

Linda LeSourd Lader '71 Distinguished Achievement Citation

The Ohio Wesleyan Alumni Association Board of Directors is honored to recognize **Linda LeSourd Lader '71** with the Distinguished Achievement Citation for her exemplary civic, faith, and philanthropic leadership.

A fifth-generation graduate of Ohio Wesleyan, Linda majored in religion and was active in the chaplain's student missions at OWU. During the 1970s, she was associated with the ecumenical National Prayer Breakfast ministries, and she coordinated the 1979 National Prayer Breakfast. Her editing work of various books and publications continues the tradition of her parents, **Leonard LeSourd '41**, longtime editor of *Guideposts Magazine*, and Catherine Marshall, author of *A Man Called Peter*, *Christy*, and other best-selling inspirational books.

In 1981, Linda and her husband, Philip, founded and continue to organize and host "Renaissance Weekends," nonprofit, apolitical retreats, to bridge professional, political, racial, religious, generational, and other divides in American society. During Philip's tenures as U.S. Ambassador to the Court of St. James's and his university presidencies, Linda devoted her time and talents to community outreach, as well as leadership of the campus and the embassy activities.

From 1993 to 1996, Linda assisted with White House liaison work with American communities of faith and advised the U.S. President on public policies about religion. Returning to academic studies in her mid-50s, Linda received her Master of Divinity degree from Yale Divinity School. She served for a decade on the pastoral staff of Washington, D.C.'s historic New York Avenue Presbyterian Church (PCUSA), was pastor of Fort Lauderdale's Second Presbyterian Church, and—in recent years—has assisted with the ministries of several South Florida churches.

Reflecting a career-long commitment to nonprofit initiatives, Linda has served on the boards of Habitat for Humanity International, Yale Divinity

School, Communities in Schools, International Justice Mission, Spoleto USA, Alpha USA, Sojourners, Harvard Divinity School's Center for the Study of Values in Public Life, and the American University in London. In recognition of her public service, she received the International Women's Foundation Award. Leadership Award in 2000 and the 2012 Humanitarian Award from Emma Willard School.