



Parish Leader Survey Results

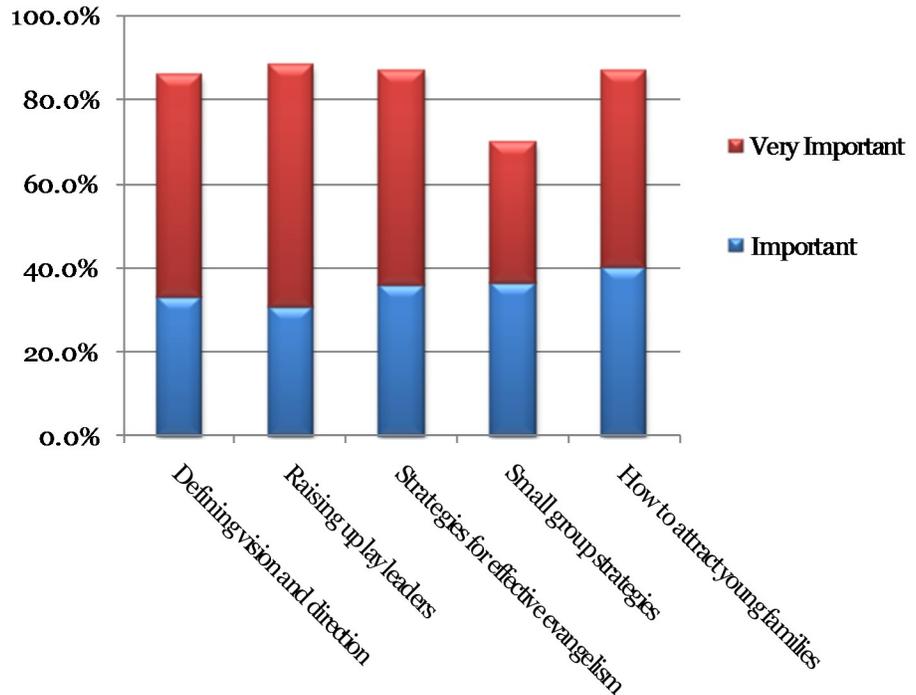
By the *American Anglican Council*

The American Anglican Council recently completed a survey of parish leaders to determine what kinds of training and education are currently most needed by clergy, vestries, staff and parish leaders. The 164 responses collected between May 1 and July 1 point out several areas of need which are detailed below.

Question 1: How important are training and education on the following issues to your parish?

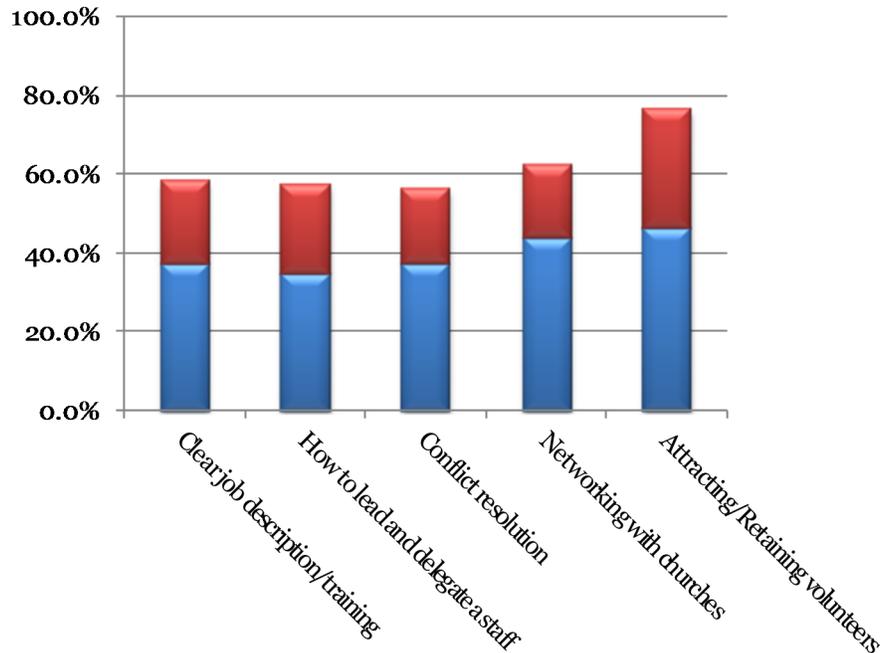
➤ Over 80% of respondents marked the following categories as very important or important to their parish:

- Defining Vision and Direction
- Raising Up Lay Leaders
- Strategies for Effective Evangelism
- How to Attract Young Families



Question 2: How important are training and education on the following issues to your staff?

