

**EQUIP426**

# **Breakout Session Information Booklet**



**Sunday, September 21, 2025**

**Hosted at:**

**Pleasant Valley North Baptist Church**

**735 Old Summerville Road, NW**

**Rome, Georgia 30165**

# **EQUIP Conference 2025 Schedule**

3:30 pm	Doors Open/Registration/Check-In
4:00 - 5:00 pm	Inspirational Rally with Dr. Wayne Bray
5:00 - 5:15 pm	Transition Time
5:15 - 5:45 pm	Dinner in Fellowship Hall
5:45 - 6:00 pm	Transition Time
6:00 - 7:00 pm	Breakout Session #1
7:00 - 7:15 pm	Transition Time
7:15 - 8:15 pm	Breakout Session #2
8:15 pm	Dismiss

## **Registration Link**

You may use the QR code below to take you to the registration site to register for the conference. The registration site will go live on July 1, 2025.



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## **Keynote Speaker - Wayne Bray**



Wayne was born in Dothan, Alabama but he spent most of his life in Georgia, where his dad pastored churches for 40 years. He has a connection to Rome and Floyd county in that he served as the youth minister at New Antioch in the early 2000s while his dad was pastor. Wayne, and his wife of 28 years, Amy, have five children between the ages of 13 and 25. Wayne and Amy spent the first 15 years of marriage attending college and seminary, earning eight degrees collectively. That season ended when Wayne completed his Doctorate in Leadership from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in 2010. For the first 20 years of ministry, Dr. Bray served small to medium-sized churches, both rural and suburban, in Georgia and Louisiana. Then in 2015, God brought the Brays to First Baptist Simpsonville. God has richly blessed the church over the years, but they have experienced much recent growth. First Baptist Simpsonville/Upstate Church now has 7,000 members who gather in 15 distinct worship services across six different campuses. Dr. Bray has authored several books, including Inside Out: Christian Hope in a World of Contradiction – Rainer Publishing (2019). In addition to serving as Lead Pastor at FBS/UC, Wayne enjoys teaching as Adjunct Faculty at Anderson University, and recently served as the President of the South Carolina Baptist Convention.

# **Breakout Sessions**

Each session is 1 hour long.

Session 1 is from 6:00 - 7:00 pm; Session 2 is from 7:15 - 8:15 pm.

## **Partner Led**

Leader Room #	Session		Session Title Session Description
	1	2	
<b>Daniel Beaufort</b> 204	✓	✓	<b>Why Recurring Donors Go Invisible - And How Churches Are Losing Them</b> It's easy for recurring givers to fall through the cracks and disappear. And it's happening more than you realize. Donors silently disengage, but your systems keep reporting green lights. In this session, you'll learn how to identify these invisible givers, prevent drop-off, and re-engage the people you didn't know you were losing.
<b>Ken Adams &amp; Lance Sumner</b> M-107	✓		<b>The Disciple-Making Church Strategy</b> Join our breakout session to learn the proven Disciple-Making Church strategy. Led by Impact Discipleship Ministries, this session will teach you how to implement Jesus' mission, model, and methods for multiplying disciples. Walk away with practical tools and a clear strategy to grow and sustain your ministry.
<b>Jonathan Hasel</b> M-108		✓	<b>The Church's Role in Foster Care and How to Care Well for Vulnerable Families and Children</b> Every county in the state of Georgia has an overwhelming number of children in the Foster Care system. There is a church in every county in Georgia that God has called to care for the most vulnerable. This session will look at the important role the church plays in the work of Foster Care and equip church leaders with pathways for engagement.

## **Partner Led - continued**

Leader Room #	Session		Session Title Session Description
	1	2	
<b>Wayne Bray</b> Worship Center	✓		<b>For Pastors Only!</b> Join us for a discussion on leading your church through change. In this session Dr. Bray will share best practices that have aided him navigate the challenges of pastoral leadership. Plus, you will have an opportunity for Q&A.

