

PRE- CONFERENCE WORKSHOP 1 | 9:00 AM

	Title & Speaker	Description
ADULT DISCIPLESHIP	From Curious to Committed: Curating a Discipleship Pathway <i>Scott Chrostek, Resurrection Executive Director of Ministries & Programs</i>	Discipleship is more than a program – it’s a journey. This dynamic workshop is designed to help ministry leaders create intentional pathways that guide people in their faith from curiosity to commitment.
CARE	Developing a Care Ministry for Churches of All Sizes <i>Claire Clough, Resurrection Congregational Care Lead Director</i> <i>Becca Andersen, Resurrection Care Central Lead Director</i>	Offering a space where individuals are nurtured and empowered to care for one another is central to Christian community and vital for retaining and engaging church members. However, the responsibility for care ministry shouldn’t fall solely on the pastor. Learn how embracing the Wesleyan concept of the "priesthood of all believers" and inviting lay people to serve in caring roles draws people into a deeper commitment to Christ, while ensuring no one feels forgotten or left behind. You'll leave with strategies for building a thriving, inclusive care ministry in any church.
	New Tricks: Reaching People with Pets <i>Gayle Fiser, Pinnacle View UMC</i> <i>Betsy Snyder, Pinnacle View UMC</i>	The human-animal bond is deeply significant to church and non-church people alike – people of all ages, all economic backgrounds, all races, and even across a divided society. Discover how important pets are to people – family to many – and how to be in ministry with people who love pets, may want to serve in ministry with their pets, and want to serve people in their community. Learn how pet ministry can be evangelism, pastoral care, discipleship, mission, and creation care.
KIDS & FAMILY	A Strategic Approach to Children and Family Ministry <i>Jason Gant, Resurrection Kids Lead Director</i>	Develop a vision and strategy for reaching and engaging young families in your community. Explore what are they hoping for when it comes to connecting with faith and the church. Learn how to meet them where they are and engage them in a wholistic life of discipleship.
LEADERSHIP & OPERATIONS	The Right Questions <i>Lovett H Weems, Jr., Lewis Center for Church Leadership</i> <i>*Repeats at 1:30 PM</i>	In our search for answers, we must begin with the right questions. Join one of the Church’s most revered leaders to learn what makes a question “right” and how wise questioning can transform your church. You’ll leave with a handful of crucial questions to ponder with your team back home.
	The Admin-Leader Connection: Unlocking Full Potential Through Collaboration <i>Stephanie Hubers, Resurrection Executive Assistant to Senior Pastor</i>	Designed for administrative professionals and the executive leaders or pastors they support. You'll receive practical strategies for strengthening collaboration, enhancing communication, and unlocking the full potential of both Admin and leader. Use the provided insights and tools to foster a more effective working relationship, improve productivity, streamline workflows, and create a thriving, successful ministry environment.

