

Marin Lutheran Church

Constitution Task Force

Forum 2: Church Governance

AGENDA

- Introductions
- Why Review Governance
- Three Typical Church Organizations
- Governance and Ministry Model
- Sample Congregations Models
- Guiding Principles

Task Force Members

- Pastor Tom
- Janet Foster
- Tom Schmidt
- Ray Gergus
- Dawn Brewster
- Jim Kamphoefner
- Jeff Reinders

Why Review Governance

What has changed since 1983

- Mainline Denomination Decline
- More Seekers - Fewer with Organized Religion background
- Less time for church activities
 - Increase in two income families
 - Kids involved in many activities
 - Church not center of family activities

Millennium Generation

- Not joiners
- Believers but less Religious
- More Liberal (true of our county)

Why Review Governance

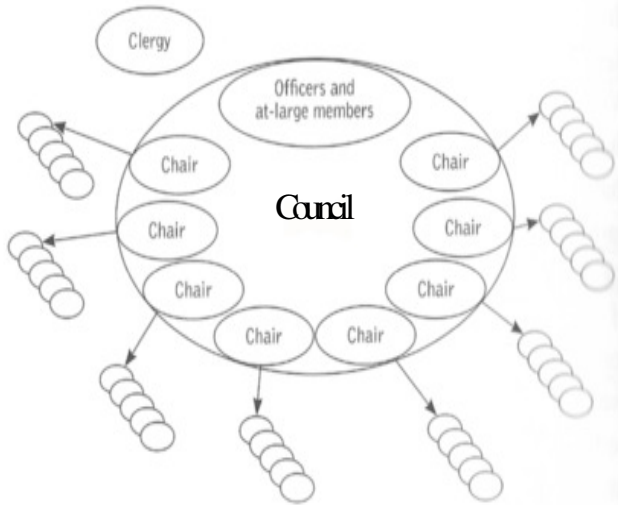
- Religion Transforms
- Organizations resist change – preserve tradition

The goal: Create a stable institutional environment in which people's lives are transformed

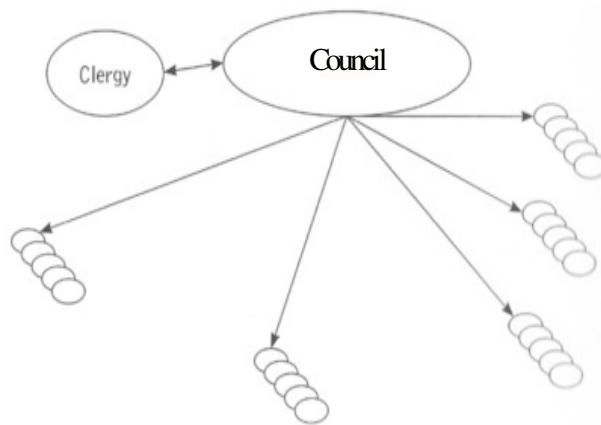
- Encourage Visioning and Long Term Planning
- Empower Ministry Teams
- Reduce Time Commitment to serve & lead
- Improve Time and Talent Utilization

