

THREE WAYS TO PAY

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3 Digit Security Code
3. Or register online (www.rhma.org/conferences) and pay there with a credit card or from your bank account.



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

Activities

In addition to seminars, the following activities are options for Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons IF YOU ARE NOT TAKING A SEMINAR. Please check the activity of your choice below.

More information about these activities is available online and at check-in

Tuesday, April 18, Activities

(please check one per person)

- | Pastor | Wife | Event |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Funk Prairie Home Museum (\$5.00/person) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Golf Outing (cost to be determined) |

Wednesday, April 19, Activity

(please check one per person, Limit: 20)

- | Pastor | Wife | Event |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum (\$10.00/person) |

On-your-own Activities

Ronald Reagan Museum at Eureka College
Metamora Courthouse State Historic Site
Bass Pro Shops – East Peoria



Event sponsored in part by the Village of Morton Tourism Fund, which helps with the cost of producing and mailing this brochure and other conference marketing endeavors.



Box 300
Morton, IL 61550

Join us at RHMA's
Small-Town Pastors'
Conference!

Small-Town Pastors' Conference

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

Small Towns, Big Challenges

Hopeful Ministry in a Despairing World

Featured speakers

Ron Klassen



Retiring Executive Director, RHMA; former small-town pastor; seminary professor, conference speaker; author, including the recently-released book, *Maximize! Leveraging the Strengths of Your Small Church*

Les Lofquist



Professor of Practical Theology and Director of Church Relations, Shepherd's Theological Seminary; former Executive Director of ICA International; raised in a small Minnesota town; former small-town church planter; member, RHMA Board of Reference

Jason McConnell



Pastor, Franklin United Church and East Franklin Union Church – Vermont farming communities; seminary adjunct professor; author, including the recently-released book, *Return to the Parish: The Pastor in the Public Square*; professor, RHMA TACT Program

Mark Yarbrough



President and Professor of Bible Exposition, Dallas Theological Seminary; conference speaker; author, including *Jonah: Beyond the Tale of a Whale*

Over 15 specialized seminars focused on small-town ministry

April 17-19

2023

Morton, Illinois



Planting & Strengthening Churches in Small Towns

Information

REGISTRATION COSTS

POSTMARKED BY April 3:

Pastor ONLY:	\$120
Pastor & Wife:	\$160
Full-time Student:	\$60
Full-time Student & Wife:	\$100

After April 3: ADD \$20 per person to the total registration cost.

Registration costs are non-refundable after April 3.

Registration includes lunches, suppers, and conference materials. We are sorry, but we cannot accommodate special diet requests.

Space is limited. First-come, first-served basis.

LODGING

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

Baymont by Wyndham Morton

Phone: 309-266-8888 \$79.00 - King/Two Queens
(rate expires 3/31)

Best Western Morton Inn

Phone: 309-266-9933 \$99.00 - King/Two Queens
(rate expires 3/31)

Comfort Inn & Suites

Phone: 309-263-5116 \$89.00 - Two Queens
(rate expires 4/8)

Days Inn by Wyndham Morton

Phone: 309-266-1600 \$79.99 - Two Queens
(rate expires 3/31)

Quality Inn Morton

Phone: 309-524-6064 \$79.99 - Two Queens
(rate expires 3/31)

All hotels provide a complimentary breakfast.

The Comfort Inn & Suites, Baymont by Wyndham Morton, and Best Western Morton Inn have indoor pools. To make your reservation, please call the hotel of your choice.

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

Schedule

All sessions held at Grace Church, 1325 E. Jefferson St.

Monday, April 17

3:00-5:00 p.m.	Check-in at Grace Church
5:15 p.m.	Supper at Grace Church
6:30 p.m.	Plenary Session with Mark Yarbrough
8:00 p.m.	Dessert and Fellowship

Tuesday, April 18

8:00 a.m.	Prayer Meeting
8:45 a.m.	Plenary Session with Mark Yarbrough
10:30 a.m.	Seminars
11:45 a.m.	Lunch / Free-time Options
1:00-2:15 p.m.	Seminars
5:15 p.m.	Supper
6:30 p.m.	Plenary Session with Ron Klassen

Wednesday, April 19

8:00 a.m.	Prayer Meeting
8:45 a.m.	Plenary Session with Jason McConnell
10:30 a.m.	Seminars
11:30 a.m.	Lunch
12:00 noon	Lincoln Museum, Springfield
1:00-2:00 p.m.	Seminars
2:30-3:30 p.m.	Ladies' Tea and Men's Dessert Forum
5:15 p.m.	Supper
6:30 p.m.	Closing Plenary Session with Les Lofquist