## **Adult Ministry - College & Singles**

Leader Room #	Session		Session Title Session Description
	1	2	
<b>Phil Wade</b> E-116	✓	✓	<b>Effectively Engaging 18-25 Year Olds</b> College students and young singles in their 20s are open to the Gospel but most churches are not reaching these groups. In this session you'll hear what's working and how to make an impact in your community.

## **Adult Ministry - Discipleship/Leadership Development**

Leader Room #	Session		Session Title Session Description
	1	2	
<b>Kenneth Priest</b> 203	✓	✓	<b>Developing a Leadership Pipeline</b> Developing a leadership pipeline involves identifying, developing, and preparing future leaders through training and mentorship that fosters a culture growth. In this session you'll hear proven principles for having more leaders in your church.

## ***Adult Ministry - Men***

Leader Room #	Session		Session Title Session Description
	1	2	
<b>Jim Nicklas</b> 207	✓	✓	<b>Men's Ministry (Inside &amp; Outside of the Church) Affirming, Edifying, &amp; Serving others...</b> You'll get the help needed to develop and lead a men's ministry in your church. Plus you'll learn what's working to reach and disciple men.

## ***Adult Ministry - Senior Adults***

Leader Room #	Session		Session Title Session Description
	1	2	
<b>Larry &amp; Sandra Monk</b> 212	✓	✓	<b>Senior Adult Ministry that Really Works</b> One of the fastest growing segments of the population in Rome and Floyd county is senior adults. Reaching this age group can be fun and bring life to individuals as well as churches. In this session you'll hear some great ideas but you'll also have the opportunity to discuss with other area leaders about all that's happening with senior adults in our community.

## ***Adult Ministry - Teaching Sunday School Class or Leading Small Group Bible Study***

Leader Room #	Session		Session Title Session Description
	1	2	
<b>Alan Folsom</b> 201	✓	✓	<b>Teaching an Adult Sunday School Class or Leading an Adult Small Group Bible Study</b> Whether you're an experienced teacher or rookie Bible study leader this session will help you be a better communicator of God's Word. You'll hear some practical ideas to improve your preparation as well as helping you with the presentation of a Bible study that connects with adults of all ages.

## ***Adult Ministry - Women's Ministry & WMU***

Leader Room #	Session		Session Title Session Description
	1	2	
<b>Lindsey McDonald &amp; Trystan Johnson</b> 206	✓	✓	<b>Women's Ministry for the Next Generation</b> How mentoring, multi-generational ministry, and one on one discipleship can help women's ministry leaders make disciples of Jesus who live on mission today, tomorrow, and beyond.

## ***Adult Ministry - Young Adults & Young Families***

Leader Room #	Session		Session Title Session Description
	1	2	
<b>Dallas White</b> 211	✓	✓	<b>Understanding &amp; Engaging with Young Families in Our Community</b> If your church is going to make a difference in your community you better know what's happening in the lives of young families. But knowing is not good enough, you've got to connect with them. In this session you'll learn from those that are reaching young families.

## ***Church Administration/Leadership***

Leader Room #	Session		Session Title Session Description
	1	2	
<b>Scott Smith</b> E-117	✓	✓	<b>AI for Ministry: How to Reclaim Time, Reach More People, and Maximize Impact</b> The future has arrived. But AI isn't here to replace ministry leaders—it's here to help them lead more effectively. In this breakout, you'll explore how artificial intelligence can simplify sermon research, enhance communication, and even improve your online presence. Learn how to use AI tools for sermon prep, social media content creation, and digital outreach to expand your reach while staying true to your calling.

