

Counseling & Mentoring Series

practical training for pastors






Where did this come from?

Not long ago, a pastor friend of ours had an exceptionally challenging counseling situation come into his office. He was out of his depth.

How many of our youth put down their faith and walk away from organized religion?

How many of our church councils are rotations of the same 10 men?

This series is focused on the arenas of Counseling & Mentoring. The relationships between a pastor and his congregation.






CORE GOAL

The original working title of this series was “Soft Skills Series.” We were attempting to identify many of the non-theological skills related to a pastor’s job. Besides preach, what else do they do?

A lot. We ask a lot of our pastors.
This series is designed to help nurture several of those skills.



Helping Teens take ownership of their faith

Brandon Lee White

Author, speaker, and *youth mover*, Brandon Lee White comes to us from the motivational speaking world. Over the last 10+ years he has spoken in public schools in nearly all 50 states and major student organization events such as DECA, SkillsUSA, the National Association of Student Councils, and the 4-H Western National Round-Up.

This is session, Brandon will focus specifically on youth group development and helping teens take ownership of their faith nurturing.

As little kids, we went to church with our parents, because they brought us. When we hit teen years, we encounter new freedoms, desires, and responsibilities. So many times, that new car, group of friends, and weekend job takes priority over getting spiritually fed.

Let's talk about that. Brandon has great experience working with teens of all levels, both in school and church settings.

March 3, 2021



One of the chief goals of education is to help students learn to Think. God designed us with sharp brains which are capable of learning, analyzing, and creating.

Unfortunately many parts of the education community drift very far away from God's will or openly speak against it. How are we supposed to counter that?

Luke Thompson has been mentoring Thinking Christians for nearly a decade with his campus ministry in Ottawa. He has a beautiful model for building community (which involves food).

In this session, Pastor Thompson will zero in on:

- creating mentoring relationships with college students
- Helping young adults develop a Christian worldview
- nurturing a person toward analyzing, critiquing, and creating culture.

Wait - creating culture?

Yes.

The end goal is to create future leaders in our church who are intelligent, culturally savvy, not scared, but ready for a culture growing cynical, postmodern, and lazy in its thinking.

April 7, 2021

Navigating young adulthood

Pastor Luke Thompson



Trauma is hard.
Trauma is unique to each individual case.
Trauma is messy.

Let's talk about trauma. Because if we don't work hard to understand the complex web of pain we experience, it will continue to be glossed over.

Amanda Gerdtz is a Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist with a specialty in Trauma. She doesn't hesitate to dive deep with her clients to discover the roots, webs, and mess of traumas.

In this session, Amanda will guide us into the dark realms of psychology related to traumatic events. More importantly, she'll attempt to equip us with a handful of skills, smart questioning strategies, and things to not say.

We'll also discuss how to handle situations which the pastor feels under qualified to handle. How do we refer to a specialist?

Trauma is messy, but Jesus dug in with the poor, hurting, and sick everyday of his ministry. We should be prepared to follow his footsteps.

May 5, 2021

Trauma

Amanda Gerdtz, LMFT



On Mentoring Women

Linda Buxa

Pastors are called to guide their congregation, the entire flock. Men, women, and children. The affluent, struggling, and broke. The veteran Christians and new to faith.

Let's focus on women.

Linda Buxa is a author, editor, and contributing writer for Time of Grace. She works for the WELS Seminary in Mequon, WI, and is the mom to three pretty rad kids.

We invited Linda to join our Virtual PepTalk in January 2021 because she brings a beautifully articulate perspective on faith and ministry.

In this session we'll dig into the relationship between pastors and the women in their congregations. How do we mentor them, nurture their faith and empower them to use their talents?

June 2, 2021



Let's take a moment to discuss leadership. When we look through the news media, bookshelves, and workplaces, the topic of leaders seems to be everywhere.

Wisconsin Lutheran College has a unique focus on building up Servant Leaders, and aiming for excellence, not just academically, but in all areas of life. Dr. Johnson is the tip of the spear guiding that movement as the college's president.

In this session we'll address the ideas of a building up the men in our congregations. How do we guide them to desiring to serve with their talents? How do we build them into smart, ethical, caring Christians who will be leaders in all areas of their lives.

The relationship between the pastor and his Church Council should be healthy, productive, and Christ centered, but how many of our councils are annual rotations of the same 10 men? Let's talk about building up the other men who may be assets to the church.

July 14, 2021

On Mentoring Men

Dr. Daniel Johnson



Dan is a career misfit. He grew up in small town Minnesota, when he was eighteen Dan went to Brazil to study for a year ... after he'd already graduated from high school. Seriously, he was a senior for parts of three years in two different countries.

While attending Bethany Lutheran College, Dan paid his rent by working as a juggler and magician. For a couple years he hung out with a retired con-man, a fire breather, and a world ranked yoyoer. After finishing his degree in Business Communication Dan took a job in Japan, because that made sense as a next step. His four years working in International Relations set him up perfectly for a position in web marketing and eCommerce. Not really, but that's what happened.

Since then Dan has been the director of marketing for a faith-based NPO in Wisconsin, and Colorado's largest dinner theatre. Oh, and he's still a professional magician. That part is true. All of this is true.

Dan Jaspersen is a kid from Minnesota who speaks four languages, has done magic for executives of Microsoft, Google, Harley Davidson, and a guy who builds robots for NASA. He knows a few things about marketing and is into good storytelling.

Series Guide

Dan Jaspersen



All workshop sessions will be hosted live on ZOOM at 1:00pm CST. The speakers will share their insights for about 60 minutes and leave time for Q&A.

Great City Network records the sessions and makes them available for their members shortly after the live workshop.

Contact us to get access to the live ZOOM call and discover the other training sessions and assets we have available.



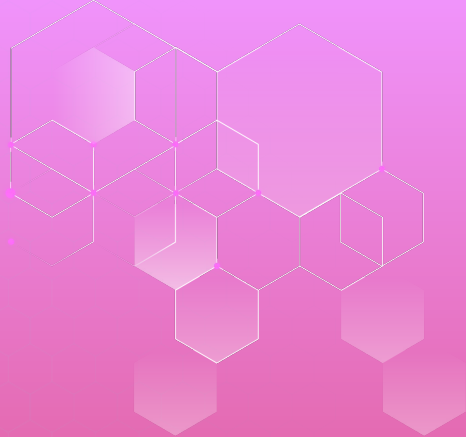
What is the Great City Network?

In Jonah 4:11, God commissions the reluctant prophet saying,
*“And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh,
in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people
who cannot tell their right hand from their left
—and also many animals?”*

Nineveh was a notoriously wicked city, yet God still cared enough to send Jonah. We see ourselves in that story.

The Great City Network is intended to connect modern day called workers with one another so that they may grow together. The network offers a growing portfolio of well built content, access to our professional staff, marketing training, and more.





GreatCityNetwork.com

