

2024 Profile

a resource to supply all church members with important
information about committees and communication

Our church's mission

“to make and nurture Christian disciples through the
presence and power of God.”

WORSHIP, GROW, SERVE



Leadership

CHURCH COUNCIL

Purpose: The church council shall provide for planning and implementing a program of nurture, outreach, witness, and resources in the local church. It shall also provide for the administration of its organization and temporal life. It shall envision, plan, implement, and annually evaluate the mission and ministry of the church. The church council shall be amenable to and function as the administrative agency of the charge conference. (*Book of Discipline*, ¶ 252.1).

Meets: January 23, March 26, May 28, July 23, September 24, & November 26

Chairperson of Church Council	Bob Johnsen
Lay Leader	Brenda Loflin
Lay Member of Annual Conference	Deneen Jones
Alternate Lay Member of Annual Conference	Taffy Jordan
Church Treasurer	Van Kelly
Recording Secretary	Bruce Kolkebeck
Chairperson of the Finance Committee	Ben Weisensel
Chairperson of the Board of Trustees	Giles Goodman
Chairperson of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee	Deneen Jones
Chairperson of the Worship Committee	Chuck Bowman
Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee	Kathi Welborn
Chairperson of the Stewardship Team	Larry Cordts
Young Adult Ministries	Chelsea Franzese
Youth Ministries	Austin Massaquoi & Tyler Conforti
United Women in Faith	TBD
Men's Fellowship	Steve Sherriff
Church Historian	Fred Jordan
Church Archivist	Laura Peltz
Food Services Ministry	Jean West

Church Staff Members:

Senior Pastor	Mark Conforti
Director of Discipleship Ministries	Jen Fogt
Director of Music Ministry	Joshua Starnes
Church Business Administrator	TBD
Production Director	Aaron Cameron
Building Superintendent	Mike Fansler
Preschool Director and Teacher	Kelly Austin
Child Development Center Director	Brittney Lewis
After-School Care & Summer Camp Lead Teacher	Scotty Adcock

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The committee on finance shall give stewardship of financial resources as their priority throughout the year. It may delegate the responsibility to either a sub-group or task force that would plan, strategize, and implement ways to generate more resources for mission and ministries of the local churches and beyond. It is strongly recommended that the committee on finance, in collaboration with the church council, find creative ways to turn their congregations into tithing congregations with an attitude of generosity. All financial askings to be included in the annual budget of the local church shall be submitted to the committee on finance. The committee on finance shall compile annually a complete budget for the local church and submit it to the church council for review and adoption. The committee on finance shall be charged with responsibility for developing and implementing plans that will raise sufficient income to meet the budget adopted by the church council. It shall administer the funds received according to instructions from the church council. (*Book of Discipline*, ¶ 258.4).

Meets: monthly on the third Thursday

Chairperson	Ben Weisensel
Lay Leader	Brenda Loflin
Chairperson of Church Council	Bob Johnsen
Trustees representative	Scott Maphis
Chairperson of the Stewardship Team	Larry Cordts
Treasurer	Van Kelly
Clergy	Mark Conforti
Lay Member to Annual Conference	Deneen Jones
Class of 2024:	Ben Weisensel, Phil Conrad
Class of 2025:	Jeff Daye, Van Kelly
Class of 2026:	Gary Applewhite, Susan Shumaker

COMMITTEE ON STAFF-PARISH RELATIONS

In conducting its work, the committee shall identify and clarify its values for ministry. It shall engage in biblical and theological reflections on the mission of the church, the primary task, and ministries of the local church. The committee shall reflect biblically and theologically on the role and work of the pastor(s) and staff as they carry out their leadership responsibilities. The committee shall assist the pastor(s) and staff in assessing their gifts, maintaining health holistically and work-life balance, and setting priorities for leadership and service. It is the responsibility of the committee to communicate with the committee on nominations and leadership development and/or the church council when there is a need for other leaders or for employed staff to perform in areas where utilization of the gifts of the pastor(s) and staff proves an inappropriate stewardship of time.

The duties of the committee shall include [but are not limited to] the following:

- (1) To encourage, strengthen, nurture, support, and respect the pastor(s) and staff and their family(s).
- (2) To promote unity in the church.

(3) To confer with and counsel the pastor(s) and staff on the matters pertaining to the effectiveness of ministry; relationships with the congregation; the pastor's health and self-care, conditions that may impede the effectiveness of ministry; and to interpret the nature and function of the ministry.

(4) To confer with, consult, and counsel the pastor(s) and staff on matters pertaining to priorities in the use of gifts, skills, and time and priorities for the demands and effectiveness of the mission and ministry of the congregation.

(5) To provide evaluation at least annually for the use of the pastor(s) and staff in an ongoing effective ministry and for identifying continuing educational needs and plans. (*Book of Discipline*, ¶ 258.2).

Meets: every other month & called as needed; typically, first Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m.

