



FOUNDATIONS OF CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP Recommended Readings – Richmond

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).
- Acts chapters 1-16
 - [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.
- [‘What do students want?’](#) - An interfaith space at Virginia Commonwealth University uses asset-based community development to focus on the strengths and interests of the students who walk through its doors rather than telling them what they 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.
- [Marty St. George on nurturing organizational culture at JetBlue](#) - In this episode of “Can These Bones,” co-host Laura Everett talks to airline executive Marty St. George about the importance — and practice — of instilling shared values across an organization.

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.
- [Why good leadership is like jazz](#) - In his new book, “Navigating the Future,” the former dean of Duke Divinity School explores the concept of traditioned innovation and how it both was shaped by and continues to shape his leadership.
- [How is repairing the church like mending a garment?](#) - A guide to clothing repair offers a useful discernment process for leaders trying to figure out how to repair a broken church, says a Christian leader who practices textile mending.

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.

- [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

- [‘Seeing Our Rooted Good: Trees, Pandemics, and Economic Imagination.’](#) Shannon Hopkins and Mark Sampson, from *Crisis and Care: Meditations on Faith & Philanthropy*, eds. Dustin D. Benac and Erin-Weber Johnson (Cascade Books, 2021).
- “The Power of Networks,” Patrick Reyes, from *The Purpose Gap: Empowering Communities of Color to Find Meaning and Thrive* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2021).

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- [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.
- [When the pandemic closed schools, an existing network of congregations and others jumped in to offer meals — and more](#) - Churches, government agencies and nonprofits that already served struggling families responded to the pandemic by ramping up their shared mission beyond providing children with summer meals.

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.

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