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MISSION	Partnering with Purpose: How God's People Can Support and Impact Public Schools <i>Cristen Summers, Resurrection Leawood Mission Engagement Director;</i> <i>Carol Cartmill, Resurrection Missions Lead Director</i>	A collaborative discussion with church staff and volunteers on how to effectively support and engage with local public schools. We'll explore the history of Resurrection school partnerships and share current efforts we support. We will also suggest ways your church, no matter its size, can work with your local public school to engage volunteers in mutually life-changing service and building relationships of trust.
STUDENT MINISTRY	New to Youth Ministry <i>Amy Fletcher, Resurrection West Student Ministries Director</i>	If you are new to your role in youth ministry or you are attending Leadership Institute for the first time, this may be the place for you. Learn in a roundtable format from those that have gone before you.
	Translating Resurrection for Your Context - Student Ministry <i>Megan DelGrosso, Resurrection Leawood Student Ministries Director</i>	Do you come to Leadership Institute and say, "Yeah. That's fine for Resurrection. But I can't do that at my church." We get it. It is hard to translate activities, curriculum and best practices. We do it weekly at Resurrection in student ministry. Our smallest youth group averages 15-20 students (they used to be smaller). We have launched two youth ministries from scratch. We have nine different locations that span all sizes and configurations of youth group and Sunday School. Some don't have enough critical mass to begin a formal youth ministry yet. So, come and find out how we translate the same activities, curriculum and best practices to fit all of the varying shapes and sizes of youth groups.
WORSHIP & COMMUNICATIONS	AI Discipleship: How to Use AI to Grow Your Ministry and Maximize Your Impact <i>Matt Williams, Resurrection Digital Engagement Team Director</i>	Explore how AI can amplify your church's message while staying true to your mission AND saving you time. Be ready for hands-on learning that will give you practical skills for using AI to create meaningful content that informs, inspires, and equips your congregation in today's digital world. Includes demonstrations, case studies, and ready-to-use, copy-and-paste prompts that you can start using immediately. Though AI can be overwhelming at first, this fast-track path will have you leveraging the power of AI to increase your effectiveness, improve your efficiency, and grow your ministry impact through AI-powered digital discipleship.
	Beyond the Walls: Sharing Your Message with Your Community <i>Cathy Bien, Resurrection PR & Special Projects Lead Director</i>	In a time of fear, polarization and uncertainty, our communities need the church's message of love and hope. Explore a variety of ways local churches can engage with their communities and model Jesus' command to love our neighbors. From kindness campaigns to community serve days, hosted events to partnerships, we'll share ideas and tools that you can use to empower your congregation to become the light that shines in the darkness.

PRE- CONFERENCE WORKSHOP 2 | 10:45 AM

	Title & Speaker	Description
ADULT DISCIPLESHIP	The Art of Invitation: Connecting Women through Ministry <i>Lauren Cook, Resurrection Entry Points Director</i>	Unlock the power of invitation to cultivate both evangelism and vibrant women's ministry in your church. Discover how to build dynamic women's groups that naturally empower women to share their faith. Explore practical strategies and real-life examples of demographic-based groups that connect women through shared interests and life stages. Learn how to equip your women to become confident inviters, building bridges to the non- and nominally religious and strengthening your church community from within.
	Flawed and Faithful <i>Lisa Toney, Hope International University</i> <i>*Repeats at 3:15 PM</i>	Leaders often compare themselves to others and put pressure on themselves to do everything right. This can quickly lead to discouragement, stress, burnout, and feelings of inadequacy. Learn how to grow through your mistakes, authentically release the need to measure up to others, and focus on your unique calling as a leader who is flawed but – faithful.
CARE	The Resilient Church: Trauma- Informed Care for Community Wellbeing <i>Rebeca Chow, Resurrection Clinical Counseling & Mental Health Director</i>	Care ministers and pastors are often a first point of contact for people facing mental health challenges. Gain practical tools for providing trauma-informed support to individuals experiencing stress, anxiety, grief, or crisis. Learn how to hold space for others, provide meaningful support without overextending yourself, and create a culture of care that fosters resilience and healing – for both your community and yourself.
KIDS & FAMILY	Engaging Volunteers in Kid's Ministry <i>Nick Ransom, Resurrection Leawood Kids Director</i>	Volunteers are the heartbeat of any kid's ministry! We'll explore best practices for recruiting, training, and appreciating volunteers in your ministry.
LEADERSHIP & OPERATIONS	Both/And Church <i>Matt Miofsky, The Gathering</i> <i>*Repeats at 3:15 PM</i>	Churches often feel they have to decide between being evangelical and progressive; invitational and fully inclusive. But Scripture calls the church to be both. Learn the 7 qualities of a church that is both invitational and fully inclusive from a leader with tried and tested expertise. You'll leave with practical, proven methods and ideas for how to implement them in your church. Yes, you can be progressive <i>and</i> evangelical, and grow because of it!
	Facilities Tour <i>Matt Kelly, Resurrection Facilities & Construction Lead Director</i>	This walking tour will give you a firsthand look behind the scenes of Resurrection's Leawood location. You will see critical systems that make ministry possible and might even get a close-up view of the stained-glass window. There are LOTS of steps and stairs in the tour, so be prepared for some exercise.

