Serving on a Church Board

Three Types of Churches

- Episcopal (overseer)
- Presbyterian (elder)
- Congregational (?)

Episcopal

The episcopal form of government has been the polity of the Church catholic as early as Ignatius of Antioch, all the way down to the time of the Reformation. Advocates for an episcopal form of church government argue that the sheer fact that it went virtually uncontested until the time of the Reformation testifies to its claims of apostolicity, although not all contemporary episcopalian apologists argue from history rather than Scripture. (http://www.theopedia.com/church-government)
Overseer = *episkopē*

Presbyterian

Common in [Presbyterian](#) and [Reformed](#) churches, this form of church government is commonly described as "Elder-run" or "Presbyter-run". (greek for elder = *presbyteros)* Typically, original authority--that is the authority that the church believes Christ gave to it--is said to reside at the local elder level in this model of polity. Thus the "highest" authority in a presbyterian or reformed church (after Christ) is said to be the Elders of the church. Those elders are typically elected by the congregation on a periodic basis (usually a term lasts about 3 years). Sometimes elders are elected by the drawing of lots.

Congregational

"The *Oxford Dictionary of the Christian Church* defines "congregationalism" as "that form of Church polity which rests on the independence and autonomy of each local church." According to this source, the principles of democracy in church government rest on the belief that Christ is the sole head of his church, the members are all priests unto God, and these units are regarded each as an outcrop and representative of the church universal."
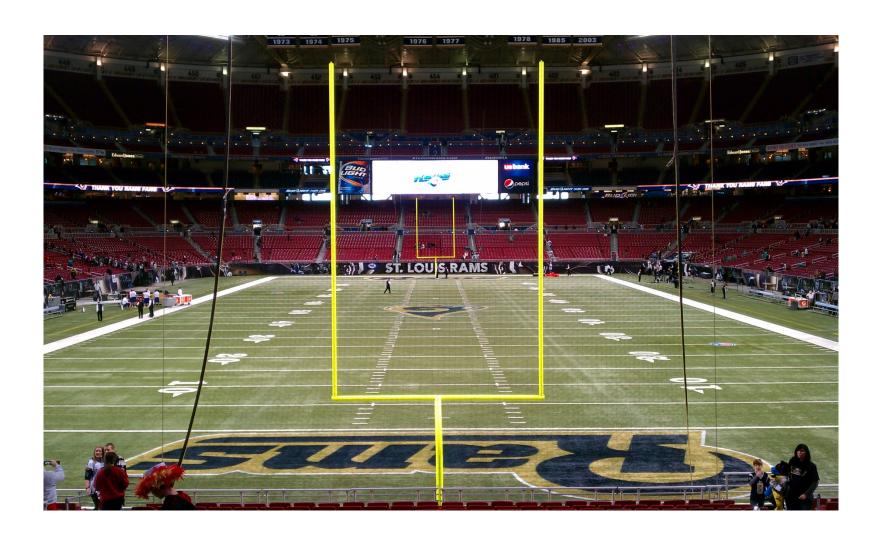
What kind of church do you serve?

Most of the churches in our tribe are definitely not Episcopal. We would fall into the Presbytery (elder run) class with congregational elements.

The Three Hats (Carver)

The Three Hats (Church)

Delegated Task

Shepherd/Model

Governance

Governance

Governance

Reporting

Boundaries

Winning

Governance

Vital elements for the sailor...
        wind
        sail
        rudder
        heading
        ?

Governance

Vital elements for the sailor...
- wind
- sail
- rudder
- heading
- keel

Five Steps in Program development

1. Ideas
2. Recommendation
3. Approval
4. Implementation
5. Evaluation

the 1-3-5 board principle

Governance – Legal Realities

- D&O insurance
- Fiscal Responsibility
- HR Responsibility

The Shepherd/Model

- Ezekiel 34 - "I am against the shepherds..."
- 1 Peter 5:1-3 "Be shepherd of God's flock!"
- John 21 - "Feed my sheep!"

The Care and Keeping of your pastor…

- Retirement
- Mentor/Mentee
- Sabbatical
- Vacation
- Parsonage
- Pay
- Health Insurance
- Task Management
- Preaching schedule
- "How are you doing?"
- Conflict
- Staff issues

Model

- Qualifications of an Elder – 1 Timothy 3
  - Not exceptional
  - "I am writing these instructions so that you will know how people ought to conduct themselves.
- First Follower
- Integrity
  - "In order to lead volunteers you either need a gun or integrity."

Delegated Task

Don't confuse the three hats!

Governance (group)
Shepherd/Model (not extrinsically authoritative)
Delegated Task (limited authority)