

Board Leadership 101:

An Introduction To The Basics

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Introduction

1.1 WELCOME & INTRODUCTION

- Effective leadership and governance can raise the bar for everything that happens in a church, while ineffective leadership and governance can depress it.

1.2 WHY BOTHER WITH THIS TOPIC?

- We are called to lead diligently!
 - Romans 12:8:
- leadership is a specific gift and ministry, but it has the potential to catalyze and make more effective all the other gifts and ministries of a church
- all churches have Boards of some sort, and yet few Board members have been trained in Board leadership

- the long-term health of a local church is closely tied to the effectiveness and health of its senior lay leadership

- People are asking for increased accountability and effectiveness in all our organizations, whether government, business, non-profits, or churches. The expectations are higher

1.3 THREE THINGS TO REMEMBER

- 1. Church Boards are _____
 - not a _____. But we can learn to be focused on achieving our bottom-line.

 - not a _____. But we can learn how to involve stakeholders.

 - Key difference: the “congregation”!

- the people who “own & govern” the organization are also some of its “customers”

- take learnings from where we can; all truth is God’s truth

- **2. There is no “_____” for Board governance that works in every church.**
 - your congregation’s size
 - In a larger congregation, there is too much ministry to be managed by just a few people, so you need to divide things up and you have more staff that need clear lines of accountability, and so the Board’s role shifts towards governance and higher-level leadership, and shifts away from coordinating ministry. We’ll talk more about this later.

 - the gift-mix of the Lead/Senior Minister
 - The Board’s way of operating and the senior staff person’s gift-mix need to be in synch. If the congregation calls a pastor with a high leadership gifting but then the Board doesn’t let him or her lead, then they’re not in synch. Conversely, if the senior pastor has high gifting in other areas but not in leadership, there’s no point trying to govern as if he or she is gifted in leadership
 - The Board and the senior staff leadership of a church are in a symbiotic relationship, and so you can’t look at one without looking at the other. It’s a dance.

- **3. The only real “mistake” to make in Board governance is to not have an _____ of operating for the current time**

1.4 GOALS OF THIS SEMINAR

- 1. become aware of, and articulate, the values and processes through which your Board governs.
- 2. assess your governance approach to see if it's appropriate and effective for your context
- 3. consider aspects that need change or improvement or strengthening, and make initial plans to begin this process

1.5 PROCESS: HOW WE'LL APPROACH THE TOPIC

- Asking questions
- An attitude of exploration and openness
- Apply as you go, but don't aim for perfection
 - For each topic, as you discuss, find out what you agree on, and write it down, and then write down the areas for which you don't have agreement and which will need further discussion
 - The reason it's important to write down EVERYTHING – both areas of agreement as well as disagreement – is so that future Board members can become a part of the conversation.
 - avoid the "GREAT NOTES ON A SHELF SYNDROME"

1.6 OVERVIEW OF THE SEMINAR

- 1. Board Roles
- 2. Core Issues & Questions in Leading/Governing
- 3..Secondary Issues: Towards More Effective Functioning
- 4. “The Vision Thing”

1.7 YOUR TURN

- First answer as individuals, without talking to each other, and then later come together to talk about your responses

- Questions
 - What areas of our Board’s functioning are going well?
 - What areas of our Board’s functioning are not going well and need some improvement?
 - Does our Board have an agreed-upon and transparent way of operating?
 - Does our Board’s role fit with the kind of church WE have and the gift-mix of our senior staff leadership?
 - What are we hoping to get out of this seminar?