



CHURCH TEAMS CONF25

Breakout Guide



CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Friday, August 22

5:30 PM // REGISTRATION

7:00 PM // OPENING SESSION WITH GERAD STRONG

8:30 PM // TEAM HUDDLES

Saturday, August 23

8:30 AM // MORNING SESSION

9:00 AM // BREAKOUT 1

10:00 AM // BREAKOUT 2

11:00 AM // BREAKOUT 3 (LUNCH 1 - GYM OR CAFETERIA)

12:00 PM // BREAKOUT 4 (LUNCH 2 - GYM OR CAFETERIA)

1:00 PM // CLOSING SESSION WITH GERAD STRONG

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HOPE®

BREAKOUT 1 // 9:00-9:50 AM

KIDS MINISTRY

It Takes a Village: Building Your KidMin Dream Team // Al and Anna Dawkins // 306

Great ministry doesn't happen alone! In this breakout, discover how to recruit, train, and empower a team of passionate, committed volunteers who love serving kids. We'll dive into proven strategies for identifying the right people, creating a culture of ownership, and developing leaders—not just helpers.

Growing Bigger by Going Smaller // David Reneau // 304

As kids ministries grow, we must find ways to connect kids, families, and leaders. Small groups are the ticket, so don't miss the train. Discuss options and opportunities for discipleship and relationships through small groups.

Creating Belonging Through Special Needs Ministry // Tiffani Sosebee // 308

Every child deserves to feel seen, known, and loved at church—but for families navigating special needs, inclusion often feels out of reach. In this session, we'll explore practical strategies for building a culture of belonging where children with disabilities are welcomed, included, and empowered to grow in faith alongside their peers.

Essentials of Ministry to Boys // Derek Goodwin // 307

Boys need more than just high energy and fun—they need intentional ministry that speaks to their hearts, shapes their character, and points them to Jesus. In this breakout, we'll dive into the unique ways boys learn, connect, and grow in faith. A small segment of this session will include Royal Rangers discussion.

STUDENT MINISTRY

Panel Discussion with Johnny Mendoza & Eran Holt // Student Center Auditorium

Sit in on a live recording of the G.Y.M. Class Podcast, and bring your questions for the Q & A, as Georgia Youth Ministry Director, Johnny Mendoza, interviews Eran Holt, author, speaker and founder of Lead the Generation.

WORSHIP, MEDIA AND CREATIVE MINISTRY

Developing and Leading a Volunteer Worship Team // Marva White // 512

Excellence is vital in every area of church ministry, but it holds special importance in worship, which is often one of the most visible and impactful parts of a church service. Identifying potential worship leaders and developing and leading a cohesive team is a key component to the success of your worship ministry. Marva White, Worship Pastor at Victory of Albany in Albany, GA, will highlight the importance of developing volunteer worship team members and offers guidance on how to disciple and invest in volunteers while still maintaining a high level of excellence in worship.

Prophetic Worship // Jeanine Kabasakalian // 513

One encounter with Him can change everything! As worship leaders, facilitating an encounter with the Holy Spirit is the ultimate goal in crafting the Sunday worship experience. In this breakout, Jeanine Kabasakalian of Hidden Treasures Assembly will explore what it means to worship God in Spirit and in Truth (John 4:24), discuss passages, words, and songs as they pertain to prophetic worship and talk about the miracles that can come as we lead others into His presence.

MISSIONS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Convoy of Hope: Your Partner in Reaching Your Neighbors and the World // Michael Spivey // 501

Discover how Convoy of Hope partners with the local church to bring practical help and lasting hope—right in your community and around the world. In this session, Michael Spivey, Network Relations Director for Convoy of Hope, will equip you with tools, strategies, and opportunities to serve your neighbors, respond to crises, and be part of something bigger than you imagined. Let's reach the world together—starting right outside your door!

Missionary Care // Thom Davis // 502

Behind every missionary spreading the Gospel is a vital support team comprised of sending churches, faithful givers, and prayer partners. Despite having a great support team, there are still some burdens that missionaries face and communicating those realities can sometimes be a challenge. Long-time missionary Thom Davis, who is also the AGWM LAC Region's Strategic Support Representative and the Georgia District's Elder to missionaries, will share practical ways you can effectively support and care for the missionaries your church sends and partners with.

