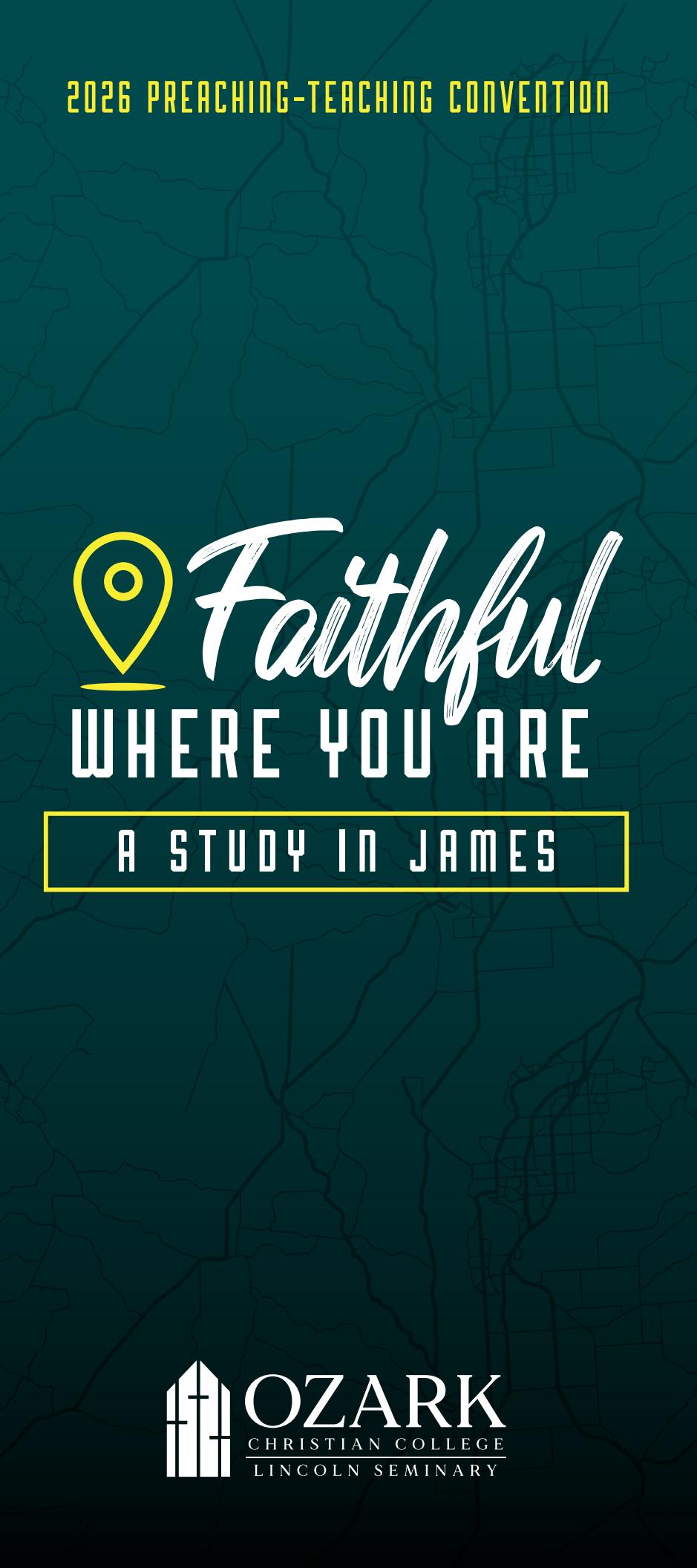




2026 PREACHING-TEACHING CONVENTION



Faithful WHERE YOU ARE

A STUDY IN JAMES





YOUR MISSION IS OUT THERE. TRAINING STARTS HERE.

BIBLICAL FOUNDATION

TRANSFORMATIVE COMMUNITY

KINGDOM SERVICE

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

BIBLICAL COMMUNICATION

BIBLICAL JUSTICE

CHILDREN'S & YOUTH MINISTRY

COUNSELING & PASTORAL CARE

DUAL DEGREE WITH A LOCAL UNIVERSITY

INTERCULTURAL STUDIES

ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP

WORSHIP & CREATIVE ARTS

ONLINE & SEMINARY DEGREES

 **OZARK**
CHRISTIAN COLLEGE
LINCOLN SEMINARY



Table of Contents

- 2 — WELCOME
- 3 — SCHEDULE
- 4 — CONVENTION INFORMATION
- 5 — MAIN SPEAKERS
- 6 — CHILDREN'S SESSIONS
- 6 — SPECIAL EVENTS
- 7 — WORKSHOPS
- 12 — MAIN SESSION & WORKSHOP LEADERS
- 18 — CAMPUS MAP

Welcome from the President



Henri Nouwen seemed destined to do great things.

The Pursuit of Ministry Success

Born in the Netherlands, the young man was a deep thinker, and after studying theology, Nouwen was named a visiting professor at the University of Notre Dame.

Henri Nouwen then became a full professor at Yale Divinity School, where his writing gained wide readership. (His 39 books sold over 7 million copies in 30 languages.) Nouwen's traveling preaching ministry grew as well. When preacher Robert Schuller's *Hour of Power* broadcast was reaching 20 million viewers each Sunday, Schuller invited Nouwen to preach three consecutive Sundays for the broadcast.

Eventually, Nouwen landed at Harvard Divinity School as Professor of Divinity. But something was wrong. For a scholar like Nouwen, Harvard was the top rung of the ladder, center stage, the brightest spotlight. But his soul could not find rest. Someone said, "When the light on you is brighter than the light in you, the light on you will destroy you." Spiritually, Nouwen found himself "in a very dark place."

So Henri Nouwen made a decision that shocked his world.

Nouwen resigned from Harvard to work at L'Arche, a home for mentally handicapped people.

The Joy of Ministry Faithfulness

"I moved from the best and the brightest, wanting to rule the world," he wrote, "to men and women who had few or no words and were considered, at best, marginal to the needs of society. It was a very hard and painful move. After twenty years of being free to go where I wanted and to discuss what I chose," he now lived "a small, hidden life with people whose broken minds and bodies demand a strict daily routine in which words are the least requirement."

