

# Discovery United Methodist Church 2024 Nominations and Leadership Information

## **Discovery Mission**

To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

## **Discovery Vision**

Helping people discover more about life and faith through discovery in worship, relationships, and community.

## **Discovery Scripture**

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid." Matthew 5:14

## **Discovery Prayer**

"Breakthrough, O God, in our worship, our relationships, and our community, so that we may discover that you do exceedingly more than we can ask or imagine. Amen."

## **The General Rules of The UMC**

Do No Harm, Do Good, Attend to all the Ordinances of God

## **Lead Pastor**

The Rev. Dr. J. Adam Sowder

Appointed and sent to the church by the Virginia Conference Bishop

The Administrator of the local church

The Supervisor of the staff

Ordained with Authority over Word, Sacrament, Order, and Service

See Paragraph 340 of *The Book of Discipline*

## **Church Council**

Helps guide and ensure the fulfillment of the Vision and Mission of the Church. This body becomes the Charge Conference as needed and in accordance with *The Book of Discipline* of the UMC.

Council Chair Lucas Reynolds (2025)

Lay Leader Chris Yousik (2024)

Chair, Staff Parish Relations Committee Sue Easterby (2025)

Chair, Finance and District Steward Carlton Brown (2024)

Church Treasurer David Conant (2024)

Chair, Trustees Ed Sterling (elected annually by trustees)

United Methodist Men President Rick Jones (elected by UMM)

United Women in Faith President Sandy Sowder (elected by UWF)

Chair, Weekday Ministries Board Sandi Dunkum

**Recording Secretary Patrice Pillow (2026)**

Pastor The Rev. Dr. J. Adam Sowder

Ministry and Vision Coordinator and Laity Annual Conference Representative Pai Masavisut

Preschool Director Lorrie Zampetti

## Additional Discovery Committees, Positions, and Descriptions

### **Lay Leader**

Chris Yousik

Helps to embody and represent the vision to the people.

### **Nominations and Leadership**

Helps identify nominations to the various committees and that rotations of class members are being followed. Discovery practices three-year class terms with a maximum of one renewal of term for its leaders. The exception is for the Trustees per *The Book of Discipline*.

Chair - The Rev. Dr. J. Adam Sowder

Lay Leader – Chris Yousik

Class of 2024 Frank Carter and Dave Morgan

Class of 2025 Laura Cox and Linda Kleene

**Class of 2026 Brenda Bryan and Suzanne Harrison**

### **Staff Parish Relations**

Advise the Lead Pastor in the stewardship of human resources, policies, and procedures.

Advocate for the staff team for fair compensation.

This is a closed committee that practices confidentiality of the highest order.

The Lead Pastor must be present in order for this body to meet,  
except in the presence of the District Superintendent.

Resolutions are handled following Matthew 18:15-17 to avoid triangulation.

Anonymity of suggestion or complaint is not admissible per VAUMC guidelines. When it comes to opinions, see John Wesley's sermon "The Catholic Spirit," where he says, "Keep you your opinion; I mine . . . Let all these smaller points stand aside... If thine heart is as my heart, if thou lovest God and all mankind, I ask no more: Give me thine hand."

SPRC Staff Liaisons are not admissible per VAUMC guidelines.

Chair- Sue Easterby

Pastor - The Rev. Dr. J. Adam Sowder

Class of 2024 Chris Yousik

Class of 2025 Frank Overbey, Shauna Brown, and Sue Easterby

**Class of 2026 Mike Slack**

## **Finance**

Stewards the financial resources of the vision.  
The Book of Discipline directs membership.

**Chair- Carlton Brown**

**Treasurer David Conant**

**Church Council Chair Lucas Reynolds**

**Staff Parish Relations Sue Easterby**

**Chair Board of Trustees Ed Sterling**

**Lay Leader Chris Yousik**

**Financial Secretary Cathleen Smith**

**Pastor The Rev. Dr. J. Adam Sowder**

## **Trustees**

Stewards the physical resources of the vision

Class of 2024 Frank Carter and Jim Cox

Class of 2025 Tom Guillot, Todd Lorenzen, Cindy England, and Leland Reed

**Class of 2026 Ed Sterling, Carlton Brown, and Russ Whitehead**

## **Weekday Ministry Board**

Helps resource and guide Discovery's preschool.

Chair- Sandy Dunkham (2026)

Preschool Director- Lorrie Zampetti

Sandy Gilam (2026)

Parent Representative- Morgan Kiku. (2026)

Teacher Representative- TBD by the Preschool Board

Lead Pastor the Rev. Dr. J. Adam Sowder