next gen leadership conference



BY THEIR

fruit.

november 6-7



KINGSTON

initiate26

schedule

Friday

06:00 PM	registration opens
06:45 PM	doors open
07:00 PM	general session 1
09:00 PM	late night lounge

Saturday

08:30 AM	doors open
09:00 AM	general session 2
11:15 AM	breakout (a)
12:15 PM	lunch (on-site)
01:15 PM	breakout (b)
02:30 PM	breakout (c)
03:30 PM	debrief/break
04:00 PM	general session 3
06:00 PM	departure

*click*here

TO LISTEN TO THE INITIATE 2026 PLAYLIST ON SPOTIFY



breakout*streams*

Our breakout format is designed to offer both personal and ministry-focused development. Breakout (A) will focus on the leader themselves, no matter their age or the ministry they serve in. Breakouts (B) and (C) will provide ministry-specific tools and training tailored to the leader's current ministry context (e.g., Kids, JH, SH, and/or YA Ministry).

ministry team *debrief /break*

Following the final breakouts on Saturday, ministry leaders are invited to gather with their church teams for an intentional time of reflection and conversation in the Main Auditorium. Together, take time to reflect on what God has spoken throughout the conference, share key takeaways, and discuss practical ways to put what you've learned into action within your ministry context. As we consider what it means to lead "**By Their Fruit**," this is an opportunity to encourage one another and identify how the fruit of this weekend can continue to grow in your leadership, your team, and the people you serve.

On your way to the debrief, be sure to stop by the lobby and grab a little treat to enjoy with your team!

breakout a | 11:15 am - 12:15 pm

*fruitful*leadership

how to know if you're called

JEFF HILLIER | FIRESIDE LOUNGE

"Calling" is something we throw around very loosely at times, along with statements like, "everyone is called to ministry", which can create so much confusion surrounding this idea of calling. So, how does one know if they're called to ministry as a vocation?

good fruit from a healthy source

TANYA RUST | CLASSROOM A

Leadership can be demanding, and when you're constantly pouring into others, it can be easy to put your own health on the back burner. But healthy leadership starts with a healthy leader. This breakout will explore practical best practices for caring for your body, mind, and spirit while navigating the pressures and responsibilities of ministry.

fruitful foundations

JON TOPPING | FELLOWSHIP HALL

In a generation that is increasingly unfamiliar with Scripture, how do we help kids and youth know the Bible, understand it, and build their lives upon it? This breakout will explore how Next Gen leaders can intentionally build strong biblical foundations from childhood through the teenage years. We'll look at practical ways to make Scripture accessible and engaging, strengthen biblical literacy, and equip the next generation with the tools and confidence to read, understand, and apply God's Word for themselves.

a fruitful prayer life

CHRIS CHASE | MAIN AUDITORIUM

As leaders, we're often wired to take action, solve problems, and get things done, which can make prayer feel counterintuitive in the middle of a busy ministry. Yet prayer isn't passive. It's one of the most powerful and essential practices of fruitful leadership. This breakout will explore what it looks like to cultivate a meaningful and sustainable prayer life as a leader, learning to depend on God rather than our own strength and allowing prayer to shape how we lead, serve, and respond to the needs around us.

breakout b | 1:15 pm - 2:15 pm

*fruitful*ministries

being fruitful in children's ministry by putting kid's needs first

children's ministry leaders

JENNIFER IACOB | MAIN AUDITORIUM

This breakout explores how children's ministry can bear spiritual fruit by intentionally responding to the unique needs of the generation we serve. Today's children are walking into our churches carrying anxiety, grief, trauma, bullying, and a wide range of personal challenges that curriculum alone cannot fully prepare us to navigate. Together, we'll explore how to create ministry environments that support children through different ages and life experiences, helping them feel seen, safe, and connected to who God is. Participants will leave with practical tools to help children experience God's love, belonging, and hope in meaningful and lasting ways.

deep & wide jr. high ministry

jr. high ministry leaders

BAYLEY HILLIER | CLASSROOM A

How do we challenge Jr. High students to become deeply devoted followers of Jesus while still creating a space where students who are questioning, exploring faith, or still on the fringes? This breakout will explore the tension between going deep in discipleship and keeping the net wide enough to reach students at every stage of their faith journey. We'll discuss practical ways to challenge students toward spiritual growth, create meaningful opportunities to encounter Jesus, and build a ministry culture where both committed students and those just beginning to explore faith can take their next step toward Him.

fruitful sr.high ministry beyond the building

sr. high ministry leaders

PAUL BASTIAN | FIRESIDE LOUNGE

The church building is just one environment where discipleship and spiritual formation take place, but how do leaders effectively disciple students outside of the moments that take place in the church building, while still following their CYAPP?