PRE- CONFERENCE WORKSHOP 2 | 10:45 AM

	Title & Speaker	Description
MISSION	DEIB Today <i>Cheryl Jefferson Bell, Resurrection Community Justice Pastor</i>	The world is changing, but Jesus' message of love and inclusion for ALL God's children remains steadfast. Learn how to navigate Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging in today's uncertain climate.
STUDENT MINISTRY	Caring for Volunteers <i>Mikiala Tennie, Resurrection Student Discipleship Director</i>	You either have volunteers helping you run your ministry or you are a volunteer responsible for the ministry. What do you do? How do you care for one another and still get the job of discipling done? Discover great methods and best practices for caring for volunteers. And in the process, you will be cared for also.
WORSHIP & COMMUNICATIONS	Purveyors of Awe: Curating Delightful Events as an Antidote to Anxiety <i>Marcia McFee, Worship Design Studio</i>	Dr. Marcia McFee will share fascinating research into the benefits for our well-being of experiencing awe. She'll offer ideas for easy-to-curate events filled with delight and meaning such as street wisdom walks, candlelight concerts, offline clubs, longest table dinners, and more. Scientists are affirming what mystics and biblical poets knew all along – awe is good for us. In a time of heightened anxiety, we have the opportunity to curate awe-filled experiences in our churches and for the greater community that can help us not just stay alive, but be alive.
	Sanctuary Back Stage Tour (With optional catwalk tour) <i>James Holt, Resurrection Video & Lighting Technical Director</i> <i>Layna Shrout, Resurrection Communications Specialist</i>	Guided tour of all the back-of-house audio, video and lighting technology in Resurrection's Leawood sanctuary. We will end up in the control room for more detailed discussion. After that, an optional tour of the "Skybox," lighting catwalk, and maybe even behind the art glass window...Wear comfortable walking shoes!
	Unlocking the Science of Messages that Stick <i>Jason Moore, Author, Speaker and Trainer</i> <i>*Repeats at 3:15 PM</i>	Come away with creative tools and practices – informed by the neuroscience behind learning and memory – that will enhance the inspiration and retention of your message – whether in sermons, campaigns, leadership development, or discipleship.

PRE- CONFERENCE WORKSHOP 3 | 1:30 PM

	Title & Speaker	Description
ADULT DISCIPLESHIP	Ministry that Equips: A Blueprint for Helping Young Adults Thrive <i>Sierra Glaser, Resurrection Young Adults & College Program Director</i> <i>Lauren Cook, Resurrection Entry Points Director</i>	Young adult ministry goes far beyond simply filling seats or pews – it’s about equipping the next generation with the tools they need to thrive both in life and faith. We’ll explore how church leaders can build a comprehensive ministry that empowers young adults with life skills like building relationships, developing resiliency, and engaging in conflict – practical tools that are also deeply connected to a thriving life of faith.
CARE	Presence: Ministry with the Elderly <i>Emily Stirewalt, Resurrection Silver Link Pastor</i> <i>Madison Brown, Resurrection Silver Link Coordination Director</i>	Showing up. Staying. Being present in the moment. When it comes to the frail and elderly among us, presence is your ministry. Designed for volunteers and leaders who want to connect with the oldest saints among us and make sure they feel a part of the church community, even if they are unable to be physically present.
KIDS & FAMILY	Disability Ministry - Birth through 60 & Beyond <i>Marna Terblanche, Resurrection Matthew's Ministry Director</i> <i>Ann Joyner, Matthew's Mom & Ministry Advocate</i> <i>Jessica Davis, PhD, Resurrection Adult Learning Program Director</i>	From birth, to supporting special education in schools, to providing meaningful and enriching opportunities for adults with diverse abilities, you’ll be equipped to create a special needs ministry that magnifies God’s glory in your community.
LEADERSHIP & OPERATIONS	The Right Questions <i>Lovett H Weems, Jr, Lewis Center for Church Leadership</i> <i>*Repeats at 9:00 AM</i>	In our search for answers, we must begin with the right questions. Join one of the Church’s most revered leaders to learn what makes a question “right” and how wise questioning can transform your church. You’ll leave with a handful of crucial questions to ponder with your team back home.
	Church Governance <i>Dan Entwistle, Resurrection Senior Executive Director & COO</i>	Vital churches have healthy leadership structures wired to navigate the congregation in strategic directions. Yet many churches have become accustomed to “business as usual” with boards, committees, and councils that consume energy and diminish the potential of the local church. Learn how Resurrection is governed, how we select lay people to serve in elected positions, and how we make the important distinction between the work of committees and the work of ministry teams and staff.
	Inspiring Generosity: Donor Development & Giving Strategies <i>Debi Nixon, Resurrection Executive Director of Donor Development</i> <i>Gwyn Thomas, Resurrection Donor Relations Specialist</i>	Join the Resurrection Donor Development Team for an overview of strategies to inspire generosity. During this breakout, we will share practical learnings you can implement within your own context by exploring annual stewardship campaign, planned giving, and special asks – including Resurrection’s Christmas Eve strategy of giving away 100% of the offering every year. You will come away with practical, actionable ideas for inspiring a culture of generosity that makes a greater kingdom impact.