## Church Administration/Leadership - continued

Leader Room #	Session		Session Title Session Description
	1	2	
<b>David Franklin</b> M-109	✓	✓	<b>An Effective Prayer Ministry</b> We need to be people of prayer. In this conference you'll learn what it takes to have an effective prayer ministry in your church. The session will focus on cultivating a culture of prayer within the church, encouraging regular and intentional prayer, and equipping individuals to pray effectively, both individually and corporately.
<b>Julie Baumgardner</b> 209	✓	✓	<b>Churches Helping Marriages and Families</b> Churches play a vital role in supporting marriages and families by offering resources, programs, and a community of faith to help navigate challenges and foster strong relationships, often through premarital counseling, ongoing support, and marriage enrichment initiatives. In this session you'll be exposed to some best practices in marriage and family ministry.
<b>Chris Johnson</b> 210	✓	✓	<b>Deacon Ministry that HELPS a Church</b> The biblical mission of the deacon ministry is to assist the pastor of the church in fulfilling all the duties of pastoral care, including not limited to serving, equipping, encouraging, edifying and monitoring the spiritual growth of all the members. This session will help every church to better understand the role of the deacon and ideas for serving the church.
<b>Brady Fortenberry</b> 208	✓	✓	<b>First Impressions and New Member Assimilation</b> First impressions and new member assimilation are crucial for a church's health and growth, as a positive initial experience can lead to deeper engagement and a sense of belonging. A well-planned assimilation process helps newcomers feel welcome, understand the church's values, grow in their faith, and find opportunities to serve.

## Church Administration/Leadership - continued

Leader Room #	Session		Session Title Session Description
	1	2	
<b>Daniel Currie</b> E-107	✓	✓	<b>Fueling Ministry: Smart Church Budgets and Financial Help</b> A healthy church budget can do more than pay the bills — it can fuel life-changing ministry. This session will help you develop a practical, mission-driven budget, track spending, and build trust through transparency and ethical standards. Whether navigating tough financial seasons or planning for growth, you'll walk away with tools to raise and manage funds wisely, so your church can thrive for years to come.
<b>Larry Mize</b> M-106	✓	✓	<b>Leading an Effective Music and Worship Ministry in ANY Church</b> You can have an engaging and uplifting worship ministry in any size church even with limited musical resources and musicians. -How to begin where you are with what you have -How to find and identify musical talent and musicians in your church and community -How to find resources for equipment, training, worship planning, music and more.
<b>Steve Foster</b> 205	✓	✓	<b>Reaching More People for Jesus</b> Our world needs Jesus! Our community needs Jesus! In this session you'll learn some simple steps for you and your church can take to reach more people for Jesus.
<b>Mark Wallace</b> 202	✓	✓	<b>Safety and Security at Your Church</b> This session will assist you to implement a comprehensive plan including risk assessment, security personnel training, emergency protocols, and visible security measures like surveillance cameras and clear exit paths. We must be doing all we can to make sure our churches are safe and secure.

## Kids Ministry

Leader Room #	Session		Session Title Session Description
	1	2	
<b>Amy Burney</b> Children's Activity Room	✓	✓	<b>Engaging Little Hearts with Creative Teaching</b> Teaching kids about the Bible is more than just sharing stories—it's about helping young hearts grasp God's love in ways they can understand and apply to their everyday lives. This engaging session will equip leaders with practical strategies to make Bible truths come alive through active learning.
<b>Jenni Carter</b> E-111	✓	✓	<b>Kids Ministry that ANY Church Can Do</b> Every church needs kids! No matter what the situation is, your church can do kids ministry. In this session you'll learn what every church can do to reach more kids and families.

## Missions

Leader Room #	Session		Session Title Session Description
	1	2	
<b>David Ogden</b> E-104	✓	✓	<b>How to Become a Missions-Minded Church</b> In this session you'll learn how to transform your church into a missions-minded community by focusing on teaching the importance of missions, praying for missionaries, serving the needs of others, and actively sending people and resources to fulfill God's call.
<b>Bill &amp; Anna Campbell</b> E-103	✓	✓	<b>How to be Involved in Disaster Relief Team</b> Disasters continue to be in the headlines and many communities are suffering from their impact. Yet even in those difficult times God has been at work. Our DR team is being used by God to help those that are hurting. Come learn how you can be involved.

## ***Missions - continued***

Leader Room #	Session		Session Title Session Description
	1	2	
Jarrold Kinsey E-110	✓	✓	<b>Leading Your Church to Be Engaged with Your Community</b> To effectively engage your church in Rome and Floyd County, we must focus on outreach, community events, and serving local needs, while building a strong sense of belonging and partnership. This session will provide ideas that are working.

