



PART 1: Thriving Leadership in Rapidly Changing Times: A Spirit-Led Approach to Ministry

1. Spiritual Resilience Over Religious Routine

- Anchor in your spiritual practice. Let your being precede your doing.
- Prioritize daily time for prayer, meditation, and renewal.
- Lean into your divine identity. Let it guide your human leadership.

“Ministry is not what we do; it’s who we are in God’s hands.” — Martha Creek

2. Adaptive Leadership Over Prescriptive Models

- Embrace the unknown with spiritual curiosity.
- Ask: “What’s needed now?” rather than “What have we always done?”
- Flexibility is not a lack of direction; it’s a sacred response to divine flow.

“The moment we cease to grow, we begin to die.” — Charles Fillmore

3. Co-Creation with the Community

- Shift from performance-based ministry to participatory spiritual community.
- Listen with love to the voice of your people. Be open to their wisdom.
- Let ministry be a conversation, not a monologue.

“We are here to let God be God in us.” — Myrtle Fillmore

FIVE THRIVING STRATEGIES FOR MINISTRY

1. Lead from the Inside Out

- Your inner life is the foundation of external impact.
- Tend your soul. Create margin. Rest is revolutionary.
- What you embody matters more than what you say.

2. Embrace Digital Discipleship

- Go beyond livestreams. Create spaces for connection and dialogue.
- Use every available tool to radiate spiritual truth and love.



“Use every tool available to radiate the Christ Light.” — Unity Principle 5

3. Create Transformational Experiences (Not Just Events)

- Ask: “Does this change lives or just fill time?”
- Focus on spiritual formation: small groups, retreats, soul circles.
- Sunday is a catalyst, not the container.

4. Collaborate and Empower Lay Leaders

- Don’t do it all. Equip others to shine and lead.
- Shared leadership fosters belonging and reduces burnout.
- Multiplication > micromanagement.

5. Simplify to Amplify

- Eliminate what no longer serves. Make room for Spirit.
- Less complexity = more clarity.
- Let go of programs that drain energy but yield little fruit.

Reflection Questions

1. What’s one outdated model or routine I need to release in my leadership?
2. What’s calling to be born or reimagined in my ministry?
3. What does thriving look like in this season of leadership?

Unity Affirmation

“Centered in God, we are strong, wise, leading. We are here to thrive.”

Top 10 Ways to Build and Maintain thriving leadership and ministry

A thriving ministry is a spiritually vibrant, mission-centered, and relationally rich community or organization that consistently nurtures transformation, inspires meaningful service, and cultivates growth—in people, impact, and spirit. It is characterized by authenticity, clear purpose, evolving leadership, and deep spiritual practices that engage both the heart and mind.



Top 10 Ways to Build and Maintain a Thriving Ministry

1. Anchor Everything in Purpose and Vision

- Ensure your ministry has a clear and inspiring mission statement rooted in spiritual principles.
- Revisit and recommit to this purpose often—let it guide decisions, programs, and communication.

2. Invest in Spiritual Maturity and Leadership Development

- Offer ongoing spiritual education and training for leaders and laypeople alike.
- Cultivate emotionally intelligent, Spirit-led leadership that models humility, integrity, and compassion.

3. Prioritize Authentic Relationships

- Create a culture of deep connection, listening, and care among members and leaders.
- Encourage small groups, pastoral care teams, and authentic communication that fosters trust.

4. Embrace Innovation and Change

- Be open to new ways of engaging people—whether through technology, evolving formats, or fresh rituals.
- Adapt without losing core values; thriving ministries evolve while staying grounded.

5. Foster Inclusive and Welcoming Community

- Celebrate diversity in all forms—spiritual paths, backgrounds, identities.
- Create an environment where everyone feels seen, safe, and spiritually nourished.

6. Practice Radical Hospitality and Service

- Make service a natural expression of faith and love.
- Partner with the broader community, addressing real needs through compassionate action.

7. Communicate Clearly and Consistently

- Use various platforms (social media, newsletters, in-person messages) to share your mission and invite engagement.
- Be transparent, uplifting, and inclusive in all messaging.

8. Cultivate a Strong Culture of Gratitude and Generosity

- Celebrate wins, appreciate volunteers, and teach the spiritual principle of giving.
- Embed stewardship as a joyful and sacred practice, not a burden.

9. Stay Grounded in Spiritual Practices

- Encourage regular communal and individual practices: prayer, meditation, contemplation, study.
- Infuse worship and gatherings with a living sense of the sacred.

10. Review, Reflect, and Recommit Regularly

- Create rhythms of assessment—what’s working? What’s not? What’s calling to emerge?
- Use feedback and Spirit-guided visioning to course-correct and grow with intention.

Promote diversity in all forms—spiritual paths, backgrounds, identities.

- Create an environment where everyone feels seen, safe, and spiritually nourished.



Rev. Dr. Martha Creek

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