
REFRAMING THE ECONOMICS OF PASTORAL LEADERSHIP

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Abstract: One of the central questions in congregational leadership concerns pastoral salaries. Viewed more broadly, issues of money are vital to churches' health. This article critically presents and applies the "capability approach" to economics and well-being as a vocabulary that can help church leaders think about clergy compensation and other questions of money. It examines individual and communal dimensions of human capability and offers guiding questions and perspectives for congregations to incorporate financial considerations into ministerial leadership and the vocation of clergy and lay alike.

Introduction

In the conclusion of his landmark book on church leadership, *God's Potters: Pastoral Leadership and the Shaping of Congregations*, Jackson W. Carroll states that there is a great need for critical theological reflection on the meaning of money in our society, including what constitutes fair compensation for clergy. Clergy should not be left to bear Christian witness to the virtue of a simple lifestyle primarily because their salaries leave them no option. If small and large congregations are to have the good leadership for which they ask, they will need to pay

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¹ The author would like to thank the Lilly Endowment, Inc., for support in undertaking the research in this article and to thank, in particular, Chris Coble and Craig Dykstra at Lilly, Jim Hudnut-Beumler at Vanderbilt Divinity School, and colleagues in the Pulpit and Pew Project at the Duke University Divinity School.