



# Building Effective Boards for Religious Organizations: A Handbook for Trustees, Presidents, and Church Leaders

*By Thomas P. Holland, Thomas J. Holland*

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Through their admirable energy, dedication, and leadership, religious board members sustain our world's most invaluable organizations. This in-depth handbook offers essential insights from respected veterans of religious and nonprofit work on governing an organization with a religious mission. Drawing on years of research, consulting, and hands-on religious nonprofit work, the authors show how board members can clearly define their roles and mission, transform hierarchical structures into models of collaborative leadership, and organize for greater impact.

From congregations and seminaries to soup kitchens, hospital chains, and social service agencies, *Building Effective Boards for Religious Organizations* examines both the nature and nurture of religious boards. Interfaith in scope and brimming with real-life examples, it skillfully demonstrates how a religious board can escape common problems, and how understanding the full depth of the organization's mission can help it best fulfill its intended purpose.

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### **Editorial Review**

#### **Review**

"This book is truly masterful. It matches our situation so well it is uncanny. The book will act as the sailor's basic navigation tools for nonprofit managers and trustees. It is very learning-community oriented and has high value for everyone." --William Andersen, executive director, The Episcopal Church Foundation

"Should be on the desk in every religious organization. Holland and Hester guide the reader through governance basics, from purpose to planning, with faithful attention to the special role of shared leadership." --Pat Murrell, professor, University of Memphis

"This book is an excellent resource for boards of religious organizations. Each essay contains at least one model on which to reflect or a tool with which to strengthen a board." --Margaret M. Healy, president, Rosemont College

"If you want to improve the governance of religious organizations, read this book. The assembled experts provide a roadmap for how a board can add value to the organization it serves." --Eugene R. Smoley, Jr., senior fellow, The Cheswick Center

"This ought to be required reading for any member of a religious board and those who serve with them." --John M. Mulder, president, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary

"A rare opportunity to encounter the experience of the most respected leaders in the governance of theological education. Presidents should not miss it." --Ansley Coe Throckmorton, president, Bangor Theological Seminary

#### **From the Inside Flap**

Nonprofit boards are, without question, most effective when they're structured around the organization's goals. If an organization's mission is religious-as it is for about half of all nonprofits-the board must interpret its roles and responsibilities accordingly if it is to function properly. Building Effective Boards for Religious Organizations-a first-ever look at a board's crucial role in a religious nonprofit-is a comprehensive, practical handbook for any religious organization. Drawing clear insights from a wide variety of religious board experts, Building Effective Boards for Religious Organizations addresses the challenges of understanding how and why religious boards operate as they do. Through case studies and concrete recommendations, this dynamic guide shows how boards can replace the hierarchical management model with a cooperative model of trusteeship that encourages a faithful, and more effective, practice of governance. It illuminates the board's proper role in strategic planning, offers insights on how to deal with mergers, provides a process for reading the current health of the organization, and shows how a deep appreciation of the organization's mission enables boards to organize for greater impact. Focusing close attention on specific dimensions of the board-from its structure and communication functions to its application of religious beliefs and traditions in its work-the authors offer many practical ways a board can work to improve effectiveness. They show how to get started on change, how to identify shared priorities for action, how to generate movement and sustain ongoing growth, and how to make better use of information and communication formats to support greater effectiveness. Building Effective Boards for Religious Organizations gives religious boards precisely the perspectives, models, and tools they need to advance a wide range of issues and shows them how to work together more creatively and productively. Members of the

## From the Back Cover

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*Building Effective Boards for Religious Organizations* gives religious boards precisely the perspectives, models, and tools they need to advance a wide range of issues and shows them how to work together more creatively and productively. Members of the boards of local congregations of every denomination, judicatories and denominational bodies, seminaries and religious universities, religiously sponsored health care organizations, social service agencies, community ministries, and others who want their religious commitments to provide a stronger ground for their governance responsibilities will find essential knowledge and tools here.

## Everything a Religious Board Needs to Know to Work More Effectively

Through their admirable energy, dedication, and leadership, religious board members sustain our world's most invaluable organizations. This in-depth handbook offers essential insights from respected veterans of religious and nonprofit work on governing an organization with a religious mission. Drawing on years of research, consulting, and hands-on religious nonprofit work, the authors show how board members can clearly define their roles and mission, transform hierarchical structures into models of collaborative leadership, and organize for greater impact.

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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Frances Small:**

Information is provisions for those to get better life, information today can get by anyone on everywhere. The information can be a knowledge or any news even restricted. What people must be consider whenever those information which is inside the former life are hard to be find than now could be taking seriously which one is appropriate to believe or which one the actual resource are convinced. If you get the unstable resource then you have it as your main information we will see huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen throughout you if you take Building Effective Boards for Religious Organizations: A Handbook for Trustees, Presidents, and Church Leaders as the daily resource information.

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#### **Devin Glass:**

Exactly why? Because this Building Effective Boards for Religious Organizations: A Handbook for Trustees, Presidents, and Church Leaders is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap this but latter it will distress you with the secret the idea inside. Reading this book alongside it was

fantastic author who all write the book in such wonderful way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this ever again or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book get such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

**Kimberly Moore:**

Reading can called head hangout, why? Because when you find yourself reading a book mainly book entitled Building Effective Boards for Religious Organizations: A Handbook for Trustees, Presidents, and Church Leaders your mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every single aspect that maybe mysterious for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging every single word written in a book then become one web form conclusion and explanation that maybe you never get ahead of. The Building Effective Boards for Religious Organizations: A Handbook for Trustees, Presidents, and Church Leaders giving you a different experience more than blown away the mind but also giving you useful facts for your better life with this era. So now let us show you the relaxing pattern at this point is your body and mind will likely be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning a casino game. Do you want to try this extraordinary investing spare time activity?

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