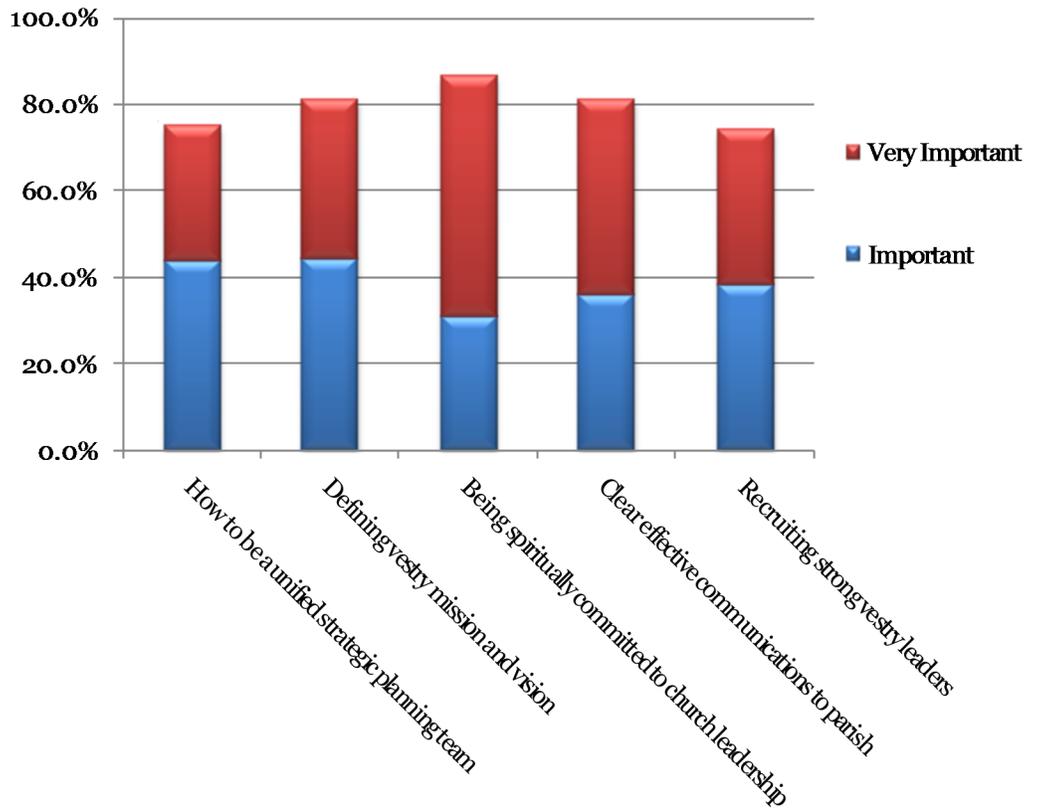
➤ The issue where training and education was considered most important was in attracting and retaining volunteers.



Question 3: How important are training and education on the following issues to your vestry (parish council)?

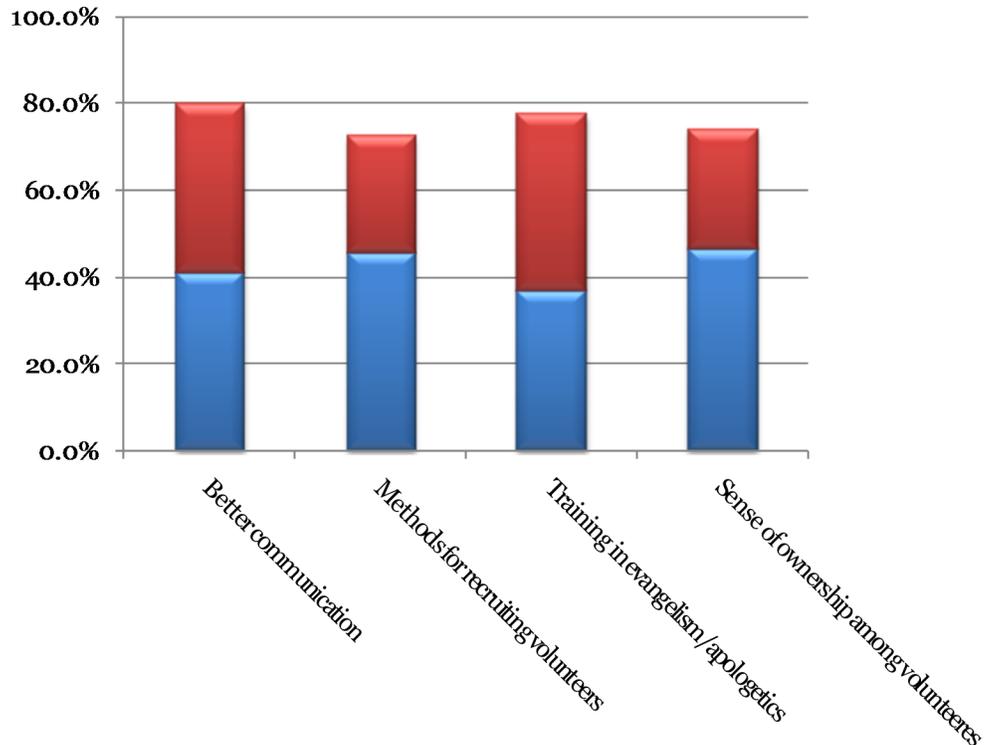
➤ Over 80% of respondents said the categories that were very important or important to their vestry were:

