



A SPIRIT-CENTERED APPROACH TO MEETINGS

AGENDA OF THIRDS

TO STRUCTURE AN AGENDA OF THIRDS MEETING, DIVIDE YOUR TIME INTO THREE SECTIONS, ADDRESSING THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- 1. IN WHAT WAYS IS THE HOLY SPIRIT MOVING OR WORKING IN MY LIFE?**
- 2. IN WHAT WAYS IS THE HOLY SPIRIT WORKING IN AND THROUGH OUR CHURCH OR COMMUNITY?**
- 3. BASED ON HOW THE HOLY SPIRIT IS AT WORK IN AND AROUND US, WHAT DECISIONS DO WE NEED TO DISCUSS?**

Many churches spend valuable meeting time talking about two demotivating factors: money and attendance. The Agenda of Thirds offers a different way of organizing meetings that focuses attention on the person and work of the Holy Spirit.

At first, following this Agenda of Thirds format may feel awkward or uncomfortable. Yet most teams have found that doing so makes space for Spirit-inspired, decision-making discernment. This is especially true when the desire to “get it done” threatens to override the priority to seek direction from God.

In Acts 15, during a significant leadership gathering, the participants were intentional about including the Holy Spirit in determining the direction for the church’s future. We know this to be the case, because after they concluded, their meeting minutes contained the following summary statement: “It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us” (ACTS 15:28). The Holy Spirit was active and influential in this early church decision-making process.

When followed consistently, this meeting format fosters a culture of “waiting on God’s timing” before moving forward. These behaviors need to be practiced with a listening ear to the Holy Spirit. In doing so, we attune ourselves to the Spirit’s presence and become partners with God as the Blazing Center moves out from our hearts, through the church, and into our communities (SEE 1 CORINTHIANS 3:9; 2 CORINTHIANS 5:20).

