



**healthy teams.
effective ministry.
thriving churches.**

**CHURCH
TEAMS
CONF**

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26

5:30 PM // Registration

7:00 PM // Opening Session w/ Gene Roncone

8:30 PM // Team Huddles

SATURDAY, AUGUST 27

8:30 AM // Morning Session

9:00 AM // Breakout 1

10:00 AM // Breakout 2

11:00 AM // Breakout 3 (Lunch 1)

12:00 PM // Breakout 4 (Lunch 2)

1:00 PM // Closing Session w/ Gene Roncone

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

KIDS MINISTRY

“Effective Early Childhood Ministry” // Deeanna Yelder // Room 301

Learn from Deeanna Yelder the principles and steps for effective nursery and preschool ministry. As the Kids Pastor at their Chapelhill Church Atlanta campus, Deeanna knows how to provide care and nurture to young children and families, helping them experience God’s love and presence in a foundational way.

“Gender Specific Kids Ministry” // Amy Bilslund // Room 308

Learn from Amy Bilslund the important reasons why kids thrive in gender specific ministries and how to add gender specific opportunities to your kids’ ministry. Amy is Family Life Pastor at Christ Chapel Sportstowne in Macon and the Georgia District Girls Ministries Coordinator.

“The Discipleship Dilemma” // Russell Smith // Room 310

Many churches have limited opportunities, leaders, and/or resources to truly disciple kids. Russell Smith looks forward to brainstorming with you how to creatively and consistently engage kids in the discipleship process. Russell serves as the Georgia District KidMin Director and has 27 years of children’s ministry experience.

“What Families Really Want” // Jeremy Williams // Room 304

When it comes to your kids’ ministry, first impressions make a lasting impression. Jeremy Williams will explore with you the elements most important to every family, but especially new families and guests. Jeremy has been in children’s ministry for 16 years and is presently the Associate & Kids Pastor at First Assembly in Dallas.

“Creative Teaching Methods 1” // David Boyd // Room 306

In this 2 part session, David Boyd will focus on various creative teaching methods which grab kids’ attention and make the Bible come alive. David has served the Assemblies of God National Office for 23 years, first as KidMin Director and now as the BGMC Director.

“The Digital Toolbox” // Nicole Howard // Room 302

Technology can be your friend in ministry to kids and families. Learn from Nicole Howard how

to effectively use apps, social media, and other digital tools to communicate with, disciple and reach kids and families. At Only 1 Church, Nicole oversees and implements digital ministry for nursery through college-aged students.

STUDENT MINISTRY

“Meet in the Middle” // Marquelle Womack // Room 513

They seem all over the place, but at their core are souls that are longing for identity. Find out from Marquelle Womack, Middle School Pastor of The Assembly at Warner Robins, how to connect with Middle School students in a meaningful and lasting way.

“Missions Mindset” // Johnny Mendoza // Room 515

Missions Trips have a potential impact way beyond the trips themselves. The moments before, during, and after are all crucial and, if handled correctly, can shift the culture of your youth ministry. Johnny Mendoza, Georgia District Youth Director, wants to share with you what he has learned about how to leverage these opportunities.

“Effective Events” // Zach Phinazee // Room 512

Zach Phinazee, Youth Pastor of Christ Community Church in Cumming, has discovered that one big night can change everything. It's about more than a party; it's also about being a part of something bigger than you.

“Doing Discipleship” // Andrew Tedder // Room 514

Discipleship is done, not taught. Learn with The Tabernacle Church's Next Gen Pastor, Andrew Tedder, how to successfully do life with this generation and lead them in following Jesus.

“Parents are People Too” // Chase Tillman // Room 500

We are not called to be babysitters, but we're called to partner with parents and serve families. Some patience may be required. Chase Tillman, Youth Pastor at Redemption Church in Rome, looks forward to passing along what he has learned about great parent relationships.

