

Are you *ready to lead* in the church?

Guidelines for future church leaders

The waiter is expecting your decision.

The others in your party are waiting. Scanning the menu, you spot a picture of an entrée that looks appealing. You point to the photo saying, “That’s my choice.”

When your order arrives, it looks and tastes less appealing than its picture. Reality did not meet your expectations. You chew, wishing you would’ve taken more time, studied the ingredients, and been wiser in your choice.

Leaders impact their church congregation, mission, and ministry. Taking time before choosing a leadership role helps ensure your selection is the right choice for you and your congregation.

You are reading these words because you are someone others believe could give leadership in your church. Are you ready to lead? What does leadership mean in The Wesleyan Church? How do you make sure your leadership choice will fulfill your expectations and the expectations others have for you?

Who is considered a leader?

It might seem obvious that ministers, superintendents, chaplains, and other church officials are leaders, but what about those of us beyond those positions? Leadership also includes serving on the local church or district board, and any other position that is elected by your local church.

It is humbling to have your church choose you to potentially serve in this way. Pray about whether this is more than just leaders in your church calling you out. Perhaps God himself is using this invitation to draw you deeper in your discipleship, and to expand your witness to the world through your church.

If you are a church *member*, you could become a church *leader*. By taking on a leading role in this local Wesleyan Church, you become a part of the global Wesleyan Church in nearly 100 countries around the world. You join the movement to transform lives, churches, and communities with the hope and holiness of Jesus Christ.



To help you with this important, prayerful decision, an overview of The Wesleyan Church leadership expectations follows.

What are leaders like?

As Wesleyan Church leaders, *we affirm that...*

- **Leaders engage.** We are faithful to show up, continuously being made new in relationship to Jesus, and in worship and discipleship with the church.
- **Leaders serve.** We follow Christ by serving as he did, setting aside titles, turf, and our own vanity, giving away power and never lording our leadership over others.
- **Leaders witness.** We share our love of Christ to others in evangelism so they might know the live-changing grace of God in their lives.
- **Leaders unify.** We never work to divide the church, but encourage unity among believers and around the mission.
- **Leaders give.** We live generously, practicing biblical stewardship of our finances, and all else God has given us.
- **Leaders model.** We live our lives as role models, being examples to others by seeking God, being holy, and making progress as disciples with an intense spiritual fervor.
- **Leaders follow.** We welcome accountability and choose to live in mutual voluntary submission with other leaders around us and over us.
- **Leaders believe.** We confirm that we believe and continue to believe in the way, the truth, and the life, Jesus Christ, by affirming and following the Articles of Religion, the Membership Commitments, and the Elementary Principles. ([read online](#))

(Adapted and expanded from *The Discipline* 552.2)

Resources:

www.wesleyan.org/979/articles-of-religion

www.wesleyan.org/d/31FRnzQ/Membership-Commitments.docx

www.wesleyan.org/d/31FRnzR/Elementary-Principles.docx



Thank you

for the consideration you are giving to the invitation to lead. Be encouraged that God goes before you and others desire to serve with you.