

What are the Responsibilities of the

Church Trustees



The Book of Discipline actually goes into great detail – two full pages worth, explaining what is expected of a Board of Trustee, but the following sums it up: **Subject to the direction of the charge conference, the board of trustees has the supervision, oversight, and care of all real property owned by the local church and of all property and equipment acquired directly by the church or by any society, board, class, commission, or similar organization connected within the church.**

A trustee is responsible for the oversight of virtually everything that is related to the building and grounds of the church and parsonage property. It's like taking care of your homes but 20 fold – on steroids – there's always something that is breaking or needing repairs/upgrades. When you consider the size difference between a home and the church properties, it can be very daunting. And considering that our building is over 60 years old, there are constant repairs and upgrades of the mechanicals as well as the general upkeep. Things wear out all the time.

To take it a step further, consider utilizing your home for outside events which requires you to monitor who uses the property, how much to charge for the use, get proof of liability insurance, and be sure they leave the space as they found it. More often than not multiple events are going on simultaneously. This is very hands on – like being a landlord. And because we have a nursery school we're mandated by state and local requirements to meet code for more things than can be itemized here.

Outside of the buildings you also need to worry about snow, ice, salting, lawn care, and cleanups. This requires one-on-one dialogue with the contractors to make sure they're not doing any work unnecessarily – like snow removal and salting. Just like in your home, you don't want to spend money unnecessarily, but you want to keep the grounds safe and looking nice and tidy.

In addition Trustees are responsible for the use of memorial money received on behalf of loved ones as well as donations for specific projects such as our new handicap ramp or when we remodeled the kitchen. This usually involves architectural drawings and bids which can be very detailed. We become general contractors.

And of course we're greatly hampered by limited budgets and unforeseen capital and repair expenses. **There's never a dull moment!!**