Caring for Kids in Foster Care: A Calling for the Church // Tracie Ward // 503

Helping children is a unifying cause in a divided world—and with 14,000 children in foster care in Georgia, the need is urgent. In this session, the Georgia District's Foster Care Representative Tracie Ward challenges the Church to respond to God's call in James 1:27 to care for orphans. She will share practical tips for how your church can engage in this community, beyond fostering and adoption, and how supporting vulnerable families transforms not only their lives, but also your church and community. It's a powerful invitation to make a lasting impact through compassion and action.

Local Church and the Local College: Engaging College Students at Your Local College // Colin Ogilvie // 510

What does it look like to engage college students as a church? How do we get them plugged into healthy, Christ-honoring communities? With over 100 colleges in Georgia, these are important questions to ask. Come join a discussion on strategies and mindsets with which to approach the local college students in your area.

ADULTS, HOSPITALITY AND BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATION

Deeper Spiritual Formation // Dr. Debbie Gill // 802 (Prayer Room)

Even on ministry teams, we can find ourselves forced into the world's molds of measuring success. Instead, Jesus' invites us to share his yoke of closeness and listening; and by walking in step with his Spirit, we experience transformation into his likeness, personal wholeness, and fulfillment.

First Impressions // Kevin Baker // 515

Guests form opinions about your church within the first 10 minutes of their visit—long before the sermon or worship begins, so ensuring your church makes a strong, welcoming first impression is vital. Kevin Baker, Lead Pastor of The Refuge Church in Waverly Hall, shares practical ways to create a warm, inviting environment that encourages guests to return, helping your church consistently put its best foot forward every Sunday.

Forming, Leading and Celebrating Volunteer Teams // Stephen Beck // 500

Most volunteers are motivated by a desire for community, not just to fill their time. In this breakout, Stephen Beck of Dexter First Assembly explains how to foster that sense of community by organizing volunteers into serve teams and leading them well.

Church Finance 101 // Secretary-Treasurer Den Hussey // 803

Feeling overwhelmed by managing your church's finances? Don't worry. Den Hussey, Secretary-Treasurer of the Louisiana Ministry Network and GenFi Representative, will share essential tips to help you take control and bring clarity to your church's financial management.

Developing Leaders in Multi-Ethnic Churches // Tom Galban // 514

Participants will explore the unique opportunities and challenges of raising up leaders within multi-ethnic congregations. Drawing from biblical principles, cultural intelligence, and practical ministry experience, this breakout will provide a roadmap for identifying, equipping, and empowering diverse leaders who reflect the heart and vision of a multi-ethnic church. Topics will include overcoming cultural barriers, building trust across ethnic lines, mentoring with contextual awareness, and fostering unity without demanding uniformity. Attendees will leave with actionable strategies to cultivate leadership pipelines that celebrate diversity while advancing the mission of the Church in an increasingly multicultural world.

Beginning and Executing Men's Ministry with Excellence and Consistency // Rob Boyd // 105

Rob Boyd is the lead pastor at Dallas First Assembly and leads a thriving men's ministry in his church. In this breakout, he will be teaching practical ways to begin a men's ministry in your church, how to capture the heart of men in your community, and how to lead with consistency.

