

## **The Board Chair and the President: A Vital Partnership**

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### **I. Introduction**

In order for a rich relationship to exist between college trustees and presidents, there is a need for boards to be better informed as to their role in the institution. The board of trustees establishes policies that enable the president to smoothly run the institution's day to day activities. Just as the chief executive officer cannot set policy, neither can the board administer the staff or program. What follows is the experience of over 40 years of working with twelve different board presidents, all committed to knowing and doing the Lord's will.

### **II. What the Board Expects of the President**

- A. A Spiritual Leader – role model
- B. An Academic Leader
- C. Allegiance
- D. Ability to communicate the philosophy of Bible college education
- E. Person of Vision
- F. Accepts instruction and correction
- G. Direct dealings

- H. Encouragement
- I. Meaningful relationship with the board president and other members
- J. Ability to make decisions
- K. Good judgment

**What the President Expects of the Board** (job description)

- A. Daily Prayer
- B. Appreciation
- C. Defining institutional policy (policy manual)
- D. Willingness to make difficult decisions (including salary scales)

**Conclusion**

The president must be spiritually mature to get his encouragement from God. When in the loneliness of leadership, he must recognize that the Lord will never leave him or forsake him. The board/president relationship is critical, but it also brings great joy and fulfillment. To work through problems with one another over a period of years is a deep spiritual experience. Trusting God together during the good and bad times binds the hearts of board members and the president in a way that produces a top quality of Christian fellowship. There is always the need to work harmoniously even under intense pressure and not let Satan break our relationship.