

BOARDS OF TRUSTEES IN UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES – A bit of pre-reading in advance of our Leaders' Session on January 9, 2022

Our time together will focus on applying *The Book of Discipline 2016's* guidance and structures for the ministry of a Board of Trustees. You can find that information in Paragraphs 2525-2551. Highlights:

1. A local church's Board of Trustees should consist of between 3 and 9 people. It is recommended that 1/3 be female and 1/3 be male. Trustees may succeed themselves. It is a local church's charge conference's decision as to how many trustees to elect based on their Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development's recommendation. Insofar as possible the Trustees should be in 3 equal sized classes elected to staggered terms. Each Trustee serves for 3 years in their "class," unless they resign or were elected for another class/shorter term.
2. The Trustees are to organize themselves in the first 30 days of the new year (or on whatever calendar the local church chooses to operate). They elect their Chair; their Vice-Chair; perhaps a Secretary and/or Treasurer.
3. The Trustees are accountable to The Administrative Council and Charge Conference.
4. The Trustees have set duties; see paragraph 2533 which we will review in our time together.
5. Incorporation of a local church is an option. In our time together we will weigh the pro's and con's of that choice.
6. Trustees in a local church must meet annually for the purpose of organizing as a Board. They meet thereafter to suit the needs of their local church.

Our time together will cover:

1. Purpose and spiritual duties of Trustees
2. Trustees' responsibilities and limits
 - a. Property: maintenance, insurance, use, planning/building/renovation
 - b. Legal signatories: purpose, freedom and limits
 - c. Endowments
 - d. Incorporation
 - e. Building Use Policies
 - f. Interfacing with other ministries
 - g. Visioning
 - h. Other
3. Trustee meeting schedule
4. Relationship with other local church committees/Admin Council/Charge Conference/connection
5. Application and role playing

I welcome your questions in advance and look forward to being with you. Peace of Christ be with you.

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