The Foundation of Ministry

A Guide to the Board of Trustees in the Global Methodist Church







Governing According to ¶ 446 of the Book of Doctrines and Discipline



Gemini Notebook

The Blueprint of Stewardship

Trustees are not just property managers; you are the guardians of the church's physical, legal, and financial foundation. Every roof you maintain, every contract you sign, and every accessibility ramp you build serves one ultimate purpose: enabling the gospel ministry of the Global Methodist Church to thrive securely.



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Board Composition & Representation

Minimum Size

At least five professing members of the local church.



True Representation

The board must represent the gender, race, and age demographics of the congregation.

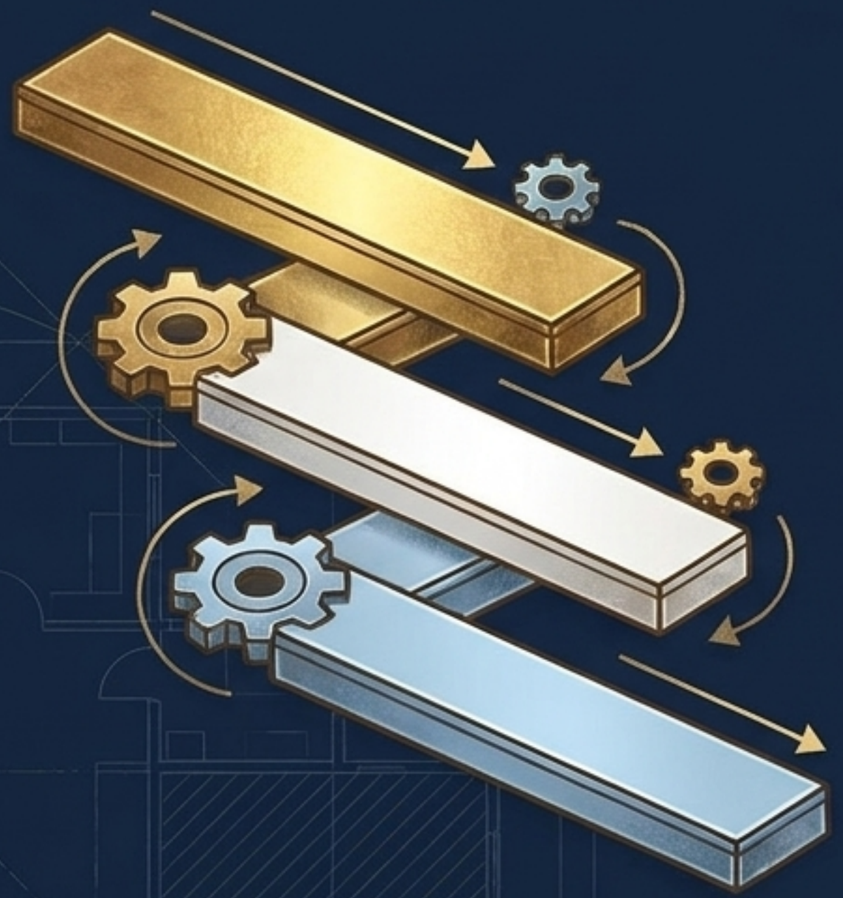
Legal Standing

All members must be of legal age as determined by relevant controlling civil law.

The board is legally responsible for the church's assets; therefore, its composition must accurately reflect the congregation it serves.

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The Engine of Continuity: Terms & Organization



3-Year Term:

Elected by the charge/church conference.

Three Classes:

Board is equally divided, with 1/3 elected annually.

Limit:

Maximum of 2 consecutive terms (6-year limit).

Officer Organization

Must convene within 30 days of the new year to elect: Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Crucial Governance Rule:

The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson cannot be members of the same class. (Secretary and Treasurer may be the same person).

Legal Adaptations:

If local law requires, use President and Vice President. Incorporated churches must ratify corporate directors and designated treasurers.

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The Pastor's Unique Role



Core Rule: The pastor of the congregation is a member of the Board of Trustees, but possesses Voice without Vote.

