

Community Governance

A Framework for Building Healthy Christian Organisations

Authors: David Bartlett and Paul Campey

Book endorsements....

"This book proposes a new governance framework for Christian organizations built around the core biblical principle of relationships being central to the way we should view life and its various challenges, opportunities and issues. In my work with Christian schools in over 100 countries, the enemy appears to utilize this area of relationships at the leadership level to hamper ministries around the world. This book provides some critical insight into how structures can be implemented to foster healthy relationships at the governance level so that God can be glorified."

Daniel Egeler, Vice President of International Ministries ~ Association of Christian Schools International

"This is a timely and unique guide to assist those involved in the governance of Christian organizations. It is easy to read and will help you engage and maintain healthy communities who are organized and focused on the important principles to achieve its objectives. You will want to refer to its contents regularly and use the diagnostic it contains to review your progress."

Neville Cox, Chairman ~ Focus on the Family Australia

"I was greatly encouraged by the diversity and depth of helpful information this book both explores and explains. It is an easy-to-read handbook, full of practical insight and advice that is both God glorifying and people focused. To all those who wish to serve our King more effectively, I would nominate this book as an absolute 'must-have' resource for Board development in not-for profit organisations across the Christian community."

David Bonanno, National Director ~ Youth for Christ Australia

"At last a robust governance framework that clearly shows how professional businesslike practices can be applied in Christian organisations which value community and relationship, and whose "bottom line" is ministry, not money."

Phil Bassett, Director of Teacher Training ~ International Schools of China, Adjunct Professor of Education ~ Indiana Wesleyan University (USA), College of Adult and Professional Studies

"Those who govern or manage Christian ministry organisations have the tremendous God-given privilege of working with the Lord, to make an impact with eternal significance, upon the lives of those they minister to. This book, with its helpful emphasis on relationships, and with its widely tested and implemented framework and tools, will be of great assistance to Christian organisations which desire to lift their ministry effectiveness."

Zachary Veron, CEO ~ Anglican Youthworks

"Over the years I have had the opportunity to facilitate the development of Strategic Plans for many Christian and Secular organisations. Many "tools" and "processes" are available, however, I have been encouraged and helped by the fine work contained in this publication. It is essential reading for all who embark on developing Christian organisations to reflect the values of The Lord Jesus Christ in any mission field."

Leigh Brown, Executive Director ~ Samaritan's Purse Australia, Executive Director ~ The Billy Graham Evangelistic Association

"Amongst the wide ranging literature on corporate governance, where it is hard to find practical as well as thoughtful contributions that are not weighed down by jargon, this is a refreshing and useful contribution specifically written for Christian organisations, but relevant for any charitable institution. The model of the "core community" as the people brought together by the key purposes is a fundamental principle of accountability in the charitable and not for profit sector that goes beyond the technical membership of the organisation and allows proper consideration to be given to all the relevant stakeholders."

Anne Robinson, Managing Partner ~ Prolegis lawyers, Chairman ~ World Vision Australia

“This book presents a fresh, insightful framework for organisational governance, rooted in sound biblical principles, built on years of practical consulting experience and guided by ‘best practices’ gleaned from among the best run organisations. It is a must read for anyone concerned with the current organisational health and long term sustainable future of the institution they either govern, work for, or hold membership within. With succinct clarity and exceptional understanding, the Community Governance framework brings together concepts that will resonate with all those called to leadership within our Christian organisations.”

Henry W. Contant, Executive Director ~ Society of Christian Schools in British Columbia, Chairman ~ Christian Schools Canada

“Paul and David show great insight and draw on a wealth of personal experience and best practice research on governance. This book is practical, plain speaking. It talks of core values, which derive from our biblical intent. It encourages clarity about our purpose, and the vision to achieve it. It places all of this within a clear sense of the community we are called to serve. It talks about the relationships without which none of this will happen, and here’s the big point – it anchors all of this in that special relationship a body of believers with a common purpose shares with Christ as its cornerstone. Their community governance model is quick to grasp but contains deep insights – it is a very useable, and effective tool whether you are establishing a new board or looking for a way to breathe life into one which is long standing. Easy to grasp, but deep with insight. A practical and most welcome tool for all Christian boards. Highly recommended.”

Stephen O’Doherty, CEO ~ Christian Schools Australia

“Community Governance provides a new framework for governance that accounts for the often missed or misunderstood aspects of conducting Christian ministry, aspects centred on the unique relationships at work in such organisations. This book provides a wealth of reasoned and practical advice for management and boards to apply. Community Governance clearly establishes the distinctives that define a Christian not-for-profit organisation, and provides the practical tools to help you manage and benefit from these distinctives.”

Ken Pullen, CEO ~ Christian Venues Association

“This book is an outstanding contribution to understanding corporate Christian governance of organisations – a thoroughly Biblically-based, community-oriented and relational understanding of how to govern a Christian organisation.”

Dr E J Boyce, Principal ~ Pacific Hills Christian School

“Community Governance is a refreshing approach to corporate governance. The framework put forward is both simple to follow and yet profoundly challenging, as it puts at its centre the primary role that relationships play in not-for-profit Christian organisations. The authors’ biblical worldview is a breath of fresh air!”

