

THREE WAYS TO PAY

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- 3. Or register online ([www.rhma.org/conferences](http://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 16, Activities

(please check one per person)

- |                          |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <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 17, Activity

(please check one per person, Limit: 20)

- |                          |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <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.



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



Box 300  
Morton, IL 61550

Small-Town Pastors' Conference

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

Over 15 specialized seminars focused on small-town ministry

Featured speakers

Marty Giese



President, Oak Hills Christian College; grew up on a farm in western Minnesota; longtime small-town pastor; founder of Country Shepherds' Workshop, professor, RHMA's TACT Program

Adam Kipp



Executive Director, RHMA; longtime small-town pastor; DMin in rural ministry, professor in RHMA's TACT Program

Steve Mathewson



Director, DMin Program, Western Seminary; rural pastor in Montana for 20 years; grew up the son of a former RHMA Director; author, including *Isen: 50 Reasons Why the Resurrection Changed Everything* and *The Art of Preaching Old Testament Narrative*

Stephen Witmer



Pastor, Pepperell Christian Fellowship, Pepperell, Massachusetts; co-founder, Small Town Summits; adjunct professor, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary; author, including *Eternity Changes Everything* and *A Big Gospel In Small Places*

April 15-17  
2024

Morton, Illinois



Planting & Strengthening Churches in Small Towns

Information

REGISTRATION COSTS

POSTMARKED BY April 1:

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

After April 1: ADD \$20 per person to the total registration cost.

Registration costs are non-refundable after April 1.

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

Baymont by Wyndham

Phone: 309-266-8888 \$89.00 - King/Two Queens (rate expires 3/31)

Best Western Morton Inn

Phone: 309-266-9933 \$109.00 - King/Two Queens (rate expires 3/31)

Comfort Inn & Suites

Phone: 309-263-5116 \$89.00 - King/Two Queens (rate expires 3/31)

Days Inn by Wyndham

Phone: 309-266-1600 \$99.99 - Two Queens (rate expires 3/31)

Holiday Inn Express & Suites

Phone: 309-263-4400 \$139.00 - King/Two Queens (rate expires 3/15)

Quality Inn

Phone: 309-524-6064 \$79.00- Two Queens (rate expires 3/31)

All hotels provide a complimentary breakfast. The Comfort Inn & Suites, Baymont by Wyndham, Holiday Inn Express, 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 15

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 Stephen Witmer
8:00 p.m.	Dessert and Fellowship

Tuesday, April 16

8:00 a.m.	Prayer Meeting
8:45 a.m.	Plenary Session with Stephen Witmer
10:30-11:30 a.m.	Seminars
11:45 a.m.	Lunch / Free-time Options
1:00-2:00 p.m.	Seminars
5:15 p.m.	Supper
6:30 p.m.	Plenary Session with Marty Giese

Wednesday, April 17

8:00 a.m.	Prayer Meeting
8:45 a.m.	Plenary Session with Steve Mathewson
10:30-11:30 a.m.	Seminars (repeated in the afternoon)
11:45 a.m.	Lunch
1:00-2:00 p.m.	Seminars (repeat of morning 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 Adam Kipp



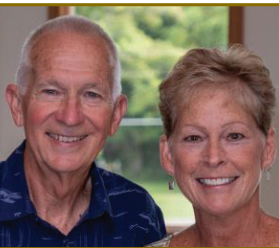
# Seminar Leaders

## Kyle Boone



Small-town pastor in northeast Ohio; doctorate from Dallas Seminary, his dissertation being *Discipleship Methods in Rural Youth Ministry*

## David & Louise Decker



Co-directors, Deer Ridge Ministries, a retreat center for pastors, missionaries, and spouses; David has 50 years of ministry experience and served

churches in the Midwest; Louise's doctoral dissertation focuses on the value of spiritual retreats for pastors and other professionals

## Shawn McMullen



Editor of *Christian Standard*; minister of Vevay Church of Christ in the small town of Vevay, Indiana, while engaging in a writing ministry; conference speaker; frequently published author, including *Unleashing the Potential of the Smaller Church*

## Kathy Petersen



Wycliffe Bible Translators Global Counseling Coordinator; grew up in Africa as an MK; she and her husband were Bible translators and church planters in remote Africa; women's Bible study teacher

## Jeff VanGoethem



Associate Pastor, East White Oak Bible Church, a rural church in central Illinois; seminary professor; four town and country pastorates; former member, RHMA Board of Directors; conference speaker; author, including *Living Together: A Guide for Counseling Unmarried Couples*

## Barney Wells



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

# Seminars

## Tuesday Morning

### Kyle Boone

#### Pastoring Through Domestic Abuse

One of four women experiences domestic abuse. Several in your congregation most likely have or will face domestic abuse. Pastors often function as the initial confidant. This seminar will give small-town pastors an understanding of abuse dynamics, a theological framework, and practical points.

### David & Louise Decker

#### 'M' is for Marriage ... 'M' is for Ministry ...

#### Are Your M&M's Melting?

If you are married and in ministry, there are always challenges. Dealing with the balance takes work. How do you deal with the push and pull? Join us as we look at ways ministry and marriage don't just co-exist but thrive.

