

# GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE

OF THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH



May 2-3, 2025

## Annual Celebration

Camp Mission Meadows  
5201 Route 430, Dewittville, NY 14728

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.*

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

### Invitation from Superintendent Garth McGrath



It is my privilege to invite the churches of the Great Lakes Conference to send pastors and delegates to this year's Annual Celebration taking place at Camp Mission Meadows in Dewittville, New York, May 2-3, 2025. During our time together we will celebrate the work

God did in and through our churches in 2024 and look forward to how God will be working in and through them in 2025. We will worship together, be equipped for ministry, hear about progress being made in church planting, missional vitality, leadership development and outreach, consider possible recommendations coming out of the Ministry Planning Cycle process, and give thanks to God for the lives and communities that are being touched and transformed by the power of the gospel in and through the ministry of Great Lakes Conference churches. We will also consider a budget that will fund our mission priorities and elect wise, skilled, gifted and spiritually mature women and men to serve on our Conference Board. Throughout the gathering, delegates will have the opportunity to connect with other lay leaders and pastors in sister churches – to encourage them and be encouraged by them. I look forward to greeting your delegates to celebrate our partnership in God's mission field known as the Great Lakes Conference.

### Welcome from Jackie Haines - Director of Camp Mission Meadows



Welcome to Mission Meadows! We are excited to have you here in beautiful Chautauqua County, NY. At Mission Meadows, there is a sense of peace and tranquility that we can't wait for you to experience. The Annual Celebration is a way to celebrate all God has done to

grow his Kingdom. Here at Mission Meadows we too celebrate all that God has been doing. We are adding new buildings to expand our capacity, expanding our retreats, pouring into 100's of children's lives, and helping families reconnect. We would love to talk to you about how God is "showing up" at Mission Meadows. Come enjoy a meal, have a cup of coffee, or spend time on our porch overlooking the lake. We look forward to hearing about everything God is doing at your church!



## Keynote Speaker

*Rev. Dr. Mary Hendrickson*



Rev. Dr. Mary Hendrickson serves as the Director of Missional Vitality for the ECC. She received her graduate degrees from Fuller Theological Seminary, specializing in discipleship and leadership development, and is an ordained

Covenant pastor. She leads a national ECC Vitality Team who has worked together to create a brand new suite of resources to support ECC churches. Dr. Hendrickson lives in Gresham, OR, where her greatest joy is time spent with her grandsons who live nearby.

Any regular attender of a GLC church is welcome to attend the Celebration. **Only** church elected delegates may vote at the Saturday business meeting. The workshops, banquet, worship service, and the business meeting are open to all.

Digital brochure and online registration available at:  
[www.greatlakes.cc](http://www.greatlakes.cc)





## Workshop Descriptions

### 1. Daring to Be Brave

*Led by Dr. Mary Hendrickson - ECC's Director of Missional Vitality*

Are you courageous enough to take an honest look at how your church is doing? Jesus said, "Then you will know the truth, and the truth shall set you free." (John 8:32) Notice that the promise is of freedom not of fear. Come learn helpful discussion questions for taking an honest look at the effectiveness of your church, as well as sample the church health survey developed for the Covenant.

### 2. The Dynamics of a Healthy Church Chair - Lead Pastor Relationship - Session A is for Pastors; *Led by Superintendent Garth McGrath* Session B is for Church Chairs.

The Church Chair and Lead Pastor of a local church both play significant roles in the leadership of the local church. When they work well together and pull in the same direction, the church is more likely to flourish than if they do not. This workshop provides insights and practical tools that Lead Pastors and Church Chairs need to work well together in order to help their church advance the mission of God in their community effectively. The workshop is intended for current Lead Pastors and Church Chairs who have not participated in previous Church Chair training events.

### 3. Undercover Visits: Are visitors seeing what you think they are seeing?

*Led by Rob Hall - Vice President of National Covenant Properties*

Do you ever wonder what a visitor sees when they attend your church for the first time? Chances are a first-time visitor is not seeing your church in the same way that regular attenders do. In this session, Rob will share his experience doing undercover visits for local churches, highlighting some of the surprising things he has seen. Come and learn how the perception of your church property will help with visitor retention.

