



Made Whole

Healing the Body of Christ

1 Corinthians 12:26

August 6–9, 2026

Chicago, Illinois

 **CBE**
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCES

Woman of Faith, Step Into Your Calling.



The Center for Women in Ministry at Northern Seminary equips women to grow in their calling through theological education, spiritual formation, and a supportive community of leaders.

God is calling women to lead, teach, and serve with courage and conviction. Northern Seminary's Master of Arts with an Emphasis in Women and Ministry provides the biblical, theological, and practical training needed to deepen your calling and lead faithfully in the church and beyond.

Visit the CWIM online

Learn more:



Questions about The Center?

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Questions about Admissions?

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*Workshop Session Descriptions are organized by conference track.
Look for the symbol to identify a track.



Track One

Introduction to Biblical Equality: What Is Biblical Equality, Who Is CBE?



Track Two

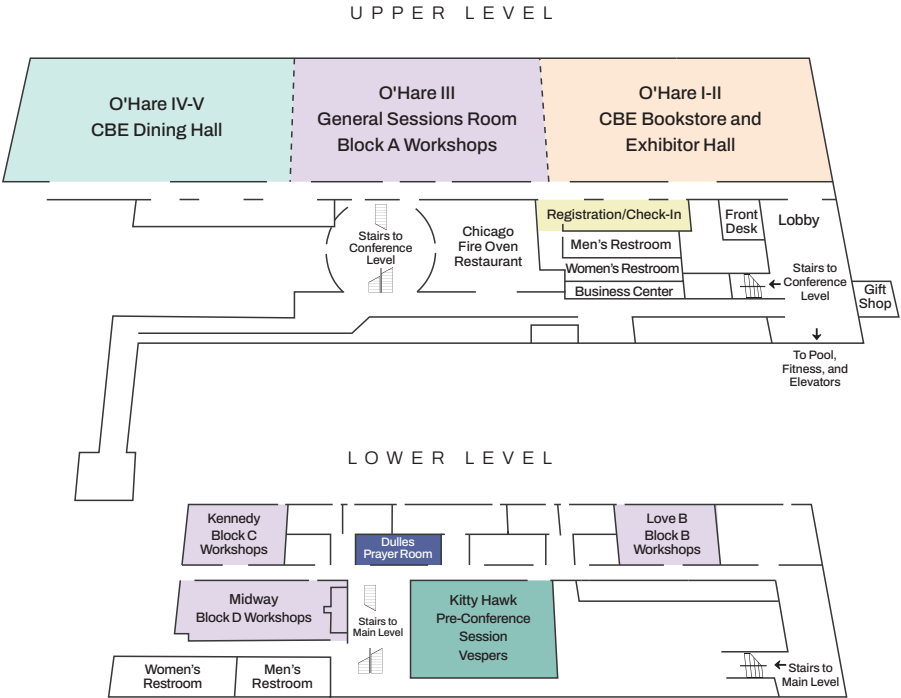
Biblical Equality in Action: Pastoral Care, Christian Living,
Counseling Resources



Track Three

Going Deeper with Biblical Equality: Theology, History,
Biblical Exegesis

Crowne Plaza O'Hare Venue Map



- Registration/Check-In
- Workshops
- CBE Dining Hall
- Pre-Conference Session and Vespers

- CBE Bookstore and Exhibitor Hall
- Prayer Room

Prayer Room Schedule
Friday and Saturday | 8 am–8 pm
Sunday | 8 am–1 pm

The prayer room space is available for prayer and meditative reflection; a prayer room attendant may be available to pray with you as needed. See CBE staff for any questions you may have.

Welcome to “Made Whole: Healing the Body of Christ,” CBE’s 2026 International Conference!



Dear Friends,

Welcome to CBE’s 2026 International Conference, “Made Whole: Healing the Body of Christ.” I am thrilled and honored to share this event with you as we celebrate this opportunity to explore Scripture’s teaching that women and men alike are gifted and called for ministry according to God’s pleasure. This weekend we’ll come together to listen, learn, and grow as one body in which women and men can work side by side as equal gospel partners. With sessions on pastoral care, Christian living, biblical theology, exegesis, and church history, we will dig into the long legacy of women serving according to their call. Through our incredible speakers, we will make space for the hurt caused by theological patriarchy and cast a vision for a future of healing and restored relationships.

I trust that God will use this event to inspire our calling as followers of Jesus. Thank you for joining us and please know I’m happy to answer any questions you might have.

If this is your first CBE conference, we welcome you with much joy and appreciation for your partnership! We pray that the sessions will enrich your life, and through you, the lives of those in your community. As a nonprofit organization comprised of Christian women and men from around the world, CBE makes known the biblical foundation for women’s shared leadership in the home, church, and world. CBE’s supporters along with our church, institution, and organization

members stand together to advance the biblical basis for women’s shared leadership and ministry worldwide.

If you are here alone or if you and your friends would like to share a meal with others, please speak to our conference coordinator, Carrie Silveira, or our team of staff and volunteers. They would be delighted to answer any questions you might have about the conference or CBE’s ministry worldwide.

If you are conflicted over which workshops to attend, don’t worry! All conference sessions will be recorded and available shortly on the conference app for attendees and online at www.cbeinternational.org. In addition, you will want to visit the conference bookstore in O’Hare I and II to browse books and resources by Christian egalitarian authors. If you like to travel, consider joining CBE in Curitiba, Brazil, next year for our 2027 international conference.

Thank you again for sharing this time with us. Again, welcome to CBE’s 2026 conference, “Made Whole!”

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mimi Haddad". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mimi Haddad, PhD

President and CEO of CBE International

PS: To receive occasional text updates from CBE, text [cbe](tel:50155) to 50155.

Official pictures and video footage may be taken throughout the conference for marketing and promotional purposes. If you take pictures and would like to post them online, **please consider tagging CBE on social media using the hashtags #madewhole.**

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cbeBookstore

providing quality resources on biblical gender equality

Visit the CBE Bookstore in O'Hare I-II.

Join us in the CBE Bookstore on Saturday,
August 8 at 3:30 PM for an **Author Meet and Greet!**

CBE Conference Bookstore and Exhibitor Hall Hours

Located in
O'Hare I-II.

See page 4 for
venue map.



Can't find
a book?

Scan the
QR Code to
order through
CBE's online
bookstore.

Thursday, August 6

2 pm—6:30 pm

7:30 pm—9 pm

Friday, August 7

8 am—9:30 am

12 pm—1:30 pm

2:30 pm—5 pm

7:30 pm—9 pm

Saturday, August 8

8 am—9:30 am

12 pm—1:30 pm

2:30 pm—5 pm

8 pm—9 pm

Sunday, August 9

8 am—10:30 am

12:30 pm—1 pm



Schedule

All Times listed are in Central Standard Time (UTC-5)

All keynote lectures and workshop block A sessions will be livestreamed for online participants. All lectures and all workshop blocks will be recorded and available to watch in the coming months following the conference.

Breakfast is available in O'Hare IV-V beginning at 7:30 am each morning for attendees staying at the Crowne Plaza Hotel who booked through CBE's hotel booking link. Please connect with hotel staff at the front desk for confirmation.

Thursday August 6

2:00 pm Registration and Check-in | Location: Concourse A
CBE Bookstore and Exhibitor Hall Open

5:00 pm Dinner *On your own*

6:30 pm Pre-Conference Bonus Session | Location: Kitty Hawk
Seeking God Together: Prayer and Preparation,
1 Corinthians 11
Mimi Haddad

8:00 pm Vespers | Location: Kitty Hawk

Friday August 7

Prayer Room is open in Dulles, 8 am–8 pm.

