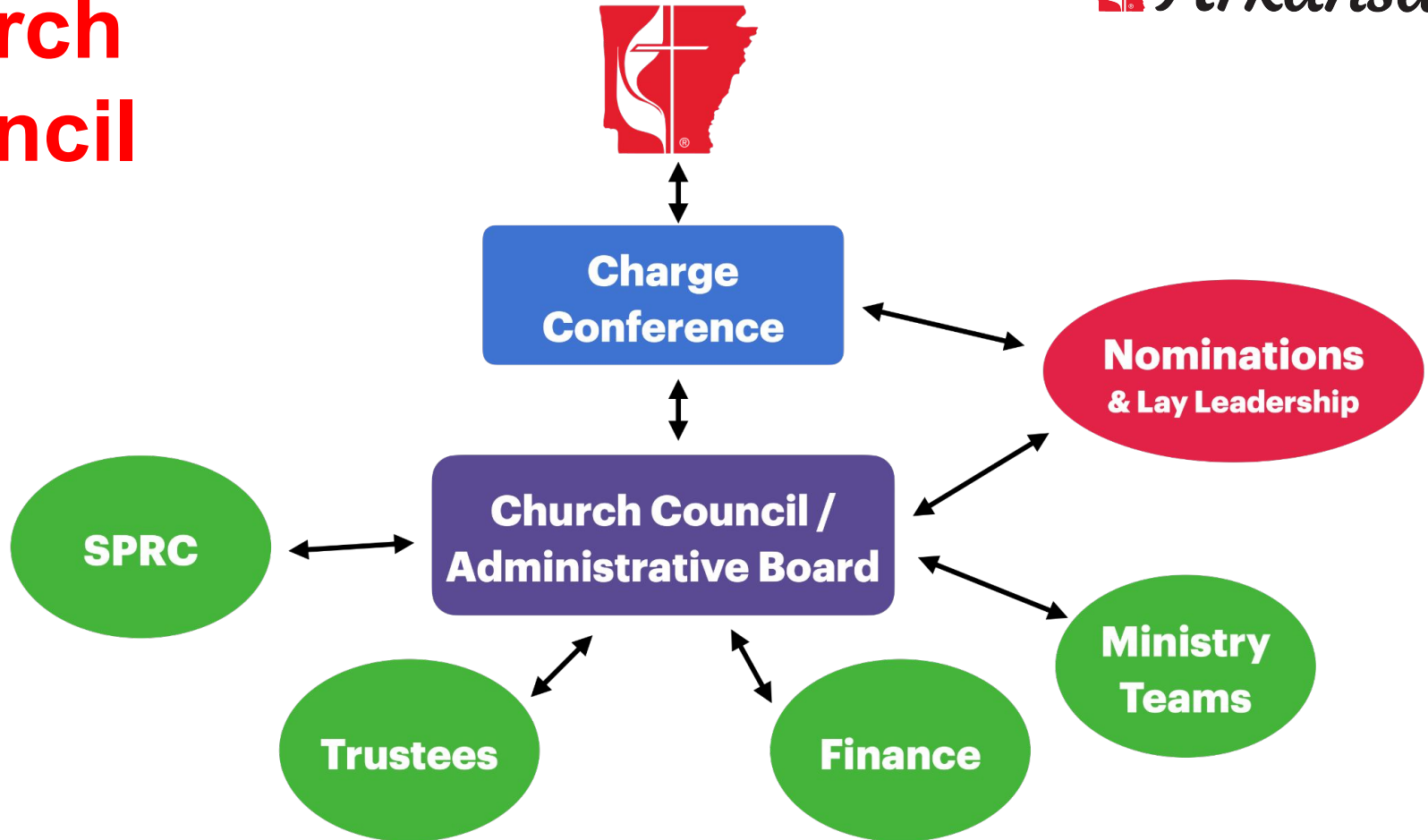


Church Council and Nominations



Church Council

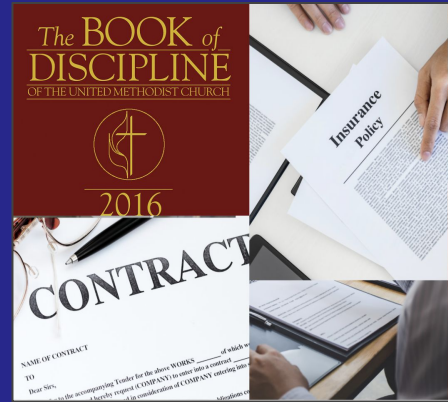


**When it is so easy for the congregation's
Teams and committees to turn inward,
it is the *Church Council*, along with the pastor,
who are in the best position
to hold ministry teams and committees
accountable to focus outward
and engage the larger community!**

