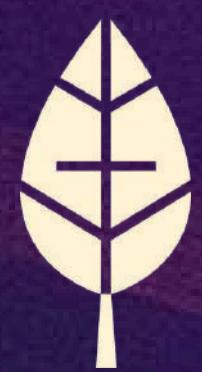


# CALLED



2026 ECO NATIONAL GATHERING  
ATLANTA, GA

*Welcome to the 2026 ECO National Gathering!*

# CALLED

*“And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?”*

*Esther 4:14 (NIV)*

In a world marked by uncertainty, rapid change, and growing challenge, the words spoken to Esther echo with renewed clarity. She was called to step forward at a decisive moment in history. She was grounded in her identity, strengthened by courage, and obedient to God's sovereign purpose.

As leaders in our ECO churches, we find ourselves in a similar moment. We are navigating complex cultural realities, shepherding communities through uncertainty, and discerning flourishing next steps for the sake of the gospel. This gathering is an invitation to pause, listen, and be reminded that God is at work...calling His people to deeper faith, courageous leadership, and renewed trust in Him!

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# SCHEDULE

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

GATHERING – DAY 1

7:30 AM	Flourish Institute of Theology Breakfast (RSVP Only   Room A602)
7:30 AM	Women Pastors and Candidates Fellowship Time (Room A708)
<b>9:00 AM</b>	<b>Main Session #1</b>
10:30 AM	Break
<b>11:00 AM</b>	<b>Breakout Session #1</b>
12:00 PM	Lunch On Your Own
12:45 PM	Special Interest Groups
<b>2:00 PM</b>	<b>Main Session #2</b>
3:30 PM	Break
<b>4:00 PM</b>	<b>Breakout Session #2</b>
5:30 PM	Worship
	Dinner (Provided)
	ECO Game Show Night!
8:30(ish) PM	End of Day 1

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

GATHERING – DAY 2

8:30 AM	Presbytery Meetings & Pastor Spouses Breakfast
<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>Main Session #3</b>
12:00 PM	Lunch On Your Own
12:45 PM	Special Interest Groups
<b>2:00 PM</b>	<b>Breakout Session #3</b>
3:00 PM	Break
<b>3:30 PM</b>	<b>Main Session #4</b>
5:00 PM	End of Day 2
5:30 PM	Global Engagement Dinner (Pre-Paid Add-On)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5

SYNOD BUSINESS MEETING – DAY 3

7:00 AM	Business Meeting Check-In Opens
7:45 AM	Business Meeting Check-In Closes
8:00 AM	Synod Business Meeting Begins
12:00 PM	Anticipated End of Synod Business Meeting / Lunch on Your Own

# GENERAL INFO

## RESOURCE TABLE



Lost something? Have a question?  
Come to the ECO store located in the Atrium Lobby. We are happy to help!



## PRESBYTERY MEETINGS | Wednesday 8:30 AM

**Please note:** Presbytery meetings are scheduled for Wednesday at 8:30 AM, prior to the Main Session at 10:30 AM. See page 17 for room assignments.

## COMMISSIONER SUPPORT



Commissioners! Do you have questions about the Synod Business Meeting or need more info or clarification about parliamentary procedure? Our Parliamentarian, Connie Deford, will be holding office hours to answer your questions! **Room: L502**

- Tuesday from 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM
- Wednesday from 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM
- Wednesday from 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM



## FLOURISH INSTITUTE OF THEOLOGY BREAKFAST

Tuesday 7:30 AM | A602

The Flourish Institute of Theology will host a breakfast for faculty, students, and student spouses. Pre-registration is required.



## WOMEN PASTORS & CANDIDATES FELLOWSHIP TIME

Tuesday 7:30 AM | A708

Grab your breakfast (thanks to generous presbytery donations, we'll provide the coffee!) and meet us for a casual time of fellowship together before the main gathering kicks off!



## PASTOR SPOUSES BREAKFAST

Wednesday 8:30 AM | Pulse Bar

Pastor Spouses! If you're not planning to attend a presbytery meeting, grab your coffee and/or breakfast and meet us in the Pulse Bar area outside of the Atrium ballroom for a casual time of connecting.

## ECO GAME SHOW NIGHT!



Sign up to play!

Tuesday night promises to be full of fun and memory making! After we have worship and dinner together, get ready for game night! We need some brave souls to hop up on stage and play with us!



## ECO AUTHORS



ECO has a growing group of authors who have produced books that challenge and build up the church. Help us support one another and stop by our book table to see what might be useful to your ministry.

## TRANSLATION SERVICES



You can listen to or read live captions for any of our Main Sessions in over 50+ languages. Simply scan this QR code or visit [econationalgathering.org/translate](http://econationalgathering.org/translate).



## CONFERENCE VIDEOS



All Main Sessions from the National Gathering will be recorded and on our website by the end of February at [econationalgathering.org](http://econationalgathering.org).

## POST NATIONAL GATHERING SERMON



A video message from Dana Allin, aligned with our NG theme, Called, is available to watch and share with your church. View it at [econationalgathering.org/sermon](http://econationalgathering.org/sermon) (with multilingual support).



## GIVING



If you or your congregation feel called to support ECO, we invite you to explore how you can give in the areas of leadership formation, starting churches, or strengthening churches at: [eco-pres.org/give](http://eco-pres.org/give)



[eco-pres.org/give](http://eco-pres.org/give)

# SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Tuesday & Wednesday | 12:45–1:45 PM

Go grab some lunch and bring it back to a special interest group for focused conversation and connection.

## Tuesday Special Interest Groups



L506-507

### Children, Family & Youth Ministry Leaders

This is How We Do It...Children and Worship! Join fellow children's ministry leaders for a casual lunch discussion focused on worship experiences for kids. This is a chance to share ideas, ask questions, and get inspired by what others are doing in their churches – from creative formats to spiritual formation practices that actually work. Facilitators: Rev. Jamie Swope & Rev. Jennifer Cronk



Tin Lizzy's Cantina

### Creative Arts & Worship (12:30pm - Pre-Registration Required)

Worship leaders are invited to a casual lunch conversation with Jeff and Jourdan Johnson, worship pastors at Passion City Church in Atlanta. With over 25 years of ministry experience, they have led worship in churches, college campuses, and events across the country. Join us for an encouraging time of connection. Facilitator: Brandon Muchow, Minister of Worship, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church



A601

### Global Engagement

Ministry to Immigrants – Are you confused by the many discussions surrounding immigration in the United States today? Join us to learn more about the legal landscape related to immigration and how churches can thoughtfully and faithfully minister with Christ-like love in their local contexts and congregations today. Facilitator: Daniel Yang, National Director of Churches of Welcome, World Relief



A602

### Interested in ECO Ordination?

Interested in learning more about ECO's ordination process? Come learn more from the ECO Ordination Team, leaders who have served the process, and candidates who are currently on their ordination journey! We will have time to connect with one another, walk through the process, and answer questions. We'd love to share all about it with you as you discern God's call on your ministry! Facilitators: ECO Ordination Team



A708

### Support for Family and Friends of LGBTQ Loved Ones

Family and friends of LGBTQ loved ones are invited into a confidential, supportive space to process emotions, access helpful resources, and connect with others in similar places. Join us to explore loving with openhearted grace while remaining rooted in God's truth. Feel free to attend Tuesday, Wednesday, or both days! Facilitator: Scott Kingry, Program Director, Where Grace Abounds



L503

### Strengthening Unmarried Pastors

Whether you're serving in ministry as a single pastor or walking alongside single pastors on your team, you're not alone. Join us for a candid conversation with panelists who will share their stories, wisdom, and experiences. Together, we'll explore how to support, and create a flourishing church culture that supports single pastors. Facilitator: Rev. Mary Woo

## Wednesday Special Interest Groups



A602

### Youth Ministry Leaders

This Is How We Do It...Confirmation! Youth leaders are invited to join us for a discussion centered on one question: "What are you doing for Confirmation at your church?" We'll share ideas, discuss challenges, and get inspired by what others are doing. Whether you're using curriculum, creating your own content, or reimagining the process, this is a chance to connect with others navigating questions. Facilitators: Charley Hellmuth & Rev. Rachel Poysky



A601

### Global Engagement

Do you have a role in leading your church's global missions ministry? Bring your lunch and join fellow church mission leaders from across ECO for an informal gathering focused on connection and conversation. This time together is designed to be a shared dialogue, mutual encouragement, and relationship-building with others who serve in similar roles in the ECO network. Facilitator: Rev. Dr. Brian Stewart, Director of Global Engagement, ECO



A708

### Support for Family and Friends of LGBTQ Loved Ones

Family and friends of LGBTQ loved ones are invited into a confidential, supportive space to process emotions, access helpful resources, and connect with others in similar places. Join us to explore loving with openhearted grace while remaining rooted in God's truth. Feel free to attend Tuesday, Wednesday, or both! Facilitator: Scott Kingry, Program Director, Where Grace Abounds

# SPEAKERS

MAIN SESSION #1 SPEAKER (TUESDAY AT 9:00 AM)

## MANDY SMITH



Mandy Smith is a pastor, author, and speaker who, after living and ministering in the US and UK, now ministers in her homeland of Australia. She is a cohort co-leader for the Eugene Peterson Center for Christian Imagination and regular contributor to Missio Alliance.

