

Leadership as Discipleship

The Mission of University Park United Methodist Church:

Embodying the love of Jesus for the good of our communities.

Leadership at UPUMC is about more than just responsibilities. It is about disciples who are growing in grace and serving together for the sake of God's mission. Every leadership team helps our church live into our vision by embodying the love of Jesus for the good of our communities. Each leader represents the values of UPUMC both inside *and* outside the walls of the church. Requirements for serving in leadership in the following capacities require being a member in good standing, having a recorded gift to the ministry of the church in any amount in the last year, and being an active presence in the community of UPUMC.

We believe leadership is one of the ways we practice discipleship. As we serve together, God continues to grow us in grace, shaping us into the likeness of Christ through the shared work of ministry. Leadership is not reserved for those who have "arrived." Rather, it is one of the ways God's grace continues to transform us.

No leader will embody these characteristics perfectly. Rather, these profiles describe the kind of people God is continually forming us to become as we grow together in grace.

Each profile below offers a picture of the kind of leader we seek to become, along with some of the ways God often grows those who serve in that role.

Lay Leadership – The Encourager

(Strengthens the spiritual life of the congregation)

Lay Leadership members encourage the spiritual life of the congregation by helping people grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. They serve as trusted partners with the clergy, listening to the hopes and concerns of the congregation while encouraging the church to faithfully live into God's mission together.

Who We Seek to Be

- Deeply rooted in a growing relationship with Christ.
- Encouraging and attentive to the spiritual growth of others.
- A trusted bridge between the congregation and clergy.

Growing in Grace

- Growing from speaking to listening.
- Growing from individual faith to shared discipleship.

Committee Description

Lay Leadership serves to strengthen the spiritual life of the congregation by encouraging discipleship, supporting lay ministry, and fostering healthy relationships between the congregation and clergy. The committee helps cultivate a church where every person is invited to grow in grace, participate in ministry, and embody the love of Jesus for the good of our communities.

The Lay Leadership Committee also serves as an important channel of communication, helping the clergy and congregation listen well to one another as they seek God's direction together.

Meeting Time: Determined by lay leaders
