

## Asbury United Methodist Church: One Board Model

### *Empowering Unity, Streamlining Ministry*

**Overview:** The One Board Model is a governance structure adopted by some United Methodist Churches, aimed at simplifying decision-making processes, enhancing communication, and promoting a holistic approach to ministry. This alternative structure is based on ¶247.2 of the 2016 Book of Discipline.

#### **Key Benefits:**

1. **Streamlined Decision-Making:** By reducing bureaucracy, the model facilitates quicker responses to emerging needs and opportunities within the church and community.
2. **Increased Flexibility and Adaptability:** A One Board Model will enhance the church's ability to adapt to changing circumstances. Having a single board will make it easier to respond quickly to emerging needs and opportunities without being constrained by the limitations of multiple committees.
3. **Holistic Ministry Approach:** The model encourages an integrated approach to ministry, fostering collaboration between different aspects of church life, such as worship, missions, finance, and education.
4. **Improved Resource Allocation:** Efficient use of resources—both human and financial—is promoted, ensuring that the church's resources align with its mission and vision.
5. **Enhanced Communication:** The unified structure improves communication within the church, ensuring that information and decisions are shared effectively among members.
6. **Improved Leadership Development:** Members of the board have the opportunity to gain a broad understanding of various ministry areas, fostering leadership development and a sense of shared responsibility.
7. **Better Alignment with Mission and Vision:** The One Board Model helps ensure that all church activities align with its mission and vision, providing a cohesive and purposeful direction for the congregation.

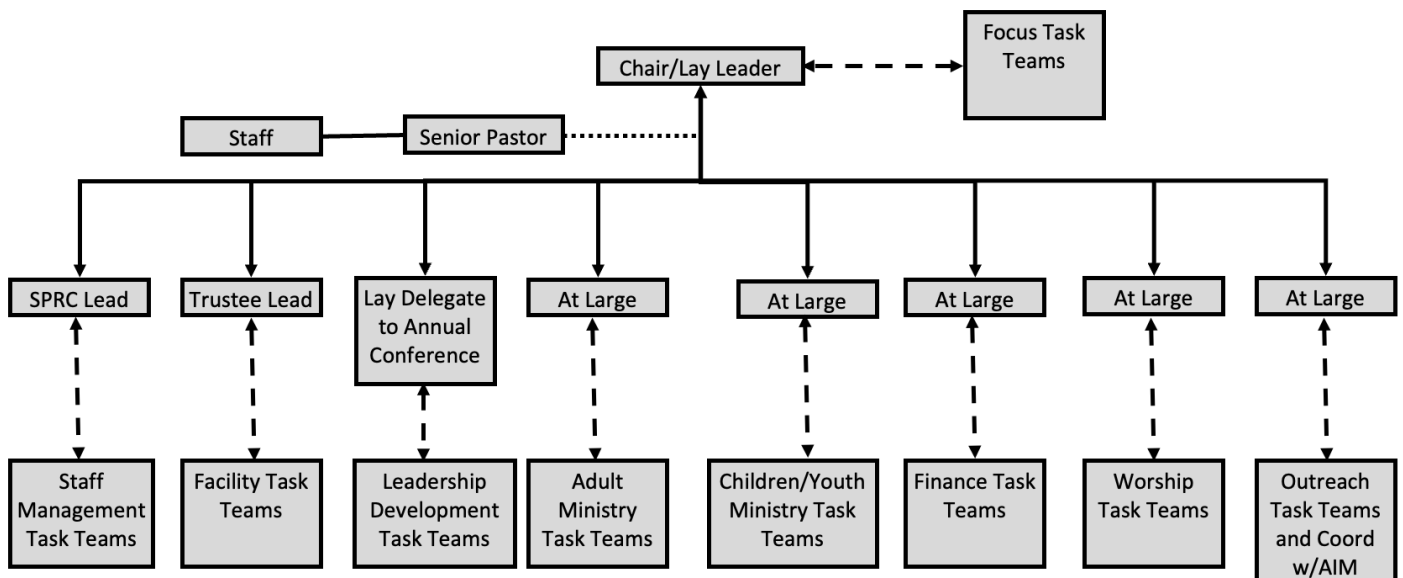
#### **What is the One Board Model**

The One Board Model Converges the number of full-time committees into a single structure. In the implementation that is being proposed, the One Board combines Church Council, the Board of Trustees, SPRC, and Finance into a single committee. In this implementation, we are designating one member as Trustee Lead, one member as SPRC Lead, and there will be several "at large" members that will also have dedicated oversight. Additionally, the Lay Delegate to Annual conference is also a member.

## How will it Operate

The One Board will generally manage the strategic issues of the church, just as the Church Council does today. The Staff is empowered to deal with tactical day-to-day issues. When the need arises and support is needed, the One Board will provide direction. This could be personnel issues, building issues, worship issues, financial issues among other things. If it's a building issue it would be directed to the Trustee Lead for initial vetting. If necessary, the Trustee lead would bring the issue to the One Board, and in that case the One Board would have the authority to act as the Board of Trustees. The same would go for personnel issues and SPRC.

In addition, each member would have oversight for Task Teams which would be made up of additional church members. Some Task Teams might convene for a short period during one part of the year. An example of that would be the building assessment Task Team. In the fall of each year, they would inspect the building and meet with staff to determine a prioritized list of building projects that are required for the coming year. That list would be fed back to the Trustee Team Lead, so that it could be budgeted and or assigned. Some Task Teams would be more of an on-going focused nature. An example of that would be the Emergency Preparedness Committee. And some Task Teams would be formed on an as needed basis, such as a building committee. Having task teams arranged liked this would allow volunteers serve with different levels of time and skill commitments to better meet their needs.



## Summary

We believe that this proposal will better meet the needs of Asbury going forward providing a more efficient streamlined structure, while maintaining all of the necessary oversight required by our discipline.