Leadership Style and Teaching Orientation of Pastors of Solo-Pastor SBC Churches [Dissertation Notice]

V. A. Higgins Jr.
Christian identity and loyalty, as witnessed in their public repentance to God and to the nation after the 2007 post-election violence that shocked the foundations of Kenya. Church leaders have the potential to restore their status as the conscience of the nation and play an active role in peace building, justice, and reconciliation at both the national and grassroots levels that could help to thwart or minimize the occurrence of ethnic violence. The restoration of church leaders requires a paradigm shift of their ethnic-biased lived reality to a lived reality of Christian identity and national identity, so that their prophetic voice can be heard and respected on a national platform by society.


This dissertation explores the *specula principum*, or advice treatises for rulers, written in Ireland and the Carolingian world between the seventh and tenth centuries. Including collections of aphorisms, the deathbed speeches of literary figures, formal manuals on courtly behavior, and other texts in Old Irish and Latin, these advice manuals offer insight into several aspects of early medieval European culture. This work contains two major arguments. The first argues that the intense interest in this genre across northwestern Europe suggests that the concept of what made a good leader was changing, which is shown to be the result of a negotiation between an older, pre-Christian moral code and the emerging Christian concept of morality. The second demonstrates the interconnectivity of these regions by making a case for Irish influence on the Carolingian manuals, which most likely occurred when Irish missionaries and scholars brought ideas to the continent in the eighth and ninth centuries.


The purpose of this study was to better understand the leadership philosophy and key strategic actions of Dr. David S. Dockery in relation to Jesus’ Great Commandment. Dockery’s leadership has been instrumental in shaping and defining the meaning of Christian education during his fourteen-year tenure as president of Union University. During his term as president, Dockery has overseen tremendous institutional growth in the expansion of campus facilities, financial resources, and record student enrollment. In a broader capacity, Dockery’s influence has been reflected throughout the Southern Baptist Convention and the evangelical community.

This mixed method study analyzed and aligned Dockery’s leadership utilizing James Kouzes and Barry Posner’s perennial leadership classic, *The Leadership Challenge*.


The purpose of this study was to analyze the relationship between the leadership style and teaching orientation of a random sample of pastors of solo-pastor churches in the SBC. The leadership styles that were analyzed were Lewin’s autocratic leadership
and democratic leadership (Bass & Stogdill, 1990; Lewin et al., 1939). The teaching orientations that were analyzed were pedagogical orientation and andragogical orientation, as identified by Knowles (1984; Knowles et al., 2005). This study was designed to clarify and build upon the findings of previous researchers who have examined the relationship between leadership and teaching (Ang, 1984; Mattia, 1991).

This descriptive study used a one-phase, quantitative, correlational model (Gall et al., 2005; Leedy & Ormrod, 2005). The aim was to collect data pertaining to both pastors’ and congregational members’ perceptions of pastoral leadership style and teaching orientation in order to better understand the extent of the relationship between the dimensions of leadership and teaching.

While this study did find that a perceived change in one dimension (either leadership style or teaching orientation) did correlate to some measurable perceived change in the other dimension, the researcher concluded that leadership and teaching were largely complementary pastoral competencies, and not strictly corollary; the relationship between leadership and teaching was best expressed in quadrants, and not on a strict continuum.


This is ethnographic study on the transformation of Wycliffe Bible Translators in the United States into a multiethnic organization sets out to discern critical organizational factors impacting the transformational process. The study found that the ethnic diversity of Wycliffe USA is low compared to the ethnic composition of the United States. Worldview transformation is critical and foundational for the transformation of Wycliffe USA into a multi-ethnic organization. A number of organizational factors were found to be critical to the transformation process: the commitment of the leadership, establishing relationships with diverse ethnic communities and ethnic churches, recruiting and hiring among minority communities, training members in biblical teachings, and appointing a person to a leadership level position to be in charge of ethnic diversity. The research also found that there are common reasons for failures in transforming into a multi-ethnic organization, such as lack of vision by leadership, improper communication and engagement of stakeholders, poor project management, lack of employees’ involvement, an absence of urgency, and a lack of on-going training.


This study examined the perspective of 26 administrators and seeks to ascertain the issues and concerns pertaining to female representation in faith-based higher education administration. In this qualitative study, based on grounded theory, interviews were conducted with 19 female administrators, one female president, and six male presidents at a variety of faith-based colleges and universities nationwide. Though numerous points were made regarding the disproportion of females in faith-based higher education administration, the disparity of female mentors was identified as one of the primary reasons women do not attain to many of the executive levels posts in these institutions.