8:00 am Registration and Check-in | Location: Concourse A

9:00 am Devotion and Worship | Location: O'Hare III

9:30 am Keynote Session 1 | Location: O'Hare III
Groans of a New Creation: Healing Promised Through
Galatians 3:28
Mimi Haddad
This in-person session will also be available for LIVE virtual viewing.

Schedule

Friday August 7

Prayer Room is open in Dulles, 8 am–8 pm.

10:30 am Workshop Block 1

Workshop 1A | Location: O'Hare III

Godly Gifted Women in Church Ministry: A Romans 14 Issue or Crucial Secondary Doctrine?

Sam Killins



Track: Going Deeper with Biblical Equality

This in-person session will also be available for LIVE virtual viewing.

Workshop 1B | Location: Love B

Abusing God? (How) Do our beliefs about gender affect the safety of our churches?

Charles Read



Track: Biblical Equality in Action

Workshop 1C | Location: Kennedy

Rooted in the Same Soil: Flourishing as a Non-Hierarchical Woman in a Hierarchical Church

Paige Cunningham



Track: Biblical Equality in Action

Workshop 1D | Location: Midway

The Making of a Movement: The Founding of Christians for Biblical Equality

Amber Burgess



Track: Introduction to Biblical Equality

12:00 pm **Lunch** *On your own*

1:30 pm Workshop Block 2

Workshop 2A | Location: O'Hare III

Finding the Big Points: What Really Matters in the Biblical Equality Debate

Andrew Bartlett



Track: Going Deeper with Biblical Equality

This in-person session will also be available for LIVE virtual viewing.

Friday August 7

Prayer Room is open in Dulles, 8 am–8 pm.

1:30 pm

Workshop Block 2

Workshop 2B | Location: Love B

Understanding and Recovering from Religious Patriarchy

Heidi I. Knapp and Patrick J. Knapp

 **Track: Biblical Equality in Action**

Workshop 2C | Location: Kennedy

Two Whole People: Building a Healthy Christian Marriage

Taffi Dollar

 **Track: Biblical Equality in Action**

Workshop 2D | Location: Midway

Why Does Genesis 2 Emphasize Equality So Much? A Study on Structure and Rhetorical Design

Flavio Prestes III

 **Track: Going Deeper with Biblical Equality**

3:00 pm

Break

3:30 pm

Workshop Block 3

Workshop 3A | Location: O'Hare III

What the Body Speaks: How Church Structures Communicate Biblical Equality

Tara Korpi

 **Track: Biblical Equality in Action**

This in-person session will also be available for LIVE virtual viewing.

Workshop 3B | Location: Love B

A More Excellent Way: Rethinking Ancient Corinth and the Christian's Radical Call to Equality

Joy J. Moore

 **Track: Going Deeper with Biblical Equality**

Schedule

Friday August 7

Prayer Room is open in Dulles, 8 am–8 pm.

3:30 pm Workshop Block 3

Workshop 3C | Location: Kennedy

How the Subtleties of Patriarchy Set Up Marriages to Fail

Sarah Ago



Track: Biblical Equality in Action

Workshop 3D | Location: Midway

To be Announced

5:00 pm Dinner | Location: CBE Dining Hall (O'Hare IV–V)

Dinner is included in registration

6:30 pm Keynote Session 2 | Location: O'Hare III

Excavating Women: The Archaeology of Leaders in Early Christianity

Carina Pereira de Oliveira Prestes

This in-person session will also be available for LIVE virtual viewing.

8:00 pm Verspers | Location: Kitty Hawk

Saturday, August 8

Prayer Room is open in Dulles, 8 am–8 pm.

8:00 am Registration and Check-in | Location: Concourse A

9:00 am Devotion and Worship | Location: O'Hare III

9:30 am Keynote Session 3 | Location: O'Hare III

God's Design: Man and Woman as Sacred Space in Genesis 2

Ingrid Faro

This in-person session will also be available for LIVE virtual viewing.

Saturday August 8

Prayer Room is open in Dulles, 8 am–8 pm.

10:30 am

Workshop Block 4

Workshop 4A | Location: O'Hare III

Making Us Whole: Practicing Honesty, Hope, and Hospitality in a Context of Hierarchy

Joy J. Moore



Track: Biblical Equality in Action

This in-person session will also be available for LIVE virtual viewing.

Workshop 4B | Location: Love B

Human Flourishing: Why Women's Shared Leadership Matters

Mimi Haddad



Track: Introduction to Biblical Equality

Workshop 4C | Location: Kennedy

"All Hands on Deck"—How Healthy Families Practice Mutuality, Grace, and Repair

Kathy Myatt



Track: Biblical Equality in Action

Workshop 4D | Location: Midway

Equality in Ephesians: An Archaeological Study

Carina Pereira de Oliveira Prestes



Track: Going Deeper with Biblical Equality

12:00 pm

Lunch *On your own*

1:30 pm

Workshop Block 5

Workshop 5A | Location: O'Hare III

"By all means, keep moving": Pursuing Wholeness After the Church's Stroke

Israel Steinmetz



Track: Going Deeper with Biblical Equality

This in-person session will also be available for LIVE virtual viewing.

Saturday August 8

Prayer Room is open in Dulles, 8 am–8 pm.

1:30 pm

Workshop Block 5

Workshop 5B | Location: Love B

In Sickness, Health, and Ministry: How Cancer Disrupts the Concept of Gender Roles in Marriage

Amber Burgess



Track: **Biblical Equality in Action**

Workshop 5C | Location: Available on YouTube and the Band App

The Lament and Hope of a Biblical Egalitarian

Douglas Groothuis



Track: **Introduction to Biblical Equality**

Workshop 5D | Location: Midway

Naming God 101

Charles Read



Track: **Going Deeper with Biblical Equality**

3:00 pm

Break

3:30 pm

Author Meet and Greet

Location: CBE Bookstore and Exhibitor Hall (O'Hare I–II)

4:30 pm

Student Paper Presentations | Location: O'Hare III

5:30 pm

Dinner and Award Ceremony

Location: CBE Dining Hall (O'Hare IV–V)

Dinner is included in registration.

7:00 pm

Panel Discussion on Leadership | Location: O'Hare III

Moderator: Mimi Haddad

Participants: Jo Anne Lyon, Joy J. Moore, Carina Pereira de Oliveira Prestes, Kathleen Rankin

This in-person session will also be available for LIVE virtual viewing.

Schedule

Sunday August 9

Prayer Room is open in Dulles, 8 am–1 pm.

9:00 am Workshop Block 6

Workshop 6A | Location: O'Hare III

**Galatians 3:28 and the White Nationalism Movement:
Healing a Wounded Body**

Johnie Wood

 **Track: Biblical Equality in Action**

This in-person session will also be available for LIVE virtual viewing.

Workshop 6B | Location: Love B

**Justice, Mercy, and Healing: A Faithful Response to
Domestic Violence**

Elizabeth Beyer

 **Track: Biblical Equality in Action**

Workshop 6D | Location: Midway

Practical Insights for Empowering the Women in Your Life

Todd Korpi

 **Track: Biblical Equality in Action**

During Workshop Block 6 there will be no C Workshop in Kennedy.

