

Administration and the Organizational Mission

Carla Jones

CM7406 Church Administration

November 24, 2024

Understanding the Image The Church

Before one can understand church administration and the organizational mission, it is imperative that one first understands the church first. In order to understand the church, we must first consult the Word of God to designate a definition and purpose for the church. The church is not just a building that sits on the corner. The church is not just a gathering place. The church is not limited to its four walls. The church is a living entity, uniquely designed through both divine and human structure. According to Powers, there are three images of the church.

Powers indicates that the first image of the church is “the people of God.”¹ The people of God perhaps represent a body of believers who wish to carry out the fulfillment of God’s Word. The people of God are believers who follow the Word of God and try to live according to the Word of God. In addition to the church being referred to as the people of God, Powers states that “another image of the church, frequently employed in Paul’s letters, is body of Christ.”² As the Apostle Paul endeavors to bring clarity to the meaning of the body of Christ, his letter to Corinth in 1 Corinthians 12:12 remains a staple of reference as he compares the body to the church stating, “For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.”³ According to Wimberly, “Paul made this point to the first century church when he used the image of a body and its parts to describe the church as the body of Christ.”⁴ Additionally, not only are the people of God and the body of Christ images

¹ Bruce P. Powers. 2008. *Church Administration Handbook*. Nashville: B&H Academic. Pg 3.

<https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=35ca3790-8d44-3aac-87f4-9ed4cc738dcf>.

² Bruce P. Powers. 2008. *Church Administration Handbook*. Nashville: B&H Academic. Pg 4.

<https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=35ca3790-8d44-3aac-87f4-9ed4cc738dcf>.

³ Holy Bible [1 Corinthians 12:12]

⁴ John W. Wimberly. 2010. *The Business of the Church : The Uncomfortable Truth That Faithful Ministry Requires Effective Management*. Herndon, VA: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

<https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=a97bed33-7c6c-3b3c-b6f9-f7ba881c9e9f>.

of the church, Powers also indicates that another image of the church is new humanity.

According to Powers, “n⁵ Furthermore, this new humanity exemplifies what humanity now is upon the abolishment of the law by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Understanding The Purpose of The Church

While it is important to understand the image of the church, it is also equally important to understand the role and purpose of the church. The church, or perhaps body of Christ, plays both a role within the Kingdom of God and within the community that surrounds it. The church has a responsibility to uphold its purpose in everything that it does. As Powers so eloquently states, “The church is to be a community of persons who are wholeheartedly committed to doing what God wants to be accomplished on earth.”⁶ Without the church banding together to achieve the mission that God has given it, the church will encounter challenges and possibly cease to exist. The church must remain focused on what God has called it to do so as to fulfill God’s intention for it. According to Powers, “the purpose of the church is to engage in activities consistently described in Scripture that increase the love of God, neighbor, and brothers and sisters in Christ.”⁷ Then, if after the church has done this, then it has perhaps served its purpose.

Understanding Administration

Since the image and purpose of the church has been understood in the aforementioned, it is only befitting to explore the understanding of administration. Perhaps, every organization has a governing entity that leads and guides it so that it can fulfill its purpose and mission for that

⁵ Bruce P. Powers. 2008. *Church Administration Handbook*. Nashville: B&H Academic. Pg 4. <https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=35ca3790-8d44-3aac-87f4-9ed4cc738dcf>.

⁶ Bruce P. Powers. 2008. *Church Administration Handbook*. Nashville: B&H Academic. Pg 5. <https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=35ca3790-8d44-3aac-87f4-9ed4cc738dcf>.

⁷ Bruce P. Powers. 2008. *Church Administration Handbook*. Nashville: B&H Academic. Pg 5. <https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=35ca3790-8d44-3aac-87f4-9ed4cc738dcf>.

which it was created. Without administration or governing authority, chaos is sure to erupt. Without appointed leaders who are capable of leading their organizations, chaos will ensue. Conceivably, it can be best said that administration is the entity that guides the organization and keeps it in alignment with its mission and purpose. From the outside looking in, administration would seem to create a map or a guide for the organization which it governs. Therefore, an organization cannot possibly function without it, lest it fall prey to aborting its mission. Just as administration is important in any other organization, it is just as important in the church. Church administration is a tool used by humans, yet orchestrated by God in order to govern His church.

Understanding Church Administration

According to Segler in the *Southwestern Journal of Theology*, “Church administration is the necessary activities of church leaders in leading the entire church to fulfill its total ministry.”⁸ Once again, in order for the church to fulfill its purpose, church administration must be present to govern it appropriately. Some might view Church administration as a guide or a map. It is simply the governing authority for the church as an organization. While every church is different, church administration is often separated into six different programs. According to Welch, these programs include: “Programs of Worship, Programs of Discipleship, Programs of Evangelism, Programs of Ministry, Programs of Fellowship and Programs of Missions.”⁹ Together, these six programs help to make up the administration of the church. These programs cover every aspect of how the church should function and they also assist the church with following Christ’s

⁸ Segler, Franklin M. 1959. “Pastor and Church Administration.” *Southwestern Journal of Theology* 1 (2): 26. <https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=e93080a8-b071-3d13-89cb-93a14c6c8aa8>.

