
TUESDAY MORNING

Preaching With Spiritual Power

ROUNDTABLE facilitated by FREDDY CARDOZA and TRENT LAMBERT in the Venue

Preaching is part art and part science. For many of us, the Sunday morning service is the crown jewel of the ministry week. Ever since the Reformation (1517), congregational life has largely orbited around the preaching of God's Word to the gathered church. Grace Seminary is committed to encouraging and equipping preachers in their calling. Join Grace Seminary leaders, Drs. Freddy Cardoza and Trent Lambert, and a select group of Charis Fellowship preachers, as we explore our theme, "Preaching with Spiritual Power." Using key biblical passages about preaching, we'll enjoy discussion and dialogue on how the preacher's hermeneutics, homiletics, and spiritual formation help bring about a demonstration of the Spirit's power in preaching by looking at three key passages of scripture as examples.

DR. FREDDY CARDOZA serves as the Vice President for Grace Theological Seminary.

DR. TRENT LAMBERT serves as the Director of the Center for Thriving Leaders at Grace Theological Seminary.

Navigating Today's Kids Ministry Challenges

ROUNDTABLE facilitated by LAURI PALMER in Kids K-5 Area

At this interactive roundtable discussion, we will explore best practices and address current challenges shared by our Charis kids directors and team members from across our Fellowship of churches. Come prepared to participate in meaningful conversations, ask questions, share encouragement, and pray for one another as we seek God's guidance and prepare for all He has in store for our ministries in the year ahead.

LAURI PALMER serves as the Grace Kids Director for Grace Fellowship in Brunswick, Md.

One Hour One Book – The Book of Acts

*WORKSHOP presented by RANDALL SMITH *(also offered on Wednesday) in the Main*

As Jesus departed, He gathered His men and entrusted them with an impossible mission: reach the world with His message. The command was staggering, but the Spirit's power was greater still. Generation after generation has traced their footsteps, studied their labors, and stood in awe of their accomplishments. This is the story of the Church's first days, overcoming huge hurdles and celebrating how God drew so many people to Himself through their witness. In one hour, we unpack their story and follow their footsteps through the Roman world.

DR. RANDALL SMITH serves as the Director of Christian Travel Study Programs and served as a Charis Fellowship pastor.

Missions, Metaphors, and Imagination

WORKSHOP presented by ROY ANGLE in Room 102

In a world that is constantly in flux, how do we engage our 21st century contexts while being rooted in a 1st century text? What guides our curiosity and shapes our questions about missional engagement? In this workshop we will learn how to mimic Jesus' use of the agricultural metaphor to promote Kingdom and missional insight and action. Jesus and the New Testament authors used insights about planting, growth, and harvest in the biological world that provided a grid for missional perception and engagement in any cultural setting. This workshop will have some interaction and dialogue, as well as real-life examples of the use of the agricultural metaphor in missional strategy and engagement in modern day missions in Dublin, Ireland.

ROY ANGLE serves as a Missionary in Dublin, Ireland, with Encompass World Partners.



Proven Strategies for Long-Lasting Rural Ministry

WORKSHOP presented by ADAM KIPP in Room 1

What does it really take to build a ministry that lasts in a rural or small-town context? Drawing from research, real-life experience, and biblical truth, this workshop will explore the deeper factors that help pastors not only stay, but thrive over the long haul. Be encouraged, challenged, and equipped with practical insights to cultivate a ministry that bears fruit and endures for years to come.

DR. ADAM KIPP serves as the Executive Director of Rural Home Missionary Association.

The Unseen Battle and a Biblical Battle Plan

WORKSHOP presented by JEREMY WIKE and CHARLOTTE MOSIER in the Studio

If we are to take the Scriptures seriously, we must have a plan to counter the enemy seeking to destroy us. But what exactly is the spiritual battle? Can Christians be influenced by demons? Where is the battle waged? And what about extremists who are out of line? This workshop will delineate a Scriptural perspective of spiritual warfare, as well as articulate the model one Charis church uses for discipling people toward inner healing and spiritual deliverance in partnership with Wellsprings of Freedom International.