None of them could read his books. His accomplishments did not impress them. And yet in his new routine at L'Arche—serving meals, changing soiled clothes, slow and halting conversations, hugs and punches, day after day—his soul slowly found refreshment in life with the residents and with God.

The joy of the Lord is not found in success, but in simple faithfulness, wherever you are.

When the Jerusalem church started in Acts 2, it too seemed destined to do great things. Thousands came to Christ—success after success. But in Acts 8, persecution struck. The believers scattered, suddenly leaving the throngs of the Jerusalem church behind for "a small hidden life" in some tucked away place. Disappointment and discouragement threatened to overtake them.

So James, preacher of the Jerusalem church, writes his letter to say: wherever God has scattered you, stay faithful. And if you do, even if it's "hard and painful," you can "consider it pure joy." (James 1:2)

Maybe that's a message you need. We're glad you're here for the 2026 Preaching-Teaching Convention! This week, as we study through James, our prayer is this: may God give you joy as you remain faithful...wherever you are.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Proctor".

Matt Proctor
President

Schedule

Monday, February 16

6:00 PM **President's Banquet (MPB)**
GUEST: MICHAEL JR.

8:00 PM **Funny How Marriage & Dating Works (Chapel)**

Tuesday, February 17

8:30 AM **Bible Study & Coffee (Chapel)**
JASON PRICE

9:30 AM **Main Session (MPB) Steadfast Perseverance (James 1:1-18)**
TYLER MCKENZIE

1:00 PM **Main Session (MPB) Righteous Obedience (James 1:19-27)**
JULIE GARISS

2:30 PM **Workshops**
SEE PAGES 7-10

3:30 PM **Workshops**
SEE PAGES 7-10

7:00 PM **Main Session (MPB) Merciful Deeds (James 2:1-26)**
DR. JERRY TAYLOR

8:30 PM **Alumni & Friends After-Party (MPB)**
Immediately following the main session

Wednesday, February 18

8:30 AM **Bible Study & Coffee (Chapel)**
JASON PRICE

9:30 AM **Main Session (MPB) Wise Words (James 3:1-18)**
MATT MEROLD

11:00 AM **Lunch with Lincoln Seminary at OCC (Student Center)**
Interested in learning more about Lincoln Seminary's programs?
Hear from Dean of Lincoln Seminary Michael DeFazio.

1:00 PM **Main Session (MPB) Humble Repentance (James 4:1-11)**
MICHAEL HINNEN

2:30 PM **Workshops**
SEE PAGES 7-10

3:30 PM **Workshops**
SEE PAGES 7-10

7:00 PM **Main Session (MPB) Prayerful Readiness (James 5:1-20)**
CAM HUXFORD

Convention Information

REGISTRATION

Register for the convention in the lobby of the MPB. Parents, please register your children at the main P-T Convention registration areas, and then proceed to the check-in areas in the upper level of the OCC Dining Hall.

OFFERING

Offerings at each evening session will go toward the ministry of OCC. You can also give online at occ.edu/give.

MEALS

Meals may be purchased in the OCC Dining Hall. Breakfast (7:00-8:15 a.m.) is \$6 per person, and lunch (11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.) and dinner (4:30-6:00 p.m.) are \$10 per person.

PRESIDENT'S BANQUET

OCC's annual President's Banquet will take place on Monday at 6:00 p.m. in the MPB with special guest comedian Michael Jr. The banquet is free to attend, but registration is required.

WI-FI

Log in to our free Wi-Fi network "OCC_Student" with the password, "wireless."

HEARING ASSISTANCE

During main sessions, hearing assistance devices are available at the sound booth inside the MPB.

SESSION RECORDINGS

Following the convention, registered attendees will receive free recordings of all main sessions and workshops via email. Visit our registration team in the MPB lobby to register.

BOOKSTORE

Located in the south end of the Mabee Student Center, the OCC bookstore is open from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Present your convention badge for a 10% discount on regularly priced items.

VIDEOS AND PHOTOS

Videos and photos are taken at OCC events. Your attendance constitutes permission for OCC to use your likeness in future publications.

On Stage



BIBLE STUDY & COFFEE



Jason Price

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY
MORNINGS AT 8:30 AM

WORSHIP LED BY



Isaac Schade

TUESDAY MAIN SESSIONS



Tyler McKenzie

STEADFAST
PERSEVERANCE
JAMES 1:1-18



Julie Gariss

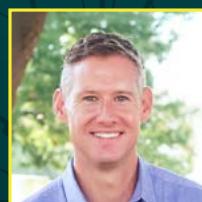
RIGHTEOUS OBEDIENCE
JAMES 1:19-27



Dr. Jerry Taylor

MERCIFUL DEEDS
JAMES 2:1-26

WEDNESDAY MAIN SESSIONS



Matt Merold

WISE WORDS
JAMES 3:1-18



Michael Hinman

HUMBLE REPENTANCE
JAMES 4:1-11



Cam Huxford

PRAYERFUL READINESS
JAMES 5:1-20

Children's Sessions

Children's sessions are available for children of P-T attendees, ages birth-grade 6, during the main sessions at 9:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., and during the President's Banquet on Monday.

Drop-off begins 30 minutes each session. Please pick up your children within 15 minutes of the session ending.

REGISTRATION

When you arrive, check in with your children at the main P-T Convention registration areas in the MPB, and then proceed to the children's areas in the upper level of the OCC Dining Hall.

NURSERY AND PRESCHOOL CARE: Birth-Age 5

ELEMENTARY SESSIONS: K-Grade 6

Special Events

PRESIDENT'S BANQUET

MONDAY • 6:00 PM • MPB

You're invited to the President's Banquet on Monday evening, with special guest comedian Michael Jr. Known as one of today's most gifted communicators, Michael Jr. has appeared on *The Tonight Show*, *Jimmy Kimmel Live*, Sony Pictures' feature film *War Room*, and more.

