

Elected Leader
Nomination Guide

2009



Christ Church United Methodist
4614 Brownsboro Road Louisville, KY 40207
502-897-6421 • 502-893-2794 fax
www.ccum.net



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Louisville, Kentucky 40207
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George A. Strunk, Senior Pastor
Rev. Rebecca Heid
Dr. Bonnie Glass MacDonald
Rev. Cherie Parker

July 2008

Thank you for your interest in serving as an elected leader at the Christ Church United Methodist. Please keep in mind that elected leadership positions at CCUM are not the only areas of Christian service. Each service opportunity, whether inside the church walls or beyond, is meaningful to the Body of Christ. If you would like to consider serving in other areas of the church, please explore your service options by:

1. Contacting Patty Groot, Lay Ministry Coordinator at 502-897-6421 ext.251
2. Attend Spiritual Gifts Discovery class and placement process
3. Look for service opportunities in Sunday to Sunday
4. Check website, www.ccum.net, for service opportunities

Your Self-Referral Form and a signed Volunteer Leader Covenant (found in this guide) should be returned to the church office by Friday, August 29 , 2008. Should you have any questions along the way, please contact me at 502-897-6421 ext.251.

May God bless your journey of discernment,

Patty Groot
Lay Ministry Coordinator
Christ Church United Methodist

I thank Him who has given me strength for this, Christ Jesus our Lord, because He judged me faithful by appointing me to His service. ~ 1 Timothy 1:12

Position Descriptions

At-Large Member of Administrative Council

An At-Large Member of the Administrative Council participates as a full voting member in the discussions and decision-making process of the Administrative Council. The At-Large Member is responsible for presenting their particular perspectives on the concerns and programs being considered, so that Christ Church United Methodist may minister more effectively in our community. Six meetings per year.

Planned Giving Committee

The Planned Giving Committee develops, maintains, and administers a coordinated plan of giving through member's assets. The Committee will assist donors in expanding their giving potential and encourage and promote planned giving. The vision of this committee is that every adult member of CCUM have a will and that God be mentioned in that will.

Memorial/Lutes Fund

The Memorial/Lutes Fund is a scholarship fund for members and staff of CCUM who are interested in pursuing a career through attending seminary. Members of this committee will be responsible for advertising opportunities for applications and for the selection of the recipients.

Committee on Lay Leadership

The Committee on Lay Leadership (CLL) is responsible for oversight of the identification, development and evaluation of Christian leadership at Christ Church United Methodist. The Committee supports staff and lay leaders in the care for the volunteers at Christ Church by inviting, connecting, equipping and sustaining volunteers in their Christian service. Initiatives include the nominations process, the Volunteer Management Practices and developing tools for church leaders.

Meeting at various times throughout the year.

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee develops, maintains, and administers a coordinated plan of fiscal and administrative policies and procedures for Christ Church United Methodist. It oversees the financial health of Christ Church, which includes underwriting and monitoring finances; providing financial direction; and communicating the financial condition, plans and budget to the Administrative Council.

Monthly meetings are generally held on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

Staff Parish Relations Committee

The Staff Parish Relations Committee acts as a liaison between staff, clergy and the congregation. The committee reflects biblically on the role and work of the pastors and staff as they carry out their leadership responsibilities. This committee helps make Christ Church a fulfilling place to work and strives for effective ministry in alignment with Christ Church's mission. Meetings are usually held on the second Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.. Members cannot be related to a Christ Church staff member.

Board of Trustees

This Board is charged with the care and maintenance of church property, real, personal and intellectual. It holds title to property, buildings and equipment. It is also responsible for managing and receiving property for the church. [The Board of Trustees also serves as the board of directors for the church.] Bimonthly meetings are held on the second Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. All Trustees must be at least eighteen years of age. Major items include building repair/renovation, safe sanctuaries, space planning, disaster planning, traffic management, and security.

Lay Member to Annual Conference

The Lay Members participate as representatives from our church to the Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. During the annual session action is taken on various issues and policy decisions. The regular session of the Annual Conference will be held for one week in June. Lay Members should have an interest in Christ Church's vision of denominational renewal. They are also encouraged to actively participate on a conference or district committee. Lay members to the Annual Conference are also voting members of the Ad Council, Staff Parish Relations, Trustees and Finance Committees.