10:30 am Break

10:45 am Keynote Session 4 | Location: O'Hare III

**Enriched by God: How God's Gifts Are Designed to Promote
the Health and Healing of the Body of Christ**

Roy Ciampa

This in-person session will also be available for LIVE virtual viewing.

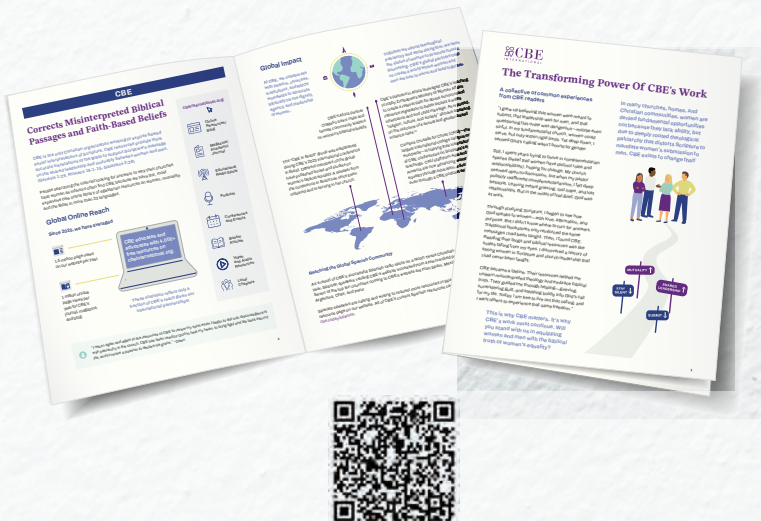
11:45 am Worship, Communion, Commission Location: O'Hare III

Ways to Give

Support CBE by scanning the QR codes, visiting the website URLs, or by using the envelope from your tote bag.

Donations can also be accepted by the cashier in the onsite CBE bookstore.

Discover How CBE Is Advancing Biblical Equality



Scan the QR code or go to cbe.today/cbestory.

Your Partnership with CBE Makes a Difference!



Around the world, countless women encounter barriers that limit their opportunities to lead, serve, and fully use the gifts God has given them. Harmful interpretations of Scripture continue to reinforce systems that diminish women's voices and contributions in the home, church, and society.

Yet, research consistently shows that shared leadership strengthens organizations, families, and communities. UN Women affirms that women's participation in leadership and decision-making is essential to achieving equality, peace, and human flourishing.

This is why CBE's work is so important.

For nearly four decades, CBE has been equipping Christians around the world with trusted biblical resources that affirm the equal dignity, authority, and calling of women and men. Through rigorous scholarship, practical ministry resources, global partnerships, and events, CBE helps individuals, churches, and communities replace harmful teachings with a biblical vision of mutuality.

As the largest online source of egalitarian resources worldwide, CBE reaches more than one million people annually through a library with over 4,700 free articles, podcasts, videos, audio, and educational tools in more than 24 languages. Every day, people searching for answers about Scripture and women's leadership discover CBE's resources that bring clarity, healing, and hope.

CBE also collaborates with a global network of diverse partners representing more than one hundred denominations and 230+ countries and territories. Together, we are expanding opportunities for women to lead, serve, and thrive in countless communities around the world.

Lives are changed when people encounter the biblical truth that God calls women and men to serve side by side.

You Can Help Advance CBE's Mission

None of this work happens without faithful partners like you.

Your gift helps provide life-changing biblical resources that equip church leaders, strengthen global outreach, and support a growing movement dedicated to advancing women's biblical equality. Together, we can help create churches and communities where women are valued, their gifts are welcomed, and the body of Christ flourishes as God intended

Please give today and help bring women's biblical equality to more people around the world.



Give securely online at cbe.today/support, scan the QR code, or note "flourishing" when using the envelope from your tote bag.

Donations can also be accepted by the cashier in the bookstore.



CBE is moving to a new office space that will not have the same temperature-controlled technology room. That means we must redesign how our core technology systems are housed and supported for the future.

For many years, CBE has managed its technology in a highly cost-effective way, using the climate-controlled data room available in our current building to maintain reliable systems at a fraction of the cost of traditional alternatives. As we prepare to move, the conditions that made that model possible will no longer be available, making this transition both necessary and timely.

This move requires more than relocating furniture and files. It provides an opportunity to build a secure, efficient technology environment that supports staff, strengthens communication, and allows CBE to steward resources wisely for years to come.

Technology plays a vital role in CBE's conferences and outreach. Whether managing registrations, sharing conference presentations for future viewing, or connecting people year-round with life-changing biblical resources, dependable technology helps advance CBE's mission worldwide.

Your support will help provide the technology infrastructure, communications systems, cybersecurity protection, and event tools needed for this transition. This is not about acquiring the latest technology. **It is about building a reliable foundation that allows CBE to continue publishing resources, hosting conferences, and serving the growing global community that relies on our resources.**

The total 2026 technology initiative cost is \$57,700. Your gift will enable CBE to move confidently into its new office, strengthen our ministry operations, and create impactful conferences that inspire Christians to embrace the biblical message of mutuality.



Give securely online at cbe.today/technology, scan the QR code, or note "technology" when using the envelope from your tote bag.

Donations can also be accepted by the cashier in the bookstore.

Grow Women's Biblical Equality in South America

CBE's 2023 International Conference in São Paulo, Brazil, helped launch a growing movement for biblical equality in South America, sparking many projects and leading to the translation of several CBE books into Spanish and Brazilian Portuguese. More authors and churches in Brazil are not only discussing women's biblical equality, some have also added it to their church's Statements of Faith. We plan to return to Brazil and continue that momentum with CBE's 2027 international conference.

Patriarchy is a powerful legacy of Brazil's colonial past and "defenders of patriarchal norms press back continually reproducing gender inequality in the present." In this context, CBE's presence is especially important for highlighting the value of biblical egalitarianism. CBE's 2027 Brazilian conference themed, "Transformed Lives: Men and Women Walking Together in Biblical Unity," will offer biblical sessions affirming the equal dignity, gifts, and calling of women and men. Academic and popular sessions will demonstrate to South American Christians that women's equality is a biblical value that transcends culture and grows human flourishing.

God used CBE's first conference in Brazil to inspire an analysis of the Brazilian context that helped expand egalitarian discussions, build meaningful partnerships, and strengthen the movement throughout the region. The response demonstrated a growing hunger for biblical teaching on mutuality and revealed the need for continued training, encouragement, and connection among leaders across the region.

Your gift will help provide biblical resources, training, meaningful connections, and scholarships for those who might not otherwise be able to attend. **By removing financial barriers, we can equip more people with the biblical resources and training needed to advance mutuality throughout the region.**

The conference will further CBE's international reach by providing online access to registered participants beyond the United States, and by expanding our non-English resources, extending the message of women's biblical equality to countries all around the world.

The total costs and expenses for the Brazil 2027 conference are estimated to be \$42,000. Together, we can expand access to life-changing resources and strengthen a growing movement for women's biblical equality in South America.



Give securely online at cbe.today/brazil, scan the QR code, or note "Brazil" when you use the envelope from your tote bag.

Donations can also be accepted by the cashier in the bookstore.

Help Women Become Faith Leaders!

Women are called by God to lead, teach, preach, serve, and minister alongside men. Yet for many women pursuing ministry, the cost of graduate education can become a significant obstacle to fulfilling that calling.

That is why CBE's Alvera Mickelsen Memorial Scholarship Fund (AMMS) provides financial assistance to women pursuing a master's degree in a ministry field related to preaching, communicating, writing, youth ministry, pastoral, or nonprofit work.