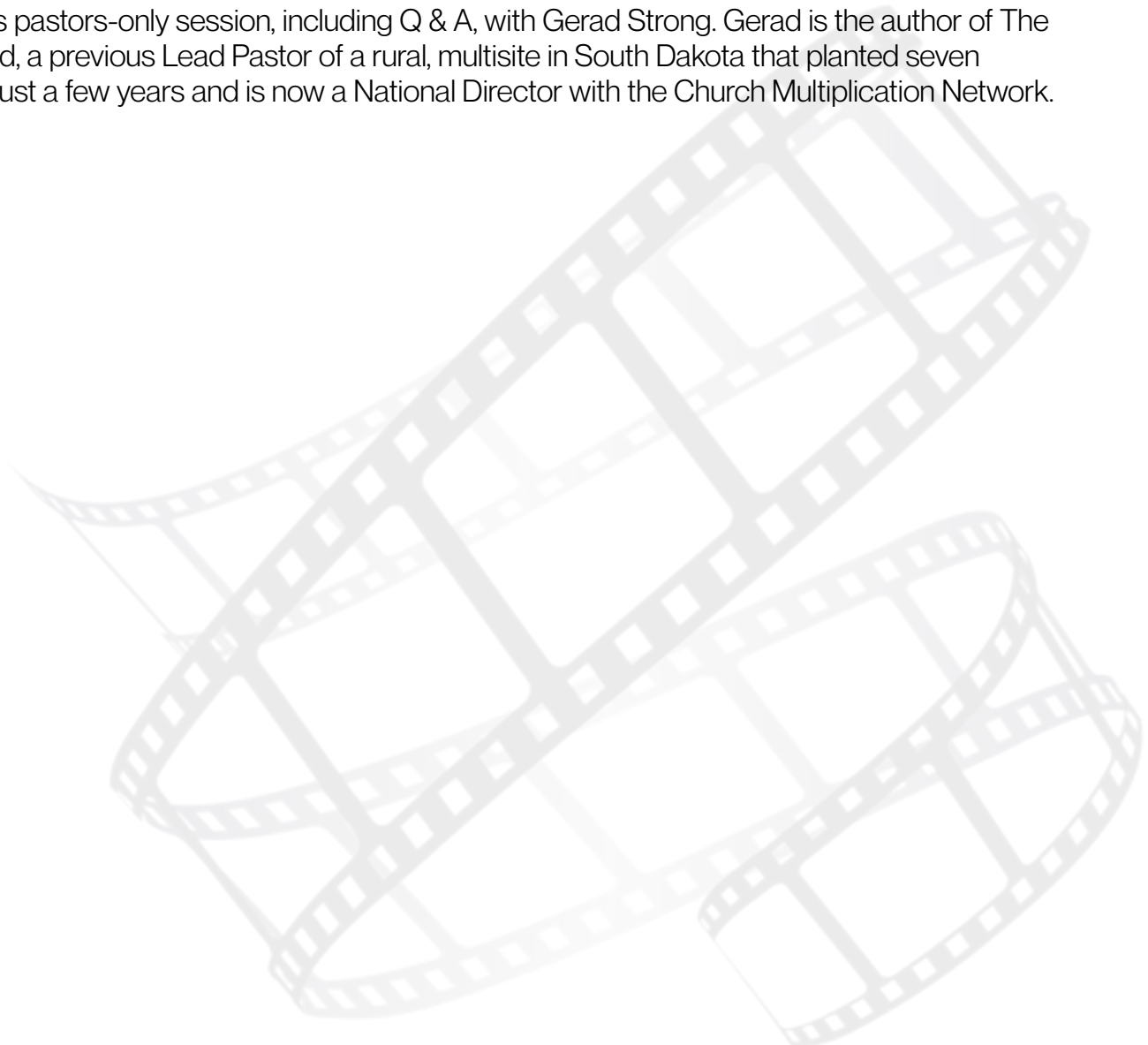
Starting and Leading Senior Adults Ministry // David Riner // 504

The way churches minister to senior adults is evolving. In this session, David Riner, Lead Pastor of Maranatha Family Church and Senior Adult Ministries Director for the Georgia District, will offer effective strategies to better engage your senior adults and refresh your Senior Adults Ministry.

LEAD PASTOR'S TRACK

Raising Vision Carriers: Multiplying Leaders Who Own the Mission // Gerad Strong // 807 (Choir Room)

Don't miss this pastors-only session, including Q & A, with Gerad Strong. Gerad is the author of *The Forgotten Field*, a previous Lead Pastor of a rural, multisite in South Dakota that planted seven campuses in just a few years and is now a National Director with the Church Multiplication Network.



BREAKOUT 2 // 10:00-10:50 AM

KIDS MINISTRY

Beyond Background Checks: What Safety Really Takes // Russell Smith // 306

Keeping kids safe is more than a policy—it's a culture. In this critical session, we'll go beyond the basics of background checks to explore what true safety looks like in kids ministry. Learn how to build layers of protection through training, accountability, supervision, facility design, and communication.

Unleashing Creativity in Your Kids Church Service // Andrew Tedder // 304

Say goodbye to boring and predictable! In this high-energy session, we'll explore how creativity can transform your kids church service into an unforgettable experience that captures hearts and points kids to Jesus. From games and storytelling to worship, media, and set design, you'll discover practical ways to think outside the box and spark engagement every week.

Wiggles, Giggles and the Gospel: Effective Early Childhood Ministry // Lindsey Walston // 308

Toddlers and preschoolers may be small, but their capacity to know God is big! In this fun and practical session, we'll explore how to engage little ones through movement, play, and storytelling - without losing the message of the gospel. Learn how to create safe, joy-filled environments where every wiggle is welcomed, every giggle is celebrated, and every moment points kids toward Jesus.