Suggested Prayer Guide for the Discernment Process

Beginning the journey:

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

Commit- Once you feel comfortable with the role you are discerning, commit to 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 together 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. It should be somewhere quiet, private and a place of comfort for you. Create a space 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

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

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

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.

Self-Referral Form

The Committee on Lay Leadership (CLL) nominates potential leaders for elected positions. The nominees will then be approved by vote at the Charge Conference in November. Our aim in the nomination process is to discover God's leading. As such, special consideration is given to the following criteria in order to match the appropriate people with the available ministry opportunities:

- Fulfilling the expectations of membership by worshiping, growing, serving, and giving
- Proper motivation for seeking leadership
- Alignment with the church's purpose statement
- Ability to balance and/or diversify the committee
- Appropriate talents or skills, often including subject matter expertise
- Ability to attend meetings and fulfill requirements

The following questions, therefore, are to assist you in discerning God's will for your service and to assist the CLL in the nominations process. Please give prayerful thought to the process and consider discussing this matter with another mature Christian in your life.

Name: _____

Home phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

I am interested in (check all that apply):

- At-Large Member of Admin. Council
- Planned Giving Committee
- Memorial/Lutes Fund
- Committee on Lay Leadership

- Finance Committee
- Staff-Parish Committee
- Board of Trustees
- Lay Member to Annual Conference

How long have you been a member of Christ Church? _____

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

- Worshiping regularly, whenever you're not sick or out of town
- Participating in an activity, outside of worship, where you are growing in your faith
- 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 fulfill the time requirements of this role?

- Yes Comments (optional):

Do you support the purpose statement of Christ Church, i.e. "to build a loving and inclusive Christian community that invites everyone to know God, to grow as a disciple of Jesus Christ and to serve faithfully in the world"?

- Yes Comments (optional):

Why do you desire to serve in this ministry role?

List ministry areas in which you been heavily involved. Please briefly indicate any particular joys or challenges you experienced as you served in these roles.

Have you participated in programs that have helped prepare you for this role of spiritual leadership? If so, please list.

Have you participated in By Faith We Serve?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please list your Spiritual Gifts.

How would the use of these gifts enable you to excel in the position you are seeking?

Are you willing to participate, whenever possible, in leadership events?

- Yes
- Comments (optional):

What skills, background or expertise might you bring to this position?

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

How do you 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 the Charge Conference in November. Return this form and the signed Volunteer Leader Covenant to Patty Groot at the church office (4614 Brownsboro Road Louisville, KY 40207) or by fax (502-893-2794) on or before August 27, 2008. Contact Patty with any questions at 502-897-6421 ext. 251 or patty@ccum.net.

Leader Covenant

Christ Church United Methodist



Our staff leaders, along with our lay leaders, 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 and therefore we hold ourselves to a high standard. 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 us to be “examples to the flock” and to exercise leadership with a willing heart. Because leaders are held to higher standards, James says, “not many of you should become teachers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.”

As a Christian leadership team, 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 a Christian leadership team. We use these standards to hold ourselves accountable to pursuing the Christian life. And, in doing so, 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 neighbors 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 Christ Church 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 Christ 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 week, except when sick or out of town
2. Engage in close Christian fellowships 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 Christ Church

A. *What is the heart and attitude of a Christ Church leader?*

1. Humble (servanthood)
2. Positive
3. Joyful
4. Committed to Christ
5. Devoted to the purpose and vision of Christ Church United Methodist

B. How will Christ Church leaders live toward one another?

1. Demonstrating respect and grace
2. Accepting differences
3. Maintaining appropriate confidentiality
4. Publicly supporting other volunteers, leaders, pastors and staff members
5. Shows Christ-like love, respect and grace in addressing and resolving conflicts

C. What are the attributes of a Christ Church leader?

1. Committed to being a life-long learner
2. Effectively communicates the relevance of the ministry
3. Demonstrates a team spirit, valuing input from all team members
4. Maximizes opportunities for volunteers to serve and invites, equips and sustains them in ministry
5. Strives to communicate proactively when planning and visioning

III. The Faith and Character of a United Methodist

Christ Church 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 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 word. “While we acknowledge the primacy of Scripture in the 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 towards others. They value passionate worship, relevant preaching, and 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 Christ Church United Methodist in every area of our ministry.

Covenant:

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 as a leader at Christ Church United Methodist.

Name

Date

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

² 2004 Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, ¶102.