

Elected Leader Nomination Guide

2011



Thank you for your interest in serving as an elected leader at Bethany United Methodist Church. The positions listed in this packet are just one way to serve at Bethany. To consider other areas of service, please stop by the Connection Point desk or go to www.bethany-umc.org and select the "How Do I Volunteer?" link.

The process of considering a role of Christian leadership is one of discernment. This packet is designed to assist you in the discernment process. To forward your name for consideration, please return the enclosed Interest Form and Volunteer Leader Covenant to the Church Office.

Thank you in advance for considering this important way to serve our church's ministries.

Committee Descriptions

Nominations Committee

The Committee oversees the identification, development and care for the volunteer leaders at Bethany. Key initiatives include preparing the annual nomination slate and providing oversight of volunteer service and leadership development at the church.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee develops and administers a coordinated plan of fiscal and administrative policies and procedures for the church. It oversees the financial health, the annual audit, provides financial direction; and communicates the church's financial condition to the Administrative Board.

Staff Parish Committee

The Staff Parish Committee acts as a liaison between the congregation and its staff and clergy. The committee sets employment policy, guides the work of the management team and works to ensure that Bethany is a fulfilling place to work. Members of this committee cannot be related to a Bethany staff member.

Board of Trustees

This Board is charged with the care and maintenance of church property on all campuses- real, personal and intellectual and holds title to the church's property, buildings and equipment. Trustees must be at least eighteen years of age. Key items include establishing policies and practices regarding, church property, disaster planning, land acquisition and construction planning.

Foundation Board

The Board generates awareness of gift planning; promotes planned gifts; receives, invests, and administers in trust for Foundation bequests, trusts and trust funds. Members should possess financial or fund raising expertise, e.g., financial officer, management, sales, marketing, or fund raising background.

Suggested Prayer Guide for the Discernment Process

Beginning the journey:

Read- First, read through this packet to more fully understand what service you may be called to.

Commit- Walk through the process in the presence of God, seeking to find his desire for your life.

Schedule- Define times on your calendar when you will spend time focusing on God's presence.

Tools- Gather your Bible, a journal, pen, hymnal or other devotional materials you find helpful in your prayers. The journal will serve as personal evidence of your journey, revealing truths you might otherwise have missed.

Define Space- Finally, select a location conducive for prayer- quiet, private and a place of comfort for you. You may want to come to the Prayer Room on the 3rd floor of the Disciple Building or create a space in your home where you can enter into God's presence.

Week 1: Worship and Thanksgiving

Spend time concentrating your prayers on God. Each day, begin by centering your thoughts on the Lord. Think in terms of words, actions and images. Then, bring your personal experience with God to mind. Lift up prayers adoring God's work in your life.

Suggested focus words: awesome, almighty, radiant, protector, designer, beauty, strong, patient

Suggested scriptures: Psalm 63:3-5, Acts 16:25, Luke 11:13, Philippians 4:6, John 10:9-10

Suggested hymns: 419, 420, 185, 98, 139

Journaling points: Write the words that resounded and resonated throughout your prayers. Make note of any specific prayers you offered to God and note the emotions you felt.

Week 2: Self Examination

Shift your attention to your life. We were created to serve and glorify God, but we often fall short of that purpose. Begin each day in meditation on your life as viewed from the Lord's perspective. Ask God to reveal the reality of your sins- past and present- and lift these things to God for forgiveness. Then, with a clean heart, linger in God's presence.

Suggested focus words: mercy, compassion, sin, cross, flawed, redeemed, weakness, humility, grace

Suggested scriptures: 1 John 1:9, 1 Peter 1:6-9, Hebrews 2:18, Ephesians 6, Psalm 62:1-2, 5-7

Suggested hymns: 515, 140, 390, 377, 378

Journaling points: Take note of past sins and how they are impacting you today. Make a daily note of current sins. Look for patterns. Were there any words or prayers that lingered on your heart? What does God's grace mean to you?

Week 3: Service

Seek to understand God's design for your life. Name for God the specific times where you felt especially close to him through service to others. Ask God to reveal new ways to share your special gifts. Open yourself to many options, making sure to clear your mind from your preconceived notions. Consider how you can reflect God's love into the world.

Suggested focus words: love, honor, glory, listen, soul, character, servant, selfless, Spirit, offer, pleasing

Suggested scriptures: John 15:4-5, Psalm 40:1, Philippians 1:6, Matthew 21:22, Proverbs 4:18

Suggested hymns: 670, 338, 451, 467, 593, 382

Journaling points: List the works of service you have performed in the past. Circle entries where you felt especially blessed. Looking at these and listening to God's response, are there any leadings of your heart? Make a list of spiritual gifts, if known.