PRE- CONFERENCE WORKSHOP 3 | 1:30 PM

	Title & Speaker	Description
MISSION	Short Term Mission Trips - Breaking Bad <i>Sheree Reece, Resurrection Global Missions Director - Africa, Asia & Haiti</i> <i>Hugo Ngwira, Resurrection Global Partner</i> <i>Alec Fox, Resurrection Latin America & Disaster Response Program Director</i>	Short-term mission trips have gotten a bad rap, but are they all damaging? Personal transformation can only happen through relational investment, and we all need to be transformed. Plus, God calls us to go out into the world, not only to serve in our own neighborhoods around the U.S. But, how do we ensure we do it well? An interactive conversation with Resurrection staff and partners, along with other participants, focused on best practices for serving globally.
	Engaging Student Leadership <i>Steve Schneeberger, Resurrection Students Lead Director</i>	How do you give students agency to lead? It is more of a process than a silver bullet. Come and find out some best practices and how they might fit in your church.
STUDENT MINISTRY	Retreats that Matter <i>Todd Davidson, Resurrection Leawood Student Ministries Director</i>	There's more than one way to do a retreat. Discover some different methods to plan and execute meaningful experiences for students.
	Digital Media Ministry on a Budget: Websites, Social Media and Newsletters Made Simple <i>Matt Williams, Resurrection Digital Engagement Team Director</i>	Digital media is essential for your church in 2025. But, how do you manage a website, multiple social media accounts, and email newsletters with a limited budget and no staff? Learn simple but effective strategies for your website, social media, and email newsletters that don't require technical expertise, a huge budget, or multiple staff.
WORSHIP & COMMUNICATIONS	Studio C Tour & Tech Talk <i>Sandy Thailing, Resurrection Video & Tech Production Team Director</i> <i>Kersee Meyer, Resurrection Video Team Director</i> <i>James Felver, Resurrection Online & Broadcast Creative Production Director</i> <i>Mike Lind, Resurrection Video Producer</i>	Join us in Studio-C as we explore our studio and answer your questions on: how to use green screen, how to light a simple interview, what tools to use for streaming, what is multi-camera live switching, and how to get better sound in your productions. Includes a hands-on demonstration of Blackmagic's Ursa cameras and switcher.
	Using Creativity and Relationships to Expand Your Music Ministry <i>Isaac Cates, Resurrection Director of Music Outreach/Worship Leader</i>	Does your music programming feel stuck? We'll discuss ways you can enhance and grow your music ministry by building relationships and connections across your wider community, as well as how to move past either/or thinking related to the labels of traditional and modern music. You'll leave with practical ideas for blending multiple styles of music, using your programming as an outreach tool, and tools for developing experiences that impact the culture of your local congregation and promote volunteer growth. We'll also share resources to help further your personal music knowledge.