Quorum & Majority Impact: Because the pastor cannot vote on Board of Trustees, they may not be counted for the purpose of achieving a quorum or calculating a majority.

Summary: Pastors guide, advise, and provide ministry vision, but the laity ultimately holds the legal and fiduciary voting power over church property.

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Meeting Mechanics & Legal Notice



Frequency & Initiation

The board must meet at least three times per year. Meetings are called by either the Pastor or the Chairperson.

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Proper Notice

Meetings require at least one week prior notice designating the time and place. (A waiver of notice may only be used if usual notice is highly impracticable).

SCHEMATIC



Quorum

A majority of the members of the Board of Trustees constitutes a legal quorum required to transact business.

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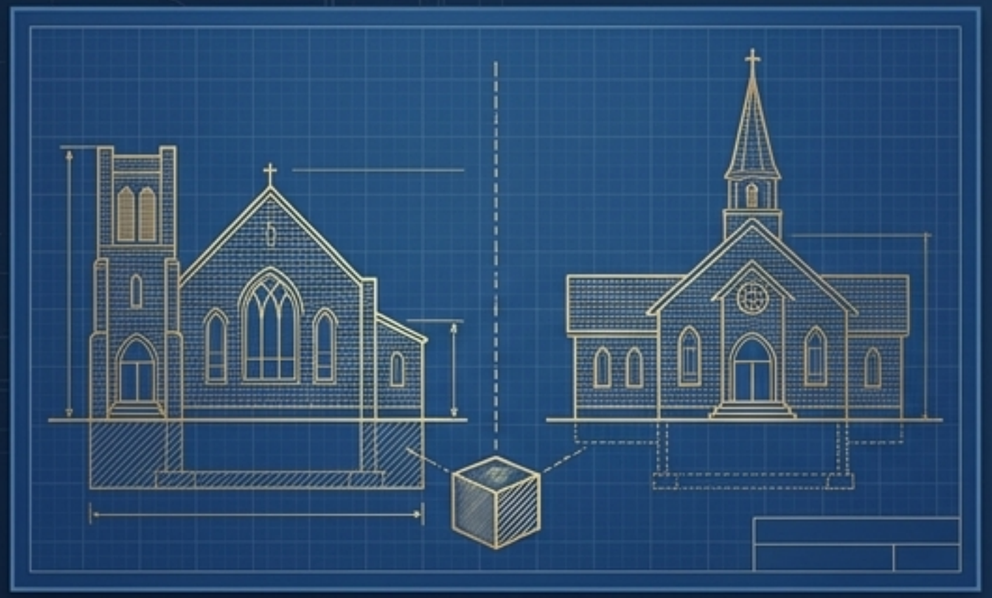
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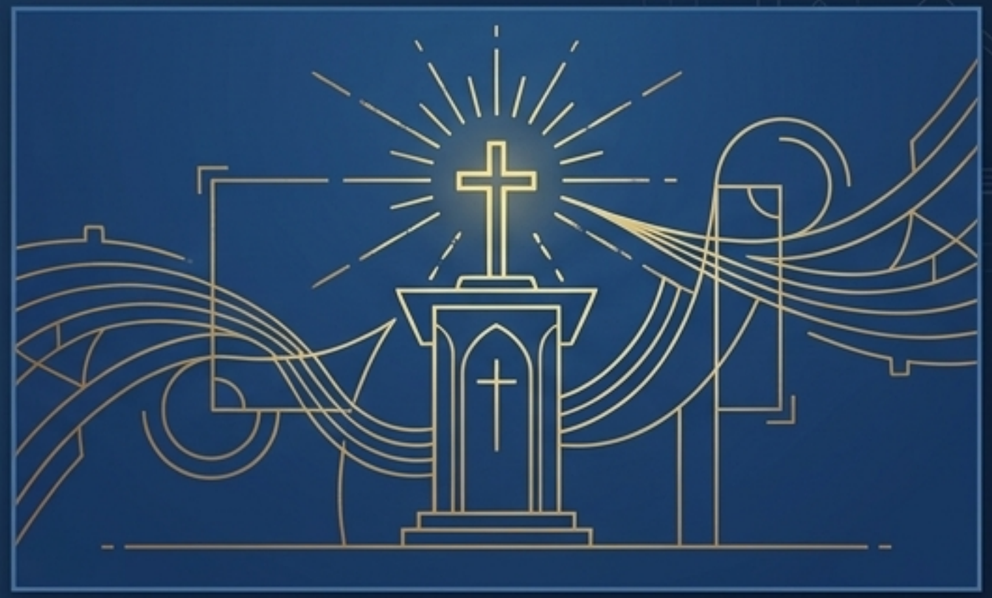
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Overseers of the Foundation



