

To be effective in both governance and ministry the congregation needs:

- 1) **A unified structure for making governance decisions.** The governing board represents the membership by articulating mission and vision, evaluating programs, and ensuring responsible stewardship of resources.
- 2) **A unified structure for making ministry decisions.** Program leaders (paid and unpaid) work to create effective programs with the support of a structure that delegates authority and requires accountability.
- 3) **A firm and well-marked boundary,** with active mutual communication and accountability, between governance and ministry.

These criteria will foster a creative open style of ministry, where members can take advantage of many opportunities to share their talents and interests in an atmosphere of trust and creativity, and in which structure, goals and purposes are clear.

Governance = Council responsibilities:

articulation the mission,
selecting a strategy for getting there,
making sure it happens,
and ensuring that people and property are protected against harm.

Ministry = everything else.

The daily practical work of the congregation.

Primary measure of success = the degree to which the mission is advanced or achieved.

What is the mission? To Change Human Lives.

The question to be answered is: whose lives do we intend to change and in what way(s)?

Vision: how we will do this.

To become a mission setting...strategy selecting...success measuring...body the church council is best limited to 6-8 people.

My suggestion: a six-person Council: Chair of Deacons, Chair of Trustees, Clerk + three at-large members elected by the congregation. The chair and co-chair come from the 3 at large members. These three members understand that their role is to learn about the workings of the Council and its history their first year...become co-chair in the 2nd year and chair in the 3rd.

Moderator: chosen from the congregation based on their perceived respect and leadership within the congregation as well as whatever skills the church may need at any given time.

The chief responsibilities of the moderator: to develop the agenda in cooperation with pastor(s), deacons, trustees etc. in preparation for the church annual meeting(s); to preside at i.e. to coordinate and facilitate such meetings in an orderly, efficient manner; and to clarify matters for action. In addition, the moderator helps members stay informed and involved in church business and endeavors to know the spirit and mood of the congregation.

Primary Functions:

- Maintain the spirit of Christian love and fellowship while presiding by conducting meeting in an orderly manner.
- Be familiar with prescribed parliamentary procedures.
- Insist that motions be stated and seconded before they are discussed.
- Call on the person who made the motion to discuss it first.
- Encourage full and free debate. Lead member to talk through their disagreements.
- Alternate discussions so as to bring out both sides of a question.
- Allow members who have not spoken to be given preference over one who has.
Be fair and courteous with all.
- Respect the minority who has a right to be heard, even though the majority must prevail.
- Always take the affirmative vote first, then the negative vote – and always take and record the results.