

CATHEDRAL OF HOPE

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The Role of the Board of Stewards

Cathedral of Hope United Church of Christ

The Board of Stewards at Cathedral of Hope United Church of Christ holds a sacred trust: to guide our congregation with wisdom, integrity, and spiritual discernment. As the primary stewards of the church's mission, the Board ensures that all ministries, structures, and decisions remain aligned with our calling to be a community of radical inclusion, justice, and hope.

The Board exercises governance by establishing policies and strategic priorities that bring clarity, stability, and accountability to our church. In partnership with senior leadership, we maintain well-defined roles and provide healthy oversight—fostering a collaborative environment where staff and volunteers are empowered to live out their callings. We are also entrusted with safeguarding the financial and organizational health of the church, ensuring resources are managed with transparency, responsibility, and care.

Our work is grounded in the leadership framework articulated in Susan Beaumont's *Inside the Large Congregation*, which identifies three essential modes of governance: **fiduciary**, **strategic**, and **generative**. Effective board members must be able to engage in all three:

- **Fiduciary** work involves the stewardship of tangible assets. In this mode, the Board ensures that the church remains faithful to its mission, accountable in its performance, and compliant with relevant laws and legislation.
- **Strategic** work focuses on setting priorities and aligning resources—time, talent, finances, and facilities—with the church's mission. This mode shifts the Board's attention from conformance to performance, helping the congregation act with purpose by strengthening identity, challenging outdated assumptions, and responding creatively to change.
- **Generative** work is the Board's most visionary role. It calls for discernment in times of uncertainty or transition, requiring members to recognize emerging patterns, ask probing questions, and help the church navigate complex challenges with foresight and faith.

Through prayerful reflection, long-range thinking, and a deep commitment to the congregation we serve, the Board of Stewards seeks to cultivate a culture of trust, spiritual depth, and responsible leadership. In all things, we strive to ensure that Cathedral of Hope remains a vibrant, resilient, and compassionate witness to God's inclusive love in the world.

Revised: January 2026

