

Core Essentials of Good Governance

For three decades, the In Trust Center for Theological Schools has studied, informed, and encouraged boards and other leaders in theological education. Based on this experience, we have identified six essentials for exemplary board governance. To read full descriptions of the six essentials and discussion questions for each, visit the Wise Stewards Guide.



ESSENTIAL 1:

Respect the past and future

The board balances respect for the way things have been with a robust anticipation for what yet can be.



ESSENTIAL 2:

Commitment to board development and growth

The board takes responsibility for its own readiness to govern well.



ESSENTIAL 3:

Responsibility for effective institutional leadership

The board assumes responsibility for hiring, caring for, and evaluating the president.



ESSENTIAL 4:

Vigilance for mission and economic vitality

The board actively pursues the goal of mission fulfillment with economic vitality.



ESSENTIAL 5:

Commitment to shared governance

The board establishes structures of leadership and governance that invite members of the campus community to contribute to the vitality of the institution,



ESSENTIAL 6:

Implementation of planning and assessment

The board models an institutional culture of collaborative goal setting, continuous planning, and hard-nosed evaluation.