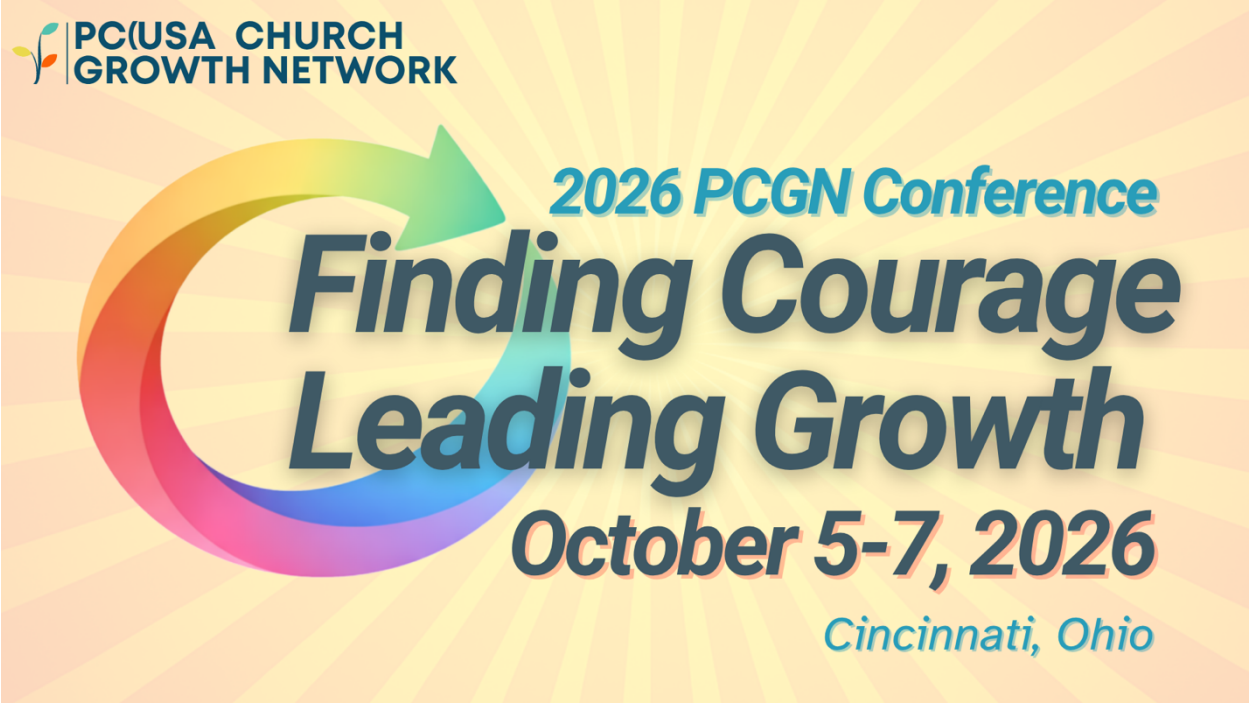

PC(USA) Church Growth Network Conference 2026
Cincinnati, OH
Monday, October 5 to Wednesday, October 7
Presbytery of Cincinnati, Host

Finding Courage, Leading Growth

Practicing Faithful Change That Leads to Faithful Growth

In a season marked by complexity and uncertainty, the 2026 PCGN Conference focuses on how courageous change is sustained not only by a few leaders but by whole communities. PCGN conference participants will be better equipped to lead change that renews mission impact, strengthens vitality, and supports faithful and sustainable growth. Every conference attendee will leave inspired and ready to take the next steps to help their church "be strengthened in faith and increase in numbers" (Acts 16:5).

Conference Host

The Presbytery of Cincinnati
Lisa Allgood, Executive Presbyter
E-mail: lisa@cpresby.org
Phone: 513.221.4850

Please contact the Presbytery of Cincinnati with questions about conference registration and logistics.

Conference Location

The 2026 PCGN Conference is being held at Knox Presbyterian Church (3400 Michigan Ave, Cincinnati, OH 45208). Please do not contact Knox Presbyterian Church with questions about the conference. Use the contact information for the Presbytery of Cincinnati (listed above).

Conference Schedule

Monday, October 5 - Evening Welcome Reception - 6:00-8:00 pm
Tuesday, October 6 – Conference Day 1 - 8:00 am to 4:30 pm
Wednesday, October 7 – Conference Day 2 - 8:00 am to 3:00 pm

Cost

$200 per person - conference registration covers continental breakfasts, coffee breaks, lunches, special treats, and shuttle transportation to and from the primary conference hotel

The cost of the 2026 PCGN Conference has been generously underwritten by Lilly Endowment Grant funding as part of the Living Churches Initiative of the Presbytery of Cincinnati.

