

CHURCH POLITY: A CASE STUDY
OF CONGREGATIONAL POLITY
IN OSUN BAPTIST CONFERENCE

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CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

A. CONCLUSION

This study has led to the awareness of the fact that the operation of congregational polity in Osun Baptist Conference is an attempt to be biblical in church governance. This is obvious if the New Testament principles of church polity is considered as analysed in chapter two of this essay.

Therefore, as the polity was of great influence to the church planting and growth in the New Testament times, it is doing same in Osun Baptist Conference, thereby fulfilling the challenge of the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20 and the mission of the Church.

The polity is also an appropriate tool for leadership training, and upbringing of faithful and dedicated followership. This is because, under the polity, members are free to express themselves on all issues or matters of the church, not minding age, sex, educational attainment and experience.

However, this does not rule out the fact that the polity needs to be improved upon for effectiveness and purposefulness, because a purposeful church polity should help the church to discover her nature and

mission and lead the church to utilize all her resources and personnel in the fulfillment of her missions of making known God's love for the whole world.¹

B. RECOMMENDATIONS

In the light of what is said above, the writer makes the following recommendations:

1. Avenues should be created to educate all church members on the rights, privileges and limitations of a local church's autonomy. This also calls for the production of a proper statement on church autonomy by the Convention. There is need for proper orientation on congregational form of church polity.²

2. There is need for adequate pastoral education and leadership training. Pastors should be sound in theological education. As a result, we need to encourage Baptist churches which do not have pastors to call and engage the services of pastors for adequate leadership of churches.

3. Church, association and conference leaders should be carefully and prayerfully selected. The services of objective, faithful and just members only should be engaged. Such leaders or officers must bear personal witness to the existence of the principles of congregational church polity. They must live up to the principles they proclaim.

4. Church, association and conference members should be adequately informed from time to time of all the happenings in the three areas. Only the informed people can intelligently govern themselves as required by congregational polity.

5. Voting procedure to take decisions should be approached in a Christian manner. Whether the voting is done by voice or raising up of hands, each vote cast should be an expression of what an individual considers to be the will of God. Therefore, voting should be preceded by careful consideration and earnest prayer. Voting in the church should be taken as a godly responsibility.

6. Forum should be created for the review of the polity occasionally.

In conclusion, as Christians or a denomination, whichever type of church polity we may decide to use, it should be a polity under the leadership of the Holy Spirit, employing human instrumentality to effect God's will on earth.