Her books include *The Vulnerable Pastor: How Human Limitations Empower Our Ministry* (IVP) and *Unfettered: Imagining a Childlike Faith Beyond the Baggage of Western Culture* and *Confessions of an Amateur Saint: The Christian Leader's Journey from Self-Sufficiency to Reliance on God*. Mandy and her husband, a New Testament professor, live in the parsonage at St. Lucia Uniting Church where the teapot is always warm.

[f @mandy.smith.50999](#)

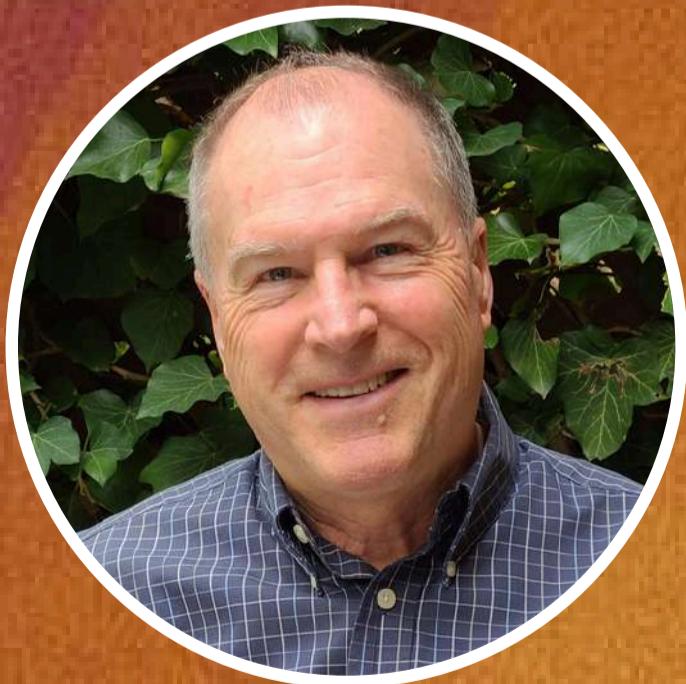
[o @mandysmithhopes](#)

[x @MandySmithHopes](#)

[globe thewayistheway.org](#)

MAIN SESSION #2 SPEAKER (TUESDAY AT 2:00 PM)

## JAMES R. EDWARDS



James Edwards is a native of Colorado Springs, where he enjoyed mountaineering and skiing, and was active in Young Life. He is a graduate of Whitworth University (1967), Princeton Theological Seminary (MDiv, 1970), University of Zürich (1971), and Fuller Theological Seminary (PhD, 1978). He chaired the department of Religion and Philosophy at Jamestown College, and joined the faculty at Whitworth in 1997, where he taught as Bruner-Welch Professor of Theology until 2015. He is currently Bruner-Welch Professor Emeritus of Theology. Edwards served as Minister of Students at First Presbyterian Church in Colorado Springs (1971-78). He has been a short-term translation consultant for Wycliffe Bible Translators in Colombia, was a translator with Berlin Fellowship for church

visitations to former East Germany, and he has led study tours to Germany, Greece, Turkey, and Israel. One of his lifelong avocations is mountaineering; in 2003, he and his son Mark climbed the Mittellegi Ridge of the Eiger in Switzerland. Throughout his career as a university professor, Edwards has preached and spoken widely in church, university, and conference settings. He has published numerous articles in scholarly and popular journals, and he has authored three New Testament commentaries for Community Bible Study. He has just completed writing a commentary on Genesis, scheduled to be published by Eerdmans Publishing Company in spring 2026 under the title, *In the Beginning. A Commentary on Genesis and its Reception in the New Testament*.

WORSHIP SPEAKER (TUESDAY AT 5:30PM)

# MELISSA SCHASER



Rev. Melissa Schaser serves as the Pastor of Groups and Community Life at Christ Presbyterian Church in Edina, MN. Melissa is also the Vice Moderator for the Presbytery of the Upper Midwest.

Melissa is passionate about preaching, discipleship, and developing healthy teams and leaders. She will complete her doctoral work at Fuller Theological Seminary in 2027, researching the adaptive leadership challenges surrounding egalitarian ministry in evangelical denominations. She hopes to develop practical resources to help pastors, sessions, and presbyteries live out a biblical, egalitarian witness to the Kingdom of God.

Melissa and her husband Nick live in Minneapolis with their two daughters, Lydia (7) and Sophia (4).

[f mlreginelli](#) [o @melissa\\_schaser](#) [g cpcedina.org](#)

MAIN SESSION #3 SPEAKER (WEDNESDAY AT 10:30 AM)

# ESAU MCCAULLEY



Esau McCaulley, PhD, is an author and The Jonathan Blanchard Associate Professor of New Testament and Public Theology at Wheaton College. His writing and speaking focus on New Testament Exegesis, African American Biblical Interpretation, and Public Theology. He has authored numerous books including *Reading While Black: African American Biblical Interpretation as an Exercise in Hope*, which won numerous awards including *Christianity Today's Book of the Year*. Esau also served as the editor of *New Testament in Color: A Multi-Ethnic Commentary on the New Testament*.

On the popular level, Esau's recent memoir, *How Far to the Promised Land*, was named by Amazon as a top five non-fiction book of 2023. He has also penned works for children, including *Josey Johnson's Hair and the Holy Spirit* and *Andy Johnson and the March for Justice*. Esau is a contributing opinion writer for the *New York Times*, and senior editor for *Holy Post Media* as well as the host of a new podcast with the *Holy Post* that debuts this fall. His writings have appeared in places such as *The Atlantic*, *Washington Post*, and *Christianity Today*.

[f @OfficialEsauMcCaulley](#) [o @esaumccaulley](#) [g esaumccaulley.com](#)

MAIN SESSION #4 SPEAKER (WEDNESDAY AT 3:30 PM)

# TONI COLLIER



Toni Collier is the founder of a global women's organization called Broken Crayons Still Color and helps women process through brokenness and get to healing and hope. Toni is a speaker, host of the Still Coloring podcast, and author of several books: *Don't Try This Alone* (released August 19, 2025), *Brave Enough to be Broken*, and a children's book, *Broken Crayons Still Color*. Toni has had the opportunity to proudly stand on stages for North Point Community Church, Chick-fil-A, IF:Gathering, Orange Conference, There{4} Teen Gathering, and MomCon, and she is a regular guest on TBN's TV program for women, "Better Together." She also serves on the board of Africa New Life and is a teaching pastor at Renovation Church.

Toni kills illusions. She confronts the hard things. She believes the best way to meet life's challenges is head-on. And, in this digital age of anxiety, Toni is teaching people all over the globe that you can be broken and still worthy, or feel unqualified and still be called to do great things. Toni wants to help you find a way through the brokenness in your life so that you can live the most colorful life possible.

[f @colliertonij](https://www.facebook.com/colliertonij) [i @tonijcollier](https://www.instagram.com/tonijcollier/) [w ToniJCollier.com](https://www.toniocollier.com)

NATIONAL GATHERING WORSHIP TEAM LEADER

# BRANDON MUCHOW



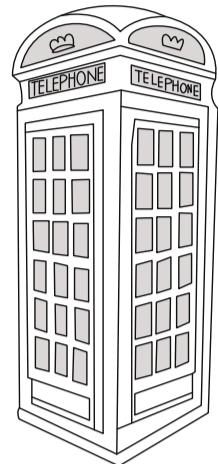
Brandon Muchow serves as the Minister of Worship at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Newport Beach, CA, providing leadership and direction for the church's worship culture through the creation of theologically rich and highly creative worship services. He oversees the worship department and worship production teams. Brandon earned a Bachelor of Arts in Music from Vanguard University (2011), a Master of Arts in Theology from Fuller Theological Seminary (2018), and a Certificate of Specialization in Organizational Leadership from Harvard University (2022).

He began his journey at St. Andrew's as an intern, and his role and calling have continued to grow over time. Brandon is grateful to be part of the St. Andrew's church family. He and his wife, Abigail, have three children—Teddy, Heidi, and Beau—and enjoy spending time outdoors and cooking together as a family.

[f @BrandonMuchow](https://www.facebook.com/BrandonMuchow) [i @brandonmuchow](https://www.instagram.com/brandonmuchow/) [w 7worshipleaders.com](https://7worshipleaders.com)

# CALLED TO FLOURISH

Supporting Leaders. Strengthening Churches. Sparking a Movement.



## LEAVE A MESSAGE

**Stop by our phone booth and:**

**Tell us about a time your church took a risk because of God's calling?**

**-or-**

**Leave a message of encouragement for a pastor or church that is weary in their calling.**

\*Your message may be shared to encourage others

### Want more information?

Want to hear more about a specific resource?

Fill out this interest form and we will be in touch!



[Scan to get started](#)

### Feeling called to something new?



[Scan to get started](#)

Connect with ECO Churches and ministry leaders seeking pastors and staff.

Our PSAT navigators will follow up with you after the National Gathering. Your responses are confidential.

## FLOURISH BREAKOUTS

Explore breakout sessions connected to FLOURISH resources designed to support leaders, churches, and ministries at every stage.

