



ALL ABOUT FRIENDS...

*We are Friends Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ,
a progressive Christian community*

Our Vision

*Rooted in the way of Christ, we strive to be a community of
God's radical inclusion and extravagant welcome.*

Our Mission

*United by the example of Jesus,
we live faithfully, love limitlessly, and serve boldly*

Welcome!

All About Friends contains information about Friends Congregational Church. Friends Congregational Church is a part of a denomination called the United Church of Christ (UCC). The UCC was founded in 1957 but is made up of churches that have been around a lot longer than that, some going back to the first Pilgrims in America in 1620.

The UCC is known for its welcoming stance toward all people. We are all ages, races, and nationalities. We are families of all kinds, we are couples, we are single. Some of us have grown up in the United Church of Christ, but most of us come from other denominational backgrounds. Some of us grew up in the church. For others of us, church is a new experience.



a just
world
for all
ucc.org

Many are drawn to Friends Church because we are seeking an inclusive, progressive, compassionate, and socially active church community. We respect and learn from our differences and value our diversity. So, no matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you – and your questions – are welcome here. We resist putting a period where God has placed a comma.

We are a congregation committed to hospitality, engagement, inclusivity, diversity, transparency, and community. We hope this information will help you learn more about Friends Church and the UCC and become interested, engaged and part of our faith community. You are welcome here!

God is still speaking,

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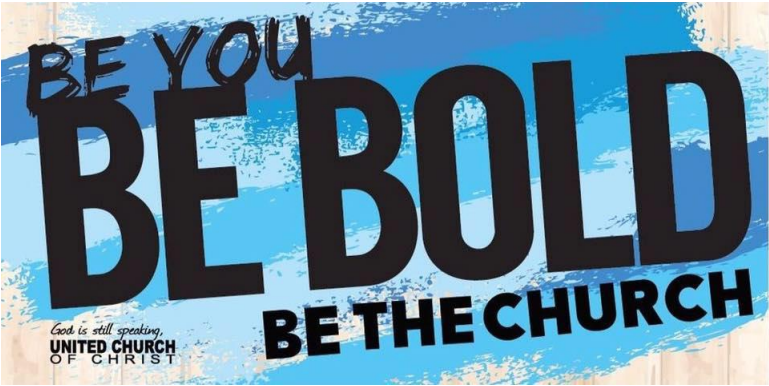
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Who We Are



The United Church of Christ

Our faith is 2,000 years old. Our thinking is not. We believe in God's continuing testament. This is why we are committed to hearing God's ancient story anew and afresh in our lives and in the world today. We try to remain attentive to God's creative movement in the world. Religion and science are not mutually exclusive, and your head and heart are both welcomed into our places of worship. We prepare our members and leaders to be engaged in ministry in the present and future church, and we embrace all kinds of communities and new modes of thinking.

"God is still speaking" is a campaign by the United Church of Christ (UCC) to remind us that God still has a lot more to say.

Why? No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

- We believe in extravagant welcome. This is why we insist that God's communion table is open, not closed, and God's gift and claim in baptism are irrevocable.
- We advocate justice for all. Our congregations extend hospitality as a sign of God's inclusive love. We teach that offering bread to those in search of it is God's mission. Our perspective is global, not provincial.
- We work with - not against - people of other faiths.

Why? Never place a period where God has placed a comma.

- We believe the church's mission is to change lives individually, systemically, and globally. We work to make transformation possible, but trust in God's grace. This is why we insist that churches must be places of vitality in worship, learning, and advocacy.
- We are committed to working for justice, and we believe that lives are changed through global experiences and friendships. Because God is still speaking...

What we believe

- We believe in the triune God: Creator; resurrected Christ, the sole Head of the church; and the Holy Spirit, who guides and brings about the creative and redemptive work of God in the world.
- We believe that each person is unique and valuable. It is the will of God that every person belongs to a family of faith where they have a strong sense of being valued and loved.
- We believe that each person is on a spiritual journey and that each of us is at a different stage of that journey.
- We believe that the persistent search for God produces an authentic relationship with God, engendering love, strengthening faith, dissolving guilt, and giving life purpose and direction.
- We believe that all of the baptized ‘belong body and soul to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.’
- No matter who, no matter what, no matter where we are on life’s journey, notwithstanding race, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, class or creed, we all belong to God and to one worldwide community of faith.
- All persons baptized past, present, and future are connected to each other and to God through the sacrament of baptism.
- We baptize during worship when the community is present because baptism includes the community’s promise of ‘love, support and care’ for the baptized, and we promise that we won’t take it back no matter where your journey leads you.
- We believe that all people of faith are invited to join Christ at Christ’s table for the sacrament of Communion. Just as many grains of wheat are gathered to make one loaf of bread and many grapes are gathered to make one cup of wine, we, the many people of God, are made one in the body of Christ, the church.
- The breaking of bread and the pouring of wine reminds us of the costliness of Christ’s sacrifice and the discipleship to which we are all called. In the breaking of bread, we remember and celebrate Christ’s presence among us along with a ‘cloud of witnesses’ our ancestors, family, and friends who have gone before us. It is a great mystery; we claim it by faith.

The UCC has no rigid formulation of doctrine or attachment to creeds or structures. Its overarching creed is love. The UCC pastors and teachers are known for their commitment to excellence in theological preparation, interpretation of the scripture, and justice advocacy. Even so, love and unity in the midst of our diversity are our greatest assets.

- We believe that God calls us to be servants in the service of others and to be good stewards of the earth's resources. 'To believe is to care; to care is to do.'
- We believe that the UCC is called to be a prophetic church. As in the tradition of the prophets and apostles, God calls the church to speak truth to power, liberate the oppressed, care for the poor, and comfort the afflicted.
- We believe in the power of peace and work for nonviolent solutions to local, national, and international problems.
- We are a people of possibility.

In the UCC, members, congregations, and structures have the breathing room to explore and to hear ... for after all, God is still speaking...

The UCC Firsts

The UCC was founded in 1957 and goes back to the first Pilgrims in America in 1620. With over 5,000 churches and nearly one million members across the U.S., the UCC serves God in the co-creation of a just and sustainable world. The UCC is known for its welcoming stance toward all people. Ours was the first historically white denomination to ordain an African American (in the 18th century), the first in the modern era to ordain a woman (in the 19th century), and the first to ordain an openly gay man (in the 20th century).

We were in the forefront of the anti-slavery movement. We founded the first institutions of higher learning in America (Harvard, Yale) and were among the first to establish schools and colleges for newly freed slaves (Fisk, Dillard). We were early leaders in the Social Gospel movement, taking seriously Jesus' commandment to "love your neighbor as yourself."

The UCC Purpose Statement from the Gospel of Matthew

To love God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength and our neighbor as ourselves.

The UCC Vision

United in Christ's love, a just world for all.

The UCC Mission statement

United in Spirit and inspired by God's grace, we welcome all, love all, and seek justice for all.

The UCC Values

Love

Right relationships define love. Love is a communal experience enacting love of neighbor, self, and God. Love has a narratable timeline; something happening drawing one out of oneself and extending self. The community speaks love through a narration of their story including presence to both joy and pain in the midst of loving.

Spirituality/Faith

Spirituality and faith is born out in communities which are connected to something bigger than themselves, and bigger than the great cloud of witnesses (past, present, and future), while adding to the Christian story.

Community

Community, a gathering body of individuals that speaks to live out the teachings of Jesus Christ, means interdependence, connection, honoring of difference, with the equal distribution and sharing of power and resources for all.

Justice

Justice speaks truth to power. Justice is what love looks like in public and through the eyes of God. Justice creates opportunities for wholeness and health in individuals and communities. Justice is connected to the surrounding community in the building of coalitions and partnerships. Justice is intersectional; so the faith community is also facing outward. Justice ensures the voice of the voiceless and serves the underserved, inviting the tradition and wisdom of voices historically excluded and/or undervalued. Justice repairs the breaches and restores right relationships. Justice is the equitable allocation of resources for God's beloved children.

Creativity

The ministry takes a bold and innovative approach and/or applies the old model in a new way to address a particular need within the community.

Our Denominational Connections

Friends Congregational Church belongs to the **Heart of Texas Association** which is, in turn, a part of the **South Central Conference**, United Church of Christ. The 5,000 UCC churches are divided into 38 Conferences. The South Central Conference contains four Associations: The Heart of Texas, Houston, New Orleans, and North Texas.

Heart of Texas Association

The Heart of Texas (HOT) Association is divided into six geographical areas with a total of 21 churches: Austin Area (8 churches), Bryan-College Station - Brenham Area (4 churches), Weimar Area (1 church), New Braunfels Area (3 churches), San Antonio Area (2 churches), and Corpus Christi Area (2 churches). Representatives are designated by individual churches to serve on various HOT committees.

hotaucc.org

South Central Conference



The Heart of Texas Association is one of four Associations making up the South Central Conference, United Church of Christ, which is a partnership of congregations, associations, and ministries of the United Church of Christ throughout Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. The South Central Conference UCC is a tapestry of God's beautiful diversity. (<https://sccucc.org/>)

General Synod

Every two years, the larger UCC church hosts its General Synod, a gathering of ecumenical leaders, members, delegates, and community from across the world for a time of worship, reflection, and the work of the church. Highlights include addressing the current issues facing the larger church and experiencing the connectivity between the national church and the local church.

BE THE CHURCH

Protect the environment. Care for the poor.

Forgive often. *Reject racism.*

Fight for the powerless.

Share earthly and spiritual resources.

Embrace diversity. Love God. Enjoy this life.

Friends Church was founded in October 1977 by a group of faithful people with a vision to start a church that would share the joyful message of the gospel.

Our initial worship space was at the old Consolidated High School, then in homes, then the Girls Club, then the Middle School library, and finally at South Knoll Elementary School cafeteria. We have been worshipping in our current location on Harvey Mitchell Parkway and Southwood Drive in College Station since November 13, 1983.



Our Pastors over the years...



The Reverends Bill Youngkin, Michael Dack, Charles Stark, Jo Hudson, and Dan De Leon at the December 2013 - 35th Anniversary Celebration of Friends Church

Vision, Mission, Core Values, Covenant, and Purpose Statements

Friends Church Vision

Rooted in the way of Christ, we strive to be a community of God's radical inclusion and extravagant welcome. *(adopted 2019)*

Friends Church Mission

United by the example of Jesus, we live faithfully, love limitlessly, and serve boldly *(adopted 2019)*



Friends Church Core Values

Spirituality

We offer nurture and guidance to all to know God and love others; We seek to encourage a deeper spirituality for all; We affirm all spiritual journeys and offer worship experiences open to everyone; We apply the teachings of Jesus to the practice of our daily lives

Inclusivity and Affirmation

We embrace every person as a child of God, inviting all to participate fully in the life and mission of our Congregation without exception; We celebrate and affirm the diversity of human gifts; We choose love and respect always

Community

We proclaim as an embodiment of Christ, we are siblings of the same family; We seek to develop relationships among our members, our local neighbors, and the global community; We choose empathy, generosity, dignity, respect, trust, and love to guide our relationships

Justice

We will courageously work towards and stand for social justice. We will be relentless in identifying inequity and injustice, and boldly take action to demonstrate our spiritual commitment. We must serve and not wait to be served.

Stewardship

We act as stewards of all God's creation; We share our earthly and spiritual resources, We passionately work to preserve the global environment for future generations

(adopted 2019)

Friends Church Covenant

Just one year after its formation, an important event took place in the life of Friends Church. During an all church retreat in November 1978, this young congregation wrote the following covenant. This important formative event was achieved through faith, love, and prayer.

