



Mission-shaped PCCs: Diocese of Ely CMT

Saturday 25th February 2023

In recent years there has been writing and action on the theme of a *Mission-shaped church*. But what about mission-shaped administration to support such a church? Where are all the 'fresh expressions' of PCC? Here is a brief introduction to what is needed for your Council to become a channel of mission.

1: The need for a clear purpose

*Mission-shaped focus: a clearly articulated and owned **ROLE** not a **FUDGE***

Background

Mark 3:13-19 – one example of a clear group purpose

Three principles to follow

- 1 The PCC serves the church, so its agenda is driven by the **church's Christ-centred purpose and direction** – which of course the Council may define in the first place.
- 2 Council members **sign up to a clear PCC role**. Key points: (1) to seek God's will, (2) to work together, (3) to take action for the future.
- 3 This role is concerned with **leadership** more than representation, with **risk** more than with safety, and with **modelling discipleship** and decision-making for others.

Practical applications include:

- We are to know the rules and understand the responsibilities of Charity Trustees.
- We are to pray 'your will be done' rather than follow our own desires or wisdom.
- We are to think servant leadership to enable change rather than representation to prevent it.
- We are to be proactive in our thinking rather than waiting for something to happen.
- We are to welcome review for purpose and performance.

2: The need for a big agenda 'big' not 'long'!

Mission-shaped focus: the community of Christ's CHURCH, not a charitable CLUB

Background

Colossians 1:9-14 – not a bad prayer for the year for a PCC

Three principles to follow

- 1 PCC members devise and follow a **distinctively Christ-centred** agenda for the year, and so seek to unlearn what many are used to in normal secular meetings.
- 2 The PCC takes a **big-picture overview** of all of church life: worship, community, outreach, leadership and support, resisting every pressure to pull back into detail.
- 3 **Mission** is not so much items on the agenda as the agenda itself, with all business seen in that context.

Practical applications include:

- We are to be people of prayer and those who treasure the Scriptures.
- We are to be people seeking God's future not living in our past.
- We are to be part of a body that is a change-agent rather than a maintenance group.
- We are to have courage to stay in big-picture mode rather than revert to trivia.
- We are to be channels of communication with church members in both directions.

Website resources

*Some of the resources on my **website** (which you may download and/or print out free of charge) may prove helpful background to sections of today. In the following list, A refers to the Articles pages and TN to the Training Notes ones. <https://www.john-truscott.co.uk/Resources>*

A24 Mission-shaped Church Councils (on which today has been based, although the applications I have used have been a bit different as you will see)

- A5 How to chair meetings
- A20 Annual meetings can be different
- A40/41 Going deeper into meetings
- TN8 Major decisions: a new approach
- TN13 A purpose statement for those who chair
- TN32 What do you mean by vision?
- TN41 What makes a group a team
- TN45 Are you sure it's minutes you need?
- TN58 Beware committees
- TN61 Mapping out a meeting
- TN71 Seatings for meetings
- TN79 'One another' teams
- TN88 Advice to a new committee member
- TN97 How to minute a meeting
- TN118 Why, exactly, are we meeting?
- TN125 How to take major decisions
- TN141 A church council 'Code of Conduct'

There are papers by me on the Diocese of Ely website covering Code of Conducts (see TN141 above), prayer at PCC meetings and the role of the Council (relevant for the first section of today's event). You may download pdfs of these notes, prayer at PCC meetings, and the role of Council document at <https://www.john-truscott.co.uk/News>.

3: The need for an effective team

Mission-shaped focus: a team of godly PEOPLE, rather than just MEETINGS

Background

1 Timothy 3:8-13 – the importance of the person profile, yet we often ignore this

Three principles to follow

- 1 The PCC is a clergy/lay **team** that exists 24/7, not just at meetings. Meetings become special events in the life of the team never ends in themselves.
- 2 The team is seeking to **achieve something for Christ together**, not to be a forum where groups aim for dominance or rubber-stamp others' decisions.
- 3 As Scripture teaches, **character** becomes a vital characteristic for the members, and **love** for the body as a whole. The expectation is for members to grow in **discipleship**.

Practical applications include:

- We are to learn the art of team-working: love, humility, trust, vulnerability, listening, etc.
- We are to model Christian character to the church.
- We are to pray for each other concerning both teamwork and PCC responsibilities.
- We are to recognise and respect the role of 'team leader'.
- We are to work well under a 'meeting enabler'.

4: The need for an agreed plan

Mission-shaped focus: ACTION for the future, rather than repeated DELAY

This transformation will not just happen unless it is planned and worked towards.

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If you would like to receive an e-letter each time new resources are added to the website (about six times a year), fill in the slip inside the web leaflet you have received today, or simply email me with your name and email address, asking to come on to my mailing list.