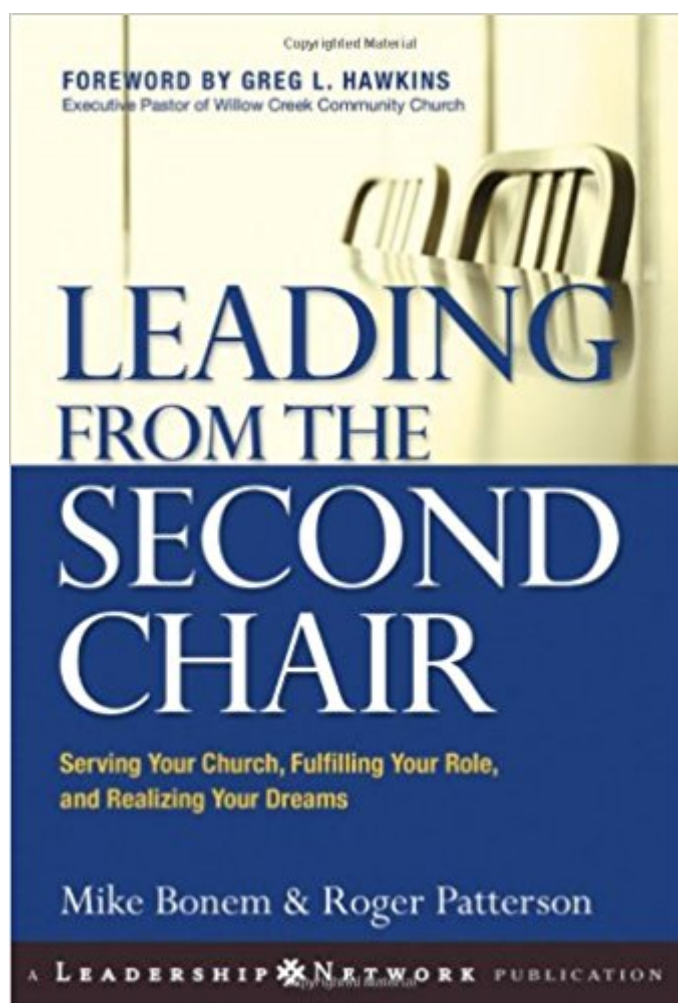


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# Leading From The Second Chair: Serving Your Church, Fulfilling Your Role, And Realizing Your Dreams



## Synopsis

LEADING FROM THE SECOND CHAIR will raise awareness of the need for strong leaders in secondary positions. It will describe the value they can bring to their organization and to primary leaders when they are serving at their full potential. It will reshape the way they view their role, with an emphasis on their own responsibility as leaders. It recognizes the unique challenges and frustrations of serving in a subordinate position and equips these leaders with the attitudes and skills that they will need to survive and thrive in this new paradigm. Because of the scarcity of resources for second chair leaders, particularly those in the church, this book will offer a practical way to improve the performance of any organization. Leading Congregational Change discussed the importance of a "vision community"--a diverse group of key members who discern and implement the vision for a congregation--to guide the transformation of a church. This work will extend the theme of an empowered leadership team as we explore how individual clergy and laity can lead effectively.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"In *Leading From the Second Chair*, Mike Bonem and Roger Patterson take a fresh and rare approach to leadership by unleashing some invaluable principles and guidelines specific to healing to the second tier leader. Wherever you are in your organization, this book is sure to help you appreciate the unique challenges and valuable contributions of all those who lead from the second chair." -- Ed Young, senior pastor, Fellowship Church "Bonem and Paterson tell the truth about leading from the second chair. Leaders will be set free to lead to their true potential because of the

practical and profound insights in this book." -- Dan Reiland, executive pastor, Crossroads Community Church Find Out How to Lead Effectively

•Even When You're Not in Charge

"Somebody said the hardest instrument to play is second fiddle. But since Jesus had one or two things to say about serving and submitting, this is a rich field. Mike Bonem and Roger Patterson have addressed a key need with wisdom and clarity."

•John Ortberg, author, *If You Want to Walk on Water, Get Out of the Boat*; teaching pastor, Menlo Park Presbyterian Church "The mission of an organization either hangs together or falls apart at the critical interface between first and second chairs. This helpful volume from seasoned practitioners identifies and addresses the character, competencies, and chemistry that make for effective second chair leadership. It's a book for you, no matter which seat you're in."

•Reggie McNeal, author, *The Present Future*; director, Leadership Development, South Carolina Baptist Convention "The Bible is full of strategic leadership partnerships: Moses and Aaron, Mordecai and Esther, Paul and Silas, and even the Trinity. Each one demonstrates individual gifts being cojoined for maximum ministry effect. Leading from the Second Chair articulates and celebrates the necessity of God's strategic partnerships."