We recognize that we were strangers, that we came from diverse backgrounds, that we share a longing for acceptance and a need for mutual support.

We need to celebrate our love of God with joy, enthusiasm, and faith.

In faith we gather as Friends Congregational Church to experience community, to celebrate old traditions, and to affirm our new creations.

Looking outward, we recognize the need to embrace the world and invite others to share mutual gifts. Our spiritual journey is sustained by the God of Biblical history as expressed by Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, and Rebekah, and most clearly by Jesus of Nazareth.

We celebrate the continuity of our faith and live in its mystery.

(adopted November 1978)

Friends Church Statement of Purpose

As a commitment to God's call to ministry, Friends Church prayerfully adopted the following statements in March 1992:

We are Friends Congregational Church* (UCC), called by God to gather as disciples of Jesus Christ:

- to be a welcoming community, open to diversity;
- to worship God with joyful hearts and open minds;
- to be a family of care, support, and trust;
- to include children fully in the life and ministry of the church;
- to grow in faith and service;
- to witness to God's love for all people;
- to strive for justice and peace; and
- to invite others to share our journey.

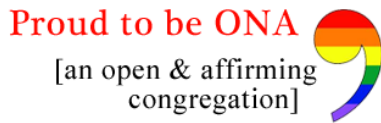
(adopted March 1992)

**Originally "Friends United Church of Christ"*





Open and Affirming Statement



We, as a diverse body of believers seeking to live in the light and image of God in Christ, affirm:

- that every person has worth as a special and unique creation made in God's image;
- that in the Spirit of love and openness we welcome into this community of faith persons of every sexual orientation, race, nationality, ability, age, and gender to participate in all aspects of our church's life and ministry;
- that as agents of reconciliation and wholeness we will continue our efforts toward inclusiveness, embrace all who are disenfranchised from the religious community, and stand against all forms of discrimination;
- that in light of the Gospel we will empower ourselves, our children, and one another to be fully present in the world, living in Christ's image.

*** Adopted at Congregational Meeting June 26, 1996 ***

Earth Stewardship Covenant



We, the members of Friends Congregational Church, understand that we are part of God's Creation. As human beings, we see God's charge of our dominion over the whole of Creation as a call to stewardship that is founded on nurture and care. As people made in the image of our Creator, we affirm that we are God's co-creators on this gift of the earth, and that we have a shared mission to respect and maintain the inherent value of the natural world.

We acknowledge the living interconnection of all creatures, and we believe that caring for our neighbors and caring for ourselves is to care for our environment.

Blessing of the Solar
Panels, November 2017

We commit to raising awareness of our impacts on creatures, species, ecosystems, and, indeed, the earth itself. In the face of global challenges, we strive toward harmony and peace. In all of our decisions, large and small, we shall be mindful of God's vast creation.



*** Adopted at Congregational Meeting June 22, 2008 ***

Accessible to All Commitment



Friends Congregational Church is an inclusive Body of Christ that is striving to be Accessible to All. It is important to us that everyone has access to our building, our worship services and our other programs and activities.

We currently have:

- An accessible entrance and individual choice of a seating location in the sanctuary for those who use wheelchairs
- Large print worship bulletins including music
- Large print Bibles
- Assistive hearing devices
- Comfortable seating in the narthex with audio access to the service for those who may need to have a private place to worship
- Accessible restroom
- ADA Parking



If what you would need to become a part of our congregation is not listed, please contact us office@friends-ucc.org and let us know how we can best welcome you to our faith community.

*** A2A Certified by the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministry,
January 2020***

Sanctuary Resolution

BE IT RESOLVED, that Friends Congregational Church UCC, College Station, TX, declares itself an “Immigrant Welcoming Congregation.”

In making this declaration, we covenant and commit ourselves to the Word of God concerning the practices of Christian hospitality, protection, and advocacy alongside and on behalf of the immigrant and refugees in our community. Together, we will continue to develop practices and programs that facilitate the respectful welcome and inclusion of immigrants into our congregation and community.

We make this covenant understanding that it is grounded in scripture and our faith. God, the Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, calls upon all people of faith to support our immigrant sisters and brothers.

We make this covenant recognizing that the world is in the midst of a long-term refugee crisis with millions of God’s people displaced, seeking safety, security, freedom, and opportunity. We also recognize many immigrants continue to fear raids, deportation, and the disintegration of their families.

Our efforts and ministries may include but are not limited to:



Providing physical sanctuary and public advocacy for individuals approved by the process designated by the congregation. To be considered for sanctuary, the individual(s) must fill the following criteria:

- Live in the Bryan/College Station community
- Imminent deportation threatens their family’s unity or personal safety
- Have legal representation
- Reasonable chance of having a positive resolution to their deportation order

Providing spiritual support through regular prayer and discernment on behalf of our immigrant neighbors.

Hosting educational events for the edification of our fellowship and community related to these issues.

Our efforts will not include any of the following:

Providing “cover” or harbor for individuals suspected or convicted of a violent crime as defined by the Federal Bureau of Investigations Uniform Crime Reporting Program.

Providing support for individuals residing in the U.S. without proper documentation when there is no clear or present threat to the unity of a family or personal safety.

The process we will follow will include, but not be limited to:

Approval of individual(s) by above criteria. Given that decisions need to occur very quickly, the Ad Hoc Sanctuary Committee proposes that a small committee consisting of Pastors and Moderator or Vice-Moderator be empowered to decide if an individual seeking sanctuary fits the criteria set out previously and be given sanctuary.

Make a public announcement to officials, authorities, and community through a media campaign of our decision to provide sanctuary to an individual under threat of deportation.

*** Adopted at Congregational Meeting January 6, 2019 ***

Church Clarity Commitment



Verified Clear

The goal of Church Clarity is to create a consistent standard of clarity for how church policy should be communicated. Clear policies communicate standardized expectations so that people know what to expect, without having to rely on a 'whisper network'.

In the 21st century, an organization's website is essentially its digital "front door." Websites serve as a centralized location for the public to understand critical information about an organization, so they know what to expect.

Publicly stated policies provide a way for congregants to hold church leadership accountable to its commitments.

Clarity is a crowd-sourced database of local congregations scored on how clearly they communicate their actively enforced policies. The mission of Church Clarity is to increase the standard of clarity throughout the Church Industry of church policy disclosure. The best score earned, Verified Clear, is earned by application and review. It is then published on a public database.

Check out our Friends Church Website! www.Friends-UCC.org

Our Pastors



The Reverends Trent Williams and Dan De Leon and Pastoral Intern Brooke Dooley, Ash Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Senior Pastor, the Reverend Dr. Dan De Leon

Pastor Dan has served Friends Congregational Church, United Church of Christ (UCC), since September 1, 2005. During that time, his devotion to the inclusion of all people in the life and ministry of our church, his heart for youth being the future and present of the Church, and his passion for social justice that carries the congregation beyond the walls of our sanctuary have fostered the identity of Friends Church as a Gospel-rooted community that seeks to love God, love people, and love creation in all that we do. Whether he is in the pulpit preaching, in the classroom teaching, at the coffee shop listening, in the public square marching, in the sanctuary strumming guitar, or at the table of communion breaking bread and pouring the cup, Pastor Dan leads by demonstrating that it's more than okay to be human, it's altogether good.



In the College Station community known as “Aggieland,” Pastor Dan serves as an Aggie Ally, providing support for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender students of Texas A&M University. In April of 2013, he was awarded the Phyllis R. Frye Advocacy Award by the Department of Multicultural Services at TAMU for showing “great leadership in the advancement of GLBTI (Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Intersex) civil rights at the infrastructural and/or interpersonal level.” He has also served on the Board for

United Campus Ministry of Aggieland since 2005, which ministers to college students of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the UCC at Texas A&M University and Blinn College of Bryan.

In service to the wider church, from 2013 to 2017, Pastor Dan served on the UCC’s South Central Conference Board of Directors as Vice President (2013-2015) and then President (2015-2017). He also served on the Nominating Committee for the National UCC from 2013 to 2017 as Vice Chair for the 2015-2016 biennium, and Chair for the 2016-2017 biennium.

Pastor Dan previously served as the Associate Minister to Youth at Highland Park Baptist Church in Austin, Texas, and, prior to that, as the Interim Youth Minister at First Baptist Church of Austin. He holds a Bachelor of Journalism in Public Relations from the University of Texas at Austin, as well as a Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry from Brite Divinity School at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth, Texas. He was ordained into the ministry of the Gospel of Jesus Christ on January 20, 2002.

Rev. De Leon is married to Stacy De Leon, and they are proud parents to son, Mac, born in March of 2005 and daughter Ruthie, born in January 2008.



Associate Pastor, the Reverend Trent Williams

Pastor Trent began his ministry with Friends as Associate Pastor in October 2016, although this is not his first time serving with us. He served as Pastoral Intern in 2006-07 during his final year of seminary at Brite Divinity School, from which he earned an M.Div in 2007.

A native of Waco, Texas, Trent attended Baylor University where he earned a BA in Religion and History. Ordained in 2008 in the United Church of Christ, he served congregations in Pennsylvania and New Jersey before returning to Texas in 2016.



Trent is married to John Brady, and together they make their home in Bryan along with their dog, Riley. In his spare time, Trent enjoys movies, used bookstores, college football, and classic cars.

Seeking God: Worship and Music, Faith Formation

Worship

As a progressive Christian community, we seek to deepen our relationship with God and one another in vital, uplifting worship that inspires and nurtures us for the journey of life.



Sunday Morning Worship Services

Worship is the heart of what we do as a faith community. It is what sends us out to serve and restores us when the world has diminished our spirits.



Our two weekly worship services typically include elements of music, prayer, reflection, scripture reading, a special children's message, offering, and a sermon. We take part in communion in one or both services every week that is open to all, including children. To listen to a sample of the type of sermon you might hear on any given Sunday check out our online archive of sermons (www.friends-ucc.org/wordpress). We also stream our 1100 am worship services on the Friends Church Facebook Live, YouTube, and the Friends Church Website.

We welcome children in our worship service. We include a weekly Children's Message in our service that is especially popular! For those who would like, there are crayons and children's worship guides available in the foyer. During the service, childcare is provided for ages one to five in the preschool room located at the end of the Southside hallway.



Other Offerings to Watch For:



Midweek Spiritual Formation

Midweek Spiritual Formation offers intimate gatherings that combine worship and education to yield a midweek experience that nurtures our spirituality and informs our discipleship with Christ. After an opening prayer, we enjoy a time of learning that includes group discussion or Q&A depending on the format of each week's presentation. The program concludes with a brief time of worship where communion is served.



Dinner church (1st Thursdays)

Peacemeal is "Dinner Church" that is a new kind of worship gathering. There is a time to sing, pray, hear the ancient stories, celebrate communion--and eat together (potluck style)! The setting is all around tables, shared with

friends old and new. Arrive anytime between 6:00 and 6:30 to help set up, and service will begin at 6:30pm. All are Welcome.

Music



Our Director of Music Ministries

A native of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Chris Hoffman has served as our Director of Music Ministries since 2006. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Voice from the University of Northern Iowa, and a Master's Degree in Vocal Performance from Stephen F. Austin State University. Mr. Hoffman currently resides in College Station, where he maintains a private voice and piano studio. An active performer, Mr. Hoffman continues to perform as an operatic and concert soloist in Brazos Valley and around the country. Other

credentials include performing as a collaborative pianist with various soloists and ensembles, conducting orchestras and coaching vocals for musicals, and conducting orchestras for various Masterwork performances.