The banquet is free to attend, but registration is required.



MATT PROCTOR
OCC President



MICHAEL JR.
Comedian

Monday, February 16

6:00 PM Children's Session
UPPER LEVEL OF DINING HALL

Tuesday, February 17

9:30 AM Children's Session
UPPER LEVEL OF DINING HALL

7:00 PM Children's Session
UPPER LEVEL OF DINING HALL

Wednesday, February 18

9:30 AM Children's Session
UPPER LEVEL OF DINING HALL

7:00 PM Children's Session
UPPER LEVEL OF DINING HALL

FUNNY HOW MARRIAGE & DATING WORKS

MONDAY • 8:00 PM • CHAPEL

Comedian Michael Jr.

Tickets sold exclusively through Michael Jr.'s website

ALUMNI & FRIENDS AFTER-PARTY

**TUESDAY • MPB
FOLLOWING MAIN SESSION**

Connect with friends after the Tuesday evening main session. The reception is open to everyone, and refreshments will be provided.

Workshops



L = LIBRARY CLASSROOM

M = MISSIONS BUILDING CLASSROOM

IMC = IDLEMAN MINISTRY CENTER CLASSROOM

TUESDAY 2:30-3:20 PM

LEADING THROUGH COOPERATIVE PREACHING (L11)

Dr. Fred Hansen and Monte French

After serving together as elder and lead minister in Marion Road Christian Church in Rochester, Minnesota, Fred and Monte will draw on their experiences to share wisdom on involving elders in the preaching of the church.

WORKING GENIUS OVERVIEW (IMC110)

Damien Spikereit

An assessment-based resource to help teams work better together and more efficiently. As a certified facilitator with *Working Genius*, Damien will provide an overview of the model, how it can help your team, and a summary of what is involved in a team training.

RENEW.ORG PRESENTS: THE WORD OF THE LORD (M39)

Jonathan Storment

What makes a sermon more than a speech?

FROM PROGRAMS TO PURPOSE: TURNING ATTENDERS INTO PARTNERS IN MISSION (L15)

Andrew Estes

Why do most people come to your church? Is it because of the preacher, the building, their friends, or the programs? While these connections might draw people in, they don't always lead to lives transformed on mission. This workshop challenges leaders to move beyond measuring success by attendance or program participation and instead focus on equipping their people to carry out the mission of the church every day. Learn how to shift your culture from consumer-driven involvement to vision-centered disciple-making, where people are uniquely trained, empowered, and sent to live out their faith with purpose.

COTTON CANDY WORLD: AN OVERVIEW OF THE MAIN IDEAS OF ECCLESIASTES (L13)

Dr. Chad Ragsdale

In this workshop, we will explore the dominant themes of a misunderstood book and why its message is as urgent as ever.

THE PREACHER AND AI: FRIENDS OR FOES? (Chapel)

Dr. Jason Poznick

In this workshop, we'll explore the dangers and benefits of using AI in your sermon prep, as well as offer a few practical suggestions to help preachers use AI ethically and effectively.

ESTABLISHING A THEOLOGICAL VISION FOR WORSHIP MINISTRY (M36/38)

Corey Scott

In a day where we chase fads in worship services—the latest songs, models, or even the most ancient practices because they're "cool"—we must do the hard work of cultural assessment and engagement. This workshop will help navigate the hard work of seeing the biblical foundation for worship and assessing the current worship culture of your congregation, as well as how to shift that culture as needed to better engage (change) the culture in your community.

FORMATION VS. DEFORMATION (M34)

Tyler McKenzie

How do we equip the church to resist popular culture during one of the most mind-capturing times in human history?

HELPING STUDENTS FOLLOW THROUGH (IMC116)

Jayson French and Eric Epperson

The three things every student needs to stay connected to Jesus and serve in your church.

OCC ACADEMY AND YOUR CHURCH (M26)

Jim Dalrymple and Justin Dewell

OCC has several new ministry resources for you and your church. In this workshop, you will learn more about OCC Academy, Ministry Cohorts, NextLevel, and OCC Press. Hear about new and upcoming content as well as strategies for how you might implement these resources in your church.

COLOSSIANS: FAITHFUL IN A SMALL PLACE (M35/37)

Dr. Barney Wells

Though it was the smallest church in the smallest community of any to whom Paul wrote, there are more people in Colossae called "faithful" than in any other church that received an epistle. This workshop will look at the church in this small town and suggest four important characteristics of the faithful church in the small place.

TUESDAY**3:30-4:20 PM****RENEW.ORG PRESENTS: WHAT ACTUALLY WORKS (M39)****Bobby Harrington and Daniel McCoy**

Disciple-making practices of North America's most effective disciple-making churches.

CALL AND CARE: LEADERSHIP PIPELINE FOR THE CHURCH (PART 1) (M36/38)**Tim Snyder**

This two-part workshop will explore what the church is called to be in raising up the next generation of church leaders. The first session will focus on the call and care of pastors.

SOCIAL MEDIA, ALGORITHMS, & MINISTRY (IMC116)**Christian Shultz**

This workshop will cover social media best practices for churches, when to use paid social media ads, and practical tools to streamline content creation.

UNCLOGGING THE MINISTRY PIPELINE (PART 1) (M26)**Robert Witte**

Practical help on how to send more students from your church into vocational ministry.

MISSIONAL PARTNERSHIPS (L11)**Brice Wurdeman**

Explore missions partnership issues and blessings for the local church in America. Learn about missional trends and how the local church can navigate their support and partnerships well with their global missions.

COUNSEL COUPLES WITH THE MIND OF CHRIST (IMC110)**Dr. Don Ott**

Christian counseling applies biblical psychology and is distinctively different from generic counseling based on secular psychology. Our counsel should reflect that "we have the mind of Christ" (1 Corinthians 2:16). This presentation focuses on principles of marriage revealed by God in Scripture. Insight from over 55 years of marriage and 40 years of counseling couples will enrich you personally and enhance your ministry to married couples.

