



LAKE OSWEGO
UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

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Letter to church family re: Simple Governance

March 5, 2023

At our All-Church gatherings in October and again March 2nd, we shared a presentation on Simple Governance. We would like to give you an update on our progress so far and share what's ahead! Simple Governance is a structure that ensures that we focus on the mission of the church: “**why** do we do this?” rather than “**how** do we do this?”. A “board” is created to work on policy and vision. Critical responsibilities of the church (namely Trustees, Staff/Parish Relations and Finance) are delivered through elected leaders while other programs and involvement are either handled by staff or through ministry groups.

This Simple Governance model stands in contrast to the traditional top-down management structure whereby committees report up to a church council and dozens of nominated church members take on multi-year committee assignments, meet regularly and report on their work. Churches who have successfully implemented Simple Governance have found church members are freed up to concentrate on ministry work and, frankly, do not miss attending all those meetings!

Our church leadership has been studying and considering this structure since 2016 when first introduced to the concept. We have interviewed the author of the book “Simple Governance”, met with several churches who have transitioned to single board structures and consulted our District Superintendent who recommends this change. And, lest we forget, Pastor Clay shepherded his church in Hillsboro to this form of management!

Our Church Council unanimously voted to take the necessary steps to move to this structure by July 1st, 2023. We have formed a task team to develop this new LOUMC leadership model. This team of six includes our two Lay Leaders, current church council chair and our past church council chair (and former member of the Church Leadership Development team). The task team has been meeting, praying, and discerning the best structure that will complement all the things our church does to connect to God, each other, and our world.

The task team's work is scheduled to be completed by the end of April and then the Nominations work begins. The new structure will require Charge Conference approval (in May or June). We will have several All-Church meetings and special mailings like this one along the way to keep you informed of our progress. The next All-Church meeting will be in June – watch for details!

If you have questions or want more information on Simple Governance, you can seek out a task team member (listed below).

See you in church!

The Simple Governance Task Team

Deb Gice
Ann Murchison
Jenny Cook
Mark Bernal
Jeff Mattern
Pastor Clay Andrew



A place to connect to God, to each other, and to the world