JEREMY WIKE serves at the Lead Pastor of Community of Hope in Columbia City, Ind.

CHARLOTTE MOSIER leads the Wellsprings of Freedom ministry at Community of Hope in Columbia City, Ind.

Healthy Churches, New Churches: Pathways to Growth and Multiplication

WORKSHOP facilitated by NATHAN BRYANT in Room 2

Every church is at a different place in its journey, but every church can take intentional steps toward greater health, impact, and mission. This workshop will explore practical pathways for church planting, church revitalization, leadership development, and ministry multiplication. Drawing on the experience and resources of Assist Church Expansion, participants will discover principles, tools, and real-world examples that can help churches assess their current reality, strengthen their ministry, develop leaders, and pursue new opportunities for Gospel impact. Whether your church is seeking renewed health, preparing for multiplication, or considering a future church plant, this workshop will provide encouragement and practical next steps for the journey ahead.

NATHAN BRYANT serves as the Executive Director for Assist Church Expansion.

Charis Retirement Plan & Guidestone

*WORKSHOP presented by DAVID JONES and JOEL RISTER *(also offered on Wednesday) in Room 3*

Retirement will be here before you know it. Join us to learn about GuideStone, the new provider for the Charis Fellowship retirement plan, and discover how the Fellowship's retirement benefits can help you prepare for the future. This workshop will provide an overview of the plan, explain key features and benefits, answer common questions, and offer practical guidance for retirement planning at every stage of life and ministry. Whether you are just getting started or nearing retirement, you'll leave with helpful insights and practical next steps for preparing wisely for the years ahead.

DAVID JONES serves as the CEO/Founder of Winona Wealth Management.

JOEL RISTER serves as the Senior Relationship Manager, Retirement Solutions – Guidestone.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON

The State of the Rural Pastorate

ROUNDTABLE facilitated by ADAM KIPP in Room 1

What is really happening in rural ministry today — and how does your experience compare? This interactive roundtable draws on a landmark research study of more than 1,000 rural ministers while fostering honest conversation about the challenges, encouragements, and opportunities facing small-town churches. Together, we'll discuss key findings from the research, explore common ministry realities, and learn from one another's experiences in the field. Come ready to reflect, share insights, ask questions, and gain fresh perspective alongside others who understand the unique joys and demands of rural ministry.

DR. ADAM KIPP serves as the Executive Director of Rural Home Missionary Association.

Building Ministry Residencies & Internships: Investing in Future Pastors

*ROUNDTABLE facilitated by ETHAN BUNCE and RICH HANCOCK *(also offered on Wednesday) in Kids K-5 Area*

The church is always "one generation away from extinction," and yet God has always been faithful to raise up workers for His harvest. As a Fellowship of churches, are we doing our part to identify, equip, and send faithful, well-rounded pastors into ministry? Join us for a practical discussion on creating opportunities for emerging leaders, developing healthy pathways for pastoral training, and intentionally investing in the next generation of shepherds for the local church. Together we'll explore effective models for mentorship, internships, residencies, and leadership development, while sharing ideas and experiences from churches that are actively cultivating future ministry leaders.

ETHAN BUNCE serves as a Pastoral Elder for Bellefontaine Grace Church in Bellefontaine, Ohio.

RICH HANCOCK serves as the Family Ministries Pastor for Marysville Grace Church in Marysville, Ohio.

Expanding Our Vision for Women's Ministry

ROUNDTABLE presented by JENN AVEY in the Studio

Women's ministry is often viewed primarily as ministry to women. While that is an important part of the picture, women's ministry also includes the many ways women serve, disciple, teach, lead, organize, encourage, and care for others throughout the church. Join Jenn Avey for a roundtable discussion as we explore practical ways to refresh ministry to women and reimagine ministry by women in the local church. *This conversation will be encouraging and applicable for every woman in the church.

JENN AVEY serves as the Executive Director of Charis Women.

Ordination: Inspire's Annual Updates

ROUNDTABLE facilitated by MARK LINGENFELTER in Room 3

One year ago, Inspire invited district leaders to cooperate together and make improvements to our standardized ordination process. Come learn what improvements we made and how we will continue to work together this year to keep getting better.

