Rules of Engagement & Other Considerations

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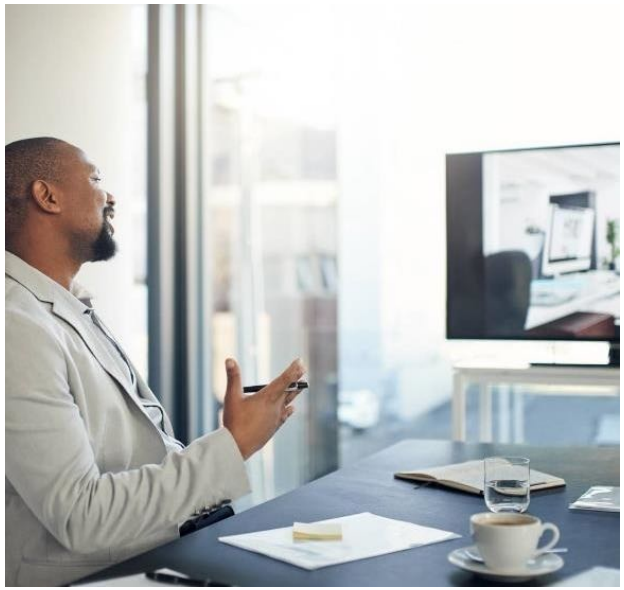
Academy of Servant Leaders, Track 1, Session 4

Rules of Engagement & Practices



One Uncompromising Truth:

Even with bylaws, policies, guiding principles, rules of engagement, practices, expectations, etc., the Church is a spiritual partnership with Jesus Christ as our Head and Holy Spirit as our Equipper and Guide. Leadership must demonstrate this in all we are and do!

How We Function Makes a Statement of Jesus Christ

KEY LEADERSHIP DYNAMICS:

- WITHOUT UNITY WE FAIL TO WITNESS WELL OF JESUS CHRIST
- WE SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE OUTSIDE OF THE MEETINGS
- WE PROTECT ONE ANOTHER
- WE NEVER PERMIT DIVISION
- WE KEEP THE MISSION & VISION PRIMARY
- WE LIVE OUT OUR CORE VALUES IN EVERYTHING
- WE HOLD EACH OTHER ACCOUNTABLE
- WE RESPECT EACH OTHER
- WE ARE SERVANTS AND NOT MASTERS OR BOSSES
- THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR BEING UNKIND
- PLEASING GOD MUST ALWAYS BE IN FOCUS

WHY RULES OF ENGAGMENT AND PRACTICES

They provide a methodology for Pastors, Leadership, and membership to work together to accomplish the vision and mission of the congregation.

- **Every church has them, but most of the time they are not written or agreed upon, they just happen whether good or bad. Often, they are unintentionally passed down**
- **They need to be intentional for many key aspects of the church**
- **Flexible to accommodate change over time**
- **Provide a way to implement the structure, guidance, and intent of the key governing documents**
- **Provide clarity and coordination to the day-to-day functions of the congregation (Answers the 6 key Questions)**
- **Help us to remember that we are people and relationships are important**

Good Rules of Engagement / Practices

Come from an agreement between the Pastor(s) and Leadership as to who is responsible for and empowered to implement the ministry efforts and practices of the congregation:

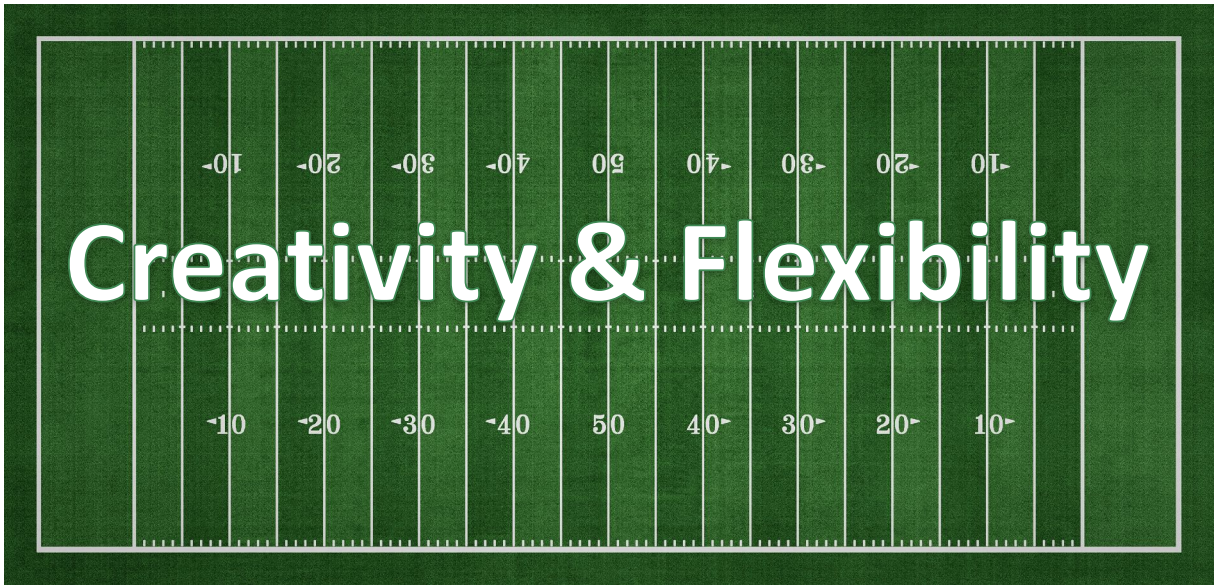
- Authority must come with responsibility or else frustration and discouragement will come
- We travel at the speed of trust, so leadership must trust those empowered to serve
- Those empowered to serve must understand that good reporting and accountability are important