LeadHERship: Leading Effective Ministry to Girls // Amy Bilsland // 307

Girls today are navigating a world filled with pressure, confusion, and questions about identity and worth. In this empowering session, we'll explore how to lead girls with confidence, compassion, and biblical truth. Learn how to create safe spaces where girls can grow in faith, build godly friendships, and discover their God-given purpose. A small segment of this session will include Girls Clubs discussion.

STUDENT MINISTRY

Biblical Truth // Eran Holt // 310

Every student ministry must have a biblical foundation. In this breakout led by special guest Eran Holt, you will learn skills to develop a biblical worldview and biblical literacy as a whole within your youth ministry.

Healthy Community // Geanna Wilde // 309

This is where discipleship thrives. No student (or adult) was meant to do life alone, and if real life change is going to be lasting, we need to be willing to go further and deeper together. In this breakout led by Geanna Wilde you'll learn ways to develop healthy community in your youth ministry.

Leadership and Development // Christian Hammock // 302

We are called to create lifelong leaders for Jesus in the next generation. Christian Hammock will show you how students can do more than consume the fruit of the ministry—they can also have a hand in producing the fruit through the power of the Holy Spirit in them!

Youth Alive Movements // Jessica Riner // 301

There is an incredible movement happening all across our state where hundreds of students have shared Jesus with the friends and we've seen nearly 500 salvations in one school year. Come find out how you and your students can be a part of the next great campus movement in your city!

WORSHIP, MEDIA AND CREATIVE

Boosting Your Church's Social Media and Online Presence // Matthew McCray // 510

A strong media presence is a critical tool in today's digital age, but simply having a Facebook page may not be getting the job done when it comes to effectively engaging with the community or providing convenient access to your church's information. In this breakout, Matthew McCray, Media Director at Victory of Albany, shares easy, practical strategies and insider tips to enhance your church's visibility and impact online and help your ministry present themselves professionally and connect more meaningfully with both current members and potential visitors.

Maximizing the Power of Livestream // Thom Davis // 502

Is your church fully harnessing the potential of livestream ministry? In today's digital age, livestreaming gives churches a unique opportunity to reach into people's homes and lives like never before. In this breakout, Missionary Thom Davis draws on his 18 years of experience as Griffin First Assembly's Media Pastor to share how to fully harness the potential of livestream ministry and offer practical insights on improving your livestream quality, engaging online audiences, and expanding your church's reach and impact for the Kingdom.

Rethinking the Rehearsal Grind // Charlie Gilbert // 513

Weekly worship rehearsals can often feel like a draining routine—week after week we prepare for Sunday and sometimes musicians' and vocalists' styles clash. The result can be chaotic and distracting practices that spill into Sunday services. Charlie Gilbert, Worship Pastor at Church in the Orchard, is here to help! He'll explore common issues that create musical tension and offer practical solutions to foster unity on your team and free up time for what matters most—creating a worship experience that draws people into the presence of God

MISSIONS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Exploring Ministry to Special Populations // Patti Kelly // 501

According to recent surveys, 99% of pastors and 97% of congregants consider their church friendly to the special needs community, but less than 29% have a plan in place to provide ministries, events or even simple accommodations to special needs individuals. With 1.3 million disabled individuals in Georgia, the special needs community is a critical mission field but knowing where to start and how we can serve this community can feel daunting. In this breakout, Patti Kelly of Evangel Church in Columbus will help you explore ways that you can make your church more special needs friendly and share tips for how and where to start a special needs ministry.

How Short-Term Missions Trips Can Change Your Church's Heart for Missions // Larry Hammock // 512

Whether serving on a foreign or domestic field, there's no doubt about it: a short-term mission's trip can have an impact on your congregation's heart for the lost and underprivileged and change your church's overall global view. Larry Hammock of Trinity Assembly in Soperton has led multiple short-term mission trips, both for his church and for his section, and has valuable insights into what makes a mission trip truly impactful, both for those serving and those being served. If you're considering a short-term mission trip, or if you are looking to start or revamp your church's missions' program, you don't want to miss an opportunity to lean into his experience!