Kevin Ricquebourg, Headmaster ~ Gateway Primary School, Zimbabwe

“Governance can be the “quiet destroyer” of many Christian organisations. When things go wrong we often blame personality, competence or theology, rarely do we consider that governance and structure could be the problem. The work of Paul Campey and David Bartlett in their book “Community Governance” could help save many organisations a world of pain if they take the contents of this helpful and practical book seriously.”

Karl Faase, Senior Pastor ~ Gymea Baptist Church

“In the not-for-profit sector, governance is all too often misunderstood or misdirected. This is hardly surprising given the complexity of operating with accountability with the eclectic mix of staff and volunteers and a wide range of stakeholders often found in such organisations. I commend this book to all as a thorough contribution to the thinking and understanding of the governors, particularly of any faith based, not for profit organisation.”

Lloyd Carter, National Director ~ Scripture Union Australia

“This reference book will not only assist those who are just beginning on the road as Chairman or Directors of not-for-profit organisations, but will be a valuable tool for all Board members.”

Max Pridmore, Chairman ~ Baptist Schools Australia

“Community Governance brings new insight, and gleans from the leading thinkers in the field of governance to create a practical and biblical framework that will benefit all Christian not-for-profits. Community Governance breaks new ground in understanding and improving Christian organisations. I’ll be highly recommending the framework to schools seeking organisational improvement. This book is a valuable resource for schools seeking accreditation through the Association of Christian Schools International.”

David K. Wilcox, International Director, Latin America and Asia ~ Association of Christian Schools International

“I found Community Governance far and away the most helpful book of several I’ve read on governance issues. In a time when many Christian organisations unthinkingly practice compliance with government or conformity to corporate best practice, this book provides a radical middle path. It is: thoroughly Christian and thoughtfully though not heavily theological; relational, not just in the personal sense, but covenantal in the structural sense; practical, in a principled, not merely pragmatic or utilitarian way; accessible, full of catchy, memorable phrases, excellent images, and useful surveys and tools. I’ll keep this one close at hand for ready reference.”

Rev’d Dr Gordon Preece, Executive Director ~ Urban Seed, former Director ~ Macquarie Christian Studies Institute, Theological Advisor ~ Lausanne Congress Marketplace Ministry Stream

“The authors have brought fresh insights to the very important matter of governance in Christian organisations. I only wish such a resource had been available when I first became a governor!”

David Ford ~ Emil Ford & Co – Lawyers, former Chairman ~ MLC School

“In a day and age when new emphasis has been placed on building authentic relationship and Christian community, this book is an essential ingredient for every organisation to consider adopting in order to give them clear guidelines, positive procedures and most importantly a biblical foundation for achieving results.”

Dr. Timothy L. Heaton, Professor of Education ~ Cedarville University, Ohio

“There’s a lot to be gained from good governance, and much to be lost through sloppiness! The authors have a passion for helping Christians put their organisations on a sound footing. They know what they’re talking about, and in this excellent book communicate it with clarity and insight. I just wish I had the book years ago!”

Dave Boldy, CEO ~ ChildSafe

“This publication is an essential reference for all Christian organisations. It provides a practical governance framework in the context of Christian community and relationships.”

Cliff Dawson, Principal ~ Seward Dawson, Chartered Accountants and not-for-profit advisors

“Having had an association with and an involvement in the not-for-profit area, in both a professional and personal capacity for more than 20 years, I have found the lack of understanding of the operations of the sector and necessity for separation of governance from management to be widespread. This book helps to underpin an understanding of the reasons why not-for-profit’s exist and how by defining/recognising core values and core purpose, the work of ‘now’ can be seen in the context of organisations that should exist for generations. Reading by those who serve in governance or management roles, and those who have an interest in the sector, is highly recommended.”

David Phillip Stanton, Director ~ Stanton Dahl Architects

“The authors have woven years of personal experience into a framework for governance and management which I believe is truly biblical and reflects best Christian practice for Boards of all kinds. Their focus on relationships and accountability within the context of governance I believe is fundamental to developing a healthy organisation. Any board who understands and implements their framework is destined for health and fruitfulness.”

Andrew Ranucci, Senior Pastor ~ Coast Community Church

“The Community Governance framework presents an approach to this vital area that is well-grounded in Christian principles. It not only adapts to the Christian context, but deliberately addresses the unique differences of the Christian worldview to community governance. This framework takes into account the key differences that set apart the Christian not for profit organisation. It makes the complex simple and can easily be adapted to suit a Christian

organisation of any size. It helps organisations to achieve their mission in a way that deeply reflects their Christian worldview, and provides guidance for Christian organisations that enable them to truly reflect their faith in their governance practices. It provides practical principles to help Christian organisations to see their vision outworked.”

Anne Knock, National Director: Church and Partner Relations ~ Compassion Australia

“Effective God-honouring governance is one of the hottest topics globally in the church at the moment. Who of us hasn’t heard of churches imploding because of: abuses of power, ineffective decision making process or poor communication about who’s leading what? As the church of Jesus Christ, we’ve just got to get better at this. Community Governance provides an incredibly helpful and well thought-through road map for effective God-honouring governance. As one who’s utilised the principles contained in this book, I warmly commend it to you.”

Craig Corkill, Senior Pastor ~ Narara Valley Baptist Church