MARK LINGENFELTER serves as the President of Inspire Pastor's Network and Lead Pastor of Grace Fellowship in Duncansville, Penn.



Tangible Ways to Keep Your Faith Real

WORKSHOP presented by ERIC MILLER in Room 102

Join Eric Miller for an interactive roundtable discussion designed specifically for pastors, church leaders, and ministry professionals as they explore practical, honest, and sustainable ways to cultivate a vibrant relationship with Jesus and avoid spiritual drift. Together participants will share insights, challenges, and proven practices that help keep faith authentic, healthy, and growing through every season of life and ministry.

ERIC MILLER serves as the Executive Director of Ministry for Momentum Ministry Partners.

Reaching the Fastest Growing Mission Field in North America

ROUNDTABLE facilitated by OSCAR CHAVEZ in Room 2

The Hispanic population represents one of the greatest ministry opportunities in North America today. Join us for a collaborative discussion as we explore the challenges, opportunities, and practical strategies for developing and encouraging effective Hispanic ministries and planting healthy, reproducing churches that reach future generations with the Gospel.

OSCAR CHAVEZ serves as the Lead Pastor for Hope City Church in Norwalk, Calif.

Principles and Practices of Prayer

WORKSHOP presented by NATE BOSCH in the Venue

We will examine scriptural teaching on prayer, learning that a humble prayer and Bible-saturated life/marriage/family/church/ministry is the only path God has designed for His children to experience true joy and fruitfulness in the Christian life. Prayer is not viewed or presented as an activity but rather the expression of our human weakness and total dependence on God and our desire to walk in deep, obedient fellowship with Him. Urgency, consistency, and effectiveness of prayer will all be discussed as well as practical guidance for fostering these.

DR. NATE BOSCH serves as the Dean of the School of Science and Engineering at Grace College.

The Charis Fellowship Story: How God Shaped Our Movement

WORKSHOP facilitated by TIM HODGE in the Main

Like a stone dropped into a pond, the events of the past continue to create ripples that shape who we are today. Join us for an inspiring journey through the history of the Charis Fellowship — from the Protestant Reformation, Pietism, and the early Brethren movement to the defining moments that forged our identity. Discover how commitments to biblical truth, authentic relationships, local church vitality, and global mission have been woven into our spiritual DNA for more than 300 years. More than a history lesson, this workshop will help you better understand who we are, why we exist, and how God continues to use the Charis Fellowship and the global Charis Alliance to impact lives around the world.

TIM HODGE serves as the Charis Fellowship Coordinator.

Six Mantras for Short-Term Missions with Long-Term Impact

WORKSHOP presented by TREVIN HOEKZEMA in Room 4

Short-term mission trips can either create lasting gospel partnerships or become little more than meaningful memories. The difference often comes down to how we prepare, serve, and follow through. In this workshop, we'll explore six simple but transformative mantras that help shape short-term missions around the Great Commission rather than the experience itself. Drawing from biblical principles and practical ministry experience, you'll learn how to maximize the long-term impact of a one-week trip for your team, your church, and your partners around the world. Whether you're leading trips, serving on a team, or developing a missions strategy for your church, you'll leave with practical tools and a fresh vision for making disciples of all nations, one week at a time.

TREVIN HOEKZEMA serves as the Pastor of Outreach for Calvert Grace Church in Owings, Md.

WEDNESDAY MORNING

Creating a Culture of Disciple Making

ROUNDTABLE facilitated by JUSTIN GRAVITT and DAVE HOLMES in Kids K-5 Area

What does it actually take to create a culture of disciple making — not just as a program, but as the heartbeat of a church? Join Justin Gravitt, National Lead for Navigator Church Ministries, and Pastor Dave Holmes, Lead Pastor of Centerville Grace Church, for an interactive rountable discussion focused on practical ways to cultivate disciple-making relationships, align church culture around multiplication, and help people move from attending to investing in others. Expect guided discussion, shared insights, and practical takeaways you can bring back to your ministry. JUSTIN GRAVITT serves as the Director of Innovation & Momentum for Navigators Church Ministries. DAVE HOLMES serves as the Lead Pastor for Centerville Grace Church in Centerville, Ohio.