Chairperson	Deneen Jones (Lay Member to Annual Conference)
Lay Leader	Brenda Loflin
Clergy, <i>ex-officio</i>	Mark Conforti
Class of 2024:	K.C. Culler, Deneen Jones, and Bill Noell
Class of 2025:	Steve Hatley, Laura Koontz, and TBD
Class of 2026:	Brian Fazia, Ron Gobble, and Larry Oldham

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Subject to the direction of the charge conference, the board of trustees shall have the supervision, oversight, and care of all real property owned by the local church and of all property and equipment acquired directly by the local church or by any society, board, class, commission, or similar organization connected therewith, provided that the board of trustees shall not violate the rights of any local church organization elsewhere granted in the Discipline; provided further, that the board of trustees shall not prevent or interfere with the pastor in the use of any of the said property for religious services or other proper meetings or purposes recognized by the law, usages, and customs of The United Methodist Church, or permit the use of said property for religious or other meetings without the consent of the pastor or, in the pastor's absence, the consent of the district superintendent; and provided further, that pews in The United Methodist Church shall always be free; and provided further, that the church local conference may assign certain of these duties to a building committee as set forth in ¶ 2544 or the chairperson of the parsonage committee, if one exists.

2. The board of trustees shall annually compare the existence and adequacy of the church's insurance coverages to an insurance schedule annually published by the General Council on Finance and Administration.

3. When a pastor and/or a board of trustees are asked to grant permission to an outside organization to use church facilities, permission can be granted only when such use is consistent with the Social Principles (¶¶ 160-166) and ecumenical objectives.

4. The chairperson of the board of trustees or the chairperson of the parsonage committee, if one exists, the chairperson of the committee on pastor-parish relations, and the pastor shall make an annual review of the church-owned parsonage to ensure proper maintenance.

5. Subject to the direction of the charge conference as hereinbefore provided, the board of trustees shall receive and administer all bequests made to the local church; shall receive and administer all trusts; and shall invest all trust funds of the local church in conformity with laws of the country, state, or like political unit in which the local church is located.

6. The board of trustees shall conduct or cause to be conducted an annual accessibility audit of their buildings, grounds, and facilities to discover and identify what physical, architectural, and communication barriers exist that impede the full participation of people with disabilities and shall make plans and determine priorities for the elimination of all such barriers.

(Book of Discipline, ¶ 2533).

Meets: third Tuesday of each month

Chairperson	Giles Goodman
Clergy (without vote)	Mark Conforti
Class of 2024:	Gloria Matthews, Rick Eldridge, and Rob Roakes
Class of 2025:	Jerry Dymond, Scott Maphis, and Peggy Price
Class of 2026:	Tom Disseler, Giles Goodman, and Mary Jo Gouge

PERMANENT ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE

This committee exists to help the congregation understand the various means of sustaining the mission of the church for the long-term. The committee works in partnership with the Trustees to encourage members and friends of First United Methodist Church of Salisbury to make contributions to the ongoing legacy of this congregation. Monthly reports of endowed funds are made available.

Meets: as needed

Chairperson	TBD
Members	Jo Ann Smith, Larry Oldham, Phil Conrad, & Jason Walser
Clergy	Mark Conforti

PARSONAGE COMMITTEE

This committee serves as an extension of the Trustees, for the purpose of maintaining the parsonage (i.e. the home for the church's Senior Pastor and family). The committee also stays in communication with the Staff-Parish Relations Committee as needs arise. The committee functions according to the parsonage guidelines of the Western North Carolina Conference. The committee meets once each year for a complete, attic to basement, review of the parsonage, which usually occurs in the fall before the annual Charge Conference. Each year goals should be set in order to properly maintain the inside, outside and grounds of the parsonage. Meetings are held throughout the year in order to fulfill the stated yearly goals.

Meets: annually, and as needs arise

Chairperson	Cindy Noell
Parsonage Resident	Mary Allen Conforti
Representative from Trustees	TBD
Class of 2024:	Cindy Noell, Becky Spencer
Class of 2025:	Betty Slife, JoAnn Smith
Class of 2026:	Evelyn Dymond, Dena Oldham

PRESCHOOL BOARD

According to the Board's own policy: "The Board, with the First United Methodist Church Director of Children's Ministries, shall formulate, review, update and administer the policies/procedures of the Preschool subject to the approval of the FUMC-Church Council."

Meets: four times during school calendar year (i.e., September, December, March, and May) and other times as necessary

Chairperson	Joy Kelly
Treasurer	TBD (staff)
Preschool Director	Kelly Austin
SPRC Representative	Bill Noell
At-Large Members	Laura Collins (2024), Jeanne Maynard (2025), Joy Kelly (2026)
Parent Representatives and Preschool Staff representative	

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER AND AFTER-SCHOOL CARE BOARD

This group meets to help oversee the administrative needs of these ministries. The Board ensures that all policies, procedures, and guidelines are in keeping with both the church's vision for ministry and North Carolina requirements.

