

Through my eighteen plus years of being a pastor, I have had the privilege of serving with many church councils. I have served with leaders who answered the call and God used them, each and every one of them. Some came onto the council out of a sense of duty (*"It is my turn"*). Some came on under pressure/encouragement from the nominating committee and/or the pastor 😊 A few actually came forward and volunteered without being asked. I have even seen a couple people get nominated by their spouse from the annual meeting floor. No matter how they were called, they answered the call, and God used them for His glory.

Now, I can about imagine some of you thinking, *"Oh boy, here goes to the pastor, trying to pressure people to serve on the council."* Some of you may run and hide when you see a nominating committee member approach you on a Sunday. But please do not be afraid and please do not run. Just listen, listen to what God may be saying. Listen to what God is up to. Listen and give this a fair chance and consideration.

You have heard and read this over and over, but I will write it again, *"God is doing a thing here at Bethlehem and in Buffalo Center."* And as God does His "thing", He does so through you and me. Throughout scripture, God uses unsuspecting people. God uses those whom others may write off. God uses those who do not feel qualified so He can get the glory.

As we approach the end of the year, we are facing a larger number of council vacancies than normal. The pandemic, in part, is responsible for that, and now we are feeling its effects. My request is that you seriously and prayerfully consider what God is wanting to do through you; to be part of this "thing" that God is doing. So, what say you? Will you answer the call? I hope you do, because God IS doing a thing here., and what a joy it is to be part of this "thing". To God be the glory. Amen.