Coaching: Helping You Take Your Ministry to the Next Level

ROUNDTABLE facilitated by ED SHORT in Room 102

Ever feel like you need an unbiased voice to help you think through the effectiveness of your ministry and what steps you need to consider taking next? We will talk through what a ministry coach can do for you and your ministry. We will explore how to assess your ministry and set goals that will help your ministry move to the next level. ED SHORT serves as the Church Revitalization Ministry Associate for Assist Church Expansion.

Multiplying Churches Together: A Church Planting Roundtable

ROUNDTABLE facilitated by JEREMY BURY in Room 1

Church planting remains a vital part of the Charis Fellowship's mission to make disciple-making disciples. Join pastors, church planters, and ministry leaders for an interactive discussion on the opportunities, challenges, and lessons being learned through church planting today. Together we'll explore practical strategies, multiplication pathways, leadership development, and ways local churches can cultivate a culture of church planting. Whether you are actively involved in planting churches or simply want to learn from others, you'll leave encouraged, equipped, and connected with fellow leaders across the Fellowship.

JEREMY BURY serves as the Lead Pastor for Marysville Grace Church in Marysville, Ohio.

Faith Meets the Future: Leveraging AI

WORKSHOP presented by JEREMY PIEHLER in the Studio

AI is a tool — not a replacement. Join Jeremy to learn how to use it wisely to enhance your effectiveness while staying grounded in the mission: helping people know and follow Jesus. Jeremy is an excellent communicator and you will walk away with a wealth of helpful information.

JEREMY PIEHLER serves as the Jefferson Campus Pastor for Grace Fellowship in Blacklick, Ohio.



One Hour One Book – The Book of Acts

*WORKSHOP presented by RANDALL SMITH *(also offered on tuesday) in the Main*

As Jesus departed, He gathered His men and entrusted them with an impossible mission: reach the world with His message. The command was staggering, but the Spirit's power was greater still. Generation after generation has traced their footsteps, studied their labors, and stood in awe of their accomplishments. This is the story of the Church's first days, overcoming huge hurdles and celebrating how God drew so many people to Himself through their witness. In one hour, we unpack their story and follow their footsteps through the Roman world.

DR. RANDALL SMITH serves as the Director of Christian Travel Study Programs and served as a Charis Fellowship pastor.

What is a Sexually Faithful Church?

WORKSHOP presented by MARK SANDERS in Room 2

This workshop is an overview of five different essential features of a sexually faithful church. Those features include moral integrity at the leadership level, the relational and spiritual culture of the church, proactive teaching and discipleship on matters of sexuality, redemptive ministry for those struggling with sexual sin or those impacted by it, and helping everyone in the church see how talking about sex is a theological and doxological matter that should lead to the worship of God.

MARK SANDERS serves as the President of Harvest USA.

Growing in Joy while Serving the Church

WORKSHOP facilitated by ADAM COPENHAVER in the Venue

For some ministry leaders, longevity in ministry leads to a decrease rather than an increase in joy. Ministry is hard, we grow weary, we suffer hurts and disappointments. As a result, our initial joy and enthusiasm can be displaced by apathy, bitterness, or even crankiness. But is this the inevitable outcome for us as we serve in ministry? Or is it possible to experience increasing joy as the years of our labor go by? This session will develop four principles for growing in joy from John 15:9–12, and we will apply those principles specifically to ministry leaders. We will discover that when Jesus says He intends for our joy to be full, He intends for this to be true of ministry leaders too!

DR. ADAM COPENHAVER serves as the Pastor for Grace Church of Mabton in Mabton, Wash.

Charis Retirement Plan & Guidestone

*WORKSHOP presented by DAVID JONES and JOEL RISTER *(also offered on Wednesday) in Room 3*

Retirement will be here before you know it. Join us to learn about GuideStone, the new provider for the Charis Fellowship retirement plan, and discover how the Fellowship's retirement benefits can help you prepare for the future. This workshop will provide an overview of the plan, explain key features and benefits, answer common questions, and offer practical guidance for retirement planning at every stage of life and ministry. Whether you are just getting started or nearing retirement, you'll leave with helpful insights and practical next steps for preparing wisely for the years ahead.