Your support helps remove financial barriers for women preparing to serve the church and their communities.

Statistics show that women who work for local churches and nonprofits are often paid less and receive fewer benefits than their male counterparts, making educational debt an especially heavy burden. AMMS scholarships help ensure that women can graduate equipped to serve without carrying overwhelming financial debt!

The AMMS scholarship is more than financial assistance. **Many AMMS recipients express how receiving the scholarship was an affirmation of their calling.**

Today, you can help provide that same encouragement and opportunity to the next generation of women leaders. Your gift will help equip women to serve the church, strengthen communities, and serve God's purposes for years to come.



Since receiving the AMMS scholarship, recipients have gone on to become pastors, educators, missionaries, and humanitarian workers. You can hear from our finalists at cbe.today/ammsstories.



Give securely online at cbe.today/ammsfund, scan the QR code, or note "AMMS" when using the envelope from your tote bag.

Donations can also be accepted by the cashier in the bookstore.

Speakers



Sarah Ago

Workshop

Sarah Ago is an ordained minister with the Evangelical Covenant Church and the President of SEARCH (Southeast Asia Rescue Coalition and Haven). She is the mother of two young sons. Sarah serves on CBE's board and on the President's Advisory Council for Alaska Christian College. You can find her at sacredsnapshots.net.



Andrew Bartlett

Workshop

After studying law at Oxford, Andrew Bartlett KC practiced as a barrister for more than forty years. He has served as a judge in the UK. He is a highly rated international arbitrator, deciding multinational disputes. He has a BA in Theology (University of Gloucestershire; first class honours and Bible Society prize). He has served in several churches as elder or churchwarden and has been involved for many years in ministry to international students. He and his wife rejoice in God's gift of three children and five grandchildren. He is the author of *Men and Women in Christ: Fresh Light from the Biblical Texts* (Inter-Varsity Press, 2019) and *True Complementarity: The way of Christ for men and women* (Inter-Varsity Press, due out 22 October 2026).



Elizabeth "Liz" Beyer

Workshop

Elizabeth "Liz" Beyer has worked at CBE since 2008 and currently serves as the bookstore and book resources manager. She is also a writer and editor, most recently of *Created to Thrive: Cultivating Abuse-Free Faith Communities* (2021).



Amber Burgess

Workshop

Amber Burgess (MA, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary) works for CBE International as the Marketing and Executive Director. She first started her ministry and nonprofit career working in youth and camp ministry. She received her undergraduate degree in Christian Ministries and graduate degrees in biblical languages and New Testament. Amber and her husband, Kevin, live in Minnesota with their three boys and have worked side by side in ministry since 2012.

Speakers



Roy Ciampa

Keynote

Before retiring, Dr. Roy Ciampa served as the S. Louis and Ann W. Armstrong Professor of Religion and chair of the Religion Department at Samford University. Roy also worked with the Nida Institute for Biblical Scholarship at the American Bible Society, providing advanced professional development in biblical studies, Bible translation, and Scripture engagement to leaders around the world. Additionally, he served as Professor of New Testament and chaired the Division of Biblical Studies at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, where he continues to provide leadership for their Doctor of Ministry track in Bible Translation. Before that, Roy was a missionary professor of biblical studies in Portugal and served as a translator for the Portuguese Bible Society's contemporary Portuguese translation of Scripture. Dr. Ciampa has authored numerous scholarly essays on New Testament themes.



Paige Comstock Cunningham

Workshop

Paige Comstock Cunningham (PhD, JD) is Executive Director Emeritus of The Center for Bioethics & Human Dignity at Trinity International University. She previously served as Interim President of Taylor University (2019–2021), was a member of Taylor's Board of Trustees for 17 years and chaired the Board from 2017 to 2019. Cunningham's academic interests include public policy, bioethics, and pro-life issues. She has taught and lectured at numerous colleges, graduate schools, and seminaries, including Wheaton College and Reformed Theological Seminary (DC). She served as Executive Director/General Counsel and later as President of Americans United for Life, a national pro-life advocacy organization based in Washington, D.C. She is a graduate of Taylor University and earned her JD from Northwestern University School of Law and her PhD from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. Cunningham and her husband, Jay, have three married children and eight grandchildren.

Speakers



Taffi Dollar

Workshop

Taffi Dollar, a native of Atlanta, Georgia, is a world-renowned author, teacher, spiritual leader, and motivational speaker. She is married to Creflo Dollar, and together they pastor World Changers Church International (WCCI) based in College Park, Georgia, as well as World Changers Church-New York, and numerous satellite churches across the country. In addition to ministering from the pulpit, she frequently hosts prayer and Bible study meetings, retreats, workshops, and other events that empower women.



Ingrid Faro

Keynote

Ingrid Faro (PhD, MDiv) is Interim President and Professor of Old Testament at Northern Seminary in the Chicago area. She previously served as Dean of Academic Affairs at Northern, Dean of Theology at the Scandinavian School of Theology in Sweden, and Director of Masters Programs at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School where she also taught Hebrew and Old Testament. Ingrid is an international speaker and the author of *Redeeming Eden: How Women in the Bible Advance the Story of Salvation* with Joyce Koo Dalrymple, *Demystifying Evil*, co-author of *Honest Answers, Evil in Genesis*, co-author of forthcoming volume *As We Forgive: A Biblical Theology of Forgiveness*, as well as author of numerous articles, chapters, and reviews. Prior to her work in theological education, Ingrid was an entrepreneur and president of an insurance consulting group serving 1,000 agents in 35 states. Ingrid has two children and four grandchildren.



Douglas Groothuis

Workshop

Douglas Groothuis (PhD) is the Distinguished University Research Professor of Apologetics and Christian Worldview at Cornerstone University and Seminary. He is the author of twenty books, including *Beyond the Wager: The Christian Brilliance of Blaise Pascal* (InterVarsity, April, 2024), *World Religions in Seven Sentences*, *Fire in the Streets*—about Critical Race Theory or Wokeness (Salem, 2022)—and *Christian Apologetics*, 2nd ed. (InterVarsity Academic, 2022).

Speakers



Mimi Haddad

Keynote

Workshop

Panel

Mimi Haddad (PhD, University of Durham) serves as president and CEO of CBE International. She has taught as an adjunct associate professor of historical theology at Fuller Theological Seminary, Olivet University, and has taught for institutes and organizations worldwide. She is a graduate of the University of Colorado and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (Summa Cum Laude). She holds a PhD in historical theology from the University of Durham, England. Mimi received an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity from Palmer Theological Seminary of Eastern University in 2013. She was a founding member of the Evangelicals and Women Study Section at the Evangelical Theological Society (ETS) and Evangelicals for Justice. She continues to serve on the leadership of ETS's Evangelicals and Women. Mimi and her husband, Dale, live in Minnesota.



Sam Killins

Workshop

Devotions

Sam and his wife are missionaries in South America. They serve side by side reaching the local communities in South America with the gospel of Jesus Christ.



Heidi I. Knapp

Workshop

Heidi I. Knapp (CLC) is a Life Recovery Coach specializing in spiritual and complex relational issues. She has completed Counseling Studies in addictions through level CAC II and has taken university courses in both theology and psychology. Heidi spent 25 years in education and personal study in life recovery related issues. She holds three certifications in life coaching through Light University with the American Association of Christian Counselors (AACC). Heidi also co-directs and writes related material for Becoming Free, LLC.

