

# **The Governance of Northwest Hills United Methodist Church**

January 1, 2013 – the beginning of the single-board model of governance:

We establish the following governing model to enable the church to focus its efforts on making new disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. The intent is to provide a smooth and transparent process for effective decision-making.

## **The Governing Board:**

This board provides the oversight of the affairs of the church by setting goals for its ministries, allocating resources to its ministries, and holding the responsible party for each ministry accountable for achieving the goals set for it. As appropriate, the board serves the requirements in the *Book of Discipline* for actions required of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Trustees. When the information being discussed is of a sensitive or confidential nature, the Board shall meet in closed session, and information shared in the meeting shall be kept confidential.

The voting members of the Governing Board are elected by the Charge Conference for three-year terms. A member may serve exactly one additional three-year term, if elected. These terms are staggered so that each year one-third of the board will consist of newly elected members. The elected members are the Chairperson, the Lay Leader, three Staff-Parish Relations persons, three Finance persons, and three Trustees. To meet Disciplinary requirements, one of the three persons in each of these groups will be designated as the chair of the group. One of the Finance persons will be the Church Treasurer. There are three members of the board who serve as members ex officio, with vote. They are the designated representatives of the United Methodist Men, the United Methodist Women, and the United Methodist Youth. The representative of each group may be its President or any other member of the church who is chosen by the group. At least one member of the board will be a Lay Member of the Annual Conference. The Senior Pastor and any other ordained elders who are appointed to serve the church are voting members of the board with one exception: a pastor may not vote on an issue primarily focused on that pastor's own job performance or salary. If none of the above members of the board are under 35 at the time of their election, a young adult member of the church shall also be elected to the board as a voting member. One of the elected members of the board shall be designated as the Recording Secretary. Another board member may be designated to take minutes in the absence of the Recording Secretary.

According to the *Book of Discipline*: ¶ 250 *Removal of Officers and Filling of Vacancies*—If a leader or officer who has been elected by the charge conference is unable or unwilling to perform the duties reasonably expected of such a leader or officer, the district superintendent may call a special session of the charge conference in accordance with ¶ 246.7. The purpose of such special session shall be stated as “Consideration for the removal of person(s) from office and the election of person(s) to fill vacancy(ies).”

Vacancies on the Governing Board may be filled by church members nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected at a called Charge Conference. The terms of those so elected will expire in the same year as the persons whom they replace. Those who fill a vacancy may be re-elected for exactly one additional three-year term.

It is expected that the current ministry areas of the church will continue much as they have been.