FAITHFUL TO THE WORD: TEACHING KIDS TO READ AND LIVE SCRIPTURE (L13)**Dr. Teresa Roberts**

Faithful disciples start with a faithful reading of God's Word. In this workshop, Dr. Teresa Roberts will equip children's and student ministry leaders to help young people move beyond Bible stories to real biblical understanding. Learn practical ways to train kids and teens to interpret Scripture, connect truth to life, and develop a love for God's Word that strengthens their lifelong faith.

LEADING SIDE BY SIDE: HOW LEAD PASTORS AND ELDERS STAY HEALTHY TOGETHER (M35/37)**Lito Solorio and Jim Vasey**

Every lead pastor-elder relationship experiences seasons of mountaintops and valleys. In this workshop, a lead pastor and elder will explore how to recognize healthy "mountaintop" seasons and steward them well, while also learning how to faithfully traverse valley seasons together without losing trust, unity, or mission. Through biblical principles and real ministry experience, this session will address communication, shared leadership, and navigating tension in a Christ-honoring way. The workshop will conclude with a dedicated Q&A time, allowing participants to engage directly with both a lead pastor and an elder on real-life leadership challenges.

SIMPLIFYING WILLS, TRUSTS, AND PROBATE (M34)**Doug Miller**

Confused about estate planning, selecting guardians for minor children, preparing for incapacity, and avoiding probate? Using plain language OCC Attorney Doug Miller will explain how you can provide for your loved ones and favorite ministries with the least amount of time, effort, and cost. All attendees will receive a free estate planning guide.

BECOMING A HERO-MAKER: MOBILIZING YOUR CHURCH FOR EVERYDAY MISSION (L15)**Andrew Estes**

Is your church's mission statement unintentionally placing the weight of the mission on a few rather than mobilizing everyone? Many pastors are seen as the primary "heroes," but true impact comes when leaders equip their people to carry the mission daily. This workshop helps church leaders evaluate whether their mission inspires involvement or limits it. Learn how to shift from a centralized, Sunday-focused model to empowering every believer to advance the Gospel in their everyday lives. Participants will leave with practical strategies to clarify and activate a mission that everyone shares and carries forward.

INCREASING YOUR MINISTRY LONGEVITY (Chapel)**Dr. Michael DeFazio**

While critically important today, concerns about ministry burnout and the recipe for longevity are not new. What's more, our goal is not merely to last but to thrive. This workshop will explore wisdom from the Apostle Paul on maintaining ministry faithfulness all the way to the finish line.

WEDNESDAY**2:30-3:20 PM****LEADING WITH A LIMP: MAINTAINING MINISTRY EFFECTIVENESS WHEN YOU AREN'T AT YOUR BEST (L15)****Dr. Jeff Snell**

Ministry leaders are not exempt from physical, emotional, and spiritual challenges. These difficulties are uniquely experienced and are often complex, but in many instances, God works through and beyond these circumstances to enhance our kingdom influence. This workshop will offer cautions and guidelines based on one leader's biblical and anecdotal reflections on life and leadership, as a complement to clinically-based insights that may be gleaned from other resources.

CRUCIAL CONVERSATIONS OVERVIEW (IMC110)**Damien Spikereit**

One key to building trust is healthy communication that rejects two unhealthy extremes—avoidance or verbal assault. *Crucial Conversations* offers a “truth-in-love” model for communicating hard things that can lead to growth and trust.

RENEW.ORG PRESENTS: PRACTICAL PRINCIPLES (M39)**Cam Huxford**

What I've learned in over 50 years of ministry.

ELDERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND ONBOARDING**PROCESSES (M26)****Jim Dalrymple, Peter Buckland, and Dr. Michael DeFazio**

Are you intentional about developing, training, testing, and onboarding elders in your church? This workshop will explore biblical principles and practices of healthy churches.

INTENTIONALLY SIMPLE WORSHIP SERVICES (M36/38)**Corey Scott**

Often the most significant things in our lives are the simplest. Bread and juice become spiritual fuel. Songs become prayer. Clear proclamation becomes a frontal attack on the spiritual forces of evil. And a glorified bathtub becomes the occasion a person's eternity is changed. In curating worship gatherings, we have the charge to plan them not to “wow” people, but to empower people to go and do likewise. This workshop will make a case for the value of simple worship services, not to get off the hook of working hard, but to give our congregations handles from which they can lead their own worship gatherings for the purpose of multiplication.

FAITHFUL FAMILIES: EQUIPPING PARENTS TO RAISE DISCIPLES AT HOME (L13)**Dr. Teresa Roberts**

James calls us to a faith that is lived out, not just believed. The same is true for families—children learn faith best when they see it in action at home. In this workshop, Dr. Teresa Roberts, author of *Raising Disciples: Guiding Your Kids into a Faith of Their Own*, equips church leaders to help parents live and teach authentic faith in everyday life. You'll discover practical ways to encourage, train, and resource parents to raise children who follow Jesus faithfully where they are.

HELPING STUDENTS FOLLOW THROUGH (IMC116)**Jayson French and Eric Epperson**

The three things every student needs to stay connected to Jesus and serve in your church.

PREACHING AND TEACHING WORLDVIEW IN THE**LOCAL CHURCH (M35/37)****Greg Taylor**

This workshop will explore why it is crucial for preachers and teachers in the local church today to embrace and communicate a biblical worldview in our upside-down cultural moment. When the church and its leadership is silent on the important cultural issues of the day, they are forfeiting opportunities to communicate truth and help Christ followers develop and nurture an unapologetic Christian worldview.

IS YOUR ESTATE IN ORDER? (M34)**Doug Miller**

Have you signed documents to plan for incapacity, end-of-life decisions, avoiding probate, and charitable giving? OCC Attorney Doug Miller will review a helpful estate-planning checklist to ensure that all of your intentions will be accomplished.

THE POWER OF THE PUSH (L11)**Penny Arnold**

A necessary factor in student leadership development.