### FLOURISH AS A CHURCH

#### Five Shifts for a Generosity Culture in Your Church

John Terech

(Breakout Session #1 – Tuesday at 11:00 AM)

#### Called to Flourish: As a Small Church

Rev. Chelsea Ham & Caitlyn Stenerson

(Breakout Session #2 – Tuesday at 4:00 PM)

#### No More Spectators: How to Build a Church

#### Where Everyone Plays

Rev. Dr. Dana Allin

(Breakout Session #3 – Wednesday at 2:00 PM)

#### Called to Flourish: As a Church

Rev. Dr. Kaitlyn Wood

(Breakout Session #3 – Wednesday at 2:00 PM)

### FLOURISH AS A LEADER

#### Called to Flourish as a Leader: How Is God Inviting You to Grow Right Now?

Rev. Dr. Kaitlyn Wood

(Breakout Session #1 – Tuesday at 11:00 AM)

#### Called to Flourish: In Seasons of Transition

Rev. William Enns & Rev. Dorington Little

(Breakout Session #1 – Tuesday at 11:00 AM)

### FLOURISH AS A DISCIPLE

#### Called to Flourish: As a Disciple

Rev. Dr. Kaitlyn Wood

(Breakout Session #2 – Tuesday at 4:00 PM)

# RESTAURANTS

All meals are on your own except Tuesday dinner.



## In the Marriott Marquis:

**Starbucks | \$**  
Hours: 4:00 AM–12:00 AM  
Coffee & Light Bites | Grab-and-Go

**Pulse | \$\$**  
Hours: 4:00 PM–1:00 AM  
American | Sit-Down Dining & Bar

**Sear Restaurant | \$\$\$**  
Hours: 6:30 AM–2:00 PM, 5:00–10:00 PM  
American | Sit-Down Dining

**High Velocity | \$\$**  
Hours: 2:00 PM–1:00 AM  
American | Sit-Down Dining & Sports Bar

## The Hub at Peachtree Center

### FOOD COURT STYLE (<5 min walk)

225 Peachtree Rd NE, Atlanta, GA 30303

You can walk indoors from the Marriott Marquis to The Hub without going outside! A covered corridor starts near the Marriott's Atrium Level (just past Velocity Restaurant) and leads through a walkway/bridge to reach the food court, shops, and services.

#### Restaurants

Aviva by Kameel  
Beni's Cubano  
Breeze Bakery  
Bulgogi

Café Momo  
Caribou Coffee  
Chick-fil-A  
Dairy Queen  
Farmer's Basket

Firehouse Subs  
Gibney's Pub  
Great Wraps Grille  
Gus's Famous Fried Chicken  
Jersey Mike's

Kumo Ramen  
Last Stop Snack Shop  
Noodle Café  
Planet Smoothie  
Roman Delight Pizza

Saigon Bites  
Salata  
Tin Lizzy's  
T.J.'s Subs  
Willy's Mexicana Grill  
Yami Yami

## Nearby Restaurants

### WALKING DISTANCE

#### Alma Cocina | \$\$

Hours: 11:30 AM - 9:30 PM  
Mexican | .3 miles (7 min walk)

#### Ray's in the City | \$\$\$

Hours: 11:30 AM - 10:00 PM  
Fine Dining | .2 miles (5 min walk)

#### Tin Lizzy's Cantina | \$\$

Hours: 11:00 AM - 11:00 PM  
Tex-Mex | .2 miles (4 min walk)

#### By George | \$\$

Hours: 11:30 AM - 9:30 PM  
Steak & Seafood | .2 miles (7 min walk)

#### Gus's World Famous Fried Chicken | \$

Hours: 11:00 AM - 9:00 PM  
Fried Chicken | .1 miles (3 min walk)

#### Max Lager's Wood-Fired Grill & Brewery | \$\$

Hours: 11:30 AM - 10:00 PM  
American | .2 miles (5 min walk)

#### Metro Diner and Bar | \$\$

Hours: 6:00 AM - 4:00 AM  
American | .1 mile (4 min walk)

#### Hard Rock Cafe | \$\$

Hours: 11:00 AM - 11:00 PM  
American | .2 miles (5 min walk)

#### Cut's Steakhouse | \$\$\$

Hours: 11:00 AM - 10:00 PM  
American | .1 miles (4 min walk)

# BREAKOUT SESSION 1

Tuesday at 11:00 AM

Atrium  
Ballroom

## Cultivating EQ in Children

Join clinical psychologist, professor, and parenting expert Dr. Andrea Gurney for a practical workshop on Cultivating Emotional Intelligence (EQ) in children. In this session you will learn the four components of EQ, why it's so important today, and what you can do to foster emotional intelligence in your homes, churches, and communities.

**Dr. Andrea Gurney, Psychologist, Professor, and Author**

A708

## Do you Feel Called to Plant a Church?

Come learn more about ECO's church planting process and see if planting with us is right for you!

**Rev. Luke Parker, Director of Church Planting, ECO and Rev. Nate Stratman, Pastor and Church Planter, Hope Community Church, Wilmington, NC**

A701

## 10 Questions Every Lead Pastor Should Ask Their Worship Leader

This session will offer a framework of key questions that can deepen trust, improve communication, and align ministry goals. Whether you're looking to build stronger collaboration or simply open new conversations, this breakout will help you take meaningful steps together.

**Brandon Muchow, Minister of Worship, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Newport Beach, CA and Rev. Jason Smith, Pastor/Head of Staff, St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Newport Beach, CA**

A705

## An Open Conversation Around Same Sex Attraction (Part 1)

Same-sex attraction can feel like an isolating struggle—especially in the church. But what if the church could be the safest place for real conversations? In this breakout, Jeff will share his personal journey of navigating SSA while serving in ministry and discuss how church leaders can create spaces of truth and grace without compromising biblical conviction.

**Jeff and Jourdan Johnson, Hosts, Open Spaces Podcast & Staff at Passion City Church, Atlanta, GA**

A703

## Five Shifts for a Generosity Culture in Your Church

Building a culture of generosity is essential for churches seeking to thrive in their mission. In this session, discover five key shifts that can help FUEL your mission!

**John Terech, Executive Director of Operations, ECO**

A706

## Empowering the Next Generation: Raising Up Missional Leaders

Join us for an engaging session focused on cultivating missional leaders among the next generation. This session will explore practical strategies for identifying, mentoring, and equipping young leaders to live out their faith with purpose and impact in their communities. Drawing from biblical principles and decades of raising up missional leaders, Daniel will share how to foster a multiplication mindset, encourage cross-generational collaboration, and empower emerging leaders to navigate the challenges of modern culture while advancing God's mission.

**Daniel Yang, National Director of Churches of Welcome, World Relief**

**A704**

### **Daily Practices of Reliance in a Culture of Self-Sufficiency**

Why are so many Christian leaders burning out, losing faith, and abusing power? Rather than relying on our self-sufficiency and toughing our way through the tension, we are invited to confess it. In this breakout, we will be reminded of the call that first captured our imagination, directing our passions back to God and God's people. We will learn to experience the surprising freedom of grappling with a loving God, be released from illusions of control into a lifestyle of healing hope, rediscover your passion for ministry and your love for God and God's people.

**Mandy Smith, Author and Pastor, St. Lucia Uniting Church, Australia**

**A602**

### **Called to Flourish: As a Leader**

How is God inviting you to grow as a leader right now? Flourishing churches need flourishing leaders - that includes ordained pastors, elders, and lay leaders. This session will help you reflect on your own development and share training, assessments, and support pathways including lay leader and coach training, peacemaking, the development of a lifelong learning pathway, and more. Discover the next step in your leadership journey.

**Rev. Dr. Kaitlyn Wood, Director of Church Health, ECO**

**A702**

### **Called to Flourish: In Seasons of Transition**

Is your church preparing for, or navigating, a change in leadership? Pastoral transitions can feel uncertain, but they also hold unique opportunities for growth. In this session, our Flourish Navigators will share wisdom for churches facing a transition. They will also share about the different resources, tools, and assistance our denomination has to offer. Come explore how to lead your congregation through these seasons with hope, clarity, and purpose.

**Rev. William Enns and Rev. Dorington Little, Knot Navigators**

**A601**

### **Healing Prayer Ministry**

It's not as weird as you think! Many believers hear the words "healing prayer" and immediately think, Isn't that a little... out there? But what if healing prayer is not only normal, but actually an essential part of the life and ministry of the Church? In this breakout session, we'll explore the heart of healing prayer ministry, why it matters today, and how you can start one in your church.

**Rev. Don Feuerbach, Pastor of Congregational Care, First Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC**

**L506-507**

### **Why do we need Essential Tenets?**

Why do we need Essential Tenets? Come and learn about the composition of the Essential Tenets, the theological reasoning for the Essential Tenets, and be encouraged to join an in-depth study of the Essential Tenets in your congregations.

