Leadership: Establish a clear theological understanding of servant leadership aligned with the values of the Global Methodist Church.

Simplified Definition:

Christian leadership is a trust received from God and patterned after the life of Jesus Christ, characterized by humble stewardship, life on life discipleship, and the collaborative deployment of spiritual gifts to bring people into a relationship with God, and spread scriptural holiness.

Deeper Explanation:

To understand the specific nature of leadership within the Global Methodist tradition, consider these core theological pillars:

The Christological Pattern: The ultimate standard for all leadership is the ministry of Jesus Christ, who came not to be served but to serve (Mark 10:45). Every leader, whether clergy or lay, is called to offer themselves in humble service to the world to cultivate kingdom priorities.

Kingdom Stewardship: Leaders act as ambassadors and stewards, not owners. Recognizing that people and spiritual gifts are primary, and that every building, program, and message belongs to God, leaders manage these resources to align with the kingdom ethic rather than personal or institutional preservation.

The Synergy of Clergy and Laity: Leadership is a shared "gift of God to the Church." Healthy leadership requires identifying, equipping, deploying, and supporting lay leaders (¶ 404) alongside effective clergy (¶ 503) to ensure the church remains a strategic base for mission implementation.

Collaborative Accountability: Effective leaders work in teams that practice "speaking the truth in love." This involves a commitment to transparency, admitting mistakes, and encouraging one another to build a culture of mutual support and high-capacity service.

Spiritual Maturity as Prerequisite: Spiritual leaders are identified by their character and spiritual fruit rather than just their skills or tenure. They must be devout, disciplined in prayer and Scripture, and possess a burning commitment to faith sharing, moving beyond administrative management to spiritual multiplication.

The Continuous Cycle of Development: Leadership is not a static position but a cycle of identifying, developing, deploying, and evaluating. The Nominations and Leadership Development Committee serves as the engine for this cycle, ensuring leaders stay focused on the mission of disciple-making and raising up the next generation of leaders.

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