“Campus Connection” // Jessica Riner // Room 510

The campus is a mission field wide open to our students. Campus clubs and sports teams are great connection points. Jessica Riner, Georgia Youth Alive Director, wants to help you equip your students to reach this mission field.

ADULTS/GENERAL

“Women's Ministry: Lets Get Practical” // Panel Discussion // Room 307

Pam Freeman of Griffin First Assembly, Ronnin Gabbard of Vidalia First Assembly, and Kristi Steffens, District Women's Ministries Director, will discuss generational ministry, team building, creating culture, and event ideas. They will also take your questions, so you get all the practical help you need.

“How Small Groups Accomplish the Great Commission” // Grant Collins // Cafeteria

Let's be honest, small groups are not easy. They're time consuming, risky, and not always helpful. Grant Collins, Pastor of Fountain City Church in Columbus, will share why groups are important, and offer practical tools and tips to get them going, regardless of church size.

WORSHIP/ CREATIVE

“Building (& Supplementing) a Worship Team from Scratch” // Josh Lopez // Rm 501

If you are wondering where to begin in building a worship team, and how to fill in the gaps until you have all the players you need, this session is for you. Josh Lopez is the Worship Pastor at Evangel Community Church in Snellville and he will share with you what he learned building a team for a church plant.

“Crafting a Lifechanging Sun. Worship Experience” // R. Morway & J. Mills // Rm 502

You don't have to sacrifice creativity and excellence to be led by the Spirit as a worship leader. Jonah and Rachel, who lead worship at North Highland in Columbus will show you how to put together a worship experience that engages people and exalts Jesus.

GUEST EXPERIENCE

“How to Make the Most of Special Days and Events” // Dr. Jason Puckett // Room 503

There are certain dates on the calendar, and events in the life of your church, that are perfect for welcoming first-time guests. Dr. Jason Pucket, Lead Pastor of The Connection in Thomasville, will tell you what they are and how to capitalize on them.

“Making a Great First Impression” // Melanie Bramlett // Room 806

Your guests make lightening-fast decisions about your church. In the first 10 minutes, they will decide whether they will return. Melanie Bramlett, the Connections Pastor at Christ Chapel Zebulon, will help you put your best foot forward.

“What is your Building Saying to Guests?” // Joe Gabbard // Student Center

Did you know your church building can talk? Be sure your property and facilities are saying what you want them to say. Joe Gabbard, Pastor of Vidalia First Assembly, will show you how.

“Effective Guest Follow-up” // Christa Shepherd // Room 808

Guest follow-up is a huge opportunity to build a memorable connection, so it is crucial to develop a process and carry it out each week. Christa Shepherd of The Assembly at Warner Robins, will help you maximize this follow-up with creativity and authenticity.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

“Rural Outreach” // Wayne Lenderman // Room 105

Communities come in all shapes and sizes. What outreach ideas work well in small towns and rural areas? Wayne Lenderman, Lead Pastor of Church in the Orchard of Fort Valley, will share what he has learned about effective outreach.

“Creative Ways to Engage Your Community” // Shell Osbon // Room 106

Pastor Shell Osbon, Lead Pastor of Life Church in Smyrna, will share proven ways to form partnerships in your community that will raise your congregations profile and increase its impact.

BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATION

“Where to Start When Considering a Construction Project” // Dr. Billy Thomas // 504

If you are thinking about remodeling or building a new facility, where do you begin? Dr. Billy Thomas, Director of Church Mobilization in Springfield, knows how overwhelming a construction project can be. He will share what he learned as Pastor of Life Church in Perry.

“Church Budgeting 101” // Richard Azbell // Room 309

Proper budgeting can help your church deal with present realities and prepare for future possibilities. Learn simple approaches from Richard Azbell, CFO of The Assembly at Warner Robins.

LEAD PASTORS TRACK

“Staff Development & Team Building” // Gene Roncone // Choir Room

Many church leaders are so focused on getting the most out of their staff that they completely miss their role of investing in their staff. Special guest, Gene Roncone, will equip you to improve your team’s health and morale.