Music Ensembles

At Friends Congregational Church, we have a wide variety of wonderful musical ensembles that are centered around praising and worshipping God. For our congregants, music speaks to everyone differently, and it is our hope that there is something for everyone musically to help uplift and inspire people during their worship experience. Whether you have gifts to offer as a singer, handbell ringer, or instrumentalist, Friends Church Music Ministry offers each participant the opportunity for spiritual, musical, and interpersonal development.

The Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir is the flagship ensemble of the Music Ministries Department and is open to any singer in high school and beyond. It is directed by Chris Hoffman. Rehearsals are held in the Sanctuary on Wednesdays from 7:30 pm until 9:00 pm.



The Chancel Choir provides choral music for the Sunday Worship Services. The musical offerings of this group include Renaissance a cappella pieces, major oratorio choral movements, gospel selections, contemporary Christian...and more! Additionally, they are the centerpiece for the Friends Church annual Christmas Cantata/Masterwork and Good Friday Cantata/Masterwork. Recent highlights include performances of Vivaldi's "Gloria" and Rutter's "Magnificat" during the Christmas season, and Mozart's "Requiem," Forrest's "Requiem for the Living," and Chopins' "Once Upon a Tree" on Good Friday.

The Chancel Choir also provides music for special services, ordinations, and memorial services. The group takes a summer hiatus in July.

Youth Choir

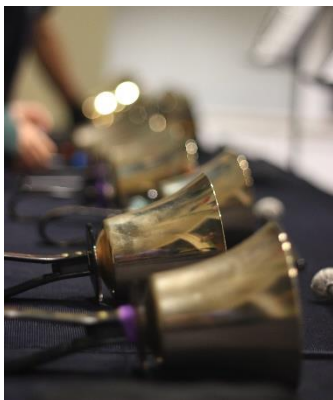
The Youth Choir knocks it out of the park with contemporary arrangements, including pop, rap, jazz, and soul styles. They are directed by Chris Hoffman and Tami Dudo (a congregational volunteer), and are accompanied by our own incredible musician, Pastor Dan, on guitar. This group rehearses during the Sunday Youth Group time. They sing for three-four Services a year. We look forward to expanding this aspect of our Music Ministry.

A Joyful Noise

The Children's Choir, A Joyful Noise, sings for Children's Sabbath Sunday as well as the fifth Sunday of the month. This group of music makers is open to any youth from pre-kindergarten to eighth grade. It is co-directed by Chris Hoffman and

Tami Dudo. Rehearsals are held on Sundays in the Sanctuary, during Sunday School time. The rehearsal schedule is light; they practice just a few weeks before the Sunday they are scheduled to sing. A Joyful Noise also joins the Chancel Choir on occasion for Christmas Cantata/Masterwork performances. The annual Christmas Pageant includes our Joyful Noise singers!

Annual Children's Christmas Pageant



The Handbell Choir

The Handbell Choir is made up of our own four-octave handbell set (with a borrowed fifth octave on occasion). This group is open to any musician, from junior high to adult. This ensemble rehearses in the Sanctuary on Monday evenings at 7:30. They perform once a month (usually the second Sunday of the month), as well as special services (such as Easter and Christmas Eve). It is directed by Chris Hoffman.

Rainbow Bells

Designed for the children of Friends, and easy to learn. This special event with the children always draws a resounding round of applause after they perform.

Rehearsals last for just a few minutes during Sunday School time, a couple weeks before they are scheduled to ring. It is directed by Chris Hoffman and Tami Dudo.

Other Musical Opportunities - Vocal or Instrumental

If you have a love of worshipping through music, but the above ensembles aren't exactly the right fit for you, you can still get plugged in! Instrumentalists are always needed for the Chamber Orchestra that accompanies the Chancel Choir for Cantata/Masterwork performances, or as obbligato instruments that accompany certain Choral Anthems. Guitarists and drummers are always welcome for contemporary praise songs. And if you love to sing, but the rehearsal schedule of the Chancel Choir doesn't fit in with your schedule, we can always program special music offerings that feature soloists and ensembles. Simply contact our Director of Music Ministries, Chris Hoffman, at choir@friends-ucc.org, and he can help get you connected into the musical life at Friends!

Faith Formation

We welcome people of all ages for spiritual growth and Christian education opportunities that deepen our faith and build relationships that last for a lifetime.

Adult Sunday School

- **Morning Manna:** This class explores scripture-based and lectionary-based Bible study and engages in wide-ranging discussions, deepening our understanding of how our still-speaking God can help us respond to today's issues.
- **Social Justice:** This adult Sunday School class examines how Christians of conscience can respond to the hurts and challenges of the world and aims to explore how spiritual beliefs inform our daily life and our interactions with the world. Various speakers plus class-led volunteers facilitate the Sunday morning discussions.

Prayer Labyrinth

The Friends Church labyrinth was constructed by members and friends of our church and was dedicated and consecrated to the glory of God on September 20th, 2003 as part of our 25th anniversary of ministry in the Brazos Valley. It is located behind the church near the edge of the property. It is based on the Santa Rosa labyrinth pattern developed by Lea Goode-Harris. It is a seven circuit labyrinth constructed from bark mulch, crushed granite, and limestone with modifications that include the natural terrain of the location.



Prayer labyrinths have been around for 3500 years in many cultures and arose as a symbol of a metaphorical journey to Jerusalem to walk in the steps of Jesus. All labyrinths are designed so that there is an entrance, one pathway, a center or goal, and one exit. Unlike mazes, labyrinths are not puzzles with dead ends to be figured out. There is only one path.

You may find more information about walking labyrinths here (<https://www.peacelabyrinth.org/how-to-walk-the-labyrinth>).

The Friends Church labyrinth is open to all. We request that it be honored as “holy space”. There may be some occasions when you are walking the labyrinth with others. It is customary for all to observe silence in respect of each other’s time and space.

Sharing Journeys: Making Connections

Together, we nurture community by staying connected and engaged with each other by gathering for fellowship, caring for each other in times of need, and reaching out to tell our story and invite others into community.

How to stay connected

- Visit our website by clicking [here](#).
- Click on [Your First Visit](#) to share your contact information with us and start connecting.
- Enjoy the most recent edition of our quarterly newsletter, The Epistle: [The Epistle | Friends Church UCC \(friends-ucc.org\)](#)
- Place your contact information on one of our Welcome Cards located in the sanctuary in the seat back pockets.
- Call our Church Office at (979) 693-7021 or email us at info@friends-ucc.org.
- Note direct email addresses for our [Pastors](#), [Staff](#), and [Leadership](#) on our website and in this booklet in Church Governance section and on our website.
- Ask about our on-line church directory and app to access contact information and help you put faces with names!

Where to find us on Social Media



Facebook: Friends Congregational Church – UCC



Instagram: *friends_ucc*



Twitter: @FriendsUCC

Our Regular Communications

This Week at Friends (TW@F's) – a Friday email message containing current activities and announcements for our church life

Mid-Week Message – a midweek email with a devotional offered by our pastors or guest contributors offering meaningful words of hope and inspiration

The Epistle - a quarterly Friends Church e-magazine available on our website, electronically by email, and hard copy by postal service upon request. This important communication contains announcements from our pastors, our moderator, and our Programs Ministry leaders. In addition, we receive information from our South Central Conference Leadership. You'll learn about our congregation and find ways to become and stay engaged in our faith family.

Keeping up when you're unable to attend in person

- Services are streamed live every Sunday at 11:00 am on Facebook and our YouTube Channel
- Sermons are archived and accessible on our website, visit bit.ly/friendschurchsermon
- Visit our website for the Pastors' Blogs at www.friends-ucc.org/index.php/pastors-blog

Technical Ministries Team

The primary objective of Technical Ministries Team is to create an atmosphere conducive to worship and technical excellence with a focus on equipping and training volunteers. The production aspect of the Technical Ministries includes audio, video, lighting, projection, web streaming, and media for FCC. The Tech Team provides technical support for worship gatherings, congregational meetings, and special events. The Tech Team is a resource for many aspects of church communication including the e-Connection and the Friday Edition of This Week at Friends. The Tech Team maintains all email accounts, the church website, subscription services, and manages the computer, software, and electronic needs of the church.

Responsibilities

- Manages Friends Church Website
- Coordinates social media communications with Evangelism ministry
- Manages IT for all church's computers and electronic needs
- Updates and installs computer software
- Manages and maintains all email accounts and other electronic communication needs
- Provides a point of contact for subscription services such as Online Giving, Membership Database, Constant Contact (e-Connection & Friday Edition of This Week at Friends)
- Coordinates preparation and production with the pastors of Sunday worship services including audio, video, lighting, projection, and media
- Manages the live stream of Sunday morning worship service

Volunteer opportunities (av@friends-ucc.org)

- Assist with preparation of media for Sunday morning worship services*
- Manage the AV presentation during Sunday morning worship services*
- Control the audio and recording of Sunday morning worship services*

*Orientation information is provided

Our Amazing Children and Youth!

Our youth and children are fully included in the life of the church and we endeavor to help them develop and grow relationships, have fun, and learn about our collective walk with Christ together.

**“Youth are not the future of the Church.
We are the Church today.”**

Youth Group T-Shirt, United Christian Church in Austin



We welcome the participation of children and youth in our life and worship and want families to feel at home at Friends. We invite our youth to participate in worship as Greeters and Lay Leaders and to serve our church as Child Care Helpers. Youth may participate in our Sunday School classes, our Church Choir, with our Worship Musicians, and our Friends Church Youth Group. Our children's choir, *Joyful Noise*, participates in special church services throughout the year, including Children's Sabbath Sunday and our annual Christmas pageant. We encourage parents to bring their children to worship, to come forward for the Children's Sermon, to participate in our Sunday School program, and to include their children in all the ministry and program events in the life of our church. Childcare is provided for worship services.

Children and Youth Sunday School

- Our **youngest class of K-Grade 3** children experience the unique Godly Play program taught by Anne Wehrly and Doris Machinski, two passionate and talented volunteers, who have received special training for this curriculum. The classes use props and storytelling to create a world of wonder through which children access the yearlong cycle of Bible stories.
- For **Grades 4-12**, we have a rich curriculum, supplemented with readings, music, projects, and crafts. It follows the Revised Common Lectionary, linking classroom to worship experience, and strives to be global, inclusive, and ecumenical, encouraging children to engage their imaginations, using the arts to explore the beauty, truth, and humane spirit that comes from God.

Sunday Youth Group

Our Youth Group, for 6th through 12th grade, meets most Sundays in the double classroom. We share in activities to learn more about and support one another, our congregation, and our community. We explore topics such as open and affirming, racial justice, access for all, and caring for our planet. We develop relationships, have fun, and learn about our walk with Christ together through this fruitful ministry.

Youth Mission Trips, Lock-ins, and Activities

The Summer Mission trip is a week-long experience of working with local organizations in various communities throughout the United States. The week energizes the youth group and adults alike to be about Jesus' proclamation of bringing good news to the poor. See below for examples of lock-ins and activities.

Children and Youth Mission Activities

The children and youth participate regularly in activities and fundraisers that help engage in and build a foundation of service outward to our congregation and community as an integral part of living out our mission. Some of these include UNICEF and Heifer International, Reach Beyond Mission, Souper Bowl of Caring, Rise Against Hunger meal packaging event, volunteering monthly at the Brazos Church Pantry, the Bryan College Station Crop Walk, and other local mission activities.

Youth Representatives in Church Governance

Our youth are invited to serve as representatives on the Programs Ministry Team and on the Board of Trustees. These are one-year positions with a commitment to provide the youth perspective and a voice for the youth of the Congregation in all aspects of our church life.

