



ALL for
LOVE
1 John 4:21

JUNE 9 – 12, 2026

Citygate Network Annual Conference & Exposition



CITYGATE™
NETWORK

Join us in
Grand Rapids!

Why?

Why do you do what you do?

What inspires you—what drives, influences, or activates you—to serve in the mission or ministry you've been called to?

When you pause and reflect, what is it that touches your heart most deeply—the motivating passion that propels you forward as you serve and help others?

ALL for LOVE

1 John 4:21



In conversations with leaders across our movement, it's no surprise that the answer comes back again and again. As people articulate their why, it almost always leads to the same place: **LOVE**.

For some, it is a deep sense of calling—faithfully living out God's mission through service. For others, it is a compassion that fuels their passion to help those in need. And for still others, it is the meaning and significance they find in a life and ministry rooted in purpose.

The apostle John reminds us that for followers of Christ, love is not optional—it is foundational. Love is what drives, inspires, and motivates us: love for God and love for others. In his first epistle, he writes:

The command we have from Christ is blunt: Loving God includes loving people. You've got to love both. (1 John 4:21 MSG)

The apostle Paul goes even further, declaring that *"the love of Christ compels us"* (2 Corinthians 5:14). Love becomes our why. Our love for God cannot be separated from our love for people. If we say we love God, we must also love others—and not just with words, but with action. Love is not merely communicated; it is demonstrated.

As we gather June 9 – 12, 2026, for the Citygate Network Annual Conference, it may not be a "lovefest," but my hope is that it will be a space that deepens your love for God and for those you serve. A place that inspires and equips you to live out your calling with renewed purpose and greater impact. A community of servant leaders who encourage one another toward love and good deeds.

With more than 1,200 of us gathered—worshipping together, learning together, encouraging one another, and being challenged to grow—I'm confident this will be an experience you won't want to miss. More than that, it will be a space to reignite the passion God placed within you: to love Him as He loves you, and to love others—both the lovely and the hard to love.

Why do we do what we do? **IT IS ALL FOR LOVE.**



Tom De Vries
President/CEO
Citygate Network



Register Today!

GENERAL SESSION *speakers*



Eugene Cho

As president and CEO of Bread for the World and Bread Institute, Eugene Cho advocates nationally and globally to help end hunger. He also founded and leads One Day's Wages as a grassroots movement of people, stories, and actions that help alleviate global poverty. His 2020 publication, *Thou Shalt Not Be a Jerk: A Christian's Guide to Engaging Politics*, received a nomination for Christian book of the year.



Jo Saxton

Speaker, podcaster, and author Jo Saxton currently serves as the executive director of a leadership development initiative at Bethel University. She regularly invests in and equips leaders around the world to step boldly into their calling and knows firsthand how the world can cause us to doubt our dreams, question who we are, and exchange our true child-of-God selves for an identity built on lies, guilt, and brokenness.



Kat Armstrong

A powerful voice in our generation, Kat Armstrong hosts the Holy Curiosity podcast and has authored several books. She co-founded the Polished Network to embolden women in their faith and work, serves as an ambassador for Seminary Now and as an advisory board member for Pillar Seminary, and works as the director of strategy for Come Near, the parent organization for the He Gets Us campaign.



Jeff Manion

Jeff Manion has served Ada Bible Church for over 40 years. He enjoys digging deeply into Scripture and passionately teaching the story of the Bible in a clear and relevant way. Jeff also treasures the opportunity to train and encourage leaders and believes strongly in the power of slow and steady faithfulness. Jeff has authored *Satisfied*, *Dream Big Think Small*, and *The Land Between*.



GRAND RAPIDS

HIGHLIGHTS

We'll host our 2026 Annual Conference & Exposition at the DeVos Place Convention Center in the heart of downtown Grand Rapids. With a stunning waterfront setting along the Grand River, city energy meets scenic beauty at this light, bright venue featuring expansive meeting space and inviting common areas.