### 4. Remembering Your Place in The Story

*Led by Joe Muzzi - Lead Pastor at Crossroads Community Church  
and Matt Ness - Lead Pastor at One Church*

*Remember how the LORD your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands.  
Deuteronomy 8:2*

It's easy to forget. We have things to do and we get pushed along by the tyranny of the urgent. There's a meeting, there's a budget, an appointment, a leaky roof and we just keep going and going. And so we forget, we forget who God is, we forget who we are, and we forget The Story. It's The Story of love that God has been creating since the beginning. Join us as we pause to remember. Join us as we seek to reconnect and rediscover The Story, our place in The Story, and all the ways God has led us and will continue to lead us.





## Workshop Descriptions

### 5. Leadership that Ensures Change

*Led by Alan Tumpkin - GLC Church Planting Director*

In the exploration of leadership within scripture, we find a rich tapestry of examples that illuminate both commendable and flawed leadership styles. Each way has patterns or modes of operation by which they lead. How can we learn best practices to lead well, and to develop catalytic leaders? In this workshop, Alan will delve into these scriptural examples to identify catalytic leaders—those whose influence inspires transformation and mobilizes others toward living out God's agenda. By examining their attributes and actions, we can extract best practices that not only enhance our own leadership capabilities but also empower us to cultivate catalytic leaders within our communities.

### 6. The Missing Ingredient in 2025 Discipleship: Aligning our Lives to God's Design for Sex

*Led by Noah Filipiak - Author and Lead Pastor at Mosaic Covenant Church*

If 75% of Christian men & 40% of Christian women report consuming porn with some level of frequency, and the average age of first exposure to porn is 9 for boys and 11 for girls, why aren't we talking about it more in our churches? Why is being transparent about this reality still seen as taboo and stigmatized? It's time for the Church's view of discipleship to go deeper and put conversations about sex and porn in the primary arena of basic Christian discipleship, not a hidden away niche for "those people". "Those people" are all of us! Satan's days of silencing the Church while Christians suffer in isolation are over; Jesus' day of his grace transforming us has arrived! In this workshop, you'll receive the resources you need to create movements of freedom in your church & youth ministry, while discovering that the topics of sex and porn are really about our identity in Christ and spiritual formation.

### 7. Mission Meadows Work Projects - all day or half day

*Led by Jackie Haines - Director of Camp Mission Meadows*

There are many work projects to choose from at Mission Meadows.

#1 **Gardening** - there are many gardens and flower beds that could use some love.

#2 **Painting** - there are several buildings that need a fresh coat of paint, both inside and out.

#3 **Building** - Camp is in the midst of building a new structure, so if you've got skills in framing, drywalling, wiring - you name it - they'd love your help! Don't worry the camp staff will be around to oversee everything and to ensure safety on site.

#4 **Trail Maintenance** - the trails need to be kept safe by removing sticks and brush so that the campers can explore all that nature has to offer.

#5 **Cleaning** - keeping all the areas clean is always needed.

Camp will provide all the necessary equipment, but if you have some favorite gloves or tools, feel free to bring them.

*Please let the GLC office know what top two work projects you would prefer by emailing [jani@greatlakes.cc](mailto:jani@greatlakes.cc)*





To register and pay online for any portion of the GLC Annual Celebration, go to [www.greatlakes.cc](http://www.greatlakes.cc) and click on the link for the 2025 GLC Annual Celebration.

- Fill out one form per person.
- Fill in personal information at the top.
- Choose to register as **one** of the following:

**GLC Delegate Only** - Voting representative chosen by church - includes workshops and GLC Annual Meeting.

**Ministerial Association and GLC Delegate** - Pastor chosen by church as delegate - includes MA meeting, workshops, and GLC Annual Meeting.

**Ministerial Association Only** - For pastors - includes Ministerial Association Annual Meeting and workshops.

**GLC Participant Only** - Includes workshops and attendance to the GLC Annual Meeting - does not include delegate packet or voting rights.

