**What Does Jesus Authorize the Local Church to Do?**

While there is some overlap, we should expect this list to look different from the activities of individual Christians (1 Timothy 5:16; 1 Corinthians 11:34; 14:34-35).

And we should expect it to be a complete list (2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3).

1. Assemble together (Hebrews 10:24-25; Acts 20:7).
   1. Where is the authority for the building we’re sitting in today? In the charge given to local churches to arrange a place for assembly.
2. In such an assembly, the saints should observe the Lord’s Supper on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 11:17-34).
   1. The church here provides various things to help us fulfill this command—a table, bread plates, communion trays with cups, the bread and the fruit of the vine.
3. When assembled, they should also sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to the Lord, and by so doing, teach and admonish one another (1 Cor. 14:15; Hebrews 2:12;   
   Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16).
   1. To this end, the church provides songbooks and arranges for different ones to lead the singing.
4. When assembled together, saints should also pray together (Acts 2:42; 1 Cor. 14:14-17).
5. The church should be involved in teaching and preaching God’s word (Acts 20:7;   
   1 Corinthians 14:26; Acts 11:26).
   1. Provisions for this include the overhead screen, PowerPoint projection, the classrooms, bulletin boards, sound system, etc.
6. On the first day of the week, saints should give as they have prospered, to finance the work they do as a congregation (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).
   1. And so the church provides collection plates to assist in fulfilling this command.
7. In these same assemblies, brethren can be informed of needs (Acts 11:27-30).

(see back)

1. The local church can discipline its own members, and announce it during these assemblies (1 Corinthians 5:1-13; Romans 16:17-18; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15;   
   Titus 3:10-11).
   1. On the positive side, these assemblies can also be used to commend people   
      (3 John 1:5-6; 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4).
2. The local church can appoint elders and deacons (Acts 14:23; 1 Timothy 3:1-13;   
   Titus 1:5-9).
3. A local church should support the preaching the gospel—in a financial way   
   (Philippians 1:5; 4:14-16; 2 Corinthians 11:8).
   1. Presently, the church here supports several evangelists, including myself. And there is certainly authority for reports to be given about this work (Acts 14:27; 15:4).
   2. Evangelistic efforts could also include sending some of our own to other places   
      (Acts 11:19-24; Acts 13:1-4; 14:26-27; Acts 15:39-40).
   3. This is one way these funds collected on the first day of the week should be used.
4. A local church can provide for saints who may be in financial need (Acts 2, 4, 6, 11; Romans 15:25-26; 2 Cor. 8-9, etc.).
   1. Obligation falls first on the families, but if they can’t provide what’s needed, the church is certainly authorized to help.
5. A local church can communicate with other local churches (Romans 16:16;   
   1 Corinthians 16:19; Acts 18:27).