

2016 Small-Town Pastors' Conference

A conference tailored to pastors and wives
in town and country settings



October 3-5
Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Ordinary Pastor, Extraordinary God

Featuring

Timothy Laniak



Professor of
Old Testament,
Gordon-Conwell
Theological Seminary;
Executive Director,
ShepherdLeader.com;
frequent conference
speaker; author,
including *Shepherds
After My Own Heart:
Pastoral Traditions and
Leadership in the Bible*
and *While Shepherds
Watch Their Flocks*

Thomas White



President,
Cedarville
University; small-
town pastor's son;
author, including
*Franchising
McChurch: Feeding
Our Obsession with
Easy Christianity*



**Rural Home
Missionary Association**



Ron Klassen



Ordinary Is Okay

RHMA Executive Director

A few years ago, D.A. Carson wrote the following about his father, a longtime small-church pastor:

Some pastors, mightily endowed by God, are remarkable gifts to the church. . . . We thank God for such Christian leaders from the past and pray for the current ones. . . . Most of us, however, serve in more modest patches. . . . Most of us – let us be frank – are ordinary pastors. Dad was one of them. This little book is a modest attempt to let the voice and ministry of one ordinary pastor be heard, for such servants have much to teach us. (Introduction in *Memoirs of an Ordinary Pastor: The Life and Reflections of Tom Carson*)

Do you sometimes find yourself discouraged by your own ordinariness? Restless in the ordinary place in which you find yourself? Frustrated, perhaps exhausted, in the midst of your attempts to overcome or escape your ordinary circumstances? Perhaps a bit of encouragement from the ordinary – examples like Tom Carson – will help. Perhaps some reminders from God's Word regarding matters that really count. Perhaps a refocusing on our extraordinary God.

Let's get together and talk about this – and other things! Come, and you'll find yourself in a warm and affirming atmosphere. Come, and you'll connect with a host of people who understand your ministry context. Come with the expectation that you will return to your place of ministry with renewed passion and vigor.

A handwritten signature of Ron Klassen in black ink.

**Can't come to
the Lancaster Conference?**

**Join us in Morton, Illinois
April 24-26**

For more information about this conference,
go to www.rhma.org.

RHMA

Box 300, Morton, IL 61550

Call toll-free: 866-263-2350

info@rhma.org www.rhma.org



Meet the Seminar Leaders

Bill Allison



Founder and Executive Director of Cadre Ministries; former small-town youth pastor; conference speaker; author, including *Disciplemaker's Guide to Grow, Minister & Lead*

Lee Eclov



Senior Pastor, Village Church, Lincolnshire, Illinois; grew up in a rural South Dakota church; contributor, *Leadership Journal* and *PreachingToday.com*; author, *Pastoral Graces: Reflections on the Care of Souls and Pastor's Service Manual*

Megan Hill



Pastor's wife and pastor's daughter; editorial board, *Christianity Today*; regular contributor to *Her.meneutics* and to The Gospel Coalition; conference speaker; author of the *Sunday Women* blog and *Praying Together*

Peggy Huber



Adult Discipleship Team, Calvary Church, Lancaster; longtime pastor's wife and missionary

Brad Iverson



Executive Director, Church and Community Development, AWANA; longtime small-town pastor

Ron Klassen



Executive Director, RHMA; former small-town pastor; conference speaker; author, including *No Little Places: The Untapped Potential of the Small-Town Church* and *Leading Through Change: Shepherd the Town and Country Church in a New Era*

Shawn McMullen



Director of Church Relations, Center for Church Leadership; longtime small-town pastor; conference speaker and seminar leader; author and editor, including *Unleashing the Potential of the Smaller Church* and *Releasing the Power of the Smaller Church*

Larry Moyer



Founder and CEO of EvanTell; grew up on a farm; evangelist in many small towns; author, including *Free and Clear: Understanding and Communicating God's Offer of Eternal Life*; editor, *The Evangelism Study Bible*

Seminars

Tuesday Morning (90 Minutes)

Disciplemaking with Youth in a Small-Town Church

Bill Allison

We talk a lot these days about following Jesus, but what does that really look like in real life? We'll explore what it means to help teens embrace a Jesus-like disciplemaking way of life in a small-town context. Bring your Bible and sense of humor.