WEDNESDAY**3:30-4:20 PM****WHAT I WISH SOMEONE HAD TOLD ME (Chapel)****Matt Merold**

Ten simple practices to help preachers find their voice.

RENEW.ORG PRESENTS: PARADIGM ON THE THEOLOGICAL HILLS TO DIE ON (M39)**Bobby Harrington and Daniel McCoy**

The essential, important and personal elements of the faith.

CHAPLAINCY AS VITAL MINISTRY (M21)**Dr. Kal McAlexander**

Ministers who pursue the field of chaplaincy find themselves on the frontlines of ministry in our society. Whether literally on the frontlines serving as a military chaplain or in hospitals, hospice care, prisons, jails, police departments, fire departments, or the VA system, chaplains have access to people and situations that no other minister has.

CREATE: LEADERSHIP PIPELINE FOR THE CHURCH (PART 2) (M36/38)**Tim Snyder**

During this two-part workshop, we will explore what the church is called to be in raising up the next generation of church leaders. The second session will look at creating opportunities through internships and residency programs in your church.

UNCLOGGING THE MINISTRY PIPELINE (PART 2) (M26)**Robert Witte**

Practical help on how to send more students from your church into vocational ministry.

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN THE CHURCH YOU LOVE FEELS LIKE IT'S BARELY BREATHING? (L11)**Jeff Chamberlain**

This workshop tells the honest story of a church that found itself on life support and the slow, sometimes messy way God began writing a new chapter. A chapter that was born out of real leadership decisions, hard conversations, missteps, prayer, and perseverance. Explore the biblical foundations and practical leadership principles that matter most when a church is struggling and share what actually helped, what didn't, and what we learned through the process.

A STUDY IN PSALMS (L13)**Matt Stafford**

The psalms are the prayer book of God's people, shaping how we pray, worship, and understand God. In this workshop, we will explore selected psalms and discover practical ways to integrate them into our daily lives through study, meditation, and prayer.

COUNSEL PARENTS WITH THE MIND OF CHRIST (IMC110)**Dr. Don Ott**

Christian counseling applies biblical psychology and is distinctively different from generic counseling based on secular psychology. Our counsel should reflect that "we have the mind of Christ" (1 Corinthians 2:16). This presentation focuses on principles of parenting revealed by God in Scripture. Insight from 33 years with five children and 40 years of counseling parents will enrich you personally and enhance your ministry to parents.

TROUBLE THROUGH THE AGES: THE PROBLEM OF FALSE GOSPELS AND HERESY IN THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD (M35/37)**Greg Taylor**

This workshop will address the 2,000-year-old problem of false gospels and doctrines and its impact on the local church and culture. From the first-century heresy of Gnosticism to the fourth-century heresy of Arianism to modern-day heresies like progressive Christianity, the prosperity gospel, and moralistic therapeutic deism, church leaders must be equipped to recognize false gospels and communicate truth in our current culture of relativism.

SEEING GOD AS CENTRAL TO YOUR MINISTRY (IMC116)**Andy Nichols**

While the daily, weekly, and yearly demands of ministry life often work against attentiveness to God's presence, nothing is more important to serving God than knowing and loving God. In this workshop, Andy will draw wisdom from church history as well as his own ministry experience to explore how spiritual leaders can see and savor God in all things.

FINDING CONTENTMENT: A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS (L15)**Amy Storms**

The apostle Paul's letter to the Philippians has much to say to today's churches and church leaders. Learn Paul's keys to contentment and how you can apply them to your life and ministry.

FOUR MINDSETS IN THE RURAL CHURCH (M34)**Dr. Barney Wells**

How individuals learn to survive daily life affects how they understand time, work, wealth, people, and other basic ideas. In this workshop, we will examine the four most common ways of thinking in a rural church (or, really, in almost any church) and explore how these mindsets influence church leadership.



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for Christ and the church.**



Scholarships available

occ.edu/lincoln

Main Session + Workshop Leaders



PENNY ARNOLD

Penny spent 25 years in education as a teacher, coach, and administrator before becoming a full-time children's minister at Red Brush Christian Church in Louisville, Illinois. Penny's desire to meld ministry development with educational practices led her to create the Step Forward Student Leadership Program, a new style of student discipleship.



PETER BUCKLAND

Peter is an elder and the senior director of personnel and strategy at Christ's Church of Oronogo in Oronogo, Missouri. He also teaches as an adjunct professor at OCC, where he taught full-time for 20 years in the areas of leadership, family ministry, counseling, and Christian education. Peter specializes in the areas of marriage and family relationships. Peter and his wife, Vana, have been married for 42 years and have three children.



JEFF CHAMBERLAIN

Jeff has served as the lead pastor of Copper Creek Christian Church in Maryville, Illinois. Jeff has served in ministries in Missouri, Illinois, and Arizona, experiencing firsthand what church leadership looks like when things are thriving...and when they're not. He cares deeply about the local church and believes renewal doesn't come from shortcuts or hype, but from patient faithfulness and trusting God to bring life where it feels least likely.



JIM DALRYMPLE

Jim serves as the Chief Advancement Officer and professor of New Testament and ministry at OCC. Jim's passion is strengthening churches and equipping leaders for effective ministry. Beyond the college, he serves as an elder and volunteer in his local church and regularly preaches and teaches at conferences and training events. Jim and his wife, Stephanie, have three children.



DR. MICHAEL DEFAZIO

Michael is the dean of Lincoln Seminary and a professor of New Testament and hermeneutics at OCC. He has served in pastoral ministries in California and Missouri. He earned a PhD from the University of Aberdeen and has written *More Jesus*, a devotional commentary on Paul's letter to the Colossians. Michael serves as an elder at Christ's Church of Oronogo in Oronogo, Missouri. He and his wife, Beth, have two children.



JUSTIN DEWELL

Justin serves as the director of OCC Resources and as a professor at OCC. With a background in local church leadership, Justin has served as a preaching minister in Kansas, Missouri, and Kentucky. He is passionate about strengthening ministry leaders. Justin lives in Joplin with his wife, Jenna.