The Power

Full oversight and care of all real property owned by the local church, plus all property and equipment acquired by the church or its connected groups/classes.



The Boundary

Trustees shall not violate the rights of any other church organization, nor prevent or interfere with the pastor in using the property for religious services or other lawful purposes recognized by the church.

Trustees manage the building; the Pastor directs the ministry within it.

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The GMC Distinctive: Open Pews & Aligned Values



The Historic Mandate: Reflecting the historic understanding of Methodism, pews in the Global Methodist Church shall always be free. (No charging for worship seating).

Outside Facility Use Request

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The GMC Values Filter

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Approved Facility Use

Trustees have the authority to grant outside organizations the use of local congregation facilities. Before granting access, the board must **verify** that the purposes and programs of the outside organization are consistent with the values of the local congregation and the Global Methodist Church.

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Fiduciaries of the Future: Bequests & Trusts



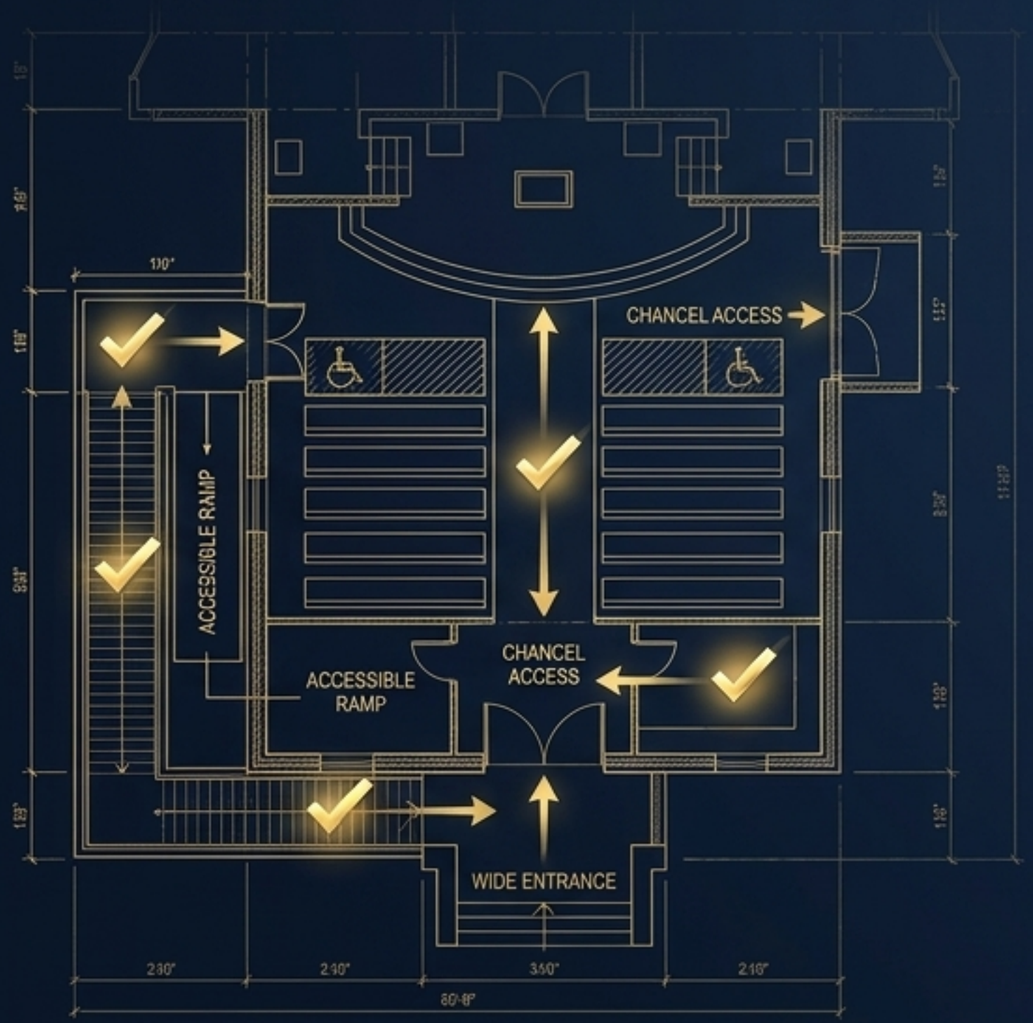
Core Duty: The board shall receive and administer all bequests made to the local church and invest all trust funds.

