

STUDENT JOURNAL

#1

PACE International Seminary

REFLECTION

on the

**Lay Pastors Ministry
with PACE**



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Student Journal REFLECTION on the Lay Pastors Ministry and PACE
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Preface



With great joy and gratitude, I extend my heartfelt congratulations on the publication of this Student Journal by the students of PACE International Seminary. This journal is a testament to the dedication, theological insight, and commitment of our students who seek to engage deeply with God's Word and His mission. It reflects academic rigor and a passion for ministry and discipleship.

At PACE International Seminary, we uphold the core principles of P.A.C.E.:

1. Prayer – Every aspect of our theological education and ministry is grounded in prayer. Through prayer, we seek God's wisdom, strength, and direction.
2. Availability – We are called to be available to serve others, responding to the needs of our communities with compassion and readiness.
3. Contact – Meaningful relationships in ministry are essential. Through intentional engagement and pastoral care, we foster spiritual growth and encouragement.
4. Example – Our lives should reflect Christ's character as a model for others in faith, humility, and service.

This Student Journal embodies these values, allowing students to express their theological reflections, share insights, and contribute to the broader discussion of Christian faith and ministry. Their writings are not merely academic exercises but serve as a witness to their calling and a commitment to equipping others through sound biblical teaching.

I commend each student who has contributed to this journal and those who have supported this endeavor. May this publication inspire, challenge, and encourage all who read it. As we move forward in our mission, may we continue to grow in faith and in our calling to serve God's kingdom with excellence, humility, and unwavering devotion.

Dr. Rev. Kwangsong Jeon

President, PACE International Seminary

HOW CAN THE CLERGY PARTNER WITH LAY PEOPLE?

by Keniesieno Magh (student)



Partnership between clergy and lay people is essential for building a vibrant and inclusive faith community. By working together, communicating openly, sharing responsibilities, and empowering one another, clergy and lay people can create a dynamic and effective ministry that serves the needs of all members.

When the clergy and laypeople work together, they can achieve great things. This partnership is built on mutual respect, trust, and a shared commitment to serving the community. By working together, they can pool their talents, skills, and experiences to create a stronger, more vibrant community.

Open communication is also essential for a strong partnership between the clergy and lay people. This means sharing information, listening to each other's ideas and concerns, and being transparent and honest in all interactions. By communicating openly, they can build trust, avoid misunderstandings, and work together more effectively.

Sharing responsibilities is another important aspect of this partnership. The clergy and lay people can work together to identify the needs of the community and develop strategies to meet those needs. They can then share the responsibilities of implementing those strategies, with each person contributing their unique skills and talents. By sharing responsibilities, they can ensure that the workload is distributed fairly and that everyone has the opportunity to contribute and make a difference.

Empowering one another is a key part of this partnership. The clergy can

empower the lay people by giving them opportunities to take on new challenges and responsibilities. This can help to build confidence and leadership skills among the lay people. At the same time, the lay people can empower the clergy by sharing their own unique perspectives and ideas. This can help to bring new energy and creativity to the community. ♥

Keniesieno Magh

B.Th. II

PACE International Seminary

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE LAY PASTORS MINISTRY

by Toka Z. Yeptho (student)



A Lay Pastors is a member of a local Church who has been trained and appointed by the Church, Lay Pastors is someone who is called by God to serve their local church and communities, actually they are not appointed ministries they are ordinary people who have been gifted and equipped by God to provide spiritual leadership. A Lay Pastors are often bi-vocational meaning they have a secular job (e.g., teacher, engineer etc.) to support themselves financially, as well as their ministry role because they are not fully appointed by denominational authorities. As we can see in 1 Peter 4: 10, "As each of one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. This means that a Lay Pastors are called to utilize their gifts and talents which he received from God in a godly way to serve others and to be good stewards of God's grace.

One of the key characteristic of Lay Pastors ministry is a deep commitment to serve others, they are called to provide pastoral care and support to their members and congregations. Their main duty is to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, as it says in Matthew 28: 19- 20, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." So, from this passage we can clearly see that a Lay Pastors must spread the Good News of Jesus Christ around the world. They are committed to evangelism and outreach, and they are always looking the ways to share the love of God with those who are around them. Whether through preaching, teaching, or sharing their own life story. Not only that but also a Lay Pastors must also visit the sick people, comfort the braved, and providing guidance and support to those in need.

