

My theology of leadership begins where Patrick Reyes begins in *The Purpose Gap*—with purpose born in struggle. Reyes reminds us that for people pushed to the margins, leadership isn't about titles or power; it's about survival and imagination. It's about standing in the gaps—between what is and what could be—and helping others see that God is already there. That vision grounds my green-energy project — creating what doesn't yet exist, for the sake of community renewal.

For me, leadership is incarnational. It's God showing up in human form—through us—when we choose to listen, to serve, and to lift each other up. My project is designed to reflect this notion by lifting up my community - listening to their needs, serving by brokering conversations and investments in our neighborhood and in training our young men, and lifting their talent to positions that may help solidify economic stability and environmental improvements.

That same incarnational spirit fuels how I lead in my community. Leadership is a communal calling. Like Reyes, I believe our leadership grows from the soil of our ancestors' prayers, our community's pain, and our collective dreams. So stakeholders from corporate, government and education are the key to my project's success, along with the honoring of God's presence in all phases.

I lead by relationship and restoration—seeing all made in the image of God, even when the world tells us otherwise. As Dr. Reginaldo Braga reminded us in this week's worship service, if we truly want to make America great, it takes hard grace that includes love of the stranger. Leadership, then, is about creating spaces of belonging and building courage, where others can rediscover their own God-given purpose and belong.

Reyes says our purpose is not found in escaping the systems that harm us, but in transforming them. So my theology of leadership is prophetic—it disrupts, it questions, it imagines, and it builds. It's not content with maintaining what is; it leans toward what ought to be and dares to question “Why not us?”

In short, I believe leadership is the Holy work of closing gaps - all non-loving gaps! We must all learn of our co-Creator potential with God in this world and aim for a place where every life can breathe, rest, and rise!