

Church Leader, I am excited to share with you our new CEO.

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Leadership  Network *Advance*



A New Leader for Leadership Network

By Dave Travis, CEO

I am pleased to report that **Ron Edmondson will be the new CEO/President of Leadership Network starting July 1st.**



He joins us after serving as lead pastor at Immanuel Church in Lexington, KY, for the past six years. A long-time client and friend of our organization, when he heard I was stepping down he reached out to me to wonder aloud if he was the right fit for the role.

After careful consideration by our board team, and an extensive search by the firm Vanderbloemen Search Group, he was unanimously elected.

Immanuel is a large established church, which Ron has led in a complete turnaround and revitalization. They have had explosive growth and are now on a solid path

moving forward and recently became multisite.

Ron is unique in that he has led Immanuel to appear on the list of 100 fastest growing churches, according to *Outreach* magazine, but also appeared on the list as a church planter in Tennessee. He is the author of the book, *The Mythical Leader*, in Leadership Network's NEXT book series. Ron is close to finishing his doctorate from Midwestern Seminary. He also holds two Master's Degrees; one from Eastern University in St. Davids, PA, in Organizational Leadership and a seminary degree from Luther Rice Seminary in

Lithonia, GA.

Prior to entering the pastorate Ron had a long resume of business experience, including a corporate management career as an entrepreneur, and a small business owner. In addition, Ron has served in elected office and on dozens of non-profit boards locally and nationally.

Ron and his wife Cheryl will be relocating to Dallas, TX, in June to prepare for this new assignment and are anxious to get started.

Personally, I could not be more excited for this choice and I look forward to introducing Ron to you personally over the coming days. He is the right person for this role to lead us into the future.

Ron is the sixth person to lead the organization since its founding in 1984.

Chair of the Leadership Network Board, John Stanley, says of Ron: "The need for the Church to impact our culture today is perhaps more critical than when Bob Buford founded the organization. The Board is delighted with such an able, visionary and connected leader like Ron to take the helm at Leadership Network and fulfill this important work."

So you can know Ron better, I conducted a brief interview with him.

1. Why do you feel God has called you to lead Leadership Network?

Cheryl and I believe we have accomplished what we were called to do at Immanuel. Leadership Network is an organization I have long loved and felt passionate about their mission. I have participated and benefited from Leadership Network. I never dreamed I would have an opportunity to play such a role in its future, but I feel my whole career has shaped me for this. When the chance presented itself we were both fully convinced this was something God was shaping in our future.

2. What about your experiences or background connects with our mission?

I have experience in church planting, in revitalization, and in the business world. I love to lead for innovation and continual improvement. I also love working and developing teams. Finally, my passion is investing in churches and the next generation of pastors. I believe all these experiences and passions will help me as I transition into this new role.

3. What do you want our client churches to know about you?

I care. I care about their churches, them and their families. I know the stress of leading a church. I hope to spend the rest of my career attempting to make them more successful.

4. What is it that you have valued about your experiences with Leadership Network?

Some of my favorite connections in ministry have been through Leadership Network. I

have gained new insights and been challenged to dream bigger dreams for our church through my interactions with Leadership Network. It has felt like a “safe place” for me in ministry. That’s so valuable in church work.

5. What is the vision for the future of Leadership Network?

I’m not sure. I’ve never been able to see very far down the road in my faith journey and there is so much for me to learn still about the programs of Leadership Network. I have lots of ideas and dreams. My Google doc of thoughts is increasing daily and I’m open to suggestions (send them to me!). I know we are going to be innovative in investing in the next generation of church leaders. The use of data and technology is going to change how we do church. There is so much of Bob Buford’s legacy and the work of Leadership Network upon which to build. I want to look back in the years to come and be excited about things we’ve realized for the Kingdom. Let’s get this party started!



Our Research: 3% Pay Raises, and Other Early Findings from Our Latest Salary Survey

By Warren Bird, Ph.D., Director of Research

On average, how did salaries at your church change from the most recent budget year to your current fiscal year?

If you participated in our latest Large Church Salary, Staffing and Benefits Survey – **if not, [please do so HERE before 5/24](#)** – that’s one of the questions you would have answered. From the responses to date, **the most-stated amount was 3%** (selected by 1 in 3 churches), and **the next-most stated amount was 2%** (selected by 1 in 4 churches).

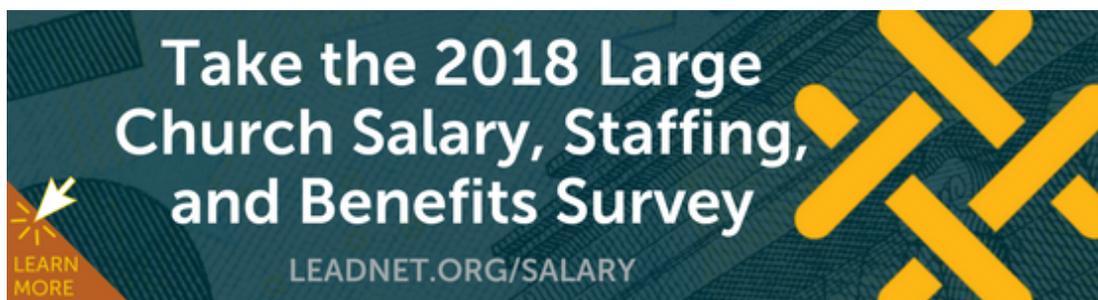
We probed further, asking “**To what extent are your raises influenced by the following?**” Among seven choices offered, **#1 chosen so far is “level of responsibility,” #2 is “ministry performance and success,” and #3 is “cost of living.”** We’ll create a table of all seven options, compared by church size, in our executive summary to the report. Same with salary raises.

These questions and others are part of our every-other-year compensation-related survey, something Leadership Network has conducted for almost 20 years. Its findings have become the gold standard of trends, ratios, rankings and other specific guidelines for large

churches across North America. People who [participate in the survey](#) receive many unique perks:

- Free downloads like “50 Ways Large Churches Save Money”
- A free webinar with early findings
- First look at the free executive summary
- And more.

To participate in this year's survey before it closes, click or tap on the banner below.



Things You Want to Know About

Opportunities and resources for you and your team

Generosity and Stewardship Accelerator

Our Generosity and Stewardship Accelerator, in partnership with Generis, is a next-level approach to learning, planning, and implementation that challenges church leaders to see, think, and do in more effective ways. This unique, team-oriented experience involves three, 3-day world-class facilitated sessions over the course of one year. Our proven Accelerator process provides:

- Connection with other pioneering churches: true peers that will push you.
- Access to leaders, models and resources you can't get anywhere else.
- Analysis of your current generosity initiatives.
- Development of a comprehensive plan for growing generosity, stewardship and giving that includes growing resources and growing people.

The Accelerator experience also includes:

- Monthly online group sprint session led by the Leadership Network team and Generis consultants.
- Monthly office hours where your team can schedule an online coaching call with the director.
- Five Leadership Network Church Implementation Lab memberships for your team.

Our next Accelerator group launches this fall and space is limited to the first 15 churches. To learn more and schedule a discovery call with our Director, Chris Willard, click or tap on the button below.

Learn More

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