



Dear Friend,

Do you sense it? There's a big shift in our culture, and it's hard to miss.

We see the headlines along with those we shepherd. We regularly counsel people who are asking life's big questions about identity, purpose and suffering. While these difficulties are not new, there seems to be a greater polarization and disconnection from the church than ever before.

Fortunately, our Christ-given mission remains the same as we are charged to *take the unchanging gospel to an ever-changing world*.

Converge Great Lakes has a great opportunity to stand for truth AND lead with love. That kind of equipping is available this year as we gather for our Annual Meeting in Medford, WI. We will have discussion around hot button topics, meet in affinity groups, welcome updates from around the district and enjoy a plethora of great teaching by our CGL colleagues.

It's also a chance to meet with old and new friends, as we encourage one another in Christ. Come be renewed as you rekindle your love for Christ and take up the challenge to lead His church with love in your community.
--Pastor Ken Nabi, Regional President, Converge Great Lakes

...These leaders knew what Israel should do and the best time to do it."
-1 Chronicles 12:32b

We are happy to host the 2019 Converge Great Lakes' 135th Annual Meeting. We're thankful to God for his hospitality to us in Christ, and we plan to extend that same welcome to you. We're busy at work with the CGL staff to make your stay and participation at the conference worshipful and encouraging. We're looking forward to seeing you in October. --Brian Wipf, Host Pastor, First Baptist Church, Medford, WI



WE ARE EAGER TO SEE YOU!

On behalf of the *Converge Great Lakes* Board of Overseers and Staff, we invite you to participate in Converge Great Lakes' **135th Annual Meeting**. You won't want to miss this time of fellowship and celebration. Come catch up with old friends and make new ones! Whether you are joining us as a church delegate, a guest, or a vendor, we welcome you and are pleased to have you present. If you have questions about...

the **EVENT**, please contact Event Director, Kris Wood - 920.420.6321 or MsKrisWood@gmail.com

the **REGISTRATION process**, please contact Karen Nabi - 920.251.4202 or karen.nabi@convergegreatlakes.org

SCHEDULE

Our schedule allows for meaningful conversations and good pacing throughout the days we're together. We have several pre-conference opportunities on Thursday for a variety of affinity groups. Our **business meeting is on Friday morning**, before lunch.

DELEGATES AND GUESTS

What is the difference?

DELEGATES are those who are sent as representatives of their church family to vote in the business meeting held on Friday morning. Converge Great Lakes has a constitutional guideline that involves its members voting on the business matters of the conference. *Our members are our affiliated churches and per our constitution each affiliated church is allowed representation. Each church with a membership of fifty or less shall be entitled to three delegates and one additional delegate for each additional membership of fifty or fraction thereof.* **Guests** are very welcome to attend all meetings, but are not eligible to vote during the business meeting.

PRAYER GATHERING

This time of prayer is a highlight as we launch our meetings each year. Join us for Converge Great Lakes' Corporate Prayer Gathering on Friday, October 19 at 9-10:30am. We will intercede for a variety of needs and milestones reflected in our churches, our communities, and the world. Come and get engaged with this time of scripture-fed, worship-based prayer!

CHILDCARE AVAILABLE

We are pleased to offer childcare during the Annual Meeting's main sessions. It is available for children through 5th grade, and snacks will be provided.

If you have family preferences on dietary needs, parents are asked to provide their children with clearly labeled snacks.

PLEASE PRE-REGISTER with your children's names, ages and times you would like childcare. If there are special needs, please submit those online or by notifying the office. The cost is \$25 per child (this is a flat fee for each child). No partial payments will be received.

Please also note whether your children will be joining you for meals on the registration. (Kids ages 10 and under eat free!)

We need to plan staffing ahead of time, so we will not be able to accommodate those needing childcare who did not register in advance.

Childcare is provided beginning at 8:30 a.m. Friday and Saturday and includes all CGL Annual Meeting events. However, no childcare will be provided during meal times and children will be eating with their parents.

MEALS

A big thank you to First Baptist Church, Medford WI for hosting us this year! All conference meals will be catered on-site. Be sure to mark the registration form for the meals you'll be attending.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS

We have contracted special discounted rates at two hotels in the Medford area which are **guaranteed until September 17, 2019**. (Hotel space is limited in Medford. There may be rooms available after that time, but on a first come, first serve basis, and the rates listed below may not be honored.)

Please mention **Converge Great Lakes** when making your reservations.

