

Raising the Standard of Care for Leaders

ECFA is excited to announce the new **Leadership Standard**. This new accreditation standard for ECFA members enhances trust through the **board's proactive care for the leader** based on biblical principles.



Rooted in Scripture

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."
(Galatians 6:2)



Inspired by ECFA Members

94% of senior leaders and board chairs told ECFA that leadership failures are negatively impacting trust.



Validated by Donors

According to Barna Research, **4 out of 5** Christians donors say that if churches and ministries took steps to **proactively care for their leader's health and integrity**, it would strengthen their trust in the organization.



Enhanced Accountability

The Leadership Standard requires that an organization's board engage with its senior leader at least annually to discuss holistic care for its leader and the leader's commitment to upholding biblical principles.



Strengthened Leaders

The Leadership Standard will give leaders much needed support to help them maintain healthy, Christ-centered leadership.

Read the full Leadership Standard and learn more at:
[ECFA.org/LeadershipStandard](https://ecfa.org/LeadershipStandard)



Preparing for a Leader Care Conversation



For Ministry Boards

- 1 Reflect on the nature of your senior leader's role.
- 2 Recognize one or two things you appreciate about your senior leader.
- 3 Identify two areas of life where your senior leader may be carrying heavy burdens.



For Senior Leaders

- 1 Reflect on what rhythms/practices you are engaging in regularly that support your overall well-being.
- 2 Examine how well your actual attitudes and behaviors align with your commitment to the agreed-upon biblical integrity principles.
- 3 Identify two areas of your overall well-being that would benefit from additional support from the board.

5 Essentials of Leader Care

Church and ministry boards have a unique opportunity and responsibility to invest in leader care. These five key essentials will remind board members not only what the senior leader does for the organization, but also who those leaders are in Christ!

Agree in Writing

A plan that is written and agreed upon in advance empowers both board and leaders to have productive conversations regarding the senior leaders commitment to biblical character expectations.

1

Understanding Is Key

Recognize and be sensitive to the fact that senior leaders may be struggling as they face the unique pressures, demands, and challenges of ministry leadership.

3

Provide Support

While you are not responsible for your leader's overall health, you have the ability to influence their access to support services and soul-health resources.

5

2

Be An Active Listener

Turn the conversation into an active, non-competitive, two-way interaction. Give your senior leader uninterrupted time to share while withholding judgment and asking follow-up questions.

4

Be Curious

Ministry is a marathon, not a sprint. Senior leaders should not have to run it alone. Ask questions and seek to learn about your leader's overall state of well-being.