breakout b | 1:15 pm - 2:15 pm

*fruitful*ministries

dealing with difficult topics amongst YAs

young adult ministry leaders

AARON CUEVAS | CLASSROOM E

With the rise of hot takes and everyone having an opinion on everything, how do we still handle, deal with and discuss some of the hotbed topics that many are avoiding altogether?

counting fruit, not just leaves

pastor/main leader only

JEFF HILLIER | FELLOWSHIP HALL

Attendance can tell us how many people showed up, but it doesn't always tell us what God is doing in their lives. How do we move beyond numbers as our primary measure of success and begin looking for signs of genuine spiritual transformation? This breakout will take a deeper look at what discipleship is and what it isn't, while exploring meaningful ways to evaluate spiritual formation and growth in the next generation. We'll consider practical markers of discipleship that can help us celebrate not only who is in the room, but how kids and students are growing in their relationship with Jesus and becoming more like Him.

thus, by their fruit
you will recognize them

MATTHEW 7:20

breakout c | 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

*fruitful*ministries

fruitful roots in children's ministry

children's ministry leaders

LAURA BOGNER | MAIN AUDITORIUM

Healthy, fruitful children's ministries are built on strong roots. This workshop will explore the core qualities that help children's ministry leaders and teams develop those roots, including steady leadership, spiritual depth, healthy teamwork, and a culture where both kids and leaders can grow in their faith. We'll look at how investing in the health and development of those who lead and serve creates a strong foundation for children's ministries to flourish with joy, make a lasting impact, and bear fruit for years to come.

understanding the jr. high mind

jr. high ministry leaders

ALYSHA ALAVA | CLASSROOM A

Jr. High is a season of significant change. Students are navigating rapid physical, emotional, social, and psychological development, all while beginning to discover who they are and where they belong. This breakout will explore some of the key developmental changes happening during these formative years and how they impact the way Jr. High students think, behave, connect, and engage with faith. Gain practical insight to help you better understand, support, and minister to Jr. High students right where they are.

fruitful small groups for sr. highs

sr. high ministry leaders

HARRY WILSON | FIRESIDE LOUNGE

Small groups can be one of the most meaningful spaces for Sr. High students to build relationships, ask honest questions, and grow deeper in their faith. But what makes a small group truly effective and fruitful? This breakout will explore how to create and lead small groups with intentionality and purpose. We'll look at practical ways to foster meaningful conversation, build trust and belonging, engage students at different stages of faith, and equip leaders to create spaces where genuine discipleship and spiritual growth can take place.

breakout c | 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm

*fruitful*ministries

fruitful conflict resolution for YAs

young adult ministry leaders

DANIEL DILMOHAMED | CLASSROOM E

Young Adults are navigating big questions, diverse perspectives, and conversations that can sometimes lead to disagreement and conflict. How do we create spaces where they feel safe to ask honest questions, share different perspectives, and engage in meaningful dialogue while still pursuing healthy relationships and unity? This breakout will explore practical ways to facilitate challenging conversations, navigate disagreement, and help Young Adults develop the skills to listen well, communicate with grace, and work through conflict in a healthy, Christ centred way.

how high is too high: setting the standard for leaders

sr. high ministry leaders

MATT SCHMID | FELLOWSHIP HALL

Healthy ministries need healthy leaders, but how high should we set the standard for those who serve? This breakout will explore how to effectively lead, develop, and care for volunteers while establishing clear and consistent expectations that encourage character, growth, and accountability. We'll look at how to create a healthy leadership culture that calls people higher, gives room for growth, and equips leaders to become people worth following as they model Jesus to the next generation.

by their fruit you will recognize them.

do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles?

MATTHEW 7:16

general session bios



jason luscombe

trenton, on | speaker

Rev. Jason Luscombe is a pastor, leader, and passionate champion of the local church and the next generation. He and his wife, Colleen, make their home in Trenton, Ontario, and together have spent many years serving and investing in the life of the church. With more than 25 years of ministry experience, Jason has dedicated his life to investing in people, developing leaders, and helping others discover what it looks like to faithfully follow Jesus and lead with purpose. After serving for many years in local church ministry, including 12 years as Lead Pastor of Southside Worship Centre, Jason now serves as the District Superintendent of the Eastern Ontario and Nunavut District of the PAOC. Jason is a gifted communicator who leads with wisdom, authenticity, and a genuine heart for people. He is passionate about seeing leaders thrive, churches grow stronger, and the next generation step boldly into everything God has called them to.



jenn scarr

ottawa, on | speaker

Jenn calls Ottawa, ON home. In 2013, she entered the education field and has seen God take her on a wild journey ever since. From pursuing more education to facing health unknowns, she has experienced what it is like to trust God and cling to hope. In its simplest form, Jenn feels called to people, and is passionate about seeing a generation live a spirit-led lifestyle.



