

GLC's Annual Celebration

April
24th & 25th
2026

Theme:
Renewal

Life Church Canton
7001 N Haggerty Rd,
Canton Twp., MI 48187

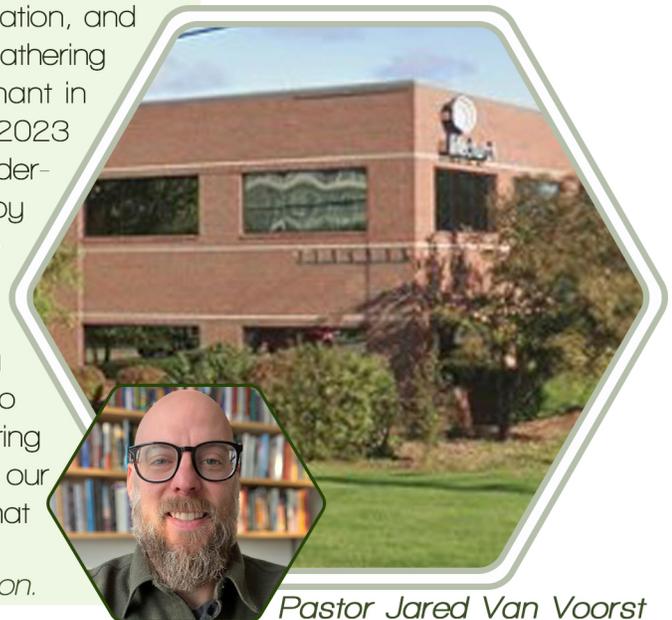
Instead, let
the Spirit renew
your thoughts and
attitudes. Put on your
new nature, created to

be like God –
truly righteous and holy.

Ephesians 4:23-24 NIV

Life Church Canton is honored to host our 2026 Annual Celebration, and we sincerely hope you can join us. Allow me to share how this gathering has shaped me personally. Although I was new to the Covenant in 2019, it wasn't until I stepped into the role of Lead Pastor in 2023 that Covenant gatherings became a true priority for me, our Leadership Team, and our staff. From the start, I was deeply enriched by the experiences and by the camaraderie of the people. If you're able to attend, know that hospitality is a core value for us at Life Church Canton. As a multiethnic church, we are blessed to be a beautiful mosaic, and we love to say, "The ways of hospitality will wreck the walls of hostility!" We will do everything we can to serve you well and help create a genuine sense of belonging during the time you're with us as we celebrate all that God has done in our faithful communities throughout the GLC and look forward to what God will do in the year to come.

See you soon.



Pastor Jared Van Voorst

It is my privilege to invite the churches of the Great Lakes Conference to send pastors and delegates to this year's Annual Celebration. During our time together we will celebrate the work God did in and through our churches and camps in 2025 and look forward to how God will work in and through them in 2026. We will worship together, be equipped for ministry, hear about progress being made in church planting, missional vitality, leadership development and outreach. We will 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.

*Superintendent,
Garth McGrath*





Workshop Descriptions

1. Exploring Your Call to Ministry

Dr. Hauna Ondrey - Professor of Church History and Academic Dean at NPTS

Have you been sensing a call to ministry? This workshop offers space for participants to reflect on their own discernment of vocation as those created in God's image for good works (Eph. 2). Drawing on biblical and historical perspectives, we will consider how "call" has been understood in the life of the church, then turn to present, personal discernment. We'll consider common barriers to accepting and responding to God's call as well as practical discernment tools that support faithful listening and vocational clarity.

2. Unleashing the Power of Hope

Led by Ieishia Hawley - Director of Evangelism with Make and Deepen Disciples

This workshop is for evangelism leaders, ministry teams, and discipleship facilitators. This workshop will equip leaders with a renewed understanding of hope as a transformative force in evangelism and discipleship.

