

The background features a central splash of vibrant colors including purple, blue, orange, and yellow, resembling ink or paint. To the right, there are several overlapping organic shapes in shades of orange and brown, some with a dotted pattern. The overall aesthetic is modern and artistic.

Theology of Church Consultancy

Group Exercise

A deacon from a church calls the Association and says they are wondering about a consultancy for their church but some of the other deacons think it is a secular process. How would you respond? What biblical examples or themes would you give that might support church consultancy?

Split into random breakout groups of 3 or 4 to discuss (appoint scribe) 11 min

External Interventions in NT

- Coaching church leaders (often by letter, esp. Timothy)
- Evaluating & making recommendations about leadership
- Responding to issues raised or that had come to Paul's attention
 - Divisions in the church, conflict, lawsuits
 - Immorality
 - Marriage & singleness
 - Exercising spiritual gifts appropriately
 - Worship
 - False teachers, doctrinal error
 - Church discipline
 - Giving to the poor

Evaluating Churches

NB: Care with this – who does the evaluating in a consultancy?

- God is an evaluator (Jesus evaluates churches Rev 2-3)
- Assessment is often delegated by God to leaders
- Every person should assess themselves spiritually (care self-deception: invited personal accountability/structural accountability)
- NT letters evaluate churches & individuals

Basis: 5 purposes of a church, a church's specific vision, & Bible

A Multi-faceted Christian Ministry

Seeks to **minister** to churches & individuals

Shares many characteristics of other Christian ministries in encouraging towards growth & health

- Ministry of comfort & consolation
- Exhortation
- Equipping/build capacity
- Reconciliation
- Evangelism, in facilitating a greater missional focus