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# A BIBLICAL MODEL OF CHURCH DECISION MAKING



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<sup>1</sup> Chambers, Mary, *Church is Stranger than Fiction*. (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1990). p. 45.

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<sup>2</sup> Gangel, Kenneth, "Forward" in *The Effective Church Board*, by Michael Anthony. (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1993). p. 9.

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<sup>3</sup> Moore, John & Ken Neff, *A New Testament Blueprint for the Church*. (Chicago: Moody Press, 1985). p. 17.

<sup>4</sup> Ness, Robert Henry, *Toward a Theology of Church Management*. (Ann Arbor: University Microfilms International, 1975). p. xiii.

<sup>5</sup> Ness, p. xiii.

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<sup>6</sup> Schaller, Lyle E. & Charles A. Tidwell, *Creative Church Administration*. (Nashville: Abingdon, 1975). p. 38.

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<sup>7</sup> Schaller, Lyle, "What's Behind Your Decisions?" *Leadership* 16, (Winter, 1995): 26.

<sup>8</sup> Goetz, David, "Helping Your Board Listen to God." *Leadership*, 16 (Winter, 1995): 47.

<sup>9</sup> Goetz, David. P. 47.



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<sup>10</sup> Matthew 12:25

<sup>11</sup> Matthew 16:18

<sup>12</sup> Biehl, Bobb & Ted Engstrom, *The Effective Board Member*. (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1998). p. 8.

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<sup>13</sup> Biehl, p. 9.





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<sup>14</sup> Johnson, Luke Timothy, *Decision Making in the Church*. (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1983).

<sup>15</sup> Anthony, Michael, *The Effective Church Board*. (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1993).



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<sup>16</sup> Schaller, Lyle, *The Decision Makers*. (Nashville: Abingdon, 1974).

<sup>17</sup> Blackaby, Henry, *Experiencing God*. (Nashville: LifeWay Books, 1990).

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<sup>18</sup> Nehrbass, Richard. "The Myths of Institutional Democracy." *Personnel Journal*, 61 (July, 1982): 486.

<sup>19</sup> Nehrbass, p. 486.

<sup>20</sup> Hatch, Nathan. *The Democratization of American Christianity*. (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989). p. 9.

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<sup>21</sup> Hatch, p. 10.

<sup>22</sup> Hatch, p. 12.

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<sup>23</sup> Hatch, p. 16.

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<sup>24</sup> Anthony, p. 104.

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<sup>25</sup> Anthony, p. 107.

<sup>26</sup> Anthony, p. 108.

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<sup>27</sup> Anthony, p. 111.

<sup>28</sup> I explain this mythical distinction in greater detail in chapter four.



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<sup>29</sup> Interview with Dr. John McFarland, Senior Pastor of Fountain Valley United Methodist





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<sup>30</sup> Ness, p. 30-32.

<sup>31</sup> Ness, p. 33.



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<sup>32</sup> Interview with Dr. John McFarland, Senior Pastor of Fountain Valley United Methodist Church, July 6, 2000.

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<sup>33</sup> Hobbs, Hershall. *The Baptist Faith and Message*. (Nashville: Convention Press: 1971). p. 64.

<sup>34</sup> Hobbs, p. 66.

<sup>35</sup> Sheffield, James, A, *Church Officer and Committee Guidebook*. (Nashville: Convention Press, 1995). p. 9.







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<sup>36</sup> Ness, p. 25.







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<sup>37</sup> Interview with David Johnson, pastor of SeaRidge Community Church, June 22.

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<sup>38</sup> SeaRidge Community Church by-laws, 1998, p. 2.

<sup>39</sup> In Matthew 18:15-17 Jesus says that if someone is unrepentant, he is to be confronted privately, then by a few "brothers," then by the elders, and finally by the congregation.





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<sup>40</sup> Titus 1:5

<sup>41</sup> Philippians 2:4

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<sup>42</sup> Romans 12:3

<sup>43</sup> Anthony, p. 40.

<sup>44</sup> Anthony, p. 47.

<sup>45</sup> Anthony, p. 50.

<sup>46</sup> Leas, Speed & Paul Kittlaus, *Church Fights*. (Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1973). p. 73.

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<sup>47</sup> 1 Timothy 4:11

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<sup>48</sup> The question of whether women may serve as elders is not within the scope of this paper. Numerous arguments have been made by both sides, and I have therefore chosen to stick to the less-discussed topic of decision-making.

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<sup>49</sup> Hebrews 13:12

<sup>50</sup> 1 Timothy 5:23

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<sup>51</sup> Romans 12:18

<sup>52</sup> Anthony, p. 125.

<sup>53</sup> 2 Tim. 2:24

<sup>54</sup> Galatians 5:15

<sup>55</sup> Matthew 6:24

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<sup>56</sup> Matthew 8:10

<sup>57</sup> Anthony, p. 125.

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<sup>58</sup> 1 Timothy 3:10

<sup>59</sup> 1 Timothy 5:22

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<sup>60</sup> 2 Timothy 2:15

<sup>61</sup> Anthony, p. 53.

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<sup>62</sup> Anthony, p. 72.

<sup>63</sup> Goetz, p. 48.

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<sup>64</sup> Blackaby, p. 126.

<sup>65</sup> This concept is explained in greater detail in chapter five.

<sup>66</sup> Philippians 2:6

<sup>67</sup> Matthew 20:25-28

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<sup>68</sup> Anthony, p. 134.

<sup>69</sup> 1 Corinthians 8-10

<sup>70</sup> Romans 14:5

<sup>71</sup> 1 Timothy 5:19

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<sup>72</sup> 1 Corinthians 1-5  
<sup>73</sup> Matthew 18:15-20  
<sup>74</sup> 1 Corinthians 14



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<sup>75</sup> Acts 2:21

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<sup>76</sup> Johnson, p. 62.

