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Leadership

Leadership: I believe teaching, leading, and ministering are all integrated. I guide my own life by Scripture, and I seek to lead others in scriptural ways and into the ways of Scripture. I believe Scripture teaches that ministry is a team effort, as God has distributed to each of his people the ability to contribute. I believe in matching people up with the right tasks and ministries to exploit their strengths and passions, by which the overall team mitigates any personal weaknesses.

I seek to empower others to do their ministry well. There is not enough time in the day for a leader to be autocratic or micromanaging. Instead, I seek to develop people to their potential, motivate and encourage them, and provide them with whatever other guidance I can to empower them to do God's work. I believe the pastor is the spiritual leader of the church, and thus he assumes a mantle of leadership on the staff, but it is in his best interests and those of the church for the pastor to lead by example, to lead as a servant, and to lead with the goal of developing other leaders to take on more of the ministry.

Governance: The pastor is the spiritual leader of the church, and so long as he speaks through the authority of Scripture others should respect that position. The church should have elders who can teach in the body, who exemplify a high degree of spiritual maturity and leadership, and who have the great commission and the spiritual health of the church as their priorities. The church also should have deacons [or designated ministry leaders] who oversee the logistical needs of the church, freeing up the pastors and elders to focus on prayer and teaching the Scriptures. The qualifications for all these roles are discussed in the Scriptures, and the church should adhere to them. I think it is important that all who are in these roles work together well as a team, in mutual respect and love. I believe God left some aspects of governance flexible, to meet the needs of each individual church, though Scripture provides some guidelines. Each type of government has its strengths and vulnerabilities, so the church should take care in structuring its governing principles such that they provide for an efficient and effective ministry while protecting the congregation from any kind of abuse.

Other: The following are specific concerns of mine.

1. The church leadership should be responsive to the needs of the church, but not always to the desires of the church. Priorities in ministry must be scripturally derived.
2. The church should have a strategic plan for facilitating evangelism and spiritual growth.
3. Church leaders should respond swiftly and thoughtfully to all legitimate communication from the congregation. When time is pressing, the church leader should communicate appreciation of the original contact and promise a more thorough response when able.
4. Open and honest communication at all levels of the church is important. Integrity requires honesty and transparency. The church and its leaders should have nothing to hide.
5. I believe in swift conflict resolution based on scriptural principles. I believe even church discipline has the goal of restoring the offender to spiritual health within the body.