



Soul Care: Christian Faith and Academic Administration

By Harold Heie, Mark Sargent

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A book for Christian academic administrators that explores virtues in leadership, the dynamics of academic governance, and relationships in the academy. In this unique volume, several well respected academic leaders reflect on how their Christian faith informs their approach to academic administration. The essays are personal and candid, full of reflections on some of the difficulties and successes the leaders have experienced on their own campuses. Each essay explores some theoretical and theological foundations for administrative work, and then considers one or more specific applications or scenarios.

Part One explores some underlying virtues and values in academic leadership, including humility, administration as pastoral care, and the cultivation of joy. Part Two delves more intricately into the dynamics of academic governance, including difficult personnel decisions, strategic planning, and tough financial choices. Part Three explores relationships in the academy--the continual need to find that personal touch in administrative work.

The editors write: "The challenge for us, as Christian academic leaders, is to consider how we can meet legal scrutiny and the common standards of academic professionalism without losing the deep conviction that our Christian faith calls us to lead and respond in ways that often run against the grain. How do we love the Lord with heart, soul, strength, and mind, and care for our community and our neighbors, all the while keeping our institutions accredited, efficient, and fiscally sound?" --from the Introduction.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Harold Heie is a Senior Fellow at the Center for Christian Studies at Gordon College (Wenham, MA), where he served as Founding Director from 1994 to 2003. He previously served as Vice President for Academic Affairs at Messiah College (1988-1993) and Northwestern College in Iowa (1980-1988). He holds an MA and PhD in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering from Princeton University, and recently authored *Learning to Listen, Ready to Talk: A Pilgrimage Toward Peacemaking* (2007). Dr. Heie served for twelve years as chair of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities Faith and Learning Commission, and has spoken or consulted at over fifty of the 110 member institutions of the CCCU.

Mark L. Sargent has been Provost of Gordon College since 1996. Previously he served as the Vice President for Academic Affairs at Spring Arbor College and as Associate Dean at Biola University. He holds a PhD in English from The Claremont Graduate School. He has published numerous scholarly articles and book chapters on academic leadership, film, and American history. Dr. Sargent received the 2008 Chief Academic Officers Award from the Council for Independent Colleges for his career in higher education leadership, and has long been a co-director of the CCCU's Leadership Development Institute for academic officers.

Users Review

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Rebecca Kendrick:

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