

Governing Board

Purpose: God commands that a Christian congregation should conform to His Word in doctrine and practice (Galatians 1:6-9 and II Timothy 4:1-5), but also that all things should be done decently and in good order (II Corinthians 14:40)

The purpose of the Governing Board is to provide a strong, powerful, ethical, and spiritual leadership of the congregation to ensure this doctrine and practice. This will enable the church mission of leading people to a full life in Christ ... by helping them to better know, worship and serve the Lord.



Responsible to and Supported by: The Governing Board (7 members) is responsible to the voting members of the Congregation. The Governing Board members have "Equal authority" and thus do not report to the Chair; however, the chair acts as the administrative leader of the Board. The Board also functions in full partnership with the Lead Pastor in leading the congregation.

Duties of the Board: The function of the Board is to develop, monitor, and enforce governance policy, not to implement it. Except for assigning its own work to committees of the Board or consultants, the Board shall not delegate responsibility for operational decisions to anyone other than the Lead Pastor.

Specific duties include:

1. Ensure the *Strategic Direction* of the Congregation is the driving force for all activities.
2. Establish a written *Governing Board Policy Manual* to include:
 - *Strategic Direction* - Affirmative statements setting forth the purposes, effects and acceptable costs of operations.
 - *Governing Board* - Statements setting forth the style and rules with respect to the Board's own tasks and processes.
 - *Lead Pastor Parameters* - Limiting statements that bind or restrict activity of the staff
 - *Governing Board & Lead Pastor Partnership* - Clarifying statements about delegation to and monitoring of ministry implementation.
3. Provide oversight of all Congregational activities and spiritual oversight of the Lead Pastor.
4. Ensure the organizational structure of the Congregation is well defined and effective.
5. Communicate regularly to the members of the Congregation regarding the activities of the Board and solicit communication from them.
6. Exercise particular concern for the spiritual and physical welfare of the Lead Pastor.
7. Exercise concern for all staff, supporting them with prayer and, upon the request of the Lead Pastor, appropriate counsel.

Board Member Responsibilities:

1. Commit to working together in a covenant relationship defined by the Christian faith and Board policies, agreeing to accept counsel accordingly.
2. Regularly participate in the worship and educational life of the Congregation.
3. Undertake personal spiritual disciplines for the development of their own faith lives.
4. Attend Board meetings regularly and be prepared for the meetings.

Time Requirement: The Board meets eight times a year, with each meeting lasting 3-4 hours. Advance preparation is usually needed. In addition, some members also serve on specific committees or positions, requiring additional meetings and tasks.

Length of Commitment: Board members and officers are elected for three year periods, and may be elected for two consecutive periods.

Training: Training and orientation are provided by the Board for all new and current members.

Skills and Qualifications Needed: Board member candidates must:

- Be members of the congregation in good standing, for at least 2 years. A simple majority of the Board must be male. Three Board members are elected as Officers: Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary. The Chair and Vice Chair must be male.
- Regularly participate in the spiritual activities of the congregation
- Undertake personal spiritual disciplines.
- Possess good communication skills and strategic thinking.
- Have demonstrated prior leadership experience at St Peter (or a previous congregation); such as serving on or leading an advisory council or service committee.
- Be able to effectively represent the members of the congregation.
- Not be employed by the congregation or have a family member who is.
- Must be able to maintain confidentiality and must sign a confidentiality agreement.

A background in business or finance is helpful, given the responsibilities of the Board. Leadership experience (business or non-profits) is an added benefit.

Benefits to the Volunteer: The members of the Board enjoy using their skills and experience to serve the congregation, ensuring proper management of the resources and operation of the congregation.