

**2025 Annual Meeting, April 24-26, 2025
Iliff School of Theology,
Denver, CO, USA and online**

“Leadership as Justice”

There are many descriptors that both characterize and shape prevailing understandings and practices of leadership: prophetic, biblical, pastoral, collaborative, adaptive, transformational, and so on. **Just leadership**—or leadership as justice—is less frequently invoked as a standalone framework, and more often nested within these prevailing archetypes. Given the ever-increasing injustices plaguing our world—including heightened occurrences of racism, xenophobia, mass incarceration, domestic and international terrorism, environmental degradation and climate change, income inequality and poverty, and discrimination of various kinds against nondominant populations—the question that must be asked is: **How might religious leadership *be(come)* just?**

Exploring leadership as justice invites a reconsideration of the what, who, why, when, where, and how of justice for leaders and religious communities alike. What does justice look, sound, smell, taste, and feel like for leaders and communities? What new forms and structures might/does just leadership take within communities? Who determines what justice is or should be, and for whom? Why is—or is not—justice a core concern for some leaders and not others, and thus some communities and not others? How are just leaders formed? How might centering justice within religious communities impact not only the immediate congregation or organization, but also the broader spheres and spaces in which it is located or have influence? What are the joys, challenges, highlights, and struggles of religious leaders who themselves seek to be(come) just, pursue justice, and/or invite others into justice work?

Call for Proposals

The 2025 Annual Conference of the Academy of Religious Leadership invites proposals for presentations from religious leaders and scholars with experience or interest related to this year’s theme. We welcome solo and multi-authored papers, panel presentations, workshops, and case studies that offer theoretical, theological, praxiological, pedagogical, and/or organizational perspectives on “**Leadership as Justice**” and that will engage

practitioners, educators, and students from a variety of settings and denominational backgrounds.

Presentation proposals should include the following:

- Working title
- Presentation type: solo presenter, multiple co-presenters, workshop
- Abstract that provides the thesis, context, and general overview of the presentation (500-word maximum)
- Any creative delivery styles, materials (visual, audio, etc.), or practices that will be included in the presentation (highly encouraged)
- Sample bibliography of primary resources or conversation partners
- Name and a brief bio of each presenter
- Indication of whether the presenter intends to attend in person or virtually.

Proposals should be formatted as Word documents and emailed as an attachment to klizardy@iliff.edu with the subject “**ARL Proposal.**”

Presenters at the annual ARL conference will also have the opportunity to submit a paper for review for the fall *Journal of Religious Leadership* issue. Individuals are highly encouraged to begin thinking now about how their presentations might be adapted for *JRL* publication, though presentation at ARL does not automatically connote approval for publication.

Deadline for proposals is **October 15, 2024.**

Decisions will be made by **November 15, 2024.**