

Frequently Asked Questions

Bethany UMC Leadership Structure

As of Dec 16, 2019

What is the Administrative Board?

Bethany is governed by its Administrative Board, consisting of approximately 80 – 100 people. These people are first nominated by the Nominations Committee of the church, and then officially elected at the Church Conference. The assignment of new members is staggered, such that each year approximately one third of the members are new, and each person serving on the Administrative Board serves a three-year term.

The Administrative Board typically meets four times a year, and focuses on reports from each of the subcommittees, ministry areas, and pastors. The Administrative Board is led by a chairperson, and a vice-chairperson who serve two-year terms. The vice-chairperson becomes the next chairperson. Each chairperson is alternately male and then female.

Who are the current leaders of the Administrative Board?

Currently Aaron King is the Administrative Board Chairperson and Ramona Hovey is the Vice Chairperson.

What is the Church Conference?

The Church Conference is typically held annually in January, and is open to all members of Bethany. The Church Conference is usually presided over by the District Superintendent. At the Church Conference votes are taken to approve/disapprove the following:

- Administrative Board and other Committee member positions
- Annual budget, including taking on debt if proposed
- Pastor salaries
- Purchases or sales of property owned by the church

What is the Board of Trustees?

Property and facilities matters are handled by the Board of Trustees, which elects a chairperson from its members, has its own portion of the budget and often brings special needs to the Administrative Board.

What additional committees does Bethany have and how are their members selected?

Bethany has several committees made up of congregants at the church. Each year the Nominations Committee (see below) nominates people and the Church Conference approves them to serve on multi-year terms for each committee. Each year a new “class” of members joins the committee (ex. approximately $\frac{1}{3}$ of its members rotate on and off each year for a committee that serves a three-year term), such that there are always new members and experienced members serving on each committee. The committees, range between 9 – 15 members and are as follows:

- **Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC)** - Provides oversight over the pastors and staff and addresses related personnel issues.
- **Finance Committee** - Provides oversight for financial matters including recommending a budget to the Administrative Board and oversight over the spending by the church staff.
- **Nominations Committee** - Works with the Lead Pastor to identify people to serve on all of the church committees, as well as the Board of Trustees.

What are Lay Delegates and how are they selected?

Lay Delegates are Bethany UMC members who represent our church at the Annual Conference. These delegates are also nominated by the Nominations Committee, and approved at the annual Church Conference. Bethany is allotted the number of its lay delegates according to the total membership of the congregation.

Lay delegates typically serve a six-year term and must be able to take off from their jobs for several days during the week to attend Annual Conference. Annual Conference has been held in the recent past at the Convention Center in Corpus Christi, usually the first or second week of June. It will be moving in 2021 to McAllen, TX.

In addition, Bethany is also represented at the Annual Conference by all of the Bethany pastors, who serve as Clergy Delegates.

What is the Lead Team?

The Lead Team is a smaller group (about 20 persons), comprised of the chairpersons of the above committees, the pastors, and additional laity nominated by the Lead Pastor. The Lead Team is responsible for advising the Lead Pastor on matters related to future programs and emphases for the entire church. The Lead Team recently served as the building committee during the planning, funding and construction of the Worship Center. They also played an advisory role in the crafting of Bethany's updated core vision.

Where could I find a list of who is currently serving on all of the above committees?

The list of all Administrative Board members, committee members, and Lead Team members is available on the Bethany website under the Facilities & Admin button or this link:

<https://bethany-umc.org/about/facilities-admin/administrative-board-info/>