



International Ministerial Association, Inc.
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 www.ima.info.org

IMA Video Connect every 3rd Thursday of each month at 10AM Central Time. Contact IMA Home Office for more info.

To post events in the IMA Newsletter, please send info to IMA Home Office two months prior.

Comments, suggestions, or article submissions may be addressed to:

Rev. Dr. Timothy L. Warner,
 IMA PROCLAIM Editor

And emailed to:
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 Or to:
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"Welcome to the 2023 IMA National Conference" Continued from Pg. 1

Tuesday afternoon, will be a time to hang out with the family. We will provide lunch from a local Christian food truck business. We will have places to fellowship and play different games such as, pool, air hockey, basketball, corn hole, and other fun games. We encourage you to stay Wednesday night as we will have services in our main sanctuary, Kid City building, and Oneighty youth building ministering to three generations of people. After service

that night, there will be a bonfire and more time to fellowship with one another.

Grace Church is centrally located in Fairview Heights IL. Several wonderful eating establishments and shopping areas are within minutes of our church. We are thirty minutes from the Saint Louis Int'l Airport (STL), and only twenty minutes from places that you can visit in St. Louis, such as the Arch, Zoo, Science Museum,

History Museum, Art Museum, and the City Museum which is a great place to burn some energy with the kids.

God bless you. We look forward to seeing you all here at Grace Church in September!

Sincerely,

Pastor Ben and Michelle Godard

IMA 2023 NAT CONF:

- **Dates:** Mon-Wed., Sept. 18-20, 2023
- **Place:** Grace Church; Fairview Heights, Illinois
- **Travel Info:** Near St. Louis Airport
- **Theme:** "Send Out the Dove"
- **Special Speakers, Breakouts**

This year's conference will be a time of connection and refreshing for ministers, their families, and their teams. I can't wait to see our IMA family gathered together in September!



**Sincerely,
 Rev. Chad Hayes, IMA Chairman**

Relational

Actional

Missional



IMA PROCLAIM

AUG 2023

Welcome to the 2023 IMA National Conference!



By Rev. Ben & Michelle Godard; Grace Church

Greetings IMA Members,

My name is Ben Godard. I, along with my wife Michelle, am the lead pastor at Grace Church in Fairview Heights, IL. Many of you may know us, as we have attended several IMA conferences in the past. We served in China as missionaries working with the

Home of Hope Orphanages for thirteen years. In 2020, we came back to our home church, Grace Church, under the leadership of Pastor Hal Santos. I became the youth pastor in early 2021, then moved into the associate pastor role in early 2022. Michelle and I stepped into the lead pastorate role January 22, 2023, after Pastor Hal and Pam Santos stepped into their new role. They now minister to ministers here in the United States and places around the world. They served as the lead pastors of Grace Church for thirty-eight faithful years.

Grace Church is very excited to host the "Sending Out the Dove" IMA National Conference September 18-20, 2023. We have a beautiful campus that has been designed to raise up and train the

next generation of ministers and missionaries. The vision we have at Grace Church is to disciple people who can disciple people. The hope is to raise up "doves" that can be sent out to bring forth the olive branch of hope to our community, country, and places around the world.

We welcome you and your family to join us. Childcare workers will be available for your younger children during our morning and evening sessions. Before each morning session, we will have donuts, bagels, and fruit in our lower-level Hearth Room for you to enjoy. After each evening session, in our Total Life Center (TLC), we will provide snacks and beverages for a time of fellowship with one another.

(Article continued on Pg. 4)

National Board:

- ▣ Rev. Chad Hayes
- ▣ Rev. Sean Dudley
- ▣ Rev. Dan Hernandez
- ▣ Rev. Kurt Juscak
- ▣ Rev. Paul Mason
- ▣ Dr. Don Crabtree
- ▣ Dr. Timothy Warner

District Chairs:

- ▣ Dr. Charles Dewing
- ▣ Rev. Phillip Tolman
- ▣ Rev. Joe Campbell
- ▣ Rev. Romualdo Corpuz
- ▣ Rev. Karrie Landsverk
- ▣ Rev. Julie Wells
- ▣ Rev. Klieh Owens
- ▣ Rev. David Spurlock
- ▣ Rev. Robert Garcia

Inside this Issue:

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- ▣ Guest Article: "Why We Need National Conference"
- ▣ Home Office Contact Info
- ▣ Chairman Article: "Send Out the Dove"
- ▣ Quotable Quotes & IMA Announcements

Why We Need IMA National Conference

By Rev. Steven White; Life Church

REST

You and I need to rest, but as they say in the world of physical fitness, it needs to be an active rest. We need to learn how to get away from the local church while still connecting to the larger church. Most of us burn hot, then burn out. We must unplug from our daily grind. Let's be honest; tired eyes rarely see a bright future. When we pull away to be with fellow ministers in a time of rest, our vision for greater things becomes clear as our spirit and body rest. It is difficult to see what God sees and know what God desires when we are exhausted from the daily grind. We all want a big vision, and we all want to make an impact; but are we willing to step away to rest? For most of us. Fall is our season of growth and that means work. Maybe a little rest and enlarged vision is exactly what we need.

