

First United Church of Jesus Christ (Apostolic) of Ft. Lauderdale



THE IMPORTANCE OF AN EFFECTIVE CLERGY BOARD

October 25, 2025,

ABSTRACT

The effectiveness of a clergy board is measured not just by decisions made or the importance of the members, but by how well those decisions reflect the heart and unity of Christ for the growth of his kingdom.

Patricia Campbell - Presenter

Training Objectives

An effective clergy board is vital to the health and growth of the church. It not only provides structure and counsel but also models spiritual maturity, integrity, and teamwork. This training helps identify clergy board members and understand their divine purpose, in addition to strengthening cooperation, and builds a leadership culture that honors God and serves His people effectively.

Learning Objectives

- Understanding the difference between a business executive board and a clergy board.
- Criteria for a clergy board member
- Understand the biblical and spiritual foundation of an effective clergy board.
- Identify the characteristics and behaviors that make a clergy board effective.
- Strengthen unity, communications, and accountability among board members.
- Develop strategies for better decision-making and leadership in ministry.

The difference between a secular board and a clergy board

A **secular board** primarily focuses on corporate strategy, profit, and organizational growth, making decisions that serve the interests of shareholders and achieving financial goals. Its authority is based on corporate governance and expertise, with success measured by productivity and return on investment. A **clergy board**, however, operates under spiritual authority and divine accountability, guiding the church according to biblical principles and the leading of the Holy Ghost. Its purpose is not profit but the advancement of God's Kingdom, supporting the pastor and ensuring the spiritual and moral health of the congregation. While business boards rely on logic and market analysis, clergy boards rely on prayer, discernment, and the Word of God, remembering that "in all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:6). Thus, where the executive board seeks worldly success, the clergy board seeks spiritual alignment and eternal impact.

Criteria for a clergy board member

1. Spiritual Qualifications

- Born-again believer who has received the Holy Ghost according to Acts 2:38.
- Demonstrates maturity in faith—not a novice (1 Timothy 3:6). Spirit-led discernment and commitment to biblical truth
- Faithful in prayer, fasting, tithing, and attendance at services and ministry activities.
- Exemplary Christian character within and outside the church (1 Timothy 3:1–7, Titus 1:6–9).

2. Ethical and Moral Standards

- Lives a life of integrity, honesty, and moral purity.
- Avoids gossip, favoritism, and conflict of interest.
- Must be in good standing with the local and national church body.
- Models humility and accountability in decision-making and behavior.

3. Leadership and Service

- Demonstrates a servant-leader attitude (Mark 10:45).
- Actively involved in ministry and understands the church's mission and vision.
- Respects and supports the pastor or overseer as God's appointed leader.
- Capable of offering wise counsel and constructive feedback.
- Willingness to invest time in board meetings, training, and church functions.

4. Administrative and Practical Competence

- Understands confidentiality and exercises discretion with sensitive matters.
- Committed to teamwork—able to work harmoniously with other board members.
- Possesses basic financial and organizational understanding.
- Reliable in meeting attendance and follow-through on assignments.

5. Relational and Community Role

- Maintains a good reputation in the church and the wider community.
- Capable of mentoring younger believers or upcoming leaders.
- Acts as a bridge between clergy and the congregation—fostering unity and effective communication.

Biblical foundation of an effective clergy board.

- Exodus 18:21–22 – Moses appoints capable leaders to share responsibility and ensure effective governance.
- Acts 6:2–4 – The apostles delegate duties for the effective ministry of prayer and the Word.
- 1 Corinthians 14:40 – 'Let all things be done decently and in order.'

Talking point - “How does spiritual order contribute to effectiveness in ministry?”

Principles of an effective clergy board

- Vision Alignment – Understanding and supporting the church’s spiritual mission.
- Communication – Maintaining open, respectful, and Spirit-led dialogue.
- Accountability – Operating with integrity and transparency.
- Teamwork – Supporting one another in ministry with mutual respect.
- Prayer and Discernment – Seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit in all decisions.

Supporting Scripture:

- Proverbs 15:22 – 'Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counselors, they are established.'
- 1 Corinthians 12:12 -14 – The body has many parts yet functions effectively as one.

Interactive discussion

Case Study Scenario: A clergy board is struggling with decision-making due to poor communication and a lack of follow-up on actions.

Discussion Questions:

- What can the board do to strengthen communication and follow-through?
- How can prayer and accountability improve the board’s effectiveness?
- What are some practical ways to ensure all voices are heard respectfully?

Group Activity: In small groups, identify 3 habits that make a clergy board effective and 3 that weaken it. Share your results.

Reflection & Commitment

Personal Reflection Questions:

- How can I contribute to a more effective clergy board?
- In what area do I need to grow as a board member?
- What spiritual habits will help me serve with excellence and unity?

Summary

- An effective clergy board strengthens the church's spiritual and administrative health.
- Effectiveness requires unity, communication, and spiritual maturity.
- Prayer, accountability, and teamwork are key to wise leadership.
- Every member contributes to effectiveness through humility and service.
- A Spirit-led clergy board builds up the body of Christ in love and order.

Closing Scripture: Ephesians 4:16 – 'From whom the whole body fitly joined together... maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.'

Closing Prayer: Ask God for renewed vision, unity, and wisdom to serve effectively in His Kingdom.

Notes

Notes

[illegible]