

Dear Presbyterian Leader,

As leaders in the church we have many wonderful resources providing how-to guides on effective church leadership. We also have retreats and seminars providing us with checklists for how to be the best elder or pastor. But what about the mysterious nature of leading? How can we grasp that intrinsic quality that so often eludes us among the paperwork and budget meetings? In this month's [Leading Voices](#) feature, Rick Ufford-Chase provides a different kind of checklist that requires leaders to retreat away from the books and seminars in order to move toward the complex work of being a faithful follower of Jesus. Focusing on a leadership style that is self-sacrificing and that takes risks, this essay challenges leaders to move beyond the logistics of their role in the church to focus on the community of the church by living out biblical values and taking the time to explore the "aha" moments so often overlooked while we try to fit one more development seminar into our schedules.

Staff Product Pick

[Serving as Deacon](#)

by Elaine Barnett and Earl S. Johnson Jr.

This study is designed to acquaint people who are investigating the ministry of deacon with the specific duties and responsibilities of the position as defined by the *Book of Order* and identified by Scripture. At the end of the session, participants should be able to state the role of deacon as defined by the Bible and the PC(USA); describe specific ways their congregation engages in the ministry of sympathy, witness, and service; identify the talents and skills needed to serve in this important ministry; and discuss some new ideas for ministry based on suggestions in the Participant Handout.

Peace,

Andrew W. Yeager-Buckley

Electronic Marketing Associate

Leading Voices Feature

[Faithful Followers](#)

by Rick Ufford-Chase

"He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me'" (Mark 8:34). This month's essay uses these words of Jesus to explore how leaders can refocus their attention away from the logistics of being a leader and toward the bigger picture of leadership in the church. Are you a faithful follower?

Leader Reader Feature

[What a Good Personnel Committee Does](#)

by Steve Lytch

Every session should have a personnel committee to guide and support the pastors and employees of the church. This article lifts up the qualities of a good personnel committee.

(The Leader Reader is a benefit only available to subscribers. Newsletter is e-mailed to subscribers the first and third Wednesday of every month. Subscribers can also access past Leader Readers in the [Leadership](#) section of the site; you must be signed in to download these.)