- **Boarders Inn and Suites**
435 S 8th St, Medford, WI 54451

Offering \$10 off their normal single/double rates, CGL rates range from \$85-\$105 depending on type of room available. Call **715-748-2330**; www.stayboarders.com

Amenities include: free wifi, free breakfast; refrigerator in each room, free parking; indoor pool and whirlpool; exercise room

- **Woodlands Inn & Suites**
854 N 8th St, Medford, WI 54451

\$70 for single or double. Call **715-748-3995**; www.woodlandsinnwi.com

Amenities Include: Variety of room types for the same rate; free wifi, free breakfast, free parking, microwave and refrigerator in each room.

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**RESERVE YOUR  
ROOM TODAY!**

# CONVERGE GREAT LAKES' 135<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MEETING - MEDFORD WI

## PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS

Offered Thursday, October 17, 1-5pm

(The fees are \$20/person. Registration is required.)

**Church Planter Gathering:** When Church Planters gather together to share their passion and best practices, everyone is made better. This gathering is for active and new church planters who want to learn and sharpen their skills. *Facilitator: Glenn Herschberger*

**Multi-Staff Gathering:** This round table gathering of pastors (with at least one more full-time staff person) is an opportunity for like-minded pastors to learn from one another. *Facilitators: Ken Nabi and John Anderson*

**Solo Pastor Gathering:** The most common calling in the CGL movement is the local pastor who shepherds a congregation of 150 or less people in faithfulness to Christ. Many times, the practices shared in conferences are not practical or helpful to the solo pastor. This informal gathering aims to bring pastors together for encouragement and to share what they are learning to be most fruitful. *Facilitator: Gary Harrison*

**Latino Gathering:** This is a gathering for those pastors uniquely focusing their efforts on reaching Latino communities. It is an opportunity to share best practices with one another.

**Do It Right Seminar (1-3 p.m.)** This training has become a hallmark event helping churches get their financial record keeping in order according to IRS guidelines and best practices. New churches and smaller churches with personnel turnover or facing challenges would be greatly helped by this time and training. *Facilitator: Sarah Motiff*

## SATURDAY BREAKOUT SESSIONS

There is no additional charge for these sessions

### #1. How Churches Can Engage the Next Generation

Today's young people bring unique challenges to parents, churches, and overall ministry. Too many churches see their youth grow up and abandon local church engagement while maintaining a measure of spiritual curiosity. This session will take a look at the challenges churches must embrace to disciple 18, 19, and 20 somethings in the coming era. *Facilitator: Laurel Bunker, Associate Vice President of Christian Formation and Church Relations for Bethel University*

### #2. Ministry to the LGBTQ Community

In a short period of time, cultural norms have radically shifted around sexual identity. This shift has made traditional biblical Christianity in America increasingly at odds with the culture. This session will take a look at how to engage the topic and population with a readiness that is uncompromising and filled with grace. *Facilitator: Dr. David Clark, Vice President and Dean, Bethel Seminary*

### #3. Different Journey—Same Mission:

The calling of a pastor's wife is unique from her husband and yet vital to the church in every way. From one church to the next, pastors' wives carry similar burdens often making the difference in ministry fruitfulness. In this "come as you are" session, we will take a look at unique aspects of the wife of the pastor and God's divine invitation for that role. *Facilitator: Rebecca Tilma, Epikos Church*

### #4 Converge Cornerstone Fund & Financing Expansion and Growth:

The Cornerstone Fund is uniquely positioned to help the Converge movement to enable your church to expand ministries, while offering competitive investment opportunities as you plan and strategize. This breakout session aims to give pastors and key leaders an overview of the many resources and services available to you through the Cornerstone Fund, and suggests immediate steps your church can take in planning the next phase of your ministry's growth. NOTE: The Cornerstone Fund now offers a Free Financial Review for any church considering a project. *Facilitator: Barb Ehlers, Relationships Specialist for the Converge Cornerstone Fund*

## GENERAL SCHEDULE

Schedule changes may occur. For the most up-to-date event details, please visit [www.convergegreatlakes.org](http://www.convergegreatlakes.org).

### Thursday, October 17

**Pre Conference Workshops** (Registration required.)

- |          |                             |
|----------|-----------------------------|
| 1-5 p.m. | #1 Church Planter Gathering |
| 1-5 p.m. | #2 Multi-Staff Gathering    |
| 1-5 p.m. | #3 Solo Pastor Gathering    |
| 1-5 p.m. | #4 Latino Pastor Gathering  |
| 1-3 p.m. | #5 Do It Right Seminar      |

### Friday, October 18

- |            |                                    |
|------------|------------------------------------|
| 8:30 a.m.  | Event Check In / Late Registration |
| 9 a.m.     | CGL Prayer Gathering               |
| 11 a.m.    | Business Meeting                   |
| 12:15 p.m. | Lunch (on site)                    |
| 1:30 p.m.  | <b>Session 1</b><br>Ken Nabi       |
| 3:15 p.m.  | Hot Topic Q & A's                  |
| 5:15 p.m.  | Dinner (on site)                   |
| 6:30 p.m.  | <b>Session 2</b><br>Ken Nabi       |
| 8:30 p.m.  | Dessert Reception                  |

