

How to Lead from the Pew: Working With Your Pastor

What a District Superintendent Wants Laity to Know and Do in Working with Pastors

We Are a People of Prayer.

- We listen to each other in the context of listening for God.
- We take responsibility for ourselves and for each other as a congregation.
- We offer support to one another and avoid isolating leaders.
- We work to build community and release creativity.
- We work to cleanse our relationships of toxic spirits, words, & actions that cripple, violate & denigrate another.

We Ground Ourselves in the Essential Stories of the Christian Faith.

- We believe that God brings life from death. (Crucifixion and Resurrection)
- We believe that God hears our cries and brings new opportunities. (Slavery and Exodus)
- We believe that God brings order out of confusion. (Chaos and Creation)

We Live in the Context of God's Grace.

- We believe God forgives, restores, and empowers us for growth in love.
- We believe that God's grace at work in our lives results in holy living, growing into the likeness of Christ.
- We believe faith manifests itself in good works and fruitfulness.
- We practice the Three Simple Rules: Do No Harm; Do Good; Stay in Love with God.
- We practice the means of grace to offer mutual support and accountability to one another: prayer, study of Scripture, observing the Lord's Supper, fasting, participating in Christian fellowship, and holy conferencing.

We Value the Pastor's Ministry to Strengthen His/Her Sense of Call and Fruitfulness in Ministry.

- Love me, pray for me, assist me in my growth for the sake of Christ and the Gospel.

Watching Over One Another in Love: A Wesleyan Model for Ministry Assessment. Gwen Purushotam. Nashville: General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, 2007.

Leading Within the Fissures: Superintendency in The United Methodist Church. Arthur Gafke. Nashville: General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, 2000.