<sup>77</sup> Johnson, p. 62.



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<sup>78</sup> Johnson, p. 63.

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<sup>79</sup> Johnson, p. 64.

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<sup>80</sup> Johnson, p. 66.

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<sup>81</sup> Acts 10:34, 35

<sup>82</sup> Acts 10:47, 48



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<sup>83</sup> Some commentators have suggested that Luke downplayed the controversy in order to present the church in a positive light. This paper, however, assumes the veracity of the Bible at “face value.”

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<sup>84</sup> Johnson, p. 56.



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<sup>85</sup> Johnson, p. 45.

<sup>86</sup> Johnson, p. 45.

<sup>87</sup> John 21:25

<sup>88</sup> Johnson, p. 86.

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<sup>89</sup> Hebrews 13:17



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<sup>90</sup> Matthew 8:9

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<sup>91</sup> Anthony, p. 79.

<sup>92</sup> Anthony, p. 78.



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<sup>93</sup> These are the criteria by which Michael Anthony justifies his position regarding church governance in *The Effective Church Board*.

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<sup>94</sup> 1 Timothy 3:1  
<sup>95</sup> Ephesians 4:11-13  
<sup>96</sup> Roman 12:6  
<sup>97</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:29

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<sup>98</sup>Quoted in Gangel, Kenneth, *Team Leadership in Christian Ministry*. (Chicago: Moody Press, 1997), p. 30.

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<sup>99</sup> 1 Timothy 3:10

<sup>100</sup> Titus 1:5

<sup>101</sup> Ephesians 4:13-17

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<sup>102</sup> Hobbs, p. 69.

<sup>103</sup> See page 66, 67.

<sup>104</sup> 1 Corinthians 14:37, 38

<sup>105</sup> 1 Corinthians 5:1-5

<sup>106</sup> Hebrews 13:17









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<sup>107</sup> Sheffield, p. 5.

<sup>108</sup> Sheffield, p. 4.

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<sup>109</sup> Sheffield, p. 6.

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<sup>110</sup> Leas, p. 38.

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<sup>111</sup> Tuell, Jack M. *The Organization of the United Methodist Church*. (Nashville: Abingdon Press, ). p. 58.

<sup>112</sup> These misconceptions are found in Schaller's book, *The Decision Makers*.

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<sup>113</sup> Johnson, p. 17.

<sup>114</sup> Schaller, *The Decision Makers: How to improve the quality of decision-making in the churches*. (Nashville: Abingdon, 1974). p. 25.





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<sup>115</sup> Conrad, Charles. "Communicative Decision Making." *Journal of the Scientific Study of Religion*, 27 (Spring, 1988): 357.

<sup>116</sup> From [www.barna.com](http://www.barna.com) survey on "Leadership."

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<sup>117</sup> Johnson, p. 22.

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<sup>118</sup> Galatians 5:22

<sup>119</sup> From [www.barna.com](http://www.barna.com) survey on “Leadership.”

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<sup>120</sup> Blackaby, p. 19.

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<sup>121</sup> Johnson, p. 12.

<sup>122</sup> Johnson, p. 12.

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<sup>123</sup> McClain, George. "Is There Space for God in our Meetings: As We Make Decisions Do We Ask, 'What Shall We Do?' or 'What is God Yearning for Us?'" *Christian Social Action*, 8 (Fall 1995): 13.

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<sup>124</sup> Leas, p. 67.

<sup>125</sup> 1 Thessalonians 5:19-22

<sup>126</sup> Biehl, p. 82.

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<sup>127</sup> McCain, p. 13.

<sup>128</sup> Blackaby, p. 65.

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<sup>129</sup> Blackaby p. 109.

<sup>130</sup> Biehl, p. 16.



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<sup>131</sup> Anthony, p. 73.

<sup>112</sup> Schaller, Lyle. "What's Behind Your Decisions?" *Leadership*, 16 (Winter, 1995): 26.

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<sup>133</sup> Joshua 9:14

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<sup>134</sup> 2 Peter 1:16

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<sup>135</sup> Matthew 6:5

<sup>136</sup> Luke 11:1-10

<sup>137</sup> Ephesians 4:17



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<sup>139</sup> Biehl, p. 8.

<sup>140</sup> Page 75.

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<sup>141</sup> Johnson, p. 22.

<sup>142</sup> Johnson, p. 25.

<sup>143</sup> Johnson, p. 43.

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<sup>144</sup> Johnson, p. 22.

<sup>145</sup> Anthony, p. 90.

<sup>146</sup> Anthony, p. 91.

<sup>147</sup> Schaller, "What's behind your decisions?" p. 27.

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<sup>148</sup> Conrad, p. 357.

<sup>149</sup> Warren, Rick, *The Purpose Driven Church: Growth without Compromising Your Message and Mission*. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995) p. 117.

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<sup>150</sup> Anthony, p. 91.

<sup>151</sup> Leas, p. 66.





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<sup>152</sup> Gangel, Ken quoted in Michael Anthony's *The Effective Church Board*, p. 115.

<sup>153</sup> Titus 1:5

<sup>154</sup> Acts 6:6

<sup>155</sup> Acts 1:23-26

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<sup>156</sup> 1 Corinthians 12:29

<sup>157</sup> 1 Corinthians 1:7

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<sup>158</sup> Biehl, p. 82.

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<sup>159</sup> Romans 12:1

<sup>160</sup> Ephesians 4:13-17

<sup>161</sup> Romans 12:21



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<sup>162</sup> Leas, p. 88.









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<sup>163</sup>Gangel, p. 133.



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<sup>164</sup> Schaller, *The Decision Makers*, p. 43.



