

Swansboro United Methodist Church 2026



I. Board of Stewards

The Board of Stewards (BoS) functions as the Administrative Board of the church, as called for in the Discipline of the United Methodist Church, and for 2025 will combine the work of the Church Council, Trustees, and Finance.

The 2026 Board will consist of 17 Members*:

Pastor: Laura Thompson

Pastor: Elias Ballew

Board Chair: David Wilmoth (votes only to break ties and also serves 3-year terms)

Recording Secretary: Diane Brooks

Lay Leader: Butch Bennett (3-year terms)

Staff Parish Chair & Vice-Chair: Bob Brooks and Julia Wax

Financial Administrator/Secretary: Hope Mazzeo (non-voting if staff)

Lay Member to Annual Conference: Butch Bennett

Lay Member to Annual Conference: Lynn Rouse

2026

Trustee (Chair):
Linda Folger

Finance (Chair):
Karen Albritton

At Large:
Roger Fulp

2027

Trustee:
John Liles

Finance:
Anna Hall

At Large:
Paula Webb

2028

Trustee:
Bruce Poland

Finance:
Sandy Murray (Treasurer)

At Large:
John Stevens

**At least one of the nominees should also be a liaison to the Childcare Committee. Each class is to consist of one trustee, one finance, and one at-large representative. Nominees should have some experience in administration for which they are nominated, and all should have a heart for service. Board members may serve no more than two consecutive terms on the Board (a total of six years). They shall be eligible to serve again as a member of the Board after a one-year break in service. The pastors and Lay Leader will be voting members of the Board; the pastors have a voice but do not vote on matters pertaining to trustees.*

II. Church Committees (alphabetical order)

1. Child Care Committee

Supports and helps to guide the ministry of our SUMC Child Care Ministry and works to strengthen this ministry and its relationship to the larger congregation. Works closely with the Child Care Director.

Meets approximately every other month.

Chairperson: Anne Scott, **Vicechair:** Walt Roberson, **Secretary:** Name Needed

2026	2027	2028
Kathey Fairchild	Walt Roberson	Stacie Freibel
Julia Wax	Jeannie Guthrie	Jacob Smith
Jill Geelhart	Anne Scott (chair)	Chris Wilson

Director: Allison Cowell; Pastor: Laura Thompson

SPRC Rep: Julia Wax or Designee; Education Rep: Chris Wilson; Staff Rep: Ashley Hopkins

2. Communications and Evangelism Team

Helps the church "tell our story" as we seek to make a kingdom impact for God in our local community. Oversees internal and external communications including such things as website, emails, social media, signage, etc. Leads the congregation in reaching out to people with the good news of Jesus Christ and find innovative ways to welcome and receive new people into our congregation so they might develop spiritual friendships and grow in their relationship with God and others. **Meets bi-monthly or as needed.**

Chairperson: Nat Fahy

Alysia Barth, Laura Thompson, Sanders Hall

3. Education Committee

Plans and coordinates our spiritual formation ministry for all ages, with special focus on our kids and students. Includes visioning for ministries like children's church, children's ministries, VBS, college students, youth and young adults, family ministries, Sunday School, etc. **Meets every other month.**

Chairperson: Craig Verbois

Youth Ministry: Bryan Hoff; **Children's Ministries:** Ashley Hopkins; **College Students:** Chris Wilson

Child Care Advisory Committee: Chris Wilson

Family Ministries: Ashley Hopkins; **Nursery Coordinators:** Maribeth Miller and Lindsey Epperson; **Adult S.S. Rep:** Bob Brooks **Youth Rep:** Name Needed

At Large: David Epperson, Anna Hall, Susan Fulp

4. Lay Leadership / Nominations Committee

Responsible for nominating and organizing the members and chairs of each ministry area, committee, and team in the church on an annual basis. Per the Book of Discipline, it is chaired by the Pastor. **Meets 3-4 times each fall unless otherwise noted.**

Chairperson: Laura Thompson (Lead Pastor)

2026	2027	2028
Megan Fahy	Chris Wilson	Jill Geelhart
Angie Cooper	David Epperson	Joanne Scholl
Pat Raper	Name Needed	Name Needed

Committee includes Lay Leader; Lay Members to Annual Conference

5. **Missions / Serve Coordinator** – Cindy Amos

Team will meet quarterly.