Meets: last Monday of each month

Chairperson	Sarah Hensley
After-School & Summer Camp Lead Teacher	Scotty Adcock
CDC Director	Brittney Lewis
SPRC Representative	Larry Oldham
Trustees Representative	Gloria Matthews
At Large Member	Ed Rusher, Kathi Welborn, Pam Dixon, and Beverly Leonard
Parent Representative	Sherry Klaver

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Purpose: The Scholarship Committee was established to assist church members with their college expenses.

Meets: seasonally, beginning in January

Chairperson	Kathi Welborn
Finance Committee Chairperson	Ben Weisensel
Staff Representative	Mark Conforti
Class of 2024:	Parker Cox, Robin Daye
Class of 2025:	Kathi Welborn, Larry Yon
Class of 2026:	Beverly Gobble, Amy Wimmer

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS AND LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The committee on nominations and leadership development that is composed of professing members of the local church. The charge of this committee is to identify, develop, deploy, evaluate, and monitor Christian spiritual leadership for the local congregation. Members of the committee shall engage in and be attentive to developing and enhancing their own Christian spiritual life in light of the mission of the Church (Book of Discipline, ¶ 258.1).

Meets: as needed, especially in preparation for Charge Conference

Chairperson	Mark Conforti
Lay Leader	Brenda Loflin
Class of 2024:	Kathi Welborn
Class of 2025:	Linda Bowman, Nancy Sherriff
Class of 2026:	Bill Shaffer, Becky Spencer

COMMITTEE ON WORSHIP

This committee manages the details of our congregation's worship services. This group works together with the clergy & church staff to ensure that our worship experiences focus on God, help people of all ages grow in their understanding of the gospel, and become better equipped for daily living as faithful disciples.

Meets: quarterly

Chairperson	Chuck Bowman
Staff Representatives	Mark Conforti, Joshua Starnes
Altar Guild	Jay & Mike Hughes
Wedding Coordinator	Suzanne Roakes
Funeral Coordinator	Kris Mueller
Communion	Jean West
Advent Decorating	Laura Koontz, Jamie Webb
Ushers	8:30 – Steve Sherriff 11:00 – Tom Disseler

HISTORY AND ARCHIVES COMMITTEE

This committee seeks to actively recover, study, interpret, and celebrate our church's heritage. They stay in communication with local resources, including the Western North Carolina Conference's Archives.

Meets: as needed

Historian	Fred Jordan
Archivist	Laura Peltz
At-Large Members:	Kay and Jess McCartney

STEWARDSHIP TEAM

This ministry team oversees the annual stewardship celebration, designed to celebrate the church's ministries and invite church members to make a financial commitment for the upcoming year.

Chairpersons	Larry Cordts
Members	Ben Weisensel, Phil Conrad, and Joel Goodwin
Clergy	Pastor Mark Conforti

DISCIPLESHIP TEAM

This ministry team will create and promote ways for church members to be engaged in God's mission locally in our own community.

Chair: Jeff Matthews
Members: Linne' Wallace, Steve Sherriff, Amy Foote, Bob Johnsen, Terri Carnes, John Carnes,
Nalini Joseph, Sandy Yon, Tony Yon
Staff: Mark Conforti

VISIONING TEAM

This ministry team prayer discerns the next steps for initiating new ministries and adapting current ministries.

Members: Mark Beymer, Chuck Bowman, Linda Bowman, Barbara Cordts, Larry Cordts, Chelsea Franzese, Jeff Matthews, and Pastor Mark Conforti

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEAM

This group plans and facilitates ministry opportunities for children and their families, especially annual events.

Members: Liz Gray, Pam Leonard, Kris Mueller, Cindy Noell, and Pastor Mark Conforti

CREATION CARE TEAM

This new group will seek to educate the congregation and encourage new actions and ways of thinking, so that our congregation can better care for the earth and its inhabitants.

Chairperson: Genevieve Martin
Members: TBD

CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM

This group extends the caring ministries of First United Methodist Church beyond the walls of the church, to help make sure that our church members in need feel God's love.

Chairperson	Pastor Mark Conforti
Flower Ministry	Nancy Sherriff
Sunshine Visitors	Nancy Schoch

Stephen Ministry
Grief Share
Care for Care Givers

Brenda Loflin
Jeff Matthews
Barbara Senter, Mark Beymer

SECURITY TEAM

Members from this group take turns walking the halls and grounds on Sunday morning and during other special events, to help safeguard the facility and all who enter.

Chairperson: Kevin Peltz
Members: Larry Gouge, Alan Schroeder, Rob Roakes, Phillip Floyd,
Gary Cox, Neil Pierce, Doug Miller, Frances Miller, and Gary Price

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Note: meeting dates subject to change

STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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