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## Church Council

### Purpose:

The Church Council assists the church in determining its course and serves as a forum for the church's leaders to guide planning, coordination, conducting, and evaluation of the total work of the church. The Church Council is the membership's authenticating agent for insuring that all plans, projects, programs emanating from the basic church program organizations meet the objectives and goals as approved by the church. Church Council's specific purpose is to recommend to the congregation suggested objectives, church goals, and calendar; Review and coordinate program plans recommended by church officers, basic organizations, councils, and standing committees and teams; Recommend to the congregation the use of leadership, calendar time, and other resources according to program priorities; Evaluate program achievement in terms of goals and priorities; Refer any matters agreed by the church council, calling for action not already provided for, to appropriate councils/standing committee for action. For efficiency and effectiveness, the Church Council is organized and focuses on two specific functions through a service team and ministry needs of the church. The Service Team, consisting of the Chairs of the standing committees of the church, support the church by focusing on the administrative and operational needs of the church. The Ministry Team, consisting of the Chairs of the councils of the church, support the church by focusing on the biblical functions of the church. The Teams shall meet jointly or separately at the call of the Chair.

### Membership:

The Lead Pastor shall serve as the Church Council Chair. The Chair may appoint Team Leaders as desired. Serving on the Church Council are the pastoral staff, Chair of the Deacons who presides as Chair in the Lead Pastor's absence. Church Clerk, Church Treasurer, Chairs of all standing committees (Service Team), Chairs of all councils (Ministry Team). Church leaders become members of the Church Council as a result of nomination and election of designated church leadership positions. Terms and beginning date of office for each member corresponds to the term of office for each elected position. However, the Church Council year begins annually in June.

### Relationships:

Council assists the church, within the realm of the council purpose, in fulfilling the church's Mission: To proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to minister to the needs of our congregation, the community, and the world through the leadership of the Holy Spirit. This council shall utilize the five Biblical Functions of Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry, and Evangelism in meeting the council's purpose and duties and in communicating, coordinating, collaborating, and cooperating with others.

### Duties:

1. Recommend to the church coordinated plans of worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, and evangelism.
2. Help the church understand its mission and define its priorities.
3. Coordinate studies of church and community needs.

4. Coordinate the church's schedule of activities, special events, and use of facilities.
5. Evaluate progress and the priority use of church resources.
6. All Council entities are to submit agenda items to the Chair as needs arise.
7. All Council actions requiring congregation approval are presented to the church at the earliest scheduled conference.
8. Church programs and projects are to be evaluated semi-annually as to achievement of goals and objectives.