




Baltimore-Washington Conference

of the United Methodist Church

Trustees



*What is a
Trustee?*

The Book of Discipline
State Law

THE BOOK OF DISCIPLINE 2016

¶ 2533. *Board of Trustees' Powers and Limitations*—1. Subject to the direction of the charge conference, the board of trustees shall have the supervision, oversight, and care of all real property owned by the local church and of all property and equipment acquired directly by the local church or by any society, board, class, commission, or similar organization connected therewith, provided that the board of trustees shall not violate the rights of any local church organization elsewhere granted in the *Discipline*; provided further, that the board of trustees shall not prevent or interfere with the pastor in the use of any of the said property for religious services or other proper meetings or purposes recognized by the law, usages, and customs of The United Methodist Church, or permit the use of said property for religious or other meetings without the consent of the pastor or, in the pastor's absence, the consent of the district superintendent; and provided further, that pews in The United Methodist Church shall always be free; and provided further, that the church local conference may assign certain of these duties to a building committee as set forth in ¶ 2544 or the chairperson of the parsonage committee, if one exists.

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2. Annual review of insurance
3. Use of the property consistent with the Social Principles
4. Annual review of the parsonage
5. Subject to the direction of the Charge Conference: receive and administer all bequests, all trusts, invest all trusts (It is “encouraged” to do this according to the Social Principles)
6. Annual Accessibility audit

Maryland Code: Corporations and Associations

Title 5 - Special Types of Corporations

Subtitle 3 - Religious Corporations

Part I - In General

§ 5-306. Trustees – Powers

(a) General powers. -- The trustees have the power to:

- (1) Have perpetual existence under the name of the religious corporation;
- (2) Purchase, take, or acquire by gift, bequest, or in any other manner and hold any interest in any assets in the State;
- (3) Use, lease, mortgage, sell, or convey the assets in the manner that the trustees consider most conducive to the interest of the religious corporation;
- (4) Generally manage any assets of the religious corporation; and
- (5) Adopt rules and ordinances for conducting their affairs as necessary and convenient to accomplish the purpose of the religious corporation, including:
 - (i) Appointing the time and place of a meeting of its members; and
 - (ii) Determining the number of members necessary to constitute a quorum.

(b) Instruments prohibiting sale, mortgage, or other disposition. -- The provisions of this section do not authorize any sale, mortgage, or other disposition of any asset of the religious corporation which is held under an instrument prohibiting that sale, mortgage, or other disposition.

(c) Authorization by trustees to execute an instrument or conveyance. -- By resolution, the trustees may authorize one or more of their members to:

- (1) Execute any instrument required to be executed by the trustees, including any deed, mortgage, or other conveyance of assets which are to be sold, transferred, or encumbered; and
- (2) Attest and affix to the instrument the corporate seal, if any.

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Maryland Code: Corporations and Associations

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Subtitle 3 - Religious Corporations

§ 5-307. Trustees – Duties

(a) Duties. -- The trustees shall:

(1) Keep an accurate record book;

(2) Allow inspection of the record book by members of the religious corporation;

and

(3) Allow the proceedings recorded in the record book to be presented before a public meeting, if required by five or more members of the religious corporation.

Maryland Code: Corporations and Associations

Title 5 - Special Types of Corporations

Subtitle 3 - Religious Corporations

Part III - United Methodist Church

§ 5-322. Incorporation

A religious corporation subject to this part may be incorporated only in conformity with the discipline of the United Methodist Church, as authorized and declared by the general conference of that church.

§ 5-324. Trustees

(a) Election of trustees. -- The trustees of a Methodist Church, whether or not it is incorporated, shall be elected by its charge conference in accordance with the discipline of the United Methodist Church, as authorized and declared by the general conference of that church.

(b) Trustees as directors. -- As to a religious corporation subject to this part, the trustees of the church shall be the directors of the religious corporation.

Maryland Code: Corporations and Associations

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Maryland Code: Corporations and Associations

Title 5 - Special Types of Corporations

Subtitle 3 - Religious Corporations

§ 5-326. Holding of property

All assets owned by any Methodist Church, including any former Methodist Episcopal Church, Methodist Protestant Church, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, the Washington Methodist Conference, or Evangelical United Brethren Church, whether incorporated, unincorporated, or abandoned:

- (1) Shall be held by the trustees of the church in trust for the United Methodist Church; and
- (2) Are subject to the discipline, usage, and ministerial appointments of the United Methodist Church, as from time to time authorized and declared by the general conference of that church.

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How is the Board of Trustees organized?

Not more than 9 persons, and not fewer than 3

1/3 Laymen, 1/3 Laywomen

2/3 Professing Members of
the UMC

3 year terms, staggered over
three years

Election of officers

Is the Pastor a member of Trustees?



**What are the
duties of the
Trustees?**



PROPERTY



Financial





Administrative

In trust, that said premises shall be used, kept, and maintained as a place of divine worship of the United Methodist ministry and members of the United Methodist Church; subject to the Discipline, usage, and ministerial appointments of said Church as from time to time authorized and declared by the General Conference and by the annual conference within whose bounds the said premises are situated. This provision is solely for the benefit of the grantee, and the grantor reserves no right or interest in said premises.



Administrative



Questions



GOOD STEWARDSHIP

What is good stewardship?

What stewardship do your members need?

What message are you sending to visitors?

How are you caring for the legacy?

How are you caring for the inheritance?

MINISTRY

How are you in ministry?

What are your goals? Do you have goals?

What are your measures of effectiveness?

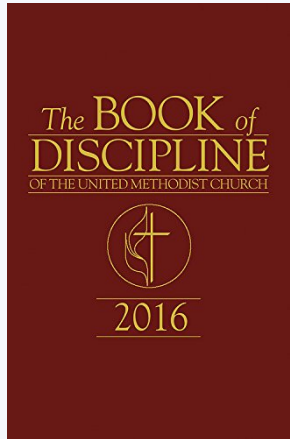
What is your relationship with the pastor?

How do you do more than just react?

Initiate and Inspire!

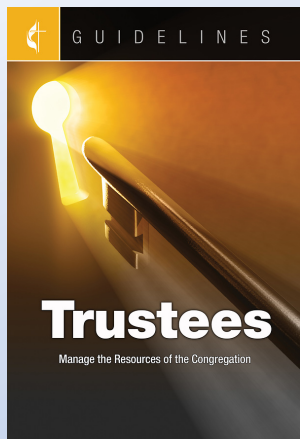
QUESTIONS

RESOURCES:



The 2016 Book of Discipline

<https://www.cokesbury.com/The-Book-of-Discipline-of-The-United-Methodist-Church-2016-1?refq=Discipline>



Guidelines: Trustees

<https://www.cokesbury.com/Guidelines-Trustees-1?refq=Trustees>

Therefore go
and make disciples of all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the
Father and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit

Matthew 28:19 (NIV)