

This resource is designed to get you started as you lead a book study on Lovett Weems's *Leadership in the Wesleyan Spirit* with a small group or committee in your congregation. Reflection on each chapter begins with two basic questions, encouraging initial reactions to the chapter's content and helping the group consider what ideas might be shared more widely—in a sermon, a “ministry education moment” during worship, the church newsletter (i.e., in a brief “Wesleyan Wisdom” section), etc. The remaining questions for each chapter apply concepts from the reading and will probably take more time for careful consideration. To help everyone participate more fully, consider asking the group to work on these questions in pairs, then share responses with the entire group.

Starter Questions for Every Chapter

- 1) What section or idea particularly speaks to you? Why?
- 2) What idea or concept do you want to share with your entire congregation?

Section I: Principles of Leadership in the Wesleyan Spirit

Chapter 1: Begins with People

- 3) Who are the people God has given to your congregation with whom to be in ministry?
- 4) What are the needs of these people God has given to your congregation?
- 5) How can your congregation communicate in a simple, clear way its caring for *all* people?

Chapter 2: Follows the People

- 3) Where are the people with whom your congregation is in ministry? Geographically? Culturally? Socially?
- 4) In your annual conference, where are the greatest numbers of people in need of the Wesleyan message of personal and social holiness?
- 5) How can your congregation be in partnership and ministry with those areas most in need?

Chapter 3: Focuses on Serving

- 3) Spend some time studying Jesus' teachings about servanthood. (See p. 36 for a few passages or use a concordance to locate more.)
- 4) As a group, engage in the suggested activity, “*If your church closed today...*” (pp. 38-39).
- 5) What would change in your congregation if the personal, spiritual, and material needs of all people were the primary focus of your church's ministry?

Chapter 4: Remembers Especially the Poor

- 3) Revisit the image of those inside and outside the circle (p. 45). Who are the “invisible” people who are kept outside the circle that the church of today has drawn?
- 4) What can be done to erase that circle of division and provide meaningful interaction with those outside the circle?

Section II: Practices of Leadership in the Wesleyan Spirit

Chapter 5: Practices Multiple Leadership

- 3) How does your congregation find and encourage leaders?
- 4) What can be done to encourage multiple leadership—leaders from all walks of life?
- 5) Revisit the story of the teacher and custodian (p. 67). How do you as a congregation (or small group or individual) determine when to lead and when to follow?

Chapter 6: Leads from the Center and the Edge

- 3) In what ways do you as a congregation (small group or individual) occupy the center in your local community? How do you occupy the edge?
- 4) As a congregation (small group or individual), what message can you bring to the center? the edge?

Chapter 7: Lives in a Tension

- 3) What are a couple of your congregation's main tensions in which you must live?
- 4) Focus on one tension: What can help both sides begin to move toward a new "third alternative"?

Chapter 8: Seeks to Include

- 3) Whom does your congregation need to seek to include? How can this happen?
- 4) Imagine talking with a long-time community resident who has never been part of your congregation. What would she or he see as your congregation's unifying center—what holds you together?

Chapter 9: Makes "Connection" Happen

- 3) What does "connection" mean to members of your congregation?
- 4) How might that definition be expanded? How might you live into new ways of thinking? (see Richey's eight points on p. 105)

Section III: Passions of Leadership in the Wesleyan Spirit

Chapter 10: Knows God

- 3) How does your congregation go about discerning God's vision for the future?
- 4) How might spiritual practices become a central part of the planning / visioning process?

Chapter 11: Proclaims Christ

- 3) How does your congregation proclaim Christ and embody the Good News to both "insiders" and "outsiders"?
- 4) When your congregation gets distracted, how do you get back to proclaiming the Good News?

Chapter 12: Seeks Justice

- 3) Make two lists: how does your congregation foster personal holiness? social holiness?
- 4) What is your congregation doing to learn more about and fight against the injustice of racism?