### Saturday, October 19

- |              |                                                                  |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9-10:50 a.m. | <b>Saturday Breakout Sessions</b><br>(Choose 2 from left column) |
| 11:00 a.m.   | <b>Session 3</b><br>Ken Nabi                                     |
| 12:30 p.m.   | <b>Closing Prayer</b>                                            |



# REGISTRATION FORM

## REGISTRATION METHODS:

**Online:** <https://converge.org/great-lakes/shift>

*If possible, please register & pay online.*

**Call:** Karen Nabi at 920-251-4202 to pay with Credit or Debit Card.

**Mail:** P.O. Box 14745, Madison, WI 53708-0745

Please make checks payable to **Converge Great Lakes** and note **Annual Meeting Registration** on your check. Thank you!

## DELEGATE AND GUEST REGISTRATION:

**Title / Name #1** (Please Print) (Info to be used on the official name tags)

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail ☐ Add to E-mail list \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name \_\_\_\_\_ City/State \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Official Delegate** (see pg 2)

☐ **Guest**

Thurs Workshop #1 \_\_\_\_\_ #2 \_\_\_\_\_ #3 \_\_\_\_\_ #4 \_\_\_\_\_ #5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\$20/person Dinner is on us. Will you be joining us? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Sat 9am Breakouts #1 \_\_\_\_\_ #2 \_\_\_\_\_ #3 \_\_\_\_\_ #4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Sat 10am Breakouts #1 \_\_\_\_\_ #2 \_\_\_\_\_ #3 \_\_\_\_\_ #4 \_\_\_\_\_

Friday Meals—Count Me In:  
Friday Lunch ☐ Yes ☐ No  
Friday Dinner ☐ Yes ☐ No

## REGISTRATION RATES – Per Person:

- **Early Bird: \$89** by September 15
- **General Registration: \$109** begins September 16

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FEES ARE THE SAME FOR DELEGATES and GUESTS
NO PARTIAL REGISTRATION FOR SESSIONS OR DAYS

CHILDREN'S REGISTRATION:

Parents are responsible for providing snacks if there are special dietary needs. \$25/child - no partial fees; (Maximum payment for childcare is \$75/family.)

Parent(s) Name(s) (Please print) _____

Mobile Phone # _____

This year, family meals will be available onsite. Children 10 years and under are free of charge.

Please note if your kids will be joining you for Thursday Dinner, Friday Lunch, Friday Dinner: ☐ Yes ☐ No

If not all meals, which ones will your kids NOT be joining you?

Child Name #1 _____ Age _____

Childcare Times Needed: Fri _____ Sat _____

Child Name #2 _____ Age _____

Childcare Times Needed: Fri _____ Sat _____

Child Name #3 _____ Age _____

Childcare Times Needed: Fri _____ Sat _____

(Additional children can be included on a separate page.)

TOTAL FEES

Official Delegates (see pg 2)\$ _____

Guests\$ _____

Pre-Conference Workshops\$ _____

Childcare\$ _____
(No partial payments; Family maximum of \$75.)

TOTAL\$ _____

Title / Name #2 (Please Print) (Info to be used on the official name tags)

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail ☐ Add to E-mail list _____

Church Name _____ City/State _____

☐ **Official Delegate** (see pg 2)

☐ **Guest**

Thurs Workshop #1 _____ #2 _____ #3 _____ #4 _____ #5 _____
\$20/person Dinner is on us. Will you be joining us? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Sat 9am Breakouts #1 _____ #2 _____ #3 _____ #4 _____
Sat 10am Breakouts #1 _____ #2 _____ #3 _____ #4 _____

Friday Meals—Count Me In:
Friday Lunch ☐ Yes ☐ No
Friday Dinner ☐ Yes ☐ No

Title / Name #3 (Please Print) (Info to be used on the official name tags)

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail ☐ Add to E-mail list _____

Church Name _____ City/State _____

☐ **Official Delegate** (see pg 2)

☐ **Guest**

Thurs Workshop #1 _____ #2 _____ #3 _____ #4 _____ #5 _____
\$20/person Dinner is on us. Will you be joining us? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Sat 9am Breakouts #1 _____ #2 _____ #3 _____ #4 _____
Sat 10am Breakouts #1 _____ #2 _____ #3 _____ #4 _____

Friday Meals—Count Me In:
Friday Lunch ☐ Yes ☐ No
Friday Dinner ☐ Yes ☐ No