

2020 Elected Leader Nomination Packet



***First United Methodist Church
Baton Rouge, LA***



Greetings in the Name of Christ!

Thank you for your interest in serving as an elected leader at First United Methodist Church. Our leaders, along with our staff, 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. As leaders, they are held to higher standards than other members. The Apostle Paul sets forth lists of attributes of elders, deacons, and church leaders in his letters to the first century church. Leaders should be “above reproach” and “not be puffed up with conceit” among other things. Peter challenges leaders to be “examples to the flock” and to exercise leadership with a willing heart.

As leaders, we set the tone and pace for the entire congregation. We seek to model the Christian faith, the Christian life, and the attitude and heart of a Christian for our congregation. We seek to shape the heart, character, and life of this Christian community. For this reason, it is vital that we walk the Christian walk. The spiritual health of the congregation is directly related to the spiritual health and growth of its leaders. Likewise, the failure of leaders to walk with Christ has devastating consequences. Christ himself said, “Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing” (John 15:5).

Therefore, we hold the highest standard and expectation for the leaders of First United Methodist Church, and will work together to hold ourselves accountable for pursuing the Christian life. First UMC will continue to be a strong and growing congregation because we do this. Who would want anything less?

I pray that the information in this packet will lead you through what is more than a process, but truly a journey of personal spiritual growth and the discernment of God’s direction for you.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brady". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Brady Whitton
Senior Pastor
First United Methodist Church

Elected Leaders vs. Volunteer Positions: What's the Difference?

Every United Methodist Church has certain committees (see page 4) the members of which are nominated by the Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development and then elected at the annual meeting of the Charge Conference. These elected positions, required by the United Methodist *Book of Discipline*, include areas such as Church Council, Board of Trustees, Finance Committee, Staff Parish Relations Committee and others.

Elected leadership positions, however, are not the only areas of Christian service in the church. God has also gifted and called people to teach Sunday school, lead Bible studies, sing in the choir, serve in mission areas, etc. Without people serving in these non-elected areas, the church would be unable to fulfill its God-given mission. Each service opportunity is meaningful and important to the Body of Christ (I Corinthians 12:12-27).

This packet is specifically for those interested in serving as an **elected leader at First UMC**. If you would like to consider serving in other areas of the church, however, please explore your service options by:

1. Looking for service opportunities in the worship bulletin, newsletter, e-news, etc.
2. Visiting with the leader of the ministry area in which you are interested in serving:
Visit www.firstmethodist.org for a list of staff emails and phone extensions.

Mission/Revive225—George Ragsdale

H.Y.P.E.—Michelle Augustine

Congregational Care—Rebecca Mitchell

Senior Adults—Rev. Greg Toney

Youth Ministry—Kale Wetekamm

Children's Ministry—Sirena Brock

Adult Spiritual Formation—Cherri Johnson

Inviting & Welcoming—Sonia Fealing

Small Groups & Adult Classes—Jane Riecke

Music & Worship—Lamar Drummonds

*The Self-Nomination Form is only for those interested in serving in an elected position. The Self-Nomination Form and a signed Volunteer Leader Covenant (both found in this packet) should be returned to the church office **no later than Tuesday, September 17.***

Position Descriptions

Note: All elected positions take effect January 1, 2020.

Church Council

The Church Council is the governing body of the local church. It is responsible for working with the pastor(s), staff, and lay leadership in envisioning, planning, implementing and evaluating the mission and ministry of the church. The Church Council is composed of At-Large Members and representatives of other committees and departments as specified in the Book of Discipline. *The Church Council meets at least four times per year, typically on the second Monday of selected months. The term of service is three years.*

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee develops the annual operating budget based on the goals and strategic plans of the church. This Committee maintains and administers a coordinated plan of fiscal and administrative policies and procedures for First UMC. It oversees the financial health of the church and communicates the church's financial condition to the Church Council and congregation. *The Finance Committee meets at least four times per year. Members of the Finance Committee also serve on the Church Council. The term of service is three years.*

Staff-Parish Relations Committee

The Staff-Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) acts as a liaison between staff, clergy, and the congregation. The SPRC reflects biblically on the role and work of the pastor(s) and staff as they carry out their leadership responsibilities. The SPRC works with the pastor to determine necessary staff positions, draft job descriptions, conduct clergy and staff performance evaluations, and set compensation and salaries. This committee helps make First UMC a fulfilling place to work and strives for effective ministry in alignment with the mission of First UMC. Members cannot be related to a First UMC staff member. *The SPRC meets when needed, at least quarterly. Members of the SPRC also serve on the Church Council. The term of service is three years.*

Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees, along with the Building & Grounds Committee, has supervision, oversight, and care of the church's property and other assets, is responsible for ensuring adequate protective policies and insurance coverage and acts as the legal arm of the church. *The Board of Trustees meet as needed, at least once annually. Members of the Board of Trustees also serve on the Church Council. The term of service is three years.*

Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development

The Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development (formerly known as the Nominating Committee) is responsible for the identification, development, and evaluation of Christian leadership at First UMC. This Committee supports staff and lay leaders in caring for volunteers at First UMC by inviting, connecting, equipping, and sustaining volunteers in their Christian service. *The Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development meets several times throughout the year. Members of this committee also serve on the Church Council. The term of service is three years.*

Position Descriptions (continued)

Missions & Outreach Committee

The Missions and Outreach Committee guides the volunteer service work and financial giving First UMC does in local and global missions. This committee also reviews and plans the work done in the mission field, and coordinates responses to disasters and other needs as they arise. *The Missions and Outreach Committee meets as needed throughout the year. The term of service is three years.*

Lay Delegates/Alternates to the Annual Conference*

Every United Methodist Church has a ratio of one Lay Delegate to the Annual Conference for each clergy on the church's staff. Therefore, the number of delegates a church has depends on the number of clergy the church has. First UMC will have five such delegates in 2019. Elected each year, delegates serve as representatives from our church to the Louisiana Annual Conference. During the (statewide) annual session, action is taken on various issues, programs, and policy decisions which affect every church in the Louisiana Conference. The regular session of the Annual Conference will be held June 5 through June 8, 2019, in Shreveport. The Lay Delegate must have been an *active participant* in The United Methodist Church for at least four years preceding their election, a *member* of The United Methodist Church for at least two years preceding their election, and an *active member of First UMC* for at least one year prior to election. The Lay Delegates from First UMC should be in alignment with the mission and vision of First UMC, have a willingness to prepare for Annual Conference by reading the Pre-Conference Report, and have a heart for The United Methodist Church and its presence and effectiveness in our community, state, and world. *Lay Delegates to the Annual Conference also serve on the Church Council. The term of service is one year.*

** This position is not to be confused with the "Lay Leader" which has different duties and responsibilities.*

Children's Council

The purpose of children's council is to coordinate all children's programming with the Director of Children's ministry assisting in the educational components. The council is responsible for implementing the programming of the children's ministry. Responsibilities include setting goals, determining programming, coordinating volunteers, leading at least one committee which helps plan the children's activities for the calendar year, and actively participate on at least two additional committees which help plan the children's activities for the calendar year. *The Children's Council meets on the third Wednesday of every other month at 11:00 a.m. The term of service is two years.*

Self-Nomination Form

Due in the Church Office No Later Than **Tuesday, September 17.**

The Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development nominates potential leaders for elected positions only. The nominees will then be approved and elected by vote at the Charge Conference under the direction of our District Superintendent. 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 positions:

- > Has been an active member of First UMC for at least one full year.
- > Is fulfilling the expectations of membership by
 1. worshipping every Sunday unless sick or out of town, and spending time in personal prayer and devotion;
 2. deepening their Christian faith between Sundays either through Sunday school, a Bible study, or other small group experience;
 3. serving in at least one volunteer ministry position;
 4. giving in proportion to their income and working toward the biblical standard of the tithe; and
 5. inviting others to come to First UMC and make it their church home.
- > Has a healthy motivation for seeking elected leadership in the church.
- > Has had prior involvement and/or leadership within the ministries of First UMC.
- > Is in alignment with the mission of The United Methodist Church – “to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.”
- > Has the ability to balance and/or diversify the committee. (gender, age, race, etc.)
- > Has appropriate talents, skills, and experience, often including subject matter expertise.
- > Has availability, willingness, and commitment to faithfully attend meetings and fulfill all requirements. Missing two (2) meetings in a calendar year could be cause for your replacement.

Therefore, the following questions are to assist you in discerning God’s will for your service and to assist the Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development in the nomination process. Please give prayerful thought to the process and consider discussing this matter with a mature Christian in your life.

Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

E-mail: _____ Cell Phone: _____

I am interested in (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Church Council | <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Trustees |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Committee on Nominations & Leadership Development |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Staff-Parish Relations Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> Missions & Outreach Committee |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lay Delegate/Alternate to the Annual Conference | <input type="checkbox"/> Children’s Council |

(Please attach additional pages if needed.)

1. How long have you been a member of First UMC? _____
(If unsure, call the Membership Secretary, Virginia Guffey, at 225-383-4777, ext. 210.)