Here are some of the key characteristics of a Lay Pastor's Ministry:

- 1 Love to others: Lay Pastor's must show love and care to others by treating them with kindness, respect, and compassion.
- 2 Faithfulness: A Lay Pastor's must be faithful to their calling not only in their calling but they must also show faithfulness in their work, wherever they are assigned to be.
- 3 Dependence of God: A Lay Pastor's must be humble and modest to his congregations his role is not about seeking praise from others, but instead serving God and others.
- 4 Passion for sharing the Gospel: A Lay Pastors have a strong desire to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with others, they are eager to share about the love of God's, forgiveness, and salvation.♥

Toka Z. Yeptho

B.Th. I

PACE International Seminary

WHY DO WE NEED PACE IN THE MINISTRY?

by Tohuto shohe (student)



PACE is necessary in the ministry it helps the leaders and believers to serve others effectively with hesitation and grow more in spirit. Ministry is not just about preaching or teaching but it is about caring for others guiding them, teaching them who God is and showing God's love in everyday life.

Prayer is a must in the ministry and we must put prayer first. Prayer is the foundation because it connects the ministry to God's wisdom and strength. Without prayer we can easily become tired or discourage in the ministry. When we pray in the ministry, we receive direction, encouragement and the ability to help others from God. Prayer also strengthens the people they serve as they pray for their needs and struggles. Being available is necessary because ministry is about people. If we are busy in our own world in the ministry people those in need may feels ignored.

Available means making time for others, listening to them and being there when they need support. It clearly shows that ministry is not just about words but also about taking care and being available to others.

Contact is also important because ministry is build on relationships, checking on people, staying connected to them and making sure they do not feel alone. A simple call, visit or message can make a huge difference in someone's life by showing them that they are valued and not forgotten.

And one of the important things in ministry is living as an exemplary life. It is the most powerful was to lead in ministry, because people are more likely to follow what they see rather than just what they hear. When we live with

the believers with kindness, patience and integrity, it inspires others to do the same and their lives become a testimony of faith in their action bringing more people to God.

In ministry, PACE can create a strong and supportive community. It makes sure that people are not just told about God's love but experience it through prayer, presence, connection and good example. This makes the ministry more effective and impactful in transforming others life.♥

Tohuto shoh B.Th. III
PACE International Seminary
Sangtamilla: Dimapur, Nagaland

CAN PACE BRING CHANGE IN THE MINISTRY?

by Van Tha Bik (student)



Yes, PACE (Prayer, Available, Contact, and Example) can bring change in the ministry because prayer is the foundation of everything in ministry, when we are pray we relationship or connects with God. The Bible shows us that Jesus himself constantly prayed and seeking the Father's guidance in everything he did. Even in the gospel Luke we can see that Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed. Therefore

even Jesus, the Son of God needed to pray, then prayer is even more necessary for us and also we can see in James 5:16 said "The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective". So when the people or ministries pray, prayer strengthens the ministry by brining God's presence, wisdom, and power. Without prayer a ministry is weak and directionless, but with prayer, it becomes strong and full of life.

Available is also very important for a ministry because when people make themselves availability to serve, it shows commitment and dedication to God's work, even God uses those who are willing to serve. We can see in Isaiah 6:8 "the prophet Isaiah hears God calling and respond here I am Send me".

Therefore when the ministries people make themselves available they become instruments of God's work, ready to help the needy, support the weak, and guide the lost and the more ministries people are available for God's work or others people, the stronger and more impactful the ministry becomes.

Contact is also what keeps a ministry strong. In the book of acts 2:42 we can see that the early church stayed connected in fellowship, breaking bread, and praying together. So we can understand that how building strong relationship helps in spreading God's word and supporting one another in

faith. When we stay connected with those we serve, we understand their needs better, encourage them in their journey, and create a community that grows together in faith.

