Purpose to Progress

◀ 01 · Purpose

What would your board do?

Funding is tighter, volunteers are stretched, and another nonprofit serves many of the same people. Your board wants to keep everything. Where would you start?

A. Clarify which work makes the greatest difference and what could stop.
B. Talk with the other nonprofit about what you could accomplish together.
C. Explore whether a different structure would better serve your mission.

Choose a response. Turn over to explore.

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Purpose to Progress

◀ 02 · People

What would your board do?

Your longtime executive director plans to retire next year. The board wants to hire someone just like them, but the organization's needs have changed. Where do you start?

A. Identify what skills and experience a new leader will need for what comes next.
B. Ask staff and the people you serve what the next leader needs to understand.
C. Update responsibilities for the board, next leader, and staff.

Choose a response. Turn over to explore.

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Purpose to Progress

◀ 03 · Priorities

What would your board do?

Your board spends most meetings on reports and routine business. Important decisions about the organization's future get postponed. Where do you start?

A. Agree on the most important decision the board needs to make.
B. Move routine updates out of the meeting to make room for discussion.
C. Determine what the board needs to know and whom it needs to hear from.

Choose a response. Turn over to explore.

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Purpose to Progress

◀ 04 · Progress

What would your board do?

A promising collaboration keeps returning to the agenda. Everyone seems interested, but nobody owns the next step. How would you move it forward?

A. Ask someone to arrange a conversation with the potential partner.
B. Clarify what each organization hopes to achieve together.
C. Agree on one small step, an owner, and a deadline.

Choose a response. Turn over to explore.

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Keep the conversation going

Before you decide, ask:

Purpose
What difference are we trying to make?

People
Who is affected
and whose perspective is missing?

Priorities
What can we realistically take on?

Progress
What happens next
and who will take responsibility?

Bring this card to your next board meeting. Give everyone a minute to choose a response, then discuss what shaped your choices.



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