
GROWTH POINTS

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Profile of an Ideal Board Member

Church boards play a vital role in guiding the spiritual and operational direction of a congregation. The effectiveness of a church board hinges not only on strategic decisions but also on the quality and character of its members.

What makes an ideal board member?

Let's explore the essential qualities that contribute to a thriving, Christ-centered board.

1. Character: The Foundation of Leadership

Character is the bedrock of a board member's effectiveness. The Apostle Paul provides clear guidance in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1, outlining the moral and spiritual standards required for church leadership.

An ideal board member prioritizes God's will over personal ambition, maintaining a consistent prayer life that fuels their service. Honesty, openness, and a commitment to excellence define their approach to responsibilities. Critical thinking, balanced by humility, enables them to address issues without being judgmental.

Ultimately, faith in God's work through the board's decisions keeps their focus on divine outcomes rather than human agendas.

2. Beliefs: Alignment with the Church's Mission

An ideal board member wholeheartedly supports the church's mission, vision, values, and statement of faith. They don't merely agree with the church's direction; they are enthusiastic advocates for it.

Their belief in the church's purpose naturally translates into support for the pastor and the leadership team, creating unity and momentum as the church pursues its God-given calling.

3. Skills: Practical Competence in Action

Beyond spiritual maturity, board members need practical skills to fulfill their responsibilities. Financial stewardship is one key indicator of commitment, often demonstrated by tithing at least 10% of their income.

They willingly dedicate time to board duties, knowing that meaningful contributions require more than passive participation. Their skills may come from personal experience, professional backgrounds, or ministry involvement—but they always bring wisdom, a willingness to work, and a readiness to serve.

4. Experience: Proven Leadership and Teamwork

Experience matters. Ideal board members have demonstrated leadership in other contexts, whether in the workplace, community, or ministry. They work effectively in team settings.

The ability to delegate and collaborate ensures the board functions smoothly. If married, the support of a spouse provides the emotional and practical foundation needed to sustain their commitment. Transparency, without hidden motives or conflicts of interest, fosters trust and credibility.

5. Partnership: A Healthy Pastor-Board

A well-functioning board operates in close partnership with the pastor. Pastors appreciate board members who keep them informed, follow the principle of "eyes in, fingers out," and stand with them in public and private.

Board members demonstrate their commitment through active fundraising, and concern for the pastor's well-being. Open, honest communication helps the pastor feel supported while ensuring the board remains focused on strategic matters.

In turn, board members expect the pastor to provide timely, accurate information and take the lead in strategic planning. Clarity in vision, values, and goals allows the board to fulfill its policy-making responsibilities.

Board members value a pastor who listens to their feedback, respects their governance role, and recruits and trains future leaders.

The Outcome

When these qualities converge in the boardroom, the entire church benefits.

Board members who exhibit godly

character, aligned beliefs, practical skills, and proven experience create a strong foundation for the church's growth and mission.

A healthy, trusting relationship between the board and the pastor ensures strategic decisions reflect both divine guidance and practical wisdom.

The call to serve on a church board is not for everyone. But for those who answer it with humility, dedication, and faith, the rewards are eternal.

An ideal board member doesn't just sit in meetings; they shape the future of the church by serving the present with integrity and vision.

Questions to Ask and Answer:

- Does the prospective board member exhibit the character qualities outlined in Scripture, such as those in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1?
- Does the candidate wholeheartedly support the church's mission, vision, and pastoral leadership?
- Does the individual demonstrate a commitment to financial stewardship and active ministry participation?
- Has the person shown effective leadership and teamwork in past experience?
- Is there clear, open communication between the pastor and the board to ensure unified, strategic decision-making?

A board's role is to ask the right questions.

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