Ministry to the Homebound, Widows, and Widowers // Robin Snider // 504

Do you know where to start when it comes to meeting the spiritual needs of widows, widowers and adults who are physically unable to attend your church's Sunday services—or how you can minister to their primary caregivers? Meeting the needs of these individuals is a vital way to show the love of Christ to this unique community. Robin Snider, Georgia District Founders Care Representative, will guide you in discovering how God can work through you and your church as you reach out to widows, widowers and homebound adults with love, teaching, fellowship, prayer, and care.

The Pro-Life Conversation // Kimberly Danya // 803

Statistics show that 1 in 4 women will have an abortion by age 45, and 40% of women who have had an abortion attended church monthly at the time. The prolife conversation can be a tricky subject to navigate, but it is crucial for the church to know how to speak truth with authenticity and compassion and how to offer hope, healing and support to vulnerable women and their families. In this breakout, Kimberly Danya of Human Coalition will share her expertise on how to navigate these conversations gracefully.

ADULTS, HOSPITALITY AND BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATION

Church Security // Steven Cook // 514

We want the church to be open to all, but we must be prepared for anything. From preventing serious threats to everyday concerns like preventing simple accidents, Stephen Cook from Port City Church in Savannah will cover simple steps you can take to make your church safer this Sunday.

From First Time to Family // Aura Lau // 500

Turning first-time guests into fully engaged members doesn't happen by accident—it requires intentionality, strategy, and heart. In this practical and inspiring session, Aura Lau from Evangel Community Church in Snellville will guide you through building a guest retention process that reflects your church's mission while effectively connecting people to your community. Whether you're just getting started or looking to improve your current process, you'll walk away with actionable tools to help your church become a place where guests feel seen, valued, and welcomed back.

Prayer Ministry // Linda Vega // 515

Spiritual forces seek to destroy families and churches, but prayer is the dynamite that pushes those forces back and every church needs a strong prayer team. If you are looking to start or restart a prayer ministry at your church but don't know where to begin, this breakout is sure to ignite you to retake territory for the Kingdom. In this session, Linda Vega of Abundant Life Church in Locust Grove will teach you the value of having a prayer ministry at your church and how to get started.

Deeper Spiritual Formation // Dr. Debbie Gill // 802 (Prayer Room)

Even on ministry teams, we can find ourselves forced into the world's molds of measuring success. Instead, Jesus' invites us to share his yoke of closeness and listening; and by walking in step with his Spirit, we experience transformation into his likeness, personal wholeness, and fulfillment.

Structures That Are Crucial to Your Church // Secretary-Treasurer Jack Moon // 503

Is your church in compliance and aligned with best practices regarding articles of incorporation, bylaws, liability insurance, financial records, background checks, etc.? Jack Moon, Georgia District Secretary-Treasurer, will help you identify and prioritize areas needing to be addressed.

(WM) Running the Marathon of Ministry // Stacy Lacy // Student Center Auditorium

In this breakout, Stacy Lacy of North Highland Church in Columbus, Georgia will give women practical ways to run in the race of ministry while remaining in a healthy space and minimizing burnout.

(Men's) Creative Ways to Lead a Men's Ministry in Your Church and Community // Stephen Beck // 105

Stephen Beck, lead pastor at Dexter Assembly of God leads a men's ministry in his church with over 60 men who focus on serving other ministries in his church and outreaches in their community. In this breakout, Pastor Stephen will be sharing creative ways to activate your men in church and community leadership.

LEAD PASTOR'S TRACK

Pastoral Counseling Do's and Don'ts: How to Help, When to Refer // Andrew Velez // 807 (Choir Room)

As pastors, it is both in our nature and a part of our call to help those in our care who are hurting, but sometimes it can be hard to know what to say and distinguishing when it's time to refer to a professional counselor can be challenging. In this breakout, Andrew Velez, Elder Administrator for the Georgia District and a Licensed Professional Counselor, will present a road map to help you navigate pastoral counseling and show you how to help, what to avoid and when to refer to a professional counselor.



BREAKOUT 3 // 11:00-11:50 AM

KIDS MINISTRY

Casting and Sustaining Vision in Kids Ministry // Georgia KidMin Director Russell Smith // 306

A compelling vision can inspire your team, align your efforts, and energize your entire kids ministry—but vision isn't a one-time statement; it's a culture you cultivate. In this breakout, we'll explore how to cast a clear, God-centered vision and keep it alive through practical leadership, communication, and consistency. Learn how to rally your volunteers, engage parents, and stay focused on your mission—even in busy seasons.