ERIC EPPERSON

Eric is the director of development at CIY. During his two decades at CIY, he has told stories that have inspired and partnered with church leaders around the world to help young people serve and love the church.



ANDREW ESTES

Andrew serves as the director of training for Nexus: Church Planting and Leader Care and as a church vision coach with RunFree.co. He holds a master's in organizational leadership from the Townsend Institute at Concordia University Irvine and a bachelor's degree from OCC. Since 2017, Andrew has helped pastors, planters, and nonprofit leaders articulate their God-given vision and build practical strategies for disciple-making and mission clarity. He lives in Loveland, Colorado, with his wife, Megan, and their four children.



JAYSON FRENCH

Jayson is the president of CIY, where he has served for over 20 years. He is passionate about seeing a generation grasp the gospel and do kingdom work. Under his leadership, the team at CIY is leading an initiative to call 30,000 young people into ministry.



MONTE FRENCH

Monte graduated from OCC in 2017 and from Denver Seminary in 2019. Since March 2020, he has served as the senior minister at Marion Road Christian Church in Rochester, Minnesota. Monte and his wife, Whitney, have one son, Maxwell.



JULIE GARISS

Julie has had the privilege of speaking and teaching for Christ for over 35 years, joining two of her loves—people and the Scriptures. Julie has spoken at hundreds of women's banquets and conferences. She also authored a women's Bible study, *Living Whole*. Julie and her husband, Randy, have three married children and eleven grandchildren, ages 4 to 21.



DR. FRED HANSEN

Fred taught at Lincoln Christian University, Johnson University, and TCM International Institute for more than 20 years before coming to Ozark in 2023. Fred holds a Ph.D. in Religious/Biblical Studies from Radboud University, an M.Div. in New Testament and an M.A. in Old Testament from Lincoln Christian University, and a B.A. in World Missions from Lincoln Christian College. He has taught internationally in over thirty countries worldwide and ministered in churches in Minnesota and Illinois. Fred and his wife, Cindy, have two children.



BOBBY HARRINGTON

Bobby is the founding and lead pastor of Harpeth Christian Church in Franklin, Tennessee. He is the founder and leader of Discipleship.org and RENEW.org. He completed studies at Princeton Theological Seminary, the University of Calgary, and Asbury Seminary, and holds a Master of Theology degree from Harding University and a Doctor of Ministry degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. He has written or co-written over 20 books. He lives with his wife in the Nashville area, near his two married children and six grandchildren.



MICHAEL HINNEN

Michael is a professor of Old Testament at OCC. He holds a Bachelor of Theology from Ozark and a Master of Divinity from Lincoln Christian University. Before joining Ozark's faculty, Michael served as associate minister at Berlin Christian Church in New Berlin, Illinois, where he worked with children and students, preached regularly, and helped guide the church's discipleship ministries. He loves to teach and train people to follow Jesus more closely. Michael and his wife, Jonelle, have two young daughters.



CAM HUXFORD

Cam grew up in the farmlands of South Carolina, where his early aspirations to become an attorney were transformed at age 15 by a call to ministry. He graduated from Point University in 1978 and later pursued graduate studies at Emmanuel School of Religion. At the age of 27, Cam was called to lead Savannah Christian Church, a congregation that would later be renamed Compassion Christian Church to better reflect its expanding mission to the surrounding communities. After 40 years of dedicated service, Cam recently retired from the same church, having seen it grow from 260 members to more than 10,000 across seven campuses. In addition to his pastoral work, Cam has served as the president of the North American Christian Convention and on the board of directors at Point University. In his retirement, he continues to speak at ministers' conferences, church leadership conferences, marriage seminars, and men's retreats. Cam and his wife, Sarah, have three sons, three daughters in law, and twelve grandchildren.



DR. KAL MCALEXANDER

Kal currently serves as the executive director for the Chaplaincy Endorsement Commission of the Christian Churches and Churches of Christ. Throughout his military chaplaincy career, he received the Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), Navy Commendation Medal (two awards), Coast Guard Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Coast Guard Achievement Medal, Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, and numerous unit awards, campaign, and service medals. Chaplain McAlexander and his wife, Cynthia, have three children, two daughters-in-law, and three grandchildren.



DR. DANIEL MCCOY

Daniel is the editorial director for RENEW.org as well as an adjunct professor of philosophy for OCC. He has a bachelor's in theology (OCC), a master's degree in apologetics (Veritas International University), and a PhD in theology (North-West University, South Africa). Among his books are the *Popular Handbook of World Religions* (general editor), *Real Life Theology Handbook* (with Andrew Jit), *Mirage: 5 Things People Want from God that Don't Exist*, and *The Atheist's Fatal Flaw* (co-authored with Norman Geisler). Daniel and his wife, Susanna, have three daughters and two sons.



TYLER MCKENZIE

Tyler is the lead pastor at Northeast Christian Church in Louisville, Kentucky. He is known for his real-time preaching on pressing issues, his love for teaching the Bible, theology, and cultural engagement in accessible ways, and his deep passion to see peace and justice prevail for all the people of Louisville. Tyler has co-produced five seasons of a podcast for elementary kids called "The Preacher and the Piano Man." He writes the monthly Engage column for the *Christian Standard*. He volunteers as a Little League baseball coach. Tyler holds an MDiv in Biblical Studies from Cincinnati Christian University and is currently finishing his doctorate at Wheaton University. He and his wife, Lindsay, have three kids.



MATT MEROLD

Matt has served as the lead pastor of Bethany Christian Church in Washington, Indiana, since 2000. During that time, Matt led this multi-site church through generosity campaigns, building additions, and relocations. Matt's vision of an outward-focused, evangelistic community of believers has led a small-town church from 80 to over 2,300 in weekend attendance. A gifted speaker and Spirit-filled leader, Matt has been instrumental in leading a small-town church to experience amazing growth. Matt and his wife, Kelli, have four boys.



