

## European Methodist Lecture Program (EMLP) 2023

Co-hosted by the Reutlingen School of Theology (GBHEM LEaD Hub Europe)  
& Wesley House Cambridge (GBHEM LEaD Hub Britain)  
and in cooperation with The Methodist related Schools in Europe (MTSE)

### Leadership and Ministry in Wesleyan Contexts

Winter/Fall Semester, October 10 – December 12, 2023

#### Introduction into the topic

Leadership is such an integral part of ministry that we tend to take it for granted. Occasionally we affirm someone for their “natural” leadership skills. More often complaints are heard about deficits in this area. Leadership involves leading structures and processes, but one way or other, it has always to do with people. In the ministry context it is focused on God’s Kingdom and the mission of the Church.

Leadership involves dispositions, skills and knowledge, and the work of God is served if leaders – lay and clergy, young and old, women and men, persons in authority position and without formal positions – have opportunities to develop skills, cultivate dispositions, and deepen their understanding of what it means to be a leader in the Church.

Therefore, we offer lectures around questions about leadership in the church in the fall of 2023 as a continuation of the MTSE lecture series. Different topics will be covered by experienced leaders and lecturers from across Europe, offering perspectives from the Wesleyan/Methodist tradition such as,

- The theology and spirituality of leadership
- Various leadership models
- Supervision and mentorship
- Goal-setting and vision casting
- Management and delegation
- Boundaries and role clarity in leadership
- The leader’s self care and time management
- Leading change in a congregation or ministry area

#### Course Structure

- Title: **Leadership and Ministry in Wesleyan Contexts**
- Time frame: A lecture series with 10 lectures once a week
- Language: English
- Responsible: Lecturers from different Methodist related Schools in Europe (MTSE) and beyond
- Participants: Students from MTSE and other interested persons - both clergy and lay
- Expectations: in order to get 2 ECTS for the class students take part regularly and read suggested; concrete requirements for passing the class are formulated by each school; for non-credit students participation in majority of lectures is requested

- Dates: winter/fall semester, October 10 – December 12, 2023
- Duration: weekly on Tuesday - 90 minutes session with lecture and discussion
- Time 5:15 – 6:50 pm GB/ Ireland/ Portugal (GMT+1)  
6:15 – 7:50 pm Czech Republic/Denmark/ Germany/ Italy/ Norway/ Slovak Republic/ Spain/ Sweden/ Switzerland (GMT+2)  
7:15 – 8:50 PM Estonia/ Russia – Moscow (GMT+3)

**Dr. Meeli Tankler/Prof. em. Dr. Ulrike Schuler**  
**LEaD Hub Europe**

**Link to the EMLP online registration**  
<https://form.jotform.com/231134394138352>

### Program details

#### Dates, Lecturers and Topics

	<p><b>(1) 10.10.2023</b></p> <p><b>Theology of Leadership from a New Testament and Wesleyan perspective</b> (Bishop Emeritus Dr Walter Klaiber/Germany)</p>
Summary	<p>We will start with a short look on the challenges which we face in our Wesleyan heritage regarding leadership and ministry today. Then we will explore the different models for leadership and ministry in the New Testament. We will see that there is no single pattern of ministry in its different writings. Different situations and challenges called for different solutions. But we will ask: What are the guiding principles for what ever kind of leadership is exercised then and now in the spirit of the Gospel and how should we them apply to our present needs?</p>
	<p><b>(2) 17.10.2023</b></p> <p><b>Strategic thinking and planning – where does God’s guidance fit into these processes?</b> (Rev Meeli Tankler DMin/Estonia)</p>
Summary	<p>The church as a whole as well as every ministry area needs some kind of strategy: vision, mission, and certain patterns of action as we are moving toward our goal. This is one of the tasks every leader encounters as people want to know where they are going, what kind of commitment is expected from them (time-wise etc), and what are the next steps to take. In the secular world business strategies aim to</p>