Governance as Stewardship



Tending to the fiduciary responsibilities and alignment of God's people and resources



Policies

Resources

Facilities

Fiduciary

Church Council as “Traffic Light”



Imagine the Church Council Council as a **TRAFFIC LIGHT**, coordinating the work, balancing priorities, and managing the recommendations of the different committees

The Local Church



¶201. Definition of a Local Church —The local church provides the most significant arena through which disciple-making occurs. It is a community of true believers under the Lordship of Christ. It is the redemptive fellowship in which the Word of God is preached by persons divinely called and the sacraments are duly administered according to Christ's own appointment. Under the discipline of the Holy Spirit, the church exists for the maintenance of worship, the edification of believers, and the redemption of the world.

¶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 is a strategic base from which Christians move out to the structures of society. The function of the local church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, is to help people to accept and confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and to live their daily lives in light of their relationship with God.

¶ 252. 1. Purpose of the Church Council

The church council shall provide for planning and implementing a program of nurture, outreach, witness, and resources in the local church. It shall also provide for the administration of its organization and temporal life.

It shall envision, plan, implement, and annually evaluate the mission and ministry of the church.

The church council shall be amenable to and function as the administrative agency of the charge conference (¶ 244).



Church Council / Ad Board



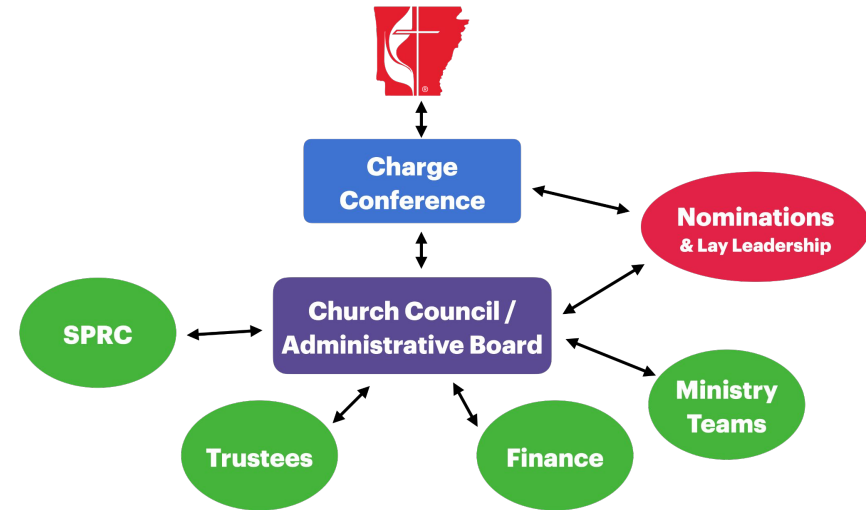
- In order to provide oversight and leadership throughout the year, the Church Council serves as the Church (Charge) Conference's executive governing body by monitoring ministry progress and making decisions on strategic matters
- The Council's primary duties include:
 - Setting strategic direction for the church,
 - Overseeing the church's governance and administration,
 - Ensuring that the ministries are accomplishing the church's purpose, vision, and plans.

“Other Responsibilities” (¶252.4)



Beyond the coordination of Nurture, Outreach, Witness, and Resource Management responsibilities, the BOD also lists:

- review the membership of the local church;
- fill interim vacancies occurring among the lay officers of the church between sessions of the annual charge conference;
- establish the budget on recommendation of the committee on finance
- recommend to the charge conference the pastor compensation and housing recommendation from PPRC



Church Council Membership (§252.5)

The charge conference will determine the size of the church council. Members of the church council shall be involved in the mission and ministry of the congregation as defined in § 252.2. The membership of the council may consist of as few as eleven persons or as many as the charge conference deems appropriate. The council shall include persons who represent the program ministries of the church as outlined in §243.

