

Local United Methodist Women Organization

<https://www.unitedmethodistwomen.org/members-leaders/responsibilities/local>

United Methodist Women is organized according to the group's need and size. Most United Methodist Women groups relate to a local church. Each local organization of United Methodist Women should have a leadership team that at minimum consists of a president, vice president, treasurer, secretary and chair, committee on nominations. (*The Book of Discipline*, 2012, cf. 256.5) Additional leaders are chosen and committees or task groups are formed as needed.

Organizational Options and Opportunities

Subgroups and Circles

Forming subgroups or circles allows members an opportunity to focus on special mission interests in smaller groups. They provide greater flexibility and freedom for participation, nurture and leadership development. Some women find that their circle is their primary connection for prayer, study and spiritual growth.

Subgroups and circles may relate to the local organization by selecting representatives to be members or connect with the leadership team and/or other committees, as appropriate.

Cluster or Charge Groups

Smaller groups in a local church may be strengthened by joining with United Methodist Women members in other churches to form a charge, or cluster, or other regional group.

Leadership

Accepting a leadership role requires a commitment of time, energy and effort. But in return, you develop a deeper understanding of mission, grow spiritually and are sustained by the knowledge that you are making a difference in the lives of women, children and youth and unjust systems.

Leadership Team, or Executive Committee

The local organization should be structured so that the work of administration, finance, program planning, planning for mission, recordkeeping and nominations can be carried out. A member must be named president, and she or someone named by the team must serve as the contact person for the district organization and serve on the local church council.

The leadership team assigns responsibilities for all basic functions. It includes the following persons:

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Chair, committee on nominations
- Member at large
- Pastor (ex-officio)

Other persons may also be recruited to plan programs of spiritual growth, mission education and advocacy work according to the needs of your group and community. Others might organize programs for individual study and hands on mission. Each organization should recruit leaders needed to make sure that opportunities for spiritual growth, mission education, leadership development, service and advocacy are available to members throughout the year.

Elected Leadership Responsibilities and Duties

The president, treasurer, chair of the committee on nominations, and secretary of the local organization each have a counterpart in the district and conference organizations of United Methodist Women. Your district counterpart will be available to give you practical advice about how to carry out your duties and will be a source of support as you learn more about being a leader of United Methodist Women. She will provide training and give advice.

Term and Tenure of Elected Leaders

Leaders are elected for terms that are determined by their local or district unit. It is advisable to fill a vacancy within a period of three months. Tenure, or the maximum amount of time a woman may serve, is described in the bylaws of United Methodist Women.