ENCOURAGED

The author of Hebrews asks us to consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, especially as the Day is approaching (Heb. 10:24-25). The National Conference not only gives us a respite from our daily grind, but in our interactions with one another, through the messages and worship, we build up one another and are built up. You are going through things your congregation does not understand and cannot understand. You are carrying an emotional weight (life and death, sin and righteousness) that only fellow ministers understand. IMA National Conference gives us the opportunity to rest, reset our vision, and be encouraged.

RELATIONSHIPS

One of my favorite things about the National Conference is that I get to see old and new friends from all over the country. The IMA is more than your church or your District; there are a lot of wonderful people. I am personally looking forward to deep theological conversations with Matt Bell, vision with Chad Hayes, church planting with Kyle Blackerby, and Catechisms with Dr. Warner. Psalms 17:17 says, "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity." IMA National Conference creates the space for friends to gather and for new friendships to develop. It offers rest that enlarges our vision, gives encouragement and reunites us with our brethren in Christ. Why have you not signed up yet?

NEW PARTNERSHIPS

A couple years ago at the National Conference in Colorado, I became friends with pastor and missionary, Don Crabtree. Through that relationship my little Iowa church has been able to partner with his ministry, providing life to babies, and hope to mommas. If it were not for the National Conference, that partnership would not have been possible. We see the effect of partnerships in Scripture with Paul and Epaphras. Paul did not plant the church in Colossae, but rather Epaphras who had heard the Gospel by Paul in Ephesus planted it. Together Paul and Epaphras were able to accomplish more than they ever could apart. Partnerships are a backbone of the IMA and the National Conference gives you and I the opportunity to meet new ministries and allow the Spirit of

God to bind us together in partnerships that can be more effective than our individual ministries.

PRACTICAL TOOLS

Each year the IMA National Conference provides Breakout Sessions aimed at giving ministers and their local churches practical tools to equip for ministry. Last year I attended David Cook's class on Homiletics. It was a master class on sermon presentation from a man who is known as a master preacher. The IMA is comprised of incredibly gifted women and men who freely share their gifts. We should always be learning, always be looking for new opportunities to expand ourselves, and always searching for ways to build our toolbox.

This conference is more than a yearly event, it is a God-given opportunity for us to rest, reset our vision, be encouraged, reunite with friends, build partnerships, and come away with practical tools. The IMA National Conference is a green pasture in which the Lord desires for you to rest and be filled. I really hope to see you there. If we have not yet met, I would love to have coffee with you!

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Send Out the Dove

2023 National Conference



By Rev. Chad Hayes; National Chairman

On behalf of our National Board, I'm excited to invite you to the 2023 IMA National Conference. This year we will be hosted by **Pastor Ben and Michelle Goddard** and **Grace Church in Fairview Heights, Illinois**. The Conference dates are September 18-20, 2023.

The theme for our conference is "**Send Out the Dove**." With all of the hostilities we are facing in today's culture, the church must stand and declare the Gospel. Every day we have a choice to send out ravens or doves. The ravens will not return. The doves will. We must choose to declare the gospel of peace and refuse to engage in declaring vain ideologies. If we do, we will see an amazing return.

"We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is **growing abundantly**, and the **love** of every one of you for one another is **increasing**" (2 Thess. 1:3, ESV)

Our evening speakers will be **Pastor Aeneas Williams** and **Pastor Richard Hilton**. I will have the privilege of ministering a Word that will inspire us and give us direction as an association of ministers in the Wednesday night service.

This conference will also include breakout sessions led by Ramiro and Franchesca Alvarado, Amie Crabtree, Steven White, Brooke Mason, Chris Fagan, Julius Morar, Jake and Abby Lazar, Hal and Pam Santos, Nathan Thompson, Robbie Hilton and others. These sessions are intended to equip in many facets of ministry. Make plans to bring your church or ministry team!

We will see some new things this year:

- Our Wednesday Missions format will change, and we have added more equipping sessions on that day.
- We have Kids Church on Wednesday night, which will be led by Katie Schrankel and a team from Shell Lake Full Gospel Church.
- We have a Youth Service on Wednesday night, which will be led by Zach Juszczak and Konner Blackerby.
- We have a lunch on the grounds Tuesday, featuring food trucks and yard games.
- On Wednesday night, we wrap up with an outdoor bonfire after the evening service.
- We are planning a gold fundraiser for the Thursday after the Conference. (More details will be sent soon).

The schedule and hotel information is available on our website, imainfo.org.

I want to encourage you to book your room early this year. We already have a record amount of early registrations for the conference. I anticipate the room blocks will sell out.

I look forward to seeing all of our IMA family in September!

Quotable Quotes

Four reasons pastors should attend conferences, seminars, and/or workshops:

1. They help you stay current.
2. They provide you with new tools and skills.
3. They encourage new perspectives.
4. They renew passion and excitement.

~ Andersonville Theological Seminary

"You don't get good to get God, you get God to get good." ~ Jentezen Franklin

"We cannot continue to send our children to Caesar for their education and be surprised when they come home as Romans." ~ Voodie Baucham

"True leaders understand that leadership is not about them but about those they serve. It is not about exalting themselves but about lifting others up." ~ Sheri L. Dew