The 24-Hour Pastor's Wife: Delighting in God and Doing Good When Life Gets Busy

Megan Hill

(For women)

The to-do list of a pastor's wife is seemingly endless. Fold bulletins. Make a casserole. Play the piano. Text a prayer request. Teach Bible study. Go to the grocery store. With so many important ways to serve, how can we get it all done? And how do we choose which tasks take top priority? We'll consider what the Bible says about a well-ordered life and see some important ways to delight in God – even when life gets busy.

Situational Leadership

Ron Klassen

We do well to consider how we might tailor our leadership approach to fit our town and country context, taking into account such things as the church's identity and history, established patterns and processes, the leadership style of former pastors, the congregation's view of the pastor, and the cultural view of leadership.

The Influential Small-Town Church

Shawn McMullen

We'll talk about how the small-town church is influential when it makes the most of what it has – capitalizing on inherent strengths, developing strategies that connect the church to the community, and committing to positive changes which help keep the church progressing.

Why Big and Small Churches Have Lost Their Cutting Edge in Evangelism and How They Can Regain It

Larry Moyer

Large and small churches admit to the fact that their growth is mainly through transfer of believers from one church to another rather than through conversion of the lost. In a day that is great for evangelism, we'll explain why churches have lost that cutting edge and what is necessary to regain it.

Tuesday Afternoon (60 Minutes)

Turning Pew Potatoes into Passionate Participators

Bill Allison

Only about 20% of churchgoers volunteer their time and talents in their church. This means about 80% of the people in our churches are pew potatoes. This is not only unhealthy, it's unbiblical. How can we cooperate with God in turning pew potatoes into passionate participators?

In It for the Long Haul

Lee Eclov

It seems there is no end to the stuff that can wear a pastor out. If we're to "not become weary in doing good," we're going to need some help! We'll talk about how small-town pastors must invest in the inefficient and the immeasurable, how to ward off growth gremlins, and the role of prayer.

Problem or Privilege: Navigating the Challenges of Ministry Life with Grace

Megan Hill

(For women)

The Church is the beloved bride of Christ, purchased by His life and washed by His blood. But the Church is also a community of sinners who sometimes fail to reflect their holy God. Whether it is financial strain, unjust criticism, or balancing precariously on a pedestal, the life of a pastor's wife has particular challenges. We'll look at several common scenarios and discuss how to navigate them with grace.

The Biblical Importance of Children's Ministry in a Town and Country Church

Brad Iverson

Might some in our congregations not see the importance of children's ministry? Is it possible that undervaluing children is actually keeping your church from growing?

Step by Step – How to Build a Culture of Evangelism Within Your Town and Country Church

Larry Moyer

When it comes to evangelism, some small-town pastors think they are at a disadvantage. To the contrary, there are many reasons why they have the advantage. In a step-by-step way, we'll address what town and country churches have found effective for building a culture for reaching the lost.

Wednesday Morning (90 Minutes)

Pastoral Graces

Lee Eclov

Pastors of smaller churches are well-positioned to be agents of God's grace through the ordinary work of ministry. We'll look at three pastoral tools: authority, wisdom, and grace (especially grace). We'll think creatively about public graces – things you do in worship services – and portable graces, when grace gets out of the office. Our time will be rich with pastoral humor and stories.

A Thriving Disciple: Sustaining Your Own Spiritual Vitality

Peggy Huber

(For women)

Because you devote so much time to helping others with their needs, it's easy for your own spiritual health to take a back seat. But that's a recipe for fruitless ministry and weariness of soul. We'll share helpful practices with one another. Come prepared to "show and tell" your sisters how you keep your spirit thriving.

While families are important to us, this conference is for pastors and wives. As a courtesy to other participants, we ask that no children attend with you. Thank you.

