CHURCH LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

April 26, 2027 – June 7, 2027

Mondays, 6:00pm – 9:00pm

Zoom Format

Rev. Dr. Wesley D. Oden

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COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To locate the leadership role of the minister within a Biblical and ecclesiological context.
2. To help the student explore their leadership gifts, strengths and growth areas and to evaluate each in their present and future ministry settings.
3. To be exposed to a variety of administrative models with emphasis upon viewing the church as a family system.
4. To provide tools for leading in a church setting, including stressful and difficult parish situations.
5. To acquire an understanding of the value of pastoral administration, including committee meetings and relational investment with parishioners.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class provides an overview of biblical, Christ-like leadership in the context of the office of pastor with practical application of church administration in all times of parish life.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Read textbooks completely and keep a journal with notes and ideas related to the reading. The journal isn't intended to be detailed quotes from the material, but points of interaction with the text, including ideas or questions that arise out of the text. **A journal is not required for *Your Personality and the Spiritual Life.***
2. Attend all classes and contribute to the class discussion by asking questions or offering ideas.
3. Read assigned articles and come to class prepared to discuss them.
4. Submit an 8-10 page paper reflecting on your leadership style. Take into account class discussion, personality type, textbooks and your own study. Discuss your strengths and growth areas. Interacting with the class texts, how might your strengths assist you in ministry? How might your growth areas hinder your ministry? Suggest 2-3 action steps that might help you address these ministerial growth areas. 8-10 pages.
5. Observe 3 church committee meetings of which you are not a member. Submit a 3-5 page analysis of the meetings. Include in the paper observations about the leader's style, the leader's connection with the members and other thoughts that arise. This is not intended to be an analysis of the meeting's content but to learn about leading meetings.
6. Submit a video of you leading a 30–60-minute church meeting. You will watch the video and submit a self-evaluation. The professor will discuss the session with each student.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Andy Crouch, *Strong and Weak: Embracing a Life of Love, Risk and True Flourishing*. IVP, 2022. ISBN: 978-0830844708. Kindle edition available.

Reginald Johnson, *Your Personality and the Spiritual Life*. Myers and Briggs Foundation, 1999. ISBN: 978-0935652475.

Ronald W. Richardson, *Creating a Healthier Church: Family Systems Theory, Leadership, and Congregational Life* (Creative Pastoral Care and Counseling Series). Fortress Press, 1996. ISBN: 0800629558.

Bill Robinson, *Incarnational Leadership: 5 Leadership Lessons from the Life of Jesus.* Zondervan, 2009. ISBN: 9780310291138.

Ken Schenck, *A Biblical Argument for Women in Ministry and Leadership*. Lulu.com, 2024. ISBN: 9781304262141.

GRADING SCALE

97-100	A
94-96	A-
91-93	B+
88-90	B
85-87	B-
81-84	C+
76-80	C (Minimum passing grade)
71-75	C-
68-70	D
0-67	F

GRADING

20% — Reading journals.
20% — Class participation and weekly assignments.
20% — Personal leadership reflection paper
20% — Church committee meetings paper
20% — Leading meeting and evaluation

PREPARATION FOR THE COURSE (Due prior to the first class session)

Read *Incarnational Leadership*. Write a 1-3-page observation paper on the book. Describe thoughts and ideas from the book that catch your attention. Provide a brief description of why these ideas are important to you. This paper is due at the beginning of the first class session.

ATTENDANCE

You are responsible to be present and engaged at each scheduled class session. If you miss a class session, you are expected to watch the class video to make up the absence.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

- Students are expected to exhibit honesty and integrity in their personal, professional and academic life, and work. As Christians, we are called to a high standard of honesty.
- Examples of plagiarism include (but are not limited to) the following:
    - Copying all or part of a theme, exam, paper, reading report, or other written work from another person
    - Submitting as one's own work that which was wholly or partially done by another
    - Quoting material from any source without clearly indicating it is someone else's work
    - Summarizing or paraphrasing from any source without clearly indicating it is someone else's work
    - Misrepresentation of documentation or resources
    - Submitting workbook answers copied from another person or working in a group and submitting an identical set of answers for each member of the group without explicit permission from the professor
    - Cheating on a test by getting answers in an unauthorized manner
    - Submitting the same work for more than one course without the prior approval of the instructor.
- An instance of plagiarism will result in an automatic "F" for the specific assignment and may also result in an automatic failure of the course.
- Repeat offenses will result in an automatic failure of the course.

COURSE PLAN AND ASSIGNMENTS

Monday, April 26, 2027

- Class Discussion
  - Course Introduction
  - Foundations of Church Leadership
  - A Biblical Mindset for Church Leaders
  - Discuss *Incarnational Leadership*
- Class Preparation
  - Read *Incarnational Leadership* (**Reading Journal Due**)

Monday, May 3, 2027

- Class Discussion
  - Discuss *Strong and Weak*
  - Personality Types and Leadership
- Class Preparation
  - Read *Strong and Weak* (**Reading Journal Due**)
  - Read *Your Personality and the Spiritual Life*
  - Complete MBTI (Provided by Professor)

Monday, May 10, 2027

- Class Discussion
  - Leadership as Family Systems
  - Leadership and Change
  - Leading Staff and Volunteers
- Class Preparation
  - Read *Creating a Healthier Church* (**Reading Journal Due**)

Monday, May 17, 2027

- Class Discussion
  - Wesleyan Church Local Church Organizational Structure
  - Wesleyan Discipline and Leadership
- Class Preparation
  - **Leadership Style Paper Due**
  - Review The Discipline of The Wesleyan Church, Part 2: Local Church Government

Monday, May 24, 2027

- Class Discussion
  - Women and Leadership
  - Pastoral Administration
  - Church Committees
  - Parliamentary Law
  - *Robert's Rules of Order*
  - Discussion of Committee Meetings Observations

- Class Preparation
  - Read *A Biblical Argument for Women in Ministry* (**Reading Journal Due**)
  - Watch Sermon: *When You Feel Called to Be a Leader* (Link Provided by Professor)

Monday, May 31, 2027

- Class Discussion
  - Church Policies
  - Change
  - Conflict Management

- Class Preparation
  - Prepare Committee Meeting Agenda
  - **Church Committee Meetings Paper Due**

Monday, June 7, 2027

- Class Discussion
  - Safety and Security
  - Purpose Statements
  - Goals
  - Time Management
  - Church Finances

- Class Preparation
  - Prepare a Weekly Time Schedule
  - Read Assigned Articles (Professor Will Provide)

Monday, June 21, 2027
Midnight EST

- Class Assignment: **Meeting Video Due (Professor Discussion Follow-Up)**