3. "Not Spiritual"

Led by Jin Lee - Director of Pastoral Support and Practice with Serve Clergy

How would you define a spiritual person? Who did you think of? Why would you want to be like that? What are you really striving for? Rev. Dr. Jin Lee will facilitate a time for all the participants to identify common assumptions about spiritual vitality and inspire a renewed biblical perspective on what it means to live a spirit-filled life. This workshop is intended for the participants to remember, recalibrate, and reengage with the important question, "How goes your walk?" in a practical way that feels relevant to our day-to-day living.

4. Renewed Discernment: Tools for Navigating Complexity in Ministry

Led by Rev. Cheryl Lynn Alexander-Bermúdez

Do you find yourself struggling with conflict or decision making? Join us as we explore how tools in theological reflection can provide missional clarity and personal and communal discernment and renewal. Offered by Rev. Cheryl Lynn Alexander-Bermúdez of North Park Theological Seminary's Office of Contextual and Lifelong Learning.

5. Renewed Vision for Community Development and Engagement

Led by Ramelia Williams - Director of Love Mercy Do Justice

Community Development Ministry addresses the needs of the local community where God has planted your church. How are you strengthening and transforming individuals and families in your church neighborhood? Whether you are contemplating starting a new ministry or enhancing an existing one, this workshop will help your church answer God's call to bring Shalom beyond its walls.

6. Revitalizing the Church's Digital Footprint

Led by a Panel of GLC Churches using Various Media Methods

A church's digital footprint is its entire online presence — the data trail from its website, social media, online reviews, and local listings — acting as a crucial first impression for potential visitors. Your church's digital footprint requires strategic management through updated content, local SEO, and engaging multimedia (such as short videos) to attract and connect with people in the modern world, even while navigating challenges like tech skills and resource limitations. Learn what methods several GLC churches practice to effectively use this vital and relevant tool.



To register and pay online for the GLC Annual Celebration, go to www.greatlakes.cc and click on the link for the 2026 GLC Annual Celebration.

To apply for a registration scholarship,
email - info@greatlakes.cc.

Fill out one form per person.

Choose to register as one of the following:

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

Ministerial Association and GLC Delegate - Pastor chosen by church as delegate - includes Ministerial Association 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.

Choose the workshops you will attend for *each* session.

If you choose to fill out the paper form, please add up totals and send check to:

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

Where to Stay:

Life Church Canton has secured a block of rooms at these nearby hotels. When calling to book, please let them know you are with the **Great Lakes Conference** group. If you would prefer to book online, you will find the links on our website - www.greatlakes.cc

Country Inn & Suites

21625 Haggerty Rd
Novi, MI 48375
248-504-0808

DoubleTree by Hilton

42100 Crescent Blvd
Novi, MI 48375
248-344-8800

Holiday Inn Express & Stes.

39675 W 12 Mile Rd
Novi, MI 48377
248-344-8204

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

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.

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.**



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 03/26
GLC Delegate Only	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$120
Ministerial Meeting & GLC Delegate	<input type="checkbox"/> \$125	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150
Ministerial Meeting Only	<input type="checkbox"/> \$45	<input type="checkbox"/> \$75
GLC Participant Only - Includes Workshops	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25	<input type="checkbox"/> \$30

Workshops Friday, April 24th

Registration Fee Total

Not Attending Workshops
Pick One Workshop from Each Session
(session A or session B)

Session A Session B
 1:30-3:00 3:15-4:45

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1. Renewed Vision for Community Development & Engagement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2. Renewed Vision for Evangelism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3. Renewed Vision for Personal Spiritual Revitalization |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4. Exploring a First or New Call to Ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5. A Renewed Vision to Serve the Church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. Revitalizing the Church's Digital Footprint |

Meals (order by 04/02)

No Meals

Lunch Friday \$12.00

Friday Banquet \$12.00

Saturday Lunch \$15.58

Gluten Free

Vegetarian

Food Allergies? _____

Meal Total

To apply for a registration scholarship, email - info@greatlakes.cc.

Registration Fee and Meal Total