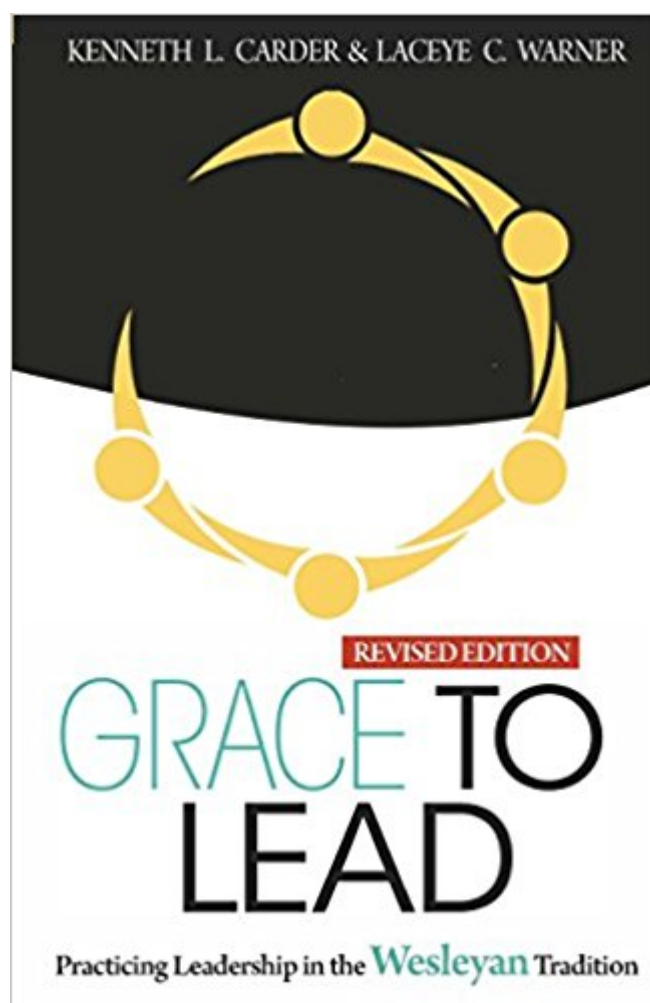


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# Grace To Lead: Practicing Leadership In The Wesleyan Tradition, Revised Edition



## Synopsis

Wesleyan Leadership Is About Character. Designed specifically for Christian leaders and teachers, *Grace to Lead: Practicing Leadership in the Wesleyan Tradition*, Revised Edition delves into Wesleyan scholarship to guide readers into effective contemporary leadership, from a solidly Wesleyan perspective. Calling upon insights from the 1700s Wesleyan revival in England, authors Carder and Warner motivate, form, and guide church leaders. The revised edition expands the content of the first edition and includes more illustrations and models of leadership formed and empowered by grace. Greater attention is given to leadership practiced by congregations and institutions as well as by individuals. Christian leadership is theological from beginning to end. Carder and Warner explore the rich Wesleyan theological grounding for such leadership with its abundant emphasis on grace. They remind readers that for Wesley, all methods emerge from the theological imperatives and missional direction of God revealed in Christ. Lovett H. Weems Jr., Distinguished Professor of Church Leadership, Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world is the mission of The United Methodist Church, and the Wesleyan tradition provides a wealth of resources for this missional work. It provides a proven and effective "method" for forming and equipping Christians to join Jesus Christ and his mission of witnessing to the coming reign of God. In *Grace to Lead* the authors provide a guide to the practice of missional leadership in the Wesleyan tradition. Pastors and congregational leaders will be enriched and inspired by the wisdom and insight contained in this book. Steven W. Manskar, Director of Wesleyan Leadership, Discipleship Ministries of The United Methodist Church The one thing that separates church from secular leadership is our faith in God through Jesus Christ and with the Holy Spirit. Bishop Ken Carder and Dr. Laceye Warner continue to remind us of this fact in *Grace to Lead*. Church leadership is spiritual leadership, and Ken and Laceye provide the groundwork with a Wesleyan distinctiveness for us to reflect upon and enact. This is a "must read" for all of us who continue to study and work on our leadership skills. Grant Hagiya, Resident Bishop of the Los Angeles Area, The United Methodist Church "

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## Customer Reviews

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If you want to understand Methodist practice, theology and worldview this book will help you get your feet wet. If you want to understand a larger scope of Western Christianity then this book is not for you. It has very little cross-application unless you are coming from a Methodist or Wesleyan tradition. This is not to say the book is a failure but it is to say the book has a very specific language to a very specific audience. I could go into the details but if you come from another Protestant

tradition you may struggle to find common ground and application points.

"Christian leadership is defined, formed, and shaped by, as well as rooted and deployed in accordance with, who God is, where God is, what God is doing, and what God would have individuals and communities be and do. Leadership in the Christian community is a sharing in the life and mission of the triune God, which means that it begins, continues, and ends in communion with, obedience to, and praise of the God we know as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Such leadership is much more than institutional direction and management." This densely packed statement about the character of Christian leadership is from a new book written by Bishop Ken Carder and Dr. Lacey Warner. Both these authors teach at Duke University Divinity School. Their book, *Grace to Lead: Practicing Leadership in the Wesleyan Tradition*, is a clear and concise guide for the formation and practice of Christian leadership. As the title indicates, the book focuses on approaches to leadership derived from the theology and ministry of John and Charles Wesley. When Carder and Warner look at the life and witness of the Wesley brothers and the movement they lead, they see that leadership is rooted in doctrine and mission. This is countercultural for much of the leadership literature circulating in the church today. They teach that leadership is rooted in technique, relevance and power. The goal of leadership is organizational success; with success judged according to market standards. When applied to the church, this market-oriented approach to leadership is dependent upon programs with broad appeal and satisfying perceived needs of members all with the goal of attracting as many people as possible. An alternative to such market oriented leadership strategies is to focus on the historic doctrine of the church that direct the church toward participation in God's mission for the world. This shifts the telos, or goal, of leadership from institutional success to missional faithfulness. It shifts the focus ministry from the church and onto God and God's mission in the world. Reading the works of John and Charles Wesley reveal that leadership is derived from a life steeped in grace; the power and presence of God in the world. Leaders are persons who habitually open themselves to this grace and freely share it with others. This means that leadership and discipleship are inseparable. In the Wesleyan tradition leaders are persons who practice the disciplines of love known as "means of grace." These practices form their identity and worldview in ways that conform them to the image of Christ. One implication of this, according to Carder and Warner, is that authority for leadership is derived more from baptism than ordination. *Grace to Lead* is the best book on leadership in the Wesleyan tradition I have encountered. It is an excellent resource for small group study. The authors include questions to lead discussion at the end of each chapter. My prayer is that *Grace to Lead* will be on every Bishop's

"required reading" list in every annual conference in 2011.

Great book, easy read

The product arrived in very good condition.

wonderful read- this is a keeper for your personal library

Perfect for the class.

This book was written by someone very proud of his vast vocabulary. Very hard to read therefore not easy to comprehend. His intended readers must have been PhD's and rocket scientists. (I have a B.S. degree in science)

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