Ending the journey:

As you come to the close of this process, be mindful that the journey of Christian discernment is always ongoing. Our great purpose is living in God's desire, and continuing on that path requires an ongoing relationship with God.

Nomination Interest Form

Bethany United Methodist Church

The Nominations Committee develops the church's annual slate of candidates for governance positions. This slate is presented for vote at the annual Church Conference which will be held on January 31, 2011. The committee's aim in developing the slate is to discern God's leading with special consideration given to the following criteria:

- Member of Bethany United Methodist Church for three years
- Fulfilling the expectations of membership by prayers, presence, gifts, service and witness
- Prior involvement and/or leadership within church ministries
- Proper motivation for seeking leadership
- Alignment with the church's purpose, vision and journey
- Ability to provide balance to the committee with regard to campus involvement, age, gender or ethnicity
- Ability to attend meetings and fulfill requirements

The following questions are to assist you in discerning God's will for your service and to assist the Nominations Committee's process. Give prayerful thought to the process and discuss this matter with a mature Christian in your life.

Name:

Home phone:

E-Mail:

I am interested in (check all that apply):

Committee on Lay Leadership
Finance Committee
Staff-Parish Committee

Board of Trustees
Foundation Board

How many years have you been a member of Bethany United Methodist Church?

I am fulfilling the expectations of membership by (check all that apply):

Worshiping regularly, whenever you are not sick or out of town
Participating in an activity, outside of worship, where you are growing in your faith
Actively serving in a ministry, according to your gifts
Giving financially in proportion to your income with the goal of tithing

After reviewing the committee description in this guide, are you able to commit to regular attendance at meetings in 2011?

Yes

Comments (optional):

Do you support the church's purpose, i.e. "to Lead People to Experience God's Love, Know Jesus Christ, and Grow in His Image"?

Yes

Comments (optional):

Why do you desire to serve in this ministry role?

List ministry areas in which you been heavily involved.

Have you participated in programs that have helped prepare you for this role of spiritual leadership? (e.g., Spiritual Gifts Discovery, Leadership Events, Partners in Ministry, Bible studies, small groups, etc.) If so, please list.

Are you, whenever possible, in leadership events such as Partners in Ministry, the Willow Creek Leadership Summit (August 11-12, 2011)?

yes

Comments

Please list any professional or personal experiences, skills or expertise you bring to this position. (Note: specific expertise is not always required. Instead, the Nominations Committee seeks an appropriate balance of skills and background for each committee.)

Other than Bethany United Methodist Church, have you been involved in other churches or non-profits over the past ten years? If so, please list.

Please list some tangible ways you seek to live out your faith in your daily life.

Please list three people we may contact as a personal reference. Please include name, phone number and relationship to you.

1.

2.

3.

Note: If there are moral compromises in your public or private life that might prevent you from representing the church in a way that brings honor to God, please address them prior to submitting your name for an elected position.

This form is a referral for consideration. An official slate of nominees will be presented to Bethany United Methodist Church, January 31, 2011. Return this form along with the signed Volunteer Leader Covenant to the Bethany Church Office.

Volunteer Leader Covenant

Bethany United Methodist Church

Our lay leaders, along with our staff, fulfill the biblical roles of elders and deacons, shepherds and teachers. Throughout the New Testament, leaders are called to be examples to the rest of the church. As leaders, they are held to higher standards than other members. Paul sets forth lists of attributes of elders and deacons in his letters to the early church. Leaders should be “above reproach” and “not be puffed up with conceit” among other things. Peter, likewise, challenges leaders to be “examples to the flock” and to exercise leadership with a willing heart. Because leaders are held to a higher standard, James says, “not many of you should become teachers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.”

As leaders, we set the tone and pace for the entire congregation. We model the Christian faith, the Christian life, and the attitude and heart of a Christian for our congregation. We shape the heart, character and life of this Christian community. For this reason, it is vital that we walk the Christian walk. Spiritually healthy leaders will produce a spiritually healthy church. Likewise, leaders who fail to walk with Christ will have devastating consequences.

With this in mind, the following covenant was developed to guide our life together as leaders. We use these standards to hold ourselves accountable to pursuing the Christian life. And in so doing, we recognize that it is God's grace which calls forth our faithful response, and it is God's grace which brings such transformation in our lives.