**ECO's Standing Theological Committee (STC)**

**A707**

### **The Sabbath, Rest, and Ministry**

It has been a little over two years since *The Lord of Time: Living in the Rest and Reign of God*, was delivered to the larger church family. This breakout session will be an opportunity to look again at this important articulation of what Scripture presents as one, if not the, most important of all the commandments. We will explore how and why this is so as well as learn what individuals, churches, and presbyteries are doing to use this study to deepen their discipleship and spiritual health. This will be led by Mark Patterson with help from others from the team that produced it.

**Rev. Dr. Mark Patterson, Professor, Flourish Institute of Theology**

# BREAKOUT SESSION 2

Tuesday at 4:00 PM

A708

## Becoming a Sending Church

Come learn how your church (no matter the size!) can start a church planting movement.

**Rev. Luke Parker, Director of Church Planting, ECO and Rev. Nate Dreesmann, Executive Director of Ecclesiastical Support, ECO**

A601

## Called to Flourish: As a Small Church

How can your small church thrive in the place God has planted you? Small churches carry unique strengths: deep relationships, flexible ministry, and faithful presence. This session will offer encouragement and vision for what flourishing can look like in smaller contexts, along with ideas, stories, and strategies to help your church grow in vitality right where you are.

**Rev. Chelsea Ham, Pastor/Head of Staff, Dinuba Presbyterian Church, CA and Caitlyn Stenerson, Pastor/Head of Staff, Knox Presbyterian Church, Minneapolis, MN**

A704

## Called to Flourish: As a Disciple

What's your vision for discipleship (in your life and your church)? Discipleship is more than a program; it's a way of life. Many of us long to see deeper spiritual formation, but aren't always sure how to define, lead, or measure it. This session will help you explore what flourishing looks like in your personal walk with Jesus and how your church can cast a clear, compelling vision for making disciples. We'll share principles and tools to help bring clarity, intentionality, and next steps to the discipleship journey, for both you and your community.

**Rev. Dr. Kaitlyn Wood, Director of Church Health, ECO**

A705

## An Open Conversation Around Same Sex Attraction (Part 2)

Join us for a continuation of the conversation from Breakout #1. This session will be dedicated to open Q&A, offering space to engage more deeply with the topic and ask honest questions in a supportive environment.

**Jeff and Jourdan Johnson, Hosts, Open Spaces Podcast & Staff at Passion City Church, Atlanta, GA**

A701

## Policy & Procedure Playbook: Lessons from Real-Life Scenarios

Join us for a practical session designed to explore real-world experiences related to how we can invest and manage finances. This breakout will highlight key takeaways from actual scenarios and offer space for shared learning.

**Jake Wilson, Relationship Manager & Stefanie Marsden, Relationship Manager, TPF**

A702

## Update, Progress, Plans, and Partnering with the Flourish Institute of Theology

This session will provide an overview of recent developments at the Flourish Institute of Theology. Learn more about current and future plans, updates on accreditation, how individuals and churches can explore opportunities for partnership and engagement, and meet our new President!

**Rev. Dr. Christopher DiVietro, President, Flourish Institute of Theology and Rev. Dr. Mark Patterson, Founding President, Flourish Institute of Theology**

**A707****Partnering with the Fastest-Growing Church in the World**

Be part of what God is doing through the fastest-growing church movement in the world: the Iranian Church. In this session, Persian-speaking Christians and ECO leaders will share stories, insights, and opportunities to partner together in this dynamic move of the Holy Spirit.

**Rev. Dr. Brian Stewart, Director of Global Engagement, ECO and other ECO leaders**

**A703****Faith and Mental Illness: A Practical Approach for Pastors and Spiritual Leaders**

Mental health challenges are a reality for many in our congregations—and in leadership. This session offers a thoughtful and practical approach for pastors and spiritual leaders who want to respond with compassion, clarity, and faith. Together, we'll explore how to walk alongside others while also tending to our own mental and emotional well-being.

**Rev. Liesel Ackley, Pastor of Administration, Park Road Presbyterian Church, Wyomissing, PA**

**A602****AI Tools to Optimize Ministry: From Sermon Prep to Service Excellence**

Explore how artificial intelligence tools can support and enhance your ministry workflows. From sermon preparation to worship planning and team coordination, this session will introduce accessible ways AI can help leaders steward their time, creativity, and resources more effectively.

**Rev. Dr. Matt Merrill, Pastor/Head of Staff and Dr. Chris Wilms, Elder, Crestwood Church, VA**

**A706****Exploring What is Different in the Landscape for Church in the Past 70 Years**

The cultural, theological, and organizational landscape of the church has shifted dramatically over the past seven decades. In this session, we'll reflect on major changes impacting church life, leadership, and mission—and consider how these shifts inform where we are headed next.

**Rev. Dr. Jim Singleton, Professor, Flourish Institute of Theology & Rev. Dr. Dana Allin, Synod Executive, ECO**

**L506-507****Parliamentarian for Commissioners**

Whether you're a first-time commissioner or a seasoned participant, this session will help you better understand the parliamentary process used during the Synod Business Meeting. Learn how to engage confidently, follow procedure effectively, and participate with clarity in this essential part of our gathering.

**Connie DeFord, Parliamentarian**

# BREAKOUT SESSION 3

Wednesday at 2:00 PM

**A708**

## **Integrated Funding Strategy to Fund Your Ministry**

In today's changing landscape, churches and ministries need clear, strategic approaches to funding their mission. This session will introduce integrated funding principles designed to align with your ministry's vision and help you build long-term financial sustainability.

**Joe Park, CEO, Horizons Stewardship**

**L506-507**

## **Forming Partnerships with Egyptian Churches**

Did you know that, in some cases, the Egyptian government is giving Christians land to plant new churches? Come learn about the possibilities for partnering with Egyptian congregations, as our brothers and sisters there seek to plant new churches in a predominantly Muslim country. ECO leaders will be on hand to share about their own experiences in these partnerships.

**Rev. Dr. Brian Stewart, Director of Global Engagement, ECO and other ECO leaders**

**A706**

## **Healthy, Holy, Purpose**

Your calling is uniquely connected to your healing. Your ability to look like Jesus while using your gifts and talents is always the goal, and in this session, we will unpack how to be a leader worth following.

**Toni Collier, Speaker, Author and Founder of Broken Crayons Still Color**

**A602**

## **Resolving Church and Community Conflict – A Discipleship & Outreach Pathway to Equip the Church**

Conflict within a church or between a church and its surrounding community can be difficult, however, it also presents an opportunity for growth, healing, and deeper discipleship. This session will introduce a pathway designed to equip congregations for reconciliation through intentional ministry. Learn how your church can take practical steps toward building bridges and restoring relationships.

**Rev. Nate Dreesmann, Executive Director of Ecclesiastical Support, ECO**

**A702**

## **Learning to Live Sent: What Exile, Scripture, and the Global Church Reveal About Our Mission Today**

In an increasingly post-Christian Western culture, followers of Jesus must relearn how to live as a faithful, missional presence in the world. Drawing from Scripture, historic experiences of exile, and the wisdom of the global church, this breakout will help young leaders understand what it means to embody the Gospel in everyday life and calling. Participants will explore practical ways to live as "sent ones"—rooted in God's kingdom while creatively engaging their local communities with hope, humility, and winsome witness.

**Rev. Clint Leavitt, Pastor/Head of Staff, Midtown Presbyterian Church, Phoenix, AZ and Hovan and Pegah Hovsepian Mehr, ECO Church Planters, Dallas, TX**

**A704**

### **No More Spectators: How to Build a Church Where Everyone Plays**

Many people come to church to watch others work. This session invites leaders to move from a “watch and give” culture to an “engage and grow” culture by equipping believers to live out their calling. We’ll explore tools to help you assess engagement, identify and deploy spiritual gifts, and reshape staff roles from ministry doers to ministry developers. You’ll leave with strategies and access to ECO resources that can help your church activate its people for everyday mission and ministry.

**Rev. Dr. Dana Allin, Synod Executive, ECO**

**A701**

### **Called to Flourish: As a Church**

What is your next flourishing step as a church? Whether your congregation is seeking clarity, renewal, or focus, this session will offer tools and resources to help your church grow in health and impact. We’ll explore how Cultivating Flourishing Congregations, FUEL generosity cohorts, vision framing, our Resource Library, and other resources can help your church take meaningful steps toward flourishing.

**Rev. Dr. Kaitlyn Wood, Director of Church Health, ECO**

**A707**

### **Why I Returned to the Local Church**

Join Esau to hear his story about why he feels called to be in a particular place with particular people. While many are running away from the local church, he felt God calling him to run towards it. Esau is a pastor, a professor, a podcaster, a parent, not to mention a *New York Times* opinion writer AND author...What keeps him from burning out? The key is the local church. Everyday church members living faithfully grounded his faith. Come renew your vision for the importance and impact of the particular congregation where God has called you!

**Esau McCaulley, Senior Pastor, All Saints Naperville, IL and Jonathan Blanchard, Associate Professor of New Testament and Public Theology, Wheaton College**

**A703**

### **Beloved Elders: Understanding and Blessing the Spiritual Journey of Aging**

Aging is not just a physical process—it’s a deeply spiritual journey. This session will offer space to reflect on how the church can honor, support, and walk alongside older adults with compassion and intentionality. Together, we’ll explore how to affirm the value and purpose of every season of life.

