

PASTORING IN PARTISAN TIMES

Listening Guide for Pastoring in Partisan Times Podcast Episode 7: Insights from Missouri Pastors with Revs. Fred Leist and Dale Stone

[7:07-9:49] Both Fred and Dale are former District Superintendents who have counseled pastors struggling with difficult topics and issues. Fred says it's key to listen, learn and lead, in that order, to get a sense of where your people are at and to build trust. **What would that look like in your context? Have you utilized a similar method before, especially in a new context? How did it play out for you?**

[12:28-16:45] Kim mentions the balanced diet approach to addressing sticky topics in your ministry context. The balanced diet involves bringing up tough topics in a variety of formats (pastoral prayer, pulpit, classes, etc.) over a period of time. **Evaluate your "diet" in these terms. Is it balanced?**

[21:06-26:12] Fred, Dale and Kim discuss the challenges of the idea that politics should never be discussed in church. They comment on the difference between a call for congregational response and a suggested individual response. **How are those two responses different? How are they intertwined?**

[33:54-45:11] Kim asks Fred and Dale how they suggest falling in love with a congregation. Both offer that learning who the people are by learning their stories helps humanize parishioners. The same is true for churches getting to know their pastors. **Tell of a time that learning someone's story helped humanize them to you. How can you take this learning into a difficult situation you're currently experiencing in your ministry context?**

This week's episode is our final Pastoring in Partisan Times Podcast episode for now. Consider the following questions for the episodes as a whole:

- **Of the episodes you've listened to this season, give each of them a short description. Which one resonated with you the most?**
- **What teaching or tidbit stuck out to you?**
- **What is your greatest takeaway or learning from the leaders who presented?**