The membership shall include but not be limited to the following:

- a) the chairperson of the church council;
- b) the lay leader;
- c) the chairperson and/or a representative of the pastor-parish relations committee;
- d) the chairperson and/or a representative of the committee on finance;
- e) the chairperson and/or a representative of the board of trustees;
- f) the church treasurer;
- g) a lay member to annual conference;
- h) the president and/or a representative of the United Methodist Men;
- i) the president and/or a representative of the United Women of Faith;
- j) a young adult representative
- k) a representative of the United Methodist Youth;
- l) the pastor(s).

Often there are At-Large members that simultaneously represent some of these offices. Also, §247.2 allows the church, in consultation with and approval from the DS, to modify this group as needed for ministry and contextual purposes



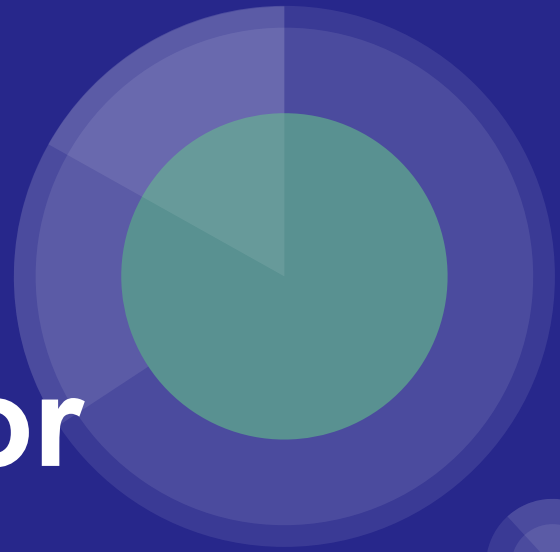
Church Council Meetings



- Meet a minimum of quarterly. The chairperson or the pastor may call special meetings (§252.3a)
- The members present and voting at any duly announced meeting shall constitute a quorum. (§252.6)
- In order for the council to give adequate consideration to the missional purpose of the local church, it is recommended that the first agenda item at each meeting be related to its ministries of nurture, outreach, and witness. (§252.3b)
- The DSs recommended that a regular agenda be used and adequate preparation for meetings, such as a meeting packet.
- The DSs recommend that the council use guiding principles and church policies to govern, and use a board covenant to clarify expectations for board members.



Curated Tools for Healthy Board Meetings



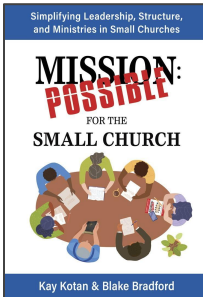
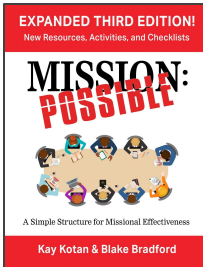
Examples of Guiding Principles



Guiding Principles are like lines on the playing field - they help all the players be safe and follow the rules to the game can keep going

Allow the Council to change rules and create new ones to keep ministry thriving and minimize roadblocks

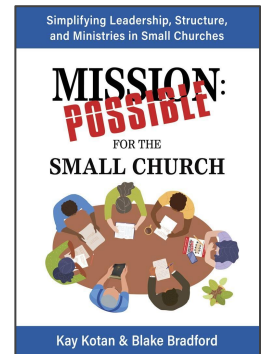
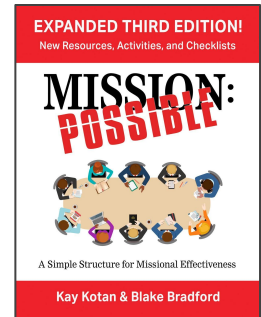
- ❖ Purchasing Limits & Authority
- ❖ Operating with Departmental Budgets
- ❖ Service Contracts
- ❖ Employee Hiring, Supervision, Evaluation, Discipline, and Terminations
- ❖ Credit Card Policies
- ❖ Facility and Equipment Usage
- ❖ Policies such as Safe Sanctuary, Technology, Personnel, and Building Access



The “Packet”

