

## **SERVING ON A COMMITTEE AT WALNUT HILLS**

Walnut Hills United Methodist Church is like any other organization in that it looks to the people who are part of the church to help provide the leadership so necessary for our day to day functioning as well as our commitment to Jesus Christ and our desire to transform the world through love, compassion and justice. Although the ministers appointed by the bishop to serve the church are the most visible leaders, they cannot be effective at all without strong leadership from the laity.

### **What qualities are necessary?**

- Spiritual maturity – Are you intent upon deepening your relationship with God? Are you in a Walnut Way Journey Group? Even though there is great simplicity in being loved by Jesus, are you aware that there is great complexity in the myriad of ways our faith is understood? Do you understand that at the heart of serving on any committee is a desire to be a part of the transformation of the world toward greater tolerance and hope?
- Membership in Walnut Hills – Are you an active part of our church community? Will you lead by example in your prayers, your attendance in worship, your follow-through in the areas where you serve, your financial giving to the church? Do you understand the unique qualities of our spiritual journey (see “Who We Are” on the website and “The Next Big Thing” vision after it is presented to the congregation on April 30)?
- Willingness to serve – Are you willing to give the time necessary to serve with others on our leadership team? Another way to ask that is: are you willing to give this area of service a priority such that you may have to yield in other areas of your life?
- Collegiality – Do you understand that there are many different kinds of gifts necessary on any leadership team? Are you willing to work closely with those who think and respond in different ways than you do? Are you willing to bring a great deal of joy to this important work?

### **What are the Walnut Hills committees and what do they do?**

There are many teams, ad-hoc committees, task forces, groups, etc. that organize for all kinds of reasons. Some of them are very temporary in order to accomplish a given task while others are ongoing and oversee an area of ministry or service. Below you will find those leadership groups that are responsible for the administrative functions of the church.

- Church Conference – A church conference is not so much a committee as it is an annual meeting. Once a year our District Superintendent meets with us to guide us in reviewing where we have come over the past year. Everyone is

invited to this meeting but only full members of Walnut Hills are allowed to vote, per United Methodist rules. On occasion a church conference may be called to undertake a piece of business that requires church conference approval and the District Superintendent may or may not be present. The DS will often appoint the senior minister to preside in those cases.

- Administrative Council – This council is the top decision-making group in the church. They meet every other month and at occasional other times when a situation requires their attention. Membership includes the chairperson, vice-chairperson, recording secretary, church treasurer, member and alternate to the Iowa Annual Conference, chairpersons of the other administrative committees (see below), some at-large members and the pastors. The other administrative committees listed below meet in the months when the Administrative Council does not meet.
- Staff-Parish Relations Committee – This committee encourages and supports our staff members and their families. They confer with the staff on their effectiveness in ministry and conduct the annual evaluations of the pastors. The senior minister is responsible for other staff evaluations. They are responsible, along with the senior minister, for securing the necessary staff when additions are needed. The SPRC also serves as a communication liaison between the congregation and the staff.
- Stewardship/Finance Committee – This committee is responsible for the financial health of the church. They plan for and implement the stewardship programs based on our spiritual need to give. They make provisions for a permanent endowment fund. In consultation with staff and other leaders they prepare the annual budget. They secure the necessary audits to ensure integrity in our financial matters. They educate the congregation on our need to give and on the various ways our giving serves Jesus Christ and supports our mission and vision statements.
- Property Committee – This committee is responsible for all the physical property the church owns, including the land, the church buildings and the parsonage. They make sure we have adequate insurance and that our property receives the necessary maintenance. They also make sure that our building is accessible to all persons.
- Personnel Committee – This committee is the only committee chaired by the senior minister according to United Methodist rules. At Walnut Hills an appointed lay member shares that responsibility. The Personnel Committee is responsible for securing the leadership necessary in the Administrative Council and all the other administrative committees. A significant part of the work of this committee is leadership development, considering ways in which to develop the leadership gifts and graces seen in the people of our church.

- Outreach Committee – This committee is responsible for making grants to organizations that share our passion for justice and hope in our world. The goal at Walnut Hills has been to provide 10% of our annual receipts for the outreach committee to do its work. While we have not yet been successful in achieving the 10% we have nevertheless made significant funds available. Grant requests are submitted to the committee, which then decides on the appropriate recipients.