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Predicting Leadership Practices from Spirituality in Female Leaders of Corporations [Dissertation Notice]

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Seventy-two pastors in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex who have not earned a graduate degree from an accredited theological school and 150 pastors in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex who have earned a graduate degree from an accredited theological school completed the Leadership Practices Inventory-Self along with a brief demographic questionnaire. Independent samples t-tests were performed between these two groups to discover if there was any statistical difference between these two groups on the five leadership practices measured by the Leadership Practices Inventory-Self. The data analysis yielded no statistical difference between the two groups of pastors. Sixty-six of the 72 pastors who had not earned a graduate degree from an accredited theological school and 120 of the 150 pastors who had earned a graduate degree from an accredited theological school had numerical church data available. Further, independent samples t-tests were performed between these two groups to discover if there was any statistical difference between the two groups on the percent change in annual church receipts, percent change in membership totals, and percent change in annual number of baptisms during the tenure of the pastor. The data analysis resulted in discovering no statistical difference between the two groups of pastors.


The growing presence of women in leadership positions has sparked an increased interest in women’s leadership practices. A limited number of publications have acknowledged spirituality as an important variable in women’s leadership style. Further research is needed to examine the relationship between spirituality and leadership practices. This quantitative study sought to determine whether leadership practices of female corporate leaders can be predicted from their spirituality. The theoretical foundation was grounded in Fry’s spiritual leadership theory, which integrates relevant leader-and-follower higher-order needs and cultural and organizational effectiveness into a causal model framework. Three survey instruments—the Inventory on Spirituality (IS), the Leadership Practices Inventory-Self (LPI-Self), and the Multifactor Leadership Questionnaire (MLQ)—were used in this survey. Multiple linear regression and bivariate correlations were used to analyze data from the surveys completed by 181 female leaders of corporations. Results revealed significant relationships between spirituality and female leadership practices of inspiring a shared vision, modeling the way, encouraging the heart, and challenging the process.