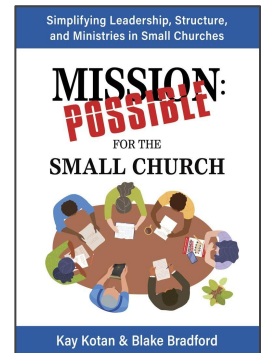
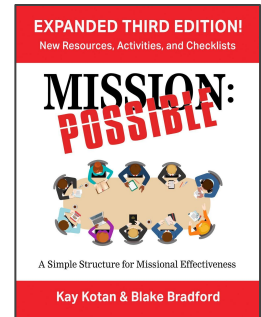
Send out this information packet a week ahead of the meeting,
and make available to members everything in the packet that is not covered by confidentiality.

- ❖ Agenda
- ❖ Vital Signs and Statistics
- ❖ Guest Information for Evangelism
- ❖ Minutes from previous meeting
- ❖ Financials
- ❖ Progress of Goals
- ❖ Action items such as bids, required forms, drafts of policies, etc.



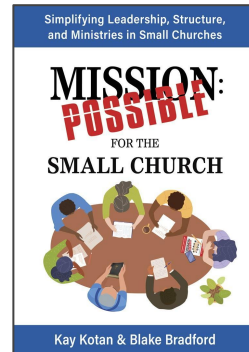
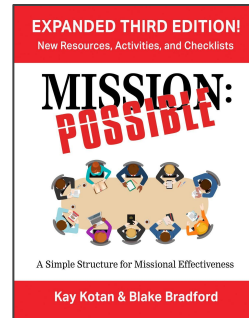
Template Agenda for the Church Council

- ❖ Opening Prayer
- ❖ Spiritual Formation
- ❖ Leadership Development
- ❖ Consent Calendar Work
- ❖ Fiduciary Work (*Trustees and Finance report*)
- ❖ Missional Accountability Work (*Nurture, Outreach, Witness*)
- ❖ Planning Work
- ❖ Pressing Issues and Problem Solving Work
- ❖ Executive Session (*S/PPRC report as needed*)
- ❖ Communication Work (*What needs to be shared from the meeting*)
- ❖ Closing Prayer



Board Communication

- ❖ Conclude every meeting with a “Communication” action item on the agenda
- ❖ Practice transparency to build congregational trust, health, and accountability
- ❖ Build in intentional and structured feedback opportunities, such as Town Halls and Listening Sessions





A few reminders about the **Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee**



Nominations and Lay Leadership Development



- Pastor is Chair of the Nominations Committee
- 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.

Nominations - Complete EITHER the Traditional Structure OR the Simplified Structure Form

You may use this page to list your Nominations or submit your own Nominations list.

Nominations - Traditional Structure

| Church | | | | |
|--|------|---------------|-------|---------------|
| Administrative (Church) Council | | EMAIL | PHONE | ADDRESS |
| NAME | | | | |
| Chair | | | | |
| <i>Membership includes the committee chairs listed below and these AT-LARGE committee members - contact information not needed</i> | | | | |
| Class of 2022 | | Class of 2023 | | Class of 2024 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Finance | NAME | EMAIL | PHONE | ADDRESS |
| Chair | | | | |
| <i>List names of committee members below - contact information not needed</i> | | | | |
| Class of 2022 | | Class of 2023 | | Class of 2024 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Trustees | NAME | EMAIL | PHONE | ADDRESS |
| Chair | | | | |
| <i>List names of committee members below - contact information not needed</i> | | | | |
| Class of 2022 | | Class of 2023 | | Class of 2024 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Staff-Parish Relations | NAME | EMAIL | PHONE | ADDRESS |
| Chair | | | | |
| <i>List names of committee members below - contact information not needed</i> | | | | |
| Class of 2022 | | Class of 2023 | | Class of 2024 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Nominations Committee (Pastor is Chair) | | | | |
| <i>List names of committee members below - contact information not needed</i> | | | | |
| Class of 2022 | | Class of 2023 | | Class of 2024 |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Treasurer | NAME | EMAIL | PHONE | ADDRESS |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Lay Leader | NAME | EMAIL | PHONE | ADDRESS |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Each Committee/Board has particular requirements for membership listed in the Discipline

- Council
- Finance
- Trustees
- SPRC
- Nominations
- Officers