*Anyone can join the worship service Friday evening and/or purchase a ticket to the Friday evening banquet.*

- Determine whether you are an “Early Bird” registrant.  
(Early Bird = Register before March 28th)
- Choose the workshops you will attend for each session.
- Choose meals - meal sign-up deadline is Monday, April 21st.
- Add up the registration fees and the cost of any meals and place total at the bottom of the page.
- Enclose registration form and send payment to:

Great Lakes Conference  
21840 W. Nine Mile Rd.  
Southfield, MI 48075

You may also pay on our website - [www.greatlakes.cc](http://www.greatlakes.cc)

*Please fill out one form per person*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Church's name and city \_\_\_\_\_

### Registering as:

	"Early Bird"	After 03/28
GLC Delegate Only	<input type="checkbox"/> \$70	<input type="checkbox"/> \$90
Ministerial Meeting & GLC Delegate	<input type="checkbox"/> \$85	<input type="checkbox"/> \$115
Ministerial Meeting Only	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50
GLC Participant Only - Includes Workshops	<input type="checkbox"/> \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> \$20

### Workshops Friday, May 2nd

Registration Fee Total

### Meals (order by 04/21)

Not Attending Workshops

**Pick One Workshop from Each Session**  
(session A or session B)

<b>Session A</b> 1:30-3:00	<b>Session B</b> 3:15-4:45	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Daring to Be Brave
Pastors	Chairs	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Church Chair - Lead Pastor Relationship
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Undercover Visits
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Remembering Your Place in The Story
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Leadership that Ensures Change
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Aligning Our Lives to God's Design for Sex
All Day	After Lunch	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Work Projects

No Meals

Breakfast Friday \$10.00

Lunch Friday \$10.00

Friday Banquet \$15.00

Breakfast Saturday \$10.00

Saturday Lunch \$10.00

Gluten Free

Vegetarian

Food Allergies? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Meal Total**

Registration Fee and Meal Total

Make checks payable to Great Lakes Conference or you may pay online [www.greatlakes.cc](http://www.greatlakes.cc)

*If you have chosen to stay at Mission Meadows and not at an area hotel - breakfast is included in your stay and you do not need to choose it above.*





## Friday Schedule

8:00am - 5:00pm	Registration
8:00am - 8:45am	Breakfast
9:00am - 4:30pm	Mission Meadows Work Projects All Day Option
9:00am - 12pm	Ministerial Association Annual Meeting
12:15pm - 1:15pm	Lunch
1:30pm - 4:30pm	Mission Meadows Work Projects Half Day Option
1:30pm - 3:00pm	Workshops- Session A
3:15pm - 4:45pm	Workshops- Session B
5:15pm - 6:45pm	Dinner and Ministry Planning Cycle Discussion
7:00pm - 8:30pm	Worship Service

## Saturday Schedule

7:15am - 8:15am	Breakfast
8:30am - 12:30pm	GLC Annual Meeting
End of Meeting	Boxed Lunch To Go

## How many delegates should your church send?

Member congregations shall be entitled to representation as follows: congregations up to 100 members, two delegates; congregations with 101 to 200 members, three delegates; congregations with 201 to 300 members, four delegates; congregations with 301 or more members, five delegates.





# Places to Stay:

Camp Mission Meadows has secured a block of rooms at these nearby hotels. When calling to book, please let them know you are with the **Camp Mission Meadows** group. These rates are good until April 1st. If you would prefer to book online, please go to our website - [www.greatlakes.cc](http://www.greatlakes.cc) and you will find the appropriate links there.

*You may also choose to stay at any area hotel or rental. These are just suggestions for your convenience.*



## Camp Mission Meadows

5201 Route 430  
Dewittville, NY 14728  
716-386-5932  
\$40/pp/night  
Shared room and bathroom  
Breakfast Included

## Chautauqua Suites

215 W. Lake Rd  
Mayville, NY 14757  
716-269-7829  
\$140/night

## Harbor Hotel

10 Dunham Ave  
Celoron, NY 14720  
716-489-2800  
\$139/night

## Holiday Inn

2811 N. Main Street Ext.  
Jamestown, NY 14701  
(716) 487-0001  
\$115/night

The Celebration will be held at  
**Camp Mission Meadows**  
5201 Route 430  
Dewittville, NY 14728  
716-386-5932  
[camping@missionmeadows.org](mailto:camping@missionmeadows.org)  
[missionmeadows.org](http://missionmeadows.org)



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All GLC church attenders are invited to the GLC Annual Celebration. While only church elected delegates may vote at the Saturday business meeting; the workshops, banquet, the worship service and the business meeting are open to all. Please share this brochure with your staff and lay leaders.

Mail in Registration  
or register online at  
[www.greatlakes.cc](http://www.greatlakes.cc)



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[info@greatlakes.cc](mailto:info@greatlakes.cc)



[fb.com/greatlakesecc](https://fb.com/greatlakesecc)

**Great Lakes Conference**  
21840 W. Nine Mile Rd.  
Southfield, MI 48075  
248-595-8098