Historical Highlights of Mission Trips and other youth activities

1998 Summer: Paint and Patch Mission Trip to New Orleans with 5-7 youth and 5 adults

2009 November 20-21: Overnight lock-in at Church of the Savior, Austin, a benefit for Habitat for Humanity

2011 April 30: Joint morning of service with Church of the Savior, Austin and FCC youth at the Brazos Valley Food Bank

2012 July 9-13: National Youth Event, Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana with 3,000 youth from across the country. Activities included workshops, worship services, service projects, and more. Six youth and three adults attended.

2014 February 22-23: 30-hour Famine lock-in with FCC and United Christian Church, Austin youth groups

July 5-12: Youth Mission trip with several Austin youth groups to Livingston, Alabama for a week of work projects, education, worship, and community building.

2015 February 28-March 1: 30-Hour Famine Lock-in at United Christian Church, Austin

July 5-11: Youth Mission trip to East Dallas with Reach Beyond Mission



- 2016 June 26-29: Youth Mission trip to Waco
 July 24-31: National Youth Event held in Orlando, Florida
- 2017 July 2-9: Youth Mission Trip to Washington DC with Reach Beyond Mission
- 2018 July: Reach Beyond Mission trip to Austin, working with local organizations Mobile Loaves and Fishes, Sustainability Food Center, and the Capitol Area Food Bank, Community First!
- 2019 July: Trip to Birmingham, Alabama, working with Urban Ministry, a local mission of the United Methodist Church to assist residents in breaking out of cyclical poverty through home repair and painting, a community garden, and community café.
- 2021 July: Hybrid mission trip working with Reach Beyond Mission, where the group volunteered doing local service projects during the day and engaged in online learning with Reach Beyond Mission in the mornings and evenings. The group learned about the effects of systemic racism on matters of food justice, housing affordability, immigration, voter suppression, and medical debt. What they learned spurred the group to start a campaign buying up medical debt portfolios for pennies on the dollar to forgive \$4 million in debt for people in the Brazos Valley and beyond.

Confirmation Classes for Youth Grades 4-12

This biannual five-month long program offers a structured pathway toward confirmation at Friends Congregational Church. The senior pastor and congregational co-leaders participate in weekly meetings, field trips to local communities of faith, youth group activities, and retreats. Each confirmand is asked to invite an adult member of the congregation to act as their mentor during this time. Each week the confirmand meets with their mentor and reviews their weekly assignments on a variety of topics, such as God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, the Trinity, prayer, the sacraments, the Church, etc. The leadership team

puts together the assignments, field trips, activities and retreats, and the classes. The confirmands are also asked to serve in leadership roles in Sunday services (lay leader, bread runner for communion, greeter, children's message) during this process. This five-month commitment is rigorous, rich, and very rewarding for all.

Small Group Ministries

Fabulous at Any Age (FAA)

FAA was formed in 2013 and offers monthly excursions to explore our area, learn about other cultures and religions, and assist with mission projects from the congregation. The group meets for lunch and a group activity, excursion, tour, lecture, or fellowship.

Families with Young Children

Families with Young Children provides support and fellowship for those who are parenting children while offering a fun environment for the children.

Inquiry Classes

The Inquiry Class is designed for friends who are interested in knowing more about Friends Church and the United Church of Christ. It is an intentional gathering time with the pastors, seasoned and new members, and visitors to learn and ask questions in a welcoming environment. Inquiry classes offer a time for visitors and guests to learn more about joining our congregation. We share our faith journeys and learn about the opportunities for faith formation and service to our community as we listen for the still-speaking God.

Parents of Teens (POT)

POT Parties are a chance to connect with other families with teenagers. Your teens don't have to be living with you or even living at home anymore; all are welcome. Teens and other children are welcome to attend.

Real Life Theology

This periodic gathering is scheduled and hosted by individual members of Friends Church with an invited speaker and subsequent discussion about their personal spiritual journeys

Soul Friends Small Group Ministry



Small group ministries offer deeper connections and relationships with each other in our faith community while exploring, nurturing, and growing in our spirituality together. Small groups give us an opportunity to nurture spiritual growth in a supportive and safe setting and to share the joys and concerns in our lives.

Small groups form around monthly book studies, short term special interest studies such as “Queering the Bible”, and contemplative prayer groups that broaden and deepen our relationship with God. Groups are formed throughout the year and are available to all. Look for announcements of new groups forming or ongoing groups to join in This Week @ Friends and the Quarterly Magazine, the Epistle. Days and times will vary to accommodate as many different schedules as possible. For more information or if you have ideas for small group ministries or would like to be a part of their formation and leadership, please contact the Spiritual Life Ministry Team (spirit_develop@friends-ucc.org).

United Campus Ministries in Aggieland (UCM)

UCM is a campus ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) and the United Church of Christ (Friends Congregational Church). The campus ministry seeks to provide the students of Texas A&M University and Blinn College with a place for spiritual growth, devotion, and community. (<http://aggieucm.org>)

Wider Church and Family Opportunities

The Journey – A Spiritual Renewal Retreat

The Journey is a three-day spiritual renewal retreat that was developed at Friends Church in 1998. The weekend offers a Biblical look at Christianity as a lifestyle. It is a short course of basic Christian principles and practices presented through a highly structured weekend of study, prayer, and fellowship. Like other spiritual renewal events in the Cursillo Tradition, The Journey brings the individual to an encounter with Christ as part of God's grace-filled community. The Journey is designed to strengthen and renew the faith of Christian people, and through them, their families, congregations, and the world in which they live. The Journey is an effort toward the renewal of the church. The Journey is a 72-hour co-

educational and inclusive weekend for adults over 18 that begins on Thursday evening and ends on Sunday evening. This experience is typically offered once per year at Camp Crucis near Granbury, Texas.

Slumber Falls Camp Retreat

Slumber Falls is a UCC owned camp located on the Guadalupe River just outside of



Slumber Falls
Camp

New Braunfels, Texas. Slumber Falls Camp is where Friends Church holds its annual church retreat weekend and has been a favorite for

families, singles, couples, for the young and old for decades. It is traditionally held on Mother's Day Weekend. Campers arrive on Friday evening and gather around games, campfire, or just enjoy each other on the large outdoor gathering area. A pastor or lay led program is offered on Saturday morning with the afternoon free to float the river, explore the historical and picturesque town of Gruene's shops and restaurants, or bike in the beautiful hill country. Saturday evening is a shared dinner with fun, games, music, and getting to know each other. Sunday morning worship is held at the beautiful and rustic chapel at Vesper Point that overlooks the Guadalupe River. We've even been known to hold a baptism in the River!



Exploring Membership at Friends Church



Fifty fine folks came together Sunday afternoon, 3/31/19, to Rise Against Hunger. In a little over an hour, we packaged 10,000 meals that will provide healthy food to our neighbors around the world who are struggling with hunger.

What does joining the church mean?

In our tradition, joining the church matters. To prepare for that event, there are quarterly Inquiry Classes where you will meet with the pastors and church leaders. When you are ready and the time is right, new members will be invited, during Sunday worship, to make a commitment to God and with our faith community.

When you join a church, you become a voting member of the church. Members vote on the church's Statement of Faith and Mission (budget) each year, they vote on which of the members should serve as key leaders, and they even vote on whether to call a new pastor. There are important practical issues associated with being a member.

When you join, you make a connection, you join a community and make a covenant. A covenant is an

exchange of holy promises. In making a covenant we promise to serve God together. It's not just new members who join the church.

Rather, everyone—new members and existing members—joins one another.

As we make our promises to one another we

remember God's promises to us and promise to serve God as best we are able.

In the Bible, God

makes covenants with people all the time. Since we believe that God is still speaking, we still believe that the holy promises we make to each other matter. This is a significant decision.



Your faith background

When new members join the church, we often give thanks for every place that has ever been your spiritual home. When you join a church, you do so at one moment in time, and that does not take the place of any other church. When you join a church, you are not saying that this church is superior to all others. But you are saying that while you are here, you will be an active part of this congregation.

Attending worship

Worship is open to everybody, at any time, and you can worship in all sorts of places, not just this church. Joining the church is different from worshipping God. You can praise God on a mountaintop or while the plane lands after a bumpy flight. You can gather with a group of people in church or on a lakeshore to worship. But when you join a local church, you are saying that you have chosen this community of faith to be your spiritual home at this time. When you join, you tell the community, “I’m in,” and they in turn make promises to support you on your faith journey together. One of the things they will promise is to join you in the amazing adventure of prayer. You will now be part of something larger than yourself and your own private journey.

What else am I agreeing to when I join a church?

You will be asked to participate fully in the life of the church through worship and serving others. And should some situation make it impossible to be with your church physically, stay connected by attending through online worship, by prayer, and in service. Serving others, as you are able, is an essential and rewarding component of church life.

Serving Others

Stewardship and Giving

At Friends Church we believe that our giving is in time, talent, and treasure. We believe that giving is to share with our church, our community, and the world. God is generous and so must we be.

Each fall we dream together about what God is calling Friends Church to do in the coming year, and we plan our budget goals, to which we ask members and friends to prayerfully consider giving. Pledging in time, in talent, and in financial resources is the opportunity to commit to being a part of changing lives through the mission and ministry of Friends.

Beyond our own annual stewardship campaign, Friends Church supports five national church offerings in addition to our Friends Church offering. We also support many other charities as we are able.

The special offerings include:



One Great Hour of Sharing (March)

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS), through the UCC, works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education and health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy and resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. OGHS also supports domestic and international ministries for disaster preparedness and response.



Strengthen the Church (May)

Strengthen the Church (STC) is a special mission offering to reimagine and build the future of the UCC. Shared at the conference and national levels, STC largely supports youth ministries and full-time leaders for new churches in parts of the country where the UCC does not have a strong presence. It also provides support for existing church's new initiatives.



Neighbors in Need (October)

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the UCC that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of the offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. The NIN grants are awarded to churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice. Funding is provided through donations to the NIN offering.



Christmas Fund (December)

The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund is a Special Mission Offering that congregations have been supporting for over 100 years. The offering is administered through the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, the charitable arm of the Pension Boards. Funds provide direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial difficulties. Active and retired clergy, lay employees, and their surviving spouses may be eligible for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and/or Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks.



Our Church's Wider Mission (Monthly)

Because we believe in transformation, we believe the church's mission is changing lives -individually, systemically and globally... we support, encourage, and uplift local churches where lives are being changed through worship, education, fellowship, mission, and justice advocacy. We identify, recruit, educate, and support leaders who inspire others. We support churches and plant new churches as vital places of worship, learning, and justice advocacy. We change lives through our global partnerships, missionaries, and advocacy. Gifts to Our Church's Wider Mission benefit the full range of the United Church of Christ mission across the country and around the globe.

Justice and Mission

Our faith compels us to reach out beyond our walls to care for those in need and build community across lines of race, class, gender, and sexuality. Together, we make a difference in our community, our nation, and the world.

Back Bay Mission



Located on the Mississippi Gulf Coast since 1922, Back Bay Mission is one of the oldest and most highly respected organizations within the UCC. It continues its journey of providing innovative solutions and

compassionate responses to those suffering at the hands of social injustice and economic hardship. Back Bay Mission has a simple mission: to strengthen neighborhoods, seek justice, and transform lives.

(<https://thebackbaymission.org>)

Brazos Church Pantry



The Brazos Church Pantry is a local non-profit organization that shares the love of Christ by providing food to those who need it in the Brazos

Valley. The pantry, which operates with no paid staff and with the help of over 30 churches, survives on contributions and about 100 volunteers who work two hours a day, six days a week. Last year, the pantry provided food to more than 38,000 Brazos County residents. The first Saturday of each month, Friends Church volunteers at the Brazos Church Pantry (304A W. 26th Street in Bryan), restocking shelves and assisting clients. The volunteers meet there at 9:45 am.