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

KIDS MINISTRY

“Creating a Heart of Compassion in Kids” // David Boyd // Room 306

Learn how to intentionally disciple kids to become compassionate, mission-minded, and others-centered, seeing the world through God’s eyes. David Boyd has served the Assemblies of God National Office for 23 years, first as KidMin Director and now as the BGMC Director.

“Gender Specific Kids Ministry” // Steve and Amy Bilsland // Room 308

Learn from Amy Bilsland the important reasons why kids thrive in gender specific ministries and how to add gender specific opportunities to your kids’ ministry. Amy is Family Life Pastor at Christ Chapel Sportstowne in Macon and the Georgia District Girls Ministries Coordinator.

“Building a Winning Children’s Ministry Team” // Russell Smith // Room 310

When it comes to sports, recruiting is only part of the process. The same is true when it comes to volunteers. This session will help you learn how to gain, train, and retain volunteers for your kids’ ministry team. Russell Smith serves as the Georgia District KidMin Director and has 27 years of children’s ministry experience.

“What Families Really Want” // Jeremy Williams // Room 304

When it comes to your kids’ ministry, first impressions make a lasting impression. Jeremy Williams will explore with you the elements most important to every family, but especially new families and guests. Jeremy has been in children’s ministry for 16 years and is presently the Associate & Kids Pastor at First Assembly in Dallas.

“The Digital Toolbox” // Nicole Howard // Room 302

Technology can be your friend in ministry to kids and families. Learn from Nicole Howard how to effectively use apps, social media, and other digital tools to communicate with, disciple and reach kids and families. At Only 1 Church, Nicole oversees and implements digital ministry for nursery through college-aged students.

“Using Events Inside & Outside the Walls” // Kyle Semple // Room 301

It is equally important to reach families inside the church as it is to reach families outside the church. Kyle Semple, Kids Pastor at Nations Church in Athens, will explore various, simple events which can impact your church and your community.

STUDENT MINISTRY

“Effective Events” // Zach Phinazee // Room 512

Zach Phinazee, Youth Pastor of Christ Community Church in Cumming, has discovered that one big night can change everything. It's about more than a party; it's also about being a part of something bigger than you.

“Highs and Lows” // Blake Edwards // Room 513

Purpose, priorities, and pimples. High schoolers really do experience so many mountains and valleys and it's up to us to lead them down a path that they won't want to leave. Blake Edwards, Student Pastor at The Assembly at Warner Robins, can help you navigate these highs and lows with them.

“Volunteers that Last” // Johnny Mendoza // Room 515

Chaperones and chefs are great, but this generation needs servant leaders that are in it for the long haul. Learn from Johnny Mendoza, Georgia District Youth Director, how to build a team that will support your vision and your students.

“Missions Fun(ds)” // Phil Wortz // Room 510

When done right, sacrificial giving by students can look less like sacrifice and more like fun. Phil Wortz, Youth Pastor of First Assembly in Lincolnton, can show you how to make the shift from “I have to” give to “I get to” give.

“Parents are People Too” // Chase Tillman // Room 500

We are not called to be babysitters, but we're called to partner with parents and serve families. Some patience may be required. Chase Tillman, Youth Pastor at Redemption Church in Rome, looks forward to passing along what he has learned about great parent relationships.

ADULTS/GENERAL MINISTRY

“Mobilizing the Men in Your Church” // Tracy Jantz // Student Center

Effective ministry to men is vital to the health of any church. Because every church and every community is different, men's ministry may take different shapes, but Tracy Jantz, Executive Pastor of The Assembly in Warner Robins, will share the essentials.

“What You Need to Know About Reaching Young Adults” // Caleb Tedder // Room 514

Everyone seems to be talking about millennials and zoomers. Each generation is complex, and many church leaders are wondering how best to minister to young adults. Caleb Tedder, Young Adults Pastor of Tabernacle Church in Decatur, will share what young adults need from church.