**Rev. Elizabeth Nielsen, Assistant Pastor of Congregational Care and Prayer Ministry, First Presbyterian Church, North Palm Beach, FL**

**A601**

### **Called to the Bethany Life: What if Your Church Offered Families More Than Activities—What if It Offered a Way of Life?**

In this 60-minute workshop, for pastors, we’ll explore how to help families live The Bethany Life, a rhythm of love, hospitality, spiritual depth, and shared mission modeled after Jesus’ time in Bethany. You will receive tools and frameworks to guide families toward deeper connection with Christ and one another. This session will inspire a shift from programmatic ministry to formational community, equipping you to lead families into a way of life that transforms homes, churches, and neighborhoods.

**Kelly Kannwischer, OptUp Consulting**

**A705**

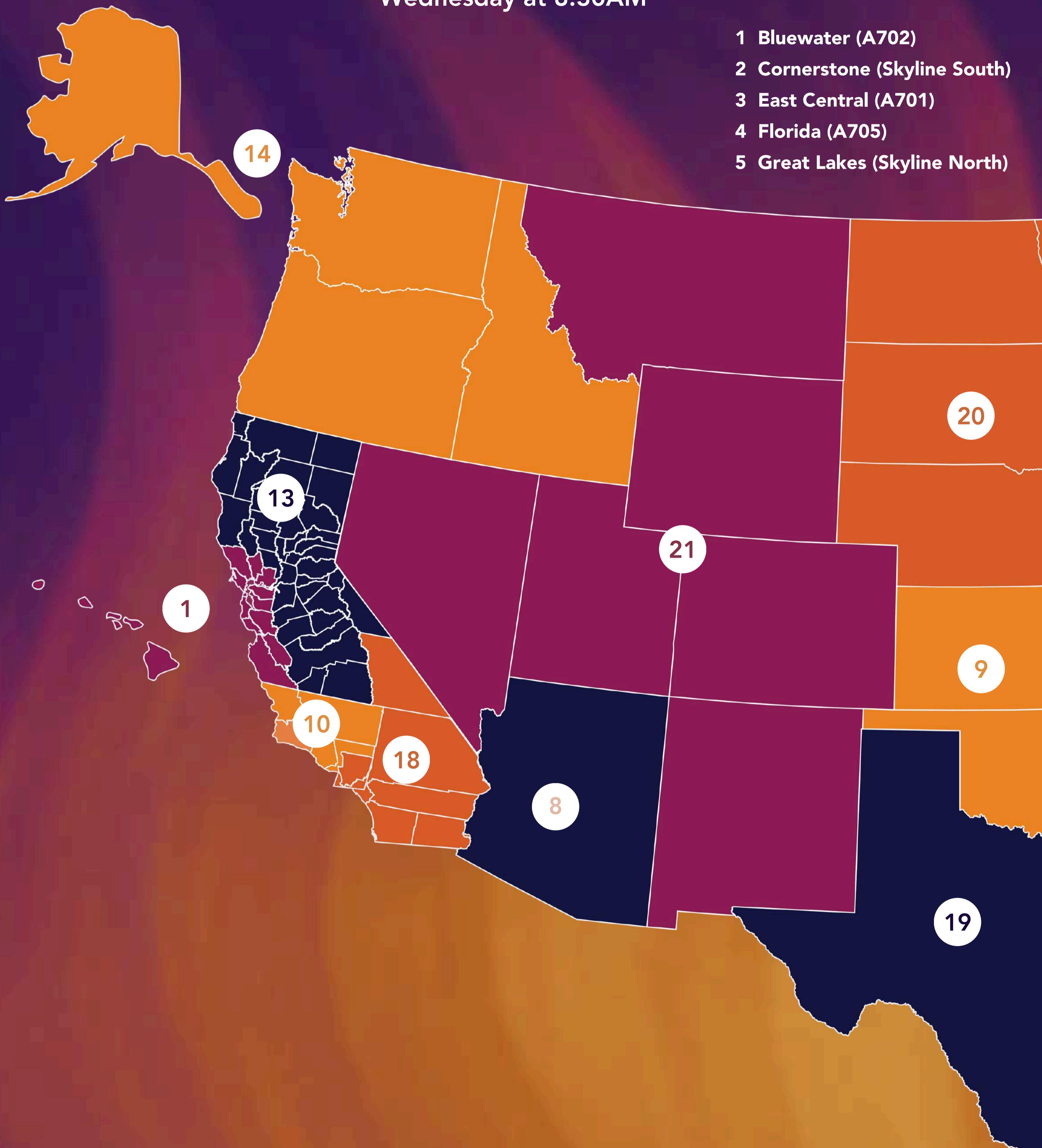
### **ECO's Essential Tenets for Officers and Staff**

Learn a model and method for training church officers in the Essential Tenets that can be applied to staff as well. Receive guidance on methods and expectations for non-ordained staff in adopting and being formed by our Essential Tenets.

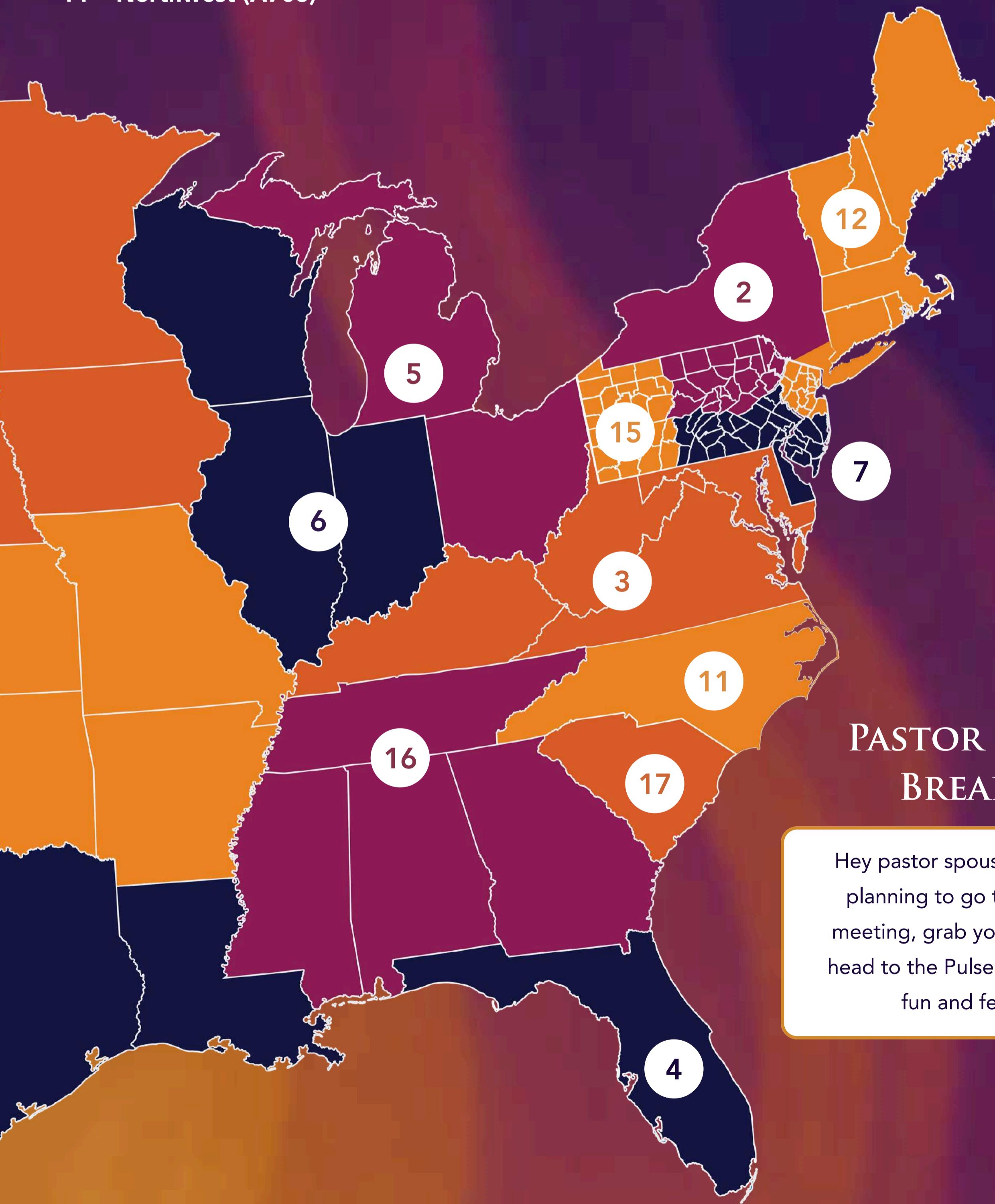
**ECO Standing Theological Committee (STC)**

# PRESBYTERY MEETINGS

Wednesday at 8:30AM



- 6 Harvest (L508)
- 7 Heritage (A708)
- 8 Hope (L506-507)
- 9 Mid-America (Skyline North)
- 10 Mission (Pulse Loft)
- 11 North Carolina (A602)
- 12 Northeast Coast (Skyline South)
- 13 Northern California & Nevada (Skyline North)
- 14 Northwest (A706)
- 15 Rivers of Life (Skyline South)
- 16 South (A703)
- 17 South Carolina (A704)
- 18 Southern California (A601)
- 19 Texas (Atrium Ballroom)
- 20 Upper Midwest (A707)
- 21 West (M304)



## PASTOR SPOUSES BREAKFAST

Hey pastor spouses! If you're not planning to go to a presbytery meeting, grab your breakfast and head to the Pulse Bar for a time of fun and fellowship!