- Defining Vestry Mission and Vision
- Being Spiritually Committed to Leadership of the Church
- Clear Effective Communications to Parish



Question 4: How important are training and education on the following issues to other leaders in your parish?

➤ Nearly 80% of respondents said training and education on how to better communicate was important/very important to parish leaders. Also, training in evangelism/apologetics was another area of high importance.



Questions 5 & 6: Leadership Needs/ The Personal & Ministry Life of the Leader

➤ Over 80% of respondents marked the following categories as very important or important areas of need:

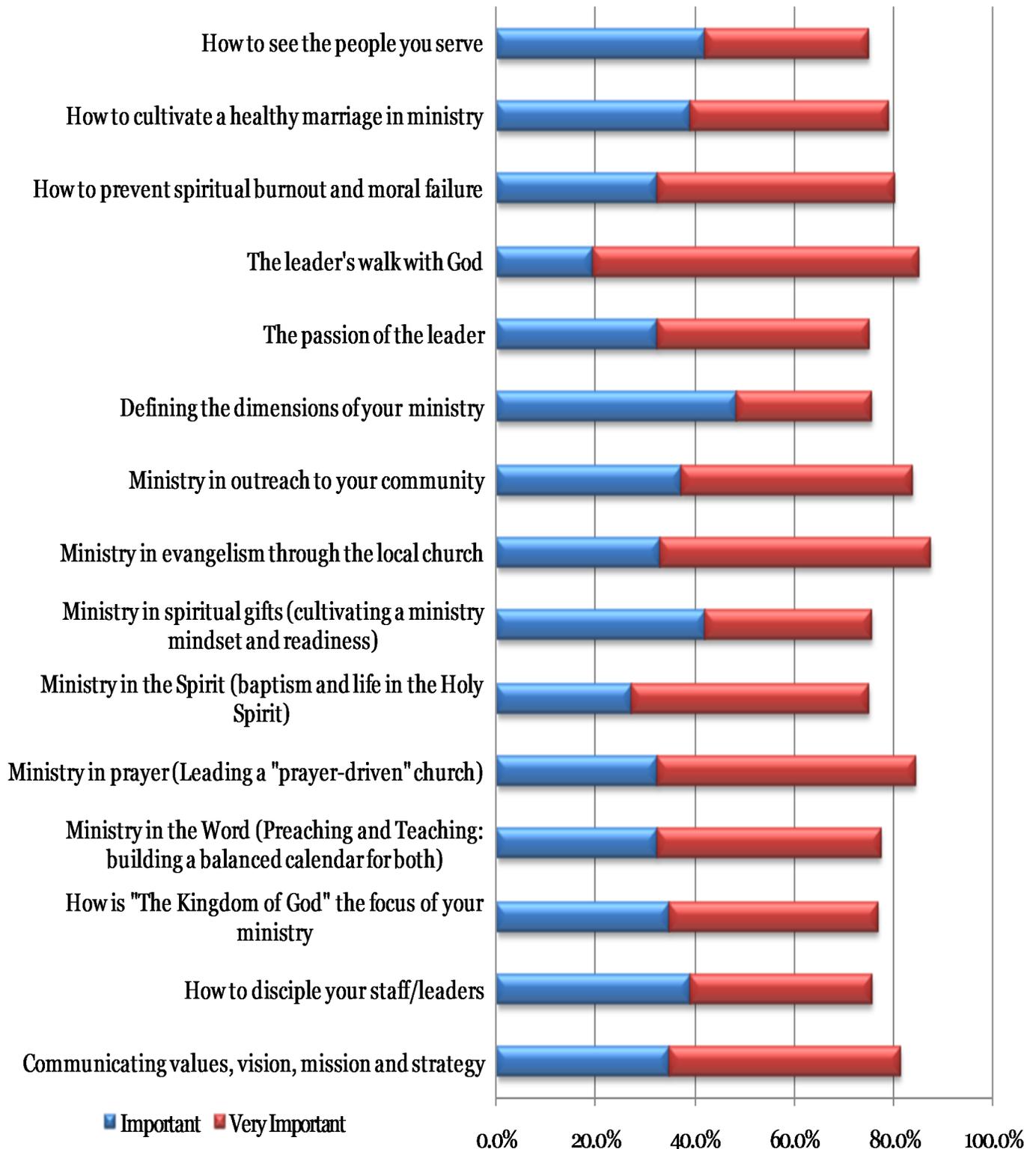
- The leader's walk with God

- Ministry in outreach to your community

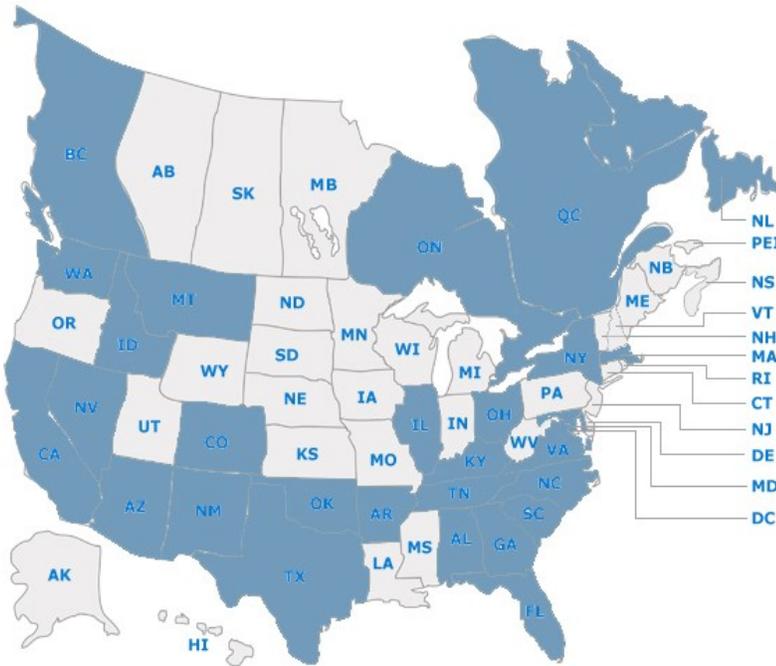
- Ministry in evangelism through the church

- Ministry in prayer

- Communicating values, vision, mission, strategy



Who responded to the survey?



State/Province	Respondents
Texas	32
Virginia	19
Florida	11
California	12
Ontario	10
Washington	10
Georgia	9
New Mexico	9
Arizona	6
British Columbia	6
North Carolina	6
Alabama	4
Kentucky	4
Illinois	3
Massachusetts	3
Tennessee	2
South Carolina	2
Maryland	2
Colorado	2
Washington D.C.	2
Newfoundland	2
Nevada	1
New York	1
Ohio	1
Oklahoma	1
Quebec	1
Montana	1
Idaho	1
Arkansas	1

How We Plan to Help

Based on the survey results, we've gained some useful insight into the training needs for parish leaders. To meet those needs, the American Anglican Council, in partnership with Acts 29 Ministries, is developing a skill-based training and equipping ministry that will enable clergy and their congregations to address these areas of importance and grow in spirit and number. Entitled "**Sure Foundation**," the goal of this 18-month program is for each participating congregation to develop a strategic growth plan with core values, Kingdom vision, a mission that focuses the ministries, and specific time-phased objectives that will result in individual lives and whole communities healed and transformed through the love of Jesus Christ. Our goal is to enable every participating congregation to:

- Help people live their lives as Jesus would through a clearly defined process of Christian formation/discipleship
- Transform the community where their church is located through a need-meeting outreach
- Plant a new church

- Partner with an overseas orthodox Anglican diocese to constantly refresh their missional DNA and New Testament, Kingdom perspective

The AAC is also developing a special resource specifically for clergy. **The Clergy Leadership Training Institute** will be a continuing education program that focuses on the personal life of the leader, the ministry life of the leader, and how to lead a growing congregation. We are pleased to announce that Dr. Leighton Ford, president of Leighton Ford Ministries; Dr. Jim Osterhaus of The Armstrong Group; and Canon Phil Ashley of the American Anglican Council will be our first year speakers. Dr. Osterhaus and Canon Ashley will be available for consultation after the initial seminar. This three-year program will also connect clergy with an accountability group made up of their peers that will assist them in their daily walk for years to come.

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