

**The Urban Face of Megachurch Leadership:
A Comparative and Quantitative Analyses of Megachurch
Leadership in the Context of Urban Centers in the Philippines¹**

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Introduction

Megachurch pastors in the Global South play an important role in mediating the sacred to their adherents in the context of rapidly changing urbanization, secularization, and globalization of metropolitan cities. Therefore, how megachurch leadership thinks, behaves, and practice spiritual leadership in their environment is a question that is worth answering. Expanding the survey questionnaires of Bird and Tumma of the Hartford Institute for Religion Research on Megachurches (Bird and Tumma 2020, 26) by the scholars of the Templeton Megachurch Project (TMCP) and using the Qualtrics online survey template, we interviewed leaders and compared their doctrinal beliefs about the Scriptures, discipleship and Christian life, beliefs about charisms, attitudes about ancestors, Satan and his demons, attitudes toward government, finances, response to social issues such as gender and sexuality, socio-political engagement, and responses to COVID-19. Two case studies of megachurch leadership were chosen to advance our knowledge about the nature of megachurch leadership in the Philippines: Christ Commission Fellowship (CCF) and Victory Christian Fellowship (VCF). Between these two case studies, there are no significant differences as to what they believe and practice as spiritual leaders. However, we provide empirical evidence in our findings to assert that these two groups of megachurch leaders are creative, innovative, and entrepreneurial religious actors who are shaping the religious landscape in the Philippines.

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