(<http://brazoschurchpantry.org>)

Brazos Interfaith Immigration Network (BIIN)

BIIN Brazos Interfaith
IN Immigration Network

BIIN is a 501(c)3 non-profit, is a group of individuals, organizations, and faith communities, called to promote the human

dignity and well-being of all immigrants in our community and to advocate for and facilitate better access to legal, educational, and social services. Friends Church is a BIIN partner and as such helps build capacity and strengthen BIIN ties to the community and its resources. We also help spread understanding of the organization and of the contributions and needs of immigrants in our community.

(<https://brazosimmigration.com>)

Faith Inclusion and Disability Awareness Team

Founded in 2014 by members of Friends Congregational Church, this team seeks to explore justice and inclusion of individuals with disabilities into our church community. Since its foundation, FIDA has conducted an accessibility audit of the church to assess the physical access of the church. The team obtained the A2A (Accessible to All) certification from the United Church of Christ in January 2020. The team also participates in Access Sunday to raise awareness of how our congregation can be more welcoming and inclusive for members and visitors with disabilities.

Family Promise of Bryan-College Station



Family Promise is an area-wide, volunteer-based, non-profit organization that supports families by providing shelter, meals, transportation, training and support

services to homeless families while helping them secure permanent housing. The program provides a safe environment in which families can stay together and become self-sufficient. It is affiliated with the nationwide Family Promise in Summit, New Jersey. Friends Church is on a rotation of one week of support for families with approximately 12 other host churches in our community.

(<https://www.familypromisebcs.org>)

Pilgrims in the Park

Neal Park, 600 W 22nd Street, Bryan, TX 77803

2nd Sundays at 1:30pm



Each Sunday, a group of volunteers, gathers at Neal Park at 1:30 p.m. to provide a potluck meal for individuals experiencing homelessness or food insecurity or just generally wish to have community.

Members of Friends church began a regular attendance in 2018, choosing the 2nd Sunday of the month as our time to provide food. Anyone can attend and bring some food. Healthy options are best, as are items that can easily be take-out items for a day or so. We also assist in other needs of the participants. (Pilgrims in the Park – Facebook)

Brazos Sanctuary Coalition

This project was initiated with a grant application to the national UCC for a grant from the Neighbors in Need program, to establish a formal sanctuary church network in the Brazos Valley to aid undocumented immigrants who might be in danger of deportation. Friends Church was awarded that grant and our Associate Pastor is leading this effort. The group has formalized its identity as the Brazos Sanctuary Coalition. Friends Church has formally authorized use of its space to provide physical sanctuary should the need arise.

Sustainability Team

In June 2008, Friends Congregational Church unanimously adopted an Earth Stewardship Covenant. The sustainability team assists the congregation in honoring the covenant through linking environmental topics to justice issues in worship and Sunday School curriculum. Additionally, our sustainability team led the way in helping the church convert to using 100% wind energy for its electricity, utilize rainwater barrels to help offset irrigation, and reduce/reuse/recycle by practicing recycling and using reusable cups, dishes, and silverware for church events. In May of 2017, Friends installed solar panels through Texas Green Energy. The team also brought single stream curbside recycling to Friends Church placing several bins throughout the church and placing the curbside containers on the street every other week for collection by Brazos Valley Recycling.

Texas Impact/Texas Interfaith Center for Public Policy



Friends Church is an organizational member of Texas Impact. Texas Impact and its sister organization, the Texas Interfaith Center for Public Policy, form an interfaith network that brings faith to bear on social issues through grassroots education and policy advocacy. Texas Impact is a statewide religious grassroots network whose members include individuals, congregations, and governing bodies of the Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths. Texas Impact exists to advance state public policies that are consistent with universally held social principles of the Abrahamic traditions. (<https://texasimpact.org/>)

Tiny Hope Village – A Tiny House Village to end homelessness in Bryan/College Station



Tiny Hope Village is a permanent housing community for singles and married couples – with and without income – who have been homeless. It is a missional community where everyone takes part in the work of housing homeless people. It is a supportive community where we care for each other. Tine Hope Village believes in the witness of the early church, who shared all things so that no one was in need. It is inspired by the tiny house village movement's sustainable, dignified housing. It is inspired by friends who live on the street, who are made in the image of God. It is a family of friends that is inclusive of homeless people in Bryan/College Station through the weekly Pilgrims in the Park Potluck Meals since 2007. (<https://tinyhopevillage.org>)

Becoming Involved, Giving Back - Volunteering

Anyone who attends Friends Church can volunteer in many capacities. As a volunteer, you can make an invaluable impact on the life of the Church. It takes a tremendous number of volunteers to fill all the needs that we have set out to support. Your gift of service as a volunteer is a two-way street. What you give in service comes back to fill your heart. We encourage everyone associated with Friends Church to consider volunteering in some capacity and help further our mission of “changing the world, one act of love at a time.”

As you’ve make your way through this book, perhaps you’ll identify areas of our various programming, ministries, worship services, events, and activities in which you are interested. There are many areas of responsibilities in each section that are rich with opportunities for your time, your unique talents, and gifts of service. You are invited to take a moment and learn about ways that feed you spiritually and offer ways to serve as well. Reach out to our volunteer leadership teams to find out more information. Over a lifetime, we can all minister to one another in beautiful ways when we are part of a faith community.



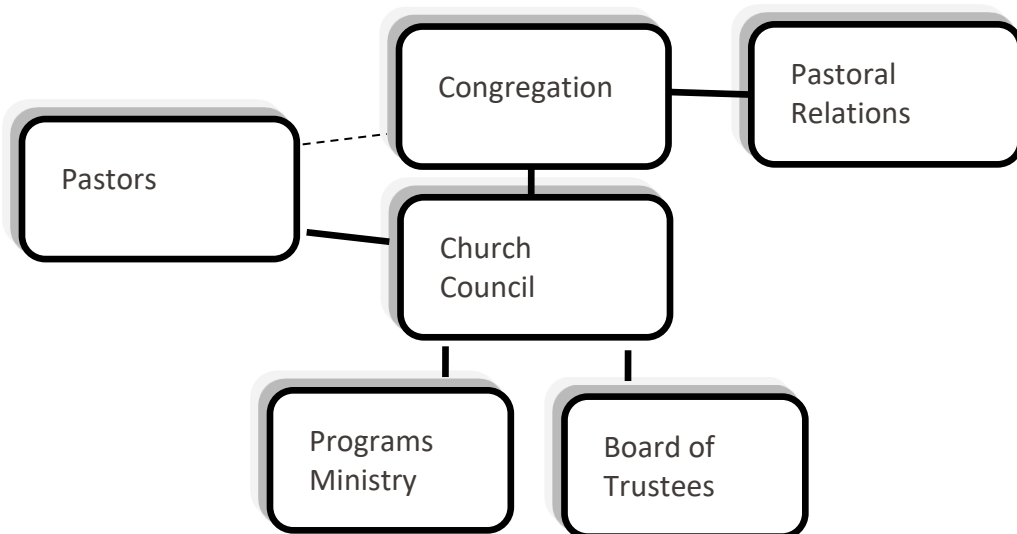
Look in the sections that follow and note the volunteer opportunities listed in each area. We invite you to contact us by phone, email, or in person to learn more about how you can become involved in this exciting and growing community of faith Friends Church.

Friends Church Governance

The governing body of this Church is the membership of the Church assembled in a Congregational Meeting.

Congregational Meetings

There will be at least three Congregational Meetings each year. In June, the Congregation will (1) elect officers and (2) receive the annual report. In September, the Congregation will be presented with an estimated Annual Statement of Faith and Mission (estimated budget) for the following year. In December, the Congregation will be presented with an official Annual Statement of Faith and Mission (budget) for approval by vote. If scheduling conflicts prevent a congregational meeting during these specified months, the Church Council will establish a meeting date on the nearest available month. A quorum will consist of FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%) of the members of the church. The number for the quorum will be established each year at the time the official count is sent to the national church.

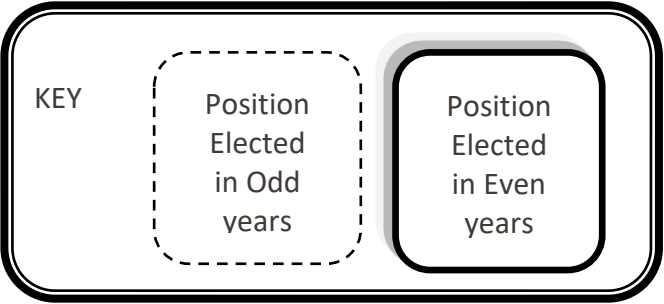


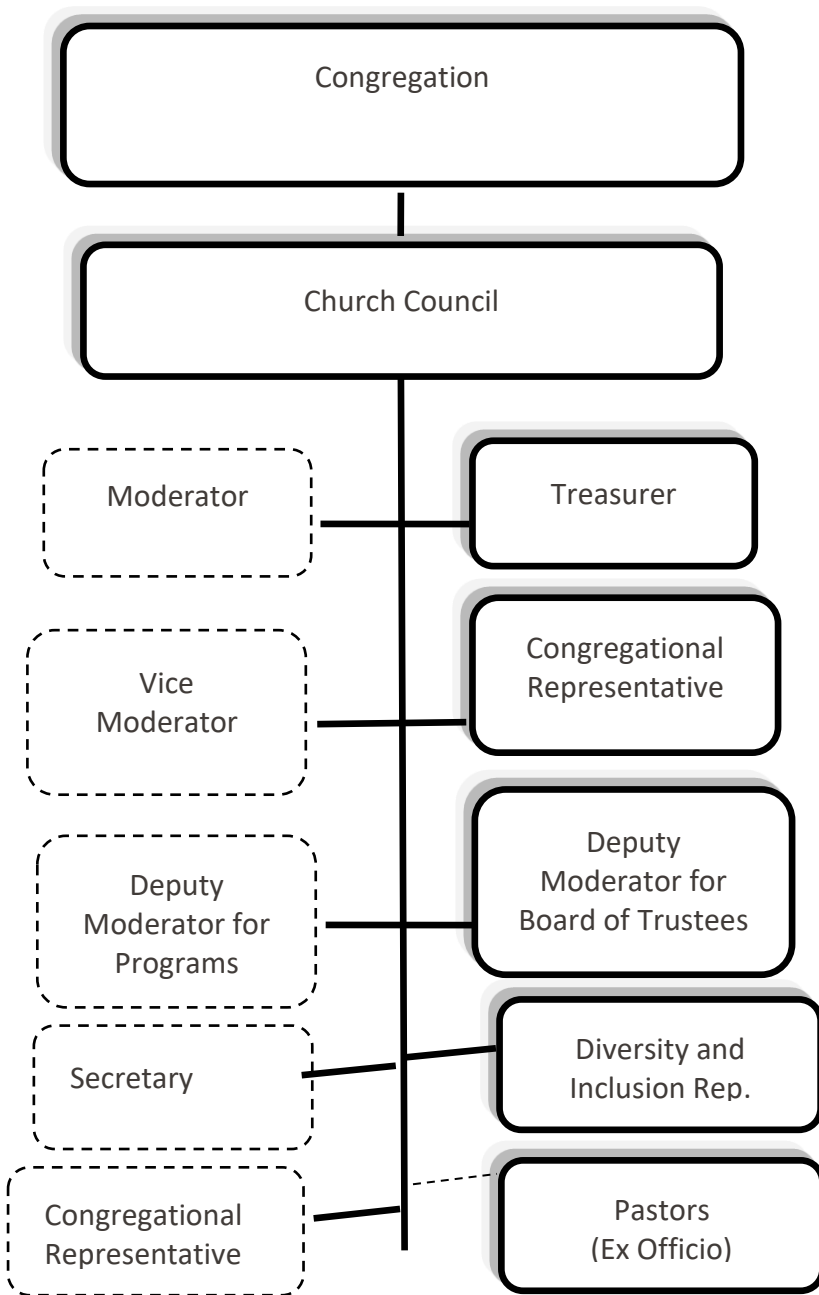
Church Council

The Church Council is the policy making and visioning body of the Church.