Pastor Representative: Elias Ballew

Secretary: **Name Needed**

Appalachia Service Project (ASP): Emily Egerton, Chuck Egerton

Disaster Relief: Layne Harpine

Food Missions:

Food Pantry: Joanne Kopanski

Hope Mission: Bobbi Edge

Backpack Friends: George Gardner

Haiti Mission: Lynn Rouse, Linda Mitchell

Prison Ministry / Disciple Outreach Ministry (DBOM): Jermaine Gardner

The Refuge: Chip Olmstead

WOEOM Representative (The Hem): Lynn Rouse

ZOE: Linda Folger

Congregations for Children (C4C): **Name Needed**

6. **Staff Parish Relations Committee**

Similar to a personnel committee; includes conferring with and counseling pastor and staff regarding effectiveness in ministry (gifts, skills, time, priorities for mission and ministry); evaluates pastors and staff annually; communicates and interprets to the congregation the nature and function of ministry in the UMC; develops and approves written ministry descriptions and titles for staff and oversees hiring; consults with pastor and staff concerning education, spiritual renewal, compensation, family needs, etc.

Meets monthly unless otherwise scheduled.

Chairperson: Bob Brooks **Vice Chair:** **Secretary:** Sarah Diehl

2026

Rhonda Norris

Bob Brooks

Bubba McLean

2027

Sarah Diehl

Julia Wax

2028

Paul Amos

Megan Fahy

The committee includes the Lay Leader and Lay Members for the Annual Conference.

7. **Stewardship Committee**

Works closely with our finance team and seeks to guide our congregation to grow in generosity with our time, talents, and financial gifts. **Meets monthly or as needed.**

Chairperson: **Name Needed**

2026

Patti Heller

Andrea Wilmoth

2027

Butch Bennett

Name Needed

2028

John Lee

Name Needed

Finance Committee Rep: Karen Albritton

8. **Worship Committee**

Our overall purpose is to collaborate with and support the pastoral staff and music leaders to provide meaningful worship. Assists in developing seasonal and special services, oversees laity in their support roles as greeters, ushers, and acolytes. We coordinate the use of church facilities for weddings and funerals.

Co-Chairs: Cleo Croom; Additional Co-Chair: **Name Needed**

Secretary: Sally Barnes, **Acolytes:** Barbara Chandler & Chris Wilson; **Communion:** Sally Barnes; **Visitor Gifts:** Lynn Rouse; **Funerals:** Carol McLean; **Music:** Lindsey Williams;

Ushers: Susan Stuart; **Weddings:** Jane Sylvester; **Pastors:** Laura Thompson, Elias Ballew

At Large Members: Sanders Hall, Neva Tucker, Carol Scull, Gregg Casper, Diana Gainey, DeeDee Midgett, Mary Behan, Dolly Ramirez, and Debbie Morris

III. Other Ministries (printed for information)

Congregational Care –

Security Team Leader: Jeff Allison, Bruce Poland, John Lee, Dolly Ramires

Advent and Lenten Meal Coordinator: Patti Heller

SUMC Emergency Plan: Layne Harpine

United Women of Faith (UWF)

Co-Presidents:

Secretary:

Treasurer: Donna Huffman

Coordinator for Membership, Nurture, and Outreach: Melissa Bolling

United Methodist Men

Treasurer: Chuck Egerton

Peanut Ministry Chair: Greg Kizziah

Peanut Ministry Chair Emeritus:

Assistant Peanut Chair (Jars) and Chaplain: Bill Smith

Online Orders: Joe Prescott

Delivery and Shipping: Joe Prescott

Latest Update 12/8/2025