



## CHURCH BUSINESS MEETINGS?

“Why do I have to go to the Congregational Meeting?” “I bet Paul was glad he never had to go to one!” You know that Peter and John would never have consented to having one!” “Why us?”

Well, Paul did have to go to at least one:  
*Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, "Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them. Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away."* Acts 13:1-3

They must have held some sort of meeting to determine to send Paul and Barnabas out on such a mission. As for Peter and John,  
*Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; . . . And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch,"* Acts 6:2-3 & 5

The church had to come together in a meeting in order to select these deacons.

It may seem that holding a business meeting is not much of a spiritual exercise. Like it or not, the church is a business. We have to file tax returns and other government documents just like any other business. We have to pay bills just like any other business. We do just about everything that other businesses do except make money! The church is not in business to make money but to make disciples.

Whether you like to think about money and budgets, they are necessary to run a church. Christ alludes to this when he says, *For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has enough to finish it-- lest, after he has laid the foundation, and is not able to finish, all who see it begin to mock him, saying, 'This man began to build and was not able to finish.'* Luke 14:28-30

It is necessary to consider what our ministry will cost in the year 2000 (as in every year). What are the costs? We have to have one or more pastors and they have to be paid. Paul said so. *Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and doctrine. For the Scripture says, "You shall not muzzle an ox while it treads out the grain," and, "The laborer is worthy of his wages."* I Timothy 5:17-18

It is necessary to have and maintain a facility - after two and one-half years at Judkins Middle School, I assure you that having our own facilities is a must. We must also have a ministry - we must be witnesses *in Jerusalem (Arroyo Grande), and in all Judea (San Luis County) and Samaria (The U.S.), and to the end of the earth.* Acts 1:8

We have budgeted \$600 this year for our Youth Program. This is way too little - except that we do not have the people who are willing to perform this ministry and use the money. We need people who will step forward and say “I feel the Lord would have me work with our youth.” This, again, is where the Congregation Meeting comes in. These meetings are not supposed to be “short and sweet” (although the sweet is fine). You, the members of this congregation are supposed to speak up and ask, “What are we doing for our youth?” What are we doing for our shut-ins? How do we plan to reach this community with the Gospel of Christ?

Won't you please plan to come next week and be prepared to ask what we (and you) can do to further our ministry in the year 2000?

Wayne

C:\WPDOCS\bible\wwws\www4n03.wpd, ©October 1, 2005 by Wayne E. McMorran

