

**2012-13 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ON BEHALF OF  
THE BOARD OF THE JOURNEY CHURCH  
MAY 25, 2013  
-by Dr. Seth Crowell**

Since the Annual Gathering Meeting (AGM) of June 2012, when the members of the new Board of The Journey Church for the ministry year of 2012-13 was approved, there have been, starting in August, nine formal monthly meetings generally held on the second Wednesday of each month. In addition there have been two formal Board initiated information meetings for the membership – one in October 2012 with a focus on Church Discipline and Music and the one in February 2013 with the emphasis on dreaming about the future. Beyond these gatherings there were several non-regular meetings of the Board, or representatives of the Board, usually to deal with more confidential matters that could impact the Church and its ministry. More recently in April, 2013 there was an all-day formal training session at Hillside Baptist led by Jim Brown, author of *The Imperfect Board Member*.

Time and space does not permit to get into extensive details regarding all the Board involvements over the past year, but this Executive Summary is designed to provide an overview which can at least prompt and promote further questions if needed. In an effort to provide some degree of organization and creativity to this report, the activities and functions of the Board will be presented through the use of the acronym B-O-A-R-D. In each case the 'letter in question' will represent two mandates or involvements of the Board over the past year. For instance:

**'B' stands for Biblical Authority and Budget Oversight.** In both our Board's Guiding Principles and the Church's By-laws, the authority of Scripture is seen as paramount. Therefore, implicitly or explicitly, the Board must be alert to ensure that the teachings, ministries and practices of The Journey Church and its leadership, staff, and members are being consistent with biblical teaching. Similarly, albeit more formally, every Board meeting involves a portion of time committed to assessing whether the approved budget from the past AGM is being adhered to. Financial overviews are provided which track how well we are trending based on past patterns and based on the forecast for the existing budget. In instances where there are irregularities, explanations or contingencies are provided. This broader oversight is in addition to the more detailed management of the financial situation by the Finance Team.

**'O' stands for Ownership Awareness and Organizational Clarity.** Just as the recent message series on "Love, Give, Grow" has reminded us that God is the owner of everything and we are His stewards, the governance model we work with serves as a good reminder to each Board member that we are not the owners, but stewards with a particular task to help create and maintain a structure and organization which has as clear lines of responsibility as possible for its staff and members. We have regular training and reading assigned to help us keep these lines as clear as possible while at the same time realizing that life is messy and clarity does not need to equal rigidity.

**'A' stands for Accountability and Anomalies.** Built within the 'Organizational Clarity' role of the Board is to provide and follow Guiding Principles that help hold itself and the Lead Pastor accountable and then to create and refine By-laws that try and address all reasonable contingencies which might normally (or even abnormally) occur within the church setting. One major form of accountability we've been working through over the last two years is the Weiler Report. In this report 12 broad recommendations were made to the church and its leadership as a way to move forward positively and constructively having come through a significant time of change and transition. A progress update will be addressed at the AGM. Another approach in striving for accountability within the Board is to perform a regular review of

our church documents and present any corrections or proposed improvements at the AGM or specially called Church meetings. Finally, accountability also refers to on-going evaluation of our Lead Pastor based on the goals and vision that have been presented to the Board and/or the Church. Different approaches have been used each year and this year an effort was made to seek church membership input – something very new and daring – as part of the overall assessment. Pastor Dave Morehouse is to be commended for his openness to this idea; indeed, it came as a suggestion from him. The ‘Anomalies’ dimension refers to all the unknown, unplanned, unanticipated realities that may emerge in a given ministry year and in which the Board may find itself involved, peripherally or wholeheartedly. Clearly one such reality this past year pertained to what emerged regarding John Ferguson’s status with The Journey Church. The Board did find itself involved in this process; in part, in order to have greater awareness that steps being taken were honouring the ‘Boundary Principles’, in part, because John Ferguson was receptive to this involvement, and in part, because there were implications on the budget as well as the Board’s fiduciary responsibilities regarding the Church’s finances.

**‘R’ stands for Risk Analysis and Reconciliation.** On one hand these two items are distinct, but on the other hand they are unquestionably connected. In the first instance, Board members can find themselves interacting around ideas that are far removed from the present and therefore are more hypothetical and ‘safe’ in terms of the potential impact on others. Inevitably, however, every decision of which the Board is a part or which the governance structure affords the Lead Pastor and his staff to make decisions, there is always a risk of severing existing connections and relationships. This means the Board can find itself involved in a range of reconciliatory activities, especially if it is the policies it has proposed and affirmed that seem to be the connection to the strife. Several different smaller-scale meetings of this type have occurred in 2012-13 as different members of the Board have met with individuals (sometimes with pastoral presence) to seek reconciliation between each other or between other independent parties.

**‘D’ stands for Devotional Insights and Divine Guidance.** One of the more pleasant tasks and involvements of the Board, although equally challenging, is to be the beneficiary first of regular devotional insights and challenges from Pastor Dave as we begin each of our meetings. It is uncanny how timely these devotional thoughts are to each of us within our individual lives of faith. This is at the ‘micro’ level; on the ‘macro’ scene we are challenged to vision and dream into the future with our Lead Pastor as he will regularly provide ideas and hopes for the future of The Journey Church. In some cases we may be asked to be ‘sounding boards’ while in other cases to rebut or enhance the specifics of the ideas presented, always remembering to be asking if it is consistent with our Church’s mission “to lead people to follow Jesus, love God and love others.”

In closing, each of us as Board members, as we join the Board, commit to protect the fellowship of our church, share the responsibility of our church, serve in the ministry of our church, and support the testimony of our church. On behalf of Kathy Cavanaugh, Dean Hennessey, Tim Frazer, Liette Collier, Ernie Weaver, David Morehouse and myself, we thank you for the privilege and challenge of striving to achieve this mandate in 2012-13.