Array of Universes In Which We Make Decisions In Our Churches
The Triune God
Our United Methodist Denomination

The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church
Structure and Persons Appointed

- Local church pastor
- District Superintendent
- District Board of Church Location and Building
- Your charge conference
- Your church Board of Trustees
The Trust Clause

Paragraph 2501 of the *Discipline*
The Civil Law

• Statutory law
• The “common law”
Get Legal Help

Preferably from someone who knows about churches
Use of Your Building

• Do you have a policy for outside groups using your building?
• Who is responsible for establishing that policy?
• Who is responsible for enforcing that policy?
• What are the considerations?
Mission Alignment

• What is the mission of your church?
• What is the type of the other entity that wants to use your building? What is their “mission”?  
• How will this help other people see your church?  
• How will other people see your church?
Types of Groups

- Related Groups
- Recovery Groups
- Community Groups
- For-Profit Enterprises
What Kind of Agreements to You Want to Use?

- Lease
- Agreement for Use or a License
Requirements of the *Discipline*

- What do you want in your agreement?
- What do you do about your Safe Sanctuaries Policy?
Requirements of Civil Law
What is the Effect of Allowing Another Entity to Use Your Building

- Income tax exemption
- Real estate tax exemption
Exemption From Real Estate Tax
After All These Considerations

Does this agreement for the use of your building fit with the mission of your church?
INSURANCE – WHAT DO YOU NEED?

• Comprehensive General Liability
• Building
• Employment practices?
Comprehensive General Liability

- General liability
- Automobile liability
- Physical and sexual abuse
- Experience with churches
Building

• What does it cover?
• What will it replace?
Employment Practices
What is a “Claim”? 
Who at Your Church has Responsibility

• For review
• For contacting the agent