Position	Contact Information
Church Moderator	moderator@friends-ucc.org
Vice Moderator	vice-moderator@friends-ucc.org
Deputy Moderator Trustees	trustees@friends-ucc.org
Deputy Moderator Programs	programs@friends-ucc.org
Church Council Secretary	council_secretary@friends-ucc.org
Treasurer	treasurer@friends-ucc.org
Diversity and Inclusion Rep.	diversity@friends-ucc.org
Congregational Representatives	congregationalrep1@friends-ucc.org congregationalrep@friends-ucc.org
Senior Pastor (ex-officio)	pastor@friends-ucc.org
Associate Pastor (ex-officio)	pastortrent@friends-ucc.org

Flow Chart for Church Council on the following page:





Church Moderator

The Moderator will set the agendas and preside at meetings of the Church Council and all Congregational Meetings.

Responsibilities

- Presides over the monthly Church Council meeting
- Submits monthly reports for publication regarding:
 - Summaries of each Church Council meeting
 - Announcements and summaries of each congregational meeting
 - Information regarding any other Church Council event, such as a planning meeting or leadership training
- Notifies all members announcing each congregational meeting
- Meets with pastor/s for prayer, discussion, and development of monthly agenda
- Handles financial issues as necessary
- Works with the Council Executive Team and the Finance Committee
- Assists the Pastor with planning the Annual Leadership Retreat

Church Vice Moderator

The Vice Moderator will assist the Moderator as necessary and will be Moderator for the term immediately following.

Responsibilities

- Attends monthly Church Council meetings
- Presides over monthly Church Council meeting if the Moderator is absent.
- Works with the Moderator, Deputy Moderator of Trustees, Treasurer, and Stewardship Leaders to create the Statement of Faith and Giving to present to the congregation at the January congregational meeting
- Assists with duties at the congregational meeting such as: ensures church members sign-in on clipboards, prepares and counts ballots, etc.
- Member of the Council Executive Team and the Finance Committee
- Assists the Moderator and Pastor with planning the Annual Leadership Retreat
- Chairs ad-hoc committees of short duration, as deemed necessary
- Regularly communicates with the Pastor and Moderator

Deputy Moderator of the Board of Trustees

The Deputy Moderator of the Board of Trustees will act as Chairperson of that Board and serve as the liaison to the Church Council from the Board of Trustees. The Deputy Moderator will also work with the Stewardship Ministry Chair in proposing the annual Statement of Faith and Missions (budget).

Responsibilities

- The Board of Trustees will have oversight over the building and property
- The Board of Trustees will consist of:
 - Deputy Moderator as Chairperson
 - Financial Secretary
 - Youth Representative
 - Chair of Stewardship
 - Chair of Property
 - Chair of Personnel
- The Board reports directly to the Church Council.
- Any action will be in accordance with established purpose and goals of the Church
- All meetings are open, except when addressing personnel issues
- The Board of Trustees will submit an Annual Statement of Faith (budget) for approval by the Congregation at a Congregational Meeting
- Provides a written report to Church Council on a monthly basis summarizing new and ongoing activities of the Board of Trustees' Activities
- Provides a summary for the Friends Annual Report of Board of Trustees' activities for the year

Deputy Moderator of the Programs Ministry

The Deputy Moderator of the Programs Ministry will act as Chairperson of the Programs Ministry Team and serve as the liaison to the Church Council from the Programs Ministry. The Deputy Moderator of Programs will also be responsible for ensuring leadership for major whole-church activities.

Responsibilities

- Convenes regular meetings of the chairs of the Program Ministries
- Coordinates with Program chairs to evaluate proposed events as consistent with the Vision and Mission of Friends Church
- The Program Ministry Team includes:
 - Christian Education
 - Fellowship
 - Spiritual Life
 - Nurture
 - Justice and Missions
 - Worship
 - Evangelism
 - Youth Representative
- The Programs Ministry reports directly to Church Council
- Provides a written report to Church Council on a monthly basis summarizing new and ongoing activities of the Programs Ministry
- Participates in the annual New Leadership Training Event as new leaders are taking office
- Provides a summary for the Friends Annual Report (due in June) of Programs Ministry activities for the year

Church Council Secretary

The Church Council Secretary will announce dates of Church Council and Congregational Meetings, will keep an accurate record of the meetings of the Church Council and all Congregational Meetings of the church, and make minutes available to the Congregation.

Responsibilities

- Attends all Church Council and Congregational meetings as a voting member and take minutes
- Transcribes, copies, and distributes minutes at the next Council or Congregational meeting
- Puts all minutes and handouts in the large Church Council minutes binder and online
- Types any letters as deemed necessary by the Church Council

Treasurer

The Treasurer will be responsible for the disbursement of all funds, maintaining accurate financial records and reporting the financial status of the Church to Church Council and the Congregation.

Responsibilities

- Responsible for the disbursement of all funds
- Keeps accurate financial records in compliance with federal and state laws
- Submits a written report to the Church Council monthly
- Maintains payroll record
- Provides W-2s to church and church related employees
- Participate in the development of the annual Statement of Faith and Mission (budget)

Diversity and Inclusion Representative

The Diversity and Inclusion Representative will serve as a voice for all and work to ensure that we, Friends Congregational Church, hold ourselves accountable, individually as well as collectively, for being a community of faith that is extravagantly welcoming to all. Accountability involves leadership at the (1) individual level, (2) interpersonal level, (3) group level, and (4) community level. In support of the Strategic Plan, the Diversity and Inclusion Representative will facilitate programming opportunities that work to accomplish these goals.

Responsibilities:

- Attends all Church Council meetings as a voting member
- Attends all Finance Committee meetings as a voting member
- Participate in the Servant Leaders Summits
- Is available to the pastors, staff, leadership, and the wider church for people to bring issues and ideas to address to Church Council

Congregational Representatives

The Congregational Representatives will serve as a voice for members of the Congregation for all deliberations of the Church Council. The Congregational Representative whose term is ending that year, will convene and chair the Nominating Committee which is responsible for presenting a slate of candidates for leadership to the church membership at a Congregational Meeting.

Responsibilities

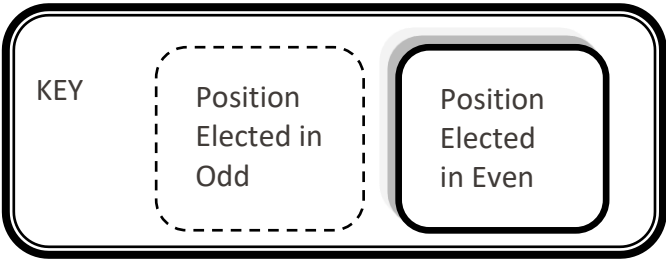
- Attends all Church Council meetings as a voting member
- Attends all congregational meetings
- Is available to the wider church for people to bring issues and ideas to address to Church Council (congreg_rep@friends-ucc.org)
- Responds to special requests made by Church Council
- The outgoing member convenes and chairs the Nominating Committee

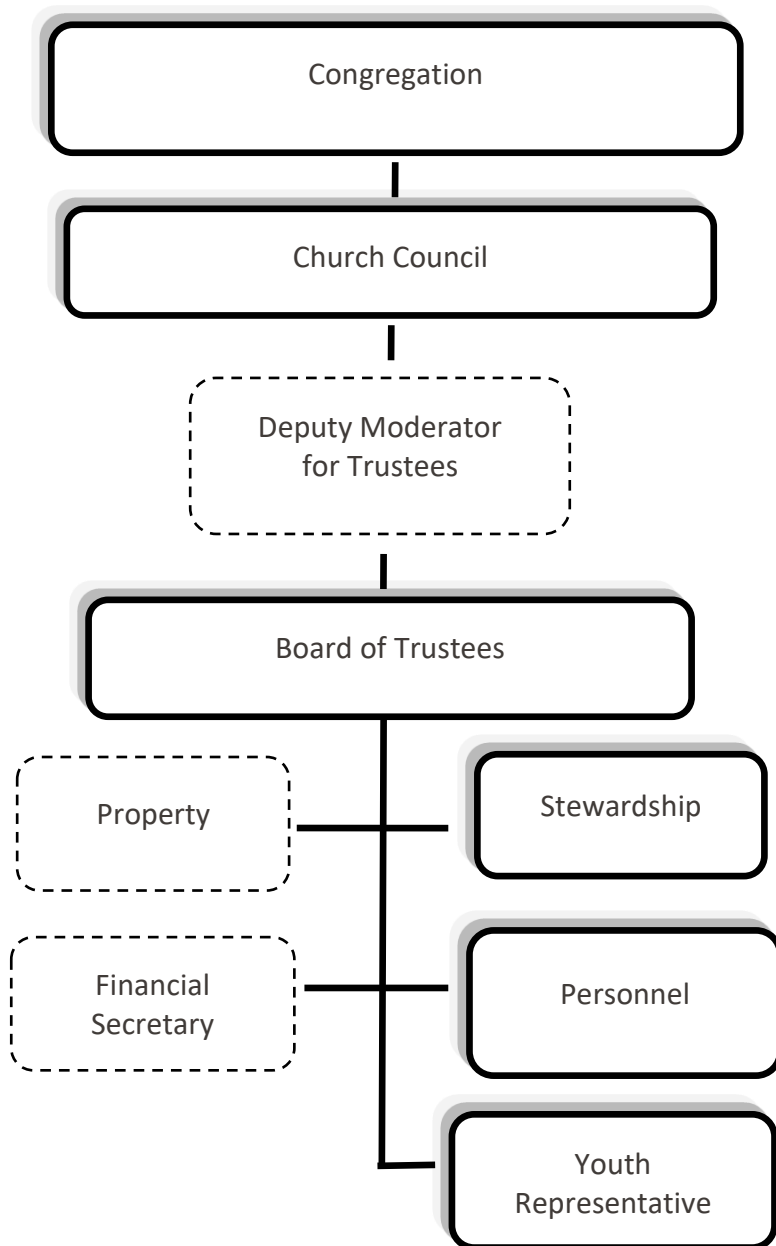
Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees will have oversight over the building and property. The Board of Trustees will submit an Annual Statement of Faith (budget) for approval by the Congregation at a Congregational Meeting.

Position	Contact Information
Deputy Moderator Board of Trustees	trustees@friends-ucc.org
Stewardship Ministry	stewardship@friends-ucc.org
Financial Secretary	fin_sec@friends-ucc.org
Property Ministry	property@friends-ucc.org
Personnel Ministry	personnel@friends-ucc.org
Youth Representative	youth@friends-ucc.org

Flow chart for Board of Trustees on the following page:





Stewardship Ministry

The Stewardship Ministry Chair will coordinate the annual stewardship program, coordinate the Wider Church Offerings, and assist the Treasurer with a proposed Spending Plan to be presented to the Board of Trustees.

