

## The Harvest Is Plentiful But The Workers Are Few

MATTHEW 9:37

These are the words Jesus spoke when He saw the great need of the people to whom He was ministering. They can be understood as words of lament, or words of challenge. I see them as a challenge.

They are words that have become something of a personal ministry motto for me. They speak powerfully to the way in which I feel God has equipped me to pastor. I realize I can't do it alone. There's too much to do, and too little time. And I'm not equipped to do it all.

Paul's teaching in Ephesians is the heart of my pastoral style...I believe the Pastor called to **"the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry for the edifying of the body of Christ."** Ephesians 4:12

This implies that "the saints" do the work of ministry so that the body is edified. The Pastor's role is to "perfect" the saints! This means to train, equip and support the people of God in their various ministries, as God has given them to each person. Romans 12:3-8

As Board Members, you too have a job to do in administering the resources of this assembly so that the work of the ministry goes ahead in the power of God.

**Take your job seriously, and do it with all your hearts!**

### *Some Practical Matters of Procedure*

The Place to discuss Board matters is in Board meetings. Only occasionally will an issue be pressing enough to warrant a major decision outside of a scheduled meeting. Otherwise, it is expected that Board discussions will take place in Board meetings.

Items to be discussed at Board meetings will be placed on the Agenda prior to the meeting. Agendas will be printed and distributed the Sunday before the meeting. Whenever a matter may require extensive discussion or significant expense, it would be well to have it outlined in writing, and presented as a "Proposal" or "Discussion Item", printed and distributed ahead of time with the Agenda. Issues relating to "ministry" or church members should be brought to the Board.

New items arising within a Meeting, not on the Agenda, will be considered only as deemed appropriate by the Chairman, and with the consent of all present. Otherwise, it will be placed on the Agenda of the next scheduled Meeting.

Decisions of the Board will be made on a "consensus" basis rather than by "vote." If, indeed, all are "in step" with the Spirit, there will be agreement, even though various point of view may exist. Issues that are not resolved in unanimity will be given ample discussion or even tabled until a later time for a final decision.

No member has the luxury of expressing to someone outside the Board their own point of view, if it differs from the consensus decision of the Board. The place to express these opinions is in the Meeting. Decisions made at Board Meetings will be considered final and will remain so unless brought back for further discussion and adjustment at a later meeting.

**"Let all things be done decently, and in order."**

**1 Corinthians 14:40**

## What I Expect of My Board



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# What I Expect of My Board

## **1. I expect you to be a people of prayer.**

Ministry can only function in an atmosphere of prayer. Problems are solved by prayer. Personality conflict issues are dealt with in prayer. God speaks and guides through prayer. Corporate prayer needs to be coupled with private prayer.

## **2. I expect you to be a people of faith.**

Not presumptuous. Not wishful thinkers. But people who are in touch with the direction God wants to take His church and are willing to step out in obedience to His voice. Leadership requires boldness and courage.

## **3. I expect you to be leaders.**

It's not enough to manage the *status quo* or preserve our pet interests. Together, we're to chart the course. We're to take the church to new heights. Together, we're to inspire a following.

## **4. I expect you to deal with any unresolved conflict immediately.**

Jesus clearly stated the procedures for dealing with personality issues. Board members can't have lingering tension or misunderstandings among themselves or with anybody else.

## **5. I expect confidentiality.**

Pastors and boards can't work together without confidentiality. A lack of confidentiality destroys openness and honesty in meetings. It means people are afraid to say what needs to be said in the context of a meeting for fear of being quoted outside the meeting, where it could be misunderstood and misrepresented. Just as my wife is not aware of what happens in board meetings, so deacons' spouses have no right to know boardroom discussion.

## **6. I expect you to be a team player.**

Too many Canadian churches have adopted the model of the Canadian parliament, where the party that loses the election is called "the loyal opposition" and sees its function as frustrating the government. Church boards are not the opposition; they are members of the same team. We're to co-operate to get the job done.

## **7. I expect you to express opinions.**

Board members who never say anything in meetings worry me. I've learned that deacons who are silent in meetings tend to cause problems later. If there is a sensitive issue, I expect all deacons to declare themselves.

## **8. I expect you to protect me.**

There's no way I can know everything that's happening in the congregation. Board members hear things that I don't. I

expect board members to practice tough love and to tell me the truth lovingly. I expect board members to protect me from presumptuous decision-making, from extremism in theological positions and from dangerous financial practices.

## **9. I expect your friendship.**

There's no way I can be a personal friend with everyone in the church, but I do feel I have the right to expect the personal friendship of board members.



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