

# 2022 SMALL-TOWN PASTORS' CONFERENCE

April 25-27 ♦♦♦ Morton, Illinois

## Clear Vision: Seeing as God Sees

### PLENARY SESSION SPEAKERS

**Bill Allison**



Founder and Executive Director, Cadre Missionaries; former small-town youth pastor; conference speaker; author, including *The Disciplemaking Genius of Jesus*

**David Pinckney**



Pastor, River of Grace Church, Concord, N.H.; rural pastor's son; member, Small Town Summits leadership team; co-director, Acts 29's Rural Collective

**D.A. Carson**



Distinguished Emeritus Professor of New Testament, TEDS; prolific author, including a biography of his father, *Memoirs of an Ordinary Pastor*

**Lee Eclov**



Retired senior pastor (22 years) of Village Church, Lincolnshire, Illinois; prolific author, including *Feels Like Home: How Rediscovering the Church as Family Changes Everything*

### SEMINAR LEADERS

**Mike Boyle**



**Liz Burns**



**Joe Humrichous**



**Adam Kipp**



**Ron Klassen**



**Steve Mathewson**



**Stan Risinger**



**Heather Vagle**



**Barney Wells**



# LEADER BIOS

## **Mike Boyle**

Interim pastor; former professor, Pastoral Ministries Department, Moody Bible Institute; former church planter in Illinois and North Dakota and District Superintendent with the Evangelical Free Church

## **Liz Burns**

Women's Discipleship Director, Rivertown Church, Battleboro, Vermont; speaker for Small Town Summits

## **Joe Humrichous**

Executive Director, Paradigm 1; former small-town pastor; Bible teacher and conference speaker; author of *The Vine and the Church: 7 Stewardships of Revival*

## **Adam Kipp**

Pastor, Grace Bible Church, a small-town church in Illinois; member, RHMA Board of Directors; leads small-town church service projects; professor in RHMA's TACT Program; leads small-town church service projects

## **Ron Klassen**

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

## **Steve Mathewson**

Senior Pastor, CrossLife Evangelical Free Church, Libertyville, Illinois; Director, DMin Program, Western Seminary; rural pastor in Montana for 20 years; grew up the son of an RHMA Director; author, including *The Art of Preaching Old Testament Narrative*

## **Stan Risinger**

Man in the Mirror Area Director of Men's Discipleship for West Central Illinois, serving many small-town churches; long-time owner of a trucking company; long-time interest and involvement in local and international ministries

## **Heather Vagle**

Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor with Agape Counseling in Morton, Illinois

## **Barney Wells**

Graduate and Seminary Dean, Associate Professor of Bible and Ministry, Lincoln Christian University; consultant and professor, RHMA's TACT Program; longtime country church pastor; author, including *Leading Through Change: Shepherding the Town and Country Church in a New Era*

# SEMINARS

## Tuesday Morning

### ***Disciplemaking with Youth in a Small-Town Context*** Bill Allison

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

### ***Making and Maturing Female Disciples in Small Places*** Liz Burns (women)

As women reconciled to Christ through the gift of the gospel, how do we participate in the ministry of the gospel around us? We'll discuss making much of gospel opportunities in the daily rhythms of life and inviting women into discipling relationships that are gospel-centered, grounded in God's word, and aimed at the glory of God and our sanctification

### ***How to Make Your Church Feel Like Home*** Lee Eclov

All good churches have a family feel about them. Drawing from his recent book, *Feels Like Home: How Rediscovering the Church as Family Changes Everything*, Lee will address specific areas we can focus on to make the most of our God-given environment and relationships in His household – areas like Sunday mornings together, care ministries, approach to guests, and more.

### ***The Power of Praying Together*** Joe Humrichous

The seminar will look at the practical theology of corporate prayer that will move any congregation in oneness to agree with God and His agenda for the church. This transformative prayer life of a congregation will focus the lens for a healthy church and ongoing revival for any church, any size, anywhere.

### ***What Does a Healthy Church Look Like in Rural America?*** Ron Klassen

Is improving stats the answer to this seminar's title (like increasing attendance and giving)? "But," you say, "I live in an isolated context with declining population." Did you know that the New Testament provides an example of a pretty healthy church (albeit with some shortcomings), small in size, located in a declining small town?