The Playing Field of Engagement & Practices

Unbiblical

Illegal

Unwise



Bylaws Violation

Policies Violation

Unethical

Unkind

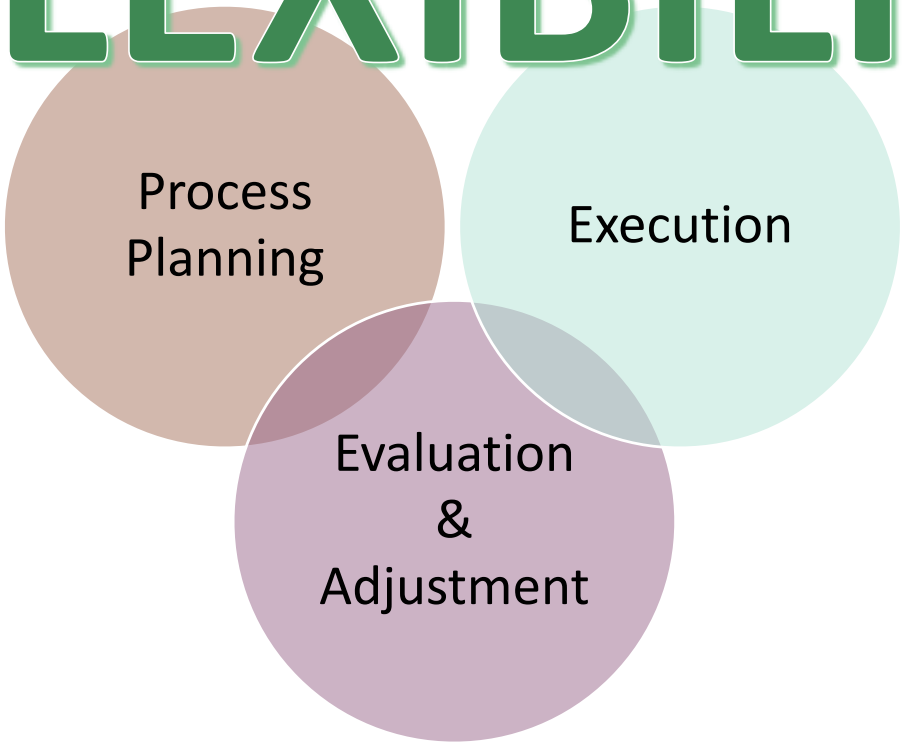
Immoral

THE IMPORTANCE OF CREATIVITY AND FLEXIBILITY

While bylaws and policies provide foundation for the governance and functioning of the church, it is very important to encourage creativity and provide for flexibility in the rules of engagement and practices of the congregation.

- **The lesson of the tree and grass in the storm**
- **People and times change, so must ministry efforts, in new and creative ways**
- **Be flexible enough to avoid fighting about our methods when they don't conflict with the purity of our message**
- **Flexible rules of engagement and practices allow needed changes to happen in a more timely and less stressful manner**

FLEXIBILITY



Worship

Connections

Assimilation / Discipleship

Care Ministries

Leadership Development

Conflict Resolution

Succession Planning

Next Generation Ministries

Bylaws and policies impact all the ministries of the congregation, as do budgets and leadership team decisions. Yet, ministry happens across all these areas and more of the congregation, and each require complex decisions and ministry efforts for them to be successful. These can't be hard-coded in bylaws and policies.

Takeaways

Rules of Engagement and Practices are important in every church

They must be flexible and offer the opportunity for creativity

We travel at the speed of trust (Steven Covey)

Flexibility and Creativity are essential, but they function best where there is accountability

Thank you

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Let Us Pray