Surrounded by a **lively entertainment district**, you can access more than 50 restaurants, shops, and museums within walking distance from the DeVos Place. Whether you

stroll along the **Riverwalk**, share a meal with colleagues, or explore the local art and culture, you'll appreciate the blend of small-town charm and big city amenities that make Grand Rapids a great city to visit.

In 2024, Grand Rapids, Michigan, ranked among the top 10 on the list of America's Best Towns to Visit! That might surprise you, but thanks to a vibrant arts scene, family-friendly recreation, and nationally ranked food establishments, Grand Rapids attracts a lot of visitors.

From **museums to farms and orchards to parks, live music, riverboats, hiking, biking, and water fun**, Grand Rapids has it all! You can access world-class **fishing and golfing** as well as the **beaches of Lake Michigan**—pretty much like the ocean, minus the sharks and salt—all within 30 to 45 minutes of our bustling downtown conference venue.

Culture buffs will enjoy the city's creative spirit, including **outdoor murals, statues, and art pieces**



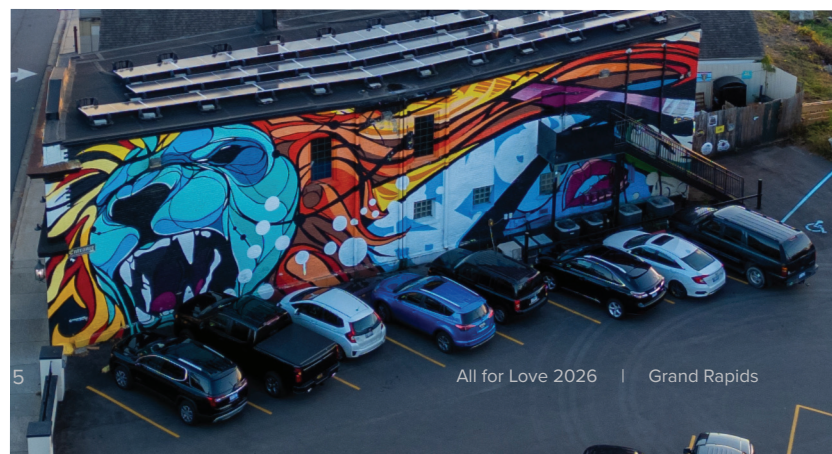


displayed throughout the city. You can also take in the **Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum**, the **Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park** (highly recommended by locals), or the **Heritage Hill Historic District** with more than 1,000 buildings dating back to 1844.

Foodies will appreciate the Grand Rapids **dining scene**, including the Italian coastal, seafood-forward menu at Allora, or The Heritage Restaurant, staffed by culinary students, the Butcher's Union featuring a meat-heavy menu of globally inspired fare,

Jdek with a year-round patio serving seasonal dishes riverside, and Portico offering made-from-scratch cuisine using locally sourced ingredients. You can easily walk to all these restaurants within a half mile of the DeVos Place.

To venture further from our downtown location, the pink DASH Shuttle gives free rides along specific bus routes. Or tap your favorite app for a rideshare service to go explore other adventures in this dynamic city and its surrounds.

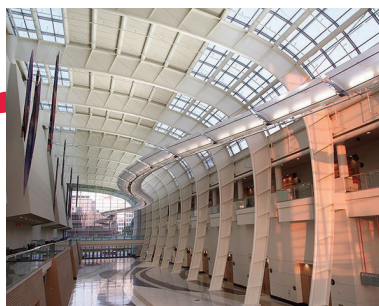


VENUE HIGHLIGHTS

AMWAY GRAND



DEVOS PLACE CONVENTION CENTER



HYATT PLACE



MONDAY AFTERNOON *Tours*

Take advantage of our proximity to several Citygate Network member ministries by self-scheduling a Monday afternoon tour. These organizations have generously opened their doors to offer a behind-the-scenes look at their programs, facilities, and life transformation work.