## ***Youth Ministry***

Leader Room #	Session		Session Title Session Description
	1	2	
Hunter Storey Student Building	✓	✓	<b>Teaching a Youth Sunday School Class or Leading a Small Group Bible Study for Students</b> To effectively teach a youth Sunday School class or lead a small group Bible study, focus on engaging students, facilitating meaningful discussions, and making the Bible relevant to their lives, while also creating a safe and encouraging environment. In this session you'll hear these plus many more helps to make a difference in the lives of students.
Eric Gargus & Chad Penny M-105	✓	✓	<b>Youth Ministry that ANY Church Can Do</b> Middle school and high school students are everywhere in Rome and Floyd county but are they in your church? These proven youth ministry leaders have seen it all and they know what works to reach and disciple students. Every church can learn from their experience to help them have an effective youth ministry.

# **Breakout Session Leader Bios**



## **Ken Adams**

Ken Adams, pastor of Crossroads Church since 1989, founded Impact Discipleship Ministries in 2002 after creating disciple-making resources for his church. With a Master of Divinity from Southwestern Theological Seminary, Ken's materials are now used by churches worldwide to help people grow as disciples of Jesus.



## **Julie Baumgardner**

Julie is a well-known marriage and family expert, recognized for her work in the field of relationship/marriage education and family dynamics. Dedicated to providing resources, programs, and services that help couples and families build stronger relationships, she is often involved in creating marriage and parenting education programs and is a frequent speaker and writer on topics related to family life, marriage, and relationship-building.



## **Daniel Beaufort**

Daniel Beaufort is the Chief Operating Officer at SecureGive. Before joining SecureGive, he worked in the enterprise payments space at Global Payments. He now helps churches understand and improve their digital giving systems with a focus on clarity, connection, and practical solutions.



## **Wayne Bray**

For the first 20 years of ministry, Dr. Bray served small to medium-sized churches, both rural and suburban, in Georgia and Louisiana. Then in 2015, God brought the Brays to First Baptist Simpsonville. God has richly blessed the church over the years, but they have experienced much recent growth. First Baptist Simpsonville/Upstate Church now has 7,000 members who gather in 15 distinct worship services across 6 different campuses.



### **Amy Burney**

Amy Burney serves as Director of Preschool Ministry at Tabernacle Baptist Church in Cartersville and as the North Georgia Kids Ministry Consultant with the Georgia Baptist Mission Board. A graduate of UGA, she loves to encourage and equip volunteers, parents, and other ministry leaders to share Jesus with kids in fun, meaningful ways. In the past, Amy has taught VBS conferences and Sunday School training for churches in Georgia.



### **Bill & Anna Campbell**

Bill and Anna have been serving in Disaster Relief since 2022. They have served in Kentucky, Florida, Texas, Summerville, Valdosta, Augusta, Vidalia, Statesboro, Swainsboro and Rome. They have served on the feeding team and/or cleanup recovery for flooding and chainsaw teams. God has given them a passion for this ministry and many souls have been saved through the work of Disaster Relief. They are members of PVN where they sing in the choir and teach Sunday School.



### **Jenni Carter**

Jenni has been involved in Children's Ministries most of her adult life including 10 years as the Children's Ministry Consultant for the Georgia Baptist Mission Board. She is a gifted conference leader and loves to help equip children's ministry leaders.



### **Daniel Currie**

Daniel has been the Executive Pastor of Peavine Baptist Church in Rock Spring since 2012. Peavine is one of the top baptizing churches in Georgia and has made Outreach Magazine's Top 100 fastest-growing churches in the United States twice in the last eight years. Daniel has helped to create an innovative approach to church finances. His background in real estate, retail management, and the performing arts gives him a unique perspective on church finances and leadership.



### **Alan Folsom**

Alan serves as the Adult Pastor at Burnt Hickory Baptist Church in Powder Springs, Georgia. He has been with Burnt Hickory since 2019 and his desire is for all adult ministries to be effective in leading people to make disciples and to live missionally. From 2000-2019, he served with the Georgia Baptist Mission Board. Prior to serving Georgia Baptists, he served for 15 years as a minister of education, and other staff ministry roles in churches in Georgia and North Carolina.



