



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
- “Imagining Belonging in the Book of Acts,” Eric D. Barreto, from *Crisis and Care: Meditations on Faith & Philanthropy*, eds. Dustin D. Benac and Erin-Weber Johnson (Cascade Books, 2021).

Note: This five-page chapter will be emailed to registered participants. Leadership Education will provide a copy of Crisis and Care to participants, as well.

- Acts chapters 1-16
 - [C. Kevin Rowe: Becoming a Christ-shaped leader](#) – Christ-shaped leadership is about developing a fundamentally Christian background in your institution or organization, so that Christian thought and practice are second nature.
 - [The pattern of life in thriving communities](#) – Our work as Christian leaders is to cultivate thriving communities that are foretastes of the kingdom of God. The Acts of the Apostles pressures us to see six features that are the essence of the church.
- [A campus ministry opens a pay-as-you-can deli just as the pandemic hits](#) - When the students at the Baptist Student Ministry in the Rio Grande Valley opened a deli near campus, they knew it was innovative. What they didn't know was that their restaurant would become a vital source of meals for people in need.

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.

- [Taking a lesson from the seed -- find joy](#) - A New York City pastor writes about the tradition of resilience in Black churches and how she finds joy in troubled times.

Traditioned Innovation

- [Decolonizing our American Christianity](#) - Harmful ideas of feminine submission and the subduing of the earth are connected in American Christianity and must be decolonized, writes an author and Potawatomi citizen.
- [Proclaiming the liberation narrative of God through church art](#) - A Chicago church has installed a trio of stained-glass windows to help its members reclaim their past, honor their present and look ahead to their future.
- [Why good leadership is like jazz](#) - In his new book, “Navigating the Future,” the dean of Duke Divinity School explores the concept of traditioned innovation and how it both was shaped by and continues to shape his leadership.

SESSION 2

Thriving Communities

- [Why storytelling matters](#) - When the church uses storytelling, it becomes a shared space where each person is a part of history, writes a poet and author.
- [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.
- [On Earth Day, people of faith need to take action on climate change](#) - In our current ecological crisis, we must emphasize humanity's role as both stewards and creatures in God's creation, writes a theologian.

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](#)
- [Care for the land is intimately tied to Black liberation](#) - An urban megachurch on Chicago's South Side is a leader in creation care, drawing upon the congregation's history and addressing its current needs.

Transformative Leadership

- [Ministers cannot thrive if they neglect themselves](#) - Clergy must honor all aspects of their lives to be healthy in ministry, writes a clinical psychologist who focuses on faith and mental health.
- [Sentiment isn't enough to combat oppression](#) - A pastor whose church in Washington, D.C., was vandalized by white supremacists urges his fellow Christians to avoid feel-good responses and instead act in community to disrupt systems of oppression.

Updated November 2021