Compliance: All investments **must strictly conform** to the civil laws of the country and state where the church is located.

Delegation & Oversight: Administration is subject to the charge conference, which may delegate duties to a permanent endowment committee or local church foundation.

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The Annual Accessibility Audit



The Requirement

The board must conduct an annual audit of all buildings, grounds, and facilities.

The Goal

Identify any existing physical, architectural, or communication barriers that impede the full participation of people with disabilities.

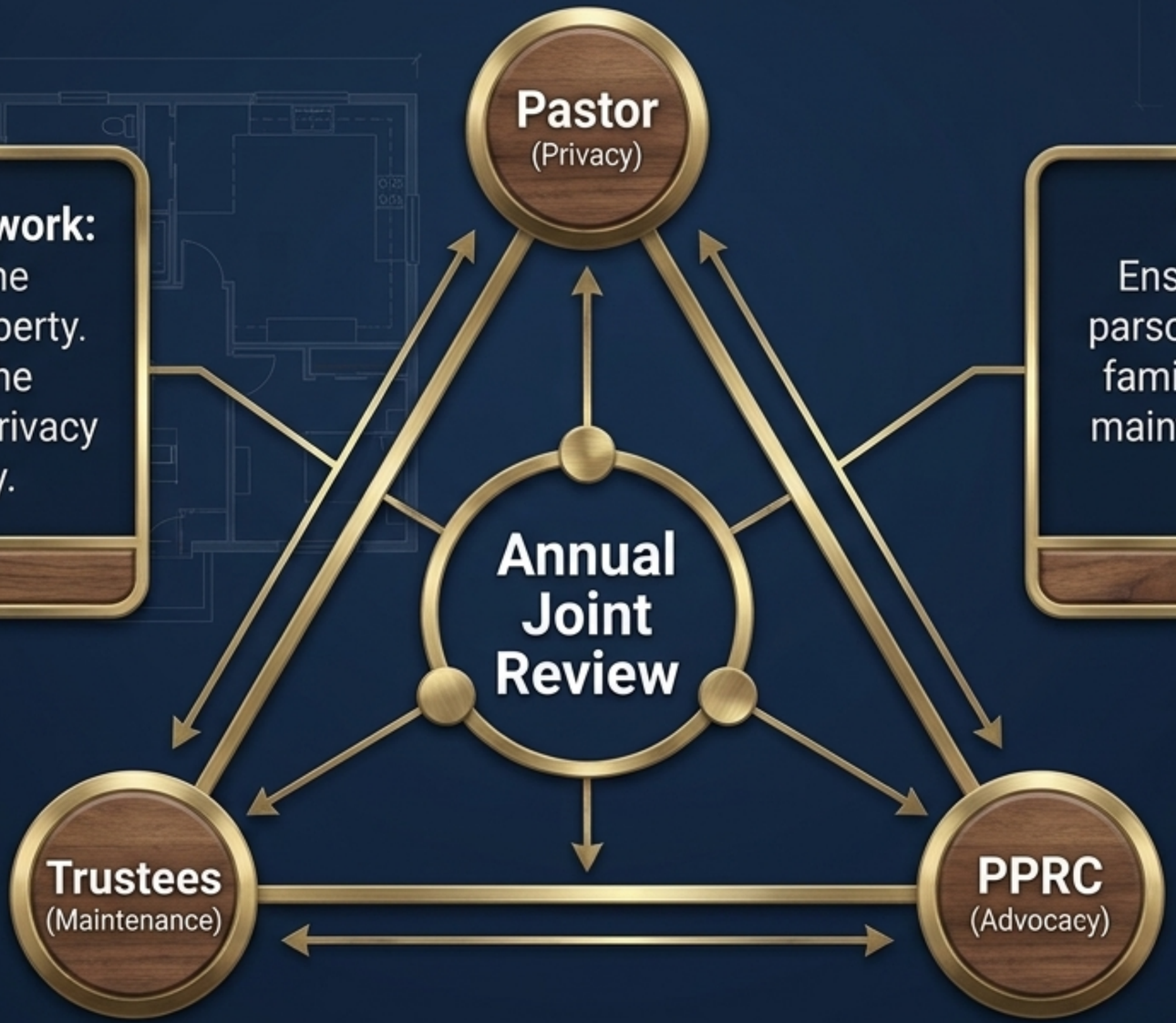
The Action Plan

The board cannot merely report the barriers; they must formulate a prioritized plan and timeline for the elimination of all such barriers.

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The Parsonage Partnership

Mutual Respect Framework:
The pastor respects the parsonage as church property. The church respects the parsonage as a place of privacy for the pastor's family.



Trustee Mandate:
Ensure timely resolution of parsonage problems affecting family health and well-being, maintaining the home in good condition.

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The Charge Conference Report Dashboard (Part 1)

Fulfilling your accountability to the congregation (¶ 446.6 a-f)

Real Estate & Deeds

- Legal description & reasonable valuation of all church-owned real estate.
- Specific name of the grantor in each deed of conveyance.

Assets & Income

- Inventory & valuation of all personal property.
- Income received from property & detailed list of expenditures.
- Amounts received for building/remodeling & itemized expenditures.

Liabilities & Debt

- Outstanding capital debts, payoff dates, and how the debt was contracted.

