

Thinking Theologically about Governance

Strategic Leadership conference

Introduction

Setting the Scene



Preliminary Thoughts

- Not so much a Theology of cathedral governance as some ideas for thinking theologically about governance
- Intended to act as a stimulus for you to continue the conversation
- And the importance of you doing so - theology can't be added in later or done and then set aside.

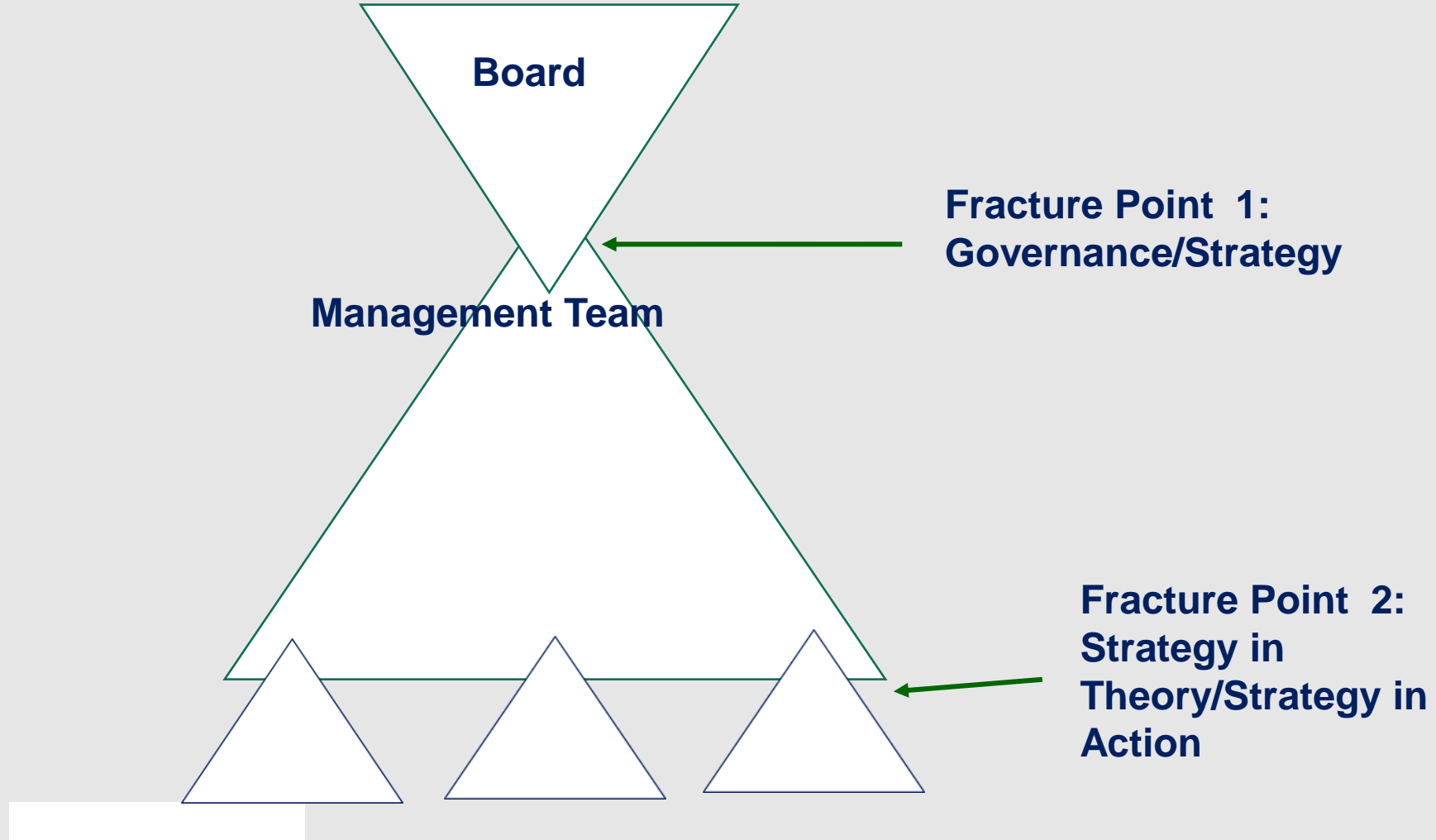
The Great divide...between 'faith' and 'strategy'

'She walked with God, that was her game changing strategy'

'I trust in God, that's my strategic plan'

'The incarnation demands that we live alongside people and wait to see what happens'

Fracture Points



The Importance of Regular Theological Conversation

- Not as something separate from the main business but as a fundamental part of it
- What do we believe and why does this make a difference to what we are doing?



