

Question: What's the purpose of a congregation meeting?

Answer: We recognize that there were several types of meetings in New Testament times. There were prayer meetings (Acts 12:12), small gatherings in homes (Acts 2:46), teaching meetings (Acts 19:9), and church meetings (I Co 14:26-40), and congregational meetings (Acts 6).

Nonetheless, the congregational meeting ("church meeting") is designed to provide one small avenue for communication to the membership, it is always a method by which single women can get answers and understand the internal working of the congregation, along with future plans that will engage the whole congregation.

A congregational meeting ("church meeting") is not a substitute for an eldership -- it is an expedient way to carry on the work of the church in the absence of a minimum of two spiritually mature men. By default, decisions made in congregational meetings are made by a group of spiritually immature men.

Benefits:

1. Demonstrate proper and approved conduct for membership in every aspect of a Christian's life, the younger are to submit to those who are older and wiser (1 Pet. 5:5).
2. In the absence of elders congregational meetings are needed for the following:
 - a. Large expenditures or major changes in direction of the Church. These are logical in the fact that if they all oppose the major expenditure and don't give to it how can the leadership hope to accomplish it? If they are opposed to the change, again there will be no support.
 - b. Since every believer is a priest before God then it is logical that congregational input to the leadership should have some power of direction unless it is clearly against Scripture.
 - c. The congregation should have input concerning needs and desires, therefore the congregational meeting.
 - d. The intent is to keep the church informed.