

Skip Bell, Presentation
Making Meetings Matter
CHMN 760 Advanced Leadership
April 17, 2007

Some people say that the way to success in the church is to get rid of committees.

Don't agree: they provide for inclusion, gathering, communication, etc.

Roberta Hestenes' booklet: *Transitioning from Committee to Community*

Move to worship, nurture, Bible study, prayer = small group

The committee that all of us experience is the church board.

Let's talk about an agenda for the church board.

Devotion/Prayer
Minutes
Treasurer
Membership transfers
Old Business
New Business

Let's re-think how we could do a church board agenda

Agenda for the board should be mailed a week ahead of time with support materials and minutes.

And you're not sitting at a spot shuffling papers.

You go around express interest in their lives, mixing with people.

Other-person centered: go early and greet people.

Instead of a 5-minute devotion and prayer, make a significant spiritual reflection.

Studying for instance thru the book of Acts or Patriarchs and Prophets

I would much rather have 20-30 minutes of prayer and devotion, rather than get to the business.

After devotion and prayer, then the pastor's report.

The key opportunity is to not simply describe new sermons and hospital visits and Bible studies, but should have a report in a 1-2 page document.

Pass that out and let folks send it around—creates an environment of accountability.

You want to be able to model accountability.

Instead, you have selected 2-3 stories that powerfully convey the vision of the church.

Dean Hunt did this at Shenandoah Valley Academy, by telling 2-3 stories.

Story of a faculty member, life change of a student on a mission trip, etc.==aha! this is why we do SDA education.

Doris: on Sabbath the couple that Doris had been studying with, came forward and I've begun preparing them for baptism.

One member: Isn't Doris rather new to be giving Bible studies themselves.

Somebody else jumped in immediately, to share their stories.

Some things that are included on pastor's report:

- New sermon preparation
- Member home visits
- Hospital visits
- Bible studies near the top

Next thing: Mission Report—

- New baptisms
- Incorporating new members (keep new members before the people)
- Evangelistic plans

Do not take to your church board asking them to vote for approval those for baptism

Instead, describe Jerry Smith and wife Sally, then, others

Reason: we are a world church; so we need to be careful about establishing boundaries and criteria for baptism

Then, minutes, etc.

Do finance committee near the last...

Spend the first 30 minutes in church board about the mission of the church.

Two things you can do to move boards forward.

1. Ministry job description
2. Group Norms

Let's stop and think about why we exist.

Let's ask a small group about why we exist.

Then, let's ask as group to write a ministry/job description of this church board.

Give them a format...

1. Ministry summary
2. Responsibilities
3. Authority
4. Resources: finances, gifts of membership, membership, identification
5. Membership

Let's establish group norms...

Think and bring back...