Example is one of the most powerful ways to bring change in a ministry. According to the bible 1 Corinthians 11:1 we can see that "follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ".

Therefore we can understand that people are learn more from what they see than what they heard, and when ministry leaders and members live out their faith with love, humility, and integrity, it inspires other to do the same. When all these elements work together, they create a ministry that is spiritually strong, united, and growing, just as God intended.♥

Van Tha Bik B.Th. III
PACE International Seminary

THE GROWS OF THE CHURCH THROUGH PACE

by Mosa Longkumer (student)



The church grows when we use PACE stands for prayer, Availability, Contact, and Example.

First, we need to pray. Prayer is talking to God and asking for His help. When we prayer, for we ask God to give us opportunities to share His love with others. We pray for courage to share our faith and for others to receive it with open hearts.

Next, we need to be available. This means we need to make time to serve others and share God's love. We can do this by helping those in need, visiting the sick, or simply being a good friend.

Then, we need to make contact. This means we need to reach out to others and build relationship with, we can do this by attending community events, joining clubs or groups, or volunteering for a cause we care about.

Example. This means we need to live our lives in a way that shows others what it means to follow Jesus. We can do this by being kind, honest, and respectful to others.

So, when you put it all together, it's pretty simple. A church that's praying, available, making contact and setting a good example is going to naturally grow. When use PACE, We can help the church grow. We can help others come to know Jesus and experience His love. So let's remember to pray, be available, make contact, and set a good example. Together, we can make a difference.♥

Mosa Longkumer

B.Th. Final year

PACE International Seminary

PACE HELPS PEOPLE TO HELP PEOPLE

by Akina yeptho (student)



PACE is a community-focused organization that empowers individuals to make a positive impact by fostering a sense of connection and shared responsibility.

Through their work, small acts of kindness create a ripple effect, where one good deed inspires another, spreading generosity and compassion throughout the community.

PACE brings people together, encouraging them to take action and contribute to making the world a better place. At the core of PACE's mission are values like compassion, empathy, and mutual support. They believe that everyone has something valuable to offer, and by providing a platform for people to share their time, skills, and resources, they strengthen the bonds between individuals.

This creates an environment where people can connect and work together to bring about meaningful change in their communities. PACE offers various opportunities for people to get involved, including volunteer programs, events, and initiatives that promote collective action. They also focus on developing future leaders by providing training and support to help individuals build their skills and confidence.

Through these efforts, PACE fosters an inclusive and welcoming community, where everyone is valued and empowered to make a difference. In the Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37), Jesus teaches us to love our neighbours as ourselves, showing kindness and generosity regardless of background.

Similarly, PACE encourages people to help others, promoting compassion and

responsibility within the community. Acts 2:42-47 further illustrates this, where early Christians shared everything they had and supported one another, reflecting PACE; goal of building a united community where people come together to make a positive impact.

The Bible also highlights the importance of service and leadership through Jesus; example in John 13:12-17, where He washes the feet of His disciples, teaching that true leadership is grounded in serving others.

PACE embodies this by offering opportunities for individuals to lead with kindness and humility, focusing on service to their communities. Through these examples, PACE reflects biblical values by fostering a compassionate and supportive environment where individuals are empowered to make a difference.♥

Akina yeptho B.Th. III
PACE International Seminary

WHY IS HELPING OTHERS IMPORTANT

by Shanti Moriju (student)



Helping others is very important because it shows that we care about the people around us and want to make their lives better. When we help others, we are following the example of Jesus Christ, who came to serve and help people. Helping others also makes us feel happy and fulfilled.

It gives us a sense of purpose and makes us realize that we are part of something bigger than ourselves. Moreover, when we help others, we are building strong relationships and creating a sense of community. We are showing that we are reliable, trustworthy, and willing to lend a hand.

As a Lay Pastor, helping others is not just a duty, but a privilege. It allows us to demonstrate God's love and kindness to those around us. So, let us always be willing to lend a helping hand, and make a positive impact on the lives of others.

