



Lutie Watkins Memorial Methodist

A Global Methodist Church

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Church Council Guiding Principles Working Document

This document will serve as a working document for the Church Council to begin the process of putting into writing all policies and procedures of Lutie Watkins Memorial Methodist Church. The purpose of the Church Council is:

1. To guide the church in pursuing its mission to *“Make disciples of Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness across the globe.”*
2. To invite people to follow Jesus with joy
3. To Encourage a nurture relationships with God and with each other.
4. To support disciples in living in love and holy justice by the power of the Holy Spirit.
5. To ensure the Church’s work encompasses nurture, outreach, and witness.

As a council, we are called to:

1. Develop and implement plans for evangelism and spiritual formation.
2. Leadership and Administration:
 - a. Provide effective pastoral and lay leadership
 - b. Oversee Financial, legal, and facility-related responsibilities.
3. Inclusivity - to strive for diversity and representation in all aspects of church life as we believe all people are called into a relationship with Jesus and to service in the world.
4. Connectional Accountability - upholding the Book of Doctrines and Disciplines as our temporal governing document, and the Scriptures (more importantly) as our rule and guide for life as followers of Christ.
5. Maintain accurate documentation and archives.

Beginning this year, 2025, it will be one of our monthly goals to review a section of the Guiding Principles of Lutie Watkins Memorial Methodist Church in order for there to begin the process of codifying our policies and procedures. The Guiding Principles will include the following:

Guiding Principles of the Church (Governing) Council
Personnel Policies
Staff Definitions
Staff Responsibilities

Payroll Policies
Leaves & Absences Policies
Sexual Harassment Policies
Public Concerns/Complaint Policies
Termination of Employment Policies
Financial Policies
Facilities Use Policies
Wedding Policies

This is not an exhaustive list. The Church (Governing) Council may at any time add, delete, or amend any policies.

For the month of February, during the discussion part of our meeting, I would like to for us as a Council to begin working on the “Introduction” portion of our Guiding Principles. I will attach the pertinent paragraphs to this document for you to look over before our meeting. Please familiarize yourself with this document in advance of the meeting, write any questions down you may have, or comments/concerns for discussion.

At the end of the portion of the document we are working on this month are a set of leading questions to help you be prepared for our time together.

Thank you for your commitment to helping Lutie's Place meet its mission.

In Christ,
Bryan

Introduction

Our Identity and Call:

About now a small voice in the back of your mind may be whispering, “What am I doing here? To what have I said yes? What is my role?” At the same time, you may be aware that your congregation has extended to you a call—a call to serve. And you have said yes—*yes to leading in a vital mission.*

Leaders in the church must be first, and foremost, spiritual leaders who model and embrace Christian discipline and teaching. By practicing the means of grace—prayer, fasting, studying Scripture, corporate worship, celebration of the Lord’s Supper, Christian conversation, and acts of mercy—church leaders stay tuned to the mission of the church and live out the primary task. Members and would-be members should be able to look to the congregation’s leaders for spiritual example and direction because true leaders are known by their fruits. People’s lives are changed through their influence.

Leaders use their gifts and talents to enable others to use their gifts and talents to their fullest potential. The flow of information, inspiration, guidance, and vision from leaders is an encouragement to others on their spiritual journey. Leaders help others to see new possibilities. When leaders are focused on the mission of the church, community is built and ministry occurs. The church focused on God is alive with creative energy aimed at transformation.

Our Mission Statement:

Make disciples of Jesus Christ and spread scriptural holiness across the globe.

Our Vision:

Through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, the Global Methodist Church envisions multiplying disciples of Jesus Christ throughout the earth who flourish in scriptural holiness as we worship passionately, love extravagantly,, and witness

boldly.

Our Core Values:

- Build a **Foundational Faith** on the Scriptures.
- Be **Intentional** about keeping Christ at the Center of all that we do.
- Focus on **Transitional** ministry, helping people to grow deeper in their discipleship.
- Be **Relational**, imitating the incarnational ministry of Jesus to all people of all nations, ages, and races.

Our Strategic Objectives:

- Create a nurturing environment where children grow in Christ, express the love of Christ, and serve others in a Christ-like example.
- Develop the spiritual growth of youth into a genuine faith and enable a personal relationship with Jesus Christ that will continue through their lives.
- Deepen the faith of our adults, equipping them for ministry through intentional discipleship.
- Enhance Lutie's Outreach to provide a Spirit-filled ministry to the least, the lost, and the broken while building relationships.
- Build a Christ-filled connection with God, ministries, and others.

Discussion Questions:

- 1. How does our current introduction resonate with your understanding of our church's identity and call? Does it adequately convey who we are and why we are here?**
- 2. How well does our mission statement reflect the core purpose of our church? Are there any aspects of our mission we feel need further emphasis or clarification?**
- 3. Does our vision statement inspire you toward the future of what we are called to create as a church? How does this vision align with our daily practices and long-term goals?**

- 4. Are our core values ones that we actively live out in our ministries, or do we see areas for improvement? Do these values align with our congregation and community would identify as central to our church?**

- 5. Are our objectives clear, actionable, and reflective of our mission and vision? How do they help guide us in meeting the needs of our congregation and our community?**

- 6. Is there anything else you would like for us to discuss about what has been presented in this introduction?**