PRE- CONFERENCE WORKSHOP 4 | 3:15 PM

	Title & Speaker	Description
ADULT DISCIPLESHIP	Be Known and Do Good: Creating Healthy Small Group Communities that Make an Impact <i>Justin Schoolcraft, Resurrection Leawood Adult Discipleship Director</i>	With social isolation, political polarization, and technological innovation at an all-time high, our congregants (and ministry leaders, too) struggle to form meaningful relationships in a chaotic world. However, the cultivation of Christian relationships is an essential piece of faith formation for any person. Through experimentation, mistakes, and risks, Resurrection has found life in our small group ministry by placing the wellbeing of each group member front and center. We'll cover casting appropriate vision, developing healthy group facilitators, and growing in fruitful outcomes – all towards the end of communities that leave places of comfort to make an impact in the world.
	Flawed and Faithful <i>Lisa Toney, Hope International University</i> <i>*Repeats at 10:45 AM</i>	Leaders often compare themselves to others and put pressure on themselves to do everything right. This can quickly lead to discouragement, stress, burnout, and feelings of inadequacy. Learn how to grow through your mistakes, authentically release the need to measure up to others, and focus on your unique calling as a leader who is flawed but – faithful.
CARE	Recovery Ministry: Sharing Experience, Strength and Hope! <i>Bethany DePugh, Resurrection Recovery Ministries Coordination Director</i> <i>Jenifer Schultz, Resurrection Brookside Mission Engagement Pastor</i>	Learn how to provide recovery support in three critical areas: individual recovery, family recovery, and harm reduction. Leave with knowledge, tools and national resources for ministry in your community. Discussion and questions are welcome as we grapple with often vexing aspects of recovery ministry!
KIDS & FAMILY	Behind the Scenes of Nursery and Early Childhood Programming <i>Emily Donigan, Resurrection Leawood Kids Nursery Director</i>	Explore Nursery and Early Childhood spaces at Resurrection's Leawood location. You'll hear about programming for this age range and leave with practical ideas for your ministry.
LEADERSHIP & OPERATIONS	Both/And Church <i>Matt Miofsky, The Gathering</i> <i>*Repeats at 10:45AM</i>	Churches often feel they have to decide between being evangelical and progressive; invitational and fully inclusive. But Scripture calls the church to be both. Learn the 7 qualities of a church that is both invitational and fully inclusive from a leader with tried and tested expertise. You'll leave with practical, proven methods and ideas for how to implement them in your church. Yes, you can be progressive <i>and</i> evangelical, and grow because of it!
	Building Blocks of Employee Engagement <i>Janelle Gregory, Resurrection Human Resources Lead Director</i> <i>Mary Murray, Resurrection Human Resources Specialist</i>	According to Gallup, 70% of the variance in team engagement is determined solely by the manager. We'll discuss how to build employee engagement by using key tools such as creating clear expectations, effective one-on-one meetings, performance reviews and more.

