

observations to God; and listen for God's direction for your leadership and your congregation.

- Soon after you are elected, convene a meeting of the church council to get acquainted, share hopes and concerns, and begin to plan your work for the year. Engage the leadership team to join you in the actions described above.
- Evaluate the present ministry of the congregation. What is working well? Where are there weaknesses? What are the gaps?

Church Council Meetings are held the fourth
Monday of every other month at 5:30 pm
in the Fellowship Hall.

St. Francisville
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Changing Lives through Sharing God's Love and Grace



CHURCH COUNCIL GUIDELINES
The Administration of God's Church

Church Council

An effective chairperson provides initiative, coordination, and collaborative leadership for the congregational group that does planning, goal setting, implementation, and evaluation of ministry to fulfill the mission and vision of the congregation.

Spiritual Gifts and Qualifications for the Leader

- This leader benefits from having one or more of these spiritual gifts: leadership, administration, faith, shepherding, servanthood, discernment, and teaching. This leader should show evidence of prior effective ministry leadership and evidence of active and growing discipleship.
- Useful skills for this position are the ability to listen to and communicate with people of all ages, work with other ministry leaders, preside over meetings, delegate responsibility, and follow up to complete tasks.
- This leader should show genuine interest in responding to the hopes and concerns of people in the community.
- The congregation's committee on nominations and leader development can establish specific standards for this position.

Structure

The church council is the administrative agency of the charge conference to envision, plan, implement, and annually evaluate the ministry of the congregation. (*The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*, 2016, ¶252) The chair of this group is elected annually by the charge conference (¶251.3).

Responsibilities of the Chairperson

- This leader meets and works with the pastor, lay leader, and others to fulfill the mission of the church.
- The leadership team chair, along with the pastor and lay leader, are the primary spokespersons for the vision and mission of the church and encourage all other ministry leaders.
- This person should organize an annual planning meeting for church vision and ministry goals.
- This person should become familiar with United Methodist resources and organization.
- During the year, this leader prepares and communicates the agenda for meetings, leads the meetings, follows up actions by

assigning responsibility for implementation, coordinates the activities of the leadership team, and maintains a healthy and growing spiritual life.

Responsibilities of the Committee

- The leadership team is accountable to the charge conference and serves as the executive agency of the charge conference between meetings to oversee the administration and ministry of the congregation.
- The team determines God's call to the congregation for ministry that is transformative.
- The team initiates planning, establishes goals, implements action plans, and evaluates effectiveness for congregational ministries of nurture, outreach, witness, and administration.
- The team strategizes so that the congregation makes disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.
- The team works with the committee on staff/pastor-parish relations and the committee on nominations and leader development for effective pastoral, staff, and lay leadership.
- The team recommends to the charge conference the compensation, housing needs, and benefits for the pastor(s) and other staff after receiving recommendations from the committee on staff/pastor-parish relations.
- The team fills leadership vacancies between meetings of the charge conference upon the recommendation of the committee on nominations and leader development.
- The team provides for financial support, physical facilities, and the legal obligations of its local congregation.
- The team maintains the congregation's connection with appropriate district and annual conference programs and structures.

Getting Started

- Talk with your pastor and others to understand their hopes and dreams for the congregation and the way your leadership will advance the congregation's vision for ministry.
- Learn what life is like for people in your community. Gather information by being attentive to the neighborhood, asking questions, and listening deeply.
- Set aside time for prayer. Express your concerns, joys, and