

Trinity United Methodist Church Leadership Board Covenant
Trinity United Methodist Church – Chester VA
Living Waters District – VA Conference

1. Leadership Board members are role models for the congregation. Therefore, members will model mature Christian discipleship by being present in worship on a regular basis (online or in-person), have an active prayer life, be engaged in the life of the church and be supportive of the church's ministries and programs.
2. Leadership Board members will cover everything in prayer. Members will hold each other in prayer and all deliberations and decisions of the Board in prayer.
3. Leadership Board members will make every effort to attend Board meetings. Opportunities for an individual to attend virtually via Zoom or other means will be made possible for every meeting. When regular attendance becomes difficult to maintain, a conversation with the Pastor and chairperson to see if vacating the seat may be needed for the good of the Leadership Board and Trinity UMC.
4. Leadership Board members will thoroughly review the meeting packet prior to meetings (packets will be sent to members a week in advance), be prepared for each meeting, and invest in board conversations and decisions by participating fully with vigor and passion. Members will give everyone an opportunity to express their views while showing respect and kindness and recognizing and maintaining each person's dignity.
5. Leadership Board members not only will respect a diversity of opinions but also encourage a diversity of views and perspectives while also encouraging questions and discussion.
6. While respecting Trinity UMC traditions, the Leadership Board will endeavor to be forward thinking and open to the new possibilities which the Spirit may be revealing in our midst.
7. The Leadership Board will seek to reach consensus in decision making whenever possible. When not possible, majority vote will be used, or the issue will be held for further review and discussion. However, when a decision is reached, individual members of the Leadership Board will uphold the decisions of the Leadership Board in their capacity as members of the Leadership Board. Dissenting opinions as to non-unanimous decisions will not be shared openly and publicly. We are a Leadership Board with a unified voice.
8. Confidentiality will be maintained. The Leadership Board in its role as the church's personnel committee (SPPRC) is held to a high standard of confidentiality in personnel and clergy appointment matters. Similarly, the Leadership Board, serving as the congregation's trustees, is required to hold certain legal information confidential. Therefore, the Leadership Board may move into executive session for some agenda items.
9. To encourage transparency and congregational sharing, The Leadership Board will conclude regular meetings with a discussion of how the decisions will be communicated to the congregation. Additionally, the designated recording secretary will publish a short synopsis of the minutes reviewing the meeting's agenda and the decisions made, excluding confidential discussions.

10. Leadership Board members understand that conflict and disagreements are natural in any community, including the church. We will hold matters of disagreement in prayer, approach them with transparency and maintain our missional focus as a Leadership Board. We will speak directly to the person(s) with whom we are in 'conflict' and encourage others with concerns to do the same. We understand that all concerns, problems, and tasks related to staff or congregation are handled by the Pastor – remembering that staff report directly to the Pastor not to the Leadership Board. The Leadership Board will not triangulate themselves with the Pastor and staff member. Additionally, at no time will we support secret meetings that undermine the integrity or authority of the Pastor or Leadership Board.
11. Leadership Board members will hold ourselves, the Pastor, and other Leadership Board members accountable for their leadership roles and responsibilities. This includes allowing others to hold the Leadership Board members collectively and individually accountable to the love and work of Jesus Christ, this covenant, and our work in leading Trinity United Methodist Church in its purpose of making disciples of Jesus Christ.
12. This covenant will be reviewed and renewed annually.

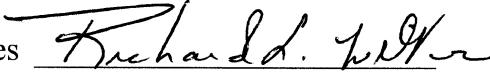
Signed: The Trinity United Methodist Leadership Board
January 19, 2023

Class of 2023:


Eric Rasmussen



Richard Wilkes



Bob Cassada

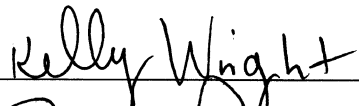


Nadine Syrett

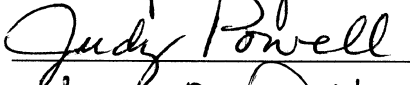


Class of 2024:

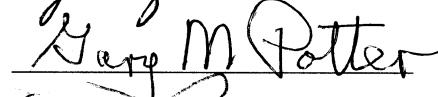
Kelly Wright



Judy Powell



Gary Potter




Tim Ruxton



Class of 2025:

Ruth Allyn



Deborah Williamson



Nicholas Passaro



Amber McGuffin

