

Steve's Journal for April 17, 2007
CHMN 760 Advanced Leadership
Skip Bell: Professor
Andrews University

Bro. Skip, the presentation you made on Making Meetings Matter was quite helpful. I took your group norms and ministry job description for the church board as substantial material for processing the spiritual development of the church board members in fellowship and primarily focusing upon the mission of the church. I wonder if processing the group norms and ministry job description process will work as easily in the later years of my ministry at the church or if this works best on the front end of coming to an organization?

The format you suggested for church board agendas has been followed by me with re: to the mission reports, but needs tweaking. I will begin to give a pastor's report at the beginning of the church board. I have felt for some time the need for that accountability. Also, that will model accountability for the elders and other department leaders. We do leave minor issues to later, but usually have sub-committees that deal with these issues before they come to the church board.

We have used the format of agenda that the Oregon Conference used some years ago as I participated on the executive committee. Your suggestions have been very helpful.

The issue of conflict in ministry has several tributaries of direction. I have several folks after 10 years who have challenged on issues, some resolved and some unresolved. Basically, disagreement over Bible versions, music in church worship, and leadership in the Community Services Center. Trust is the major issue with these folks. One antagonist has reinvested in bigger issues down at Southern Adventist University. Another continues to pursue his own course, adamantly opposed to Bible study in any other version except the King James. The 3rd party has pursued healing with me. In fact, we were blessed to go visiting as elders last Friday, serving communion to shut-in members together.

I am tempted to pursue Charles Brown and his creative ministry to resolve conflict like the Peacemaker's Ministry. I'd like to have my wife join me in the Sept.20-22 Peacemaker's conference in Charlotte, NC.

I might suggest the possibility of Charles making a presentation in the future. He has done this for us regionally at GCC.

The toughest part of resolution is when members challenge you as pastor in not resolving conflict, but have already established a lawsuit against the conference and church. Then, the conference is compelled to counsel the pastor and church to no longer communicate with the members who have carved together a lawsuit. That challenge still haunts me.