

FORMATION SESSION 8:

Called to be a Director on a Catholic Board

“We must acknowledge that people in leadership of our institutions do not come as empty vessels to be filled with our stories. They have a story of their own, a perspective on life, on suffering, and on hope which has been forged from their own history, a story which gives impulse to their involvement in Ministry, and from which they weave purpose and direction. They come with their own spiritual energy, even though they may not be fully conscious of it. And yet, it is the energy which sets them alight with enthusiasm and interest and commitment. In other words, the most promising candidate for leadership comes with at least a nascent sense of personal mission already.” Rev Dr David Ranson

... Extract from MAM Leadership Framework.

Pre-reading or begin the session with reading of one of the articles:

Suggestion that all Board Directors read one of the following articles before the Board Formation Session. Alternatively allow 10 minutes for reading of articles at the beginning of the session.

- 1. *Governance as mission and opportunity for collaboration. Workshop within One Heart, many Voices Conference May 2019. Lawrie Hallinan (Association of Ministerial PJP Executive Officer)***
- 2. *Challenges in Governing Contemporary Catholic Ministries. Paper given at Catholic Social Services, Melbourne February 2020. Emeritus Professor John Warhurst***

	Program and Focus	Guide Notes
Welcome Setting the Scene: 15 min	<p>Leader: Begin with a welcome and a Board Member’s prayer: Resource 1</p> <p>This session is intended as invitational, it will draw on participants’ reflections and learnings from one of the two pre-reading articles. Leader may also read the extract above - all are valued for their gifts, talents etc.</p> <p>Note the everyone has read one of the articles provided, and that move into discussion of both articles...</p> <p>Discussion points...</p> <p>With reference to the articles provided – <i>what is affirmed?</i> <i>what are the key messages?</i> <i>how am I curious?</i></p>	<p>The leader may choose to get two participants to give a brief overview of each articles. Alternatively, the leader may choose to give a quick summary herself/himself.</p>
	<p>PowerPoint Presentation is available - Board Chair/Director may wish to lead the discussion if the PowerPoint is used. Click here</p>	

<p>Heritage, Story and readings –</p> <p>Informing the present and future...</p> <p>20 min</p>	<p>For Further Reflection:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Revisit why I accepted the invitation to be a Director on this College Board. Who and how has the story and heritage touched me and continues to inspire my current commitment? 2. I am a director on an MAEA Catholic College Board - what does this mean for me today? How can I continue to be supported in this role? 	
<p>Concluding comment</p> <p>5 min</p>	<p>Leader:</p> <p><i>Invite participants to reflect for a couple of minutes: how they understand and being a director on this Catholic Board - what else may help them in this role.</i></p>	

Reference Material:

Governance as mission and opportunity for collaboration. Workshop within One Heart, many Voices Conference May 2019. Lawrie Hallinan (Association of Ministerial PJP Executive Officer) [Click here](#)

Challenges in Governing Contemporary Catholic Ministries. Paper given at Catholic Social Services, Melbourne February 2020. Emeritus Professor John Warhurst [Click here](#)



RESOURCE 1

A Board Member's Prayer:

I have been asked to serve, Lord, and I have agreed.

Help me to know my fellow Board Members: their gifts, their concerns, their lives.

I am doing your work, Lord and your love for me and for them is, above all, personal.

Help me to welcome conflict as a sign of the diversity of this Board, as an opportunity to reach for creative solutions. Help me to recognise this diversity as a sign of your capacity to love us all and help me to cherish it with a great strength.

Help me to approach issues with an open, inquiring mind, free from prejudice, with my spirit depending on yours for the strength to make hard decisions.

Help me to listen; to know when and to whom I should listen.

Help me to learn to use my own gifts to promote thorough, thoughtful discussion of important concerns in our Catholic community.

Help me to develop my skills as a peacemaker, to know how and when to mediate, to conciliate, to negotiate.

Help me to enjoy doing your work and to remember your promise: whenever two of us are gathered in your name, you are with us.

Sit with me now.

Amen