Being a Good Shepherd in a Town and Country Church

Brad Iverson

Pastors are to be shepherds. This certainly involves feeding our people through preaching and teaching. Let's take a look at other shepherding roles, like leading and protecting the sheep. Do we have blind spots? What about difficult sheep? These are important for us to consider.

The Pursuit of Holiness: Why It Especially Matters in Town and Country Ministry

Shawn McMullen

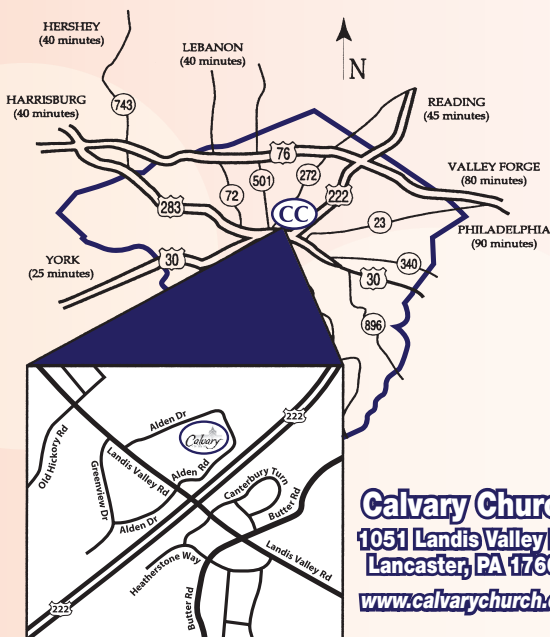
God said, "Be holy because I am holy." We'll consider God's call to holiness, how our holiness honors Him, and how we might expect God to bless our lives and ministries when we pursue holiness.

The Errors of Higher Education Coming to a Small Town Near You ... Soon

Thomas White

In this seminar, we'll address the challenges of evolution, postmodernism, historic Adam and Eve, same sex attraction, transgender orientation, and open theism. What do these challenges mean for the small-town church?

Location



Calvary Church
1051 Landis Valley Rd.
Lancaster, PA 17601
www.calvarychurch.org

(Note: You cannot exit from Rt. 222 onto Landis Valley Rd.)

Schedule

Monday, October 3

- 4:00–5:15 p.m. Check-in at Calvary Church
- 5:30 p.m. Supper
- 6:30 p.m. Plenary Session
Storyteller: Bill Allison
Speaker: Timothy Laniak
*The Other Reason for Ministry, or
Why Jonah Has Four Chapters* (Jonah 4:1-4)
- 8:00 p.m. Fellowship time

Tuesday, October 4

- Breakfast At your hotel or on your own
- 8:45 a.m. Plenary Session
Speaker: Timothy Laniak
*Shepherds After My Own Heart: Calling,
Compassion, and Courage* (Ezekiel 34:11-16)
- 9:45 a.m. Break
- 10:15 a.m. Seminars
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch – Two Options
Fellowship with pastors & wives
Get-to-Know RHMA
- 12:45 p.m. Seminars
- 2:00 p.m. Free time
- 6:00 p.m. Supper
- 7:00 p.m. Plenary Session
Storyteller: Lee Eclov
Speaker: Thomas White
Running the Race by Faith (Hebrews 12:1-2)
- 8:30 p.m. Fellowship time

Wednesday, October 5

- Breakfast At your hotel or on your own
- 8:45 a.m. Seminars
- 10:15 a.m. Break
- 11:00 a.m. Plenary Session
Speaker: Thomas White
What Faith Accepts and What Faith Rejects
(Hebrews 11:23-29)
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch

Tuesday noon

Get-to-Know-RHMA Presentation

Perhaps you are wondering, "What is RHMA and what does RHMA do?" In this luncheon meeting, information will be shared about the expanding and broad-reaching ministries of RHMA.

Information

REGISTRATION COSTS

POSTMARKED BY September 2:

Pastor ONLY:	\$115
Pastor & Wife:	\$160
Full-time Student:	\$80
Full-time Student & Wife:	\$100

After September 2: ADD \$20 to the total registration cost.

