

Board Member Orientation

Board orientation is motivated by the desire that all board members begin their service with a common understanding as to the role and responsibilities of the board. It is not assumed that just because an individual is elected or appointed to the board, there is clarity and understanding. Although in the recruitment process an effort is usually made to explain important issues to potential candidates, this level of instruction cannot pass for effective orientation. It is for this reason that a concerted effort should be made to educate and inform all new board members and to ensure that there is a common point of entry for those coming into service.

It is also noted that many boards include not only new members but also continuing members in the orientation effort. Such an approach serves a regular, intentional effort to review and reinforce the fundamentals of board service.

Orientation Issues

- Spiritual Leadership
- Covenant (Church/Board)
- Governance Philosophy
- Documents – Defining, Directional, Operational
- Development Plan
- Monitoring Protocols
- Meeting Overview
- Issues: Ongoing, Pending

Orientation Documents

Defining Documents

Statement of Faith
Values
Mission

Directional Documents

Constitution
Policies
Strategic Plan

Operational Documents

Job Descriptions
Procedures
Handbooks
Assessment Formats – Board Self-Assessment, Pastor Performance Review