

R.O.P.E. Trusteeship

R.O.P.E. Trustees are: (1) reverent, (2) ordered, (3) philanthropic, and (4) entrepreneurial. Boards of Trustees whose membership is characterized by these vitalities are capable of effectively manifesting a culture of shared governance in their respective Christian theological schools and seminaries. Each vitality is based on the following portfolio of personal and professional indicators.

Reverent	Ordered	Philanthropic	Entrepreneurial
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Reverent Christian</i></li> <li>• <i>Regularly participates in the Sacraments</i></li> <li>• <i>Recognizes the value of worship and prayer</i></li> <li>• <i>Favors application of Biblical and theological truths</i></li> <li>• <i>Respects official Church documents</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Ordered overseer</i></li> <li>• <i>Favors application of tested business and finance principles</i></li> <li>• <i>Recognizes value of dashboard and scorecard data</i></li> <li>• <i>Values strategic plans and systems</i></li> <li>• <i>Encourages regular communications and preparedness</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Philanthropic steward</i></li> <li>• <i>Servant-centered</i></li> <li>• <i>Willing to identify and solicit donors</i></li> <li>• <i>Interested in extending educational services to greater community</i></li> <li>• <i>Dislikes institutional insularity</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Entrepreneurial thinker</i></li> <li>• <i>Not risk-averse</i></li> <li>• <i>Thought leader</i></li> <li>• <i>Interested in leveraging education and cultural trends</i></li> <li>• <i>Favors high-impact initiatives</i></li> <li>• <i>Emphasizes idea incubation</i></li> </ul>

Reverence refers to a potential trustee’s awareness of, and commitment to, a theological school’s institutional identity. They regularly participate in the Sacraments, recognize the value of worship and prayer, favor the application of Biblical and theological truths, and respect official denominational documents. Ordered trustees are overseers that favor the application of tested business and finance principles, recognize value of dashboard and scorecard data, value strategic plans and systems, encourage regular communications and are consistently prepared for intelligent board meeting discussions.

Apart from being reverent and ordered, R.O.P.E. classified trustees are characterized as philanthropic and entrepreneurial. Philanthropic trustees are servant-centered stewards who are willing to identify and solicit donors, interested in extending educational services to the greater community, and dislike institutional insularity. Finally, entrepreneurial thought leaders are differentiated from their more parochial trustee counterparts, by being less risk-averse, interested in leveraging education and cultural trends, favor high-impact initiatives, and interested in cultivating cultures that promote idea incubation.