Responsibilities

- Coordinate the annual fall stewardship pledge program
- Coordinate the Wider Church Offerings
- Attends all Trustees and Finance Committee meetings.
- Attends Congregational meetings
- Assist the Treasurer with a proposed Spending Plan
- Submits a report to Deputy Moderator of Trustees for monthly Church Council meeting
- Provide a summary of committee activities to Deputy Moderator of Trustees for the Friends Annual Report (due in May)

Financial Secretary

The Financial Secretary will collect, process, and account for all incoming cash transactions; confidentially keep records of pledges and provide semi-annual reports of giving to members and friends of the Congregation.

Responsibilities

- Collects and document offerings after services
- Makes deposits and record electronic offerings
- Reports all deposits to the Treasurer
- Assists with stewardship program
- Prepares annual Statements of Giving
- Attends all Trustees and Congregational meetings
- Responds to special requests made by Church Council
- Provides a summary of activities to Deputy Moderator of Trustees for the Friends Annual Report (due in June)

Property Ministry

The Property Ministry will be responsible for the maintenance and operation of any and all facilities and properties of the Church.

Responsibilities

- Manages existing property related contracts for maintenance and repairs.
- Finds and negotiates new contractors if needed
- Supervises projects and authorizes payments upon completion
- Manages building rentals
- Coordinates fountain cleaning
- Purchases necessary property supplies
- Attends all Trustees and Congregational meetings
- Submits a report to Deputy Moderator of Trustees for monthly Church Council meeting
- Submits articles as needed for newsletters
- Provides a summary of activities to Deputy Moderator of Trustees for the Friends Annual Report (due in June)

When you are here, at church, you are home. Our property and grounds are a focal point for much of our ministry, where worship, spiritual formation, justice, and fellowship all serve to build our beloved community.

Volunteer Opportunities (Contact: property@friends-ucc.org)

- Join the Property Ministry Team
- Assist with exterior or interior building maintenance* (on-call list)
- Assist with grounds and flower bed upkeep* (on-call list)
- Assist with weekly fountain maintenance* (sign-up list)
- Weekly trash can curb placement and return (Mondays, sign-up list)
- Serve as Event Host – stay on site during rental to non-church members* (on-call list)
- Contractor supervision* – stay on site during work projects (on-call list)

*Orientation information is provided

Personnel Ministry

The purpose of the personnel ministry is to oversee matters related to all paid personnel of the church, except the pastor.

Responsibilities

- Makes hiring recommendations to Church Council for positions authorized by Church Council
- Develops and maintains job descriptions for all non-pastoral positions
- Staffs the nursery with paid and volunteer personnel
- Monitors and maintains compliance with childcare systems and policies to insure safety of all children
- Attends all Trustees and Congregational meetings
- Evaluates job performances on an annual basis
- Makes wage/salary recommendations annually to the Stewardship Ministry Chair for consideration in the Statement of Faith and Missions
- Verifies compliance with the UCC anti-harassment policy

Volunteer Opportunities (Contact: personnel@friends-ucc.org)

- Help staff the nursery either during regular services or for special events*

Youth Representative to Board of Trustees

The Youth Representative will provide a youth perspective to all deliberations of the Board of Trustees. (youth@friends-ucc.org)

Responsibilities

- Attends monthly Board of Trustees meetings.
- Serves as a voice for the youth of the Congregation for all deliberations of the Board of Trustees
- Submits a report to Deputy Moderator of Trustees for monthly Church Council meeting
- Provides a summary of committee activities to Deputy Moderator of Trustees for the Friends Annual Report (due in June).

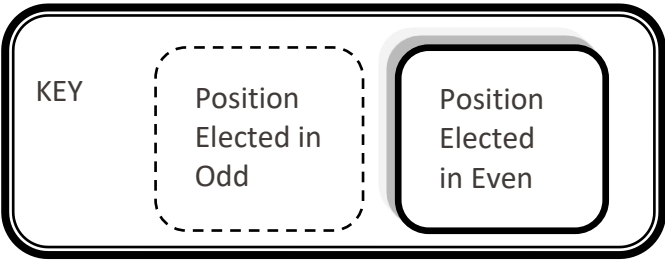
*Orientation information is provided

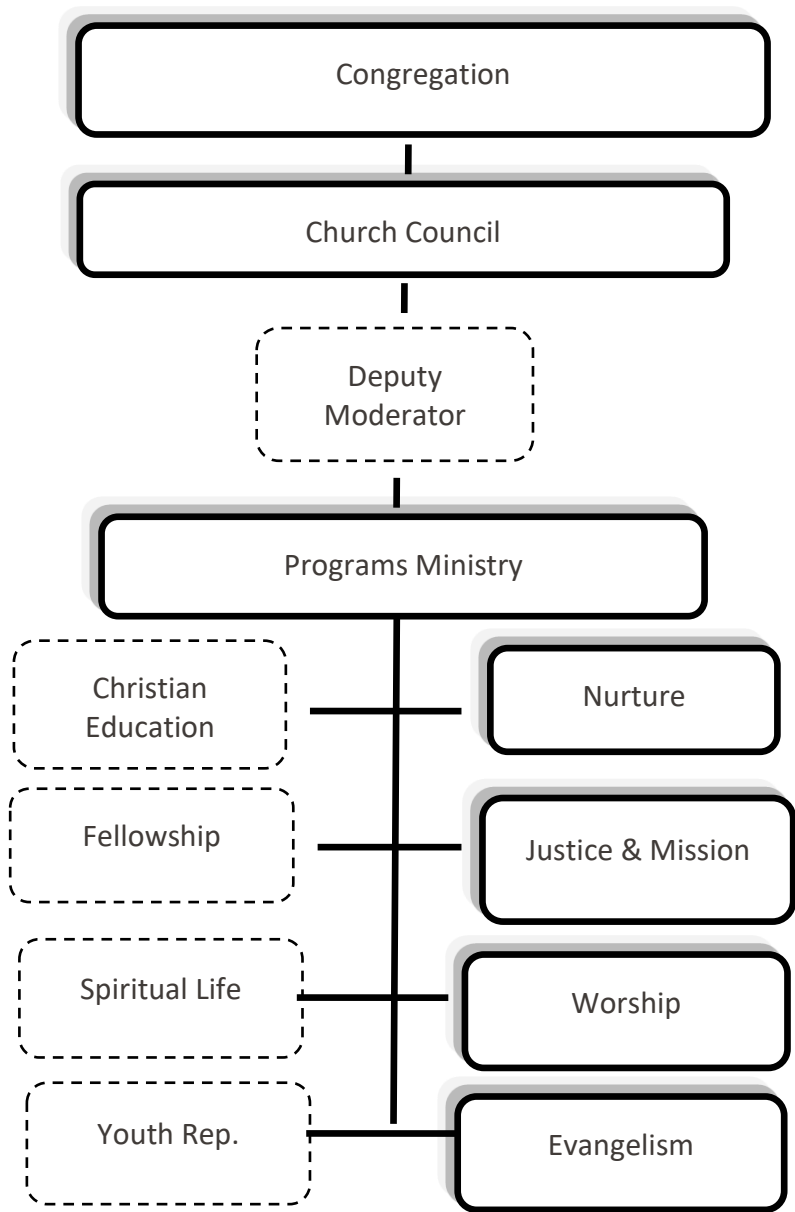
Programs Ministry

The Programs Ministry will serve as the scheduling and coordinating body for the ministry and activity life of the church.

Position	Communication
Deputy Moderator Programs	programs@friends-ucc.org
Christian Education Ministry	christian_ed@friends-ucc.org
Evangelism Ministry	evangelism@friends-ucc.org
Nurture Ministry	nurture@friends-ucc.org
Fellowship Ministry	fellowship@friends-ucc.org
Worship Ministry	worship@friends-ucc.org
Spiritual Life Ministry	spirit_develop@friends-ucc.org
Justice and Mission Ministry	justice-mission@friends-ucc.org
Youth Representative to Programs	youth@friends-ucc.org

Flow chart for Programs Ministry on the following page:





Christian Education Ministry

The Christian Education Ministry Team is responsible for organizing and planning the educational programming and schedule of the church.

Responsibilities

- Coordinates Christian Educational Activities for children and youth.
- Maintains records of children, youth & families who participate in Christian Education Activities.
- Participates in annual Children and Youth events:
 - Christmas Pageant
 - Easter Egg Hunt
 - Confirmation Class
 - Special Offerings
 - Children and Youth Sundays
- Provides information for Friends website and Christian Education brochure as needed.
- Submits information for the monthly newsletter *e-Connection*, and special events to the weekly *Midweek at Friends* email.
- Submits a report to Deputy Moderator of Programs for monthly Church Council meeting.
- Provides a summary of activities to Programs for the Friends Annual Report (due in June).

Volunteer Opportunities (Contact: christian_ed@friends-ucc.org)

- Teach or co-teach a Sunday School class* (no experience necessary!)
- Serve as a substitute teacher (on-call list)
- Participate in annual events such as Christmas Pageant, Easter Egg Hunt, Confirmation Class

*Orientation information is provided

Outreach and Evangelism Ministry

The Outreach and Evangelism Ministry Team will lead and equip the congregation in reaching out to visitors and the community to share in the life of the Church. The Ministry will be responsible for community visibility of the Church. The purpose of the ministry is to develop and coordinate community awareness of Friends Church, as well as, insure adequate welcoming and communications with new members and guests.

Responsibilities

- Assists in updating the Friends Church website
- Sponsors an appeal to Friends Congregation for KAMU radio sponsorship
- Updates Friends Church brochures
- Coordinates changing the message on the church sign
- Submits information for the monthly newsletter *e-Connection*, and special events to the weekly *Midweek at Friends email*
- Submits a report to Deputy Moderator of Programs for monthly Church Council meeting
- Provides a summary of activities to Programs for the Friends Annual Report (due in June)

Volunteer Opportunities (Contact: evangelism@friends-ucc.org)

- Assist with communications and graphic design* (on-call list)
- Change the message on the church sign* (sign-up list)

*Orientation information is provided

Nurture Ministry

The Nurture Ministry will assist and coordinate the care and nurture of Church members and friends of the Congregation.

Responsibilities

- Provides meals to friends in need
- Provides transportation for a variety of situations
- Visits those who are hospitalized or who are place-bound
- Sends cards to commemorate special occasions
- Helps celebrate high school seniors upon their graduation
- Sends notes of appreciation, encouragement, and bereavement
- Collects prayer request cards
- Works with Youth Mission Trips by providing care packages
- Coordinates graduation send-off for high school seniors
- Coordinates Fabulous at Any Age (FAA)
- Oversees Parent of Teens (POT) group
- Assists with Parent of Young Children group
- Submits information for the monthly newsletter *e-Connection*, and special events to the weekly *Midweek at Friends email*
- Submits a report to Deputy Moderator of Programs for monthly Church Council meeting
- Provides a summary of activities to Programs for the Friends Annual Report (due in June)

Volunteer Opportunities (Contact: nurture@friends-ucc.org)

- Provide meals to friends in need (on-call list)
- Provide transportation for a variety of situations
- Visit those who are hospitalized or who are place-bound
- Send cards to commemorate special occasions
- Send notes of appreciation, encouragement, or bereavement

Fellowship Ministry

The Fellowship Ministry will lead, develop, and promote the fellowship life of the Congregation.