### ***Resourcing Models for Rural Church Planting and Ministry*** David Pinckney

This seminar will review at least 11 models for funding rural church plants and pastors. Frequently, resourcing for rural church planting and ministry is categorized either as bivocational or full time. There is a larger spectrum of resourcing models that presently exists, each with its benefits and challenges.

### ***Seeing Your New Rural Community: Learning How Things Work When You're Not From Around Here*** Barney Wells

Learn some important questions to ask, ways to look for answers to help you learn about your new rural community, and how to effectively minister there.

## Tuesday Afternoon

### ***Why Volunteers Quit and What We Can Do About It*** Bill Allison

We will explore why good ministry volunteers quit, how to encourage volunteers, how to train volunteers – not just organize them – and the three-minute difference.

### ***Discovering the Joy in Faithful Endurance*** Liz Burns (women)

It is often quoted that ministry is a marathon and not a sprint. We'll look at the sufficiency of Christ as the premise for our endurance and joy in ministering to the women God has placed around us.

***Preaching to Shape a Congregation That Functions Like a Family* Lee Eclov**

Preaching is God's #1 method of shaping His people. As preachers, we not only address the personal lives of believers but also our people's identity and relationships as God's household. Christ's radical rearrangement of relationship doesn't come easily, so effective preaching is crucial. In this seminar, we will look at our ecclesiology and get preaching ideas and angles to take home to our church family.

***Essentials for Longevity in Rural Church Planting and Pastoring* David Pinckney**

There are 10 essentials that contribute to long-term, healthy church planting and pastoring. Some are more evident than others, but each one will either be a positive in long-term ministry or be a factor in a spiraling decline in ministry joy.

***Men's Discipleship in the Rural Setting* Stan Risinger**

Statistics are disheartening. Men are not engaged in the church. This is a problem requiring a strategic solution. Stan will explore how churches reach men, develop a discipleship culture, and sustain it.

**Wednesday Morning (repeated in the afternoon)**

***Thinking About How to Have a Fruitful Retirement? Consider Interim Pastor Ministry!* Mike Boyle**

When you retire from a pastorate, it doesn't mean you have retired from ministry. When you bring pastoral experience into an intentional interim pastor ministry, you have the formula for fruitful retirement. It is time to consider an interim pastor ministry.

***The Life of the Vine in the Soul of the Church* Joe Humrichous**

Joe will answer the question, "How can we allow Christ to build His church and still maintain responsible leadership?" If, in fact, the mystery of "Christ in us is the hope of glory" (Col. 1:27), how do we biblically steward His life to have His best? We will learn the 7 stewardships of revival.

***Putting the Perfect Pastor Out to Pasture* Adam Kipp**

The perfect pastor makes 15 house calls a day and is always in the office when needed. The perfect pastor has a burning desire to work with kids and spends all of his time with senior saints. The perfect pastor . . . doesn't exist, but if you've felt the burden of those perfect pastor expectations, join Adam as he talks about putting them out to pasture and experiencing the grace that awaits us when we do.

***Sharpening Your Skills for Preaching Biblical Narrative Literature* Steve Mathewson**

Preaching the narrative literature of Scripture resembles remodeling your kitchen. It is easy to do poorly. This seminar will focus on the exegetical, theological, and story-telling skills needed to understand and proclaim the historical accounts in the Old and New Testaments – all especially beneficial for oral/rural cultures.

***Permission for Pain* Heather Vagle (women)**

As pastors' wives, we often find ourselves tending to the grief and hardship of others, but we rarely extend ourselves permission to feel our own pain. This session will focus on ways we can care for our pain in times of grief, hardship, or ministry challenges.

***Rural Ministry 101* Barney Wells**

This seminar is an orientation to rural ministry, geared primarily for new pastors and wives who are just getting started. Seasoned pastors and wives are welcome to attend for a refresher course!

