

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.

Church Council Chair– The Listener

(Discerns God's leading)

The Church Council Chair helps the congregation listen together for where God is already at work and where the Spirit is leading us next. They create space for prayerful discernment, wise conversation, and shared leadership so that, together, we may more fully embody the love of Jesus for the good of our communities.

Who We Seek to Be

- Curious about what God is already doing.
- Invites broad participation in the life of the church.
- Holds vision with humility, patience, and hope.

Growing in Grace

- Growing from control to curiosity.
- Growing from busyness to attentive presence.

Committee Description

The Church Council serves as the primary leadership body of the congregation, helping the church discern, plan, and evaluate its ministries of worship, discipleship, service, and stewardship. Rather than simply overseeing the work of the church, the Council seeks to listen together for God's direction and steward the congregation's shared life in faithful response to that leading.

The Church Council meets at least ten times each year. Meetings are open to all who wish to attend and participate in the conversation, though voting is reserved for members of the Council.

Meeting Time: Fourth Monday of each month, 6:00 p.m.
