



# *Igniting the Flame*



## *The Stewardship Calling* *Tithing Message*

“For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required.”  
Luke 12:48

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**Stewardship  
Calling**

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**Stewardship  
Calling**



# Definitions of Stewardship





# Today's Life Changing Idea



INY IG



# Today's Life Changing Idea



It's

Not

Yours,

It's

God's





# Today's Life Changing Idea



# INY IG

**“You received without paying,  
give without pay.”**

Matthew 10:8





# The Stewardship Calling Stewardship Definition



Stewardship...

...what you do with ALL  
the gifts God gave you



# **Christian Stewardship Is A Way Of Life<sup>1</sup>**



**Stewardship is what  
a person does after  
saying “I believe...”  
as proof of that  
belief**

<sup>1</sup> **Oriented Leadership** – Williams and McKibben



**“But this I say, he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly; and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. *(2 Corinthians 9: 6-8)***







**“For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.”**  
*(Luke 12:48)*

**“Every man shall give as he is able, according to the blessings the Lord your God gave you.”**

*(Deuteronomy 16:17)*

**Message:**

**Proportional giving**



**“On the first day of the week  
(i.e., Sunday) let each one of you  
lay something aside, storing up  
as he may prosper ....I will  
send... your gift to Jerusalem”  
(i.e., the Church center at that time)  
*(1 Corinthians 16:2-3)***

## **Message:**

**Weekly giving**

**Proportional giving**

**Giving for the work of the Church**



**“Command those who are rich... not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches... Let them do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to give, willing to share, storing up for themselves a good foundation for the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.”** *(1 Timothy 6:17-19)*

**Message:**

**Basis for link between stewardship, spiritual growth and ultimately salvation**





# The Parable of the Talents



**“Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much.”**

*(Matthew 25:14-30)*





# Matthew 19:16-26



~ The question asked our Lord was: “What good deed must I do to have eternal life?”

~ After mentioning not killing, committing adultery, stealing or bearing false witness, and of course definitely loving one's mother, father and neighbor, our Lord clearly says:

~ “*If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come follow me.*”

~ Are you prepared to go ALL IN?



**“Where your treasure is, there  
your heart will be also.”**

*(Matthew 6:21)*





# Luke 16:11



**“And if you are untrustworthy  
about worldly wealth,**



**...who will trust you with the  
true riches of heaven?”**





## Tough Love from St. Theophylact of Bulgaria

“The test as to whether God will bestow heavenly blessings (true riches) on a person is directly related to how that person spends his money. The money we consider our own is actually another man's, that is, belonging to God, or at least to the poor. The Fathers universally see a person's failure to give money to God's work as stealing: ‘nothing less than embezzlement of money belonging to someone else’ ”<sup>1</sup>



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<sup>1</sup> This is a direct quote from The Orthodox Study Bible footnote for Luke 16:11 (page 1398) that includes a statement attributed to St. Theophylact of Bulgaria, sometimes referred to as Theophylact of Ohrid





# Tough Love from St. Paisios



**“The spirit of luke-warmness reigns... We’ve been spoiled for good. How does God still tolerate us?**

**Today’s generation is the generation of indifference. There are no warriors. The majority are fit for parades and feasts only.... Even people who’ve got something inside have begun to grow cool saying, ‘Can I really do anything to change the situation?’**

**We have to witness our Faith with boldness, because if we continue to remain silent, we’ll have to answer in the end. In these difficult days, each must do what is in their own power. Leave what’s out of their power to God. In this way, our conscience will be clear.”**

**St. Paisios the Athonite**





# A Reflection on Christian Stewardship<sup>1</sup>



**“Do I possess the house in which I live? No, it is only on loan to me from God while I remain in that place.**

**Do I possess the clothes I wear? No, they are on loan to me until they wear out, or until I give them away to someone in greater need.**

**Do I possess this body that you see before you? No, it was lent to me by God when I was born, and He will take it back when I die.**

