

Making decisions. This is how the governance group of the church do their work. Boards make decisions in the best interests of the church towards the fulfilment of the church's mission.

Policies are important because they describe the "limits" within which the church board makes routine organisational decisions. But what happens when a matter arises that's not routine? What is it that a Board needs to bear in mind as it considers complicated, unusual or complex matters? This is where a Board decision-making framework can be helpful.

With thanks to the governance group of a COCWA church, this Governance Guide offers a simple framework that was developed as the board thoughtfully navigated a vexing challenge.

THE WORD

Are there any principles, exhortations, instructions that we find in the Bible that relate to the matter at hand?

LEGAL

Are there any statutory regulations that we need to be aware of as we consider this matter?

Is there anything in the Church Rules that we need to consider? (Including consideration of the Church Objects.)

POLICY, MISSION, VALUES

Do we have any policies or procedures that relate to the matter?

How does this matter intersect with our stated mission and/or values?

IMPACT

What are the potential or likely positive and negative impacts of the decision that we are considering?

How might the decision impact:

1. The Church
2. The Board
3. Individuals
4. The broader community.

Decision making guided by a simple framework like this goes a long way to ensuring that a Board acts in a timely manner.

Decision making should always consider a clear communication process. Identifying likely impact of the decision will assist the Board to identify to whom and how a decision should be communicated.

Finally, all decisions of the Board should be articulated as a clear resolution. The discussion does not need to be recorded in detail, but a record of the key points considered should be noted.