### **Brady Fortenberry**

Brady Fortenberry is the Lead Pastor of Fellowship Church in Rome where he is leading a dynamic church revitalization. Previously, he served at two prominent Southern Baptist churches — Prestonwood Baptist Church and Bellevue Baptist Church. Brady is passionate about fulfilling the church's mission of loving people to Christ.



### **Steve Foster**

Steve has been the featured speaker at hundreds of evangelistic services and rallies. His passion is to communicate the good news of God's extraordinary grace in Jesus Christ. Steve has served as a Senior Pastor, Director of Missions, and a vocational Evangelist. He currently serves as the Evangelism Catalyst with the Georgia Baptist Mission Board. Steve is a graduate of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.



### **David Franklin**

David serves as the Associational Missions Strategist for the Bartow Baptist Association. He provides leadership for Bartow county to see transformation as churches embrace their calling as Great Commandment and Great Commission people. Because of his experience in missions, discipleship, evangelism, and spiritual awakening, David has a unique background to help churches unite to impact a community. David has served churches in Georgia, Alabama, and Kentucky.



### **Eric Gargus**

Eric is a 29-year student ministry veteran who has served both bi-vocationally and full-time through the years. God has used him to help rebuild struggling student ministries in Alabama, Florida, and Georgia.



### **Jonathan Hasel**

Jonathan Hasel is the Director of the Group Care program for WinShape Homes. In his role, he leads a team that includes House Parents and a support team for the care of the children placed in a WinShape Group Home. Jonathan is also responsible for the services of our young adult alumni. Jonathan has worked in the child welfare field for over 18 years, working with foster and adoptive families and residential group homes. Jonathan graduated from Florida State University with a degree in Family and Child Sciences. He began his work in child welfare. He later completed his Master's degree in Human Services with a specialization in Executive Leadership from Liberty University. Currently, Jonathan is enrolled in the Doctorate of Strategic Leadership program at Liberty University. Jonathan and his wife, Missy, currently reside in Senoia, Georgia. They spend their time volunteering in their local church, Woolsey Baptist Church, and raising their three children, Hailey, Westin and Logan.



### **Chris Johnson**

Chris has served as the pastor of Flint Hill since 2020 and has served in pastoral ministry since 2011. He holds a Doctor of Ministry from Luther Rice Seminary with a focus on leadership related to deacon ministry. His dissertation was entitled "Recovering the Biblical Role of the Deacon: Training Deacons to Serve the Ministry Needs of the Church" which included developing and implementing a formal deacon ministry training plan at Flint Hill.



### **Trystan Johnson**

Trystan is married to Porter Johnson, College Pastor at Sherwood Church. Together they serve students through one-on-one discipleship, and small groups. She is a talented worship leader, Trystan seeks to make disciples who make disciples, whether among her worship team, or the students she serves with her husband.



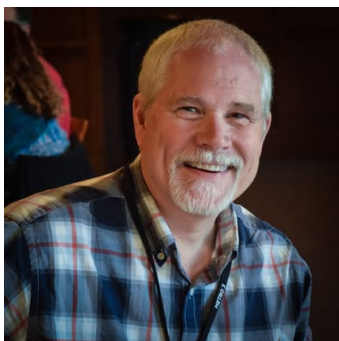
### **Jarrod Kinsey**

Jarrod has served as pastor at First Baptist Church of Cave Spring, Georgia since June 2020, where he is leading the church to be "the heart of Christ in the heart of Cave Spring." He is currently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry in Church Strengthening and Revitalization at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary. He holds a B.S. in Christian Studies from Shorter University and an M. Div. in Christian Ministry from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.



### **Lindsey McDonald**

Lindsey is the Women's Missions and Ministry Leader for Floyd County Baptist Association. She is a lifelong member of WMU who has benefitted from the multi-generational ministry WMU provides. She currently serves as the minister of youth and children at Second Avenue Baptist Church as well as leads a one-on-one discipleship cohort with students from Shorter University.