•Mike Slaughter and Kim Miller, lead pastor and creative director, Ginghamburg Church "If you are a second chair leader, are considering a second chair role, or work with a second chair leader, this book is a must-read! Mike Bonem and Roger Patterson have done a superb job of defining the living paradoxes a second chair leader deals with day in and day out. Don't consider a second chair role without reading this book first."

•Warren Schuh, executive pastor, Calvary Community Church "Leading from the Second Chair targets the misunderstood and often unrecognized paradoxes of empowered second chair influence. Leaders in the twenty-first century church can avoid tragic pitfalls while leveraging the powerful contribution of second chair leaders by understanding and engaging the experience-forged insights in this important book."

•Jared Roth, vice president, International Church of the Foursquare Gospel

Leading from the Second Chair They say it's lonely at the top. And it can be even lonelier when you are almost at the top. Church leaders who hold second chair positions are under tremendous pressure. They are expected to do their jobs and provide leadership but defer to the top leader, too. It's a demanding balancing act. How can they lead effectively while serving under someone else's leadership? Leading from the Second Chair offers an invaluable resource to leaders who serve in second (and third and fourth) chair roles, enabling them to become more productive, proactive, and fulfilled. The book reveals the paradoxes of second chair leadership. These leaders must be subordinate to the top leader yet lead in their own right. They should be deep in their expertise but

wide in perspective. And they must be content in their jobs yet remain enthusiastic about their dreams for the future. Mike Bonem and Roger Patterson share their own and others' experiences of failure and success in this vital role. They offer support and practical advice for reshaping the way second chair leaders can serve well and improve the overall performance of their church or organization. *Leading from the Second Chair* equips readers with the positive attitudes, skills, and strategies needed to become powerful leaders who will survive and thrive in God's service.

IF . . . Staff communication and Egos are healthy enough to take it. This book elevates the role of second chair pastoral staff. As the lead pastor of a church I appreciate the public acknowledgment of the immense value of second chair leadership. Any senior pastor who feels a need to micromanage or minimize the role of others is guilty of leading the church to mediocrity, sort of like an engine only running on one cylinder. I always want my second chair leaders to be LEADERS in every sense of the word. This book also cautions second chair leaders to check their personal egos at the door when they enter. Subordination is a great American weakness that does great damage to the church. Often second chair leaders excel in vision, energy, and drive, but too often are weak in areas of savvy and experience. If the first chair leader feels threatened, things quickly go from bad to worse. This book builds savvy. This book is timely, important, and could potentially prevent many ministry wrecks. I suggest that every multiple staff church use it as a study guide for a series of staff meetings. I wish it had come along earlier in my ministry.

I'm someone who recently transitioned from first chair to second chair by choice due to a recognition of my strengths and weaknesses. This book helped in that transition as I felt my way around this new role. It also helped confirm for me that I had made the right choice. I found especially helpful the section on the "deep/wide paradox" in seeing the need for balance between minutia and grand vision. Also helpful (and humbling for a former first chair) was the section on the "subordinate leader paradox". This book will be extremely helpful to the second chair leader who feels trapped in a bad situation with a bad first chair (not me) but is still full of great wisdom for the person in a great situation with a great first chair leader (like my church). I recommended this book to a church planter in Hawaii and he read it along with his potential second chair guy, which I thought was a great use of this book. Every second chair leader should read this, especially young guys like myself.

It's helpful and gives ones view of being aN Associate Pastor. As an Associate Pastor I've been fortunate to have a Senior Pastor and goverNing board who has given me a great deal of latitude.

The book is actually making a positive impact on our ministries together. Great book.

Leading from a second chair has its unique challenges but even more incredible opportunities! Examples are shared from varied ministry areas, many well known churches and leaders who have endured the test of time. This book was timely and helped me to see that while I may never be the one casting the vision the opportunity to support vision and develop others is every bit a high calling. Thank-you to Mike Bonem and Roger Patterson for their transparency and candor.

This book is a wealth of knowledge; you can't look at it as a regular novel but a reference!! It's definitely not a 'one read you're done or lend to others'! Gift it to those you believe will benefit.

The content points out that the seating order is not as important as all leaders in a system understanding the strategic value that each has for the overall purpose of the congregation in which they serve. Also critical to the satisfaction of all is that communication back-and-forth between all participants at the table is a continual necessity. An added value for the satisfaction of those not sitting in the "first" chair is to share with the person that is in that position that the book is being read; and to encourage everyone, including the #1 person, to read and exchange thoughts about the meaning gleaned by each person.

This is one of the best books that I have personally read as a 2nd Chair leader at my church. I have also recommended it to other Executive Pastors and ministry leaders, not only in my church, but to other Pastoral leaders that I know and fellowship with. It is my intention to periodically review certain chapters to stay on task with true second chair leadership. I will also require other ministry staff to read it as well. I think that the VERY FIRST required text for Senior Ministry Staff should be "Leading from the Second Chair"!

An excellent book for anyone wanting to learn the art - and perils - of leading while under the leadership of others.

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