Can't make it to Morton?
Come to our 2023 conference
September 28 - 30, Lancaster, PA

Seminar Leaders

Jeff Clark



Director, Wheaton College Billy Graham Center's Rural Matters Institute; Global Rural Researcher, International Mission Board (Southern Baptist Convention); former rural church planter and pastor

Miriam Lofquist



Raised in Utah by church-planting parents; served with her husband, Les, in small-town church-planting ministry; conference speaker; works with future ministry wives at Shepherds Theological Seminary

Scott Mathis



President, Berean Fellowship of Churches; son of a country preacher; former small-town pastor and church planter; resides in a small town in Nebraska

Ben Ruhl



Lead pastor, BeFree Community Church, Alton, New Hampshire; Executive Director, Small Town Summits, a ministry to encourage and equip those serving in small places in New England

Olivia Ruhl



Small-town pastor's wife from rural New Hampshire; conference speaker; Small Town Summits women's speaker

Terry Thompson



Founder, Small Church USA; certified leadership coach focusing on church revitalization; former pastor, Rock Point Church, Crawfordsville, Indiana

Barney Wells



Dean Emeritus, Associate Professor of Bible and Ministry, Lincoln Christian University; consultant and professor, RHMA TACT Program; former country church pastor

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

Seminars

Tuesday Morning

Jeff Clark

Understanding the Rural Church

Most seminaries train pastors how to lead medium-sized (400+), suburban churches. The small, rural church is very different from the church we were trained to pastor. Understanding those differences is key to a long and fruitful ministry.

Les Lofquist

Solo Pastor: Great Expectations, Sobering Realities

Nothing's more exciting than arriving at your new church with a welcoming congregation grateful to finally have a pastor. But with those great expectations comes the understanding that there are some sobering realities for the solo pastor. This seminar will explore those realities – even dangers – and propose some answers.

Scott Mathis

Personal Time Management: Making the Most of Every Opportunity

Churches that actually make disciples are led by leaders who understand how to organize and discipline their time management. This seminar will help bring clarity and discernment in the time management of small-town church pastors.

Ben Ruhl

The Pastor as Public Theologian in Small Places

It is a common assumption that pastors in urban centers have a greater responsibility to engage the culture at a higher theological level than pastors in small places. In this seminar, we will consider three reasons why small-town pastors may have a greater responsibility to labor for theological depth and what a busy pastor might do to embrace that responsibility.

Olivia Ruhl

(Women)

Feasting on the Word of God: How to Study the Bible Using the Inductive Method

Isaiah 55:10-13 tells us as rain waters the earth, bringing forth a harvest, so God's Word shall go forth and accomplish His purposes, bearing a harvest in the fertile soil of our souls. In this seminar, we will learn various tools to help us and others dig into Scripture as we participate in His transforming work through His Word.

Barney Wells

The Big Challenge of the New Rural Poor

Over the past 40 years, rural villages have become pockets of inner-city-like poverty. Differing from the traditional rural poor in many ways, these new rural poor can present challenges to the church in the smallest of towns. We will learn what makes this ministry so challenging and some successful strategies for engaging it.

Mark Yarbrough

Beyond the Tale of a Whale: A Practical Guide to Preaching the Book of Jonah

We will walk through a practical outline, key points, and presentation tips for preaching the book of Jonah to your congregation. This timely book shows God's hand in Jonah's ministry to the despairing world he lived in and provides many applicable lessons for today.

Tuesday Afternoon

Jeff Clark

Becoming a Missional Rural Church

Ministry in rural areas has changed over the last 50 years, and rural areas are no longer bastions of Christendom. Church attendance is down, and social issues have become an epidemic in rural settings. We must treat rural areas as mission fields if we want to reach the people living there today.

Miriam Lofquist

(Women)

Quick! I Need a Great Idea!

Miriam will share ideas from 30+ years of ministry with women of all ages. These ideas include planning parties, bonding different generations, making visitors

welcome, praying for one another with a simple phone call, giving the easiest party ever for young teens, introducing a guest speaker and many more. We will also interact about new ideas you bring to share

Scott Mathis

Reaching Rurals: Learning to Understand the Subcultural Nuances That Allow the Gospel to Be Heard

In rural areas, it's often difficult for people to become disciples of Jesus. The inherent influences of independence, isolation, limited worldview, and agricultural family dynamics need to be brought to the Light of Jesus Christ to set captives free. This interactive seminar will help give both understanding and practical avenues to reach rural people with the Gospel of Jesus.

