SCHEDULE for the 2025 Elder/Pastor Conference

9:00-9:30   Fellowship, Prayer & Orientation

- Ephesians 2 Exposition: Mike Miller

10:00 - 12:30 CHURCH HEALTH & LEADERSHIP

ORGANIZATIONAL REALITIES
- Structures & Systems in Your Church
 • What helps unity? What hurts it?
 • Decision-making processes
 • Communication flows
 • Conflict resolution methods

- Current Church Assessment
 • Membership & engagement trends
 • Areas of health and concern
 • Regional challenges & opportunities
 • Open discussion: where do we need help?

Break

LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS
- Leadership Relationships
 • How leaders relate sets the tone
 • Building trust between elders & staff
 • Maintaining unity in disagreement
 • Creating healthy feedback loops

- Prayer as Priority
 • Moving beyond opening/closing prayers
 • Building prayer into decisions
 • Leading through listening
 • Practical prayer rhythms for leaders

Format:
• Brief presentations
• Table discussions
• Large group sharing
• Application exercises
• Prayer in small groups

12:30 Lunch

Afternoon Session
1:15 – 2:30   TECHNOLOGY & MINISTRY

TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT
- Current Impact Evaluation
- What's working well in your church?
- Where are we struggling?
- Communication platforms
- Ministry management tools
- Online vs in-person engagement

- Digital Ministry Balance
- Strengthening personal connections
- Avoiding technology dependence
- Managing staff/volunteer expectations
- Setting healthy boundaries
- Best practices sharing

Break

AI IN MINISTRY: Friend, Foe, or Future?

Real World Tensions
- "Will AI replace pastoral care?"
- "Is my sermon preparation authentic if AI helps?"
- "Are we losing the human touch?"
- "Can we trust AI-generated content?"
- "What if my church gets left behind?"

Honest Assessment
- What AI Can't Do
- Provide spiritual discernment
- Build authentic relationships
- Replace prayer and Holy Spirit guidance
- Lead with wisdom and empathy

- What AI Can Do
- Streamline administrative burdens
- Enhance (not replace) sermon research
- Improve communication efficiency
- Free up time for real ministry

Making Peace with AI
- Setting Biblical Boundaries
- When to use it
- When to avoid it

• Maintaining integrity
  • Protecting the sacred

Practical Next Steps
  • Start small, start safe
  • Learn from others' mistakes
  • Keep humanity at the center
  • Stay true to your calling

Format:
• Live demos of good/bad AI use
• Real church examples
• Group discussion of fears/hopes
• A Biblical framework for decisions

2:40-3:00 PRAYER & COMMISSIONING
Commitment to Action (5 min)
  • Individual reflection
  • Write one key action step
  • Share with prayer partner

Regional Prayer Groups (10 min)
  • Gather by geographic area
  • Share specific needs
  • Pray for one another

Sending Prayer (5 min)
  • Corporate blessing
  • Commission to serve