Tours will be available by reservation only and space is limited. Attendees should contact each ministry directly to reserve a spot and confirm tour times. Participants are responsible for their own transportation. All tour locations are approximately 30 minutes to one hour from the Amway Grand Hotel.



1 Gateway Mission

Holland, Michigan
30 minutes southwest
Contact: Paige Taylor
(616) 396-2200
ptaylor@hopefoundhere.org



2 Muskegon Rescue Mission

Muskegon, Michigan
40 minutes northwest
Contact: Heidi Davis
(231) 727-6090
adminrecep@muskegonmission.org



3 Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries

Kalamazoo, Michigan
50 minutes south
Contact: Christine O'Dell
(269) 345-2974 x201
codell@kzoogospel.org



4 City Rescue Mission of Lansing

Lansing, Michigan
1 hour east
Contact: Randy Barton
(517) 485-0145
randy@bearescuer.org



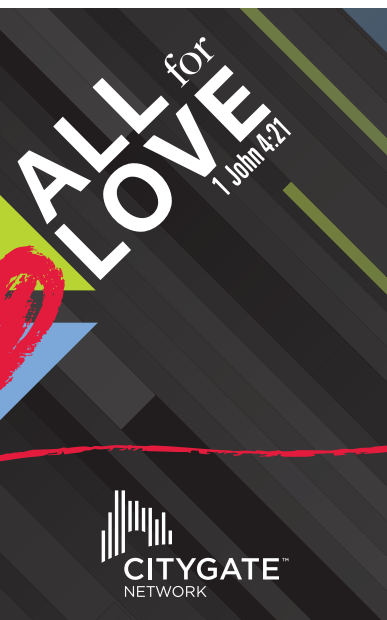
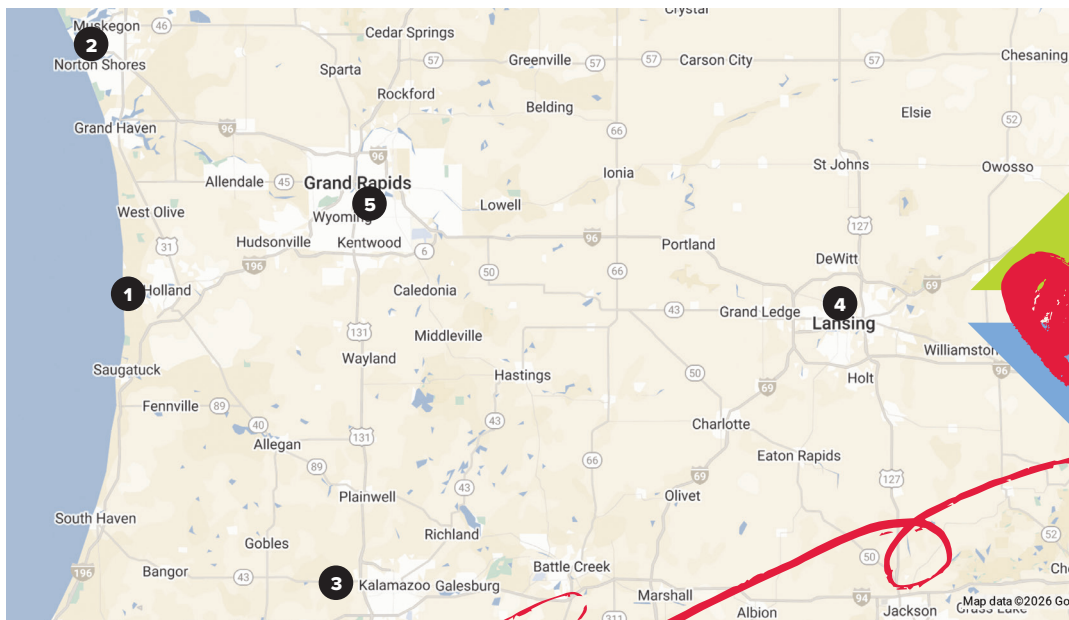
5 Our Daily Bread Ministries

Grand Rapids, Michigan
Contact: Barb Ellis
(616) 974-2742
barbara.ellis@odb.org



5 Mel Trotter Ministries

Grand Rapids, Michigan
Our host mission will conduct two official tours during conference week—one prior to the conference kickoff on Tuesday and another following the final general session on Friday.





