



Meeting Philosophy

First, I want you to know that I consider your service and time as very valuable. I don't intend to waste it. I will plan our meetings to be direct and efficient. Get out all pertinent information, address questions and concerns in a logical effective manner. Here are some of the concepts I'd like to try in order to accommodate that plan.

1. Our meeting doesn't need to be a verbal marathon. I'm going to attempt to put as much in writing as possible so you can become familiar with the topic before the meeting. You can expect to see attachments to the agenda one week before our meetings.
 - a. This will hopefully save you time.
 - b. Help reduce in-meeting confusion and distraction.
 - c. Give you an opportunity to contemplate the subject at your leisure.
 - d. You can take notes and formulate questions on the subject.
 - e. Those deacons unable to attend will, at least, be up to speed on the matter.
 - f. It will leave a paper trail for anyone interested in the subject, like elders, members of ministries, church staff, etc.
 - g. It can be retained in our records or google drive for future reference and/or new deacon training.
2. I'll expect other presenters to provide a written dialogue of their topic to be attached to the agenda, also.
3. Don't worry about printing the papers out and remembering to bring them to the meeting. We'll have all the documents available for you at the meeting
4. At the meetings we will bring the subject matter up and possibly mention some of the more important points without getting neck deep in the topic because you will have already read all about it and there is no reason to tell you about what you have already read....save time, maybe, and you'll be better prepared. Then, we'll entertain your thoughts and questions about the matter. Hopefully, this process will be respectful of your time and be of more efficient use in our meetings.
5. Finally, I think there is a reasonable chance that this idea won't work. I hate to be negative, but the onus is on each deacon to do his part and read the material before the meeting. If that doesn't happen, then we have to go back to a verbal exercise at each meeting by presenting the whole topic verbally.
6. Alternative: Problem – maybe some deacons can't open a Word file to see the information. Solution – We make hard copy handouts for one meeting. The deacons read them at their pleasure. We discuss the topics at the next meeting.
7. Alternative: The text of the Word document can be put into an email everybody can access.

I'm trying, guys. This will be a different method of information delivery that hopefully it will make us more efficient with your time and make you better informed. Sometimes change meets resistance. If it doesn't work, we can always go back to the old paradigm.

It'll be like Burger King.....you can have it your way....or, at least we'll try it out.

Sandy