When we help others, we are also helping ourselves. We are learning new skills, gaining new experiences, and growing as individuals. We are becoming more patient, kind, and compassionate people. Helping others also brings joy and happiness to those around us. It creates a ripple effect of kindness that can spread far and wide. When we help someone, they are more likely to help someone else, and so on.

As a Lay Pastor, helping others is a way to show that we value and respect them. It's a way to say, You are important, and I care about you; It's a way to demonstrate God's love and kindness in a practical way.

When we help others, we are also fulfilling God's command to love our neighbors as ourselves. We are being obedient to God's word and following His example of love and service.

Helping others is an important part of being a Lay Pastor. It's a way to show love, kindness, and compassion to those around us. It's a way to build strong relationships, create a sense of community, and demonstrate God's love in a practical way.

As we help others, we begin to see the world from their perspective. We start to understand their struggles, their fears, and their hopes. We begin to empathize with them, and our hearts become more compassionate. When we help others, we are also reminded of our own limitations and weaknesses. We realize that we are not self-sufficient, but that we need others to help us along the way.

This realization helps us to stay humble and to appreciate the help that others give us. As Lay Pastors, we are called to serve others, just as Jesus served us. We are called to lay down our lives for others, just as Jesus laid down His life for us. When we help others, we are fulfilling this call, and we are living out our faith in a practical way.

So, let us continue to help others, not just because it's our duty, but because it's our privilege. Let us continue to serve others, not just because we have to, but because we want to. Let us continue to love others, not just because it's a command, but because it's a joy.♥

Shanti Moriju B.Th. II
PACE International Seminary

ADDENDUM

The four alphabets PACE constitutes a major role in the pastoral ministry.

by Dr. Aloto Anche



Pastoral Ministry is not simply to prepare sermon and preach on the weekend, but it has major role to play, that is to take care of the sheep. In John 21:15-17 Jesus tells Peter to take care of the Sheep 3 times. Let us consider seriously why Jesus spoke to Peter to take care of the sheep 3 times consecutively. This shows how determined Jesus is about the needs of the people. To understand PACE in a very simple word is 'Care'.

Pastoral ministry without care is definitely not a ministry at all. It is a caring ministry instituted by Jesus Himself. PACE is like a mathematical formula to solve equations and algebra. The beauty about PACE is that, it doesn't interfere in the doctrinal beliefs of different denominations. PACE simply is to show love and care for fellow humans. No ministry is a ministry without care. The other word for care is love, because we cannot care unless we love, and the new commandment that Jesus gave is love.

Let me briefly talk about my homeland Nagaland in India. Our people are all Christian, so you can imagine how organized our churches are. Very unfortunate to say this but the churches in Nagaland is nil when it comes to caring ministry.

The Church doesn't care about the needs of the people, they are only concerned about the financial growth and status of the church.

When I first heard about PACE from Dr. Byeong Cha Seo the national director of LPM, Korea and Dr. Timothy Kaping Kim, when I was in South Korea, the first thought that came was, Nagaland Churches need this. I was extremely excited to be trained under Dr. Byeong and Dr. Tim. With a very high expectation I came back to Nagaland but to my surprise, people didn't show any interest in this ministry as I thought. People are too busy in infra structural developments, but are less bothered about what Jesus said about caring ministry. But I'm still envisioning the growth of the church through PACE, because I don't see any hope in the ministry without PACE.

The beauty about PACE ministry is the exception of lay people doing ministry to care for one another. There is no reason why the lay people Shouldn't do ministry. Jesus didn't differentiate any people for their qualifications or for their merit. The only qualifications require in the Kingdom is, obedience to the great call for the mission.

I believe PACE ministry will continue to grow across the globe. It's a high calling to fulfill the kingdom purpose. ♥

Lay Pastors have a God-given assignment

by Susan Caulder (USA)



My name is Susan Caulder and I am a lay person. I was involved in the Lay Pastor Ministry for many years at my local church and served on the Lay Pastors Ministry Board of Directors for 5 years as well as being a long time friend of Mel Steinbron, the founder of Lay Pastors Ministry.

I have since moved to a new church and am no longer a Lay Pastor, but the things I learned about pastoral care during that time, are with me today. They help me see the church, my pastors and fellow congregants through the eyes of Christ and not my own.