DAVID JONES serves as the CEO/Founder of Winona Wealth Management.

JOEL RISTER serves as the Senior Relationship Manager, Retirement Solutions – Guidestone.

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

Healthy Churches

ROUNDTABLE facilitated by BART BLAIR in Room 2

This roundtable discussion will unpack a three-fold framework of making, growing, and sending disciples to help our ministry move from a maintenance mindset to active health. Together, we'll collaborate on practical ways to implement this continuous discipleship loop and reverse the trends of stagnation within our unique community context.

BART BLAIR serves as the Director of Church Revitalization for Assist Church Expansion.

Thrive Pastors' Wives Ministries

ROUNDTABLE facilitated by MEG JOHNSON in Kids K-5 Area

"They devoted themselves...to prayer" (Acts 2:42). THRIVE sends out "A Sunday Morning Prayer For You" to pastors' wives each Sunday morning, but what might it look like to pray God's Word together and in person? Ministry wives are invited to join us for this special time set apart for getting to know, encourage, and pray for one another.

MEG JOHNSON serves as the Thrive Director for Charis Women.

Building Connected Communities: Using Digital Tools to Strengthen Relationships

ROUNDTABLE facilitated by PETE MONAST in Room 102

Strong churches are built on strong relationships — but fostering meaningful connection in today's world can be challenging. Join this interactive roundtable discussion as we explore how digital tools can help churches strengthen communication, deepen engagement, build community, and create pathways for discipleship and connection.

Together we'll discuss practical ways churches are using technology to connect people within their congregations, support ministry initiatives, and foster collaboration across groups, campuses, and networks. Whether your church is exploring new tools or looking to maximize existing platforms, this conversation will provide ideas, examples, and opportunities to learn from others seeking to build stronger, more connected ministry communities.

PETE MONAST serves as a Ministry Consultant for Subsplash, a digital engagement platform built for ministries.

Multiplying Your Ministry Through Writing and Publishing

ROUNDTABLE facilitated by JOSH ROLLINS and BARTLEY SAWATSKY in Room 4

Have you ever finished preparing a sermon or teaching a Bible study and thought, "I should write a book or article about that"? Many ministry leaders have valuable insights but never take the next step toward sharing them more broadly. Join this interactive roundtable as we discuss writing as an extension of ministry, explore practical tips for developing healthy writing habits, and encourage one another to turn God-given ideas into articles, books, and other resources that can strengthen the Church.

JOSH ROLLINS serves as the Lead Pastor at Newark Grace Church in Newark, Ohio, and contributes articles to Charis Connect.

BARTLEY SAWATSKY serves as the Lead Pastor of Renew Church in Milton, ON, Canada.



From Interest To Action: Master Volunteer Recruitment

WORKSHOP presented by ROTHEN BEDFORD in Room 1

As ministry leaders, we're always recruiting, and the health and effectiveness of our ministries are directly tied to the quality of our volunteer teams. This workshop will equip you with practical tools for attracting great volunteers and building teams so healthy, engaging, and mission-driven that they naturally attract others to serve alongside them. Together, we'll explore proven strategies for identifying potential leaders, creating a positive volunteer culture, increasing engagement, and developing sustainable teams.

ROTHEN BEDFORD serves as the Pastor of Student Ministry for Grace Fellowship in Pickerington, Ohio.

Navigating Core Tensions in Great Commission Pursuits

WORKSHOP presented by MIKE YODER in the Venue

Jesus calls His followers to take the Gospel to the nations. Local churches are central in that mission. Yet churches and the mission agencies which serve them face some unavoidable issues in that common calling. What is the heart of the Great Commission? What kind of workers are needed? What is the desired outcome? How long should it take? How do the church, agency, and worker partner together? What does financial transparency look like? Come explore answers as Encompass leaders help local churches like yours chart a fruitful path forward.