The Myth of Lone Leadership

The range of roles in biblical stories

- Those who offer support
- Those who maintain wisdom and oversight
- Those who offer prophetic critique

2 Corinthians 2.12-13

When I came to Troas to proclaim the good news of Christ, a door was opened for me in the Lord; but my mind could not rest because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I said farewell to them and went on to Macedonia.

The range of roles in biblical stories

- Those who offer support
- Those who maintain wisdom and oversight
- Those who offer prophetic critique

Exodus 18.12-18

¹³ The next day Moses sat as judge for the people, while the people stood around him from morning until evening. ¹⁴ When Moses' father-in-law saw all that he was doing for the people, he said, "What is this that you are doing for the people? Why do you sit alone, while all the people stand around you from morning until evening?" ¹⁵ Moses said to his father-in-law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God. ¹⁶ When they have a dispute, they come to me and I decide between one person and another, and I make known to them the statutes and instructions of God." ¹⁷ Moses' father-in-law said to him, "What you are doing is not good. ¹⁸ You will surely wear yourself out, both you and these people with you. For the task is too heavy for you; you cannot do it alone.

Exodus 18.19-23

¹⁹ Now listen to me. I will give you counsel, and God be with you! You should represent the people before God, and you should bring their cases before God; ²⁰ teach them the statutes and instructions and make known to them the way they are to go and the things they are to do. ²¹ You should also look for able men among all the people, men who fear God, are trustworthy, and hate dishonest gain; set such men over them as officers over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens. ²² Let them sit as judges for the people at all times; let them bring every important case to you, but decide every minor case themselves. So it will be easier for you, and they will bear the burden with you. ²³ If you do this, and God so commands you, then you will be able to endure, and all these people will go to their home in peace.”

The range of roles in biblical stories

- Those who offer support
- Those who maintain wisdom and oversight
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Prophetic Voices

- Institutional and Independent prophecy – and its importance
- Naboth's vineyard – financial mismanagement
- Micaiah ben Imlah – a vision of risk
- Amos – living up to values

From Andrew Kakabadse

- 67% of directors do not raises critical / sensitive issues, challenging the organisation

Prophetic Voices

- Institutional and Independent prophecy – and its importance
- Naboth's vineyard – financial mismanagement
- Micaiah ben Imlah – a vision of risk
- Amos – living up to values

Questions

- For yourself, thinking about the Chapter meetings you have recently attended did you find it easier to be supportive, offer wise counsel or be prophetic?
- For conversation, what changes need to happen in your Chapter meeting to enable prophetic voices to be heard?



Virtue lists and the Nolan Principles

The Nolan Principles

Selflessness

Accountability

Integrity

Leadership

Objectivity

Honesty

Openness

Virtue Lists in the New Testament

- *purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God* 2 Corinthians 6.6-7
- *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control* Galatians 5.22-23
- *whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things* Philippians 4.8
- *As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.* Colossians 3.12

Virtue Lists in the New Testament

- *pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness*
1 Timothy 6:11.
- *pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace...Have nothing to do with stupid and senseless controversies* 2 Timothy 2:22–23
- *But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy.* James 3.17
- *Finally, all of you, have unity of spirit, sympathy, love for one another, a tender heart, and a humble mind* 1 Peter 3:8

The Nolan Principles / Christian Virtues

sympathy

Accountability

humility

Integrity

Selflessness

compassion

Genuine love

patience

Kindness

Leadership

Objectivity

Honesty

gentleness

Openness

generosity

faith

righteousness