Speakers



Patrick J. Knapp

Workshop

Patrick J. Knapp (PhD) completed advanced academic studies in psychology, counseling, cultic studies, marriage and family systems, and attachment theory. His greatest claim to fame is being delightfully married to Heidi. Together, they are life-recovery coaches and educators, working with individuals seeking recovery from religious abuse and those navigating family estrangement. Learn more at BecomingFree.org.



Tara Korpi

Workshop

Tara Korpi (DMin, Portland Seminary) is a speaker, preacher, teacher, certified Winslow coach, and leadership consultant who serves churches, leadership teams, and conference gatherings. She partners with pastors and executive teams to strengthen leadership culture, cultivate spiritually healthy environments, and help churches lead with integrity, courage, and spiritual depth.

Tara earned her Doctor of Ministry in Semiotics, Church, and Culture from Portland Seminary under the mentorship of Leonard Sweet, where her research focused on leadership culture, accountability, and mutual culpability within the Church.



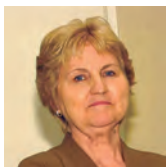
Todd Korpi

Workshop

Todd Korpi (DMiss, Fuller Theological Seminary) is a pastor, missiologist, and researcher, currently serving as the Church Planting Commission Coordinator for the World Assemblies of God Fellowship and Lead Researcher of the Digital Mission Consortia at the Wheaton College Billy Graham Center. He is Assistant Professor of Christian Leadership at Fuller Theological Seminary and Dean of Digital Ministry programs at Ascent College. Todd and his wife, Tara, have served as pastors throughout the United States, and his work has been featured in publications such as Outreach Magazine and Churchleaders.com.

Todd is the author of *AI and the People of God* (IVP, 2025), *Your Daughters Shall Prophecy* (Wipf & Stock, 2023), and *The Life-Giving Spirit* (Urban Loft, 2017).

Speakers



Jo Anne Lyon

Panel

Rev. Dr. Jo Anne Lyon General Superintendent Emerita of The Wesleyan Church

Jo Anne Lyon served as the General Superintendent of The Wesleyan Church from 2008–2016. Having previously founded World Hope International, an NGO which continues to work in twenty countries. Prior to this she had thirty years of ministry in the local church as well as adjunct professor at Asbury Theological Seminary.

Dr. Lyon holds a master's degree in counseling psychology with continued Graduate Studies in Historical Theology and has been granted five honorary doctorates. She is the recipient of various awards including the 2016 World Methodist Peace Award. She has participated in various multi-faith dialogues over the past years including the Abrahamic Dialogue with Religious Leaders of Iran and the first Multi-Faith Conference in Saudi Arabia.



Joy J. Moore

Workshop

Panel

Joy J. Moore (PhD, Brunel University/London School of Theology) is an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church, Professor of Homiletics, and served as the 13th President at Northern Seminary in Lisle, Illinois. An “ecclesial storyteller,” she seeks to encourage theologically framed, biblically attentive, and socially compelling interpretations of Christian Scripture in order to understand the critical issues influencing community formation in contemporary culture.

She was Professor of Biblical Preaching at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota, where she served as Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty. Dr. Joy established the William E. Pannell Center for African American Church Studies at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, and served as Associate Dean for Lifelong Learning at Duke Divinity School. Previously the Director of Student Life at Asbury Theological Seminary and chaplain and Director of Church Relations at Adrian College, she has held pastorates in the Michigan Area of the United Methodist Church. She has written for *Sojourners* magazine, *Christian Century*, *Good News* magazine, and *Working Preacher*, and was a weekly co-host on the *Sermon Brainwave* podcast.

Speakers



Kathy Myatt

Workshop

Kathy Myatt is a retired psychiatric nurse practitioner with an emphasis on family and child development. A graduate of the University of Colorado with post-graduate studies at Vanderbilt University, she has taught courses on counseling and working with children. She currently provides spiritual and emotional support for missionaries as a member care coordinator with Mesa Global. Kathy lives in Colorado with her husband, Alan.



Carina Pereira de Oliveira Prestes

Keynote

Workshop

Panel

Carina Pereira de Oliveira Prestes (PhD, Andrews University) was born and raised in Curitiba, Paraná. She received a master's degree and doctorate in biblical archaeology at Andrews University in Michigan. She has participated in archaeological digs in Sicily, Jordan, and Israel. Her doctoral research examined the archaeological evidence of female leadership in early Christianity. Carina is the author of *Excavating Women: The Archaeology of Leaders in Early Christianity*.



Flávio Prestes III

Workshop

Flávio Prestes III (ThD, Andrews University) serves as assistant professor of biblical studies at the Adventist University of São Paulo, editor of the theological journal, *Kerygma*, and assistant to the general editor of the Seventh-Day Adventist International Bible Commentary (SDAIBC) series. His scholarly interests include narrative analysis and the assessment of worldviews. He has done research and written on the books of Genesis, Daniel, Hosea, and Revelation. Flávio is married to archaeologist Carina Prestes.

Speakers



Kathleen Rankin

Panel

Communion

Rev. Canon Dr. Kathleen Rankin is the canon for leadership development in the Anglican Diocese of the Great Lakes where she oversees the discernment process and training for all those seeking ordination. She is a CBE board member and part of the leadership team of the ACNA Women's Leadership Network where she trains facilitators and organizes Storying Groups for women leaders. Rev. Rankin was ordained in the Anglican Church in North America after completing the Master of Divinity degree from Trinity School for Ministry, where she also did her doctoral work. She is the Assisting Priest at LifeSong Fellowship in Wadsworth, Ohio, and also offers coaching and spiritual direction to other ministry leaders. She and her husband, Chuck, have four adult children and live with a menagerie of animals on their farm where she enjoys hiking, biking, gardening, a good read, and fiber arts.



Charles Read

Workshop

Vespers

Communion

Charles Read (PhD, Durham University) teaches liturgy and shares in the teaching of Systematic Theology. Although he grew up in the West Midlands, Charles spent 21 years in Manchester before joining the faculty in 1999. After studying theology at Manchester University, he served as Head of Religious Studies in a secondary school and as a Reader in a large church before training for ordination at St John's College, Nottingham. He served in a wide variety of parishes in Manchester Diocese—urban, rural, suburban, evangelical, catholic, and 'just C of E'—ultimately serving as Team Vicar in a UPA in Salford.

Charles has been a member of General Synod, contributed to the development of the new Eucharistic prayers for Common Worship, and is involved with WATCH (Women and the Church). He focused his PhD on inclusive language in Scripture. Charles and his wife, Judith, have two sons, Jonathan and Phillip.

Charles Read serves on CBE's Board of Reference.

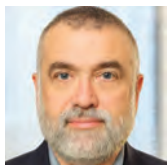
Speakers



Israel Steinmetz

Workshop

Israel Steinmetz (DMin, Fuller Theological Seminary) is a pastor-theologian with thirty years of ministry experience including preaching, teaching, pastoral ministry, foreign missions, chaplaincy, and Christian higher education. His research, writing, and teaching span the disciplines of theology, biblical studies, and Christian ministry. Israel and his wife Anna have ten children and live in Katy, Texas, where he serves as Academic Dean and Associate Professor of Practical Theology at The Bible Seminary.



Johnie Wood Jr.

Workshop

Johnie Wood Jr. is a theological analyst, itinerant preacher, and retired U.S. Air Force officer who helps churches examine where faith, nationalism, and power have become entangled. A Doctor of Ministry candidate at Fuller Seminary, his project—"Discipling Nations or Baptizing Nationalism?"—equips pastors to recognize when appeals to "biblical order" are used to marginalize women, people of color, and the vulnerable.

