

Mason United Methodist Church
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Restructure Task Force Report

<http://www.masonumc.org/board-responsibilities>

Purpose:

Equipping Disciples to live God's mission to renew the face of the earth.

Vision:

To be a reaching, nurturing, sending community of committed followers of Jesus.

Overview:

As a growing congregation, we need to move from a church-centric (inward) focus to a mission-centric (outward) focus. We do that best when we downsize our official structure and increase our service to others.

In order to facilitate the transformation of Mason United Methodist Church as a more outward focused and vital/fruitful effective large congregation, the members of the 2012 Nomination Task Force proposed we adopt a single governing board model.

This sort of governance structure is being successfully implemented in many vital congregations throughout our Annual Conference and across the denomination (such as: Ginghamburg, Church of the Savior (Cincinnati), Reynoldsburg, Cornerstone (West Chester), Christ (Jackson).

This recommendation was approved unanimously by the Church Council November, 2012:

In accordance with the Church Council vote by the Charge Conference of 2013, we will become a board-governed, pastor-lead, staff/volunteer- managed church where the congregation is equipped and empowered to do ministry.

Background:

One of the key strategies to growth is a simplified and unified structure that keeps the church focused on its mission and points the church in a direction with purpose and accountability.

A church needs a good support system just as a home needs a strong foundation to build upon. That foundation involves staying as accountable as possible so that the most people can spend their time in

hands-on ministry. Releasing people from their obligations to sit in committee meetings gives them more opportunities to be in ministry.

This new model takes trust on the laity's part and competent leadership on the pastor's part. It requires a pastor-led church (the pastor recruits, trains, equips, and aligns), not a pastor-centered church model (where only the pastor cares for the congregation and does ministry). This understanding of church leadership is closer to how John Wesley worked in the early Methodist Church. So it may not be a totally new concept as much as it is a return to what worked in the beginning of the Methodist Movement.

Our decision-making process has to change if we are to adapt to this fast-changing world. If we are not careful, most of the decisions we make will be outdated by the time we decide them, because it has taken too long to decide. The old structure was designed to be a communication venue rather than a catalyst for action.

Mission of the Leadership Board:

To ensure the purpose and vision of Mason UMC is defined, protected, and promoted.

Responsibilities of the Leadership Board:

The Leadership Board will be responsible for functions required by (2012) The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church par. 244 (SPRC, Trustees, Finance, Lay Leadership, Church Council). And pars. 252.5, 258.1c, 258.4, and 2525 including:

Review and approve the annual budget

Annually review the Lead Pastor in conjunction with the District Superintendent

Approve all land acquisitions, facility construction and significant legal obligations

When a special need exists, the Board can create a team (task force) consisting of board and/or other church members.

Actively pursue learning opportunities as they relate to large church structure and development.

Set policy that gives guidelines within which all other ministry teams work (such as: fund raising, entering into contracts, leadership succession plan, staff policy handbook).

Maintain articles of incorporation.

Call Church Conferences as required by The Discipline.

Shall provide for an annual review of the "State of the Church" conducted as the Annual Church Conference.

The members of the Leadership Board will elect the following Officers:

Chairperson

Secretary

And these functionary roles:

Board member for legal matters

Board member to interface with the District Superintendent

Membership of the Leadership Board:

The Leadership Board will consist of 9 individuals (members of Mason UMC). The Lead Pastor will also be a member of the Board without vote.

Length of service:

Initial Board-Three members will serve a one year term, three will serve a two year term, and three will serve a three year term. All members after the initial group will serve three year terms.

Criteria for Membership:

Must be a member of Mason UMC at least 1 year

Must be at least 21 years of age.

Must actively fulfill expectations for all members of MUMC:

- 1. To attend worship unless ill or out of town.**
- 2. To grow in your faith outside of worship in prayer and Bible study or small group**
- 3. To give proportionate to your income with a tithe being the goal.**
- 4. To serve in ministry, according to your gifts.**

Alignment with the purpose of Mason UMC.

Ability to balance and/or diversify the Board

Ability to participate in meetings and fulfill requirements of the Board.

Must be forward thinking and able to vision toward the future.

Fully abide by the Leadership Covenant.

Paid staff, volunteer leaders and directors of ministry areas are not eligible.

Nomination:

Each new class of Leadership Board Members shall be nominated by a task force appointed by the Leadership Board. The nomination task force shall be composed of 1 board member and 2 non-board members and chaired by the Lead Pastor. The nominated class shall then be elected by the Annual Church Conference. The process will include an application and interview.

The Lay Member(s) to Annual Conference shall be nominated by the same task force. If there are more than one lay member to be nominated only one can be a member of the Leadership Board.

The initial Nomination Task Force will be appointed by the Church Council consisting of one Restructure Task Force member and three Church Council members and chaired by the Lead Pastor.

If a Board position becomes vacant prior to the expected term is completed the nomination process outlined is used to replace that Board member within 60 days.

If the class of new board members presented to the church conference is not approved, the board currently in place at the time will continue to serve and will present a revised slate for approval to a second church conference within 45 days.