Terry Thompson

Culture for the Win

Every church, regardless of size, has a culture. A healthy culture is powerful; an unhealthy culture is devastating. This seminar will explore the effects of culture on a ministry and give practical ways to create a winning culture to the glory of God.

Wednesday (repeated in the afternoon)

Miriam Lofquist

(Women)

Did I Just Say That?

As a ministry wife, there are times to speak and times to be quiet. This is a seminar to help us know how to discern those times and to get biblical help for what we say. We will especially discuss confidentiality with those things shared with us and evaluate how we each are doing in that area. And more than just speaking words, we will talk about things we communicate without words

Jason McConnell

Return to the Parish: The Pastor in the Public Square

This seminar will challenge pastors to view their local community as their primary sphere of ministry. By breathing new life into an old idea of "parish," this seminar will cast a vision to engage the community with the gospel rather than simply perpetuate more programs – a new paradigm where pastors mobilize their churches to make disciples of Jesus Christ in the public square.

Ben Ruhl

One-to-One Bible Reading: Tailor-Made for Small Places

One-to-One Bible Reading is a powerful and simple discipleship tool in which two people dive into God's Word and come out on the other side closer to Christ and one another. In this seminar, we will investigate four reasons why One-to-One Bible Reading is suited for ministry in small places, learn how to do it ourselves, and consider how we might weave it into the culture of our rural churches.

Olivia Ruhl

(Women)

Limited Women Serving a Limitless God

We live in a world that tells us the sky's the limit or the only one holding you back is yourself. What are we to do when we find ourselves living within the limits of a small place, serving with limited resources, people, or our own capabilities? We will discuss how we can see our limitations as blessings in disguise instead of barriers to overcome, as they lead us to our limitless God.

Terry Thompson

Leadership for the Win

When leaders continue to grow, the ministry expands its opportunities. This seminar will focus on the importance of personal, ongoing leadership development. It will be fun and interactive, while offering encouraging tools, resources, and best practices.

Barney Wells

Rural Ministry 101

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

Registration

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

Name _____

Wife's name (if attending) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church/Ministry _____

Phone: Home/Cell _____ Work _____

Email _____

Registration cost if postmarked by April 3: Check where appropriate

Pastor ONLY ☐ \$120 Pastor & Wife ☐ \$160

Full-time Student ☐ \$60 Full-time Student & Wife ☐ \$100

Registration cost _____

After April 3: Add \$20 per person to the total cost _____

Funk Prairie Home Museum fee _____ x **\$5.00** _____

Lincoln Museum fee _____ x **\$10.00** _____

Total \$ _____

To help us plan for seminar materials and space, please indicate your choices below.

Tuesday Morning Seminars

Pastor **Wife**

Choose **ONE** per person

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Feasting on the Word of God: How to Study the Bible Using the Inductive Method</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Understanding the Rural Church</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Solo Pastor: Great Expectations, Sobering Realities</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Personal Time Management: Making the Most of Every Opportunity</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>The Pastor as Public Theologian in Small Places</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>The Big Challenge of the New Rural Poor</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Beyond the Tale of a Whale: A Practical Guide to Preaching the Book of Jonah</i> |

Tuesday Afternoon Seminars

Note: The Tuesday afternoon activities listed on the back side of this page coincide with these afternoon seminars.

Choose **ONE** per person

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Quick! I Need a Great Idea!</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Becoming a Missional Church</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Reaching Rurals: Learning to Understand the Subcultural Nuances That Allow the Gospel to Be Heard</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Culture for the Win</i> |

Wednesday Seminars

Note: The Wednesday afternoon activity listed on the back side of this page coincides with these afternoon seminars and the Ladies' Tea and Men's Dessert Forum.

Choose **TWO** per person unless you're taking in the activity (each seminar is repeated)

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Did I Just Say That?</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Limited Women Serving a Limitless God</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Return to the Parish: The Pastor in the Public Square</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>One-to-One Bible Reading: Tailor-Made for Small Places</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Leadership for the Win</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Rural Ministry 101</i> |

☐ Ladies' Tea ☐ Men's Dessert Forum

For more information about RHMA, go to www.rhma.org.

RHMA

Box 300, Morton, IL 61550

Call toll-free: 866-263-2350 • info@rhma.org

