

L.E.A.D.E.R.

The mission-driven budget

**L**

LIST YOUR MINISTRIES

Appoint a team to create an overview, with as much detail as possible, of the different ways your particular organization serves its community. This is a list of both where you came from (long-time and continuing ministries), where you are (what happened last year and this year? What's new?) and where you are going (your "wish list").

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ELABORATE ON THESE MINISTRIES

Write a short (50-75 words) paragraph describing each ministry on your list. Make sure these paragraphs include people, dates, and specifics.

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ARRANGE YOUR MINISTRIES INTO A NARRATIVE

This is the heart of the process. Determine which of the listed ministries should be included in the Mission Driven Budget; which coincide most closely with your mission as a parish. Then, take the chosen ministries and arrange them to tell a story. Where we were, where we are, where we are going. Include a compelling message, a sense of movement, people in the parish, and describe a happy outcome. Include that which is pressing, immediate and necessary.

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DISTRIBUTE AND COMMUNICATE THESE MINISTRIES

Publish your document, with images and numbers in support, and get the message out to your congregation. Make sure the information is distributed by hand, by mail, in meetings and via e-mail and available on the church website.

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ENGAGE WITH THE CONGREGATION ABOUT WHAT HAS BEEN COMMUNICATED

Once the budget is in people's hands, be sure to speak with members of the congregation, get feedback, make note of comments, see if the budget is effective. This will take the budget "off the page" and help people think of it as a living, breathing expression of the organization. It will also help to inspire new thoughts for next year's budget.

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REMIND THE CONGREGATION OF THE CONTINUING MINISTRIES

Keep the discussion and updates coming. Use it for reference when discussing the progress of supporting certain ministries, have it mentioned during the announcements. Don't allow it to be a once-read paper. Use it as a guide to your year.