Drawing on thirty years in intelligence, counterintelligence, and security leadership, Johnie invites church leaders back to Galatians 3:28 and 1 Corinthians 12 to reimagine a reconciled, multiethnic, gender mutual body where power is exercised as service, not domination.



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Learn more about CBE chapters at cbe.today/chapters to get started on forming one in your region.

Keynote Session Descriptions

Keynote Session 1

Friday, August 7th | 9:30 am | Location: O'Hare III

Groans of a New Creation: Healing Promised Through Galatians 3:28

Mimi Haddad

The renowned New Testament scholar F.F. Bruce said Galatians 3:28 was Paul's heartbeat—his ministry and writings arise from and return to this text. This session will explore how, throughout the whole of Scripture, God gifts and calls women of all races, ethnicities, and classes to serve and lead God's people and the church.

This session will be recorded and livestreamed.

Notes

Keynote Session 2

Friday, August 7th | 6:30 pm | Location: O'Hare III

Excavating Women: The Archaeology of Leaders in Early Christianity

Carina Pereira de Oliveira Prestes

This keynote session will present and examine Dr. Prestes's new book, *Excavating Women*, tracing the archaeological markers used to honor women leaders in pre- and early Christian centuries. From Greek and Roman temples to tombs, churches, and catacombs, archaeologist and professor Dr. Carina Prestes excavates women's leadership at odds with literary texts of their day. Learn how one generation spoke to another in the language of archaeology, repeating and repurposing leadership markers in clothing, objects left in tombs, mosaics, and inscriptions that, once seen, are impossible to ignore.

This session will be recorded and livestreamed.

Notes

Keynote Session 3

Saturday, August 8th | 9:30 am | Location: O'Hare III

God's Design: Man and Woman as Sacred Space in Genesis 2

Ingrid Faro

The creation story in Genesis 1 tells us that humanity as male and female was placed on the earth to represent and rule together as God's partners in the world. Genesis 2 then provides imagery that helps us understand what this calling looks like in practice. First, Genesis 2:15 presents humanity as priests appointed "to serve and to protect" God's garden tabernacle. Second, Genesis 2:18–20 makes clear that this work was never meant to be done alone but together, alongside a strong and corresponding partner (*ezer kenegdo*). Third, Genesis 2:21–22 describes humanity as man and woman constructed as two sides (*tsela*) of sacred space. This often-overlooked image offers a powerful vision of God's design: men and women created for collaborative strength, working and serving together as equal partners, rightly relating to one another in order to uphold the worship and presence of God in the world.

This session will be recorded and livestreamed.

Notes

Keynote Session Descriptions

Panel Discussion

Saturday, August 8th | 7:00 pm | Location: O'Hare III

Panel Discussion on Leadership

Moderator: Mimi Haddad

Participants: Jo Anne Lyon, Joy J. Moore, Carina Pereira de Oliveira Prestes, Kathleen Rankin

This panel will discuss leadership in ministry: the challenges and highlights of being a woman in an often-male context. In this conversation, we will learn what leadership is (closeness to God, servant heart vs. influencers), as well as offer practical advice for people starting out in ministry whether as women, alongside women, or intending to encourage and lift women up.

This session will be recorded and livestreamed.

Notes

Keynote Session 4

Sunday, August 9th | 10:45 am | Location: O'Hare III

Enriched by God: How God's Gifts Are Designed to Promote the Health and Healing of the Body of Christ

Roy Ciampa

This presentation will discuss what Paul says about gifts in 1 Corinthians and how this relates to practices of patronage common in the Greco-Roman world. More specifically, it will explore the significant impact of understanding—as Paul does—that every believer is given one or more gifts directly by God (in a world where patronage usually occurred in a hierarchical, trickle-down fashion from higher social tiers to lower ones). Using their spiritual gifts, each member of the church becomes both a benefactor and a beneficiary in relation to every other member. This helps us better understand how God's gifts are designed to promote the health and healing of the body of Christ. Key texts include 1 Corinthians 1:4–9 and 1 Corinthians 12:4–26.

This session will be recorded and livestreamed.

Notes

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providing quality resources on biblical gender equality

Workshop Session Descriptions



Track: Introduction to Biblical Equality

Learn the basics of Biblical Equality and the origins of CBE through sessions in this track.

Workshop Session 1D

Friday, August 7th | 10:30 am | Location: Midway

The Making of a Movement: The Founding of Christians for Biblical Equality

Amber Burgess

For newcomers, join this session to learn about the origins of CBE International: who we are and why we started. Learn about our mission and values, understand the basics of our beliefs about biblical equality, and find out how you can participate with our ongoing projects.

Workshop Session 4B

Saturday, August 8th | 10:30 am | Location: Love B

Human Flourishing: Why Women's Shared Leadership Matters

Mimi Haddad

Research from humanitarians and employment experts agree: Including women on leadership teams is essential for achieving the best outcomes. Even more, the history of Christian Missions shows that when women joined and outnumbered men during the Modern Missionary Movement, Christian faith flourished in the Americas, Asia, and Africa. The partnership of women and men is God's great commission in any field. Humanity works better when women and men serve together, side by side.

Workshop Session Descriptions



Track: Biblical Equality in Action

Biblical equality is not an abstract belief restricted to ivory towers. Sessions in this track show where the rubber hits the road: learn more about Biblical Equality in relation to areas like Christian living, pastoral care, and counseling.

Workshop Session 1B

Friday, August 7th | 10:30 am | Location: Love B

Abusing God? (How) Do our beliefs about gender affect the safety of our churches?

Charles Read

This workshop will draw on examples from the UK to open a discussion about whether what we believe about gender roles and about God has an impact on the culture and practice of our churches around the safeguarding of children, women, and vulnerable adults. By looking at another country and setting, we can reflect on our own situation.

Workshop Session 1C

Friday, August 7th | 10:30 am | Location: Kennedy

Rooted in the Same Soil: Flourishing as a Non-Hierarchical Woman in a Hierarchical Church

Paige Cunningham

For women whose understanding of gender-based roles and leadership has shifted while their church remains committed to a complementarian framework, this conversation explores how to remain rooted in the local church. The session will explore practical and spiritual strategies for moving beyond mere endurance toward a life of integrity, peace, and flourishing—sustained by love for Jesus and His people.

Workshop Session 2B

Friday, August 7th | 1:30 pm | Location: Love B

Understanding and Recovering from Religious Patriarchy

Heidi I. Knapp and Patrick J. Knapp

The experience of religious patriarchy can be deeply painful for those affected. Focusing on both individual healing and marital repair, this presentation aims to offer an understanding of religious patriarchy and explore avenues for recovery. Drawing from personal history, client case examples, biblical narratives, and illustrative word pictures, this discussion outlines the foundational virtues essential to healthy relationships. Additionally, it critically examines false beliefs that often fuel religious patriarchal abuse.

A structural framework is introduced to navigate the process of repair for individuals and couples, identifying essential healing principles that facilitate recovery. Restorative activities are suggested to address the damage caused by patriarchy within religiously abusive systems. These activities are designed to support healing and promote the restoration of well-being for all those affected.

Following this presentation, the speakers will be available to answer questions, either within the group setting or individually, to provide additional support as needed.