	financial gains and tend to emphasize competition. In the Christian ministry we may have different focus, but certain lessons of strategic leadership theories could still be applied to our Christian context. We shall also look at some advice we find in the Bible, and in John Wesley's leadership approaches as examples of "strategic thinking" (or lack of it).
	<b>(3) 24.10.2023</b>  <b>Reflective Pastoral Supervision: A Means of Grace</b> (Mary Kohlstaedt Huycke/USA/PhD student in Great Britain)
Summary	Reflective pastoral supervision, a relatively new mode of accompanied reflection for ministers being utilized by a growing number of denominations in the U.K and Australia, is proving to be effective in supporting the well-being, development, and safe practice of church leaders. This lecture will address what <i>reflective</i> pastoral supervision is, its theological underpinnings, and what's being learned about its impact in supporting leadership practice and development.
	<b>(4) 31.10.2023</b>  <b>The Theology and spirituality of leadership</b> (Rev Dr Deirdre Brower-Latz/Great Britain)
Summary	I intend to unpack it in a way that looks at the fruitfulness of identifying and holding theological values that influence all decisions and approaches to leading. The leader, profoundly engaged in shaping - and living out - an ethos of faithful, cruciform, service, may enable their place of ministry to flourish. I will explore the way Christian leaders might hold a space in leadership that is distinctive in contrasting with some cultural shapes and preferences. Leadership framed theologically from within a Wesleyan tradition might develop healthy patterns that enable longevity of service and within any given setting enable others to thrive as well. My context is one of institutional and church leadership as an ordained elder, and one of the only female leaders of a Higher Educational provider in the theological sector in the UK- this means that there are also questions around how values and practices shape life alongside others when some of them reject your leadership. What is a theologically formed leader to do? and how does being rooted in faithful practices inform leadership decisions in contested space
	<b>(5) 08.11.2023</b>  <b>Servant Leadership as a model for Church Leadership and Ministry</b> (Rev Dr John Alderdice/Ireland)
Summary	This lecture will explore Servant Leadership as a model for Church Leadership and Ministry today. The lecture will focus on the following three themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An overview of Servant Leadership theory.</li> <li>• Church, ministry, and the leadership dilemma.</li> <li>• Servant Leadership and a contemporary Wesleyan approach to Christian Leadership</li> </ul> As part of the lecture, we will ask reflective questions that explore our own approach to leadership practice in the church.

	<p><b>(6) 14.11.2023</b></p> <p><b>Change in leadership when ministry continues: considerations for leadership transition</b> (Üllas Tankler DMin/Estonia)</p>
<p>Summary</p>	<p>Sometimes ministries in the church start and end with their leader. More often, all sorts of ministries from small groups to big denominational structures experience leadership changes. Sometimes the transitions are handled well, but in most cases both leaders as well as those being led could do better in dealing with this change. Let us pay attention to some of the needed lessons.</p>
	<p><b>(7) 21.11.2023</b></p> <p><b>Peacemaking in time of war and church divisions</b> (Bishop Edward Khegay DMin/Russia)</p>
<p>Summary</p>	<p>What does it mean to be a Christian leader and peacemaker in time of war and church divisions? The conflict between Russia and Ukraine has raised lots of emotions and polarized reactions around the world as well as inside Russia and Ukraine. Many pastors find themselves torn between two opposite parties inside the church. Add to this the UMC division on a global scale and you would question God: What is going on and what is Your will for me as a Christian leader today? In a strange and amazing way, the stories of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Robert Oppenheimer speak to us anew about leadership ethics of our time.</p>
	<p><b>(8) 28.11.2023</b></p> <p><b>The Dynamics of Deep Change</b> (Bishop Christian Alsted DMin/Denmark)</p>
<p>Summary</p>	<p>Real and deep change is a change of culture, which includes basic perceptions, beliefs, mindset, and behavioural patterns. Cultures are complex, difficult to comprehend and even harder to change. During Covid many churches developed new innovative approaches to ministry, they were adaptive, they reached new groups of people and were constantly looking for fresh opportunities to be church, nevertheless, most churches have defaulted back to the way they did ministry before the pandemic. Peter Drucker came to the insight that “culture eats strategy for breakfast” – in this lecture we will look at culture and consider approaches to influence and even alter culture.</p>
	<p><b>(9) 05.12.2023</b></p> <p><b>Turnaround: Missional Perspectives on Revitalizing Existing Congregations in the Wesleyan Tradition</b> (Prof Achim Härtner/Germany)</p>
<p>Summary</p>	<p>Existing congregations have a different mindset and history than Fresh Expressions of Church, that are newly founded. The lesson explores possibilities revitalizing existing congregations, regaining their missional vision within the realm of God’s Kingdom in our day and age.</p>

	<p><b>(10) 12.12.2023</b>  <b>Between Identity and Innovation. Reflections on a contemporary understanding of pastoral ministry</b>          (Prof Dr Holger Eschmann/Germany)</p>
<p>Summary</p>	<p>There is great uncertainty in the Church and among church workers (clergy and laypersons). Which pastoral understanding of ministry fits into the present time, which is determined by many upheavals in church and society. The lecture thematizes various observations in the field of the UMC in the German-speaking area.</p>