

# **Questioning the Orthodox Beliefs of Association Governing**

**Jeff De Cagna FRSA FASAE**

**Executive Advisor, Foresight First LLC**



# **DFT**

**Distraction Free Time**

**framing our  
conversations**

**we are living  
in The Age of  
Transformation**

**we need boards to  
get serious about  
strengthening their  
performance *right now***

## **common board challenges**

**complacency/stuck in the past**

**difficulty attracting best people to serve**

**lack of preparation for and/or**

**lack of participation during meetings**

**micromanagement/too focused on operations**

**not interested in strengthening performance**

**what is getting  
in the way?**

**we need to question  
the orthodox beliefs of  
association governing**

**orthodox beliefs are  
deep-seated assumptions  
we make about how  
the world works**

**we must help  
boards think and act  
beyond orthodoxy**

**we need to think  
differently about  
governing in order  
to design its future**

**governing is an  
intentional and dynamic  
process for enabling the  
coherence, capability and  
continuity of the system**

**questions?  
comments?**

**AGREE**

**DISAGREE**

**Statement # 1**

**Board meetings  
should be as  
short as possible**

**board service  
is about  
managing time**



## Statement #2

**Members are the best  
people to serve on  
association boards**

**only members  
can/should be  
on the board**

**Statement #3**

**Board dissent  
is dangerous and  
must be squelched**

**boards must  
reach consensus  
on all decisions**

## other governing orthodoxies

compliance is the most  
important work of governing  
board service is a “volunteer” role  
board presiding officers are more  
important than other directors  
short-term concerns matter  
more than long-term thinking

**questions?**  
**comments?**

# **closing remarks**

**we must help  
boards think and act  
beyond orthodoxy**

**we need to think  
differently about  
governing in order  
to design its future**

**Foresight is the  
Future of Governing**

**Building Thrivable Boards, Stakeholders  
and Systems for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

**New eBook available August 2018**

**foresightfirst@gmail.com**

**foresightfirst.io**

**jeffonlinkedin.com**

**facebook.com/foresightfirst**

**@dutyofforesight (Twitter)**

**@foresightfirst (Instagram)**

**thank you!**