Workshop Session 2C

Friday, August 7th | 1:30 pm | Location: Kennedy

Two Whole People: Building a Healthy Christian Marriage

Taffi Dollar

Two Whole People: Building a Healthy Christian Marriage is focused on the importance of entering marriage as emotionally healthy, spiritually grounded, and personally whole individuals rather than expecting a spouse to complete or heal unresolved issues. The session emphasizes Christ-centered partnership, healthy communication, emotional maturity, mutual respect, shared leadership, boundaries, and personal accountability. Couples are encouraged to grow individually in their relationship with God while cultivating unity, trust, intimacy, and purpose together—building a marriage rooted in grace, healing, and biblical love rather than dependency or control.

Workshop Session 3A

Friday, August 7th | 3:30 pm | Location: O'Hare III

What the Body Speaks: How Church Structures Communicate Biblical Equality

Tara Korpi

Churches communicate what they believe about men and women not only through theology, but through the signs and symbols embedded in their shared life. This workshop invites men and women to explore how leadership structures, decision-making patterns, and everyday practices tell the story of their systems within the Church. Drawing from 1 Corinthians 12 and the biblical image of the Church as a living body, the session offers a way of reading church life attentively, asking what is being communicated about authority, trust, and belonging through repeated actions and arrangements. Participants will reflect on how individual and shared decisions shape culture, sometimes reinforcing inequality even when biblical equality is affirmed in theology. Rather than debating gender models, the focus is on cultivating interpretive discernment and practical wisdom. Attendees will leave with concrete questions they can use to read their own contexts more clearly and to realign leadership practices toward mutuality, shared responsibility, and the flourishing of the whole body of Christ.

This in-person session will also be available for LIVE virtual viewing.

Workshop Session 3C

Friday, August 7th | 3:30 pm | Location: Kennedy

How the Subtleties of Patriarchy Set Up Marriages to Fail

Sarah Ago

Patriarchy doesn't always look like a brazen male seeking dominance over a compliant female. Sometimes, it subtly creeps in through the prevalence of teaching women to distrust themselves, repress their needs and wants, and keep their expectations in check. This seminar examines the way that movements such as the evangelical purity culture and the no dating/courtship movement have set up marriages to struggle. We will discuss how the expectation that a man leads and a woman follows can diminish a woman's confidence in her ability to make her own choices.

We will examine misinterpretations of Jesus's command to deny oneself and passages about the wickedness of the human heart to see how they have laid the groundwork for self-betrayal and an incongruence of our inner and outer

Workshop Session Descriptions

lives. We will seek to uncover the grace God offers in the midst of the pain of a marriage ending and explore how to become free of the toxic messages that many women and men have internalized, the fruit of which has often been brokenness in marriage.

Workshop Session 4A

Saturday, August 8th | 10:30 am | Location: O'Hare III

Making Us Whole: Practicing Honesty, Hope, and Hospitality in a Context of Hierarchy

Joy J. Moore

Moving beyond simple platitudes, this session highlights the importance of context and empathy, aiming to help people see the world and scripture in a fresh, transformative way offering practices to become an answer to Jesus's prayer for unity.

This in-person session will also be available for LIVE virtual viewing.

Workshop Session 4C

Saturday, August 8th | 10:30 am | Location: Kennedy

"All Hands on Deck"—How Healthy Families Practice Mutuality, Grace, and Repair

Kathy Myatt

Faith, hope, and love form the skeleton of a healthy family, and mutuality holds these together. Grace lubricates growth, especially when inevitable bumps and scrapes call for healing. This session casts a vision for happy loving relationships!

Workshop Session 5B

Saturday, August 8th | 1:30 pm | Location: Love B

In Sickness, Health, and Ministry: How Cancer Disrupts the Concept of Gender Roles in Marriage

Amber Burgess

Just like Satan, cancer seeks to kill, steal, and destroy. It affects individuals, families, finances, and marriages. Drawing from personal experiences, an egalitarian understanding of Scripture, and sociological research, this session will explore how a patriarchal understanding of marriage can hurt women and men with cancer as well as their spousal caregivers. This session will conclude with what Christians and the church can do to help prepare and care for couples and families where a cancer diagnosis is present.

Workshop Session 5C

Location: Available on YouTube and in the Band app

The Lament and Hope of a Biblical Egalitarian

Douglas Groothuis

The journey into egalitarianism can be challenging and lonely. This session will follow my own journey into egalitarianism, the challenges I have faced, and my hope that God will continue to call and equip women for all levels of ministry. I address how to work in ministry with those who do not share your perspective as well as finding like-minded Christians on biblical equality.

Workshop Session 6A

Sunday, August 9th | 9:00 am | Location: O'Hare III

Galatians 3:28 and the White Nationalism Movement: Healing a Wounded Body

Johnie Wood

Drawing on years analyzing extremist movements in counterterrorism as well as work training pastors, this session will show how White Christian Nationalism (WCN) misuses Scripture to sacralize hierarchy, protect group power, and sideline women and people of color in the name of "biblical order." Contrast these distortions with the New Testament's vision of a reconciled, multiethnic church where gifts are shared across genders, power is exercised as service, and no one part of the body is elevated over the rest (1 Corinthians 12; Galatians 3:28). Participants will leave with a simple diagnostic tool for spotting WCN "tells" in sermons and church life, and with concrete pastoral practices for responding with truth, humility, and courage rather than shame or contempt.

This in-person session will also be available for LIVE virtual viewing.

Workshop Session 6B

Sunday, August 9th | 9:00 am | Location: Love B

Justice, Mercy, and Healing: A Faithful Response to Domestic Violence

Elizabeth Beyer

This workshop begins with a brief overview of intimate partner violence (IPV) exploring what it is, how it manifests, and why it so often remains hidden within families and faith communities. Participants will examine common myths, warning signs, and the spiritual and relational dynamics that can complicate both disclosure and response. The workshop will conclude with a practical, action-oriented focus on how churches can move beyond awareness to faithful action by developing prevention strategies and thoughtful response plans for when domestic violence is disclosed. Attendees will leave with guidance for creating safer congregations that reflect compassion, justice, and a commitment to protecting the vulnerable.

Workshop Session Descriptions

Workshop Session 6D

Sunday, August 9th | 9:00 am | Location: Midway

Practical Insights for Empowering the Women in Your Life

Todd Korpi

This workshop aims to use a mix of personal experience, theological input, and original research to offer tips, perspectives, and best practices for people to better empower and advocate for the women in their lives.

Workshop Session Descriptions



Track: Going Deeper with Biblical Equality

Learn more about biblical equality: this track provides sessions that go in-depth with biblical exegesis, history and archeology, and theology.

Workshop Session 1A

Friday, August 7th | 10:30 am | Location: O'Hare III

Godly Gifted Women in Church Ministry: A Romans 14 Issue or Crucial Secondary Doctrine?

Sam Killins

Is encouraging and empowering godly gifted women in church leadership and teaching positions a matter of conscience, or is it a matter of liturgical orthodoxy? Is the freedom for women to employ all their gifts of the Holy Spirit within the whole church a universal principle, or is it a context and conscience specific preference without a specific "right" or "wrong" answer?

This in-person session will also be available for LIVE virtual viewing.

Workshop Session 2A

Friday, August 7th | 1:30 pm | Location: O'Hare III

Finding the Big Points: What Really Matters in the Biblical Equality Debate

Andrew Bartlett

Scholarly debate is vast and can be quite confusing to navigate, but there are some big, central points. In this session, Andrew Bartlett aims to identify and explain those points straightforwardly, showing how, in the key passages, complementarian expositions add to Scripture what is not actually there.