Pre-conference Events

JUNE 8 Monday

Varied times Monday Afternoon Ministry Tours—Contact each ministry directly to reserve a spot and confirm times (see page 7)

- 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. District Leadership Event
- 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. MissionTracker Event
- 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Leadership Dinner

JUNE 9 Tuesday

- 7:45 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. New CEO & Regional Coordinator Breakfast
- 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Pre-conference Optional Programs

HUD / HHS Policy Engagement

Engage directly with officials from U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to gain insight into current and emerging policies impacting homelessness, housing, recovery, and social services. This interactive session offers clarity around funding priorities and the broader federal landscape—helping ministry leaders make informed, mission-aligned decisions.

Mental Health & Counseling Intensive

Mental health challenges are among the most complex and pressing issues facing Citygate Network ministries today. This in-depth intensive, led in partnership with Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services, equips attendees with practical, faith-integrated approaches to care for individuals experiencing behavioral health and trauma.

Thrift Stores: A Rising Opportunity

Thrift stores are rising as one of the most strategic opportunities for life transformation ministries—fueling ministry impact while generating critical revenue. Led by the Association of Christian Thrift Stores and Downtown Rescue Mission, this session equips ministries to launch or elevate thrift operations through practical, field-tested best practices.

- 9:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. Mel Trotter Ministries Tour
- 10:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. First-timers Welcome Party
- 11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m. CEO Leading Ladies Lunch

Food and/or beverage included By invitation only
 Additional cost involved (see registration.)

Official Start of the Annual Conference & Exposition

JUNE 9 Tuesday

- 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Conference Kick-Off – Community Block Party & Exhibit Hall Grand Opening
- 3:15 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Track Seminar Group I
- 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. General Session & Dinner: Jo Saxton 🍷
- 7:45 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Exhibit Hall Dessert 🍷

JUNE 10 Wednesday

- 7:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Exhibit Hall Breakfast 🍷
- 9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Track Seminar Group 2
- 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. General Session & Lunch: Tom De Vries 🍷
- 1:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m. Exhibit Hall with Dessert & Activities 🍷
- 3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. Afternoon General Session: Jeff Manion
- 4:30 p.m. Open Evening in Grand Rapids

JUNE 11 Thursday

- 7:45 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. Exhibit Hall Open
- 9:15 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Track Seminar Group 3
- 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Plenary Session
- 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Exhibit Hall Lunch 🍷
- 2:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Track Seminar Group 4
- 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. General Session & Dinner: Kat Armstrong 🍷

JUNE 12 Friday

- 8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m. Super Seminars
 - **Managing Leadership Anxiety: Yours and Theirs**
Steve Cuss, Capable Life
 - **“Hey Boss, We Have a Problem”:** Managing Crisis
Jack Briggs, Front Right Strategies
 - **Five Keys to CEO Succession**
Steve Woodworth, Masterworks
 - **Practicing Truth, Unity, and Grace in Divided Times**
Michael Gulker, The Colossian Forum
 - **Build a Remarkable Team**
Brooke Hodnefield, Slingshot Group
- 10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Morning General Session: Eugene Cho
- 12:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Mel Trotter Ministries Tour 💰 🍷

Please note: The conference schedule is subject to change. Session times, speakers, and locations may be adjusted as needed.



SEMINAR LINEUP

equip & inspire

Our seminars are designed to meet you where you are—whether you're leading through growth, navigating complexity, strengthening your team, or reimagining what's next for your ministry. Led by experienced leaders and trusted voices, each session offers practical insight, strategic tools, and faith-centered perspectives you can apply immediately in your context.



