

Simplified Structure

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Which positions can be combined for one person on the Board to hold?

Most all positions can be combined as long as the minimum number are elected. The Lay Leader, Lay Delegate, PPR Chair and Trustee Chair must be designated, but could all be the same person.

2. Is there an absolute minimum number for the Board?

Nine

3. Does the pastor have a vote?

No

4. Can family members serve together on the Board?

Per the Book of Discipline, family members cannot serve on the Board together. If it cannot be avoided, the family members may need to excuse themselves from the room or not vote on issues with potential conflict of interest. Staff and family of staff cannot serve on the Board.

5. Should staff (paid and unpaid) serve on the Board?

No

6. Who should take notes at the meeting?

Someone can be assigned or elected to take notes that is not on the Board. That person could be elected from the existing members of the Board, a person recruited outside the Board to take notes (needs to be excluded from PPR conversations) or person who is an addition to the Board with the sole responsibility of taking notes.

7. Are the Financial Secretary and Treasurer required to be on the Board?

No, but they can be. A best practice is for them not to be on the Board. Additionally, a congregational attorney or chancellor cannot be on the board as a voting member due to legal ethics.

8. Which position on the Board serves as the liaison to the D.S. for PPR purposes?

It is recommended that the Board Chair serves as the PPR liaison to the DS.

9. Are there still three-year terms and classes?

Yes. One third of the Board will roll off each year.

10. Is the Board self-nominating?

No. There is still a requirement that there be a separate Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development to nominate the Board Members to the Charge Conference each year.

11. How long can a person serve on the Board? Can they roll from three years as Trustee specialist to three years as a Finance specialist?

Board members serve a three-year term. Since all specialists are also serving as PPR, Trustees and Finance, it is recommended they roll off after each three-year term. The Lay Leader and Lay Delegate are exempt from the three-year term. After being off the Board for a year, the person can roll back onto the Board if elected.

12. Are UMM, UMW, and UMYF representatives required to be on the Board?

If the church has these chartered groups, a member of that group can serve on the Board as elected by their chartering group. It is not a requirement if the group decides not to elect a representative.

13. How many have to be present to take an official vote? What requires an official vote?

A quorum is described as whoever is present. Simple majority of those attending rules.

14. How is the Trustee Chair elected or appointed as required by the corporate resolution?

At the first meeting at the beginning of each new year, the Board will elect a Trustee Chair to satisfy the corporate resolution requirement. It is recommended the Board Chair serve as the Trustee Chair.

15. If a church moves to the simplified structure (aka single board), how does ministry happen?

Even though the re-structuring occurs, ministry teams are still needed and in place. Fewer people on the Board means more people are available to do ministry. Simplifying structure is the combining of the four administrative teams of the Council, Trustees, Finance and PPR Committees.

16. Do I need approval from my DS to move to the simplified structure?

Yes. A letter from the pastor requesting to move to simplified structure to the DS is the first step. In the letter, state the missional purpose of moving to this structure.

17. Where can I find information on simplified structure in the Book of Discipline?

Paragraph 247.1 in the 2012 edition