PRE- CONFERENCE WORKSHOP 4 | 3:15 PM

	Title & Speaker	Description
LEADERSHIP & OPERATIONS	AI in the Church: Practical Wisdom for Ministry Leaders <i>Clif Guy, Resurrection Information Technology Lead Director</i> <i>Mike Hannah, Resurrection IT Infrastructure Team Director</i>	How will artificial intelligence transform church leadership and ministry in the coming years? Explore the broader implications of this revolutionary technology for faith communities. You'll learn a balanced, theologically informed approach to AI that acknowledges both its remarkable potential and inherent challenges. We'll examine how AI affects pastoral roles, administrative functions, congregational care, evangelism, and discipleship while providing practical advice to help your church navigate this technological shift with wisdom and discernment. Leave equipped to steward these powerful tools in ways that enhance your ministry effectiveness while remaining faithful to your calling and community.
MISSION	Engaging Volunteers in Missions <i>Justin Burnett, Resurrection Leawood Mission Engagement Director</i>	Learn principles for engaging people in the mission of God's church in the world. Anchored by best practices for recruiting, onboarding, and retaining volunteers, this will also cover techniques for utilizing spiritual gifts and mitigating conflict between individuals in the church.
STUDENT MINISTRY	Survey Says - Student Ministry <i>Steve Schneeberger, Resurrection Students Lead Director</i>	We surveyed past participants on what they wanted to learn and/or discuss at Leadership Institute. And we may even survey you before you arrive. We've discovered a lot of interesting topics this way. We will use a panel and group discussion to address many of the things expressed in the survey results. And if we miss anything, shout out a topic at the end and we will talk about that, too!
WORSHIP & COMMUNICATIONS	Sensory-Rich Worship for Unforgettable Messages <i>Marcia McFee, Worship Design Studio</i>	Dr. Marcia McFee will share her time-tested strategies for creating and sustaining sensory-rich worship that offers unforgettable messages each and every week for churches of any size, worship style and budget. Learn how insights from filmmakers, art directors, screenwriters, composers, cinematographers, and directors have helped her hone theories and practices that attract and ignite volunteers as they gain skills for every worship art.
	Unlocking the Science of Messages that Stick <i>Jason Moore, Author, Speaker and Trainer</i> <i>*Repeats at 10:45 AM</i>	Come away with creative tools and practices – informed by the neuroscience behind learning and memory – that will enhance the inspiration and retention of your message – whether in sermons, campaigns, leadership development, or discipleship.

FEATURED SESSIONS

Title	Description
Creating a Culture of Generosity <i>Matt Miofsky, The Gathering</i>	Do you see a need in your church, have a creative idea for ministry, or want to move forward with a plan only to run into the problem of funding? While ministry ought to shape our finances, in many churches, finances shape what is possible in ministry. To move forward in ministry, we need to learn how to engage new generations of people in conversations about generosity and create a culture of giving in our churches that can accelerate ministry instead of holding it back. Creating this culture is especially important during economically uncertain times. Receive practical and achievable ideas for approaching generosity in new ways, along with the building blocks for creating a culture of generosity in your church. You'll see how these principles work, why they work, and most importantly how to immediately begin implementing them in your own ministry setting.
Holding Space for Healing: Navigating Political Trauma in Church Life <i>Rebeca Chow, Resurrection Clinical Counseling & Mental Health Director</i>	When people feel stressed or unsafe, it's hard to think clearly or have calm conversations – especially about sensitive topics. Many churches feel worn down by political division, and leaders often carry the emotional weight. Learn about why people sometimes shut down, get defensive, or react strongly during conflict and how stress affects how we connect. You'll find simple ways to help people (and yourself) feel safer and more grounded so you can lead hard conversations with more calm, compassion, and clarity.
The Art of Hospitality <i>Yvonne Gentile, Resurrection Guest Experience & ShareChurch Lead Director;</i> <i>Debi Nixon, Resurrection Executive Director of Donor Development</i>	Engaging worship and intentional follow-up are important, but what compels guests to return to our churches is the warmth of our welcome and hospitality that goes beyond their expectations. Learn time-tested methods for creating a culture that delivers exceptional guest experiences. You'll leave with practical, effective tips and tools that can be used in churches of all sizes.
When the Faith Community Leads: Our Toughest Challenges Get Seen and Solved <i>Kaye Monk-Morgan, Kansas Leadership Center</i>	The world we live in has its challenges. Many of them have plagued humanity since its inception and others have been created as the human race has matured. What does it look like to be a church with a presence in the community, and what role does leadership play in our service? Participants will learn to see their role in addressing community concerns to achieve our collective aspirations.