Registration Information

Please go to pcgrowthnetwork.org/conferences to apply to pre-register for the 2026 PCGN Conference. The PCGN board is seeking to ensure an equitable registration opportunity, given the number of attendees we can host in 2026.

2026 Conference Leadership

Preacher and Worship Leaders

- Rev. Dr. Jerry Cannon (he/him), Vice President, Ministry Innovation, Board of Pensions
- Rev. Pepa Paniagua (she/her), Coordinator for Innovation and New Ministry Development, Grace Presbytery

Keynote Presenters

- Josh Erickson (he/him), Senior Pastor, Park Ridge Presbyterian Church (Park Ridge, IL)
- Matt Mattson (he/him), Executive Director & Lead Co-Creator of Between

Workshop Leaders

- Jen Burns (she/her), Director Change Management, Maximus
- Rev. Melissa Keeble (she/her) and Scott Keeble (him/him), Copper Creek Church (Champaign, IL)
- Brian Miller (he/him), President, Coach Approach Ministries
- Josh Erickson, Senior Pastor, Park Ridge Presbyterian Church (Park Ridge, IL)
- Mike Steel (he/him), Executive Director, Northminster Church (Cincinnati, OH)
- Shawn Barkley (he/him), Pastor of Walnut Hill Church in Lexington, KY, and Director of PresbyLab, Presbytery of Cincinnati

- Matt Mattson (he/him), Executive Director & Lead Co-Creator of Between
- Greg Bolt (he/him), Senior Pastor, Salem First Presbyterian Church (Salem, OR)

Conference Spiritual Directors

- Paul Burns, Pastor, Pastor of Eastminster Presbyterian Church (Dallas, TX) and St. Mark Presbyterian Church (Dallas, TX)
- Deb Uchtman, Pastor, Loveland Presbyterian Church (Loveland, OH)

Conference Connection Coordinator

- Sarah Bigwood, Senior Pastor, First Presbyterian Church (with sites in Fargo, ND and Baker, MN)

Questions?

Please contact the PCGN directly at pcgn.contact@gmail.com with questions about the conference programming.

Please contact the Presbytery of Cincinnati with questions about conference registration and logistics via e-mail lisa@cpresby.org or phone 513.221.4850

Full Conference Schedule

Monday, October 5

6:00-8:00 pm - Welcome Reception at Seasons 52 (3819 Edwards Rd, Cincinnati, OH 45209)
Appetizers and Cash Bar
Hosted by the Presbytery of Cincinnati

Tuesday October 6

Transportation: Vans will be available from the hotel to the venue, as on-site parking is very limited

8:00 am - Registration & Continental Breakfast

9:00–10:10 am - Opening Worship and Main Session 1 - "Strengthened in Faith and Growing in Numbers"
Rev. Dr. Jerry Cannon, preacher

10:30 am –12:00 pm – Tuesday Morning Workshops

- Change Management Leads to Growth - Jen Burns
- Casting a Vision for Growth – Melissa and Scott Keeble
- Beyond Fixing: How Coaching Helps Church Leaders Lead Growth and Change - Brian Miller

12:00–1:30 pm – Lunch

1:30–2:10 pm – Main Session 2 - "Grow in Size and Vitality"
"Finding the Courage to Take the Next Faithful Step."
Rev. Josh Erickson, Keynote

2:20-3:00 pm – Curiosity Check In!
An all-conference check-in designed to help foster connection and support

3:00–4:30 pm – Tuesday Afternoon Workshops
- Understanding Congregational Life Cycles, Growth, and Revitalization – Josh Erickson
- Communication that Turns into Connectivity and Community – Mike Steel
- Success Stories in Growing Churches - Shawn Barkley

Evening On Your Own

Vans will be available to take you back to the main conference hotel

Wednesday October 7
Transportation: Vans will be available from the hotel to the venue, as on-site parking is very limited

8:00 – Registration & Continental Breakfast

9:00–10:10 am – Opening Worship Main Session 3 – "Innovation and Growth"
"The Slow Work of Sacred Community"
Matt Mattson, Keynote

10:30-12:00 pm – Wednesday Morning Workshops
- Cathedrals of Connection – Matt Mattson
- Change Management Leads to Growth - Jen Burns
- Creating a Growth Strategy using 4DX as a model– Greg Bolt

12:00–1:30 pm – Lunch

1:30–2:30 pm – Affinity Conversations
Intentionally designed conversations to connect conference attendees with their peer co-learners

2:30-3:00 pm – Conference Close

Vans will be available to take you back to the main conference hotel