

# Leadership Tips

## TOPIC: DECISION-MAKING

1.	<p><b>The majority of the ministry team or committee should agree upon a decision.</b>                  Whatever is being done, the team or committee making the decision should have a majority of them agree upon that decision. This keeps people from acting in selfish or manipulative way. I realize that in the past, in our church, some have decided to make some decisions on their own because a committee or ministry did not exist and work needed to be done. However, it is wise to identify that most work of the church has a team or committee leading the way. Also, an idea by one outspoken person (including the pastor) should not be accepted as a group decision, unless the committee or team agreed with a majority.</p>
2.	<p><b>The church budget should be consulted before the decision is made.</b>                  Each year our church board and church membership determines a budget for the coming year. Our church treasurer, along with the financial committee, evaluates the spending of the present year, consider new projects, anticipate giving and determine a new budget. As a ministry team or committee one of the first questions you must consider regarding the decision-making process is how much money has been allotted for this project? That money is allotted in two ways: Church Budget and/or Church Board. If there is no money in the church budget, you must petition the church board for special funding. This keeps committees/ministries from abusing their financial obligations.</p>
3.	<p><b>Other ministries should be consulted if decisions affect their areas of concern.</b>                  Ministries in a local church have a tendency to overlap with other ministries. This is the case in our church as well. It is important that recommendations or decisions be directed to other ministries when there is an overlap in responsibilities.</p>
4.	<p><b>A recommendation can be made to the church board in order to address an issue.</b>                  Ministries and committees can freely recommend to the church board a topic for discussion and clarification. For example, a recommendation from the CE committee might look like this: We recommend to the church board that money be allotted to purchase new Sunday school tables for the children's department. Once the church board receives that recommendation, they can discuss, act upon the recommendation and return their decision to the committee. In this case, if money is allotted, then it is up to the CE committee to decide on the type of table, color, quantity, etc. As you can see the whole process keeps one person from deciding for the entire church.</p>
5.	<p><b>There is no need to have the church board approve every decision.</b>                  If the money is present and a majority of the committee members or ministry team agree on a plan of action, then the decision does not need to be given to the church board for approval.</p>
6.	<p><b>It is wise to get the pastor's opinion (if he has one) before a decision is made.</b>                  Sometimes it is wise to ask the pastor what he thinks in regards to a decision that is being made. <u>Personal note:</u> Truthfully, there are times, when I do not have an opinion because I am not gifted in that area (decorating, kitchen, etc.). Sometimes I have an opinion, BUT I expect that my input would be weighed the same as input from someone on the committee or ministry team. <u>The pastor cannot overrule the ministry team, committee or even the church board.</u></p>