

# *Search for a New Hymn or Song*

## *Theme: Unity in Diversity*

*Occasion: The 2012 Hymn Society Summer Conference:  
"The Meeting Place-- Sharing our Song"*

As part of The Hymn Society's ongoing commitment to the enrichment of congregational song and in anticipation of the 2012 conference "The Meeting Place—Sharing our Song" the Executive Committee has announced a search for a theologically rich hymn or song that engages the idea of our unity in faith which bridges divisions based on our cultural, ethnic, and theological diversity. The winning entry will be premiered at our 2012 conference in Winnipeg, a historic "meeting place" for both First Nation and European settlers. During those days we will enjoy experiencing the diversity of faith expressions in that multicultural city and examine the ways in which song can bring us closer together. An effective entry in this hymn search will address the idea of our unity while respecting the diversity of our cultural and ethnic contexts.

This search continues the series of hymn searches related to various aspects of the life and witness of people of faith made possible by a gift from Hymn Society Life Member Mary Nelson Keithahn.

This is primarily a search for new texts exploring the theme in accessible poetic language. Entries consisting of both words and music will also be considered, whether in a traditional hymnic or a contemporary musical idiom. All texts must be singable, either to existing tunes or to new music provided with the submission. Further details can be found with the entry forms on the Hymn Society website at [www.thehymnsociety.org](http://www.thehymnsociety.org) or may be requested in a printed version by contacting the Hymn Society headquarters.

The prize for the winning entry will be \$500. Because collaboration is strongly encouraged in the creation of entries involving new tunes, it is likely that words and music will be by different persons, and they will share the prize equally. An author or composer may choose to retain copyright. Doing so will not affect that person's designation as winner of the search, but the corresponding portion of the prize money will not be awarded.

All entries are expected to follow the search guidelines and must reach the Hymn Society office by April 30, 2012, in order to be considered. The judges reserve the right not to name a winner if no entry adequately fulfills the criteria of the search.

The winning entry will be sung at the Annual Conference in Winnipeg, Manitoba, July 15-19, 2012, and will be published in the Autumn 2012 issue of THE HYMN.

Specific guidelines are provided in this packet.

## *Guidelines for Hymn or Song on Unity in Diversity*

In this search The Hymn Society is looking for a theologically rich hymn or song that engages the idea of our unity in faith which bridges divisions based on our cultural, ethnic, and theological diversity. The search is primarily for a text, whether written for an existing or a new musical setting.

1. The text should be written in an accessible poetic style that lends itself to singing, and the language of the text should be contemporary and inclusive.
2. If the text is written in a traditional hymnic meter, a suggested tune should be indicated. Melodies of both existing and new tunes must be within the singing capabilities of an average congregation.
3. A new musical setting may be in either a traditional hymnic style or in a contemporary musical idiom using a verse, chorus, and optional bridge structure and suitable for accompaniment by piano, guitar, drum, and bass (or comparable instrumentation).
3. There is no limit to the number of entries that may be submitted by each writer, but each entry must be accompanied by a \$5.00 fee (in US funds; checks made payable to The Hymn Society).
4. Each entry is to be submitted on white 8.5" x 11" paper (or nearest equivalent outside North America) in four (4) copies. Texts intended for setting to traditional hymn tunes need to be submitted only in words. Texts with a new tune in a traditional hymnic style may be submitted either with the text interlined or printed in block form. Those involving musical settings in a contemporary idiom need to be submitted in two forms: (a) the words and music provided to the congregation and (b) the words and music provided to the musicians.
5. Engraved manuscripts are not required, but hand-notated manuscripts must be clean and legible. Illegible entries will not be considered.
6. To preserve anonymity, the name of author and/or composer should appear only on the entry form provided with these guidelines and not on the hymn copies submitted for judging.
7. Entries not received by April 30, 2012, will not be considered.
8. All entries must be previously unpublished and should not be simultaneously submitted for consideration in any other contest or for publication in any collection. All entries become the property of The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada for the duration of the competition (until July 1, 2012), and The Hymn Society will retain the copyright for the winning entry.

9. A prize of \$500 will be awarded for the winning entry. If different persons have created the text and the musical setting, the prize will be divided evenly between the author and the composer. An author or composer may choose to retain copyright. Doing so will not affect that person's designation as winner of the search, but the corresponding portion of the prize money will not be awarded.

10. The Hymn Society reserves the right not to award a prize if no entry is deemed meritorious and to award a prize to a submitted text without doing so to a tune submitted with it.

11. The winning entry will be published in the Autumn 2012 issue of THE HYMN.

12. Entries and appropriate fees should be mailed to the following address:

Unity in Diversity Search  
The Hymn Society in the US and Canada  
Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond  
3400 Brook Road  
Richmond VA 23227-4536

The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada  
***SEARCH FOR HYMN OR SONG  
ON UNITY IN DIVERSITY***

**Entry Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (daytime) \_\_\_\_\_

(evening) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Number of hymns enclosed (4 copies each) \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed (\$5/hymn) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Checks (in US Funds) are to be made payable to The Hymn Society.*

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*I have read the guidelines for this hymn search and agree  
to abide by them.*

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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**This form will not be seen by the judges.  
No submitted materials will be returned.  
Be sure to retain your original manuscript.**

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*Please indicate for each submitted hymn:*

**FIRST LINE**

**COMPOSER OF TUNE (IF APPLICABLE)**

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

5 \_\_\_\_\_