andrew jones

oshawa, on | speaker

Andrew Jones serves as the Executive Pastor at Embassy Church in Oshawa, a vibrant, multicultural, and multigenerational church passionate about worshiping God and seeing people grow in their faith. Whether he's preaching, leading worship, or encouraging young leaders to grow in their calling, he loves creating space for people to encounter God and become more like Jesus. Andrew's greatest joy is his family, his wife Laura and their three kids, and seeing them grow into all that God has for them.



initiate houseband

eastern, on | worship

The Initiate House Band is a gifted group of worship leaders hailing from across Eastern Ontario. They are known for their exceptional musical abilities and a deep passion for creating an atmosphere conducive to encountering the Holy Spirit. Through their worship, they aim to facilitate an environment that welcomes us to draw closer to God.

breakout *speaker* bios



alysha*alava*

Alysha has served as the Youth and Assistant Worship Pastor at a church in Oshawa for the past five years, alongside her husband, Andrew. She is passionate about seeing people encounter Jesus and discover what it looks like to live out their faith in everyday life. Outside of ministry, Alysha enjoys singing, watching sports, spending time with friends, and starting new hobbies she may or may not finish!



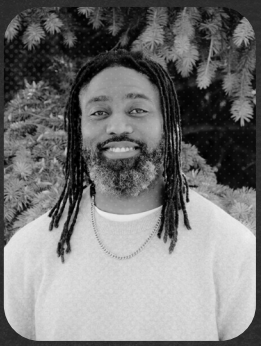
paul*bastian*

Paul Bastian has been the Student Ministries Pastor at Embassy Church for the past 5 years. He's passionate about seeing the next generation grow in their faith and step into all God has for them. Paul is all about building real relationships. He loves hanging out with friends, catching a good movie, and being intentional with every student he leads. His heart is to create a space where youth feel seen, valued, and challenged to go deeper with Jesus.



laura*bogner*

Laura Bogner serves as the Lead Pastor at Deseronto Pentecostal Church and brings many years of experience in Children's Ministry. With a deep love for Jesus and a passion for people, Laura loves hearing others' stories, walking alongside them in their faith journeys, and seeing lives transformed by Christ. A city girl at heart, Laura quickly fell in love with small-town life after moving to Deseronto in 2022. She is passionate about building authentic community and helping people grow deeper in their relationship with Jesus.



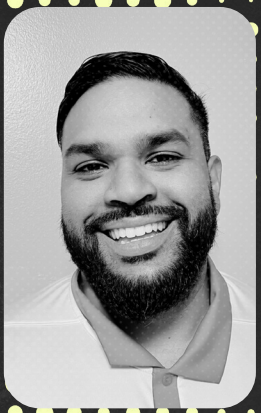
chris*chase*

Chris Chase is a husband, father of two teenagers and serves as the strategic engagement lead at Open Doors Canada, a non-profit organization that focuses on strengthening Christians where faith costs the most. Prior to this, he spent close to 20 years split between pastoral ministry, Bible college administration & church engagement with World Vision Canada. When not with his family or serving at his local church, Chris loves discovering new music, writing, fitness, and coffee - both on his own and with friends.



aaron*cuevas*

Aaron is native to the region of Scarborough and now residing in Oshawa, ON. Aaron and his wife Eirene have two children Ethan and Sophia. Aaron serves as the Groups & Young Adults Pastor at Embassy Church in Oshawa, ON. Aaron is passionate about connecting with people, hearing their stories, and finding meaningful ways to care for them.



daniel*dilmohamed*

Daniel has been serving at Malvern Christian Assembly for over a decade and has a love and passion for developing leaders and the next generation. He loves to hang out with his wife Nadine and daughter Aveah, when he isn't doing that, he is coaching basketball or playing football. Having served as the young adult Pastor, Daniel has seen challenges and has learned how to create safe spaces when conflict may arise within the young adult context. Healthy dialogue does not mean avoiding difficult conversations; it means navigating them with Christlike character, making room for diverse perspectives while remaining rooted in our shared faith and commitment to one another.



bayley*hillier*

Bayley Hillier is a graduate of Master's College & Seminary and serves as Associate Pastor at Bikers Church in Ottawa. He is passionate about seeing lives transformed by the love of Jesus and believes in sharing the hope of Christ through authentic relationships and serving others. Bayley and his wife, Katrina, have three boys and love spending time together outdoors, whether hiking, camping, paddling, or snowboarding. When he's not outside, you'll likely find him enjoying live music or exploring a local record shop!



jeff*hillier*

After having served 13 years as the District Youth Director, Jeff became the lead pastor of Community Pentecostal Church in east Ottawa in 2012. His passion for the next generation continues to drive how he leads his church, pursuing a culture that prioritizes kids & teens. Beyond pastoring, Jeff serves in a number of areas such as the coaching director & Birkman director for EOND, does leadership development each year overseas, is on the PAOC strategic vision committee, and is a district executive member.