### **Larry Mize**

Larry grew up in Rome and attended Shorter University and Southwestern Seminary. He served for 36 years as the Pastor of Music and Worship at Mount Zion Baptist Church in Snellville. Since retiring from full-time Ministry he has served several churches as interim Worship Pastor, the most recent being Tabernacle Baptist in Cartersville.



### **Larry & Sandra Monk**

Larry and Sandra have been leading senior adult ministries for years. They both are teachers of Senior Adult Sunday School classes and have led Senior Adult Ministries in Baptist Churches where they have been members.



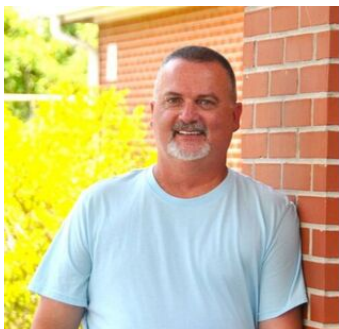
### **Jim Nicklas**

Jim lives in Cartersville and has been an active member at Tabernacle for more than 20 years serving as boys Sunday school teacher and men's ministry leader. In 2021, he established a non-profit ministry MBM - Men Build Men ([www.MenBuildMen.com](http://www.MenBuildMen.com)). Professionally, he owns a utility contracting company.



### **David Ogden**

For nearly 40 years, David Ogden has served in a variety of ministry roles: As a youth leader, Worship Leader, Evangelism trainer, Sunday School Teacher, Church planter and Missions Mobilizer. In 2024, David founded K.A.N.; a missions organization focused on helping small and medium sized churches to connect with Global Missions. David currently serves as Minister of Missions at Woodlawn Baptist Church in Rome Georgia where he lives with his wife Lori, children Andrew and Emily and grandson Matthew. In his spare time, David enjoys Indian food, hiking and travelling.



### **Chad Penny**

Chad has dedicated his life to student ministry since 1998 and currently serves as the Student pastor at Mt. Alto. In addition to his pastoral work, he partners with the Coosa High School athletic programs as the FCA Character Coach, mentoring and supporting student-athletes. His passion for young people and evangelism drives his commitment to guiding the next generation in faith and character.



### **Kenneth Priest**

Kenneth has an expansive background in ministry spanning over 25 years. He has served in numerous capacities, including: Young Adult Minister, Evangelism Minister and Executive Pastor. He also served the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention as the Director of Convention Strategies and Church Revitalization. He is a recognized leader in the field of church growth and leadership, speaking at training events across North America and providing valuable insights in areas such as church revitalization, organizing for growth, stewardship, and organizational leadership.



### **Scott Smith**

Scott Newton Smith is Director of Communications for the GBMB. Scott also trains church leaders on leveraging social media for outreach, and leveraging AI for ministry impact. He is a seasoned preacher, author, and ministry leader with over 30 years of experience in preaching and evangelism.



### **Hunter Storey**

Hunter is the Associate Pastor/Student Pastor at Calvary Baptist Church. He is a graduate of Shorter University and a Certified Leadership Trainer and Coach with the John Maxwell Certified Team.



### **Lance Sumner**

Lance has over 15 years of ministry experience, serving in roles from deacon to senior pastor. Currently at Crossroads Church, he is passionate about church revitalization and disciple-making. Lance holds a MA in Leadership and MDiv from Luther Rice Seminary.



### **William Wacker**

William has been a Floyd County Police Officer since 2012. He serves as the Supervisor for the School Resource Officers and is a member of S.W.A.T. He is a Defensive Tactics Instructor, Active Shooter Instructor and has earned a Master's Degree in Public Safety Administration.



### **Mark Wallace**

Mark has served as the Chief of Police for the Floyd County Police Department since 2017. He is an active member of Pleasant Valley North Baptist Church. He has been with the Floyd County Police Department since 1980. He has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from Columbus State University.



### **Phil Wade**

Phil serves as Lead Pastor at Northside Church in Rome and is a character development coach with Nations of Coaches that's been reaching high school and college athletes for over 35 years. He is the recent author of "VITAL SIGNS".



### **Dallas White**

Dallas is the Senior Pastor at The Grove Church in Acworth. TGC is a vibrant, multi-generational church passionate about helping families flourish.