2. List ministry areas in which you have been involved and have served or helped lead. Please briefly indicate any particular joys or challenges you experienced as you served in these roles.

3. I am fulfilling the commitments of membership by (check all that apply):

 Worshiping Studying Serving Giving Inviting

4. As a church member, which membership commitment will you work toward improving in the coming year?

5. How do you try to live out your faith in your daily life? Be as specific as possible.

6. After reviewing the regular meeting times of the committee in which you are interested, will you be able to faithfully commit to meeting attendance?

7. Do you support the mission of The United Methodist Church —“to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world,” and do you honestly desire to see it happen?

o Yes Comments (optional):

8. Why do you desire to serve in this ministry role?

9. What has helped to prepare you for this role of spiritual leadership?

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

11. Other than First UMC, have you been involved in other churches or non-profits? If so, please list where and give a short description of your service there.

This form is a self-nomination for consideration. The Committee on Nominations and Leadership Development is charged with the task of discerning who the leaders will be for the upcoming year, and will be submitting that slate of nominees to the Charge Conference for election this fall. Please return this form, and the signed Volunteer Leader Covenant to the church office (if mailing, send to 930 North Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70802), by fax at (225) 383-4045, or by email to vguffey@firstmethodist.org, before **September 17, 2019**.

Volunteer Leader Covenant

Also Due in the Church Office No Later Than **Tuesday, September 17.**

I. The Goal of the Christian Life: Sanctification (“Holiness”)

Throughout the history of the Christian faith, God has raised up leaders to guide the church and lead it into the fulfillment of His mission in the world. In the early days of Methodism, John Wesley also called forth leaders and challenged them to the biblical standard of faithfulness in their leadership. In our Methodist tradition, three *General Rules* were designed to help Christians pursue this goal. As leaders we pursue these “rules” as we grow in faith and service together:

“DO NO HARM”

1. Avoid those things which are inconsistent with the life of faith, separate us from God, and bring harm to others, such as:

- a. Self-destructive behavior (addictive behavior, poor self-care)
- b. Moral compromise (sexual misconduct, greed, dishonesty)
- c. Self-centeredness and pride
- d. Malice (harboring resentment, acting in anger, backbiting, gossiping)
- e. Wasting resources (the church’s, or personal resources of time, talent, materials, and finances)

“DO GOOD”

2. Do good of every possible sort, such as:

- a. live a life of love
- b. share our faith inside and outside of the congregation
- c. care for our families
- d. build each other up
- e. assist those in need, both inside and outside the church

“STAY IN LOVE WITH GOD”

3. Pursue growth in our spiritual lives, such as:

- a. attending worship unless sick or out of town
- b. participating in an activity, outside of worship, whether it be a Bible study, small group, and/or personal daily devotional, where we grow in our own relationship with Jesus Christ
- c. serving God in some form of ministry according to our God-given gifts and talents, our interests and abilities
- d. giving financially in proportion to our income and intentionally working toward tithing as the goal
- e. taking advantage of every opportunity to invite others to become a part of First UMC and make it a place they too can call home

II. The Heart and Attitude of a Leader at First UMC

1. What is the heart and attitude of a leader?
 - a. Humble
 - b. Positive
 - c. Team player
 - d. Selflessness
 - e. Joyful
 - f. Committed to Christ
 - g. Devoted to the mission of the church – “to make disciples”
 - h. Cares more about the mission than personal preferences
2. How will First UMC’s leaders live toward one another?
 - a. Demonstrating respect and grace
 - b. Accepting differences
 - c. Maintaining appropriate confidentiality
 - d. Publicly supporting other volunteer leaders, pastors, and staff members
 - e. Going directly to the individual, in person, whenever a problem arises

III. The Faith and Character of a United Methodist

First UMC is a United Methodist Church. All leaders, both clergy and laity, are expected 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. We are orthodox in our faith, liberal in spirit, passionate and deeply devoted to Christ, open-minded to the rich diversity of theological positions and understandings, and wholly committed to intentionally offering Christ to the world.

Methodists are people who value many different ways of worship, acknowledging the importance of being biblical, historic, and relevant to the people of today. We are committed to finding ways to reach a constantly changing society by finding new ways to communicate the gospel in both traditional and contemporary ways without compromising the message of Christ. This often means discarding older forms of ministry which are no longer effective and adopting newer and more effective ways of reaching the world with the message of Christ.

This is our heritage, and it continues to shape First United Methodist Church in every area of our ministry.

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 at First United Methodist Church. If elected to a leadership position, I will participate fully by praying for the work of the committee(s) in which I am part and attend all meetings required.

Name

Date