



# Pastor

*William H. Willimon*

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

# Pastor

*William H. Willimon*

## **Pastor** William H. Willimon

Ordained ministry, says Willimon, is a gift of God to the church--but that doesn't mean that it is easy. Always a difficult vocation, changes in society and the church in recent years have made the ordained life all the more complex and challenging. Is the pastor primarily a preacher, a professional caregiver, an administrator? Given the call of all Christians to be ministers to the world, what is the distinctive ministry of the ordained? When does one's ministry take on the character of prophet, and when does it become that of priest? What are the special ethical obligations and disciplines of the ordained? In this book, Willimon explores these and other central questions about the vocation of ordained ministry.

He begins with a discussion of who pastors are, asking about the theological underpinnings of ordained ministry, and then moves on to what pastors do, looking at the distinctive roles the pastor must fulfill. The book also draws on great teachers of the Christian tradition to demonstrate that, while much about Christian ministry has changed, its core concerns--preaching the word, the care of souls, the sacramental life of congregations--remains the same.

Ordained ministry is a vocation to which we are called, not a profession that we choose. To answer that call is to open oneself to heartache and sometimes hardship; yet, given the one who calls, it is to make oneself available to deep and profound joy as well.

## **Pastor Details**

Date : Published January 1st 2002 by Abingdon Press (first published December 31st 2001)

ISBN : 9780687045327

Author : William H. Willimon

Format : Paperback 392 pages

Genre : Religion, Theology, Nonfiction, Church, Leadership

 [Download Pastor ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Pastor ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Pastor William H. Willimon**

---

# **From Reader Review Pastor for online ebook**

## **Karla Goforth Abreu says**

This book is excellent in style, content, and integrity. It covers the various roles that ordained ministry must take on and seasons that with references to the author's experience and others. Willimon delves into Scripture, the history of Christianity, the early church father's, and biographical snippets of greats of the faith. Altogether, this book is outstanding. Every seminary should require this for reading, and every pastor/ordained minister should read it more than once. It is impressive.

---

## **Roger says**

Wesley, borrowing from German Pietists, created a movement based upon small groups—face-to-face accountability groups where ordinary eighteenth-century English people met together, challenged one another, prayed for and forgave one another. Thus was created the Wesleyan revival in England.

Willimon, William H. (2009-02-01). Pastor: The Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry (p. 129). Abingdon Press. Kindle Edition.

A memorable quote (among many) from Willimon.

---

## **Curtis says**

Another Book for a class!

This is a toolkit style book. Way too much in it to fully grasp in a fast read.

It is written by a United Methodist so not 100% in agreement with everything theologically etc...

It isn't way off but it is something that you'll be able to critic and argue with due to the small theological differences or choice of Bishops etc...

---

## **Allen Bramlett says**

The depth and aim that Willimon writes with is powerful! I read this for a seminary class and was simply delighted, though I at first thought we would have benefited more by reading Eugene Peterson. However, after reading the book and seeing the purpose behind the book come to life in its pages, I am grateful for having read it. I highly recommend this for every pastor and person called to ministry!

---

## **Susie says**

A biblical and historical look at the role of the pastor in the Christian church. I really like this way of

thinking about it, one that trusts that throughout the history of Christianity, God has been providing a way for the people of God to receive care, instruction, and grace through the ministry of pastors. Works through the different aspects of pastors' roles one by one. A GREAT read for any present or future pastor.

---

## **Andy Hickman says**

Loved this book!

Ministry implies I am “compelled” because it is God's idea not mine (1 Cor 9:6), and we learn to surrender, be submitted to the yoke He offers and allow Him to dictate our future as He wills (2 Cor 3:17; Acts 5:29).

But our sense of calling is confirmed by the church community (e.g. Acts 13:1-3). It is in context to community that we the corporate body of Christ witness to the world.

One must overcome the guilt of giving away work and realise that what is a burden for the pastor is a blessing for someone else.

Pastoral care has always been the ministry of all believers unto each other. However, the prevalent anti-clerical attitude of this postmodern era has devalued the calling and gifting of those men and women who have been given representative appointment. William Willimon asserts that pastoral care (as encompassing the wider role of pastoral ministry) is by nature “representative” since ministry is both an act of God and an act of the church, and thus representative of both.

Ambiguity and misunderstanding about the representative nature of pastoral care results in damage being done to the unique quality of the pastoral vocation when it is conflated with the mandate of all Christians to follow Jesus. Those who are called by God and the church to lead in ways defined by 1 Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4:11-13 do so in order to empower all believers in their obedience to Christ.

