

General Association Of Baptists In Kentucky

1715 W Chestnut St., Louisville, KY 40203



Rev. Dr. Michael Rice, Moderator

82nd ANNUAL PASTORS & LEADERS CONFERENCE

Understanding The Times – 1 Chronicles 12:32

February 16-18, 2026

The Marriot Louisville East 1903 Embassy Square Blvd, Louisville, KY 40299

2026 PLC Classes

Tuesday, February 17

1:00-2:30 PM Breakout Session #1

- † **Lifeway Black Church Essentials Part 1** – This breakout session for pastors will address the issues and topics that Black Church Pastors are facing in making disciples in this current paradigm. This training will take AIM (*Analyze, Investigate, Maximize*) at the essential challenges of the post-modern world. – Dr. Mark Croston, Lifeway, Director of Black Church Ministries – **Bluegrass Salon A**
- † **From Greeters To Gatekeepers of Grace** – This session is designed for hospitality teams and frontline volunteers who serve as the first—and lasting—point of contact in the life of the church. This session reframes hospitality as more than a friendly welcome; it is a sacred ministry of stewardship, discernment, and grace. – Sis. Edith Turley, Shiloh Baptist Church, Lexington, KY – **Bluegrass Salon B**
- † **Faithful Men, Strong Churches** – This strategic session is for men who desire to serve with integrity, consistency, and spiritual maturity. This session explores the vital role faithful men play in strengthening the church’s leadership, culture, and witness—both within the sanctuary and beyond its walls. – Rev. Cedric Cheatham, Princeton Street Baptist Church, Crofton, KY – **Bluegrass Salon C**
- † **Faithful, Fearless, and Focused** – By looking at the life of Deborah, this dynamic session is designed to empower women to lead fearlessly in male-dominated spaces, remain focused on God’s mission amid resistance, and affirm others without diminishing her own calling. – Rev. Dr. Rozalyn Akins, First Baptist Church Bracktown, Lexington, KY – **Commonwealth Ballroom**

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2:45-4:15 PM Breakout Session #2

- † **Voices of Victory: Empowering Women in the Preaching Ministry 2.0** – God calls women to proclaim His word with strength, wisdom, and conviction, and their voices are vital to the life of the church. This class invites women to step fully into their calling, encouraging them to share their God-given voices to inspire, challenge, lead others to victory in Christ. – Rev. Alyce French Johnson, Oak Grove Missionary Baptist Church, Louisville, KY – **Bluegrass Salon A**
- † **From Doing It All To Empowering The Call** – This much needed session is designed to help address the challenges of doing ministry in a rural church context. For many rural church pastors and church leaders, the pace of demands often outpaces their capacity for execution. To scale impact without burning out, this session based on Craig Groeschel's Leadership Efficiency Model will help move pastors from being "doers of tasks" to "multipliers of leaders" by mastering the art of delegation and decentralized decision-making. – Rev. Larry Sykes, Clay Street Baptist Church Missionary Baptist Church, Shelbyville, KY – **Bluegrass Salon B**
- † **Beyond The Pulpit: The Role of the Pastor as Community Prophet** – This challenging and compelling session is for pastors and ministry leaders who understand that today's pastoral calling extends beyond preaching and programming into prophetic engagement with the broader community and advocating for justice. – Rev. Dr. Richard Hughes – New Jerusalem Baptist Church, Cincinnati, OH – **Bluegrass Salon C**
- † **Leading With Discernment in the Era of Artificial Intelligence** – This timely and essential session is for ministry leaders navigating the rapid rise of AI and digital technologies in church, leadership, and community life. This session invites leaders to move beyond fear or fascination and instead cultivate spiritual wisdom, ethical clarity, and faithful discernment in how AI is understood and utilized. – Rev. Dr. Michael Zachary, Centerville Baptist Church, Paris, KY – **Bluegrass Salon D**

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Wednesday, February 18

1:00-2:30 PM Breakout Session #1

- † **Lifeway Black Church Essentials Part 2** – This breakout session for pastors will address the issues and topics that Black Church Pastors are facing in making disciples in this current paradigm. This training will take AIM (*Analyze, Investigate, Maximize*) at the essential challenges of the post-modern world. – Dr. Mark Croston, Lifeway, Director of Black Church Ministries – **Bluegrass Salon A**
- † **Overcoming Faith Fatigue** – Based on Rev. Philip Suber's book *Overcoming Faith Fatigue*, this is a restorative and hope-filled session created for pastors and ministry leaders who have carried prolonged spiritual, emotional, and leadership burdens and are ready to move from survival to renewal. Dr. Philip Suber – **Bluegrass Salon B**
- † **The Painful Side of Leadership** – This session is designed to encourage and equip pastors and ministry leaders with biblical insights to better manage painful ministry circumstances, relationships and choices as shared by author and seminary president Jeff Iorg in his book *The Painful Side of Leadership: Moving Forward Even When It Hurts*. – Rev. Marvin King, Jr., Shiloh Baptist Church, Lexington, KY, First Baptist Church Winchester, Winchester, KY – **Bluegrass Salon C**
- † **Wisdom Meets Innovation: Using AI as A Ministry Assistant** – This relevant and practical conference session is for pastors who are discerning how to engage artificial intelligence without compromising theological integrity, pastoral care, or spiritual authority. Participants will explore how AI can responsibly assist in sermon preparation support, teaching resources, ministry planning, and administrative workflows. – Rev. Dr. Michael Zachary, Centerville Baptist Church, Paris, KY – **Bluegrass Salon D**

2:45-4:15 Panel Discussion

- † **Understanding The Times & Faithful Political Advocacy** – In a season marked by rapid social change, political polarization, and shifting public policy, pastors and leaders are increasingly called to lead with clarity, courage, and conviction. This panel discussion invites participants into thoughtful and faith-centered conversation on what it means to “understand the times” and respond with wise, ethical, and effective, advocacy. – Rev. Wanda Mitchell-Smith, First Gethsemane Baptist Church, Louisville, KY – **Commonwealth Ballroom**