“How Small Groups Accomplish the Great Commission” // Grant Collins // Cafeteria

Let’s be honest, small groups are not easy. They’re time consuming, risky, and not always helpful. Grant Collins, Pastor of Fountain City Church in Columbus, will share why groups are important, and offer practical tools and tips to get them going, regardless of church size.

“Developing a Healthy Discipleship Process” // Mark Northcutt // Room 501

What does it look like to make disciples in the digital age? Mark Northcutt, former long-time pastor in Athens, will outline the essential elements of healthy discipleship in any generation.

“How to Start a Recovery Ministry” // Terry Theus // Room 307

Terry Theus leads Celebrate Recovery at The Assembly at Warner Robins, and he will help you understand the steps in developing a ministry for those struggling with hurt, pain, or addiction of any kind.

WORSHIP/ CREATIVE MINISTRY

“Taking Your Church’s Online Presence to the Next Level“ // Brandon Crook // 503

Social media is here to stay and growing faster than ever. With so many tools at our fingertips to reach people online, where do you even start? Brandon Crook, Lead Pastor of Beacon Church Online, will help you improve your online presence no matter your church size.

“The Makings of an MVP Worship Team Member” // Bryon & Rachel Beesley // 309

Is talent enough? What are the other qualities that make for a great band member? Bryon & Rachel Beesley, Worship Pastors at Stone Edge Church in Macon, will help you know how to identify and develop these characteristics in your team members.

“Crafting a Lifechanging Sun. Worship Experience” // R. Morway & J. Mills // Rm 502

As a worship leader, you don’t have to sacrifice creativity and excellence to be led by the Spirit. Jonah and Rachel, who lead worship at North Highland in Columbus, will show you how to put together a worship experience that engages people and exalts Jesus.

GUEST EXPERIENCE

“The Basics of Church Security” // Greg Armes // Room 504

How can the church be open to all, yet prepared for the violent attacks that sadly have become a reality in our nation? This session, led by Greg Armes, who leads the security team at The Assembly at Warner Robins, will share simple steps to keeping worshipers safe.

“Making a Great First Impression” // Melanie Bramlett // Room 806

Your guests make lightening-fast decisions about your church. In the first 10 minutes, they will decide whether they will return. Melanie Bramlett, the Connections Pastor at Christ Chapel Zebulon, will help you put your best foot forward.

“Effective Guest Follow-up” // Christa Shepherd // Room 808

Guest follow-up is a huge opportunity to build a memorable connection, so it is crucial to develop a process and carry it out each week. Christa Shepherd of The Assembly at Warner Robins, will help you maximize this follow-up with creativity and authenticity.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

“Creative Outreach Ideas on a Budget” // Justin Wright // Room 106

Justin Wright, Logistics Coordinator at the Georgia Resource Center, will provide proven outreach ideas, as well as information about how to access free supplies for these events from the Georgia Resource Center.

“What’s Missing In Your Missions Program?” // Joey Ellis // Room 105

Is there more your church could be doing to support missionaries and reach the world? Joey Ellis, Lead Pastor of Stone Edge Church and former missionary to India, will describe the important components of a fully-formed missions program.

LEAD PASTORS TRACK

“Effective Preaching” // J. Skipper, R. Wiseman & D. Yarbrough // Choir Room

For every pastor, preaching the gospel is both a joy and a constant challenge. We all want to grow in this area, but most of us feel lost about how to improve. This panel of great communicators with varying styles will share what they have learned about the preparation and delivery of effective messages.

BREAKOUT 3 // 11:00-11:50 AM (LUNCH 1)

KIDS MINISTRY

“Kids Leading Kids” // Sarah Reeves // Room 301

Discipling children involves teaching them to actively serve in the church. Sarah Reeves, Kids Pastor at Evangel Church in Columbus, will discuss how to develop servant leadership in your upper elementary aged kids to be the church of today, not just the church of tomorrow.