# ONSITE CARE AND SUPPORT



Schedule a free appointment during the gathering. To book counseling, spiritual direction, coaching, or conflict coaching, scan the QR code to select a time slot or visit [econationalgathering.org/support](http://econationalgathering.org/support).

## COUNSELING

Room number will be texted to you before your appointment.

**Need a safe, confidential place to process what's going on in life, family, or ministry?**

Dr. Andrea Gurney has worked with children, adolescents, couples, and families for more than two decades through her private practice. She uses an integrative, relational, and strength-based approach to therapy, drawing from psychoanalytic theory, systems theory, attachment research, and cognitive behavioral techniques. Dr. Gurney has served on the faculty at Westmont College since 2005 and trained at Harvard Medical School and Boston Children's Hospital. She lives in Santa Barbara, CA with her husband and two daughters and regularly speaks and leads retreats at ECO Churches. Learn more at [andreagurney.com](http://andreagurney.com).

## SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

L502

**Spiritual Direction offers a prayerful space to reflect on your life and discern the Holy Spirit's presence and invitation.**

Rev. Dr. Tim Fearer has pastored six churches, guiding the last five through seasons of change as a Transitional Pastor/Head-of-Staff. He has also served eight years as a theological educator and leadership developer in Turkey. Tim focuses on life with God as the foundation of effective leadership and serves pastors as a certified spiritual director and coach. He lives in the Los Angeles basin.

## COACHING

Meet for your appointment by the phone booth  
at the ECO Resource Table - Atrium Lobby

**Are you wrestling with a ministry issue or seeking clarity around a new call, transitional role, or installed position?**

Dr. William Enns and Dorington Little from Knot Navigators are available for coaching sessions for those navigating ministry challenges or discerning next steps.

## CONFLICT COACHING

Room number will be texted to  
you before your appointment.

**Are you experiencing relational conflict that is disrupting your peace? We will spend one hour exploring pathways toward healing, reconciliation, and grace-filled conversations.**

Christina Severinghaus has served on Christian conciliation teams since 2010 and is a Certified Christian Conciliator. She provides conflict coaching and mediation for churches, marriages, neighbors, business partners, and community members. Christina also equips churches and organizations in peacemaking and currently maintains a biblical counseling practice in Fulton, Maryland, meeting with clients in person and online.



# FLOURISH INSTITUTE of THEOLOGY

## Seminary Built by the Church and for the Church

Equipping Christian leaders for lifelong ministry

- **Theological depth** rooted in Scripture and our Reformed heritage
- **Direct application** of classroom concepts to local church ministry
- **Holistic development** spiritually, emotionally, and intellectually
- **Contextual orientation** where your virtual classroom experience doesn't pull you away from your home church or family
- **Accessible cost** so that most students graduate without accruing debt

Flourish Institute of Theology helps you discern how God has gifted and prepared you for mission through His church. Here's what you'll receive from your education through the Flourish Institute:

⌚ Rigorous theological training at your pace

✓ Reformed, evangelical, egalitarian

\$ 1/3 cost of traditional seminary

If you or someone you know could benefit from theological training tailored for real-life ministry, connect them with the Flourish Institute of Theology.



## Apply Today!

[flourishinstitute.online/apply](http://flourishinstitute.online/apply)



[flourishinstitute.online](http://flourishinstitute.online)

[info@flourishinstitute.online](mailto:info@flourishinstitute.online)

(800) 283-2735

# EXHIBITORS

## PLATINUM EXHIBITORS



**ENVOY  
FINANCIAL**

### Envoy Financial

Envoy Financial is a leading provider of church retirement plans, offering faith-based plans for everyone in ministry, including churches, denominations, schools, camps, and rescue missions. They partner with ministry organizations to provide retirement solutions that support long-term stewardship and align financial planning with mission and values. Their approach helps churches and ministries serve both staff and future generations.

[envoyfinancial.com](http://envoyfinancial.com)



**FLOURISH INSTITUTE  
of THEOLOGY**

### Flourish Institute of Theology

Flourish Institute of Theology (FIT) equips pastors and ministry leaders with deep biblical and theological formation for faithful service in today's ministry contexts. Its programs integrate rigorous theological study with practical, ministry-embedded training, helping leaders think theologically and lead effectively. FIT connects classroom learning with real-world ministry through mentored training and experienced faculty committed to serving the church.

[flourishinstitute.online](http://flourishinstitute.online)



### Horizons Stewardship

Horizons Stewardship partners with churches and faith-based organizations to grow cultures of generosity rooted in discipleship. With more than three decades of experience and over \$10 billion raised, Horizons equips leaders with the strategy, data, and spiritual guidance they need to fund ministry vision. Through customized coaching, including financial health assessments, and capital campaigns - Horizons helps churches advance their mission.

[horizons.net](http://horizons.net)



**IRAN ALIVE  
MINISTRIES**

### Iran Alive

Iran Alive Ministries is a Christian nonprofit founded in 2000 by Dr. Hormoz Shariat with a vision to see Iran transformed by the Gospel. Through satellite television and digital media, the ministry broadcasts Christ-centered programming in Farsi to millions across Iran and surrounding regions. Its work focuses on evangelism, discipleship, leadership development, and church planting, equipping believers to live out their faith in challenging contexts.

[iranalive.org](http://iranalive.org)



**kidsalive®  
INTERNATIONAL**

### Kids Alive International

Kids Alive International is a Christ-centered nonprofit serving vulnerable, trauma-impacted children and families through holistic, faith-based care. By addressing physical, emotional, and spiritual needs, Kids Alive combines biblical discipleship with evidence-based trauma support to strengthen families and promote lasting restoration. Through this work, the organization helps children heal, grow, and flourish in faith and community.

[kidsalive.org](http://kidsalive.org)



**TPF**

### Texas Presbyterian Foundation

Texas Presbyterian Foundation helps organizations and individuals steward Christian generosity and philanthropy through investing and education. By working together with churches and ministry partners, TPF supports faithful and thoughtful resource management rooted in shared mission. This collaborative approach enables mission, strengthens ministry efforts, and helps expand the impact of Christian generosity across communities.

[tpf.org](http://tpf.org)

# GOLD EXHIBITORS



## Anágo Partners

Anágo Partners exists for the flourishing of the Church by helping pastors and church leaders lead healthy, effective ministries. Through leadership cohorts and church health insights, they equip church leaders to strengthen congregations.

[anagopartners.org](http://anagopartners.org)



## Frontier Fellowship

Frontier Fellowship equips churches and followers of Christ worldwide to engage people groups where the Good News of Jesus is not yet known, mobilizing and resourcing frontier mission among unreached peoples.

[frontierfellowship.com](http://frontierfellowship.com)



## Lutheran Hour Ministries

Lutheran Hour Ministries is a global Christian outreach ministry that proclaims the Gospel and equips believers to share Jesus with others. Through media, resources, and local engagement, LHM brings Christ to the nations and connects people to faith.

[lhm.org](http://lhm.org)



## Palm Beach Atlantic University

Palm Beach Atlantic University is a Christ-centered, private university in West Palm Beach that equips students to grow in wisdom, lead with conviction, and serve God boldly through whole-person education grounded in faith.

[pba.edu](http://pba.edu)



## PTAC – Preschool Teachers Adventure Conference

Preschool Teachers Adventure Conference is a one-day event for preschool teachers, directors, and children's ministry leaders offering encouragement and practical training to strengthen early childhood education and practice.

[ptacconference.org](http://ptacconference.org)



## The Antioch Partners

The Antioch Partners is a missionary-sending agency that partners with churches to send followers of Jesus into long-term, cross-cultural ministry, supporting disciple-making and holistic mission among least-reached peoples around the world.

[theantiochpartners.org](http://theantiochpartners.org)



## The Outreach Foundation

The Outreach Foundation partners with churches to connect them with global mission opportunities, equipping and sending teams to evangelize, disciple, and serve in communities around the world with a focus on long-term kingdom impact and faithful partnership.

[theoutreachfoundation.org](http://theoutreachfoundation.org)



## Upward Sports

Upward Sports helps churches and ministry leaders use sports leagues and activities to share the Gospel, develop character, and engage families in their communities by combining faith formation with athletic development through church-based programming.

