



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

THE ROLE OF PARISH LEADERSHIP

1. LEADERSHIP AS MINISTRY

Parish leadership is:

- A ministry shared by all who serve the Church
- An opportunity to influence through example, not authority
- Grounded in Orthodox values and practices
- Focused on shaping parish culture through worship, witness, and service

LEADERSHIP FOCUS

Leaders are called to serve at three levels:

- Self: Personal spiritual growth and readiness
- Ministry: Building effective ministry teams
- Parish: Connecting ministries and parish life to the broader mission of the Church

2. THE ORTHODOX MODEL OF LEADERSHIP

Love → Communion → Service

Orthodox leadership begins with:

- Love: Being transformed by Christ before leading others
- Communion: Allowing worship and the Eucharist to shape decisions
- Service: Practicing Christ-like humility and self-sacrifice

Key Principle

Leadership is not about titles, status, or control—it is about serving others through Christ-centered love and humility.

3. HARMONIZED PARISH LEADERSHIP

Healthy parishes thrive when leadership works together:

THE PRIEST

- Provides spiritual leadership and vision
- Teaches and proclaims the Gospel
- Shepherds the parish and preserves unity
- Works collaboratively with Parish Council leadership

THE PARISH COUNCIL

- Assists the Priest in parish administration
- Serves as active ministry leaders, not simply advisors
- Models stewardship, worship, and faithful service
- Supports the mission and ministries of the parish

MINISTRY LEADERS

- Equip, empower, and engage parishioners
- Align ministry efforts with parish priorities
- Foster participation, discipleship, and service

4. CHARACTERISTICS OF EFFECTIVE PARISH LEADERS

Effective leaders:

- Love Christ and His Church
- Live the sacramental life of the Church
- Work in partnership with the Priest
- Demonstrate servant leadership
- Are trustworthy and transparent
- Foster unity and collaboration
- Steward parish resources responsibly
- Serve as ambassadors of Orthodoxy
- Focus on ministry and mission
- Take action and follow through on commitments

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5. LEADERSHIP BEST PRACTICES

Mission & Purpose

- Support the parish mission and vision
- Connect all ministry efforts to bringing people closer to Christ

Stewardship & Accountability

- Use resources wisely and responsibly
- Communicate openly and transparently

Consensus & Collaboration

- Seek unity over personal agendas
- Handle disagreements with humility and prayer
- Encourage participation and shared leadership

Formation & Development

- Invest in leadership training and mentoring
- Develop future leaders through succession planning
- Encourage ongoing spiritual and leadership growth

6. LEADERSHIP TAKEAWAYS

Parish leaders should strive to:

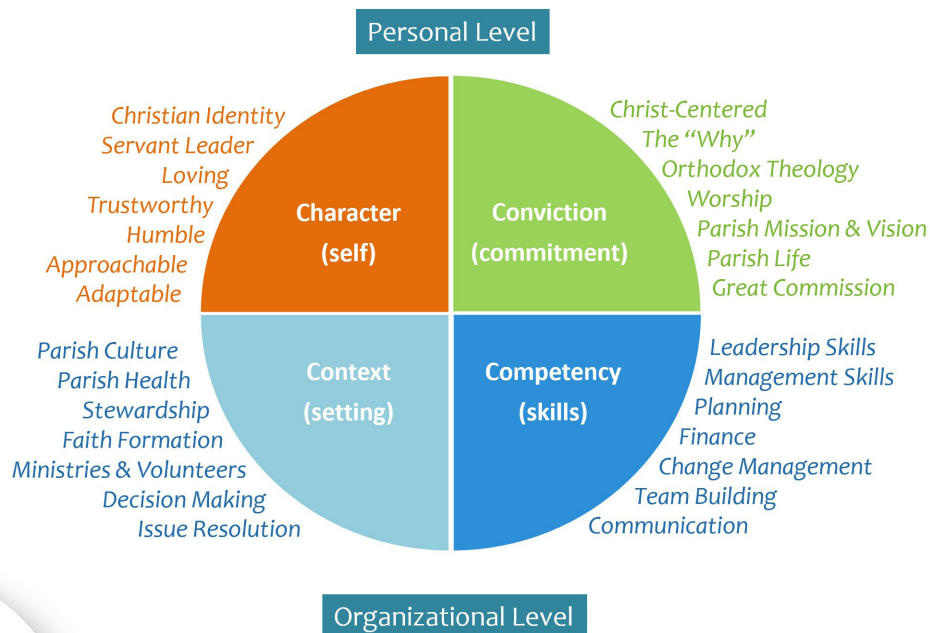
- Be formed by worship, not simply manage programs
- Lead through service rather than authority
- Build healthy partnerships among clergy, council, and ministries
- Create a culture of trust, accountability, and spiritual growth

BOTTOM LINE

Parish leadership is not simply about governing a parish—it is about faithfully serving Christ and His Church so that every ministry, decision, and relationship helps fulfill the Church's ultimate calling:

BRINGING PEOPLE CLOSER TO CHRIST

4 C'S OF LEADERSHIP



HAVE A QUESTION?

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LEADERSHIP
Development