



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.

- [A campus ministry on the U.S.-Mexico border trains young Christians to lead](#) - Life on the border is difficult. But the Baptist Student Ministry of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley is working to help young adults who live there leverage their own strength and resilience to step out as leaders of the Valley and the nation.
- Acts chapters 1-16

Vibrant Institutions

- [How to nurture a Christian way of life](#) - The systems that will sustain congregations will need the mindsets of adventurers, investors and catalysts working together, writes the executive director of Leadership Education at Duke Divinity.
- [Sometimes the church needs to follow and partner with others](#) - The pastor of an inner-city Chicago church shares how he and his congregation have changed the way they work in their neighborhood -- and how that has changed the community itself.
- [MORTAR's entrepreneur training helps longtime residents ride the wave of revitalization](#) - Too often, neighborhood revitalization leaves behind the people who already live in urban neighborhoods. A new model in Cincinnati seeks to train and support locals so they can benefit from the economic boom.

Traditioned Innovation

- [Honoring black resiliency on the 400th anniversary of slavery in America](#) - A Baptist pastor visits historic Jamestown and is struck not just by the horrors of slavery but by the resiliency of black Americans. It's a story that's important to know and to name, he writes.
- ***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.

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.

- [Do not let yourself think you cannot contribute](#) - The role of the U.S. poet laureate is to encourage Americans -- especially children -- to find their voices and express themselves, says the first Hispanic writer to serve in the position.
- [What is the theological meaning of the city?](#) - A theologian urges Christians to understand their own neighborhoods as places that are rich and layered with theological meaning, leading them to think differently about everyday faith and practice.

Vibrant Institutions

- [Community Purchasing Alliance helps congregations save thousands](#) - CPA offers a self-sustaining model that generates revenue for member congregations and non-profits while helping them further their mission goals and build collaborative relationships. Also see [10 tips for starting a buying group or cooperative](#)

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.

- [How my grandmother's story helped me lead as an African-American woman](#) - The standard leadership literature was useful, but hearing stories about her grandmother and other family members helped a denominational leader truly find her voice and sense of self.
- [The challenge of being a pastor in a secular age](#) - As we enter a new chapter in the life of the church, an author and professor works to answer the question: “How do we help those who no longer need a God encounter the living God in their lives?”

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