

# 2023 Florida-Georgia District President's Equip Conference



## LIVING as *Along-Siders*

DISCIPLES MAKING DISCIPLE MAKERS

### President's Equip Conference

September 28-30, 2023





1948-2023

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Everyone in your congregation and school should attend this event — volunteers, church council and board members, elders, pastors, vicars, Directors of Christian Education, youth leaders, teachers, Bible Study leaders and administrators.

### WHAT IS A PRESIDENT'S EQUIP CONFERENCE?

A comprehensive conference that offers powerful keynote speakers, opportunities for practical workshops to equip servants of every walk for ministry and discipleship. **This happens just once every three years!** A wide range of workshop sessions will be offered providing practical, strategic and achievable ideas that will work in your congregations and schools alike.

### WHEN IS IT?

**September 28-30, 2023**  
**Thursday, Friday & Saturday**


### WHERE IS IT?

The Hilton Buena Vista Palace  
Orlando, Florida

### WHAT IS THE COST?

Registration for the event is \$149 per person until August 15th. After that date registration is \$199 to \$250 depending on registration date. Rooms have been discounted between \$165 and \$185 (see [flgadistrict.org/pec](http://flgadistrict.org/pec) for more hotel details) for all three days. Based on availability, conference hotel rates are available up to three days pre-conference and post-conference. Bring your family and enjoy the parks!

### WHAT DOES IT INCLUDE?

All devotions and speakers plus the workshops and the exhibit hall with Christian vendors. It includes our 75th Anniversary banquet and festival worship and lunch on Friday. 



Office of the President  
Florida-Georgia District Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod  
5850 T. G. Lee Blvd., Suite 500 | Orlando, FL 32822-4410

As followers of Christ, we are called to be Christ's witnesses. What an incredible privilege to share the "One True Hope" with the communities in which we have been planted. This year is the 75th Anniversary of the Florida-Georgia District! Although our world has seen many changes, "Our Mission Remains the Same... living as Christ's witnesses so that all people may come to faith!" For such a time as this, the Lord has brought us together to be His hands and feet to a lost and hurting world.



As part of our Anniversary Celebration year, we encourage every congregation to see itself as a mission-planting congregation by "starting something new!" With our states growing by nearly 2% a year, the opportunities are boundless for us to find one new way to reach out, connect and serve our communities in Christ's name. So, I first ask that you and the appropriate Board or Committee at your church begin to explore what you can do . . . and do it!

On September 28th through 30th we will gather for the President's Equip Conference at The Hilton Buena Vista Palace in Orlando. The District is supplementing this event and discounted room rates have been secured. I promise you will be super-charged into being a disciple-making disciple maker. Registration and information is available on our website at [flgadistrict.org/pec](http://flgadistrict.org/pec) or scan the QR code below to take you right to the website's information page.

In addition to fantastic speakers with a reputation for excellence, we will be offering an extensive group of workshops. A sampling is listed on the back page of this brochure. There is truly something to engage and equip every participant. I look forward to being with you this September.



*Living to serve that others  
may live through Christ!*  
*James Rockey*

# Meet Our Keynote Speakers

## Leah Abel



Leah Abel has a passion for helping leaders develop their plans into powerful, effective “real life” implementation. Known for high level organizational and planning skills, she works with congregations and leaders to experience success in moving ideas and concepts to tangible plans and results.

Abel has teamed with congregations to design and facilitate events for teachers, youth leaders, and clergy as well as managing large events like the National Youth Gathering and the Lutheran Education Association Convocation.

Leah Abel is a graduate of Concordia University/Nebraska and her training includes work with the Institute of Cultural Affairs, the Project Management Institute, Emergent Leader and the Townsend Leadership Institute. She has served congregations in Florida and Colorado.

She is the former Director of Christian Education for St. Luke's/Oviedo, FL. and now lives in Colorado where her husband, The Rev. Scott Abel, serves as pastor of Our Father/Centennial, CO.