Certainly, the start of any ministry is for God to do the calling. If you desire to serve the Lord as a pastor or lay pastor you must be called by God. We are all called to lead in the cause for Christ, but we all have different gifts and different callings to use those gifts.

If God has called you as a lay pastor, He promises to equip you. As you respond to this call, you will experience the Holy Spirit to lead you through all the ups and downs, joys and challenges that come with living in a fallen world.

In God's sovereign plan, He has called you to lead people to Christ and shepherd them where they are. As a pastor, your job is to train your flock. As a lay pastor, your job is to support your pastor, submit to his/her authority and learn how to care for the congregation.

Lay Pastors have a God-given assignment to be "love with skin on". As we know, this is easier said than done, but we must trust God's grace for the courage and humility needed as you provide pastoral care and remain fully dependent on God and His faithfulness as He equips you for this calling. Can the 'Pastor do it alone?' Is a question that is easily answered. A big NO. Pastors cannot be everything to everyone. And he/she cannot possibly know all the people in their congregation. Lay Pastors Ministry creates a culture so

that the congregation does not expect a visit from their Pastor, but their Lay Pastor. It prevents those inevitable problems of people thinking that they must not be important enough for the Pastor to visit when they are sick. And hopefully prevents Pastor burnout as pastors try to carry the weight of an entire congregation on their own. Most of us get overwhelmed with having a sick child or spouse at home, can you imagine if you were expected to carry the weight of 100's or 1000's peoples burdens? It's too much.

A Pastor of a church must be keen to discern who might make a good Lay Pastor. They must choose wisely. Certainly 1 Timothy 3:1-7 is a good list of qualifications for Lay Pastors as much as for Pastors (for that matter anybody in church leadership). A Lay Pastor is representing the church but is also a reflection of the Pastor. The Pastor must choose wisely based on prayer and discernment from the Holy Spirit. You want seasoned Christians, strong in their faith, practiced testimony, excellent reputation and with a heart for people. They must also be humble, teachable and trust God.

Ultimately, the Lay Pastor is answerable to God. If they are not called to serve, its best not to have them in the ministry. But if they are called to serve, God has a way of getting people's attention. There was one person years ago that was asked to be a Lay Pastor. She declined stating she was just too busy. One by one, her "busy" schedule opened up. A weekly meeting was changed to monthly. A commitment to watch her grandkids was no longer needed as a spot opened up for the kids to get into a preschool. The elderly neighbor she cared for died. And with much time on her hands, she gladly accepted the calling and absolutely loved being a Lay Pastor. She already had the gifts, but now, those gifts were being intentionally utilized through the Lay Pastor's Ministry.

Lay Pastors Ministry is a Biblically based ministry. Done correctly, can have a positive impact on a congregation. It provides those who have pastoral gifts to pastor and lessens the burden of pastoring on the Pastor!

Lay Pastors – The P in PACE

Greetings! Susan here again, former Lay Pastor and Lay Pastor International Board member and friend of Mel Steinbron, founder of Lay Pastors Ministry.

I'd like to focus on the P in PACE today. Prayer is the cornerstone of all ministry and is the foundation of our relationship with our Lord. Jesus Christ was crucified, died and resurrected so we could have a relationship with the one true God. I believe we often underestimate the amazing privilege and responsibility of prayer.

But what is prayer? Prayer is simply talking to God. Believers pray to the Father through the Son in the power of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:17, John 14:13 and Ephesians 6:18). We only can know God through prayer. There is no special formula. Although I am a fan of the acronym ACTS. Adoration Confession Thanksgiving and Supplication. This acronym is thought to be first published in the late 1800s. Following this pattern keeps me on track so I do not wonder off course or forget anything. Prayer does not have to be loud, long or poetic. It needs to be authentic. God can read your mind and knows your most inner thoughts. There is nothing you can hide from him. He will know if you are humble with genuine repentance when you pray. Remember the Pharisee and the tax collector in Luke 18:9-14. This passage highlights that outward piety is meaningless without a sincere heart. The Pharisee was rejected, but the tax collector was forgiven.

