

Church Leader, what are you doing to grow in your leadership?

Email not displaying correctly?

[View it in your browser.](#)

Leadership Network *Advance*



You Are the Leader

By Dave Travis, CEO

I love pastors. And I am writing to pastors. But in our culture, **the pastor is the leader.**

The moment you walk into the church, or to a meeting within your congregation, all eyes are on you. You are the focal point.

One's view of the role is shaped not only by scriptural interpretation, but cultural conditioning.

Different global contexts look at the role differently than our North American context. Even within the US and Canada the proper role of the leader, Lead Pastor or Senior Pastor can be viewed in different cultural contexts. Trying to tease out from the scriptures our culture's vision is problematic.

I know God gives some to be apostles, pastors, evangelists, shepherds, and teachers.

But that cultural conditioning leads to expectations of those in your care whether you like it or not. They expect YOU to lead.

So accept the fact that you are the leader.

If you are a staff pastor, bi-vocational pastor or the volunteer pastor, the same treatment holds.

You are the leader.

Accept it and move on.

But don't stop there. **If you are the leader, then work to improve your leadership.** You don't have to settle for where you are.

Because you accept it, you know the leader has to always be looking forward, not backward.

A part of looking forward is to examine the needs of your community, your congregation, and find where the gospel messaging and methods can be strengthened in your context, through your leadership.

We help on the method side mostly. Our processes, which we call Accelerators, are designed to help leaders gather a team, plan productively, and move toward real results and impact. Leadership happens in the spaces between people as they work toward a cause, project, task and goal. Our process helps make sense of that with a leader. You can [learn more about our Accelerators here](#).

But you may not know we can also help you improve your leadership through our Next Gen and Executive Pastor Leader Groups. Our Leader Groups help you find a tribe of like minded leaders in a similar ministry stage who will encourage and push you as you grow, personally and professionally. Hand-picked, experienced mentor pastors engage, teach, and coach throughout the process providing great wisdom and insight along your path.

I don't know of a greater investment you can make in yourself as a leader.

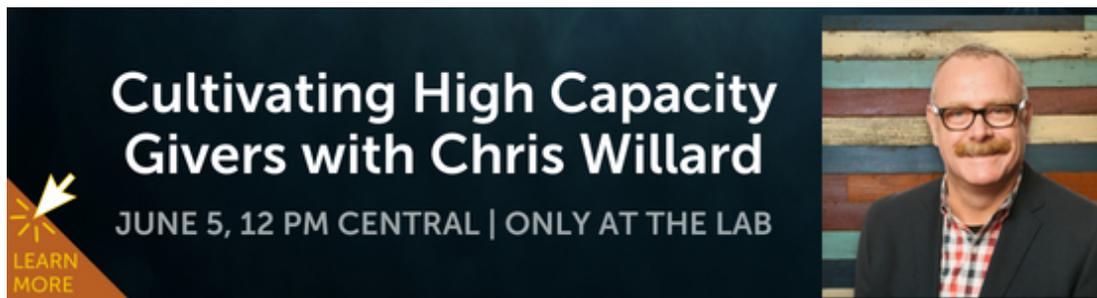
If you're a lead pastor under 45 leading a church of 1000 or more, you owe it to yourself and the people you lead to [check out our Next Gen Pastor Leader Groups](#).

If you are an executive pastor of a church of more than 1000, [learn more about our Executive Pastor Leader Groups here](#).

So questions for reflection:

- What are the expectations you put on yourself in this regard?
- Do you feel congregations expect too much here?
- What cautions would you give? (and I have some myself!)

I would love to hear your thoughts, send them on to me at dave.travis@leadnet.org.



Cultivating High Capacity Givers with Chris Willard
JUNE 5, 12 PM CENTRAL | ONLY AT THE LAB

LEARN MORE

Our Research: How 'Dead' Is Passing the Plate?

By Warren Bird, Ph.D., Director of Research

Does a bigger percentage of your church's giving come online, in the postal mail, or in person?

"In person" includes passing the plate during church services, bringing gifts forward to the altar during worship, or using an offering box in the rear of the sanctuary.

Answer: it depends on the size of the church.

In our still-being-conducted **Large Church Salary, Staff and Benefits survey*** the overall averages are:

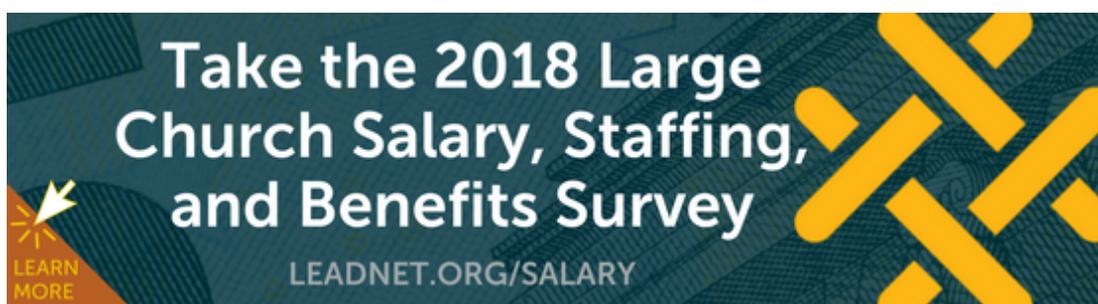
- 56% in person
- 36% online
- 8% by postal mail.

***It's not too late to take part in the survey! [Please go here before midnight 5/30.](#)**

However, **the larger the church's size, the bigger the percent that give online.** In churches with attendances of 5,000 and higher, the averages flipflop to 47% in person, 48% online, and 5% by postal mail. By contrast, in churches of 500-999, the averages are 58% in person, 34% online, and 8% by postal mail.

Whatever the size, in person giving in such ways as passing the plate is far from "dead," through it is in decline. It's still a significant portion of most churches' income.

I'll study the issue much further when YOUR church and others weigh in on the survey. [Please do pass this survey link](#) to whoever is privy to your church's salaries, attendances and other core metrics. As always, contact me at research@leadnet.org.



Things You Want to Know About

Opportunities and resources for you and your team

WEBINAR: Grow Your Church with the Power of Big Data - TODAY, May 22 @ 1 PM EST

More than 51% of Americans say that church is unimportant. Put another way - you need to show people how your message is relevant to their lives.

Big data presents churches with a powerful tool to engage the people in their communities with the right message at the right time. And Leadership Network's data partner, Gloop, has built a platform that will make access to data and actionable insights available to churches of all sizes.

In this webinar we'll talk with church growth and data experts at Gloop. Together we'll show you how you can use data insights about your community to tailor your message, reach more people and turn that statistic around. You'll learn:

- Why relevance is behind the decline in church attendance
- Everything you need to know about big data
- How real churches are using data today to tailor their message
- What you can do today to start using data in your church

The one hour webinar will start at 1PM Eastern time and will consist of a conversation with Gloop's church growth and data experts followed with an interactive question and answer session. Click or tap the button below to register.

***Even if you cannot attend the webinar, register now and we will send you a link to the recording.**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Miss a Previous Edition of Advance?

Catch up with past editions of Leadership Network Advance at leadnet.org/advance.

Copyright © 2018, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

Leadership Network
12700 Park Central Dr
Suite 500
Dallas, TX 75251

[update subscription preferences](#)