DOUG MILLER

Doug has been the attorney for OCC since 2002. He enjoys helping people provide for their loved ones and favorite ministries through their wills, trusts, and estate plans. Doug is licensed to practice law in Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas.



DR. TERESA ROBERTS

Teresa serves as professor of ministry and Christian formation and program coordinator for the children's ministry major at OCC. She is the author of *Raising Disciples: Guiding Your Kids into a Faith of Their Own* (NavPress) and brings over 30 years of experience in children's ministry, supported by two master's degrees and a Doctor of Ministry. Teresa volunteers at College Heights Christian Church in Joplin, where her husband, Chris, is the operations ministry lead.



ANDY NICHOLS

Andy serves as the church history professor at OCC and Lincoln Seminary. He has served as a preaching minister in Missouri and Illinois. Andy and his wife, Mallory, have three daughters.



DR. DON OTT

Don is an ordained evangelist and licensed psychologist with ministries based in Russellville, Arkansas, since 1987. He holds a doctorate from Rosemead School of Psychology in La Mirada, California, and he is a charter

member of the American Association of Christian Counselors. Don served on seven church staffs in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and California, and was adjunct professor for Mid-South Christian College in Memphis, Tennessee, for 32 years. In 1994, he established Christian Psychological Resources, which provides outpatient services locally and leadership development seminars globally. As a mental-health missionary, he has made over 45 trips to 15 countries on six continents and has directed Cuba Bible Institute in Havana since 2009. Don and his wife, Johniece, have two daughters, three sons, and seven grandchildren.



DR. JASON POZNICH

Jason is a professor of biblical communication and New Testament at Ozark Christian College. He has preached for more than twenty years, serving churches in Missouri, Illinois, Las Vegas, and Kansas.



JASON PRICE

Jason served in student ministry in churches in Midland, Texas, and Rochester, Illinois, before becoming the lead pastor of QuadCity Christian Church in Prescott, Arizona. He and his wife, Kelli, have two sons.



DR. CHAD RAGSDALE

Chad serves as the Chief Academic Officer at Ozark. He also teaches part-time in the classroom, primarily in the areas of philosophy and apologetics. Chad is particularly passionate about discerning the ways that Jesus engages with contemporary culture.



ISAAC SCHADE

Isaac serves as chapel minister, Frontline director, and professor at OCC, where he teaches in the areas of worship, creative arts, and New Testament. Before coming to Ozark, Isaac served as worship minister at Christ's Church of Oronogo in Oronogo, Missouri. He holds an undergraduate degree in Bible and ministry from Milligan University and a Master of Arts & Religion in New Testament from Emmanuel Christian Seminary. Isaac and his wife, Maggie, have two children.



COREY SCOTT

Corey has served as worship minister with Northside Christian Church in Springfield, Missouri, since 2003. In 2017, Corey also began to serve as the global outreach minister. Corey and his wife, Leah, have four children and one daughter-in-law.



CHRISTIAN SHULTZ

Christian serves as the coordinator of marketing strategies at OCC and has previously served as the social media manager at his church. He believes social media is a tool to help get people into their local church where they can hear the gospel.



DR. JEFF SNELL

Jeff serves as the associate dean of Lincoln Seminary, where he offers courses in preaching, Bible, and ministry. He previously served as a faculty member at Ozark, a professor, associate dean, and Doctor of Ministry program director at Lincoln Christian Seminary, and dean of the School of Christian Ministries at Johnson University. He has served churches in various full-time and interim ministry roles and has preached or taught regularly in a variety of international environments.



TIM SNYDER

Tim graduated from Nebraska Christian College and Cincinnati Christian Seminary before spending 30 years in ministry. Having served the local church, on staff at Nebraska Christian College, and as an executive director for a hospice agency, Tim is currently at Calvary Christian Church in Bellevue, Nebraska. He is the missions and outreach pastor and oversees their Calvary Leadership Institute, which is helping raise up the next generation of church leaders.



LITO SOLORIO

Lito was born in California and started ministry in 2002. After graduating from OCC in 2010, he served in several different areas of ministry at CrossCity Christian Church (formerly Northside) in Fresno, California. In 2016, Lito moved to Wichita, Kansas, where he serves as lead pastor at Countryside Christian Church. Lito and his wife, Tiffany, have four children.



DAMIEN SPIKEREIT

Damien serves as the Chief Financial and Operating Officer and a professor of biblical communication at OCC. He is also a teaching minister at Carterville Christian Church in Carterville, Missouri, and serves on the board of directors for Mustard Seed Network.

Damien earned a bachelor's degree from OCC, a master's degree from Lincoln Seminary, and an MBA from Pittsburg State University.



MATT STAFFORD

Matt serves as the director of the Worship and Creative Arts Department at OCC, where he teaches courses in creative arts, music, worship leadership, and Psalms. He also directs the Creative Arts Academy, a summer arts camp for high school students.

Matt holds a Bachelor of Theology in Old Testament from OCC and a Master of Arts in TESOL and Linguistics from Ball State University. Matt is on the board of directors for Casas por Cristo, a home-building ministry in Mexico and Central America. He and his wife, Joy, have two sons and two daughters-in-law. mattstaffordpsalms.com



JONATHAN STORMENT

Jonathan serves as the preacher at the Pleasant Valley Church of Christ in Little Rock, Arkansas. He and his wife, Leslie, have five children and are passionate about discipling the next generation in the way of Jesus. Jonathan has authored two books:

How to Start a Riot and *Bringing Heaven to Earth* (co-authored with Josh Ross).



AMY STORMS

Amy serves as the vice president of marketing and communications and an English professor at Ozark Christian College. She and her husband, Andy, have three adult children and two sons-in-law.



DR. JERRY TAYLOR

Jerry is a retired associate professor of Bible, Missions, and Ministry Emeritus at Abilene Christian University, where he served for 21 years. Throughout his tenure, Dr. Taylor promoted racial understanding, addressing the deep-seated roots of white

supremacy through the transformative power of spiritual formation. He founded the Carl Spain Center on Race Studies and Spiritual Action at ACU. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies from Southwest Christian College and a Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry from Perkins School of Theology at Southern Methodist University. Dr. Taylor and his wife, Patricia, live in Abilene, Texas.



