

*“Behold, I make all things new.” Revelation 21:5*

It’s always a good thing to look at functions and structures and assess if they are working efficiently, serving their purpose and moving the mission. So, over the last year, the Church Council has spent some time reading, praying and discerning if our current structure is efficiently, effectively and accountably moving and fulfilling our mission (“to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”). The sense of the Council has been that it probably is not working as effectively or as efficiently as needed and that sometimes the mission gets lost in all the activities and the “always done it that way” programs and processes.

Last month, the Council with caution, care, concern and prayer decided to move ahead and explore a restructuring of Trinity’s administrative work (currently done by the Staff Parish Relations Committee, Finance Committee, Board of Trustees and Church Council). Knowing that *The UMC Book of Discipline* allows for flexibility and with the District Superintendent’s permission to proceed and explore, the Council established a task force (made up of Judy Powell, Ruth Allyn, Tim Ruxton, Richard Wilkes and Herb Brynildsen) to work on the details of a restructuring based on a model suggested by the Pastor, endorsed by the District Superintendent and adopted in other UM churches, districts and Conferences. The model is known as SAS, or Simplified Accountable Structure.

The key to this model is Accountability. In this model, we are not only and importantly accountable to one another in leadership, but most importantly we are accountable to fulfilling the Mission of the Church. In this model we are accountable for aligning our ministries, programs, goals to fulfilling the Mission.

This model calls for a big change in how we do our administrative work and governance. To the point, this model would have us create a Leadership Board that would have all the responsibilities, tasks and authority the *Book of Discipline* assigns to the Staff Parish Relations Committee, the Finance Committee, the Board of Trustees and the Church Council – all in one board. The Leadership Board would be made up of 9-12 committed, faithful disciples who are members of Trinity Church, identified and nominated by the Nominations and Leadership Committee (chaired by the Pastor and Lay Leaders) and duly elected by the Charge Conference. The membership would be ‘elected’ in three classes. One class rotating off the Board each year. Once established, the usual term would be three years.

More information will be made available as we move ahead. Please keep the task force and this restructuring process in your prayers. The timeline would have the new structure in place for 2023. Town hall meetings for info and Q&A will be schedule for September. If you have questions, place them in the “Trinity’s Restructuring” question box or email them to the church office.