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CONFERENCE OVERVIEW: To say the academy is in tumult is such an understatement! AI is pressing the edges of integrity, and our culture is questioning our value. In the face of these and other challenges, it's essential to keep in focus the foundations of biblical and professional academic leadership. Join your colleagues on this adventure of distinguished academic leadership in this time of chaos.

DAY 1 TUESDAY | SEPTEMBER 23

THE FOUNDATIONS AND FRONTIERS OF ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP

9:00 – 9:15 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS — PHILIP DEARBORN, PRESIDENT | ABHE

9:15 – 10:00 SESSION 1: THE FOUR-FOLD ACADEMIC LEADER

PRESENTER: JOHN TWEEDDALE, VICE PRESIDENT OF ACADEMICS | REFORMATION BIBLE COLLEGE (FL)

OVERVIEW: Academic leadership is a sacred trust—one that calls for more than managerial skill. It requires leaders to embody four distinct yet complementary biblical roles: the Shepherd who reflects Christ's character, the King who stewards authority, the Prophet who teaches by example, and the Priest who nurtures spiritual vitality. Together, these models form a powerful framework for faithful and effective academic leadership.

- ▶ Understand the biblical foundations of the shepherd, kingly, prophetic, and priestly leadership models
- ▶ Explore how each model uniquely contributes to healthy, mission-driven academic leadership
- ▶ Learn to discern and develop a balanced leadership approach rooted in Christlike character and calling

10:00 – 10:30 Q & A DISCUSSION

10:30 – 10:45 REFRESHMENT BREAK

10:45 – 11:30 SESSION 2: BRIDGING THE GAP: EQUIPPING FACULTY TO LEAD GEN Z WITH WISDOM AND UNITY

PRESENTER: AMY FREIER, DEAN/UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES | TRINITY BIBLE COLLEGE & GRADUATE SCHOOL (ND)

OVERVIEW: College classrooms are more generationally diverse than ever—yet the widest gap may be between faculty expectations and the readiness of Gen Z students. This session explores how academic leaders can foster understanding, bridge the academic preparedness gap, and strengthen collaboration between faculty and administration. Drawing on research and faculty experience, this session offers practical insights for leading faculty through the complexities of teaching today's students.

- ▶ Examine the academic and cultural gaps between Gen Z students and older-generation faculty
- ▶ Learn strategies to support faculty in adapting their pedagogy and expectations to better engage today's learners
- ▶ Explore leadership practices that build a shared commitment to student success across generational lines

11:30 – 12:00 Q & A DISCUSSION

12:00 – 12:15 A WORD FROM OUR GOLD SPONSOR — CAMPUS — ERIC CURRIE

12:15 – 1:00 LUNCH — CATERED AT THE ABHE DINING ROOM

1:00 – 1:45 SESSION 3: BUILDING THE BENCH

PRESENTER: AARON PROFITT, VP FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS | GOD'S BIBLE SCHOOL & COLLEGE (OH)

OVERVIEW: One key difference between a temporarily successful sports team and a dynasty is "building the bench" — developing the next generation of players to keep the wins coming. The principle can apply to institutions of Biblical higher education as well. Think together about effective ways to build a bench in your institution, including both shaping the institution's culture and the identification and development of key people.

- ▶ Identify characteristics of a bench-building culture
- ▶ Review methods to identify young/emerging leaders and other key contributors
- ▶ Consider practices to promote personnel development and flourishing

1:45 – 2:15 Q & A DISCUSSION

2:15 – 2:30 REFRESHMENT BREAK



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ACADEMIC LEADERS CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 23-24, 2025

DAY 1 CONT'D

2:30 – 3:15 SESSION 4: DISCERNING AI: A BIBLICAL APPROACH FOR ACADEMIC LEADERS

PRESENTER: DAVID BOURGEOIS, DIRECTOR OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE LAB | BIOLA UNIVERSITY (CA)

OVERVIEW: As artificial intelligence (AI) rapidly transforms higher education, academic leaders must go beyond questions of functionality to engage AI's deeper theological and ideological implications. We will examine how Scripture, Christian anthropology, and prevailing worldviews shape a biblically grounded approach to AI. Rather than adopting trends uncritically or avoiding them altogether, leaders are called to steward these tools with wisdom, theological integrity, and mission alignment.

- ▶ Explore a biblical view of human identity, wisdom, and creativity in contrast to AI-driven models of knowledge and productivity
- ▶ Examine theological and ideological frameworks that inform ethical and strategic decision-making around AI
- ▶ Gain practical tools for guiding institutional conversations that are mission-driven, future-aware, and culturally discerning

3:15 – 3:45 Q & A DISCUSSION & WRAP-UP

3:45 – 4:00 A WORD FROM OUR GOLD SPONSOR — GRACE & MERCY FOUNDATION — EMMA BORTINS

5:00 DINNER OFF-SITE

DAY 2 WEDNESDAY | SEPTEMBER 24, 2025

9:00 – 9:15 INSIGHTS FROM THE WORD — PHILIP DEARBORN

9:15 – 10:00 SESSION 5: MISSION MEETS MARGIN: THE ACADEMIC LEADER'S GUIDE TO PROGRAM ROI

PRESENTER: SHANNON MULFORD, ACADEMIC DEAN | MISSION UNIVERSITY (MO)

OVERVIEW: Academic leaders play a critical role in evaluating the return on investment (ROI) of academic programs to ensure mission alignment, financial sustainability, and long-term impact. This session will equip participants with tools to assess program value from multiple angles—including enrollment, outcomes, and resource allocation. Gain practical strategies to make data-informed decisions that strengthen institutional health and academic excellence.

- ▶ Explore key metrics for assessing programmatic ROI
- ▶ Learn how to align academic offerings with institutional mission and market demand
- ▶ Practice applying a framework to evaluate program sustainability and strategic value

10:00 – 10:30 Q & A DISCUSSION

10:30 – 10:45 REFRESHMENT BREAK

10:45 – 11:30 SESSION 6: ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

OVERVIEW: Discuss the most pressing academic issues you are facing with both the panel of presenters and attendee affinity groups. Create a draft of your *Personal Action Plan* based on the most significant and urgent issues you should address following the conference.

11:30 – 12:00 Q & A DISCUSSION AND WRAP-UP

12:00 – 1:00 CLOSING LUNCH



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