



Kent R. Wilson (PhD, University of Aberdeen) is a business practitioner and leadership specialist. He is the co-founder of Steward Leadership Initiative and serves as the national program director for Christian Leadership Alliance's Leader2Leader program.

After running for-profit and nonprofit companies for thirty years, Wilson now mentors and coaches CEOs as an executive coach with Vistage International and the Nonprofit Leadership Exchange in Colorado Springs. He is a contributor to the *NIV Stewardship Study Bible* and teaches entrepreneurial business skills internationally as a volunteer trainer for three international business-as-mission organizations.

Nonprofit Researcher Provides Model for Leading Organizations as Trustees

Why did you decide to write a book specifically for those leading nonprofit organizations?

Kent Wilson: While leading nonprofit organizations for thirty years, I began to sense that current leadership models were not adequate to address the nuances of leading the nonprofit organization, especially as it related to resources management, relationships with the board and stakeholders, and issues of missional commitment versus accountability. I began to gradually see the role of the steward as a perfect analogy for what I was asked to do as a leader. There were no books on the subject of steward leadership at the time ('80s, '90s and '00s), so I started studying stewardship myself. After finally deciding that I needed to pursue my studies with more depth, I started a PhD program to investigate the nature of the classical and biblical steward and to derive a basis for the steward leadership model. This book followed those studies after I was asked by many nonprofit leaders to put my thoughts into a practical book.

Who did you have in mind as you wrote *Steward Leadership in the Nonprofit Organization*?

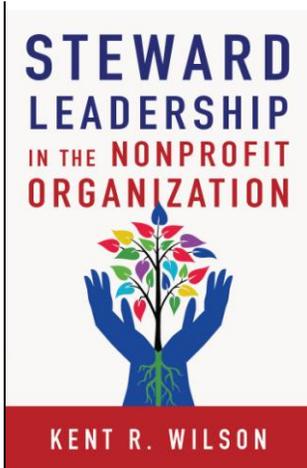
Kent: This is a foundational book written for anyone in leadership at a nonprofit organization who wants a well-documented introduction to nonprofit leadership, including board members, executive directors, and even stakeholders. It will especially appeal to those who recognize the inadequacies of other leadership models as applied to nonprofit leadership and who are looking for a more effective and contextual model.

What particular needs are you addressing?

Kent: I am addressing the need for a leadership model that addresses the unique issues and challenges faced by nonprofit leaders, for a precise definition of the steward leadership model that has been hinted at by other writers but never developed, and for an approach to leadership that helps nonprofit boards, CEOs, and stakeholders understand their unique relationship.

What does this book provide for leaders in nonprofit organizations?

Kent: *Steward Leadership in the Nonprofit Organization* applies groundbreaking research on the classical steward to the recently articulated model of steward leadership, examining the critical role of governing and leading the nonprofit organization as a steward. Biblical development and practical suggestions provide Christian nonprofit leaders, boards, and executive directors with detailed understanding and a passion to manage the organization's



Steward Leadership in the Nonprofit Organization
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Nonprofit consultant and researcher Kent Wilson presents a comprehensive model for steward leadership in which leaders act as stewards or trustees, never as owners. Scripture and history give concrete examples of stewards who manage resources on behalf of others for the good of others. Wilson applies this classical understanding of the steward to modern organizational management, defining and developing steward leadership as an alternative to its cousin, servant leadership.

mission and resources for the maximum benefit to society.

How is this book different than other nonprofit leadership books?

Kent: The majority of books on nonprofit leadership borrow concepts and models developed for for-profit leadership, assuming that nonprofit leadership is the same. This book starts from historical and biblical contexts, where leaders were expected to manage resources that they did not own, and extends these models and roles forward to nonprofit leadership. This book is also distinctive because it takes what has only been suggested in previous literature about the concept of a steward leadership model and develops and articulates that model for the first time.

What do you hope readers take away from *Steward Leadership in the Nonprofit Organization*?

Kent: My hope is that readers will

- be affirmed in their role as Christian stewards of invaluable social, monetary, spiritual, and communal resources;
- clearly understand how to facilitate intentional and meaningful relationships between God, stakeholder, board, chief executive, and employee;
- embrace a distinct identity as a steward in their leadership and management;
- increase their leadership effectiveness through exposure to more substantive tools and resources available through the steward leadership model;
- have the resources and encouragement necessary to stimulate greater effectiveness among all of the employees of the organization as they embrace their identity as stewards; and
- be equipped to manage the dynamic differences that will eventually arise between the intentions of stakeholder and steward.