GREG TAYLOR

Greg serves as director of partnership development at Lincoln Christian Institute. Since graduating from Lincoln Christian College in 1991, Greg has held full-time ministries in Moweaqua, Clinton, and Danville, Illinois. He was also the director of admissions at Lincoln Christian College. Greg enjoys preaching and teaching in a variety of settings and has a heart for the local church. He is passionate about addressing the challenges facing local church ministry staff. Greg and his wife, Marla, have two adult children and two grandsons.



JIM VASEY

Jim is an OCC alum and a longtime servant-leader in the local church. He met his wife and college sweetheart, Shelly, while attending Ozark, and they have two children. Jim has served on the elder board at Countryside Christian Church in Wichita, Kansas.



DR. BARNEY WELLS

Barney grew up in a small-town church and served rural churches in Indiana and Illinois for over thirty years. He earned a BA and MDiv at Lincoln and earned a DMin degree in rural ministry at Bethel Theological Seminary. He has filled a number of roles at Lincoln Christian University, most recently as dean of the seminary. Barney currently directs the Fred Craddock Center for Preaching Excellence at Johnson University.



ROBERT WITTE

Bob has dedicated his life to ministry and training leaders. From 1997 to 2011, he served in youth and preaching roles. He joined OCC in 2011 and currently serves as vice president of enrollment as well as a professor of ministry leadership and Old Testament classes. Bob and his wife, Lisa, have two married sons and two daughters-in-law, all of whom graduated from OCC and currently serve in ministry.



BRICE WURDEMAN

Brice has served as OCC's director of intercultural studies since 2021. Before coming to Ozark, his family served overseas for 15 years in the Caribbean region. Brice and his wife, Amanda, have seven children.



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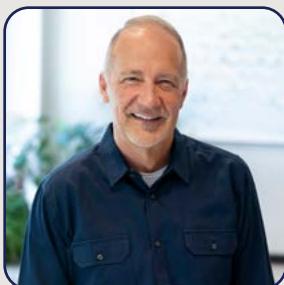
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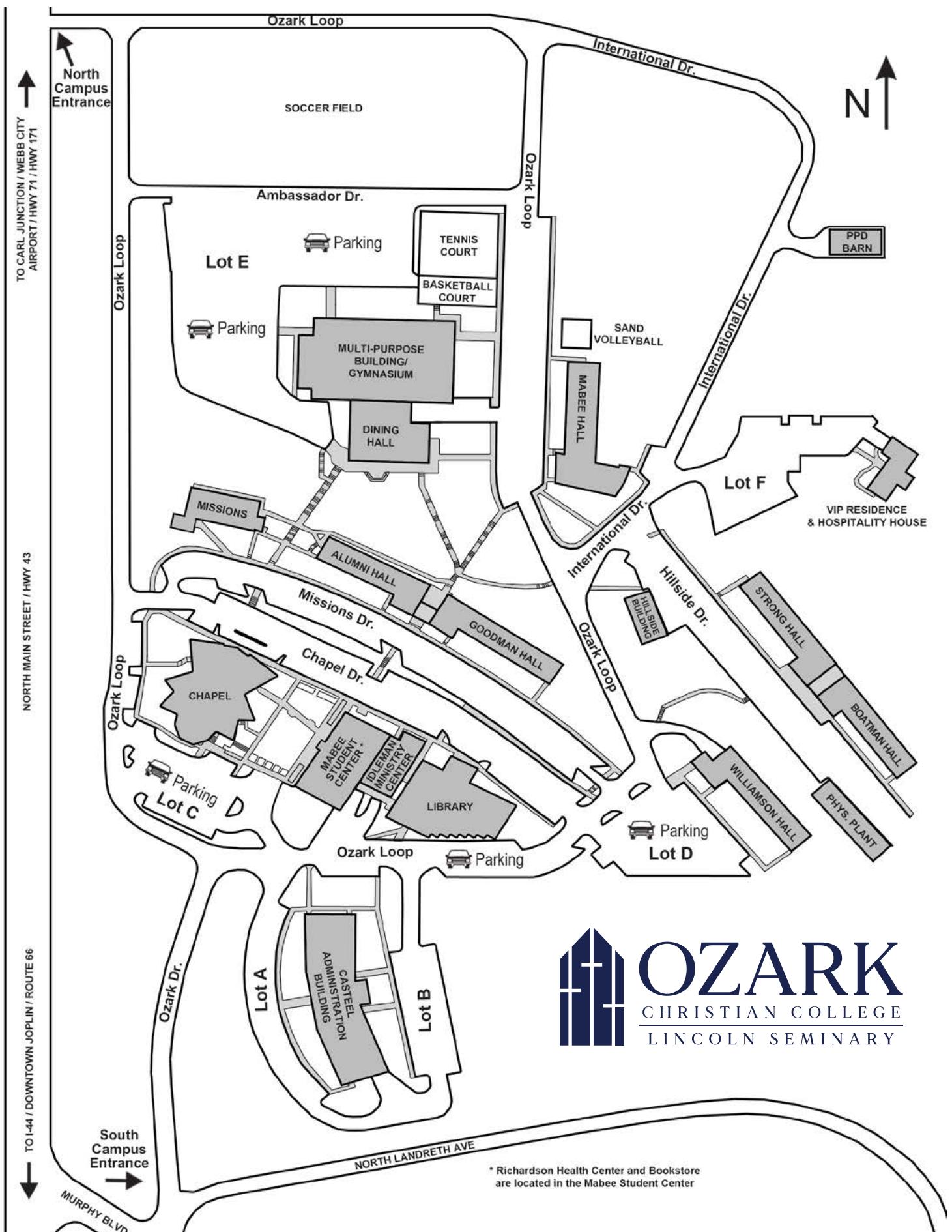


Brad Tate



Dr. Karl Wendt

SAVE THE DATE



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