### Marty Giese

#### Evangelism in a Rural Context: Sharing Christ in a Place

#### with Few Strangers

One of the challenges of evangelism in rural settings is significant long-term social exposure within rural communities. Evangelists in this setting face dynamics similar to sharing the Gospel with members of their immediate family. In this seminar we're going to talk about how to effectively equip church members to share their faith with people they know well.

### Steve Mathewson

#### Preaching the Old Testament Wisdom Books

The books of Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes can be difficult to interpret and challenging to preach, yet they have much wisdom to offer small-town churches and their pastors. They teach us how to live so that life goes well (Proverbs), how to live when life gets turned upside down (Job), and how to live with the reality that life is fleeting and frustrating (Ecclesiastes). This seminar will help small-town pastors understand how to preach these books effectively.

### Shawn McMullen

#### Practical Steps for Developing Leaders in the Town and

#### Country Church

We often wish we had better leaders in the churches we serve. This seminar addresses the need for quality spiritual leaders in the church and provides practical suggestions for developing them.

### Jeff VanGoethem

#### Given the Times in Which We Live, How Should Pastors

#### Be Praying?

We see the evangelical church largely in decline. We see our nation in spiritual and moral free fall. These are times to really pray! This seminar will explore some biblical teaching on deeper and more extraordinary prayer.

### 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'll learn what makes this ministry so challenging and some successful strategies for engaging it.

## Tuesday Afternoon

### David Decker

#### Looking for Sabbath Rest

Ministry leaders need Sabbath rest but don't often feel they have the time to take it. Let's talk about how to ask for it, how to incorporate it in your schedule, and how to not feel guilty about it. Together we'll look at the "why" and some practical ways to make it happen.

### Louise Decker

#### (Women)

#### Women in the Fishbowl

Gals, do you ever feel like everyone is watching you from all sides and not seeing you or your life in perspective? How do you identify the most important voices telling you what to do and figure out how to deal with all the others? Let's talk! Please join us as we look for answers and encouragement together.

### Shawn McMullen

#### Why the Pursuit of Holiness Matters in Town and

#### Country Ministry

God calls us to holiness even as He is holy (1 Pet. 1:15,16). How do we translate His call into a practical kind of ministry that can transform church members and draw unbelievers to Christ? This seminar examines God's call to holy living and its importance in town and country ministry and suggests practical steps in our pursuit of holiness.

### Stephen Witmer

#### The Hard and Happy Task of Personal Discipleship for

#### the Small-Town Pastor

In this seminar, we'll think about why personal discipleship can be a challenge for rural pastors but also why it's very doable and crucially important. We'll consider simple and practical steps to invest in others to help them grow spiritually.

## Wednesday (repeated in the afternoon)

### Kyle Boone

#### Youth Ministry Without a Youth Group

Parents and pastors want to see the next generation disciplined. Yet, many small churches do not have the resources to pull off a traditional youth group. We will discuss the problems, principles, and practices small churches need to consider in discipling the next generation well, given their context.

### Marty Giese

#### Leading a Turn-a-Round: Overcoming Inertia and Creating

#### Ministry Momentum in a Rural Church

Inertia is a significant challenge for rural churches in socio-culturally stable settings. Churches and ministries can get 'stuck' - losing vision and accepting the status quo. In this seminar we're going to talk about how to get 'unstuck' and ignite fresh ministry momentum in our churches.

### Kathy Petersen

#### (Women)

#### Living Well with Conflict

In ministry all over the world, there is conflict. The smaller our community or ministry team, the more amplified any conflict feels. Jesus had a ministry team and lived in small communities, too. Using visual illustrations and practical exercises, let's explore how to follow Him in living well with the inevitable conflicts that come as humans live and work together.

### Jeff VanGoethem

#### Reflections on the Revival at Asbury: How Should Small-

#### Town Pastors and Churches Think About Revival?

Recent events on the campus of Asbury University have reminded all of us of the concept of revival. What is revival? How should we correctly think about it? Does revival ever happen in small-town ministry?

### 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](http://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 1: Check where appropriate**

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

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

**Registration cost** \_\_\_\_\_

**After April 1: 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>Pastoring Through Domestic Abuse</i>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>'M' is for Marriage ... 'M' is for Ministry ... Are Your M&amp;M's Melting?</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Evangelism in a Rural Context: Sharing Christ in a Place with Few Strangers</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Preaching the Old Testament Wisdom Books</i>                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Practical Steps for Developing Leaders in the Town and Country Church</i>       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Given the Times in Which We Live, How Should Pastors Be Praying?</i>            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>The Big Challenge of the New Rural Poor</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>Women in the Fishbowl</i>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Looking for Sabbath Rest</i>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Why the Pursuit of Holiness Matters in Town and Country Ministry</i>           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>The Hard and Happy Task of Personal Discipleship for the Small-Town Pastor</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>Living Well with Conflict</i>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Youth Ministry Without a Youth Group</i>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Leading a Turn-a-Round: Overcoming Inertia and Creating Ministry Momentum in a Rural Church</i>           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <i>Reflections on the Revival at Asbury: How Should Small-Town Pastors and Churches Think About Revival?</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](http://www.rhma.org).

**RHMA**

Box 300, Morton, IL 61550

Call toll-free: 866-263-2350 • [info@rhma.org](mailto:info@rhma.org)



***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.***