

# On Methodism

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## Board of Trustees — Explained

Consists of 3-9 members of legal age with at least 2/3rds being professing members of the United Methodist Church. The Pastor does not have a vote unless he's an elected member of the board. Members serve for three years and may serve consecutive terms.

The Board of Trustees is responsible to the charge conference, which can 1) direct the board to incorporate the local church to limit legal liability; 2) direct the board concerning purchase, sale, mortgage, encumbrance, construction, repairing, remodeling and maintenance of any and all property of the local church; 3) direct the board to accept or reject grants, gifts, legacies, bequests, etc. for the use and benefit of the local church; 4) direct the trustees in the exercise of their powers and duties relating to the property of the church to comply with all laws and rules of the *Book of Discipline*; and 5) recommend investments with a UM foundation for the local church's benefit.

The local church Board of Trustees must meet within 30 days of the beginning of the calendar year to elect officers for that year, and transact any other business brought to them. Officers of the board are elected for a one year term, and include the chairperson, vice chairperson, and secretary/treasurer. The chairperson must be a professing member. If a trustee leaves the local church or withdraws from the United Methodist Church, his term immediately expires. A member can be voted off the board by a majority vote of the charge conference when the trustee refuses or fails to execute properly a legal instrument relating to any property of the church when so directed by the conference. Vacancies are filled by election for the unexpired term.

The Pastor or the board's chairperson may call for a meeting as needed. The Board of Trustees must meet at least once a year. A majority of members present constitutes a quorum.

Subject to the direction of the charge conference, the Board of Trustees is responsible for:

1) Supervision, oversight, and care of all real property owned by the local church and all property and equipment acquired directly by the local church or any organization or group connected with the church. The Board does not interfere with the use of the property by the Pastor or other group, as long as, the use is lawful, proper, and regular or customary for the church. The Pastor authorizes religious services and other meetings, but pews of the church are always free (no charge for admittance).

The Trustees review the building and grounds annually to determine the adequacy of the property, liability, and crime insurance coverage. They do the same for personnel insurance. Recommendations for changes are made to the charge conference.

Use of church facilities by outside organizations must comply with the Social Principles (§§ 160-166) and ecumenical objectives.

The chairperson of the board of trustees or of the parsonage committee, the chairperson of the

pastor-parish relations committee and the pastor shall make an annual review of the church-owned parsonage to ensure proper maintenance.

The board of trustees administers all bequests and trusts, and invests those funds in conformance to local, state and United States law; though the charge conference may take charge of these funds if the donor so designates.

The board annually examines the buildings, grounds, and facilities to identify and attempt to eliminate any barriers to people with disabilities.

From The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, 2008, pp.717-724, ¶12524 - ¶12532.

