

Board Focus for the 2005-2006 Church Year

Being a *Policy-Based Governance* Board

- *Ends* or strategic goals – We should deepen our conversation and thinking about what we want the church to be, for whom, and at what relative cost (or priority). We will explore a variety of sources of information, including feedback from the canvass interviews.
- Executive Team monitoring – Our other key role is to review the Executive Team's implementation of the *Ends* and adherence to the limitations set by the Board. Of particular importance will be aligning expectations between the Board and Executive Team about what can and should be accomplished, given our finite resources.

Financial Stewardship

- Endowment Governance – Using the feedback we have obtained from the congregation, how should we govern our endowment? There are at least two dimensions to this question: governing the amount we withdraw and choosing the uses for the funds that are withdrawn.
- Pledge Drive – This will be the third year of our five-year plan to wean ourselves from the endowment. How do we ensure that we build upon the success and momentum of the past two pledge drives?

Membership Retention & Growth

- If we believe this church has a mission to serve more than those who are already part of the congregation, how do we invite others to join us and then ensure they are welcomed and assimilated into our midst?
- What is the board's role in this process – as a board and individuals serving on the board – within the framework of policy based governance?

Leadership

- One of the recurring themes I heard while at GA is the critical importance of *leadership* by both the minister and board. Our role as a board and as individuals who are leaders within the church is to articulate and engage the congregation in a vision of the transformative power of our church community.

Gary Lerude