

each have unique needs that should be addressed with prayerful creativity. There's no one-size-fits-all approach. This requires small church leaders to be extremely entrepreneurial. The Climb Conference has always selected ideologically diverse speakers who have helped their ministries to be vibrant in different ways. We believe this is a great example of how we can be united without having to be uniform.

There were many opportunities to pray at this year's event. We gathered for prayer each morning on the Michigan capitol steps. We had a prayer room which had prayers from every participant hanging from the ceiling (which we took down and mailed out randomly so we could keep praying for each other), and we ended the event with a beautiful and moving time of prayer and worship around a bonfire.

Throughout the conference, we asked participants to think about what they were learning, how they could change, and what their ministries could do differently because of Climb by using the framework of knowing, being, and doing. That framework became the structure of three opportunities to pray at the bonfire. It was moving to hear church leaders beg God to form them as

ministers or to help their ministries because of what the Spirit put on their hearts during the conference.

Just as the conference focused on prayer, we ask that you would pray for us and for the future of the conference as we pass it on to a new generation of small church leaders and discern next steps. We're so grateful for the small church leaders in our fellowship and for the encouragement that Climb has provided.

Want to see what Climb was all about? Check out the lessons on our Climb YouTube Channel.



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> **Join Chance of a Lifetime Season Six**

October 29, 2025 • Isaiah Young – Camp Hope for Kids

What if you set aside 15 months of your life to be fully trained, fully immersed, and fully sent into the mission of Jesus? That's exactly what Chance of a Lifetime (COAL) Season Six offers — a life-changing, Kingdom-focused journey that will take you from the streets of Philadelphia to ministries across the...

> **God's Ripple of Reconnection in Gainesville**

October 18, 2025 • Cash McHargue – Gainesville, FL, USA

As 2024 came to a close, our CampusView church family began to pray bold prayers, asking God to move powerfully through his people and bring glory to his name. One of our deepest desires for 2025 was...

> **The Forge Never Closes: Leading from Depth in a Shallow Age**

October 19, 2025 • Johnny Rivera – Central Jersey Church, NJ, USA

Leadership today is in crisis — and it's closer than we often admit. A recent Barna study found that 42 percent of U.S. pastors have seriously considered quitting full-time ministry in the past year (barne.com). That's not...

> **Minister's Wellness Committee Webinar: Elders for Every Body on Nov 6**

October 14, 2025 • ICOC Ministers Wellness Committee

The Hebrew writer charges us as disciples to, "Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account" (Hebrews 13:17). Paul and...

2025 Climb Small Church Leadership Conference

UPCOMING EVENTS

ICYFM

Indianapolis, IN, USA
November 7-9, 2025

Pure & Simple XVI Conference

Boston, MA, USA
November 7-9, 2025

Marriage Retreat Cruise

San Diego, CA, USA
April 4-11, 2026

Church Builders Conference

Boston, MA, USA
April 23-26, 2026

Marriage Retreat Cruise

Fort Lauderdale, FL, USA
May 2-9, 2026

Conferencia de Las Americas

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Oct 15-18, 2026

October 27, 2025 • Joel Nagel – Lansing, MI, USA

This year's Climb Small Church Leadership Conference was a great success and encouragement. Over 150 small church leaders gathered in Lansing, Michigan, where the Lansing Area Church of Christ (led by Josh and Michelle Lutz) did an amazing job hosting the conference. So many remarked that they felt like it was a few days of rare abundance for church leaders who are more accustomed to scarcity. Overflowing snack tables, food trucks, robust round tables, a packed schedule, and many opportunities for prayer made the three-day event feel like a whirlwind of inspiration and encouragement.

The bi-annual Climb Conference started in 2019 in Eau Claire, WI, when Joel Peed and Rob Skinner had a vision to specifically pour into the unique needs of small church leaders. They added Joel Nagel to the planning team and held the conference in Dallas-Fort Worth in 2021 and 2023 before this year's event in Lansing, where Joel Nagel is an evangelist and teacher.

This year's lessons focused on the theme from Isaiah 43, "A New Thing," and seemed to all touch on the conviction that small churches



CONNECTING DISCIPLES IN CHURCHES AROUND THE WORLD