

Tone Setter

The Chair Sets the Tone for the Rest of the Board



Church Board Chair
Discussion Sheet

Evangelical Missionary
Church of Canada
Following Jesus Together
emcc.ca

Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task. Now the overseer is to be above reproach... (1 Timothy 3:1ff).

Whoever aspires. To aspire means - to set one's heart on something. Literally, in the original language of the Scriptures, to aspire means - to stretch one's self out. Serving on the board of a local church can truly be a stretching experience, at times. Serving in church will require sacrifice. As we serve the church, we are reminded that Jesus stretched himself out on the cross for His church. We gladly do the same.

Desires a noble task. The words "noble task" are not common today. In the original language, these words are more accurately translated: beautiful or valuable privilege.

Be above reproach. To be above reproach does not mean perfect or sinless but rather one who is not open to blame based on actions and appearances. One who is morally careful and responsible. The New Testament consistently speaks more to the character of a leader than to the role of that leader.

1. Your Example as Chair:

Keep a close watch on how you live and, on your teaching. (1 Timothy 4:16).

In what areas should the Chair be setting an example?

The most important contribution a leader gives is his/her personal holiness. *(Glenn Daman)*
See... wayofjesus.ca

2. Your Influence as Chair:

Church board chairs have influence over 3 groups: fellow board members, pastors and church members. When, where and how do/should Chairs assert their influence? For good or not so good.

3. Your Awareness as Chair:

Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers (Acts 20:28).

- a. Know what you're getting into. See "Becoming Chair" Resource.
- b. Know yourself. How does your personality, tendencies, biases influence the board?
- c. Know your role as Chair. What is your primary role as Chair? Do you have a job description?
- d. Know your limits. Generally speaking, the Chair only has authority that has been delegated to him/her. It is the church board as a whole that has the authority, duty and responsibility to govern. The Chair has no special or extra authority in the church or over the pastor. When might Chairs overstep?
- e. Know who is responsible. Do your board(s) & pastor(s) know who is responsible for what?
- f. Know your board members. Spend time getting to know and discovering each member's value.
- g. Know your pastor(s). How well do you know your pastor? How are you fostering that relationship?
- h. Know your church. Become familiar with your church's history, context and influencers.
- i. Know your policies and procedures. When was the last time you reviewed/updated them?
- j. Know where your board needs to improve. Can you identify potential or existing board function problems? What could you do to address these?