Responsibilities

- Monitors and purchases consumables and supply of kitchen items
- Coordinates "Coffee Talk" fellowship
- Coordinates fellowship activities for members and friends including but not limited to:
 - Inquiry Class lunch
 - Leadership Retreat lunch
 - Back to Sunday School Pancake Breakfast
 - Thanksgiving meal
 - Christmas Cantata reception
 - Easter brunch
- Submits information about special events to the weekly email *This Week at Friends*.
- Submits a report to Deputy Moderator of Programs for monthly Church Council meeting
- Provides a summary of activities to Programs for the Friends *Annual* Report (due in June)

Volunteer Opportunities (Contact: fellowship@friends-ucc.org)

- Join the *Coffee Crew* – weekly prep and cleanup of coffee and tea service for worship* (sign-up list)
- Help prepare, provide food and/or clean up for various events: Inquiry Class lunches, Leadership Retreat lunch, Back-to-Sunday School Pancake breakfast, Church BBQ, Thanksgiving meal, Christmas Cantata reception, and Easter Brunch (Sign-up lists)

*Orientation information is provided

Worship Ministry

The Worship Ministry will cooperate with the Pastors in developing worship services for the Congregation and will coordinate with the Personnel Ministry Chair in staffing the Director of Music Ministries position.

Responsibilities

- Coordinates with pastors and director of music for weekly worship and special services
- Prepares and schedules worship space, supplies, and personnel as needed to offer a meaningful, welcoming, and accommodating experience for all
- Submits information about special events to the weekly email *This Week at Friends*.
- Submits a report to Deputy Moderator of Programs for monthly Church Council meeting
- Provides a summary of activities to Programs for the Friends Annual Report (due in June)

Volunteer Opportunities (Contact: worship@friends-ucc.org)

- Join the Worship Ministry Team
- Serve as a greeter* at Sunday morning or special services (sign-up list)
- Serve as Lay Leader* at Sunday morning services (sign-up list)
- Serve as Communion Steward* – set out the elements and remove them after service; invite others to participate in serving (sign-up list)
- Help bake communion bread (sign-up list)
- Help prepare the church for weekly services and clean up after services – bulletins to recycle, replenish chair backs, replace hymnals under chairs
- Help prepare the church for liturgical changes and special occasions (on-call list)
- Assist with changing of the seasonal altar cloths and banners*.
- Assist with bulletin preparation – folding and inserts on Fridays 9-11 am

* Orientation information provided

Spiritual Life Ministry

The Spiritual Life Ministry will assist and coordinate spiritual growth opportunities such as small groups, activities, and literature. Will also work with class volunteer leaders to coordinate adult Sunday School.

Responsibilities

- Coordinates
 - Adult Sunday school: Social Justice and Morning Manna
 - Small group ministry – Soul Friends
 - Labyrinth maintenance
 - Real Life Theology
 - Annual Slumber Falls Retreat - May
 - New Member Inquiry Classes
- Develops seasonal devotionals
- Submits information about special events to the weekly email *This Week at Friends*.
- Submits a report to Deputy Moderator of Programs for monthly Church Council meeting
- Provides a summary of activities to Programs for the Friends Annual Report (due in June)

Volunteer Opportunities (Contact: spirit_develop@friends-ucc.org)

- Join the Spiritual Life Ministry team
- Host or facilitate a Soul Friends small group discussion* (sign-up list)
- Assist with Labyrinth maintenance* (on-call list)
- Participate as a panel member for Inquiry Class* (sign-up list)
- Contribute to the seasonal devotionals* (sign-up list)
- Assist with the development of the annual Slumber Falls Camp Retreat planning*
- Facilitate Adult Sunday school discussions*

* Orientation information provided

Justice and Mission Ministry

The Justice and Mission Ministry oversees the local outreach programs of the church by creating awareness of and responding to social justice issues current in the community or identified by the UCC as worthy of congregational action, fosters congregational awareness of global justice issues and the mission activities of the UCC, and encourages a fuller commitment of self and substance to God's purposes for the well-being of humanity and creation.

Responsibilities

- Works with special programs as determined by the committee & congregation
- Coordinates Weekly or Biweekly
 - Weekly delivery of bread donations from Blue Baker to Brazos Church Pantry
 - Biweekly Church Recycling steward
- Coordinates Monthly
 - Volunteering at the Brazos Church Pantry
 - Pilgrims in the Park
- Coordinates Quarterly
 - Hosting Family Promise - provide food and companionship
- Coordinates Annually
 - Bryan College Station Crop Walk (October)
 - Festival of Giving (Advent)
 - Angel Tree (Christmas)
 - Mission Kits for Back Bay Mission (Spring)
- Faith Inclusion and Disability Awareness Team
- Brazos Sanctuary Coalition Project
- Brazos Interfaith Immigration Network (BIIN) funding and volunteering
- Sustainability Team
- Crockett School Support Team to plan and coordinate support activities for staff, faculty and students
- Submits information about special events to the weekly email *This Week at Friends*.
- Submits a report to Deputy Moderator of Programs for monthly Church Council meeting

- Provides a summary of activities to Programs for the Friends Annual Report (due in June)

Volunteer Opportunities (Contact: justice-mission@friends-ucc.org)

On-going opportunities to join:

- Justice and Mission ministry team
- Faith Inclusion and Disability Awareness team
- Brazos Sanctuary Coalition Project team
- Sustainability team
- Crockett School Support Team to plan and coordinate support activities for staff, faculty and students

Regularly Scheduled or Occasional Opportunities

- Provide food or host duties for Family Promise* (sign-up list)
- Serve as a recycling steward* (sign-up list)
- Participate in the Monthly Pilgrims in the Park Potluck*
- Brazos Church Pantry* (sign-up list)
- Become a tutor for citizenship and/or English classes with BIIN School* (sign-up list)

Watch for opportunities to participate in Annual events:

- Bryan College Station Crop Walk (October)
- Festival of Giving (Advent)
- Angel Tree (Christmas)
- Mission Kits for Back Bay Mission (spring)

* Orientation information provided

Youth Representative to Programs

The Youth Representative will provide a youth perspective to all deliberations of the Programs Ministry.

Responsibilities

- Attends scheduled Programs Ministry meetings
- Serves as a voice for the youth of the Congregation for all aspects of the Programs Ministry
- Submits a report to Deputy Moderator of Programs for monthly Church Council meeting
- Provides a summary of activities to Programs for the Friends Annual Report (due in June)

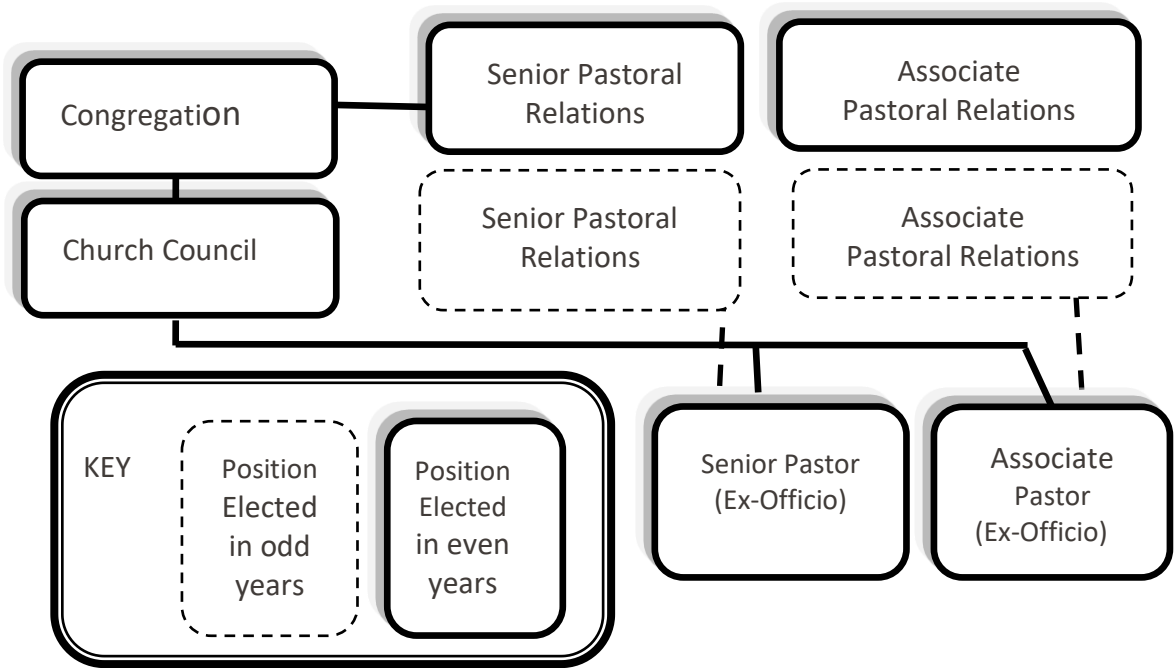
Volunteer Opportunities (Contact sponsor: YouthGroup@friends-ucc.org)

- Join the Youth Ministry team
- Assist with activities at weekly Sunday Youth Group gatherings
- Offer to lead a discussion in Youth Sunday School on Sunday mornings
- Provide the meal on a Sunday evening (sign-up list)
- Host a youth activity at your home (sign-up list)
- Lead a discussion or activity on a topic special to you (sign-up list)
- Chaperone an event (sign-up list)
- Accompany youth on annual mission trips
- Coordinate or assist with fundraiser (sign-up list)
- Host Parents of Teens (POT) event

Pastoral Relations

The Pastoral Relations Ministry teams exist to support, assist, and evaluate the Pastor and Associate Pastor

Senior Pastoral Relations Ministry Pastorate Team	Associate Pastoral Relations Ministry Pastorate Team
<u>Terms</u> – There are four members. Two will be appointed by the Church Council and two elected by the Congregation. The term of office for members is two years with one appointed and one elected member taking office each year.	<u>Terms</u> – There are four members. Two will be appointed by the Church Council and two elected by the Congregation. The term of office for members is two years with one appointed and one elected member taking office each year.



Senior Pastoral Relations Team

The Senior Pastoral Relations Ministry Pastorate Team will serve as an advocate of the ministry and as a confidant of the Senior Pastor so as to anticipate and resolve problems that might arise as well as work with the Senior Pastor to permit that individual to grow and mature with the Congregation. Meetings will occur at least quarterly or as determined by Team. Meetings are closed due to the sensitive nature of information discussed.

Responsibilities

- Assesses the Senior Pastoral Call Agreement at the end of the first year of service and every three years at minimum thereafter. This is a study and review of:
 - the Church priorities regarding its program and administrative goals
 - the Senior Pastor's relationship with the congregation
 - the stated goals in the position description for the effectiveness of mutual ministry

Associate Pastoral Relations Team

The Associate Pastoral Relations Ministry Pastorate Team will serve as an advocate of the ministry and as a confidant of the Associate Pastor so as to anticipate and resolve problems that might arise as well as work with the Associate Pastor to permit that individual to grow and mature with the Congregation. Meetings will occur at least quarterly or as determined by Team. Meetings are closed due to the sensitive nature of information discussed.

Responsibilities

- Assesses the Associate Pastoral Call Agreement at the end of the first year of service and every three years at minimum thereafter. This is a study and review of:
 - the Church priorities regarding its program and administrative goals
 - the Associate Pastor's relationship with the congregation
 - the stated goals in the position description for the effectiveness of mutual ministry

Notes

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FRIENDS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Our Vision:

Rooted in the way of Christ, we strive to be a community of God's radical inclusion and extravagant welcome.

Our Mission:

United by the example of Jesus, we live faithfully, love limitlessly, and serve boldly.

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 9:00am & 11:00am

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 10:00am

FRIENDS CHURCH STAFF

Rev. Dr. Dan De Leon, *Senior Pastor*; Rev Trent Williams, *Associate Pastor*; Chris Hoffman, *Director of Music Ministries*; Michael Rangel, *Administrative Assistant*; Morgan Leopold, *Childcare*; Diego Rodriguez, *AV Tech*.

2200 Southwood Drive | College Station | Texas 77845 | 979.693.7021

info@friends-ucc.org