

LEADERSHIP CRITERIA AND THEIR SOURCES AMONG ECWA CHURCHES
OF NIGERIA: IMPLICATIONS FOR CURRICULUM
IN MINISTERIAL TRAINING

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ABSTRACT

LEADERSHIP CRITERIA AND THEIR SOURCES AMONG ECWA CHURCHES OF NIGERIA: IMPLICATIONS FOR CURRICULUM IN MINISTERIAL TRAINING

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The study involved needs assessment of what constitute pastoral leadership criteria in ECWA, in an attempt to inform the judgment of curriculum planners for ECWA theological schools.

A survey of representative church types along Ethno-Rural, Ethno-Urban and English-Using lines of distinctions was conducted. The independent variables were, age grades, levels of acculturation and locales. The four categories of dependent variables were, personal characteristics, leadership styles, ministry skills and civic duties of the pastor-leader.

A major assumption in the study was that, the sample will express pastoral leadership concepts that are derived mainly from traditional and acculturated values. The extent to which groups of respondents have moved away from traditional values was expected to be reflected in their levels of acculturation as measured by formal educational attainment.

Findings show that, regardless of the respondents' level of acculturation, preferences for leadership criteria were most frequently based on traditional values. Next to traditional values, the less acculturated tend to base leadership criteria on normative biblical values, followed by acculturated values. In turn, the more acculturated,

next to traditional values, tend to base their criteria for pastoral leadership on acculturated values, followed by normative biblical values.

Both Ethno-Rural and Ethno-Urban churches tend to prefer a pastor who is over forty years old and is highly educated. The Ethno-Rural churches still find a pastor who is over forty but with little education quite acceptable. The English-Using churches tend to prefer a pastor who is under forty and highly educated. No single church type expressed any preference for a pastor who is under forty and little educated.

The less acculturated prefer the pastor and elders alone to plan all church programs. The more acculturated want members' involvement too, and they want the pastor to adopt participatory style of leadership more often.

Most respondents across the three church types saw teaching and preaching as priority skills for the pastor. Schooling was considered the best way to enhance pastoral skills.

Most respondents want the pastor's civic duties to include, familiarity with local customs and politics, involvement in development projects and social reforms.