advocacy for pastoral call and for pastoral support and development, ethics training, and overview of EFSM and TRIM training.
- *Communication Team*—newsletter, website, directory, the use of and training for emerging media and technologies.

*see opposite side for a visual image of the new structure*