Three Typical Church Organizations

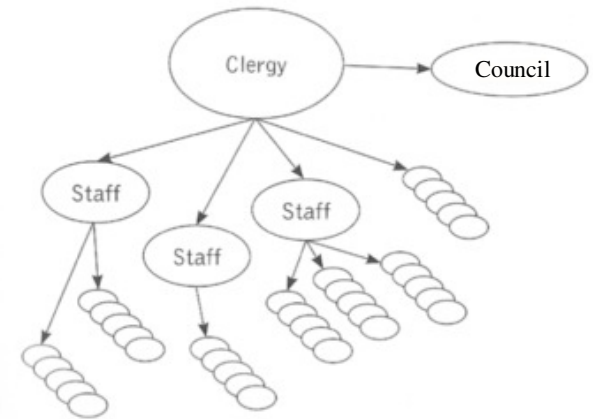
Council-Centered



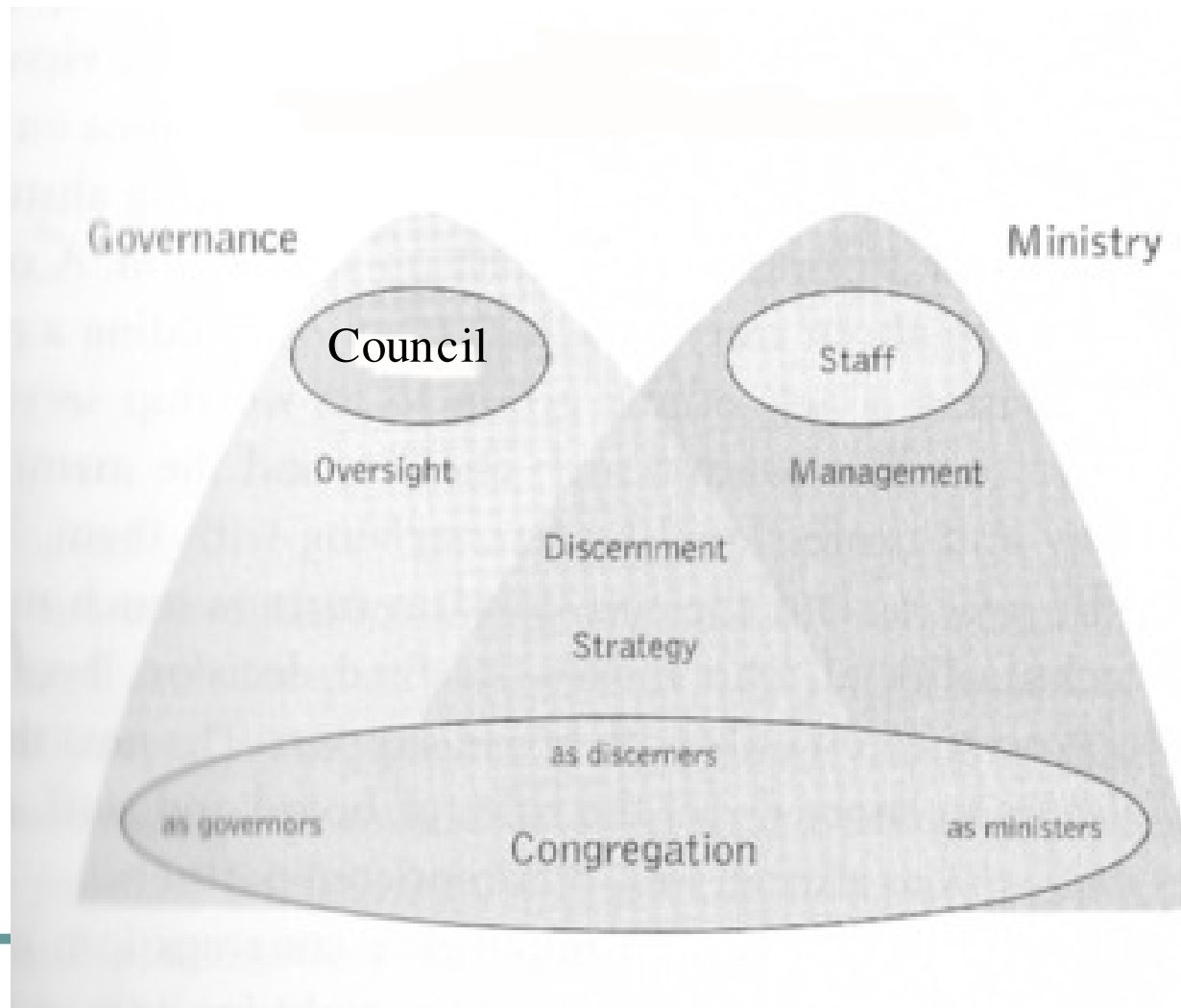
Committee-Centered



Staff-Centered



Governance & Ministry Model



Sample Congregation Models

- San Clara County
 - Council Similar to MLC but have Board of Elders (8 members elected)
 - Have Preschool – Bd reports to Council but not serve on council
 - Biggest Issue – Bd of Elders left over from Missouri Synod days
- Sonoma County
 - Council Elected – Council Elects Officers
 - Council Members serve on Committees
 - Council term 2 yrs – can serve 2 consecutive terms
 - Biggest issue – congregation too small for # of positions
- So Ca
 - Council Elected – Council Elects Officers
 - Council Members serve on Committees
 - Council term 2 yrs – can serve 2 consecutive terms
 - Biggest Issues – Committees stagnant – no change
- San Francisco
 - Council Similar to MLC
 - Committees have limited power
 - Biggest Issue - Large Staff runs many functions of church

Guiding Principles

- Not change just to change
- Keep the best of what we have
- Recognize changes in society
- Meet the needs of our members
 - Now
 - Future
- Encourage Visioning