



SAUMC Vision:

May God’s light so shine through our...Passionate Worship; Radical Hospitality; Transformational Spiritual Growth; Risk-taking Mission and Service; and Extravagant Generosity...that all may come to know God.

SAUMC Mission:

To invite, receive, nurture, challenge and send forth committed Christian Disciples.

Organization: Church Council

Purpose Statement:

The Church Council is responsible for creating a strategic plan in alignment with the church’s vision and mission. The strategic plan forms the basis for all decision making and accountability concerning programs, financial resources, and facilities to equip laity to serve in Christian ministry. Church Council provides direction on matters brought to it by the Executive Directors.

Accountable for:

1. Hosts an annual orientation session, in collaboration with Lay Leadership, for all ministry areas to equip leaders for successful service in ministry. Orientation sessions should include clear definition of roles and responsibilities for each ministry, definition of ministry expectations for the year, definition of available resources to conduct the ministry (budget) and the method by which success will be measured. Orientation sessions should help to transfer “tribal knowledge” and established policies to more effectively equip new lay leadership to perform their responsibilities.
2. Hosts an annual strategic planning convention facilitated by the Continuous Planning Process (CPP) Team to provide direction for the overall ministry of SAUMC as defined in a consensus strategic plan. The strategic planning convention should involve an open exchange of ideas with an emphasis on arriving at an understanding of short and long term direction through a collaborative process based on the church’s vision and mission. The convention should include a celebration of successes in ministry reinforcing a culture of active service through a staff and lay recognition program recognizing excellence in ministry.
3. Hosts an annual resource summit facilitated by CPP to plan for resources needed to implement the strategic plan for the coming year.
4. Hosts church conferences as may be required to set new direction.

5. Considers and provides direction on issues brought before it by the Executive Directors.
6. Approves the annual budget.
7. Sets an annual calendar defining dates for critical events needed for effective ministry. These include orientation, planning, stewardship and budgeting events. Such a calendar should promote adequate preparation for quality decision making necessary to achieve the church's strategic plan.
8. Meets a minimum of quarterly each calendar year.

Accountable to:

The Church Council is defined by the Book of Discipline and authorized by the Church Conference to act on behalf of the SAUMC membership. The Church Council is accountable to the membership of SAUMC.

Membership:

Church Council is composed of all SAUMC clergy; Executive Director of Program Ministries; Executive Director of Operational Ministries; Chairpersons of Finance Committee, Staff Parish Relations Committee, Board of Trustees; Lay Leader; a Lay Member to Annual Conference; a Youth Representative; Chair of the Church Council, Vice Chair of Church Council, two (2) Program Ministries Representatives (1 staff and 1 laity), two (2) Focus Ministry Representatives who will serve one year terms; and a Secretary (non-voting). The program ministries representatives will be selected by the Program Ministry Team and represent all areas of program ministries.