College Hill United Methodist Church Simplified Accountable Structure Resolution
Church Conference Resolution for Structure Transition

Church Council moves the Church Conference adoption to modify our organizational plan of governance, utilizing the Simplified, Accountable Structure:

Resolution to Change Congregational Organizational Plan to Simplified, Accountable Governance Structure

WHEREAS, the latest edition (2020/2024) of the *Book of Discipline for the United Methodist Church* ¶247.2, allows alternative models of governance; and

> ¶247.2 The charge conference, the district superintendent, and the pastor, when a pastor has been appointed see ¶ 205.4), shall organize and administer the pastoral charge and churches according to the policies and plans herein set forth. When the membership size, program scope, mission resources, or other circumstances so require, the charge conference may, in consultation with and upon the approval of the district superintendent, modify the organizational plans, provided that the provisions of ¶ 243 are observed. Such other circumstances may include, but not be limited to, alternative models for the conception of a local church, such as coffee house ministries, mall ministries, outdoor ministries, retirement home ministries, restaurant ministries, and other emergent ways in which people can gather in God's name to be the church.

WHERAS, the simplified, accountable leadership structure is utilized as an alternative model by many congregations in the United Methodist connection and fulfills the provisions of the *Book of Discipline for the United Methodist Church* ¶ 243; and

> ¶ 243 Primary Tasks – The local church shall be organized so that it can pursue its primary task and mission in the context of its own community – reaching out and receiving with joy all who will respond; encouraging people in their relationship with God and inviting them to commitment to God's love in Jesus Christ; providing opportunities for them to seek strengthening and growth in spiritual formation; and supporting them to live lovingly and justly in the power of the Holy Spirit as faithful disciples.
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> In carrying out its primary task, it shall be organized so that adequate provision is made for these basic responsibilities: (1) planning and implementing a program of nurture, outreach, and witness for persons and families within and without the congregation; (2) providing for effective pastoral and lay leadership; (3) providing for financial support, physical facilities, and the legal obligations of the church; (4) utilizing the appropriate relationships and resources of the district and annual conference; (5) providing for the proper creation, maintenance, and disposition of the documentary record material of the local church; and (6) seeking inclusiveness in all aspects of its life.

WHEREAS, the Church Council of College Hill United Methodist Church of Wichita, Kansas, prayerfully voted on February 6, 2026, to explore the Simplified Board Structure for local governance; and

WHEREAS, the congregation provided feedback concerning a potential change in governance structure on multiple occasions; and

WHEREAS, the congregation was motivated to convert for reasons of efficiency, engagement, empowerment, alignment, accountability, missional focus, and adaptability; and

WHEREAS, the Church Council, the Simplified Board Structure Taskforce (also known as the One Board Exploration Team), and the pastors, after months of discernment, in consultation with a Simplified, Accountable Structure coach provided by the Great Plains Conference, have crafted an alternative organizational structure for College Hill United Methodist Church of Wichita, Kansas, and offered this proposal to the district superintendent for approval; and

WHEREAS, the district superintendent approved that alternative organizational plan on September 9, 2026; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. On January 1, 2027, the Disciplinary authority and various responsibilities of the Church Council, Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC), Finance Committee, Permanent Endowment Committee, Memorials Committee, and Board of Trustees, will be combined into a single body called the Leadership Board. Existing elected leadership of all classes of all constituent committees that make up the new Leadership Board will conclude their terms of service on December 31, 2026, as the church transitions to the new organizational plan.
2. The Leadership Board membership, structure and authority is determined by the Guiding Principles, which were shared with the congregation on September 17, 2026, and approved by the Church Council on October 5, 2026, following a Town Hall Meeting on October 4, 2026. The Leadership Board may amend the Guiding Principles in the future; however, the Guiding Principles must remain in alignment with the United Methodist Book of Discipline.
3. The Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development of College Hill United Methodist Church of Wichita, Kansas, is directed to submit a list of officers and members of a simplified accountability structure known as the Leadership Board and a Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development, divided into appropriate three-year classes, as outlined in *Book of Discipline for the United Methodist Church*, for election by the Charge Conference.
4. On January 1, 2027, the Charge Conference of College Hill United Methodist Church of Wichita, Kansas, will be composed of the members of the Leadership Board.
5. All Disciplinary requirements and qualifications for each of the constituent committees (Church Council, SPRC, Finance Committee, Permanent Endowment Committee, Memorials Committee, and Board of Trustees) will continue with the combined Leadership Board, including the legal limit for membership on Trustees, the Trustee age of majority qualifications, and SPRC household membership limitations.
6. All references to Church Council, SPRC, Finance Committee, Permanent Endowment Committee, Memorials Committee, and Board of Trustees, in all existing church policies, as of December 31, 2026, shall be understood to refer to the Leadership Board beginning January 1, 2027.
7. In service to our common mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world, all existing ministry teams will be accountable to the Pastor and Leadership Board in administrative matters and in fulfilment of provisions of the *Book of Discipline for the United Methodist Church* ¶ 243.

8. The Leadership Board will abide with existing financial, child protection, building use, and personnel policies along with the inaugural Guiding Principles.
    a. The Leadership Board will create a Leadership Board Covenant.
    b. The Leadership Board is empowered to amend these policies, principles, and covenant.
    c. The Leadership Board shall share current Guiding Principles with the church conference annually.

APPROVED, October 25, 2026

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Secretary, Charge Conference Presiding Elder