



Clergy



Conversations

“The Spirit Led vs. Budget Driven Vision”:

“We walk by faith and not by sight”

(2 Corinthians 5:7)

...or “We walk by sight and not by faith”.

Thursday, September 5, 2024

12:00noon

Facilitator: *Dr. William “Bill” Whitaker, II*  
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Zoom ID: 876 5365 4568

Zoom Password: 790104

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**Register Today:** <https://www.bgcva.org/training.html>

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Church Budgets Should ALWAYS \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ Others in the Spirit!

Be careful about using your position to lead others away from being “\_\_\_\_\_”.

Your goal is not to “win” the \_\_\_\_\_ battle or \_\_\_\_\_ argument. Your goal is to use your position, the budgeting process, and vision God has given your church to \_\_\_\_\_ your leadership and congregation as \_\_\_\_\_. Your congregation’s budget and vision process is not successful unless this has taken place.

**Today’s Spirit-Led Visioning & Budgeting Challenges**

...began more than \_\_\_\_\_ years ago in the 1\_\_00’s.

The Class Leaders – “Sub \_\_\_\_\_” who was responsible for the “watchful supervision of all the membership” and meeting with the church Bands and Societies (smaller subgroups) while the itinerant \_\_\_\_\_ was away.

**Dr. James E. Coleman**  
Convention President

**Dr. Leo Whitaker**  
Executive Minister

**Reverend Michael Shannon**  
Clergy Ministry President

**Dr. William “Bill” Whitaker**  
Director of Clergy Ministry &  
Leadership Development

## Why the Itinerant “Shared Responsibilities” Model was Created

1. Itinerant Pastor present only \_\_\_\_\_ a month.
2. Few \_\_\_\_\_ Ministers to Serve a Region of Churches (More Churches than Ministers)
3. Itinerant Pastor and Class Leaders worked \_\_\_\_\_ to ensure that Ministry Needs were met in the absence of the Pastor.

## What the Itinerant “Shared Responsibilities” Model has Become in the Baptist Context

1. \_\_\_\_\_, Not Shared Responsibilities. You Stay On Your Side and We’ll Stay On Ours!
2. Power Struggle & Battle for \_\_\_\_\_ of the church. Church budgets are used to “manage” the Pastor and “control” the church vision.
3. A “Battlefield” that fosters leadership working \_\_\_\_\_ each other if not centered on the Spirit of Christ.

## How to Move from “Divided” to “Shared” Visioning Responsibilities

1. The Doctrine of Spirit-Led Visioning & Budgeting
  - ✓ \_\_\_\_\_ Congregationalism (for the Baptist Church)
  - ✓ The Finance Ministry recognizes the \_\_\_\_\_ as the Spiritual Visionary of the Church
  - ✓ The Pastor recognizes the \_\_\_\_\_ as the Finance Entity of the Church
  - ✓ The Pastor and Finance Ministry share the responsibility of \_\_\_\_\_ in such a way that others see Christ and are encouraged to follow God’s will for the church.
2. The Expectation of Spirit-Led Visioning & Budgeting
  - ✓ All who are seated at the Table of Spirit-Led Visioning & Budgeting have the \_\_\_\_\_ of the church AND each other at heart.

***There are NO SIDES, DIVISIONS, AND FACTIONS at the Table of “Spirit-Led Visioning”.  
There is only the unified BODY OF CHRIST.***

3. The Rules of “Spirit-Led” Visioning & Budgeting
  - Everyone at the Table of Spirit-Led Visioning & Budgeting...
  - ✓ Must believe in and abide by 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Responsibilities of Shared Visioning. It is the “\_\_\_\_\_ in you” and not your education, training, or church position/title that qualifies you person to be a part of a Spirit-Led visioning and budgeting process.
  - ✓ Has a \_\_\_\_\_ and a purpose in the implementation and fulfillment of the vision.
  - ✓ Must \_\_\_\_\_ the purpose & voice of others at the *Table*.

4. The Discussion of “Spirit-Led” Visioning & Budgeting is...

✓ About the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ not about your personal preferences.

