



## R-9: Sample Church Conference Resolution for Structure Transition

The Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development moves the Charge/Church Conference adoption of a resolution to modify our organizational plan of governance, utilizing the simplified, accountable structure:

### Resolution to Change Congregational Organizational Plan to Simplified, Accountable Governance Structure

WHEREAS, ¶247.2 of the *2016 Book of Discipline for the United Methodist Church* allows alternative models of governance<sup>†</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the simplified, accountable leadership structure is utilized as an alternative model throughout the denomination and fulfills the provisions<sup>††</sup> of ¶ 243 of the *2016 Book of Discipline for the United Methodist Church*; and

WHEREAS, the Church Council of \_\_\_\_\_ United Methodist Church prayerfully voted on (date) to explore the simplified, accountable structure for local church governance; and

WHEREAS, the congregation provided feedback concerning a potential change in governance structure on multiple occasions; and

WHEREAS, the congregation was motivated to convert for reasons of efficiency, alignment with our mission and vision, accountability, and missional focus; and

WHEREAS, the Church Council, Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development, [the task force on governance], and the pastor, after months of discernment, have crafted an alternative organizational for \_\_\_\_\_ United Methodist Church and offered this proposal to the district superintendent for approval; and

WHEREAS, the district superintendent approved the alternative organizational plan on (date); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. On January 1, 20\_\_ the Disciplinary authority and various responsibilities of the Church Council, Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC), Finance Committee, Endowment Committee, and Board of Trustees, will be combined into a single body called the Leadership Board.<sup>†</sup> 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, 20\_\_, as the church transitions to the new organizational plan.
2. The Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development of \_\_\_\_\_ United Methodist Church is directed to submit a list of officers and members of a simplified, accountable structure known as the Leadership Board and a Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development, divided into appropriate three-year classes, as outlined in the Discipline, for election by the Charge Conference. All members of the Leadership Board and the Charge Conference will be professing members. The Chair of the Board of



Trustees will be elected from among the voting Trustee members of the Leadership Board in the first board meeting of each year, in accordance with the Discipline, and s/he may be the Leadership Board Chair.

3. On January 1, 20\_\_\_\_, the Charge Conference of \_\_\_\_\_ United Methodist Church 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 in 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 into a membership class of the Leadership Board.
5. All Disciplinary requirements and qualifications for each of the constituent committees (Church Council, SPRC, Finance Committee, and Board of Trustees) will continue with the combined Leadership Board, including Trustee age of majority qualifications and SPRC household membership limitations.
6. All references to the Church Council, Board of Trustees, SPRC, and Finance Committee, in all existing church policies, as of December 31, 20\_\_\_\_, shall be understood to refer to the Leadership Board beginning January 1, 20\_\_\_\_.
7. The Board of Trustees is directed immediately to make appropriate amendments to the congregation's bylaws to reflect the new plan for organization 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 existing ministry teams will be accountable to the Pastor and Leadership Board in administrative matters and in fulfillment of ¶243.\*\* The Weekday Child Care Ministry Advisory Board (¶ 256.2c) will be amenable to the Leadership Board in all matters, and is responsible for regular reporting to the Board. Alternative: If the Weekday Child Care Ministry is not a separate 501c3, this Advisory Board will be a ministry team and accountable directly to the Pastor.
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 covenant. The Leadership Board shall share updated Guiding Principles with the charge conference annually.

APPROVED, (date)

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Secretary, Charge Conference

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Presiding Elder



<sup>†</sup>¶247.2 *The Charge Conference, the district superintendent, and the pastor, when a pastor has been appointed (see ¶205.4), shall organize and administer the pastoral charge and churches according to the policies and plans herein set forth. When the membership size, program scope, mission resources, or other circumstances so require, the charge conference may, in consultation with and upon the approval of the district superintendent, modify the organizational plans, provided that the provisions of ¶243 are observed. Such other circumstances may include, but not be limited to, alternative models for the conception of a local church, such as coffee house ministries, mall ministries, outdoor ministries, retirement home ministries, restaurant ministries, and other emergent ways in which people can gather in God's name to be the church.*

<sup>††</sup>¶243. *Primary Tasks – The local church shall be organized so that it can pursue its primary task and mission in the context of its own community – reaching out and receiving with joy all who will respond; encouraging people in their relationship with God and inviting them to commitment to God's love in Jesus Christ; providing opportunities for them to seek strengthening and growth in spiritual formation; and supporting them to live lovingly and justly in the power of the Holy Spirit as faithful disciples.*

*In carrying out its primary task, it shall be organized so that adequate provision is made for these basic responsibilities: (1) planning and implementing a program of nurture, outreach, and witness for persons and families within and without the congregation; (2) providing for effective pastoral and lay leadership; (3) providing for financial support, physical facilities, and the legal obligations of the church; (4) utilizing the appropriate relationships and resources of the district and annual conference; (5) providing for the proper creation, maintenance, and disposition of documentary record material of the local church; and (6) seeking inclusiveness in all aspects of its life.*