



FOUNDATIONS OF CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

Reading Assignments

SESSION 1

Thriving Communities

- [About Leadership Education](#) – An introduction to the vision and mission of Leadership Education at Duke Divinity
- ***Thriving Communities: The Pattern of Church Life Then and Now*** by C. Kavin Rowe and L. Gregory Jones. Kavin Rowe takes us into the Acts of the Apostles, the earliest account we have of Christian community. There, we can observe six specific features of the first Christians communities – features that we also see wherever powerful Christian communities are gathered today.

Note: Leadership Education will supply participants with the link to a complimentary copy of this e-book.

- Acts chapters 1-16

Vibrant Institutions

- [Why institutions matter](#) – Drawing on Hugh Heclo’s “On Thinking Institutionally,” Greg Jones argues that Christian wisdom illustrates our need for institutions to teach and train us.

Traditioned Innovation

- [Pentecost as traditioned innovation](#) – The coming of the Holy Spirit is both a fulfillment of that which is old and a radical new beginning, writes New Testament scholar C. Kavin Rowe.
- ***Christian Social Innovation: Renewing Wesleyan Witness*** by L. Gregory Jones. Christian social innovation depends on a conception of hope different from the optimism that often characterizes secular endeavors – a hope that acknowledges personal and social brokenness. Faith communities, at their best, have embodied perseverance, often bringing people together across generations and diverse sectors to imagine how common effort and faith might overcome obstacles. Greg Jones provides a biblical and theological argument for such transformative work in *Christian Social Innovation*.

Note: Leadership Education will supply participants with the link to a complimentary copy of this e-book.

- [God's people, gathered, blessed and sent out](#) – Small missional communities, anchored to a local congregation, offer a different way of being church, one that offers hope for renewal and new life, says evangelism scholar and Duke Divinity School dean Elaine Heath.

SESSION 2

Thriving Communities

- ***Living into Community: Cultivating Practices That Sustain Us*** by Christine Pohl. Ethicist Christine Pohl examines four core practices that sustain healthy communities and discusses the complications involved when we practice them.

Note: Leadership Education will supply participants with the book at the end of Session 1.

Vibrant Institutions

- [Deep Trends Affecting Christian Institutions](#) – We can't ignore them. Greg Jones and Nathan Jones say our challenge is to cultivate patterns of discernment on how to adapt faithfully and creatively to them.

Transformative Leadership

- ***Leadership on the Line: Staying Alive through the Dangers of Leading*** by Ronald A. Heifetz and Marty Linsky. This lively and compelling book explores the risks of offering leadership – the kind that may challenge long-held beliefs and surface conflict.

Note: Leadership Education will supply participants with the book and discussion questions at the end of Session 1.

- [Find Your Ferguson](#) – Part of the difficult witness for the privileged within the church is to renounce a bit of that privilege and work on behalf of the marginalized, says the co-chair of the Ferguson Commission Starsky Wilson.
- [Why focus on developing your staff as leaders?](#) – The challenges facing Christian institutions today require innovative solutions in all aspects of the work. Senior leaders must cultivate the conditions for the work to flourish, which means nurturing talent across levels and roles, writes Dave Odom, the executive director of Leadership Education at Duke Divinity.

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