

Church Council Votes May 2, to Change Leadership Structure as soon as July 1.

In a vote on May 2, the Church Council voted to shift to a new lay leadership structure for Grace UMC as soon as July 1. This decision was based in part on the fact that Grace is facing multiple challenges as we come out of the Pandemic, with many important decisions to be made about the direction of the church in a post-pandemic era. Based on these challenges, the Council has voted to change to a simple accountable leadership model.



At present, Grace is led by a variety of committees including the Trustees, the Finance Committee, and the Staff/Pastor Relations Committee (SPRC). Other committees of the church combine with the chairs of these three committees to form a representative Church Council.

The Church Council has decided to make a structural shift which will combine the responsibilities of the above committees into a single governing board of the church (the Grace Leadership Board).

This model of church governance is becoming quite common among churches of all sizes in the conference. Most recently Warrenton UMC, Sydenstricker UMC, and Burke UMC in our District both moved to this model of governance. This model enables important decisions to get made efficiently, in alignment with our mission and vision, so that the ministry of the church can be executed by the laity.

The transition from the current structure to the new structure will be led by the Nominations and Lay Leadership Committee. It begins with the election of the new Leadership Board at our June 7 Charge Conference.

On May 17, a panel of church leaders will join the pastors in a Town Hall Q & A to address any questions you have. Below, find some important links to more information about the new leadership model.

Please continue to pray for Grace UMC, for God's Spirit to break through among us, and lead us into the future so that we can continue to be Grace United Methodist Church, where our name is our mission.

Helpful Links to More Information

Two videos: For those that would like to watch a video, [here is one](#) the Nominations and Lay Leadership group has viewed and appreciated. Here's [one more that goes into some more detail.](#)

An article: [Here is an article](#) about the leadership model the Church Council has voted to pursue. -

A book: For more information, [here's the book](#) that Nominations and Lay Leadership has read on the subject.