I. The Goal of the Christian Life: Sanctification

Jesus summarized the goal of the Christian life with two commandments: love the Lord our God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength; and love your neighbor as yourselves. John Wesley spoke of this goal as sanctification, Christian perfection, or holiness. In our Methodist tradition, three General Rules were designed to help Christians pursue this goal. As leaders we pursue these “rules” as we grow in faith and service together.

- A. Avoid those things which are inconsistent with the life of faith, separate us from God, and bring harm to others, such as:
 - 1. Self-destructive behavior (addictive behavior, poor self-care)
 - 2. Moral compromise (sexual misconduct, greed, dishonesty)
 - 3. Self-centeredness and pride
 - 4. Malice (harboring resentment, acting in anger, backbiting)
 - 5. Wasting of resources (the church's, or personal resources of time, talent, finance)
- B. Do good of every possible sort, such as:
 - 1. Live a life of love
 - 2. Share our faith inside and outside of Bethany United Methodist Church
 - 3. Care for our families
 - 4. Build others up
 - 5. Be engaged with those in need, both inside the church and out
- C. Pursue growth in our spiritual lives, such as:
 - 1. Attend worship each weekend, except when sick or out of town
 - 2. Engage in close Christian friendships for spiritual growth and accountability in a small group
 - 3. Serve God with our time and talents
 - 4. Give in proportion to our income, with the tithe being the goal
 - 5. Spend time in prayer and the personal study of scripture

II. The Heart and Attitude of a Leader at Bethany

- A. What is the heart and attitude of a Bethany leader?
 - 1. Humble (servanthood)
 - 2. Positive
 - 3. Joyful
 - 4. Committed to Christ
 - 5. Devoted to the purpose and vision of Bethany United Methodist Church
- B. How will Bethany leaders live toward one another?
 - 1. Demonstrating respect and grace
 - 2. Accepting differences
 - 3. Maintaining appropriate confidentiality
 - 4. Publicly supporting other volunteer leaders, pastors and staff members
 - 5. Going directly to the individual whenever a problem arises
 - 6. Living by the HEART Principles

III. The Faith and Character of a United Methodist

Bethany is a United Methodist Church. We expect our leaders to honor our denominational heritage and to pursue ministry in keeping with our tradition.

United Methodists are people who seek to love and serve God with our head, our heart and our hands. They are orthodox in faith, liberal in spirit, passionate and deeply devoted to Christ, and desire to be wholly surrendered to God. They bring together both the evangelical and social gospel – inviting people to a life-transforming relationship with Jesus Christ, and then equipping and challenging them to live their faith in the public sphere, being engaged in the issues of our time and seeking to shape a world that looks more like the Kingdom of God. Methodists have been known as “reasonable enthusiasts” – valuing both a personal, passionate faith and one that is intellectually informed. Methodists are constantly looking to connect our faith to the world in meaningful, relevant ways. Methodists value spiritual disciplines and a “methodical” approach to growing in the faith. They strive for both personal holiness and social holiness.

United Methodists are not afraid to ask difficult questions, to take on tough subjects, and to admit that they do not always understand the answers. They are “people of the Book” - holding the Bible to be the inspired Word from God and encouraging people to read, study and live by its words. “While we acknowledge the primacy of Scripture in theological reflection, our attempts to grasp its meaning always involve experience, tradition and reason. Like Scripture, these become creative vehicles of the Holy Spirit as they function within the church.”¹ Methodists also believe the Bible came to us through people who heard God’s Word in the light of their own cultural and historical circumstances. And hence, they study the scriptures carefully, making use of scholarship and asking critical questions. And, as Methodists encounter theological differences amongst Christians, they bear in mind John Wesley’s approach, “in essentials, unity; in nonessentials, liberty; in all things, charity.”²

Methodists are people who love God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength, and love their neighbors. They pursue acts of piety toward God and acts of mercy toward others. They value passionate worship, relevant preaching, small groups to hold Christians accountable to one another, the need to address the social issues of our time, and the need to be people whose faith is firmly rooted in and built upon the scriptures. Methodists value the full participation of women and men, people of all races, classes and backgrounds in all facets of fellowship and leadership within the church and society.

This is our heritage, and it continues to shape Bethany United Methodist Church in every area of our ministry.

¹ 2004 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, ¶ 104.

² ¶ 102.

I have read the above and am committed to living my life and pursuing ministry in a way that is consistent with these expectations, and desire to do so at Bethany United Methodist Church.

Name

Date