Addiction Recovery

Advancing recovery through compassion, innovation, and holistic care

- The Dynamics of Codependency, Trauma, and Addiction
- Bringing Together Faith, Science, and Community: The Backwards Bike
- Moral Injury and Spiritual Struggle in Recovery
- After the Finish Line: Recovery is a Marathon

Client & Culture

Responding to culture and trends with biblical wisdom and compassion

- What Makes Christian Counseling and Programs Unique?
- Reclaiming Relevance: The Future of Faithful Impact
- Intro to Trauma-Informed Culture
- The Ministry of Showing Up: How Presence Heals, Builds Trust, Increases Engagement, Inspires Generosity

Communication & Marketing

Strengthening trust and credibility through purposeful interaction and innovation

- Designing Community Awareness Campaigns
- Find and Tell Stories that Create Connections and Drive Results
- So You Want to Start a Podcast
- Essential Elements for a High-Conversion Homepage

Community Engagement

Building ministry support by mobilizing people, resources, and partnerships

- You've Got Volunteers—Now What?
- Coordinating a Church-Based Response to Homelessness
- Engaging Capitol Hill: Effective Advocacy
- Igniting Mission Impact Through Church Partnerships

Diversifying Revenue

Expanding financial sustainability through entrepreneurial ventures, innovation, and strategic growth

- Financing What's Next
- Generating Value Through Social Enterprise
- Beginners to Experts: Strategies for Event Planners
- Thrift as Mission: Fueling Kingdom Impact with Courageous Growth

Frontline Services & Hospitality

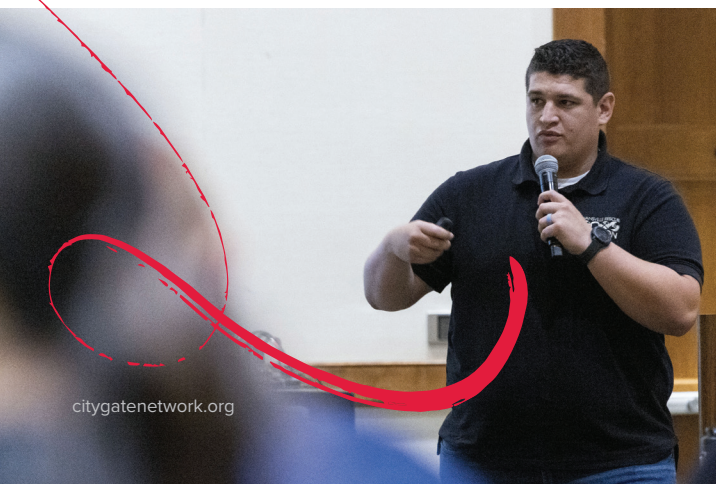
Delivering dignity and care through hospitality, best practices, and trauma-informed service

- Fail, Flounder, or Flourish: Persevering on the Front Lines
- Radical Hospitality: Biblical Foundations and Characteristics
- First Moments Matter: Shaping Trauma-Informed Intakes
- Good Stewards at the Table: Honoring God Through Food Service

Growing Forward

Strengthening small-budget ministries through smart strategy, stewardship, and scalable solutions

- Tools to Move from Overwhelmed to Organized
- Market Your Ministry with a Limited Budget
- Unlocking Potential: How Collaboration Can Drive Impact
- Stewarding Resources & Supporting Your Small Team





Hot Topics

Tackling today's toughest questions and anticipating tomorrow's challenges

- Legal and Cultural Threats Facing Life Transformation Ministries
- Be the Salt and Light: Practical Ways to Serve Like Jesus in a Divided World
- The Collaboration Ecosystem
- Leading From a Full Cup: Integrating Faith, Health, and Wellness

Leadership & Staff Development

Inspiring intentionality and growth for ministry leaders

- Culture and Identity: The Secret Sauce of Ministry
- A Blueprint for Building Leadership Development
- Avoiding Traps that Derail Team Culture
- Leadership Lessons I Wish I Had Learned Long Ago

