

Resolution of Christ Church United Methodist to Change the Congregational Organizational Plan to a Simplified Accountable Governance Structure

WHEREAS, ¶247.2 of the 2020/2024 *Book of Discipline* for the United Methodist Church allows alternative models of governance; and

WHEREAS, the simplified, accountable leadership structure (“SAS”) is utilized as an alternative model throughout the denomination and fulfills the provisions of ¶243 of the 2020/2024 *Book of Discipline* for the United Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, the Covenant Council of Christ Church United Methodist Church (“CCUM”) voted on September 23, 2025 to explore the simplified, accountable structure for local church governance; and

WHEREAS, the congregation received information regarding the SAS model in various in-person and online educational sessions; and

WHEREAS, as part of the discernment process, the congregation had the opportunity to provide, and did provide, feedback concerning a potential change in governance structure via various venues, including educational sessions both in person and via Zoom, and Covenant Council meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Covenant Council voted on May 26, 2026, to proceed to formally present to the District Superintendent a proposal to convert to the SAS model for reasons of streamlined governance, efficiency in carrying out CCUM’s mission and vision, greater accountability, and to increase the opportunities for members of the congregation to utilize their talents, passions and time in carrying out the church’s mission; and

WHEREAS, the Covenant Council, the SAS discernment task force, and the pastor, after months of discernment, have crafted an alternative organizational model of governance (the “SAS Plan”) for CCUM and offered this proposal to the district superintendent for approval; and

WHEREAS, the district superintendent approved the SAS Plan on May , 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. On January 1, 2027, the disciplinary authority and various responsibilities of the Covenant Council, Staff Parish Relations Committee, Finance Committee, and Board of Trustees will be combined into a single body called the Leadership Board. Existing elected leadership of all classes of all constituent committees that make up the new Leadership Board will conclude their terms of service on December 31, 2026, as the church transitions to the new SAS Plan.
2. The Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development of CCUM is directed to submit a list of officers and members of a simplified, accountable leadership structure known as the Leadership Board divided into appropriate three-year classes, as outlined in the *Discipline*, for election by the Church Conference. All members of the Leadership Board and the Church Conference will be professing members of CCUM. The Chair of the Leadership Board will be elected from among the voting members of the Leadership Board in the first board meeting of each year, and the person so elected will be the Leadership Board Chair. The Leadership Board will be deemed to be the “Board of Trustees” or “Trustees” on all matters as required by the Discipline, and for those purposes, the Leadership Board Chair will be deemed to be the Board of Trustees Chair.
3. On January 1, 2027, the Charge Conference of CCUM will be composed of the members of the Leadership Board, appointed clergy (ex officio), together with retired ordained ministers and retired diaconal ministers who elect to hold their membership on our Charge Conference, Lay members of Annual Conference, the Lay Leader, Treasurer and Finance Secretary (if non-staff), and the elected membership of the Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development.
4. The Lay Member of Annual Conference and Lay Leader are ex officio members of the Leadership Board, if not already elected to a membership class of the Leadership Board.
5. All Disciplinary requirements and qualifications for each of the constituent committees Covenant Council, Staff Parish Relations Committee, Finance Committee, and Board of Trustees will continue with the combined Leadership Board, including Trustee age of majority qualifications and Staff Parish Relations Committee household membership limitations.

6. All references to the Covenant Council, Staff Parish Relations Committee, Finance Committee, and Board of Trustees in all existing church policies, as of December 31, 2026, shall be understood to refer to the Leadership Board beginning on January 1, 2027.
7. The Board of Trustees is directed immediately to make appropriate amendments, as needed, to the congregation's Articles of Incorporation to reflect the new SAS Plan and submit an update to the Secretary of State's office in a manner defined by state law for nonprofit corporations.
8. In service to our common mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, all other existing committees and ministry teams will be accountable to the Pastor and Leadership Board in administrative matters and in fulfillment of ¶243.
9. The Leadership Board will abide with existing financial, child protection, building use, and personnel policies along with the inaugural Guiding Principles. The board will create a Leadership Board Covenant. The Leadership Board is empowered to amend these policies, principles, and covenants. The Leadership Board shall share updated Guiding Principles with the Church Conference annually.

APPROVED, _____(date)

Secretary, Church Conference

Chair, Covenant Council

Lay Leader, CCUM