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The Charge Conference Report Dashboard (Part 2)

Risk Management & Future Planning (¶ 446.6 g-j)

Insurance & Legal Custody

- Detailed statement of real estate insurance (including coinsurance, limiting conditions, and statement of adequacy).
- Name of the custodian of all legal papers and where they are kept.

Financial Trusts

- Detailed list of all trusts where the church is the beneficiary, specifying exactly where and how funds are invested.

Accessibility Master Plan

- Evaluation of all properties (including chancel areas) for disability access.
- A concrete plan and timeline for resolving any identified barriers.

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Accountability, Vacancies & Removal

Vacancy of a Trustee Seat

Automatic Removal

If a trustee withdraws from local church membership or is excluded, their trusteeship ceases immediately.

Charge Conference Action

The Charge Conference may vacate a seat by majority vote if a trustee is unable to carry out their responsibilities OR refuses to properly execute a legal instrument regarding church property when formally directed to do so.

Filling Vacancies

Vacancies are filled by election for the unexpired term.

Interim Action: If a vacancy occurs mid-year, the Church Council may fill it ad interim until the next charge conference.

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The Master Builders



Stewardship of the temporal enables the eternal. By governing wisely, protecting the church's assets diligently, and collaborating faithfully with your pastor and congregation, the Board of Trustees builds the secure foundation upon which the Gospel is preached.

May your stewardship protect the legacy of the past and secure the ministry of the future.

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