



On the Level

Leonard Cohen

I knew that it was wrong
 I didn't have a doubt,
 I was dyin' to get back home,
 And you were starting out.
 I said, I'd best be moving on
 You said, we have all day,
 You smiled at me like I was young,
 It took my breath away.
 Your crazy fragrance was all around,
 Your secrets all in view,
 My lost, my lost was saying found
 My don't was saying do
 Let's keep it on the level
 When I walked away from you,
 I turned my back on the devil,
 Turned my back on an angel too.
 They oughta give my heart a medal
 for let'n go of you,
 When I turned my back on the devil,
 Turned my back on an angel too.

Now I'm living in this temple
 Where they tell you what to do
 I'm old and I've had to settle
 on a different point of view,
 I was fighting with temptation
 But I didn't want to win
 A man like me don't like to see
 temptation caving in
 Your crazy fragrance was all around,
 Your secrets in my view,
 My lost, my lost was saying found
 My don't was saying do
 Let's keep it on the level
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Ministry Practice



*We offer representative ministry
 Representative of whom?
 Representative with whom?*

Ministers must guard themselves against the possibility of misunderstanding and over dependence.

Ministers must preserve appropriate inter personal disciplines and boundaries.

Aware of the power of the Minister's position Ministers must avoid abuse of that power, and any manipulation of a person in the guise of giving counsel.

It is a serious abuse of power to use a calling of a pastoral position to further a personal relationship of an emotional or sexual nature and it is a breach of duty.

Title D, Canon 1, 15.

Those whom God calls to ministerial leadership through the church

have responsibilities to exercise accountable oversight to those for whom a Minister has pastoral responsibility and shares the ministry of the church.

They shall observe all provisions and implications for the welfare of children and young persons under civil law,

have and maintain reliable and effective communication at all levels of church life,

keep confidential information received in their role as ordained ministers or lay ministers,

and comply with Privacy legislation.

Title D, Canon 1, 14.

Growing reflexivity

Community based ethics

A culture forms people, their character and actions



look out for the swamp
we are in the swamp !

Jesus

How do we use power well?

Jesus : with the blind man

What do you want me to do for you?

Jesus with the woman who touched his cloak.

Tell me about it

Jesus with walking couple

What are you talking about?

Focus on the other / negotiate / be transparent




Using power well


Claiming space Sharing space

- Genuine engagement
- Acknowledge and respect people are loved by God, their responses are theirs
- Be transparent in your engagement - this is what I am doing.
- Setting an agenda together
- Staying with the people, being kind
- Checking in
- Ask hard questions with gentleness
- Follow up

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Look and see



Power awareness cannot be treated by a programme it must be embedded in a culture. Morse, 186.

- Vision
- Review
- All parts of the organization (top to bottom)
- Common language
- Stories and metaphors

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SP

Community Ethics

*“If you have the model of **power with** instead of **power over** then you see yourself as being accountable to that community that has consented to your being in a position of leadership.”*

Make a concise list of Title D, Canon 1, 10-18 Requirements and Prohibitions



Fast model for reflection

Who am I?

Which role?
How do I know this care-seeker?
How does this person view me?



What am I doing?

Who is centre of this encounter?
Does this benefit me?
Name : thoughts/words/actions



Why am I doing it?

Is this one of my red flags?

Is this about ‘me’ getting something from the other?

Does this fit with Jesus shaped community standards?

Who am I?



Ministers are accountable and responsible to maintain standards whatever the other person says or does

What am I doing?



Confidentiality

Touch

Bullying

Sexual Matters

Availability

It is the care-seeker's call

Developing Awareness

A person with whom you will have the courage to be accountable and transparent

Would I be OK if my colleague, partner saw me?

What would it look like on national media?

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Community of Care and Support

Gather around Jesus

Gather round Word and Sacrament

A community of reconciliation and care

- ❖ Supervision
- ❖ Reflective Cycle
- ❖ Know ourselves and watch out for dual roles
- ❖ Keep a balance with our personal / ministry lives and attend to external relationships

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David Crawley on Philippians 2

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, so that even if your qualifications grant you the comfort of expertise, or your social context positions you with power, do not regard these privileges as something to be exploited, but instead focus on the priority of love. With the Spirit's help, encounter others as they are, not who you would prefer them to be, and risk vulnerability in offering yourselves to them as fellow humans, co-learners, and companions on the journey towards life.

Lex McMillan and others, *Stories of Faith: Stories of Therapy*. Eugene, Oregon: Wipf and Stock, 2017, 36.

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