[](http://www.ecfa.org/ToolsAndTemplates/Tool_19_Ten_Minutes_Governance.pdf)

*Example*: Here’s the one-page “Ten Minutes for Governance” template used by the board of directors at Christian Community Credit Union, which meets monthly. Note: In most cases, we recommend that boards meet four to six times a year (not monthly), but regulatory requirements for credit unions in California require a monthly board meeting.

**Ten Minutes for Governance:** *Lifelong Learning for Board Members*

Facilitator: Rick Jones

Date: March 22, 2020

Assignment: Read pages 115-119 before the meeting and check out the blog:

***40 Blogs. 40 Wednesdays.*** <http://nonprofitboardroom.blogspot.com/>



# LESSON 23: Focus on Mission Impact *and* Sustainability

The “dual bottom line” equips boards to address dead horses and sacred cows (or goats). “Dakota tribal wisdom says that when you discover you are riding a dead horse, the best strategy is to dismount.” (Elmer Towns and Warren Bird)

More on the book at: [*www.ECFA.org/LessonsNonprofitBoardroom*/](http://www.ECFA.org/LessonsNonprofitBoardroom/)

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| --- |
| **Questions –** Discuss in groups of two or three |
| #1. With our leadership succession changes, the developing technologies, and increasing competition in the marketplace, what “dead horses, sacred cows and goat programs” are keeping us from doing the “Star” programs (per Lesson 23) we could and should be doing? And what is keeping us from identifying them? |
| #2. How is the balance between business and ministry? Do we lean more toward Heart or Money Tree programs? How do we move towards the “All-Stars?” |

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| **Month** | **Facilitator** | **Lesson** | **Topic** |
| December | Dale Bee | 1 | Wanted: Lifelong Learners  *Would you trust a surgeon who stopped learning?* |
| January | Dave Matlock | 18 | Do Not Interrupt!  *Don’t Assume Board Members Know How to Listen* |
| February | Mike Barrett | 12 | Vision Growth Must Equal Leader Growth  *Caution! Vision-casting often backfires.* |
| March | Rick Jones | 23 | Focus on Mission Impact *and* Sustainability  *The “dual bottom line” equips boards to address dead horses and sacred cows (or goats).* |
| April | Tom Torry | 9 | Serve With Humility and Experience God’s Presence *One board chair creates a holy moment for his CEO search committee.* |
| May | Cathy Barton | 17 | Sidetrack Harebrained Ideas  *Some motions should never gain unmerited oxygen!* |
| June | John Pate | 19 | Never Throw Red Meat on the Board Table *Boards need advance preparation to fully address complex issues.* |
| July | Mark Roe | 2 | Ask the Gold Standard Question  *A “pruning moment” can improve your board meetings.* |

*Example*: for another “Ten Minutes for Governance” segment, view the short video on conflicts of interest and provide each board member with the *Read-and-Engage Viewing Guide*.[[1]](#footnote-1) (See all four toolbox topics at [*www.ECFA.org/Toolbox*.)](http://www.ECFA.org/Toolbox.))

**Ten Minutes for Governance:** *Why do we need governance insights?*

# “We are blind to the obvious and blind to our blindness!”

**ECFA Governance Toolbox Series No. 3: *Addressing Board and Organizational Conflicts of Interest:*** *Avoiding Trouble, Trouble, Trouble with Related-Party Transactions*

[*www.ECFA.org/Toolbox*](http://www.ECFA.org/Toolbox)

**Self-Assessment: Board and Organizational Conflicts of Interest**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **How strongly do you agree . . . or disagree with the following statements?** | **1** Strongly Disagree | **2** Disagree | **3** Undecided | **4** Agree | **5** Strongly Agree |
| Our organization has a written policy on “Conflicts of Interest and Related-Party Transactions.” |  |  |  |  |  |
| Every board member is required to annually sign a certification document affirming that he or she has read and understands the organization’s “Conflicts of Interest and Related-Party Transactions” policy. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Every board member that has real or apparent conflicts of interest, per our policy, is required to declare this information annually in a signed disclosure statement. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Our top leader (CEO or senior pastor) and other senior staff are also required to read and understand our conflicts of interest policy—and annually sign a certification document. |  |  |  |  |  |
| In the video, “Patricia” noted that the board “finally, finally had an executive session (without any staff members in the room).” Agree or disagree: “The frequency of our executive sessions is about right.” |  |  |  |  |  |
| Also in the video, “Jamell” remarks: “Policies should never trump relationships. That’s just not biblical.” Do you agree or disagree? |  |  |  |  |  |
| In my opinion, our organization is “crystal clear”  and “squeaky clean” in addressing board and organizational conflicts of interest—and “We’re  being as careful in our reputation with the public  as in our reputation with God.” (2 Cor. 8:21) |  |  |  |  |  |

1. See Board Member Read-and-Engage Viewing Guide, *ECFA Governance Toolbox Series No. 3: Addressing Board and Organizational Conflicts of Interest* (Winchester, VA: ECFAPress, 2015), 9. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)