

# GOVERNANCE LEADERSHIP FORMATION

## Session 1 – Lay Leadership in the Church

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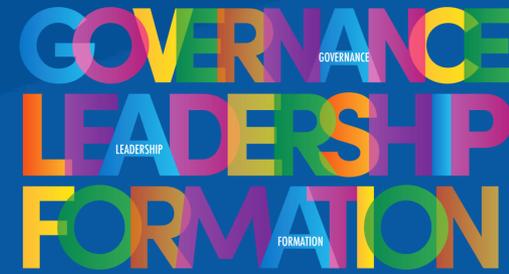
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Online Governance Forum, July 2021



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## Context

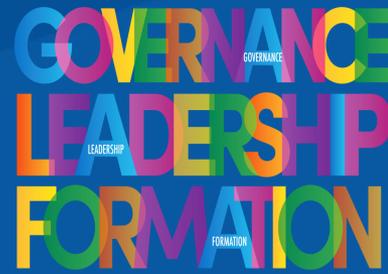


- Global pandemic has demonstrated interdependence, amplified Pope's calls for action to address climate crisis (*Laudato si*) and gross global inequality (*Fratelli Tutti*)
- *We are not living in an era of change but a change of era* – Pope Francis 7 September 2018
- Church in many countries still grappling with problems identified by investigations into systemic sexual abuse - exclusion, culture (clericalism & power), poor governance
- Church divisions – US Bishops re eucharist, German priests and gay unions etc.
- Attempts to forge a way forward include synodal path in Germany, Plenary Council in Australia, Ecclesial Assemblies in Latin America – all involving lay people



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## Governance Leadership: Authorisation of lay people



- *The laity have an active part to play in the life and activity of the church, their activity is so necessary within church communities that without it the apostolate of the pastors is generally unable to achieve its full effectiveness.* [Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity, (10) 18 November 1965]
- *‘..every one of the baptized should feel involved in the ecclesial and social change that we so greatly need. This change calls for a personal and communal conversion that makes us see things as the Lord does.* [Pope Francis, Letter to the People of God, 18 August 2018]
- Announcement of Synod on Synodality beginning with listening to all of the People of God from 17 October 2021 and culminating in Episcopal Assembly in Rome in 2023. XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops *‘For a synodal Church: communion, participation and mission’* [Announced by Pope on 24 April 2021]



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## Governance Leadership in Church: Structure and Roles



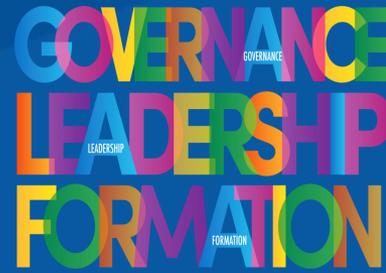
- Congregational leaders, episcopal leaders, heads of agencies, directors of boards, trustees of Ministerial Public Juridic Persons (MPJPs) all have roles in leading Church agencies ensuring fidelity to mission; adherence to Church teaching and civil norms; viability and perpetuity.
- Each is defined in Canon and Civil Law with relevant statutes to guide the work of the leaders and the church entity
- Relationships (between trustees and directors and management), communication and authentic engagement with all stakeholders (staff, those we serve, local community, broader Church)

Resources: Frank Morrissey OMI; Martin Lavery PhD; G McMullin & M Lavery paper; Lawrie Hallinan paper



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## *The Light from the Southern Cross: Recommendations re Governance*

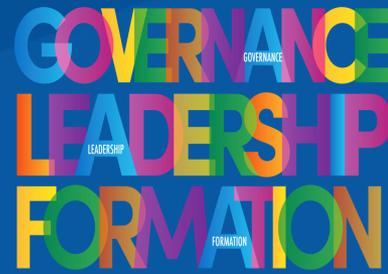


- That integrity, accountability and transparency be reflected in the administrative and governance practices of all church bodies.
- That all those in leadership roles in the Church appreciate the importance of an inclusive ethical culture in their bodies, strong risk management practices, and effective engagement and communication.
- A national centre for Catholic leadership and governance be established that will:
  - identify the range of formation programs that have already been developed and are fit for purpose in relation to ecclesial leadership;
  - identify particular needs that are not currently being serviced and investigate possibilities for coordination; and
  - examine how best to establish and resource the research and professional development opportunities necessary to achieve the objectives of this section of the report.



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## *The Light from the Southern Cross:* Recommendations re Governance



- The ecclesial governance principles of collegiality, synodality, subsidiarity, stewardship, dialogue, discernment, participation and good leadership be reflected in the governance structures and decision-making processes of dioceses, parishes and church agencies.
- That integrity, accountability and transparency be reflected in the administrative and governance practices of all church bodies.
- That those in leadership roles in the Church be expected to adopt an inclusive ethical culture, strong risk-management practices, and effective engagement and communication.
- That church agencies be models of fiduciary oversight and effective administrative practice.
- For ecclesiastical offices for which ordination is not required (and without limiting the right of clerics to take up those positions), the bishops of Australia commit to appointing suitably qualified lay persons where practicable.