



UNITED PARISH IN BROOKLINE

HOW DO WE ELECT OUR CHURCH LEADERS?

The process is outlined in the United Parish By-Laws. Our elected leaders are nominated by the Discernment and Engagement Group, with input from the people of the United Parish.

CAN ANYONE BE NOMINATED AS A CHURCH LEADER?

Nominees for the Church Council must be members of the United Parish; nominees for the Discernment and Engagement Group and the Endowment Committee must be people from the congregation. All nominees must be known to support the church with their prayers, presence, gifts and service. Beyond that, they should have the ability to be a problem solver, have a spirit of cooperation and a respect for confidentiality, and be willing to “speak the truth in love.”

WHO CAN RECOMMEND A NOMINEE?

Anyone who attends the United Parish

WHAT DO OUR ELECTED LEADERS DO?

The Church Council is the governing body of our congregation. It consists of 8-10 members, including the three lay officers of the United Parish (Moderator, Clerk, and Treasurer), 4-6 at-large members and the senior pastor. Terms of lay members are three years. The council members are responsible for the welfare, both spiritual and physical, of the members of the United Parish, and guidance of the total program of the church. They have oversight of both pastoral staff and support staff and are responsible for the United Parish budget and financial stewardship. Meetings are generally monthly.

The Endowment Committee consists of five members who serve three-year terms and manage the endowment funds given to the United Parish, as well as funds entrusted to the United Parish from its member churches. Meetings are quarterly.

The Discernment and Engagement Group consists of 5-7 people who serve two-year terms and represent as wide as possible a cross-section of the congregation. Team members are responsible for helping members discern their sense of call and where they might serve in the world and in the church so that it is the most meaningful for them. They help ministry teams to add needed helpers, as well as provide nominees for elected positions. Meetings are generally monthly.

HOW DOES THE NOMINATION PROCESS WORK?

The Discernment and Engagement Group publishes for the congregation a list of open leadership positions for next year, along with the experience, expectations and gifts called for in each position. Nominations are then submitted to the D/E Group by a certain date. At their next meeting, members of the D/E Group consider all the names, looking for the best person for each position. Then the senior pastor and members of the Team personally talk with the nominees and ask them to prayerfully consider the position for several days before giving a reply.

WHO ACTUALLY ELECTS OUR CHURCH LEADERS?

The D/E Group submits the slate of nominees at the Annual Meeting in June, at which time members of the United Parish vote on them.

NOMINATIONS FOR 2018-2019

The Discernment and Engagement Team would welcome your input and nominations (self-nominations are very welcome) from a diverse cross-section of our congregation, for the following roles:

Church Council

2-3 new at-large adult members, a youth member, Clerk

This continues to be an exciting time to be thinking about the broader, longer view of our church, as we live into our vision with functional teams for four directions: Exalting, Deepening, Stretching, and Gathering. Those who love being part of a team focused on the future are ideal candidates.

Endowment Committee - 1 member

NOTE: This team is in the process of making decisions about our financial management, with a new focus on socially responsible investing.

Discernment and Engagement - 5 members

We continue to explore ways to incorporate a self-paced discernment process for the congregation, which aligns our personal passions with our contributions to our church family and the wider community.

MY NAME _____

MY EMAIL _____

MY PHONE NUMBER _____

NOMINEE _____

TEAM _____

Reason why I/they would be great _____

NOMINEE _____

TEAM _____

Reason why I/they would be great _____

NOMINEE _____

TEAM _____

Reason why I/they would be great _____

Please submit nominations to any of the members of the Discernment & Engagement team: Katy McGraw, Hannah Brents, and Lexi Boudreaux, convener; Susan DeSelms, staff liaison by **Sunday, May 27th**. Forms can also be given to the Church Office or emailed to discernment@upbrookline.org.