[upward.org/church-leaders](http://upward.org/church-leaders)

# SILVER EXHIBITORS

  
Atlanta Youth Project  
[atlantayouthproject.org](http://atlantayouthproject.org)

 Baylor University  
GEORGE W. TRUETT THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
Baylor University's George W. Truett Theological Seminary  
[truettseminary.baylor.edu](http://truettseminary.baylor.edu)

 CSA CONQUERORS SPORTS ACADEMY  
Conquerors Sports Academy  
[csarec.com](http://csarec.com)

 DENVER SEMINARY  
Denver Seminary  
[denverseminary.edu](http://denverseminary.edu)

 DORDT UNIVERSITY  
Dordt University  
[dordt.edu](http://dordt.edu)

 GORDON CONWELL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY  
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary  
[gordonconwell.edu](http://gordonconwell.edu)

 GCP GREAT COMMISSION PUBLICATIONS  
Great Commission Publications  
[gcp.org](http://gcp.org)

 IJM  
International Justice Mission  
[ijm.org](http://ijm.org)

 InterVarsity CHURCH RESOURCES  
InterVarsity Church Resources  
[intervarsity.org/church](http://intervarsity.org/church)

 world relief  
World Relief  
[worldrelief.org](http://worldrelief.org)

 YCM  
Youth Conference Ministries  
[ycmhome.org](http://ycmhome.org)

# BRONZE EXHIBITORS

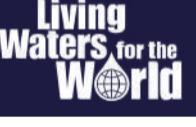
 Aspen GROUP  
Aspen Group  
[aspengroup.com](http://aspengroup.com)

 Christian Investors Financial  
Financial Services on a Mission  
Christian Investors Financial  
[christianinvestors.org](http://christianinvestors.org)

 DIGITAL MISSIONS PROJECT  
Digital Missions Project  
[digitalmissionsproject.com](http://digitalmissionsproject.com)

 Interserve USA  
Interserve USA  
[interserveusa.org](http://interserveusa.org)

 Life Spring NETWORK  
Life Spring Network  
[lifespringnetwork.org](http://lifespringnetwork.org)

 Living Waters for the World  
Living Waters for the World  
[livingwatersfortheworld.org](http://livingwatersfortheworld.org)

 NOVUM PARTNERS  
Novum Strategic Partners  
[novumsp.com](http://novumsp.com)

 Sabbath Gospel by G.P. Wagenfuhr & Amy J. Erickson  
Available at: [ivpress.com](http://ivpress.com)

 Safe Families for Children  
Safe Families for Children  
[safe-families.org](http://safe-families.org)

 The Philadelphia Project  
The Philadelphia Project  
[thephillyproject.org](http://thephillyproject.org)

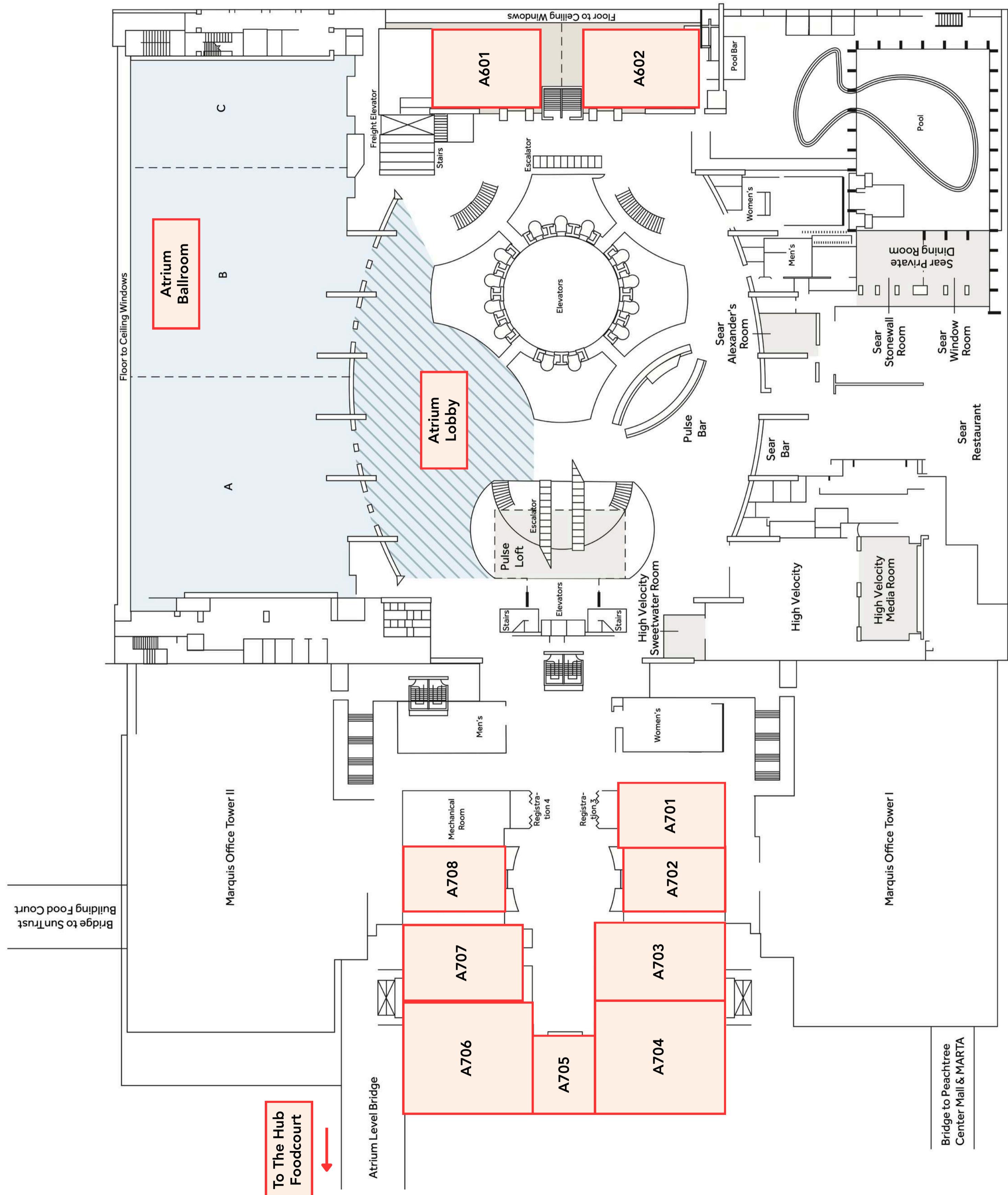
 GROW EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT  
THE PHILEMON PROJECT  
The Philemon Project — GROW Centers  
[thegrowcenters.org](http://thegrowcenters.org)

 THREADED  
Threaded  
[wearethreaded.org](http://wearethreaded.org)

 thrivent®  
Thrivent  
[thriventchurchloans.com](http://thriventchurchloans.com)

