



FBCTC Bylaws Team Update



Background

- Elected at special called business meeting Aug 24, 2008
- Assignment – Review existing bylaws and recommend changes to the congregation
- Members
 - James Barfield
 - John Carlsen
 - Jennifer Cottle
 - Jason Pope



What Have We Been Up To?

- meeting weekly since elected
- studying God's word to see what He says about church governance
 - *9 Marks of a Healthy Church* (www.9marks.org) by Mark Dever
 - *Church Structure That Works* by Bill Blanchard
- reviewing our existing documents
- reviewing bylaws from other churches



Team Charter

- Mission: Review the existing FBC Constitution and Bylaws and develop a set of governing documents that:
 - is well-grounded within Scripture
 - helps the members of FBCTC flourish in ministry
 - helps the members of FBCTC grow as followers of Christ
 - provides a plan to work through conflict within the Body
 - helps meet the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of the people
 - contains more than adequate accountability



Categories of Change

- Biblical
- Consistent
- Clear
- Continuity
- Content



Categories of Change - Biblical

- Local church government and structure must have it's roots in Scripture
- Examples:
 - Role of elders missing
 - Role of deacons



Categories of Change - Consistent

- Our governing documents must be consistent

Bible→Constitution→Bylaws→Policy and Procedures

- Examples

- Bylaws: 'Deacons are not a governing body'
- Constitution: Gives them governing responsibilities



Categories of Change - Clear

- Responsibility and authority are defined and understood
- Example:
 - *The duties of the pastor shall be those common to such office in Southern Baptist churches.*



Categories of Change - Continuity

- Provides methods to continue operations even when there is a vacancy in key positions
- Example:
 - Selection process for interim pastor
 - Duties and responsibilities during time of transition



Categories of Change – Content

- History
- Statement of faith/beliefs
- Covenant
- Qualifications for membership
- Purpose
- Mission/Vision
- Structure
- Ordinances
- Process for church discipline
- Process for conflict resolution
- Procedures for church business meetings



A Way Forward

1. recognize that a change needs to be made ✓
2. clarify the church's vision/mission Dec 2008
3. recommend a Biblical church structure March 2009
4. recommend a new constitution and bylaws Fall 2009



How To Be Included

- Study along with us
 - *9 Marks of a Healthy Church* by Mark Dever (www.9marks.org)
 - *Church Structure that Works* by Bill Blanchard
 - Scripture
- Be ready to contribute when asked
- Review materials
 - Web site: www.fbcthecolony.org
 - Available through the church office
- Attend town-hall meetings
- Provide feedback (both positive and negative)
- Continue to pray



Questions?