This in-person session will also be available for LIVE virtual viewing.

Workshop Session 2D

Friday, August 7th | 1:30 pm | Location: Midway

Why Does Genesis 2 Emphasize Equality So Much? A Study on Structure and Rhetorical Design

Flavio Prestes III

When read in the Hebrew text, Genesis 2 emphasizes the equality of women at least three times. Why is the text so emphatic on equality? The reason may lie in the structure of the two creation stories. The emphasis on equality seems to be a deliberate strategy to counter the natural flow of the text and thus prevent the reader from supposing that the relationship between men and women should be asymmetric.

Workshop Session 3B

Friday, August 7th | 3:30 pm | Location: Love B

A More Excellent Way: Rethinking Ancient Corinth and the Christian's Radical Call to Equality

Joy J. Moore

The session rereads Paul's letters to the 1st century church in ancient Corinth as a relevant challenge to practicing Christian community in the 21st century age of contempt.

Workshop Session 4D

Saturday, August 8th | 10:30 am | Location: Midway

Equality in Ephesians: An Archaeological Study

Carina Pereira de Oliveira Prestes

This presentation will focus on Ephesians 2:14–16 in light of its context, archaeological finds, Pauline letters, and other textual sources. While this passage might seem to say little about women's roles in the early church, looking at it through its historical and literary context, the passage reveals a lot about Paul's view on women's participation in the first decades of Christianity.

Workshop Session 5A

Saturday, August 8th | 1:30 pm | Location: O'Hare III

“By all means, keep moving”: Pursuing Wholeness After the Church's Stroke

Israel Steinmetz

The patriarchal denial of full equality, dignity, and Spirit-gifted-ministry to female members of the body of Christ is akin to a spiritual stroke within the Church which has compromised and at times paralyzed half of Jesus' followers. Stroke recovery requires a process of re-learning how to function, often by developing new neural pathways to create new mechanisms for functioning, bypassing dead and dysfunctional portions of the brain.

Recovery of the body of Christ may require something similar; but what might this recovery process look like? Drawing on New Testament examples, I highlight the power of telling a better story, embracing the Spirit's work, and re-envisioning power, status, and structures. Ultimately, I encourage us to draw strength and inspiration from the wisdom of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who challenged those pursuing justice in his time: “By all means, keep moving.”

This in-person session will also be available for LIVE virtual viewing.

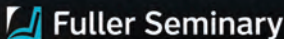
Workshop Session Descriptions

Workshop Session 5D

Saturday, August 8th | 1:30 pm | Location: Midway
Naming God 101

Charles Read

We will look at the diversity of how God is named in Scripture and why we need to pay more attention to this in our churches—especially in areas like worship, pastoral care, and evangelism. We will examine whether God can be called “mother” as well as “father” and consider the theological issues this raises.



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Student Paper Presentations

Saturday, August 8th | 4:30 pm | Location O'Hare III



Jessica Czirko-Fleck

Rev. Dr. Jessica Czirko-Fleck is a scholar and practitioner dedicated to cultivating diverse leadership in the church, with a particular focus on women and girls. She believes that expanding leadership opportunities is vital for biblically equitable communities of faith. Dr. Czirko-Fleck is currently earning a PhD in Practical Theology from Fuller Theological Seminary. She also earned her Doctor of Ministry in Leadership and Preaching, graduating with honors from Asbury Theological Seminary. Jessica teaches for Olivet Nazarene University and has taught at Crown College, developing courses on women and diversity. Beyond her academic work, she treasures being an aunt and enjoys swimming, preaching, and her friendships.

“Egalitarian Citizenship”

Sexism is rampant inside the church, outside the church, and in public theology. Based on theories of citizenship and egalitarianism, however, public theology could be a part of devising needed changes. Grounded in the *imago Dei*, citizenship theology would provide for full participation in public spaces. In addition, egalitarianism can bring an understanding of citizenship forward by focusing on biblical equality between women and men. If public theology were able to embrace both understandings, it could become the key to change in the United States and the churches therein.



Stephanie Hill

Stefanie Hill is a PhD student in Bible Exposition at Liberty University's Rawlings School of Divinity, where she will begin the dissertation phase of her doctoral studies this fall. Among her research interests is the theology of women as presented in the Gospels.

“Women and the Kingdom of God”

Stephanie will examine how Luke's narrative portrays Jesus' perspective on women—not as peripheral figures, but as active participants in the unfolding Kingdom of God. It traces a redemptive trajectory that moves decisively away from the Greco-Roman cultural norms and toward the kingdom's ethical ideal in which distinctions of ethnicity, status, and gender are subsumed and all are made one in Christ (Gal. 3:28, NRSV). Through the portrayal of three women closest to Jesus—Mary of Bethany, Mary of Magdala, and Mary of Nazareth—the paper demonstrates how Jesus overturns societal expectations by elevating women as models of faithful response, proclaimers of divine revelation, and active participants in the Kingdom of God.

Student Paper Winners and Paper Descriptions



Lark Kelsey

Lark Kelsey (MA, ThM, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary) is a second-year PhD in Preaching student at Baylor University's George W. Truett Theological Seminary. She is researching the spiritual trauma experiences of women in vocational ministry.

“A Fractured Narrative Made Whole”

Female ministers often incur spiritual trauma in the pursuit of their vocational call. When trauma fractures a person's narrative identity, the struggle for narrative coherence is an important aspect of healing. Reading the stories of other women who have prevailed through similar circumstances provides critical encouragement. One such story is that of Jarena Lee, who for many years was denied the opportunity to preach and endured rejection, hardship, and trauma from her own pastor and congregation. She persistently followed God's call to preach and rewrote the story of her experience to instruct and encourage others. Reading her fractured narrative made whole helps us to find healing for our own stories.

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REAL FAITH, REAL PEOPLE,
BIBLICAL TRUTH, REAL-WORLD IMPACT



WAJC is owned and operated by Maranatha Assembly of God, a multi-campus church with locations in Forest Lake, MN & Chisago City, MN.

CHEW ON THIS
WITH PASTOR ORLEEN
NOON - 1:00 PM CST
MONDAYS & TUESDAYS

IN PURSUIT
WITH PASTOR BILL
NOON - 1:00 PM CST
THURSDAYS

**SOMETHING TO
THINK ABOUT**
WITH PASTOR MIKE
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM CST
FRIDAYS

Join CBE's 2026 Conference Band App Group

The Band App is your central hub for conference updates, announcements, networking, and community engagement before, during, and after the conference.

Why Join the Band App?

- Receive important conference announcements and schedule updates.
- Connect with attendees from around the world.
- Participate in discussions before and during the conference.
- Access helpful reminders and event information.
- Share photos, reflections, and encouragement throughout the conference.

How to Join

1. Download the Band App from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store, or visit band.us in your web browser.
2. Create a free Band account (if you don't already have one).
3. Scan the QR code provided below.
4. Request to join the **CBE 2026 Conference** group—**Made Whole: Healing the Body of Christ**. Your request will be approved as soon as your conference registration is verified.

Virtual Attendees

The Band App is the primary place to access sessions, receive livestream reminders, ask questions, connect with other virtual and in-person participants, and receive important announcements throughout the conference.

In-Person Attendees

Use the Band App to receive schedule updates, connect with other attendees, learn about networking opportunities, and stay informed about conference activities happening throughout the weekend.



Scan the QR code to Join CBE's
2026 Conference Band App Group!