Building Bridges with Family Focused Events // Isabella Woodworth // 304

Family events can do more than entertain - they can build lasting connections between the church and home. In this breakout, you'll discover how to design experiences that engage kids and their parents together, foster community, and open doors for discipleship. Learn practical tips for planning, promoting, and executing events that are fun, meaningful, and mission-driven.

God's Heart for Hurting Kids // Tim McNeeley // 308

Kids today, many of whom come from hard places or broken homes, face challenges of every kind. Identity issues, bullying, stress, emotional struggles, peer pressure, and social media saturation are just a few. Discuss ways to reach today's kids in a complete way – body, soul, and spirit.

More than the Score: Raising Disciples Not Just Competitors // Eric and Roshelle Speir // 307

Junior Bible Quiz (JBQ) can be used as a true discipleship tool in the lives of your kids and families. Learn some creative ways you can incorporate JBQ in your kid's ministry. And for the competitive people, there will be some discussion about that as well.

STUDENT MINISTRY

Missional Living // Jacob Comer // 302

This is the why after the what! Instead of going from moment to moment, our goal is to help students live out the mission of God in their lives. In this breakout led by Jacob Comer, you're invited to come learn the techniques to get students to stop playing church and start being the Church.

Healthy Community // Geanna Wilde // 309

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There is an incredible movement happening all across our state where hundreds of students have shared Jesus with the friends and we've seen nearly 500 salvations in one school year. Come find out how you and your students can be a part of the next great campus movement in your city!

Spiritual Transformation // District Youth Director Johnny Mendoza // 310

Spiritual transformation is the kick-starter to living a life that is holy and pleasing to God. If you're looking to learn how to create an environment and system to grant students more access to the life changing power of Jesus pop into this breakout led by District Youth Director Johnny Mendoza.

WORSHIP, MEDIA AND CREATIVE

Developing and Leading a Volunteer Worship Team // Marva White // 512

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Essentials of Faith: Unlocking the Power of Discipleship in Your Church // Ryan Ash // 803

Discipleship is the heartbeat of the church, yet many church leaders feel overwhelmed by the demands of implementing a discipleship program effectively. Join us for a dynamic workshop to learn how to revolutionize your discipleship efforts with *Essentials of Faith*, RightNow Media's transformative new journey designed to deepen Christians' understanding of the gospel and address fundamental questions of our faith. Come for insights, practical demonstrations, and tools to support your discipleship efforts, helping your church members become confident, mature followers of Jesus. Don't miss this chance to maximize RightNow Media's potential for your congregation's spiritual growth and connect with like-minded leaders!

MISSIONS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Local Church and the Local College: Engaging College Students at Your Local College // Colin Ogilvie // 510

What does it look like to engage college students as a church? How do we get them plugged into healthy, Christ-honoring communities? With over 100 colleges in Georgia, these are important questions to ask. Come join a discussion on strategies and mindsets with which to approach the local college students in your area.

Raising Up Local Chaplains: Equipping Caregivers for the Church and Community // Lesica Lampkin // 503

Discover how your church can develop a ministry of care by raising up local chaplains equipped to serve both the congregation and the wider community. Drawing from her experience as a hospital chaplain and Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), Lesica Lampkin will share how churches can identify, train, and empower volunteers to offer spiritual support, pastoral visitation, and practical care in everyday life situations. This session will provide a clear vision and practical tools for building a lay chaplaincy ministry rooted in presence, listening, and compassion.

Missionary Care // Thom Davis // 502

Behind every missionary spreading the Gospel is a vital support team comprised of sending churches, faithful givers, and prayer partners. Despite having a great support team, there are still some burdens that missionaries face and communicating those realities can sometimes be a challenge. Long-time missionary Thom Davis, who is also the LAC's Strategic Support Representative and the Georgia District's Elder to missionaries, will share practical ways you can effectively support and care for the missionaries your church sends and partners with.

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ADULTS, HOSPITALITY AND BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATION

Four Steps for a Successful Retirement Simplifying Retirement Plans for Churches // Darren Mullinex Darren Mullenix, CFP® // 802 (Prayer Room)

Wondering how to establish a retirement plan for your church? Have questions about what to look for in a retirement plan? As a Certified Financial Planner, Darren Mullenix, Vice President with GenFi Ministries, will share what to look for in a plan, typical plan structure, and some basic suggestions for saving for the future. Come with your retirement planning-related questions.

