



# Portrait of a Board Member

## Dispelling Myths

- Deacons are representatives of the people.
- Deacons are the “loyal opposition.”
- Deacons only serve tables.
- Deacons should be popular and always be the most influential members of the church.

# True Qualifications

Acts 6:1-6

*Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables.*

***"Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."***

# True Qualifications

1 Timothy 3:8-10, 12-13

*Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless. Likewise their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

# True Qualifications

- Personal Qualities
- Family Qualities
- Relational Qualities
- Spiritual Qualities

Pastors and Deacons have different responsibilities:

Pastors are responsible to

1. Teach the Word
2. Care for the Flock
3. Lead the Congregation

Deacons are responsible to

1. Serve and Minister to the Congregation
2. Give Counsel to the Pastor
3. Provide Accountability

**Ultimately – both Deacons  
and Pastors are spiritually  
qualified servants in and of  
the church.**



# Portrait of a Pastor

“Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers.” - Ephesians 4:11

**CONTAGIOUS  
PASSION**



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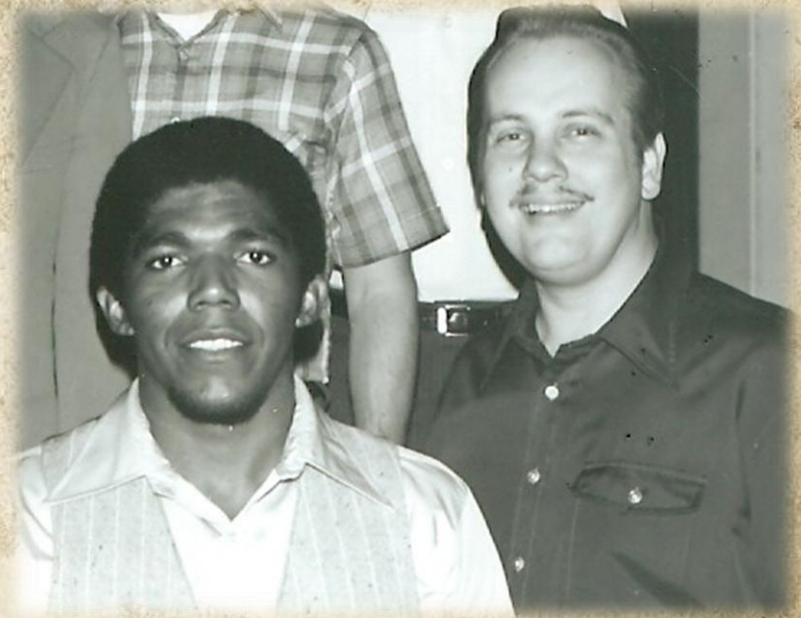
**HEALING  
CONFRONTATION**



# Portrait of a Pastor

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**THE POWER OF  
THE WORD TO  
CHANGE**



# Portrait of a Pastor

“Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers.” - Ephesians 4:11

**CONSISTENCY  
PRODUCES  
GODLY RESULTS**



# Portrait of a Pastor

Because of the gift these men have been to me I am able to model:

- Contagious
- Confrontation
- Change
- Consistency





# Portrait of a Functioning Board

There are many different types of Boards:

Boards of Reference

Administrative Boards

Boards of Directors

Trustee Boards, and more.

Each type has unique roles and responsibilities.

Church Boards function differently from other types of Boards.

Those with experience in one type of Board will not always be familiar with the unique roles and responsibilities of a Church Board.

Boards should seek “church specific” training to assist them.

Failure to learn proper roles can lead to misunderstandings...

Not all Church Boards have a good understanding of their function.



Pastor Bob became concerned when a Board Member said, "I'll see you tonight at Tribal Council."

# General Principles

## • The Board is ONE

- The Board is **not** a Coalition of individuals serving their own interests,
- The Board **is** a Collective of individuals working in harmony for the community.
- The **Trinity** is a good model of Board function

## • The Board is not Boss

- The Board governs rather than directs
- The Board does have an accountability function, but does not become the boss over ministries and operations of the church.

# Portrait of a Functioning Board

The overall duty of the Church Board is:

***“To ensure that the Mission of the Church is fulfilled, now and into the future.”***

The Board does not represent

**people,**

**programs, or the**

**past.**

**The Board represents the MISSION of the Church.**

# Major Responsibilities

## 1. To assist the Pastor in ministry matters

- Prayer
- Ordinances: Communion & Baptism
- Advise the Pastor on ministry issues
- Support ministries and programs of the church
- Engage in ministry to members
- Empower the Pastor to lead the Church

Churches naturally become inward focused over time. Congregational pressure will always favor “members” over “mission.” The Board needs to assist and empower the pastor to keep mission primary.

# **Major Responsibilities**

## **2. To ensure that the Church observes Biblical standards**

- Approve and Discipline Membership**
- Establish Policies to govern ministries and activities**

# Major Responsibilities

## 3. To ensure compliance with government regulations

### – Federal, state, and local laws

- Non-Profit finances and accounting
- Payroll taxes “Do not mess with the IRS.”
- Employer/Employee laws
- Facility regulations

### – Church Bylaws

### – District and General Council Bylaws

# Major Responsibilities

## 4. To fulfill fiduciary requirements

### – Establish financial policies & procedures

- Offerings and accounting
- Spending authorization

### – Review financial reports

- Income/Expense/Budget
- Balance Sheet

### – Make specific financial decisions

- Approve salaries
- Approve annual budget
- Approve major expenditures
- Plan for future growth and future expenditures

Deacon Bill devised a unique solution to the church's budget problems.

*"Since we can't afford to raise your salary, Pastor, please feel free to cut your sermons in half."*

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Take care  
of your  
pastor,  
and your  
pastor will  
take care  
of you.

# 6 Keys to Effective Board Function

## 1. Follow your bylaws to the letter

- “Change your practice or change your bylaws.”
- It’s recommended that you review and update your bylaws every 10 years. The District provides a recommended version that is easy to adopt.

## 2. Keep good minutes

- “No minutes, no meeting”
- “The faintest ink is more reliable than the surest memory.”

# 6 Keys to Effective Board Function

## 3. Make decisions as a group

- Listen respectfully to every person
- Affirm and welcome opposite ideas and opinions
- But don't paralyze the Board by requiring unanimous votes

## 4. Always ask, “Are we effectively fulfilling our mission?”

- Don't let “Our Members” become the mission. An inward focus will eventually kill the church.
- Don't idolize programs. “Pet programs” that are ineffective drain congregational resources from more effective use.
- Empower the Pastor to make difficult decisions

# 6 Keys to Effective Board Function

## 5. Manage conflict

- Conflict is inevitable
- Some conflict is good
- Some conflict is destructive
- Boards need to learn to manage conflict in healthy ways

## 6. Handle complaints according to Matt 18

- “Go to them.” The principle of Direct Conversation.
- “Take a brother.” The principle of Accountability.
- Find a way to make Matt 18 happen.
- One way is to say, *“I can’t help you with this problem, you need to talk to the Pastor, I will ask him to give you a call.”*

# Portraits