# SCHEDULE April 25-27

## Monday

3:00-5:00 p.m.	Check-in at Grace Church – 1325 E. Jefferson, Morton
5:15 p.m.	Supper
6:30 p.m.	Plenary Session – D.A. Carson
8:00 p.m.	Dessert and Fellowship – <i>Hosted by the RHMA Board of Directors</i>

## Tuesday

8:00 a.m.	Prayer Meeting with Carey Gossen
8:45 a.m.	Plenary Session – D.A. Carson
9:45 a.m.	Break
10:30 a.m.	Seminars
11:45 p.m.	Lunch / Free-time Options ( <i>Funk Prairie Home Museum, golf, trap shooting/fishing, Reagan Museum, Metamora Courthouse, Bass Pro Shops</i> )
1:00-2:15 p.m.	Seminars
5:15 p.m.	Supper
6:30 p.m.	Plenary Session – Bill Allison

## Wednesday

8:00 a.m.	Prayer Meeting with Carey Gossen
8:45 a.m.	Plenary Session – David Pinckney
9:45 a.m.	Break
10:30 a.m.	Seminars (repeated in the afternoon)
11:30 a.m. (12:00 noon)	Lunch / Options • <i>Fellowship with other pastors and wives</i> • <i>Get-to-Know-RHMA</i> (Board vans for Abraham Lincoln Museum)
1:00-2:00 p.m.	Seminars (repeated from the morning)
2:30 p.m.	Ladies' Tea and Men's Dessert Forum
5:15 p.m.	Supper
6:30 p.m.	Closing Plenary Session – Lee Eclov

# REGISTRATION COSTS

Pastor ONLY	\$120	Optional additional costs:	
Pastor & Wife	\$160	Funk Prairie Home/Museum	\$5/person
Full-time Student	\$60	Lincoln Museum	\$10/person
Full-time Student & Wife	\$100		

› *After April 11, ADD \$20/person*

› *Registration costs are non-refundable after April 11*

# ACTIVITIES

In addition to seminars, the following are options for Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon.

## Tuesday

### **Funk Prairie Home Museum** *(Limit 20)*

Lafayette Funk was a founder of the Chicago Stockyards and Director of the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. His family owned one of America's largest farms and created the first hybrid commercial seed corn. The 13-room home, built in 1864, has been extensively restored. The museum is home to over 4,000 specimens of gemstones and minerals, including an intact saber-toothed tiger skull! The cost is \$5.00 per person.

### **Trap Shooting and Fishing**

Weather permitting, we will fish and shoot clay pigeons at an RHMA friend's hobby farm. Guns and fishing gear will be provided at no cost.

### **Golf Outing**

Weather and interest permitting, we will schedule a golf outing. The cost will be determined based on sign-ups. We will contact you before the conference with further information.

### **Reagan Museum**

President Reagan's alma mater houses a collection of over 2,000 items from his student days, movie career, and political life. It's the largest collection of Reagan memorabilia outside of the Reagan Library in California. No cost.

### **Metamora Courthouse**

The Metamora Courthouse State Historic Site is located in Metamora, Illinois. Built in 1845, the courthouse is best known for being only one of two surviving Illinois Eighth Circuit courthouses where Abraham Lincoln practiced law. No cost.

### **Bass Pro Shops**

Bass Pro Shops is an outdoor retail leader in hunting, camping, nature gifts, outdoor cooking, and much more. They have become one of America's premier outdoor retailers with destination outdoor retail stores across America and Canada, serving over 75 million sportsmen a year. Each store is unique and offers a truly unforgettable shopping experience – as close to the Great Outdoors as you can get indoors!

## Wednesday

### **Abraham Lincoln Museum** *(Limit 20)*

Step through the doors of the official Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, and you'll feel as if you've stepped into the life of our 16th president, widely acclaimed as our nation's greatest. The museum features state-of-the-art exhibits, interactive displays, and multimedia programs. It also contains the world's largest collection of documentary material related to the life of Lincoln. Join us for an experience you will never forget, and learn more about Abraham Lincoln and his legacy to the United States and the world. The cost is \$10.00 per person.



# HOTELS

The following rates have been secured at these Morton hotels. Mention RHMA to receive these rates.

## Baymont

Phone: 309-266-8888

\$79.00 – King

\$79.00 – Two Queens

(rates expire 4/5)

## Best Western

Phone: 309-266-9933

\$79.00 – King

\$79.00 – Two Queens

(rates expire 4/5)

## Comfort Inn & Suites

Phone: 309-263-5116

\$87.00 – Two Queens

(rate expires 4/6)

## Days Inn

Phone: 309-266-1600

\$79.99 – Two Queens

(rate expires 4/5)

## Quality Inn

Phone: 309-266-8310

\$79.99 – Two Queens

(rate expires 4/5)