Willimon claims that pastors live in the gap between this high and noble Trinity dimension, and the gritty earthly realm of fallen humanity. Closing that gap is the great challenge and privilege of pastoral ministry.

Willimon emphasises that simply to care for people is not the goal of pastoral ministry. Rather, to care in the manner of Christ is what distinguishes pastoral carers from therapists. The ministry of pastoral care is an act of God and is his idea before it is ours.

Pastoral care must be grounded in theology, not only for the benefit of the recipients, but also for the carers themselves. Willimon speaks from experience when he says, “Time and again, amid the challenges of the pastoral ministry, this divine, more-than-subjective authorisation is a major means of pastoral perseverance.”

Pastoral carers need to believe that they are in ministry because it is ultimately God's idea, rather than their own sense of occupational advancement.

Willimon, William H. *Pastor: The Theology and Practice of Ordained Ministry*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2002.

---

## **Corey says**

5 stars, not because I agree with everything the author says, but because the book is masterfully written, well-researched, is backed by years of experience as well as scripture, systematic theology, church tradition, and theological giants. I congratulate Willimon on this book. It is a very good piece of writing.

---

## **Kate Davis says**

An ok-ish introduction to the pastoral task, though definitely from an old white guy. Definitely feels dated and condescending.

Some notes for me to remember what I was unsettled by: he's short-sighted and an enlightened sexist. He views two converts (in Acts) as a failure; he thinks the separation between public and private is modern (which is ancient, as any woman can tell you), he talks up women in ministry but asks us to "forgive Paul's paternal" language (which is definitely maternal language that I'm grateful for).

---

## **Jim says**

This is the best book on pastoral ministry out there.

---

## **James says**

To my mind there are two major voices that shape pastoral ministry in the protestant tradition: William Willimon (author of this volume) and Eugene Peterson. Peterson is someone I have read a lot; I have read with appreciate Willimon articles and sermons (I did read both Resident Alien books that he co-authored with Stanley Hauerwas). This was a real treat, to delve into some of his pastoral literature.

This book explores the various dimensions and roles that pastor are to perform if they are to serve the church well and fulfill their calling. Willimon has lived in the literature and distills wisdom from various sources. This is going to be a major resource of pastoral theology that I shall keep returning back to.

---

## **John says**

This is a beautifully written book. Even the parts that you strongly disagreed with were thought provoking and made one consider the costs.

---

## **Thomas Reeves says**

Recommended for clergy seeking to pastor with integrity, authenticity, and honesty regarding the challenges

and joys of pastoring...especially within a Protestant milieu. Some of the final chapters on the calling of the clergy, ordination, the long view on ministry, etc. will be a great comfort and reminder for those who seek to pastor in keeping with the calls of the Gospel and the Kingdom of God.

The author shows experience, theological and historical competence as well as nuance in application to life and pastoral leadership. The author also exposes the reader to some seemingly helpful books for further study and consideration.

The Author is at his best when he is not trying to legitimize Wesley or the anti-intellectual revivalism and pietism of Methodism. That said, he largely focuses on solid historical sources and solid theological influences of the 20th century.

However, I did find his chapter on preaching disappointing and typically Protestant...i.e., worship is seen as an event that is really about preaching that is dependent on a creative orator/leader instead of the historic idea of corporate worship as a spiritual discipline for both congregation and preacher (the main reason I give this book a 4-star rating instead of a 5) .

While it is important for clergy to be competent in knowledge and growing as communicators (stewardship), parishioners should be coming to worship their God and desirous to learn (faithfulness), not looking for excuses not to listen with an expectation to be titillated. When we succumb to this consumerist tendency we do not challenge our people to greater growth and thoughtfulness but enable their self-centered default settings and laziness. This approach to preaching has a long history in Protestant and Puritanical/pietistic preaching (although, I believe that Luther and Calvin would have chafed at it).

In the end, I recommend this book and will continue to refer to and use it in my future ministry and development.

---

### **Paul Kurtz says**

This book was a mixed bag. I thought the author had some very good, informative things to say about being a pastor but, not being a Methodist, I tended to disagree with a lot of his theology.

---

### **Stephen says**

READ FEB 2013

A must read for any minister or elder. Especially for anyone new, but a great reminder for anyone who has been at this a while. Willimon poses a question that seems to be a good way to start and evaluate ministries or decisions about starting/stopping or changing ministries:

"what sort of disciples are being formed by [fill-in-the-blank]?"

---

## **Todd says**

Fantastic read! William Willimon paints a fine picture of what ministry is all about.

---