MIKE YODER serves as the Executive Director for Encompass World Partners.

The Art of Spirit Led Ministry

WORKSHOP facilitated by JEREMIAH OLSON in the Studio

We want our ministries to be led by the Holy Spirit — not just emotion, spontaneity, or atmosphere. Together we'll explore what that looks like in discipleship, leadership, worship, and organizational culture, and learn practical ways to steward ministries where the fruit, presence, and guidance of the Spirit are increasingly evident in both people and systems.

JEREMIAH OLSON serves as The Chapel Campus Pastor for Grace Fellowship, Pickerington, OH.

Moral Injury and the Care of Souls

WORKSHOP presented by GEORGE YOUSTRA and MARK PENFOLD in the Main

Some wounds are invisible, but no less devastating. Beneath the surface, many carry deep pain shaped not only by trauma, but by guilt, shame, betrayal, and spiritual anguish. This seminar will help pastors and ministry leaders understand moral injury, discern how it differs from PTSD, and respond with compassionate, Christ-centered care. In a world full of hidden wounds, the Church has a vital calling to speak hope, healing, forgiveness, and restoration. DR. GEORGE YOUSTRA (COL) is a retired Air Force Chaplain.

DR. MARK PENFOLD (COL) is a retired Army Chaplain and serves as the Endorsing Agent with Eagle Commission.

Protecting Your Ministry So You Can Focus on the Mission

WORKSHOP presented by KARL WILLIAMS in Room 3

Healthy churches are free to focus on making disciples when they are equipped to wisely navigate the practical challenges of ministry. Join representatives from Brotherhood Mutual for an informative and practical workshop designed specifically for Charis churches. This session will provide valuable resources and guidance on church safety, governance, legal considerations, risk management, and ministry protection. Whether you serve as a pastor, elder, board member, administrator, or ministry leader, you'll gain helpful insights and tools to strengthen your church's stewardship, safeguard its people and resources, and confidently pursue the mission God has entrusted to you.

KARL WILLIAMS serves as a Regional Director of National Partnerships at Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company.

THURSDAY MORNING

Charis Conversation

CHARIS FELLOWSHIP DELEGATES MEETING led by TIMOTHY SPRANKLE in the Main

You are invited to join us for our annual Charis family conversation. During this time we will celebrate Charis Fellowship highlights from the year, share important updates, discuss details and decisions relating to the Charis Fellowship, as well as learn about churches who are joining or in the process of joining the Charis Fellowship. Local church delegates who are attending Conference are encouraged to attend this annual meeting conversation. All voting this year will again take place online following the Conference.

DR. TIMOTHY SPRANKLE serves as the Charis Fellowship Executive Director.

The Unstoppable Gospel: From Their Context to Ours

WORKSHOP presented by RANDALL SMITH in the Studio

The apostles of Jesus carried the Gospel into a world saturated in paganism, scarred by infanticide, sustained by slavery, and shaped by myths of immoral and capricious gods who neither loved mankind nor modeled righteousness. Into this darkness came a small band of ordinary men proclaiming an extraordinary message: their Creator sent His Son to offer salvation to all. Against overwhelming odds, these men carried the Gospel into the public square and left us the gripping story of their method.

DR. RANDALL SMITH serves as the Director of Christian Travel Study Programs.

Legacy Leader Panel

PANEL DISCUSSION led by JIM BROWN, KEVIN PINKERTON, and BRUCE BARLOW in the Venue

We enter ministry with the intention to finish well. And yet some of us burn out, bottom out, or check out before we reach the end. Fortunately, we have many models in our Fellowship of leaders who have remained joyful, faithful, and healthy through decades of service. In this panel you will hear insights and stories from three pastors who, by God's grace, have stayed committed over the long haul.

JIM BROWN serves as the Lead Pastor for Grace Community Church in Goshen, Ind.

KEVIN PINKERTON serves as the Lead Pastor for Grace Community Church in Fremont, Ohio.

BRUCE BARLOW serves as the Seniors Pastor for Winona Lake Grace Church in Winona Lake, Ind.