## Rev. Greg Finke

The Rev. Greg Finke is the author of *Dwelling 1:14* — a nonprofit ministry which helps like-minded Jesus-followers connect in their neighborhoods, workplaces and schools for discipling and missional living.

Greg Finke had been ordained since 1989, spending decades of his pastoral ministry mentoring churches with 1,000 or more in worship. Finke has more than 20 years experience growing and leading congregations.

Greg and his wife Susan are “neighborhood missionaries” in League City, Texas, a Houston subdivision. He is best known for coming alongside a congregation and leaders to determine the congregation’s level of readiness for engaging the Father’s redemptive mission with Jesus.

“Most of us know or have a sense that ‘things aren’t working the way they used to work’ in our congregations. And, most of us are experimenting and experimenting with new things. Greg brings great passion to the mission. He’s a gifted communicator and leader. And, he’s a proven, tested pastor and has walked where you walk. Greg understands what’s going on and can help build a ‘sending’ culture in your congregation,” states The Rev. Dr. Jock Ficken, Executive Leader, The Pastoral Leadership Institute (PLI).



## Rev. Dr. David Kim

Dr. Kim is an experienced cross-cultural, entrepreneurial and glocal-missionary, a true coach and disciple maker. He has involvement as a strategist and developer for church planters and missionary pastors.

Kim was born in South Korea. He met his wife, Juhee (Rebecca), there and they were married in Ecuador in 2001. Dr. Kim came to the United States and, after receiving further training through Concordia University and Seminary, he founded a non-profit ministry called Glocal Mission based in Houston, TX, under ecclesiastical supervision of the Texas District of the LCMS.

Kim served for 12 years on the Board of Mission Administration for the Texas District of the LCMS and serves as an adjunct professor at both Concordia University/Irvine, CA, and Concordia Seminary/St Louis, MO.

Kim is gifted at coming alongside those with disciple-making and church-planting goals, helping pastors, missionaries and church leaders by way of personal coaching and mentoring. He is a believer in one-on-one mentorship and training and is committed to leading God’s people to seek the lost, disciple the found, and multiply disciple makers and churches both locally and globally with the caring love of Jesus Christ.



## Calling all Pastor's Wives!

A special pre-conference retreat is scheduled for Thursday morning, September 28th beginning at 11 a.m. This is a pre-gathering luncheon and networking event that will feature Deb Burma — the internationally sought-after Christian speaker. During the luncheon, we will take time to “come along-side” other wives by connecting, supporting, and encouraging one another. The goal is to provide a safe and loving place for the pastor's wives to connect with each other and support and encourage one another while sharing His Extravagant Grace in an engaging way . . . touching the hearts of women, meeting them in the moments of their everyday lives. Please register for this luncheon on the event website.



5850 T. G. Lee Blvd. Suite 500  
Orlando, Florida 32822

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*More than 50+ workshop opportunities will be available to equip, empower and engage attendees to live as along-siders. Visit the PEC registration page for descriptions and a more comprehensive list: [flgadistrict.org/pec](http://flgadistrict.org/pec)*

- ✂ What are the “Ways of the Alongsiders?”
- ✂ Why ‘Disciples Making Disciples’ is Currently a Pipedream and How to Fix It.
- ✂ The Rise of Identity and How to Broaden the Conversation Beyond Sex, Race and Gender.
- ✂ School Board Essentials.
- ✂ From One Pastor’s Wife to Another.
- ✂ Coming Alongside: Difficult Conversations.
- ✂ The World is Upside Down; It’s Not Too Late!
- ✂ Discipleship in an Age of Connected Loneliness.
- ✂ Communications – Community OUTREACH and Church INREACH.
- ✂ Making In-reachers and Outreachers.
- ✂ Emotional Intelligence in Children and Youth.
- ✂ Making Disciples in Micro-Groups.
- ✂ Church Treasurer’s Toolbox.
- ✂ From a Stagnant and Dying Church into a Thriving and Life-giving Church.
- ✂ Cyber Security. How to Protect Your Ministry.

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