

Opportunities and Obstacles: The (Former) Pastor as (Christian) College Administrator TRACS Conference, October 31-November 2, 2018

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1. Your Board is probably very involved

Opportunities

- Some of your counterparts would love that
- You have access to their expertise and perspective
- They have the ability to be your best advocates
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Obstacles

- Micromanagement (too much detail or precision)
- The waiting game (your next meeting is 6 weeks away)
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Opportunities

- Be patient
- Work ahead
- Extend pastoral grace (respect your Board when least deserved)
- *We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.* -1 Thessalonians 5:12 (ESV)
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2. You are emotionally connected to your work

Opportunities

- You really care
- You likely will retain the “why” of your “what”
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Obstacles

- People pleasing
- Taking stress home with you
- Fear is a leadership-killer
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Opportunities

- Keep your wits when all about you are losing theirs
- Focus on facts while seeking perspective
- *We urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.* -1 Thessalonians 5:14 (ESV)
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3. You have a congregation where you are not employed

Opportunities

- Weekends (unless you're traveling)
- Sunday morning with family (unless you're traveling)
- A healthy separation- your DRs have pastors and congregations

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Obstacles

- Loneliness
- Church shopping
- Starvation
- Political participation limitations

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Opportunities

- Model the essence of Christianity
- Individual responsibility
- Big picture thinking
- Enjoy reality- *This cup, this bitter reality, better than fear or fantasy* (Sara Groves)

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4. You (and they) tend to think congregationally

Opportunities

- The congregation is the right form of the kingdom of God on earth (so we say)
- Students are precious, eternal human souls, individually, not just a corporate entity
- This fights the "ivory tower" syndrome

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Obstacles

- You are not a pastor, nor is the Board or student body a congregation
- Departments/institutions want to be congregations; and vice-versa
- Your college is not a democracy
- Not everyone will see this the same way

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Opportunities

- Teach leadership
- Love the congregation
- Don't be the congregation- rather, exist to serve students and congregations

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For free

"Leaving the game plan is a sign of panic, and panic is not in our game plan." -Chuck Noll

"You are either an intentional multiplier or an accidental diminisher." -Liz Wiseman

"People don't buy what you do, but why you do it." -I can't remember