Operations & Administration

Strengthening ministries through effective management, systems, and support

- A Biblical Framework for Performance Management
- Understanding the Medical Leave Maze
- Navigating Leadership Transitions: CEO/Board Perspectives
- Emergency Management Tabletop Exercises

Organizational Growth

Developing teams that drive organizational health and long-term growth

- Shaping a Ministry That Thinks Like a Startup
- Training Ground: Developing an Effective Internship Program
- A Team Approach to Program, Development, and Operations
- Healthy Board Habits

Resource Development

Leveraging resource pathways to maximize ministry

- Planned Giving: Moving from Legacy to Vision
- Cross Cultural Storytelling
- Beyond the Pyramid: Rethinking Major Gifts in 2026
- Unlocking Donor Insights: 2025 Mission Donor Benchmarking Report
- Donor Retention: A Systematic Approach to Sustainable Fundraising
- AI for Digital Fundraising: Pro-Level Communication at Your Fingertips
- The How of Donor Cultivation
- The Next-Gen Donor Playbook: From TikTok to Turnout

Transformational Programming

Inspiring life-changing programs toward next-level outcomes

- Redefining Workforce Development
- Aftercare and the Five Pillars of Service
- Implementing and Sustaining a Children's Program
- From Numbers to Insight: Building a Meaningful Data Culture
- Helping Home Happen
- Interventions That Work
- From Halfway to Wholeway: Creating Transformational Programs
- A Low-Barrier, Drop-in Center Strategy

For full session descriptions and details visit the website.

citygatenetwork.org/AllForLove



REGISTRATION *options*



Whether you're joining us for the full conference or selecting a single day or special event, each option is designed to equip, encourage, and refresh you for the work you're called to do.

Full-Conference Registration

The fullest conference experience. Includes all general sessions, seminars, Exhibit Hall access, meals listed in the program, and networking opportunities throughout the week.

RATES	DEC. 18 – MAR. 14	MAR. 15 – MAY 29	AFTER MAY 29
Ministry Member	\$579	\$599	\$629
Canadian Member	\$469	\$469	\$469
Enhanced Spouse	\$469	\$469	\$469
Non-Member	\$899	\$899	\$899

Part-Time Registration Options

Perfect for those who can't attend the full conference but still want to engage in meaningful learning and connection.

Tuesday, June 9 \$189 Includes

- Conference kickoff event
- One seminar
- General Session and dinner
- Exhibit Hall with dessert

Wednesday, June 10 \$149 Includes

- Exhibit Hall breakfast
- One seminar
- General Session with lunch
- Exhibit Hall with dessert

Thursday, June 11 \$259 Includes

- Two seminars
- Plenary session
- Exhibit Hall lunch
- General Session with dinner

Friday, June 12 \$85 Includes

- Super Seminars
- Final General Session

Optional Program Fees

Enhance your conference experience with hands-on learning and exclusive access.

Pre-Conference Intensives — \$30 each Tuesday, June 9 | 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Focused, in-depth learning before the conference officially begins. Beverage break included.

• HUD / HHS Policy Engagement

Gain insight into federal policy and funding priorities.

• Mental Health & Counseling Intensive

Explore faith-integrated, trauma-informed approaches to mental health care.

• Thrift Stores: A Rising Opportunity

Learn how to build a thriving thrift store that supports both ministry and sustainability.

Mel Trotter Ministries Tour — \$45 Tuesday, June 9 | 9:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Go behind the scenes at one of Citygate Network's most historic member ministries. Lunch and transportation included.

Mel Trotter Ministries Tour — \$45 Friday, June 12 | 12:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

A closing-day opportunity to see life transformation in action. Lunch and transportation included.

Already registered and want to add a program or special event?

No problem! Simply contact our Events Registrar, **Sereen**, and she'll be happy to assist you.

info@citygatenetwork.org
(719) 266-8300



REGISTER TODAY

citygatenetwork.org/AllForLove

