

Breakout Affinity Groups

Facilitated discussions with those with similar callings and passions

Church Planting – Phil Struckmeyer, Senior Pastor of Ignite Church and Founder of Nitrogen Network

The GLR is passionate about winning people to Jesus and one of the most effective ways to do that is through the planting of more churches. This affinity group is specifically for those who are currently planting churches, those who would like to know more about what it would look like to plant a church, and those who are leading churches that desire to become a multiplying church.

Creative Worship – Nate Marialke, Worship Pastor, Central Wesleyan Church

Weekends come around with such incredible regularity! Every seven days we are asked to put together services that inspire and allow Holy Spirit freedom to do His work in our midst. This affinity group will focus on how to do this on a weekly basis while maintaining our sanity and a spirit of surrendered to His will.

Discipleship – John Wiest, Church Planter and Founder of Groundswell

Discipleship is the other side of the evangelism coin. Figuring out ways to disciple individuals in a way that leads to church multiplication is Jon Wiest's passion. After sharing best practices of discipleship, Jon will lead GLR pastors/leaders in sharing how to increase the discipleship effectiveness in each church.

Evangelism – Rick Richardson, Professor of Evangelism at Wheaton College, Author of “*You Found Me*”

Jesus made His priority of evangelism crystal clear in Luke 19:10 (*the Son of Man came to seek and to save those who are lost*). Between Rick Richardson's keen insights and learning from others in similar situations as you/your church, you will walk away from this session with a few key ideas to help your church increase its evangelism effectiveness going forward.

Ministering From the Overflow - Mary Conrad

Holy Spirit has a unique and wonderful calling for each of us. Regardless of where He invites us to serve, His invitation is always to minister from the overflow of our relationship with Jesus. There are many distractions (both good and bad) that can keep us from the intimacy our souls crave with Him. Figuring out how to increase the closeness of our relationship with Jesus while in the midst of ministry and personal demands will be the focus of this time together.

Restorative Justice – Shawn & Beth Cossin, Pastors of Heritage Church

When the Kingdom of God comes, it sets all things right. This session will address looking at our culture and the needs that surround us through God's desire to transform not just individual lives but entire systems of abuse, bondage, prejudice, and injustice. Our time together will focus on identifying the needs around us and then collaborating together on how Holy Spirit may be calling us to address those needs with His power.

Rural and Small-Town Ministry – GLR Regional Specialist Tom Schmidt with Jim Gullish & Robin Veltkamp

Big things happen in small towns. How to navigate effective ministry in places filled with people who mean so much to Jesus by learning from others in the trenches. Don't do rural ministry alone – meet others and develop friendships that can serve you well throughout 2020 and beyond!

Urban Ministry – Richard Meeks, GLR Regional Specialist

There's nothing quite like ministry in an urban setting. God has clearly called the GLR to impact the cities with the Gospel, and those who are already ministering in them are heroes in our midst. This will be a time of discussing best practices, collaboration, prayer, and mutual encouragement.

Youth Pastors – Chris Cowling, Youth Pastor, Lifestream Church

How can youth ministries be effective at calling teens to live a life that pursues Jesus in a "swipe right" culture? That's the challenge youth pastors face each and every day in 2020. It is our desire in this affinity group encourage and "spur one another on towards love and good deeds." Yes, the challenges are great, but God's power is greater to bring about His work through you! Come and be encouraged and gain new insights from others in the trenches.

XP's/Church Administrators – Craig Rayment, Chief of Staff, Great Lakes Region

In today's fast-paced, high-demand culture, keeping our churches (and the staffs that lead them) healthy and mission-focused is critical. Much of the day-to-day responsibility to pull this off rests in the hands of Executive Pastors/Administrators. This affinity group will offer ideas of best practices as well as opportunities to learn from each other of what is working today.