Starting and Leading a Young Adults Ministry // Victor James // 514

Each generation is unique, and many church leaders seek better ways to connect with young adults. Victor James of Chapelhill Church will share insights into how to reach and empower this generation, as well as share tips and tricks for launching and leading a young adults ministry.

Forming, Leading and Celebrating Volunteer Teams // Stephen Beck // 500

Most volunteers are motivated by a desire for community, not just to fill their time. In this breakout, Stephen Beck of Dexter First Assembly explains how to foster that sense of community by organizing volunteers into serve teams and leading them well.

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Cultivating a Culture of Generosity // Dennis Lacy // 504

Many church leaders shy away from preaching about money, but if you want to build a strong culture of generosity, there's no better approach than teaching your congregation about the blessings that come with giving. Dennis Lacy of North Highland Church in Columbus will share different ways you can engage church members on the topic of giving and cultivate a culture of generosity within your organization.

(WM) Help! How to Build or Rebuild Your Women's Ministry // Kristi Steffens // Student Center Auditorium

Are you looking to build or rebuild your church's Women's Ministry? Let Kristi Steffens, Women's Ministry Director for the Georgia District show you how. Get ready to roll up your sleeves and talk about some practical ways to measure health, launch, and build a thriving women's ministry.

(Men's) How to Lead a "Marketplace" Men's Ministry // Damian McCrink // 105

Looking for new ways to lead outside the walls of the church or men's groups? Damian McCrink will be sharing the importance of creating men's groups and ministries that meet and minister outside of the church. In this breakout, he will also teach on the importance of 'marketplace' men's ministry and explore ideas for how you can lead one in your business, friend groups, and community.

LEAD PASTOR'S TRACK

Soul Care for Pastors // Dr. Debbie Gill // 807 (Choir Room)

This is an invitation for those who care for others to find care for their souls. Receiving individualized attention and customized care, growing in the things of the Spirit, shifting from doing to being doing, and more. Come thirsty and enjoy this spiritual adventure



BREAKOUT 4 // 12:00-12:50 PM

KIDS MINISTRY

Leadership That Lasts: Avoiding Burnout in Kids Ministry // David Reneau // 306

We've all been there. Throwing in the towel doesn't have to be the answer. Learn proven principles that help you thrive personally and spiritually so you can lead your kids, families, and ministry.

I'm New to Kids Ministry and Here's What I've Learned // Clayton and Sarah Jane Shirley // 304

Jumping into kids' ministry can be exciting, overwhelming, and full of surprises. In this honest and practical session, a newer leader shares real-life lessons from their first steps in ministry - what worked, what didn't, and what they wish they had known from the start.

Leading Kids into Holy Spirit Encounters // Steve Bilsland // 308

This session will equip you to create age-appropriate environments where children can hear God's voice, respond to His prompting, and walk in the power of the Holy Spirit. Come ready to be inspired and empowered to lead kids into a deeper, Spirit-filled faith journey.

Big Impact Through BGMC // Kami Heilman // 307

Kids can make a difference in the world—and BGMC (Boys and Girls Missionary Challenge) gives them the tools to do it! In this inspiring session, discover how to ignite a heart for missions in your kids and empower them to give, pray, and go. Learn creative ideas for BGMC fundraising, storytelling strategies that connect kids to real-world needs, and ways to build a missions culture that goes beyond the Buddy Barrel.

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Recovery Ministry // Terry Theus // 503

Is your church equipped to offer hope and support to those in need through a recovery ministry? Terry Theus, leader of Celebrate Recovery at The Assembly in Warner Robins, will help you explore if your church is ready and able to start a recovery ministry and provides a step-by-step guide to starting a ministry for individuals dealing with hurt, pain, or addiction. In this session, he offers practical tools to build a safe, healing environment where people can find freedom through Christ.

Small Church, Big Impact: Boosting Your Church's Missions Giving // Jon Fennel // 502

You don't have to be a big church to have a big impact on the Kingdom—with a little bit of creativity and a big heart for the world, God can multiply your church's generosity no matter the size. Jon Fennel, Lead Pastor of Believer's Fellowship, shares practical strategies for expanding your church's missions budget through creativity, intentionality, and a heart for the world. In this session, you'll learn how to inspire generosity, cultivate a missions mindset, and maximize your church's impact—regardless of its size.

