



UNITED PARISH IN BROOKLINE

American Baptist | United Church of Christ | United Methodist

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 Ministry Team, with input from the people of United Parish. Engagement in our community outside of elected positions includes involvement in any ministry team or affinity group.

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 Ministry Team and the Endowment Ministry Team 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.” We also recommend that new members spend some time in one of the Ministry Teams before entering into an elected position, so that they gain some experience and knowledge about the needs of the congregation.

WHO CAN RECOMMEND A NOMINEE?

Anyone who attends 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 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 United Parish, and guidance of the total program of the Parish. They have oversight of both pastoral staff and support staff and are responsible for the United Parish budget and financial stewardship. Meetings are monthly. If you enjoy looking at the “big picture” of an organization, this is a good place for you.

*****We are looking for nominations for members.*****

The Endowment Ministry Team consists of five members who serve three-year terms and manage the endowment funds given to United Parish, as well as funds entrusted to United Parish from its member churches. All three churches must be represented (American Baptist, United Methodist, United Church of Christ). Meetings are quarterly. If you enjoy talking about responsible investments, figures, and legal issues, this is a good fit for you.

*****We are looking for nominations for members of this team.*****

The Discernment and Engagement Ministry Team 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, help with the new member process, and provide nominees for elected positions. Meetings are generally monthly. If you have been in the church for a few years, and would like to help others find a place to use their gifts, or you like meeting new people, and/or you love to welcome new members, this is the group for you!

*****We are looking for nominations for members of this team.*****

HOW DOES THE NOMINATION PROCESS WORK?

The Discernment and Engagement Ministry Team 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 Team by a certain date. At their next meeting, members of the D&E Team 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 United Parish vote on them.

NOMINATIONS FOR 2025-2026

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 - *Seeking 3 new at-large adult members and a youth member.*

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 in Worship, Deepening in Christian Faith and Spirituality, Stretching into Justice, and Gathering in Community. Those who love being part of a team focused on the future are ideal candidates.

Endowment Ministry Team - *Seeking 2 members (one UMC member, one at-large 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 Ministry Team - *Seeking 3-5 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. Skills include willingness to meet and get to know new people, and either an existing knowledge of ministry teams or willingness to learn about them.

NOMINATION FORM

MY NAME: _____

MY EMAIL: _____

MY PHONE NUMBER: _____

NOMINEE: _____

TEAM: _____

Reason(s) why they would be great: _____

NOMINEE: _____

TEAM: _____

Reason(s) why they would be great: _____

NOMINEE: _____

TEAM: _____

Reason(s) why they would be great: _____

Please submit preliminary nominations to any of the members of the Discernment and Engagement Team: Mary McConnell, Livia Imada, Dot Gorenflo, Linda Sumoski, and Amy Norton-Benfield, staff liaison by **Sunday, June 1**.

Contact us at discernment@upbrookline.org, or our personal emails that can be found in the Realm directory. Nomination sheets can also be left in our mailbox in the Church Office. Thank you!