⁹ Welch, Robert H. *Church Administration: Creating Efficiency for Effective Ministry*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 2005. Pg. 325-344.

intention for the church. Each program is just as equally vital as the other and they all must work in tandem to create a fully functional church that God will be pleased with. Though the church is made up of humans and operates in the face of imperfection, if the church seeks to strive for excellence in these programs, it will have a better chance of fulfilling its mission. While all programs are necessary for equipping the functions of the church, Segler states that “all functions of the church's ministry call for pastoral oversight.”¹⁰ Each function of the church must be led by the pastor of the church in order to ensure that the church is functioning properly. Church administration is only as good as the pastor who receives divine insight and guidance from the Holy Spirit. Church administration is not stand alone. It must be led. There must be a helm. There must be a leader actively leading, guiding, coaching, mentoring and facilitating.

Understanding the Organizational Mission of The Church

As previously stated, church administration is the governing entity of the church. And while it governs all church activities, it plays an integral role in facilitating the mission of the church. The organizational mission of the church should always be in alignment with what God's intention is for each specific church. Just like every organization is different, every church is different. Every leader will be different. Every mission will be different. Every organization must clearly identify its mission and vision so that its mission may be fulfilled. As stated above, the pastor will play a vital role in helping to determine the organizational mission of the church. The mission of each church must be born out of divinely inspired direction from the Holy Spirit. Therefore, if the organizational mission is to be achieved, there must be proficient and efficient administration. This not only applies to a church, but this applies to every organizational entity.

Consequently, the pastor and leader must display an enthusiasm for the organizational

¹⁰ Segler, Franklin M. 1959. “Pastor and Church Administration.” *Southwestern Journal of Theology* 1 (2): 31. <https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=e93080a8-b071-3d13-89cb-93a14c6c8aa8>.

mission that is heartfelt. If the leader is not energized, those who follow the leader will not be energized either. The leader must show passion in order to ignite passion. According to Segler, “unless the fires of a holy zeal burn within the pastor, it is not likely that the fires of concern will be kindled upon the altars of other hearts.”¹¹ This being said, pastoral leadership must be leadership that is contagious. The pastor must be able to lead and foster a climate of energy, passion, creativity, care and concern for all those who serve underneath their administration. The pastor must be relatable and those who serve under their administration must want to follow them. Without good leadership, the posture of any organization will fail. Without good pastoral leadership, the climate of the church will suffer. Each church leader and pastor must handle its administrative processes and procedures with care and concern. Each pastor must be willing to set the example so that the church can follow suit.

Conclusion

As we acknowledge the image, purpose and administration of the church, it is only fair to acknowledge the organizational mission of the church as well. All areas of the church function together in order to capitalize on mission effectiveness. Every entity of the church is important, but perhaps the most important idea within church administration is fulfilling and achieving its mission. The mission of the church should be placed at the forefront of every church. Furthermore, every function, area and program must center around it. Without a mission, the church will cease to exist. The church has a responsibility to God, its members and the community it serves. The church must be properly prepared to execute all God-ordained functions and it must be willing to serve those who depend on it with excellence.

¹¹ Segler, Franklin M. 1959. “Pastor and Church Administration.” *Southwestern Journal of Theology* 1 (2): 34. <https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=e93080a8-b071-3d13-89cb-93a14c6c8aa8>.

Excellence must be a capstone. Excellence must be the cornerstone. Every leader and staff member must exude excellence within their position as they serve the people of God. Every church volunteer must serve with excellence. Every program and every area of the church must function in an orderly manner so as to create a positive climate and atmosphere that is welcoming to the lost and unchurched. A keen understanding of administration is necessary within the orchestration of every church administrative office and plan. If there is in fact a clear understanding, then the focus will hone in on the great commission of Jesus Christ. After all, the commission of Jesus should always be the focal point of every church as it seeks to please God in everything it does. The firm foundation of the church and every one of its planning activities must be founded in Christ. The origin of every idea must start with God. Without the guidance of the Holy Spirit, every church will surely come to nought.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Powers, Bruce P. 2008. *Church Administration Handbook*. Nashville: B&H Academic. Pg 3.
<https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=35ca3790-8d44-3aac-87f4-9ed4cc738dcf>.

Powers, Bruce P. 2008. *Church Administration Handbook*. Nashville: B&H Academic. Pg 4.
<https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=35ca3790-8d44-3aac-87f4-9ed4cc738dcf>.

Powers, Bruce P. 2008. *Church Administration Handbook*. Nashville: B&H Academic. Pg 5.
<https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=35ca3790-8d44-3aac-87f4-9ed4cc738dcf>.

Segler, Franklin M. 1959. "Pastor and Church Administration." *Southwestern Journal of Theology* 1 (2): 26.
<https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=e93080a8-b071-3d13-89cb-93a14c6c8aa8>.

Welch, Robert H. *Church Administration: Creating Efficiency for Effective Ministry*. Nashville: Broadman and Holman Publishers, 2005. Pg. 325-344.

Wimberly, John W. 2010. *The Business of the Church : The Uncomfortable Truth That Faithful Ministry Requires Effective Management*. Herndon, VA: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.
<https://research.ebsco.com/linkprocessor/plink?id=a97bed33-7c6c-3b3c-b6f9-f7ba881c9e9f>.

Holy Bible [1 Corinthians 12:12]

