

The Local Church

¶ 201. Definition of a Local Church— The local church provides the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs....

¶ 202. The Function of the Local Church— The church of Jesus Christ exists in and for the world. It is primarily at the level of the charge consisting of one or more local churches that the church encounters the world....

The Local Church



Who has served in one of these governance positions?

- Church Council / Administrative Board
- Trustees
- Staff-Parish Relations Committee
- Finance Committee
- Nominations
- Various teams or committees

What did you learn about the church in your work as a servant leader in the congregation?

Church Council / Ad Board



In order to provide oversight and leadership throughout the year, the Church Council serves as the Church (Charge) Conference's executive governing body, monitoring ministry progress and voting on strategic matters. The Council's primary duties include setting strategic direction for the church, overseeing the church's governance and administration, and ensuring that ministries are accomplishing the church's purpose, vision and plans.

Nominations & Leadership Development



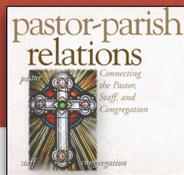
The Committee oversees the identification, development, and care of servant leaders. Key initiatives include preparing the annual nomination slate and providing oversight of volunteer service and leadership development at the church.

Finance Committee



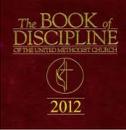
The Finance Committee develops and administers a coordinated plan of fiscal and administrative policies and procedures for the church. It oversees financial health, the annual audit, provides financial direction; organizes the annual stewardship program, and communicates the church's financial condition.

SPR or PPR Committee



The Staff-Parish, or Pastor-Parish Committee governs policy for staff and clergy. The committee sets employment policy, guides the priorities of the pastoral and staff team, and relates to the District Superintendent.

Membership on this committee has certain disciplinary rules.



Trustees

The Board of Trustees is charged with the care and maintenance of church property and holds title to the church's property, buildings and equipment.

Key items include establishing policies and practices regarding maintenance and equipment, church property, incorporation, safe sanctuary, disaster planning, land acquisition & construction planning, and insurance.

Trustees must be at least eighteen years of age.

Side Note: the Trust Clause

- The district committee on church location and building must approve financial and architectural plans for local church construction
- If a local church ceases to be a United Methodist congregation, the property becomes the responsibility of the annual conference board of trustees. It is not correct to say that "the conference owns our building," as some United Methodists think. The property is under the control of the local church as long as that local church is United Methodist.



Pastor

¶ 340. Duties and Responsibilities of Elders and Licensed Pastors

Somewhere between 40 and 3000 essential functions!!!



Pastor

What NOT to do!

UMC Pastor "what not to do"

- Don't engage a non-approved evangelist
- You cannot stop holding worship services*
- Don't organize a church or a second campus*
- Don't lead worship in another pastor's parish bounds*
- Never violate pastoral confidences*
- Don't conduct gay marriage/union
- Don't re-baptize

*And, of course, all that moral stuff
(we'll talk pastoral ethics later)*

UMC Pastor

It would be great if

**You did not surprise the
DS or Bishop.**

**You actually followed through with your
mentor & circuit elder.**

**You prioritized all the duties of a pastor
so you don't go crazy.**