**Do I possess the mind that is composing the words that I speak? No, that too was lent by God at my birth and will go when I die.”**

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<sup>1</sup> St John Chrysostom from *On Living Simply: The Golden Voice of John Chrysostom*



# **A Reflection on Christian Stewardship<sup>1</sup>**



**“So do I possess anything?**

**Yes, I possess the virtues which during my life have grown and flourished within my soul.**

**Inasmuch as I have grown in faith, I possess faith. Inasmuch as I have grown in gentleness, I possess gentleness.**

**These things are immortal; they are divine gifts which God will not take away, because He wants heaven itself to be filled with virtue.**

**And, of course, I possess my soul, in which these virtues have their roots.”**

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<sup>1</sup> St John Chrysostom from *On Living Simply: The Golden Voice of John Chrysostom*



**Merely writing a  
check doesn't  
make you a  
steward...**



**...any more than  
just standing in  
your garage  
doesn't make you  
a car.**





**It will get easier  
once we get it right  
with  
the Fourth T...**

**Tithe**





# The Tithe



## **MALACHI 3:10**

**BRING THE WHOLE TITHE INTO THE  
STOREHOUSE, THAT THERE MAY BE  
FOOD IN MY HOUSE. TEST ME IN THIS,"  
SAYS THE LORD ALMIGHTY, "AND  
SEE IF I WILL NOT THROW OPEN THE  
FLOODGATES OF HEAVEN AND POUR  
OUT SO MUCH BLESSING THAT YOU  
WILL NOT HAVE ROOM ENOUGH FOR IT.**



# **Tithing Is The Right Answer (not just in the Old Testament)**



**“Do not think that I have come to abolish the law and Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill” (Matthew 5:17)**

**“Now Melchizedek the king of Salem brought out bread and wine; he was a priest of the Most High. He blessed Abram ... Then Abram gave him a tithe of all”. (Exodus 14:18-20)**

**“Behold, I give the children of Levi (the priests) all the tithes in Israel as an inheritance in return for their liturgical service.” (Numbers 18:21)**

**“Will a man insult God? Yet you have insulted Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we insulted You?’ You keep back tithes and offerings!” (Malachi 3:8)**

**“Woe to you scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faith. These you ought to have done without leaving the others undone” (Matthew 23:23)**

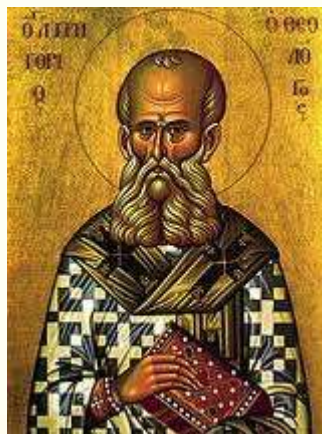




# Tithing Is The Right Answer (not just in the Old Testament)



**“If there was a danger then (in the Old Testament) in omitting tithes, think how great it must be now!”**



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**St. John Chrysostom, Homily on Ephesians 2:10 -  
Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers, Volume XIII First  
series, p.69**





# **Tithing Is The Right Answer (not just in the Old Testament)**



**“Stewardship is recommended to be ten percent (10%) of one’s annual income as stated in Holy Scripture to help meet the financial obligations of the Parish, the Metropolis and the Archdiocese”**

**Uniform Parish Regulations Article 18, Section 1 of the Regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America**



# **Tithing Is The Right Answer (not just in the Old Testament)**



**See a great article on tithing from  
the Antiochian Archdiocese website  
by Fr. Thomas Zell**

**(Editor-in-Chief of AGAIN Magazine and the  
pastor of St. James Orthodox Mission in  
Modesto) at:**

**<http://ww1.antiochian.org/node/16719>**



# Tithing Is The Right Answer



~ Tithing should be each person's ultimate goal (a minimum of 10% Time, Talent and Treasures)

(“You shall tithe...” Deuteronomy 14:22)