How Does Prayer work? Prayer is one of God's great mysteries. How does God listen to our thoughts, spoken words, anguished cries, and joyful praise? How does it reach from earth to Heaven? We may never know the answer to this question, but He no doubt does! One of my sweetest prayers answered is this: I've been studying the Bible for many years through Bible Study Fellowship (bsfinternational.org). There are men and women groups all over the world. I prayed for years my husband would join a group. He gave lots of reasons why he couldn't go. Football was on Monday nights, he worked all day and didn't want to go out in evening, he didn't know anyone who was going etc. Every year I would ask him – for 10 years in a row. The 11th year I said a bit sarcastically – “Well guess you're not going to go this year too.” He surprised me and said: “You know what, I think I will.” He has not only gone for these past 5 years, but each year he invites more and more men to join him. This year he has 4 guys carpooling with him each week. Persistence in prayer pays off! Although God is not obligated to respond to any prayer – He will always respond in a way that is for our good and His glory.

How about the prayer of an unbeliever - does God hear them? Absolutely! God is sovereign and omniscient. He can answer any prayer any way he wants to. His mercy and love for all people is boundless. He hears the prayers of those who seek him. Those who seek him are rewarded with the gift of eternal life if they earnestly repent of their sins and turn to Jesus as Savior.

The amazing thing about prayer is also how it impacts our relationships with one another. When you pray for someone, it's impossible not to fall in love with them. I think that's why we are to pray for our enemies. It's difficult, if not impossible to continue to see someone as an enemy when you pray for them. I remember when I was assigned my flock. Some of the people that were in my flock I didn't know well. I started praying for them. On Church days I'd see them and it would bring such joy to my heart. I would run up to them and give a hearty greeting. They would look at me like – do I know you? I had to remember that I knew them through the lens of Christ, and they just knew me as the nice church lady.

To wrap this up, Prayer should always be our first line of defense, our first breath when we wake up in the morning and our last as we go to sleep at night. People fail to pray because people do not fully understand who God is and their need of His saving grace. Amen ♥

Lay Pastors Ministry and PACE

by Rev. Byeongchea Seo



Lay Pastors Ministry is a big view in terms of ministry. Let's say PACE in simple form. We say SIBKIS sometimes; See It Big, Keep It Simple.

Lay Pastors Ministry talks everything, but PACE talks only caring of lay pastors, just job description.

There are many distinctions between PACE and LPM. PACE talks about one to one caring, but LPM is group caring. The reason is that PACE is one-to-one relationship, but PACE is related to the whole congregation of the church. To relate to related means, there are many one-to-one relationships in the church; There should be a distinguished leadership; have to have a distinctive system; larger meaning and vision in there. As we see just its definition, PACE is limited in relationship, LPM is whole culture and direction, and expresses its system. On the other hand, PACE is the task of the laity, and LPM is the pastor's job to do. The first book of Melvin is for PACE, the second book is for LPM. Two books are different, and each one is a perfect picture, but once we see them together, just as two pictures on the wall, those two books look good and make synergy. It gives us more energy, structural energy culture, and a big vision will be made.

One-to-one relationship is PACE. If you want to make some products with it, then you need LPM, which means not individually separated but should be a "common ministry." Then the LPM system covers it, and we will get results which are as effective as we expected.

I tried to help more than 150 churches with this ministry. This ministry, as you see that, is a relationship between laity and their pastor. Of course not exclusive for the whole congregation, in some way all of them included in this ministry, they see it, taste it, and involve it. The issue that I found here

is not an easy job for pastors; accurately, they are senior pastors at particular local churches, not general pastors at any place. They are the people who are in charge of this ministry. I mean, they are top people to decide major things in this ministry. Of course, there is some level of care for this ministry. Melvin called it, Ministry Leadership Group (MLG), those who are responsible for the success or failure of the ministry. Mostly 4-8 laypeople among lay pastors, because others do not know about this ministry.♥



PACE International Seminary (PIS)
Sangtamilla Village
Rangapahar crossing
Dimapur-797112, Nagaland, India
Tel: +91-70056-02847

<https://pisenagaland.org/>