

5 Elements of a Best Practice Board Meeting

The Win

Healthy board meetings build unity and momentum.

1 Clear demarcation between governance and operational matters

Boards suffer when they stray from operational matters and begin delving into operational matters that are best left to staff and volunteers. For instance, discussing Sunday service sound levels is best left to people involved with that area rather than bringing it into the governance level of the church.

2 Delegate staff supervision to pastor

Board members should never have direct supervisory roles of staff. Supervision should be left in the workplace and done by the staff member's immediate supervisor.

3 Finish time that is honoured

Board meetings should never go overtime. Decision fatigue kicks in after a couple of hours and boards can make bad decisions by extending their meeting for unhealthy lengths of time.

4 Policy based governance

[The Carver Governance model](#) is superb for churches. It is a policy based governance model and is worth the investment of time and energy to investigate this model. It clearly defines the role, function and operation of a best practice board and I highly recommend it.

5 Care of the pastor and their family

A primary role of the board is the care of the pastor and their family. To help initiate this I recommend that the pastor's spouse be invited to a board meeting twice a year and these 6 questions be used as a launch pad for a candid discussion about the board's care of their pastor and family.

1. How are you really doing?
2. What's one thing we could do that would bring greater satisfaction to you in your ministry?
3. How well are we providing for your financial needs?
4. Do you feel like this is a good place for your spouse and children?
5. What are we doing that makes your ministry and life difficult?
6. What part of your work is energy producing and life giving?