Board Governance Forum

February 11, 2026

Facilitator — John Derry and David Gyertson

Excellence in Board Goverance

Overview: Serving on the board of a Bible College is an opportunity to shape the institution's spiritual and academic direction. This forum track is designed to engage the president, board chair, and other trustees in assessing the board's strengths and in identifying strategies to improve governance effectiveness. Following each session, an evaluation instrument will guide participants in evaluating board performance on the topic addressed. At the conclusion of the day, each institution will formulate a board development action plan to implement in the coming months. Leaders will also be introduced to valuable governance tools accessible to ABHE members.

7:00 – 8:00 **Forum Breakfast — Regency Foyer**
8:00 – 8:15 **Welcome & Introductions**

8:15 – 9:30 **Session 1: Institutional Value, Culture, and Mission**

- The promise the institution makes to its constituency
- Institutional distinctives, brand and value
- Institutional purpose and heritage
- Guarding against mission drift

9:30 – 10:15 **Refreshment Break — Regency Foyer**

10:15 – 11:45 **Session 2: Steward Board Culture and Authority**

- Steward board vs owner board
- Stewarding the institution as a spiritual enterprise
- Policy governance & the board policy manual
- Effective path for board chair and presidential partnership

11:45 – 12:00 **A word from our Sponsor**
12:00 – 1:00 **Buffet Lunch — Regency Foyer**

1:00 – 2:15 **Session 3: Sustainability and Strategic Planning**

- Modes of governance as leadership – fiscal, strategic & generative
- Accurate assessment of institutional SWOT
- User friendly dashboard of institutional KPI's
- Compliance, risk assessment, and crisis management

2:15 – 3:00 **Refreshment Break — Regency Foyer**

3:00 – 4:15 **Session 4: Board Development and Evaluation**

- Modes of governance as leadership – fiscal, strategic & generative
- Accurate assessment of institutional SWOT
- User friendly dashboard of institutional KPI's
- Compliance, risk assessment, and crisis management

4:15 – 4:30 **Wrap Up**
6:00 – 8:30 **Connections Dinner — Ballroom B/C/D**