ADULTS, HOSPITALITY AND BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATION

Exploring Next Steps In Your Call to Ministry // Secretary-Treasurer Jack Moon // 803

This session is designed to help you discern your calling and understand the pathway toward becoming a credentialed minister. If you feel called to vocational ministry but don't know where to begin, this is a great opportunity to engage with Secretary-Treasurer Jack Moon, who will explain the significance of ministry credentials, outline the different levels available, and guide you through the steps to pursue them.

Starting and Leading Senior Adults Ministry // David Riner // 504

The way churches minister to senior adults is evolving. In this breakout, David Riner, Lead Pastor of Maranatha Family Church in Rincon, Georgia, and Senior Adult Ministries Director for the Georgia District, will offer effective strategies to better engage your senior adults and refresh your Senior Adults Ministry.

Starting and Leading a Young Adults Ministry // Victor James // 514

Each generation is unique, and many church leaders seek better ways to connect with young adults. Victor James of Chapelhill Church will share insights into how to reach and empower this generation, as well as share tips and tricks for launching and leading a young adults ministry.

From First Time to Family // Aura Lau // 500

Turning first-time guests into fully engaged members doesn't happen by accident—it requires intentionality, strategy, and heart. In this practical and inspiring session, Aura Lau will guide you through building a guest retention process that reflects your church's mission while effectively connecting people to your community. Whether you're just getting started or looking to improve your current process, you'll walk away with actionable tools to help your church become a place where guests feel seen, valued, and welcomed back.

Making Special Days Truly Memorable // Amber Paugh // 512

Strategic moments throughout the year—like holidays, special events, and milestone Sundays—offer prime opportunities to welcome first-time guests and grow your church. Creative Pastor Amber Paugh will share how her team at Griffin First Assembly creatively plans and executes these key moments to leave a lasting impact. This session provides practical ideas and inspiration for making special days unforgettable and effective for outreach and church growth.

Crucial Church Confrontations // Thompson Samuel // 802 (Prayer Room)

Every healthy church must navigate difficult conversations—from addressing sin and resolving conflict to confronting toxic behavior and handling leadership tensions. This breakout session equips pastors and ministry leaders with the biblical wisdom, emotional intelligence, and practical tools needed to approach confrontation with grace and clarity. Participants will learn how to speak truth in love, create a culture of accountability, and avoid common pitfalls like avoidance, harshness, or favoritism. Real-life case studies and role-play scenarios will help leaders build confidence in having crucial conversations that lead to restoration, unity, and spiritual growth in the body of Christ.

Prayer Ministry // Linda Vega // 515

Spiritual forces seek to destroy families and churches, but prayer is the dynamite that pushes those forces back and every church needs a strong prayer team. If you are looking to start or restart a prayer ministry at your church but don't know where to begin, this breakout is sure to ignite you to retake territory for the Kingdom. In this session, Linda Vega of Abundant Life Church will teach you the value of having a prayer ministry at your church and how to get started.

(WM) She Is Called: Overcoming Obstacles and Leading Boldly // Heather Stanley // Student Center Auditorium

Serving in ministry often means navigating both external resistance and internal doubts. This session will encourage women to persevere through spiritual, emotional, and practical challenges with clarity and courage. Learn how to stand firm in your calling, lead others with conviction, and trust God through all the next steps of ministry.

Show Up, Hang Out, Speak Up: Keeping Men's Ministry Simple and Fun // Philip Stanley // 105

Men's ministry doesn't have to be complicated to be effective. In this session, Pastor Philip Stanley will share how simply showing up, hanging out and creating space for honest conversations has helped men in his church and men in his community grow in faith and friendship. From ballfields to Bible studies, discover practical ways to keep men's ministry simple, fun and deeply impactful.

LEAD PASTOR'S TRACK

Dynamic Leaders or Good Managers? // Dr. Walt Brown // 807 (Choir Room)

This session offers a brief overview of the key forces driving the need for organizational transformation in today's churches, demonstrating the need for strong, dynamic leaders. It will outline the unique organizational requirements of 21st-century churches and how they differ from past models. The discussion will challenge common misconceptions that favor "good" managers over "true" leaders and explore the essential traits, skills, and attributes required for effective leadership. The session will conclude with a detailed profile of the ideal transformational leader, providing a clear vision of what it takes to lead the church into the future.

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