“The Discipleship Dilemma” // Russell Smith // Room 310

Many churches have limited opportunities, leaders, and/or resources to truly disciple kids. Russell Smith looks forward to brainstorming with you how to creatively and consistently engage kids in the discipleship process. Russell serves as the Georgia District KidMin Director and has 27 years of children’s ministry experience.

“Creative Teaching Methods 2 ” // David Boyd // Room 306

In this 2 part session, David Boyd will focus on various creative teaching methods which grab kids’ attention and make the Bible come alive. David has served the Assemblies of God National Office for 23 years, first as KidMin Director and now as the BGMC Director.

STUDENT MINISTRY

“Meet in the Middle” // Marquelle Womack // Room 513

They seem all over the place, but at their core are souls that are longing for identity. Find out from Marquelle Womack, Middle School Pastor of The Assembly at Warner Robins, how to connect with Middle School students in a meaningful and lasting way.

“Missions Mindset” // Johnny Mendoza // Room 515

Missions Trips have a potential impact way beyond the trips themselves. The moments before, during, and after are all crucial and, if handled correctly, can shift the culture of your youth ministry. Johnny Mendoza, Georgia District Youth Director, wants to share with you what he has learned about how to leverage these opportunities.

“Doing Discipleship” // Andrew Tedder // Room 514

Discipleship is done, not taught. Learn from The Tabernacle Church’s Next Gen Pastor, Andrew Tedder, how to successfully do life with this generation and lead them in following Jesus.

ADULTS/GENERAL MINISTRY

“Women’s Ministry: Intentional Discipleship” // Cindy Divine & Robin Dixon // 307

Discipleship works when we are intentional. Cindy Divine and Robin Dixon are on the Women's Ministries team at Chapelhill Church in Douglasville, and they will discuss how to be purposeful in helping the women in your church mature in Christ.

WORSHIP/ CREATIVE MINISTRY

“Livestreaming with Purpose” // Thom Davis // Room 501

The digital age has provided us a rare and profound privilege. Our services are being streamed into people's homes. Thom Davis, missionary to Ecuador at Unision Television, will help you take full advantage of the opportunity livestream presents.

GUEST EXPERIENCE

“How to Make the Most of Special Days & Events” // Dr. Jason Puckett // Room 503

There are certain dates on the calendar, and events in the life of your church, that are perfect for welcoming first-time guests. Dr. Jason Pucket, Lead Pastor of The Connection in Thomasville, will tell you what they are and how to capitalize on them.

“What is Your Church Building Saying to Guests?” // Joe Gabbard // Student Center

Did you know your building can talk? Make sure your property and facilities are saying what you want them to say. Joe Gabbard, Pastor of Vidalia First Assembly, will show you how.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

“Showing Compassion for Your City” // Dale Stephens // Room 105

Jesus calls us to care for the lost, broken, poor, and hurting around us. Are you wondering what are the most effective ways to reach “the least of these” in your community? Dale Stephens pastors Pure Hope Church in Mabelton, and he will share what he has learned about compassionate outreach in his city.

BUSINESS & ADMINISTRATION

“How to be a Great Board Member” // Paul Thomas // Room 504

There are many opinions about the role of a church board member, but what does the Bible say? What does it mean to serve well in this important role? Pastor Paul Thomas, of Evangel Church in Columbus will explain what it looks like to fulfill your responsibility and be a blessing to your pastor.

LEAD PASTORS TRACK

“Hiring in a New Job World” // Dave Divine & Ben Steffens // Choir Room

You have probably noticed, the job world has changed, and it's no different for the church. How should our hiring practices change? This panel, including Pastor Ben Steffens of Church at the Groves in Leesburg and Pastor Dave Divine of Chapelhill Church in Douglasville, will share what they are learning in their staff searches.