# Tithing Is The Right Answer



- ~ Median<sup>1</sup> American “Orthodox” family income by ethnicity =  
Russian \$77,841 - Bulgarian \$76,861 - Lebanese \$75,337 -  
Ukrainian \$72,449 - Romanian \$72,381 - Greek \$72,291 -  
Serbian \$70,028 - Yugoslavian \$63,765 -
- ~ 10% of Median Orthodox (\$72,300) = \$7,230
- ~ N = your number of Stewardship units/families
- ~ \$7,230 x N = \$ (your new stewardship total)

100N = \$ 723K

300N = \$2.17M

500N = \$3.62M

200N = \$1.45M

400N = \$2.89M

600N = \$4.34M

- ~ Imagine what ministries and services your Parish could fund if all stewards tithed and contributed \$X Million instead of the relatively smaller amounts they are contributing now

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<sup>1</sup> "Median household income in the past 12 Months (in 2015 inflation-adjusted dollars)". American Community Survey. United States Census Bureau. 2015. Retrieved 3 December 2016.





# Tithing / Percentage Giving



## How do you get a Tithing program started

- 1. Start talking, teaching and preaching about tithing to your parishioners**
- 2. Explain the economic impact of tithing to your parishioners**
- 3. Have the Parish leaders, stewardship committee and clergy lead by example**
- 4. Implement a “10 by 10” program**
  - ~ Contribute 1% in year 1**
  - ~ Increase contributions 1% for each subsequent year**
  - ~ Reach a 10% tithe by the 10<sup>th</sup> year**



# Percentage Giving

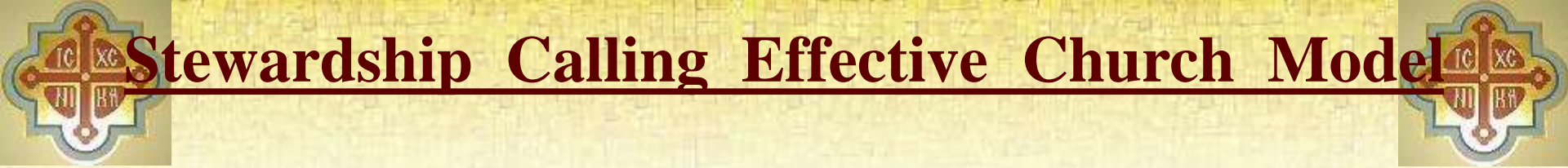
- **#1 Best Choice = Tithing (teach the Tithe of Time and Talents and Treasures)**
- **#2 Best Choice = percentage giving (it's aspirational)**
- **The “Round-UP” - get them to round-up their current contribution to the next higher round number percentage, then add 1% more each year thereafter**





# The Stewardship Calling Effective Church Model





# Stewardship Calling Effective Church Model

Institutional



Consensus  
Vision and  
Strategic Plan

Effective  
Worship  
Experience



Culture of True  
Stewardship

Engaged  
Disciples

Individual



# Stewardship Calling

What are you doing with all of the gifts God has given you?

[www.stewardshipcalling.com](http://www.stewardshipcalling.com)

WHY? **EFFECTIVE CHURCH MODEL – THE 4 CRITICAL DIMENSIONS** STEWARDSHIP CHURCH STRATEGIC PLANNING  
PODCASTS / INTERNET RADIO SPIRITUAL – LEADERSHIP RETREATS BLOG RESOURCES UPCOMING PROGRAMS  
TESTIMONIALS IT'S NOT ABOUT ME IN LOVING MEMORY OF BESS MARIANES