✓ Spoken in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Christ and not in the spirit of discord and argumentation.

5. The Question of “Spirit-Led” Visioning & Budgeting

a. The Question of Spirit-Led Visioning & Budgeting **is Not:**

\_\_\_\_\_work together to accept, seek, and fulfill God’s vision for our church?

**b. The Question of Spirit-Led Visioning & Budgeting is:**

\_\_\_\_\_work together to accept, seek, and fulfill God’s vision for our church?

6. The Goals of “Spirit-Led” Visioning & Budgeting

✓ To seek the \_\_\_\_\_ of God’s vision and will for your church along your Spiritual Visionary.

✓ To allow others to learn about and understand \_\_\_\_\_ vision from your Spiritual Visionary.

✓ To allow others to share how they plan to \_\_\_\_\_ God’s vision through your Spiritual Visionary.

✓ To create unity (and not take sides) about God’s vision around your \_\_\_\_\_.

✓ To develop a \_\_\_\_\_ to fulfill God’s vision with your Spiritual Visionary.

### **“Spiritual” Does Not Mean “Spirit-Led”**

Hearing from God in your \_\_\_\_\_ is not the same as hearing from God on behalf of your \_\_\_\_\_. God speaks directly to \_\_\_\_\_ about His Will for “you”, but speaks to you through your “\_\_\_\_\_”, your “spiritual leader” regarding the congregation you serve.

### **“Spiritual” Does Not Mean “Spirit-Led”!**

#### **Which is True?**

God’s Voice for You (**is/is not**) the same as God’s Voice for Your Church.

My position as **Trustee (does/does not)** give me the right to speak on behalf of our congregation.

My position on the Finance Committee (**does/does not**) give me the authority to tell my Pastor what our congregation will and will not do.

## Traditional Hindrances to Spirit Led Visioning & Budgeting

The Challenge of Spiritual Leaders: Not to be so \_\_\_\_\_ focused that you ignore the church's \_\_\_\_\_ constraints.

The Challenge of Ministry Leadership: Not to be so concerned about \_\_\_\_\_ constraints that you forget that God ALWAYS \_\_\_\_\_ for ministry to be done ...even if the "Way" differs from what we anticipated.

### 9 Essentials for the Spirit Led, Shared Ministry

1. *Spirit Led Visioning* does not exclude anyone. It is \_\_\_\_\_ of all parts of the Body of Christ ...even those that do not desire to include you.
2. *Spirit Led Visioning* \_\_\_\_\_ the different parts of the Body of Christ in spite of the parts being different in purpose and approach. "Different" doesn't always have to mean "divided".
3. *Spirit Led Visioning* offers the " \_\_\_\_\_ " to all parts of the Body of Christ. It believes that all involved are working for the fulfillment of God's Will in spite of their differences.
4. *Spirit Led Visioning* is **spiritually** \_\_\_\_\_ in following God Will and not **emotionally** \_\_\_\_\_ in following your feelings. Avoid being led by thoughts of what others might do in response to your leading.
5. *Spirit Led Visioning* knows that you cannot make others " \_\_\_\_\_ " to follow and include you. Only the *Spirit* can lead others to want to be a part of *Spirit Led Visioning*.
6. *Spirit Led Visioning* strives towards " \_\_\_\_\_ " rather than " \_\_\_\_\_ " that all parts of the Body of Christ be included. Understand that being "made" to include others is not the same as you "desiring" to do so.
7. *Spirit Led Visioning* has the spirit of " \_\_\_\_\_ " desiring that ALL positions and ALL ministries be positioned to thrive as a part of the Body of Christ.
8. *Spirit Led Visioning* CAN NEVER BE ABOUT \_\_\_\_\_ of the Body of Christ. A budget and vision centered on "control" can never be Spirit Led.
9. *Spirit Led Visioning* maintains a spirit of " \_\_\_\_\_ " and what we are able to do within the Will of God. It avoids the focusing on the " \_\_\_\_\_ " of what we are not able to do because of budget constraints.

***Is Your Congregation Spirit Led or Budget Driven?***