

Oriented Leadership: Why Every Christian Needs It



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Synopsis

This book was originally published in 1994, and was commissioned by The All-American Council of the Orthodox Church in America as a companion volume on Leadership to accompany leadership development programs within the Church. It provides an overview of leadership and leadership development from an Eastern Christian perspective, discussing the subject at both theological levels and informing it with practical examples and problems found in typical parish and organizational life. *Oriented Leadership* paints a clear picture of what Christian leadership should and shouldn't be. The authors demonstrate that leadership is a sacramental aspect of life a vital part of what it means to be created in the image and likeness of God. This very practical book should be read by every Christian, no matter what his or her leadership capacity. The authors link traditional teaching with contemporary practice....*Oriented Leadership* fills a critical need for sound and workable methods of inter-relationship and inter-action within Church communities and beyond.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a book every bishop, priest, parish council member and lay leader needs to read. Even better, the book should be used for workshops and training in group settings. Although good theology, liturgy, pastors and lay people are plentiful in the Orthodox Church, its history, especially in North America, has shown that its organizational life is woefully inadequate if left either to secular models or models inherited from a Byzantine and tsarist authoritarian past. *Oriented Leadership* is a pioneering effort to bring together theology and practical reflection on leadership, organization, accountability, administration, planning and management. Beginning with a Trinitarian vision of a

communion of persons, McKibben and Williams outline in many practical ways how it is possible to make hierarchy and conciliarity complementary aspects of a leadership based on mutual service and accountability. If you are disillusioned with organizational church life, or simply frustrated at the gap between theology and administration, then this book will be a source of hope. --[Fr. John A. Jillions is Associate Professor of Eastern Christian Studies and Director of the Doctor of Ministry program at Saint Paul University, Ottawa, Canada. He is also Vice-President of the Canadian Council of Churches and past Dean of Annunciation

Michael T. McKibben is President & CEO of Leader Technologies, Inc., a company he founded to develop and market web-based collaboration platforms that merge voice and data. After graduating from The Ohio State University with a civil engineering degree, he became European director of Living Sound, a Christian music organization specializing in musical missions. His involvement in international Christian missions over almost a decade allowed him to work with business, education, political and religious leaders in 27 countries. Mike has authored several planning and management books, and he is also the author of *Orthodox Christian Meetings*, a practical guide to an Orthodox understanding of communications and administration, with an emphasis on how we work together and conduct meetings. Benjamin D. Williams is Director of Strategic Accounts for Welch Allyn, Inc, a manufacturer of medical equipment. He holds an undergraduate degree in Zoology from Southern Utah State University, and a Master of Theology from Fuller Theological Seminary (1979). Since then he has served in various facets of Christian ministry, including pastor, cantor, prison chaplain, and parish council chairman. He has been actively involved in the founding of three mission parishes. Since graduating from seminary, he has been employed in the health care industry, serving in various sales management leadership positions for the past twenty years. Ben also co-authored *Orthodox Worship*, an introduction to the origins and development of the worship practices of the Orthodox Church.

Many times persons have leadership roles in their community of faith and are not certain what are the best practices for reaching specific goals. This book has good ideas and suggestions for developing the goals and for focusing on meeting these goals. Examples of situations and practices for working to be successful are many. Too often persons think they know the best ways to administer a church and apply methods which are not appropriate. Other times ideas and methods are cast aside because individuals feel they are not right for a religious institution and community. This is a well written book for becoming a successful Christian leader.

This book was written with a specific purpose: it was a leadership development project within the Orthodox Church in America. Thus, it is not only a "christian leadership" book, but is also a somewhat religious-specific effort, reflecting the Eastern Christian perspective. With that said, though, most of the religious-specific material is illustrative. I believe the main contribution, for Christians of all sorts who are serious about leadership issues, is to be found in the two primary subjects. The first has to do with the subject of organizational models and the core concept of Christianity: the Holy Trinity. Our contention is that rather than being an abstract theological concept, the Holy Trinity, can be used to deduce the optimal organizational models. The second has to do with the leadership of Jesus Christ: He incarnated the Trinitarian leadership principles in a fashion that is now commonly referred to as "servant leadership". The book was written for the average person by two business men with theological training, and is pretty easy to read.

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