Registration includes lunches, suppers, and conference materials.

Registration costs are non-refundable after September 2.

LODGING

Special rates have been secured at:

Hawthorn Suites

2045 Lincoln Hwy
Lancaster, PA 17602
Phone: 717.290.7100

Rate: 1 Queen Bed w/sleeper - \$77.00/night + tax
2 Queen Beds - \$87.00/night + tax

Complimentary hot breakfast buffet served each morning.

To make your reservation, please call the hotel and mention RHMA to receive the reduced rate.

Hotel Reservation Deadline Is September 2

We encourage you to make your reservation early, as space is limited at these rates.

Continuing Education Credit

You can receive 1.0 CEU credit by attending all sessions of the Small-Town Pastors' Conference. Credits will be issued through Lancaster Bible College and Graduate School, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. A fee of \$10.00 is payable at the conference upon completion of a form which will be available in the conference packets. LBC will mail you a CEU certificate following the conference.

Two Special Events

**Tuesday
afternoon**



A TOUR OF AMISH COUNTRY

Join us as we travel by motor coach on a tour through the beautiful Lancaster County countryside. We will stop along the way to look around and see the Plain People's way of life and listen to the step-on tour guide talk about the sites.



HERSHEY TROLLEY WORKS

**All aboard for a historic journey
through the town built on chocolate!**

This memorable excursion delivers good, old-fashioned fun as singing trolley conductors dressed in period costumes entertain and inform you on an enchanting ride through CHOCOLATE TOWN, USA.



The cost for the Tour of Amish Country or Hershey Trolley Works is \$10.00/person and is IN ADDITION to your conference registration fee. Advanced tickets for the tours are required. Therefore, no refund will be given.

There are plenty of other things to see and do in the Lancaster County region. We will have an information table available with lots of brochures and ideas.

Registration

You may register online
(www.rhma.org) or fill out
this form and mail to RHMA,
Box 300, Morton, IL 61550

Name _____

Wife's name (if attending) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church/Ministry _____

Phone: Home _____ Work _____

Email _____

Registration cost if postmarked by September 2: check appropriate box

Pastor ONLY ☐ \$115 Pastor & Wife ☐ \$160

Full-time Student ☐ \$80 Full-time Student & Wife ☐ \$100

Registration cost _____

After September 2: Add \$20 to the total registration cost _____

Amish Tour add _____ **x \$10.00 =** _____

Hershey Tour add _____ **x \$10.00 =** _____

Total \$ _____

Choose ONE - per section - per person registered

Seminars — Tuesday Morning

Pastor Wife Title

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Disciplemaking with Youth in a Small-Town Church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The 24-Hour Pastor's Wife: Delighting in God and Doing Good When Life Gets Busy (<i>Women</i>) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Situational Leadership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The Influential Small-Town Church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Why Big and Small Churches Have Lost Their Cutting Edge in Evangelism and How They Can Regain It |

Seminars — Tuesday Afternoon

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Turning Pew Potatoes into Passionate Participants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | In It for the Long Haul |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Problem or Privilege: Navigating the Challenges of Ministry Life with Grace (<i>Women</i>) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The Biblical Importance of Children's Ministry in a Town and Country Church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | How to Build a Culture of Evangelism Within Your Town and Country Church |

Seminars — Wednesday

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pastoral Graces |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | A Thriving Disciple: Sustaining Your Own Spiritual Vitality (<i>Women</i>) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Being a Good Shepherd in a Town and Country Church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The Pursuit of Holiness: Why It Especially Matters in Town and Country Ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | The Errors of Higher Education Coming to a Small Town Near You ... Soon |

THREE WAYS TO PAY

1. Make check payable to RHMA and mail with this form.

2. Or pay with: _____ Visa _____ MasterCard

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

3 Digit Security Code

Signature _____

3. Or register online and pay there with a credit card.

Questions? Give us a call: 866-263-2350



Box 300

Morton, IL 61550

***RHMA's Small-Town
Pastors' Conference is
returning to Pennsylvania!***

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