

## **Query: Viability of On Earth Peace as an Agency of the Church of the Brethren**

**Whereas:** The Church of the Brethren is and has been a living peace church since 1708; and

**Whereas:** Ministries of peace, non-violence and justice for all are a concern of the denomination; and

**Whereas:** Both the staff of the Church of the Brethren, Inc. and On Earth Peace seem to have overlapping responsibilities and ministries, and

**Whereas:** The recent actions of On Earth Peace, during the last three years, have brought more conflict in the denomination and reflect their unwillingness to follow Annual Conference mandates or directives; and

**Whereas:** The denomination's diminishing membership and reduction of resources reflects the need for less structure and more efficient administration.

**Therefore:** We the Hawthorne Church of the Brethren, who met on July 19th, 2015, petition the Southeastern District Church of the Brethren District Board to review and evaluate the question "Would the denomination be better served by dissolving On Earth Peace as an agency of Annual Conference and their responsibilities integrated into the general work of the staff of the Church of the Brethren, Inc.?"

Ralph Stevens  
Church Moderator

Martin Murr  
Pastor

**Action of the Southeastern District Church of the Brethren District Board:** At the SED District Board Retreat that met on September 12, 2015 at Camp Carmel in Linville, North Carolina the SED District Board approved the "Query: Viability of On Earth Peace as an Agency of the Church of the Brethren" for consideration by a called SED District Conference to be held on November 14, 2015.

Stephen Abe  
SED District Board Chair

Mary June Sheets  
SED District Board Secretary

**Action of the Called SED District Conference:** At the Special Called SED District Conference held on Saturday, November 14th, 2015, the Conference Body voted to send accept and send the Query: "Viability of On Earth Peace as an Agency of the Church of the Brethren" to the Church of the Brethren Standing Committee for review and acceptance for the 2016 Annual Conference.

Gary Benesh  
2016 SED Conference Moderator

Jane Collins  
Substitute District Conference Clerk