# atrium level

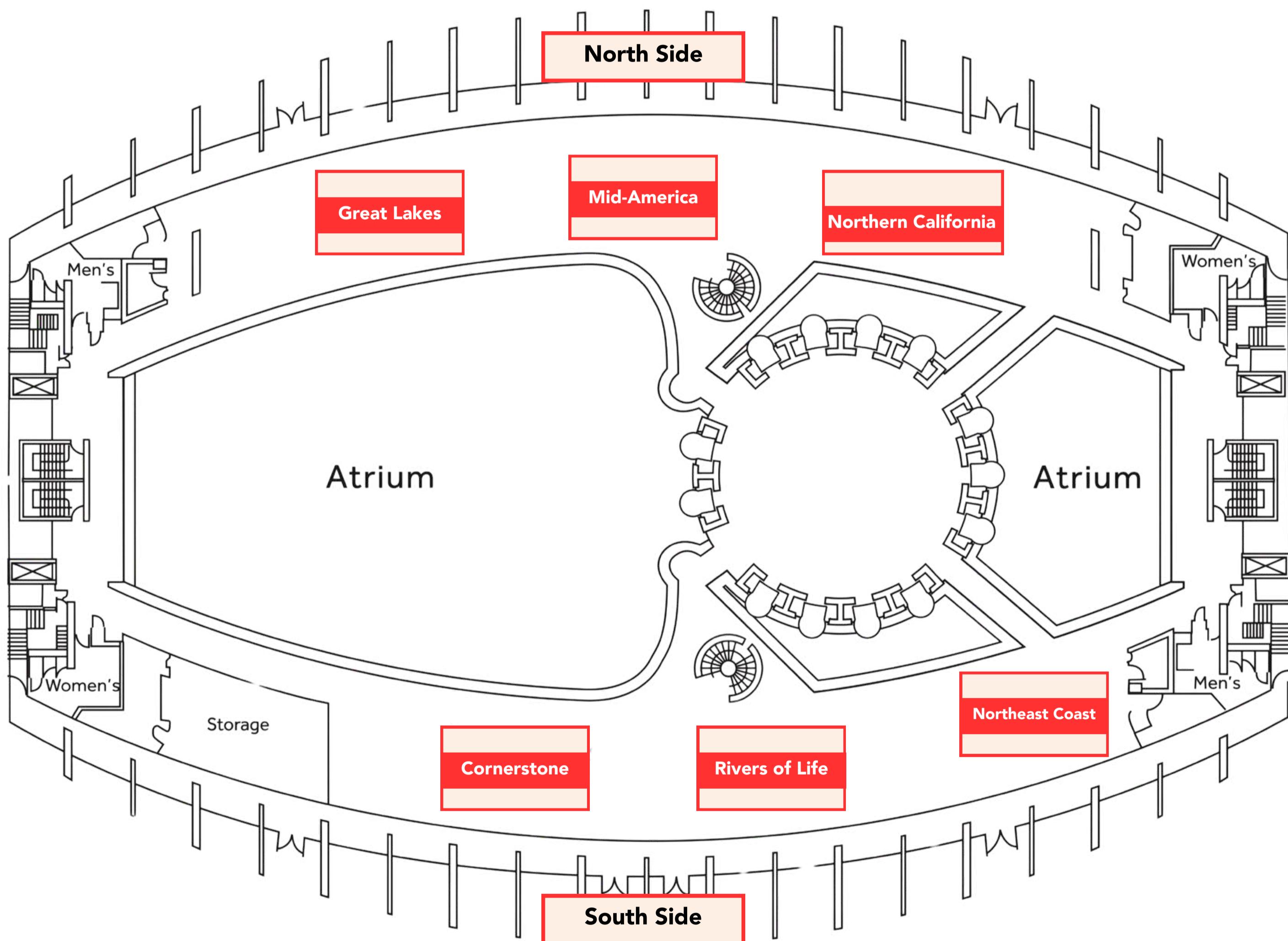
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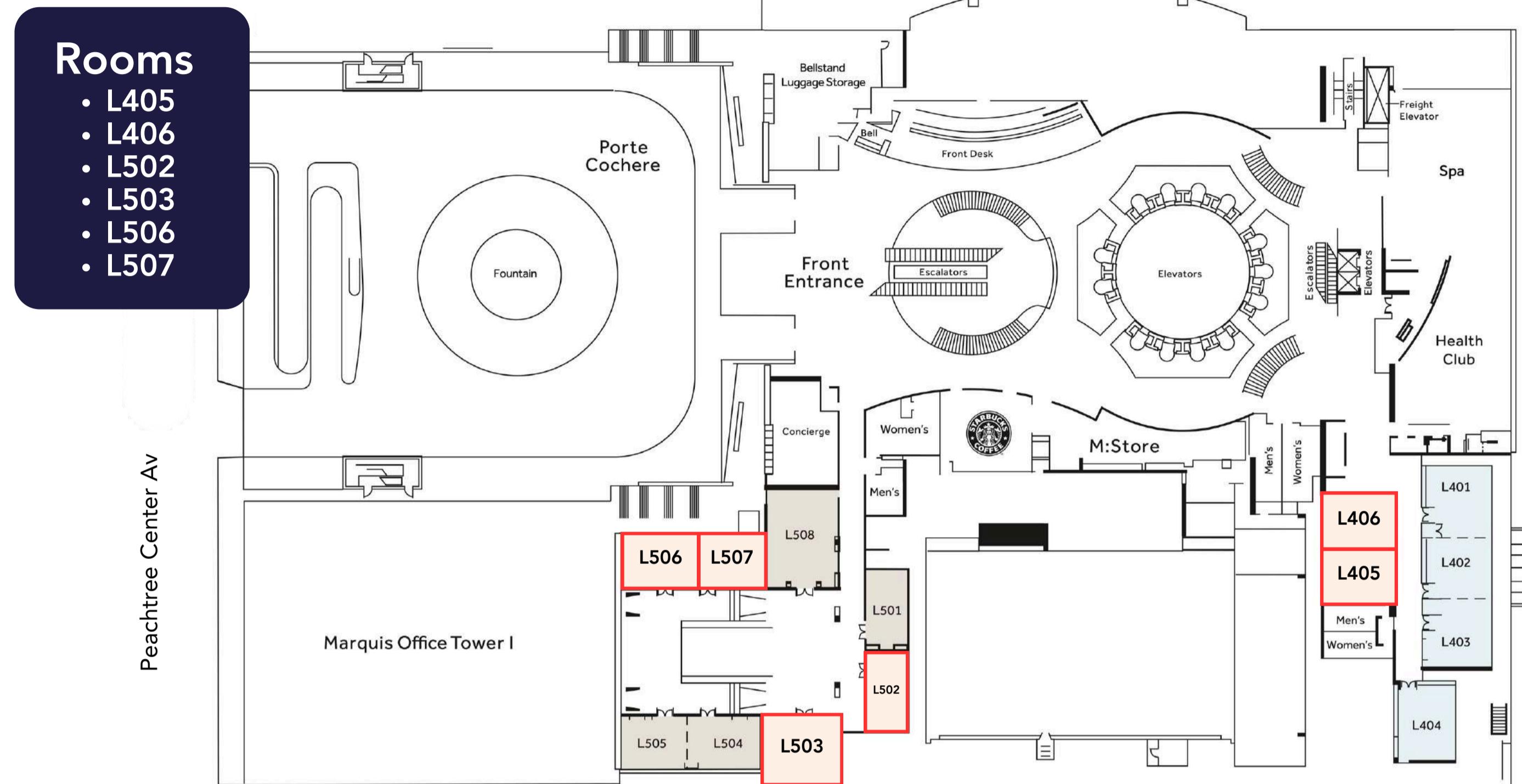
# SKYLINE LEVEL

## Presbytery Meetings

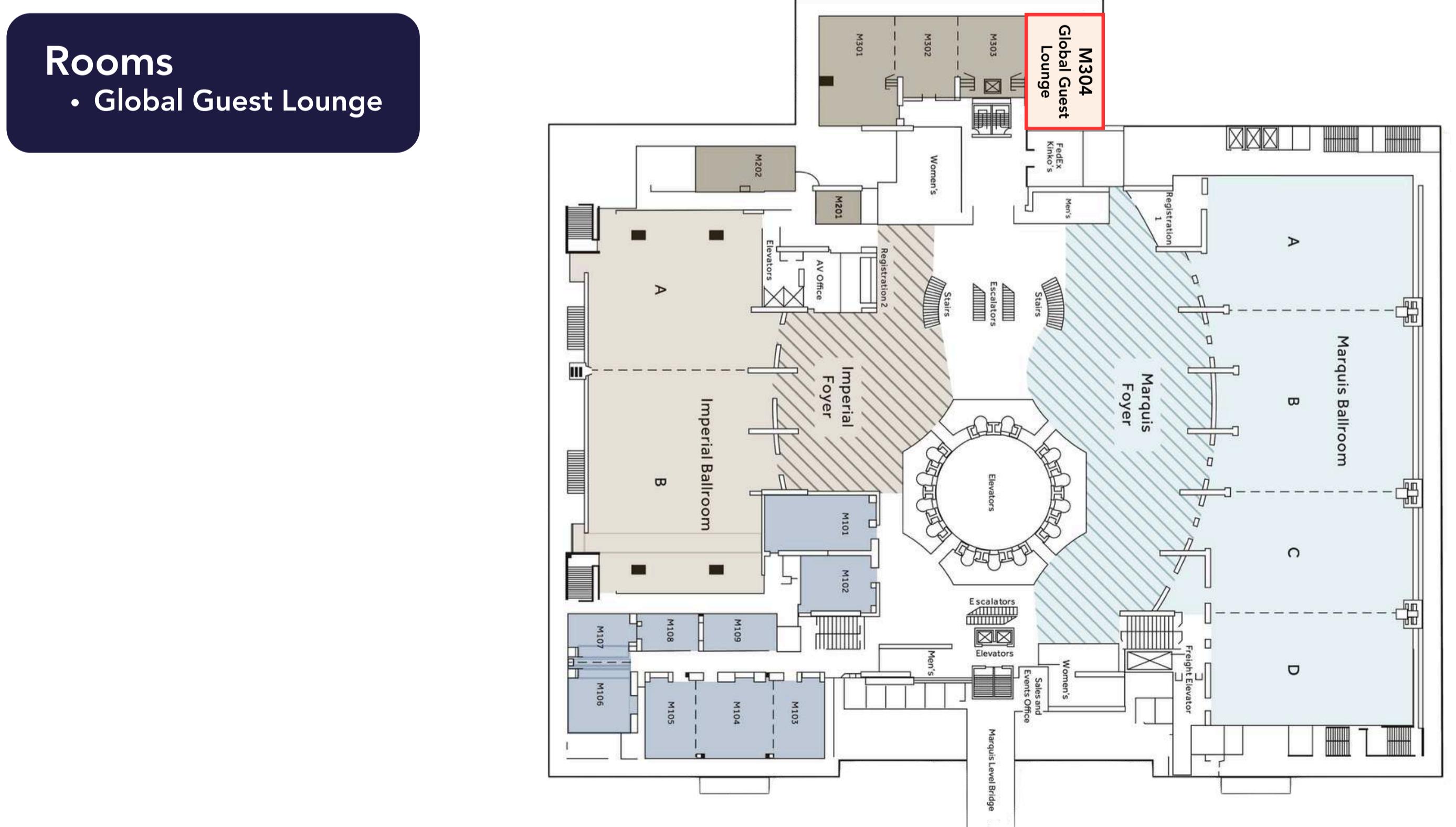
- Mid-America
- Northern California & NV
- Cornerstone
- Rivers of Life
- Northeast Coast



# LOBBY LEVEL



# MARQUIS LEVEL



*See you next year in*  
**DALLAS, TX**

**FEB 1-3, 2027**

at the Irving Convention Center

[econationalgathering.org](http://econationalgathering.org)

Information and registration will be available September 1<sup>st</sup>