**Effective Church Model tab (with detailed presentations covering 3 of the 4 dimensions of an Effective Church)**

## Effective Church Model – The 4 Critical Dimensions

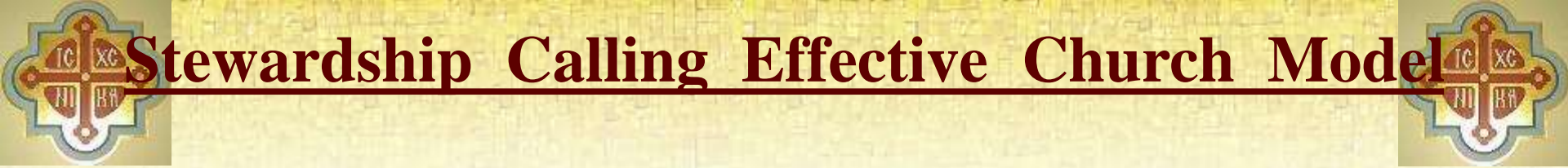


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# Stewardship Calling Effective Church Model

## Institutional



**Worship**



**Vision**

Effective  
Worship  
Experience

Consensus  
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Strategic Plan



**Disciples**



**Stewardship**

Engaged  
Disciples

Culture of True  
Stewardship

## Individual

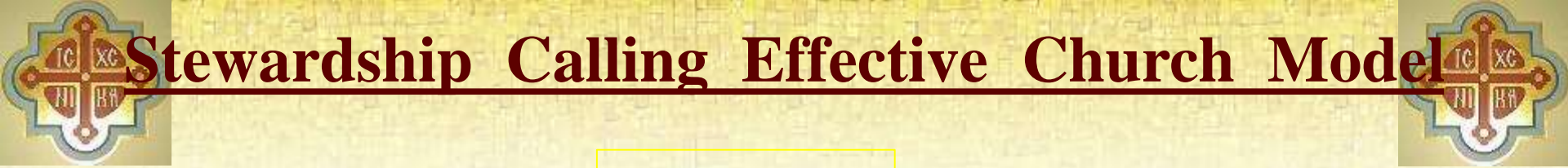


# 7 Engaged Disciples Practices

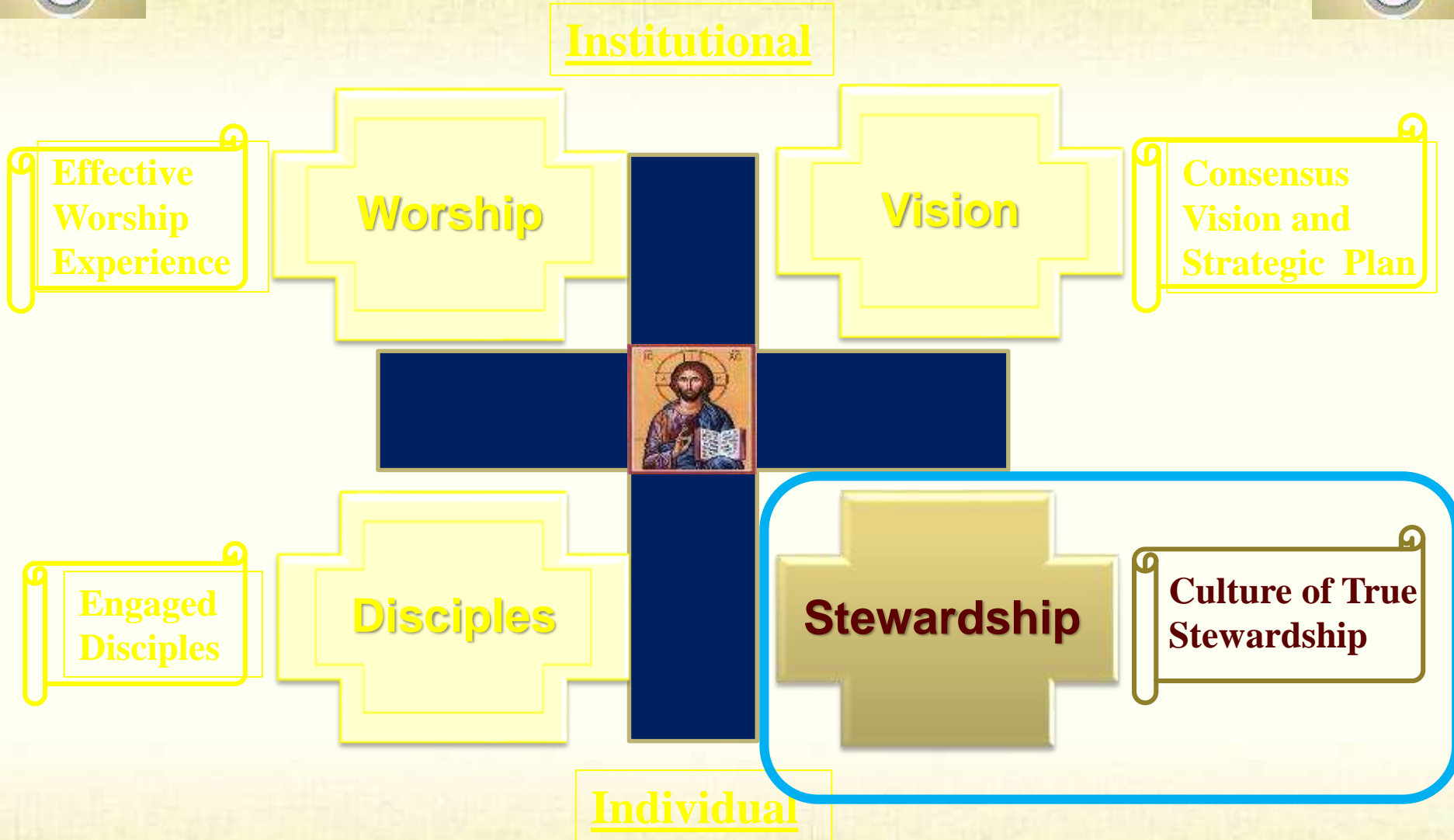


- 1. Spiritual education**
- 2. Living in H. D. (being a Hero and Disciple)**
- 3. Discovery of Stewardship Calling**
- 4. Prayer**
- 5. Small Groups**
- 6. Orthodox Leadership Development**
- 7. Youth discipleship**





# Stewardship Calling Effective Church Model





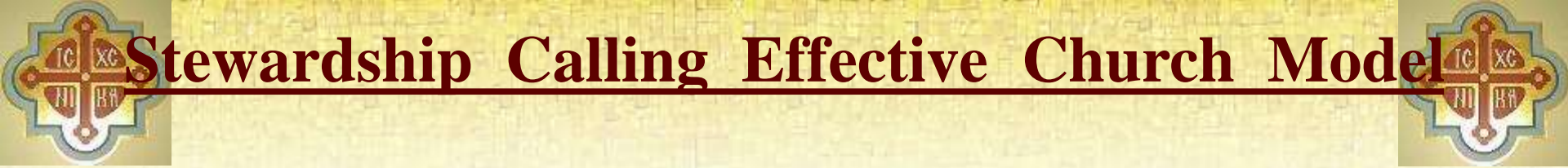


# **15 Culture of True Stewardship Practices**



- 1. Stewardship & Generosity**
- 2. Leadership Alignment**
- 3. Tithing**
- 4. Time First**
- 5. It's personal**
- 6. Engagement**
- 7. Welcoming**

- 8. Thanking**
- 9. Youth**
- 10. Messaging**
- 11. Campaigns**
- 12. Estate Giving**
- 13. Transparency & Accountability**
- 14. Small Groups**
- 15. Team**



# Stewardship Calling Effective Church Model

Institutional



Effective  
Worship  
Experience



Consensus  
Vision and  
Strategic Plan



Engaged  
Disciples



Culture of True  
Stewardship

Individual



# **7 Consensus Vision and Strategic Plan Practices**



- 1. Leadership buy-in**
- 2. 4-Ps (People, Process, Plan, Perform)**
- 3. Consensus Why, SWOT, Vision, Core Values, Mission and Goals**
- 4. Widespread participation and engagement**
- 5. Transparency, accountability and communication**
- 6. Diligent execution**
- 7. Regular strategic planning**





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