jennifer*iacob*

Jennifer has over 25 years of experience serving vulnerable children and families across Europe. As an elementary school teacher, Family Ministries Pastor, and Trauma-Informed Care Specialist, she equips caregivers and ministry leaders to understand children's needs and respond with compassion. Drawing on her professional expertise and personal experience as a foster mother and parent of three, Jennifer is passionate about helping adults become safe, supportive, and nurturing influences in children's lives. Today, Jennifer serves nationally and internationally as a coach, consultant, and conference speaker. Her work empowers leaders to look beyond children's behaviours, recognize their underlying needs, and create environments where every child can experience safety, connection, healing, and the opportunity to flourish.



tanya*rust* *M.A., RP, CCC, CT*

Tanya is a Registered Psychotherapist and clinical supervisor who runs a private practice out of the Ottawa area. She is a licensed minister with the PAOC and has previously pastored in the Montreal region. She has been featured in the Daily Mail and the Women's Health Magazine about topics of chronic pain, illness and grief.



matt*schmid*

Matt serves at Woodvale Church in Ottawa as the Young Adults and Connections Pastor, with a real heart for the next generation of students and upcoming leaders. He has been serving in Next Gen ministry for 16 years, first in Toronto and now in Ottawa. Matt is a very enthusiastic and energetic person with countless nerdy passions and hobbies, but nothing excites him more than seeing people step into their God given purposes in life.



jon*topping*

Jon Topping is an apologist for Power to Change and Ratio Christi. He was a college instructor for almost a decade at Masters College where he taught apologetics, philosophy, and ethics. He has an MA in the Philosophy of Religion and Ethics from Talbot, Biola, and a BA double major Philosophy and Religious Studies from Tyndale. Jon's main focus is apologetics based videos that can be found on different social media platforms. See the QR code on the handout to get access to those.



harry*wilson*

Pastor Harry Wilson moved back to his hometown of Napanee to serve as the youth Pastor at Evangel Temple alongside his wife Holly and their son. With a heart for discipleship and biblical teaching, Harry seeks to equip young people with a strong foundation of faith, encouraging them to not only know Christ but to reflect Him in the way they live and serve others.

for such a time as *this*

INITIATE GIVING INITIATIVE

At Initiate this year, we're excited to partner with PAOC Mission Global's For Such a Time as This initiative, investing in the next generation of leaders in Ukraine.

As leaders, we believe that developing and equipping leaders goes far beyond our own churches and communities. We have an opportunity to intentionally invest in leaders across the global Church, helping raise up those who will share the hope of Jesus and make a lasting Kingdom impact.

Our giving goal is $3,000, which will provide ten scholarships for students at Kyiv Bible Institute who are preparing for full-time ministry.

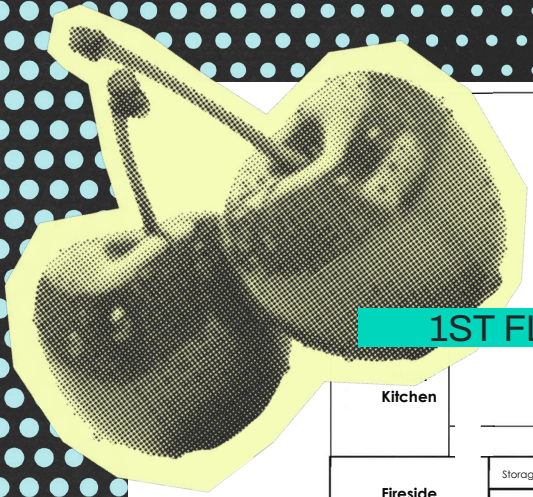
Together, we can invest in fruitful leadership that reaches beyond our borders and impacts generations to come!

Click here to learn more about this initiative.

ways *to* give

1. **Cash/Cheque**
2. **Credit/Debit**
   Machine available in lobby
3. **E-Transfer:**
   eondfinance@eod.paoc.org
   Please indicate "Initiate Offering" in the comment section

kingston *gospel* temple | INITIATE '26



1ST FLOOR

GYM
Storage
Stage
Storage
Kitchen
Drink Machine
Fireside Lounge
Storage
Electrical Room
Coat Room
FOYER
Main Entrance
Exit/Stairs
Children's Check In
Welcome Centre
Stairs
Library
Love Through Stitches
NURSERY
Meeting Room
Worship Centre
Reception
Office
Secondary Kitchen
Office
Office
Office
Office
Music Room
FELLOWSHIP HALL
Storage

2ND FLOOR

Resource
Classroom A
Classroom E
Classroom B
Classroom C
Classroom D