



A Matter of Faith: A Presby Podcast

Listening Guide – Leadership Episodes

Episode	Guest	Question	Timestamp
Episode 2	Beth Olker, Field Staff for Racial Equity and Women's Intercultural Ministries	I am my congregation's first female pastor. While most congregation members are nice and excited, I do feel that I run up against sexist attitudes at. But they aren't overt. Things like members of session or the congregation don't seem to "take me seriously" or only listen to my ideas if a man affirms them first. How can I help them "adjust" and accept a woman in a leadership role?	18:20
Episode 9	Brooke Scott, ready to receive a call in the Presbyterian Church USA	What is the PC(USA) ordination process like?	16:48
Episode 16	David LaMotte, Author, Singer & Songwriter	I see people in my community and my church who are troubled by various injustices that we see in the world. But I feel like they're also all waiting for someone to come along who has that "special" gift to get changes started and get things moving, and <i>then</i> they'll do something. Am I the only one observing this? And is this the correct approach? Further, I'm a young person who is constantly told to "wait" until I have my skills and my life figured out to participate in any cause for justice. But I don't wait. Am I just being impatient?	22:07
Episode 25	Timothy Wotring, Pastor, Memorial Presbyterian Church of Fox Chase	I am about to start my first call as pastor to a congregation. My question is for folks who are about a year or so into their first call: Looking back on your first year as an ordained pastor serving a congregation, what guidance or advice would you give to someone who is just about to start their first call?	25:57
Episode 27	Rev. Dr. Wanda M. Lundy, Assistant Professor of World Christianity, Director of Mentoring for Thriving in Ministry in the City (MTMC) and Director of the Eleanor Moody-Shepherd Resource Center for Women of Faith at New York Theological Seminary, & Pastor at Siloam-Hope First Presbyterian Church	I am a leader of a faith-based organization and looking to re-orient our organization's practices and policies (internally and externally) to better align with our progressive Christian values and recent events such as the #MeToo Movement, Black Lives Matter protests, and an	28:03

	Rev. Edwin González-Castillo, Associate for Disaster Response in Latin America & the Caribbean, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance	increasing sense of global connectedness. Are there others who have tried to plan and implement similar changes in their organization? What guidance do you have?	
Episode 35	Rev. Dr. Margaret E. Towner	What was your experience becoming the first ordained woman Presbyterian minister? How have you seen opportunities for women in the church (and the ordination process) change during your life? What work do you think remains for church in terms of justice and equality?	Whole Episode
Episode 38	Rev. Dr. Erin Swenson	What was your experience like maintaining your ordination credentials in the PCUSA while requesting a name change per your gender transition? How have you seen opportunities for transgender individuals in the church (and the ordination process) change during your life? What work do you think remains for the church in terms of justice and equality for transgender and nonbinary inclusion?	Whole Episode
Episode 41	April Martin, Director of Youth Ministries and Associate for Congregational Engagement, Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church	Not all people who work in the church necessarily have a theological or seminary background but still do great work. What are skills that you learned in a non-church related job (ie. another industry or sector) that surprisingly prepared you for church work or ministry?	29:47
Episode 66	Dr. Thomas G. Long, Professor Emeritus of Preaching, Emory University's Candler School of Theology	I have a question about preaching and plagiarism--Is it wrong? How can you tell a sermon is plagiarized? How can we stop it (or should we)? Or is this topic moot because preaching as we understand it now will be irrelevant in the future?	20:36

Looking to go deeper on issues of advocacy with [A Matter of Faith: A Presby Podcast](#)? This listening guide outlines a list of 10 of our favorite conversations with our guests about advocacy. We provide the accompanying questions for you to use to reflect on these episodes. These questions could be used for individual or group study. All links and resources mentioned are in each episode's show notes.

Want to get connected with A Matter of Faith? Write in your thoughts and questions to faithpodcast@pcusa.org

Reflection Questions

What are 3 words that came up during these podcasts that stuck out to you?

Some of the podcast guests discuss challenges in being in leadership roles in the church, including issues related to their own age, gender, sexual orientation, and race. What leadership challenges have you experienced or observed in your own faith community?

Did any of these episodes give you more insight into the work that goes into being pastor or faith leader? How has your understanding changed?

If you are a faith leader, did any of the conversations in these podcast episodes resonate with you? If so, which ones and why? Which of the ideas discussed did you find helpful?