BREAKOUT 4 // 12:00-12:50 PM (LUNCH 2)

KIDS MINISTRY

“Creating a Heart of Compassion in Kids” // David Boyd // Room 306

Learn how to intentionally disciple kids to become compassionate, mission-minded, and others-centered, seeing the world through God’s eyes. David Boyd has served the Assemblies of God National Office for 23 years, first as KidMin Director and now as the BGMC Director.

“Building a Winning Children’s Ministry Team” // Russell Smith // Room 310

When it comes to sports, recruiting is only part of the process. The same is true when it comes to volunteers. This session will help you learn how to gain, train, and retain volunteers for your kids’ ministry team. Russell Smith serves as the Georgia District KidMin Director and has 27 years of children’s ministry experience.

“KidMin Collab ” // GA KidMin Leadership Team // Room 301

This session will provide the opportunity to ask questions and gather ideas from some of our seasoned kids’ pastors. The topics are up to you, so bring your questions **that were not answered in other sessions.**

STUDENT MINISTRY

“Highs and Lows” // Blake Edwards // Room 513

Purpose, priorities, and pimples. High schoolers really do experience so many mountains and valleys and it’s up to us to lead them down a path that they won’t want to leave. Blake Edwards, Student Pastor at The Assembly at Warner Robins, can help you navigate these highs and lows with them.

“Volunteers that Last” // Johnny Mendoza // Room 515

Chaperones and chefs are great, but this generation needs servant leaders that are in it for the long haul. Learn from Johnny Mendoza, Georgia District Youth Director, how to build a team that will support your vision and your students.

ADULTS/GENERAL MINISTRY

“Reasons to Love the Senior Adults in Your Church” // Mike McBride // Room 309

As you make changes to grow your church, it would be easy to forget about your senior adults. Mike McBride, Senior Adults Pastor at North Highland Church in Columbus, will remind you why they matter and how to begin and sustain a ministry to seniors adults.

“How to Start a Recovery Ministry” // Terry Theus // Room 307

Terry Theus leads Celebrate Recovery at The Assembly at Warner Robins, and he will help you understand the steps in developing a ministry for those struggling with hurt, pain, or addiction of any kind.

“Keeping Your Focus in Spite of Conflict” // Dr. Mark Anthony // Room 501

In whatever area of ministry you lead, conflict is inevitable. When you face conflict, it is easy to become distracted and discouraged. Dr. Mark Anthony, Lead Pastor of Trinity Church in Sharpsburg, will share what he has learned about how to manage yourself while you manage conflict.

“Mobilizing the Men in Your Church” // Tracy Jantz // Student Center

Effective ministry to men is vital to the health of any church. Because every church and every community is different, men’s ministry may take different shapes, but Tracy Jantz, Executive Pastor of The Assembly in Warner Robins, will share the essentials.

WORSHIP/ CREATIVE MINISTRY

“How to Improve Your Audio, Video & Lighting” // Steve Griner // Room 503

Are you considering changes to your sound, lighting, video, or projection equipment? The choices can seem endless and confusing. Steve Griner of Mabe Production will show you how to navigate these decisions wisely according to your church size and budget.

GUEST EXPERIENCE

“The Basics of Church Security” // Greg Armes // Room 504

How can the church be open to all, yet prepared for the violent attacks that sadly have become a reality in our nation? This session, led by Greg Armes, who leads the security team at The Assembly at Warner Robins, will share simple steps to keeping worshipers safe.

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

“What’s Missing In Your Missions Program?” // Joey Ellis // Room 105

Is there more your church could be doing to support missionaries and reach the world? Joey Ellis, Lead Pastor of Stone Edge Church and former missionary to India, will describe the important components of a fully-formed missions program.

LEAD PASTORS TRACK

“Leading Through Transition” // Dr. Ron Crum // Choir Room

Transitions can take many forms, as you probably have experienced. How can we adapt to, and lead well through, each type of transition church life presents? Dr. Ron Crum, Lead Pastor of Griffin First Assembly, will share from his experience how to master these moments.

GRIFFIN FIRST CAMPUS MAP

