

THE CENTER FOR  
FAITH, SEXUALITY & GENDER

## SPONSORING A **LEADERS FORUM**



Engaging Questions of Faith, Sexuality and Gender in the Church  
with Theological Faithfulness and Courageous Love

WWW.CENTERFORFAITH.COM

# What are Leaders Forums?

Leaders Forums are interactive educational events for pastors and other church leaders, sponsored by churches, denominations and seminaries, led by Dr. Preston Sprinkle. In them, Preston and other presenters will help leaders move beyond doctrinal statements and policies. The Center helps leaders develop a theologically faithful, yet grace-filled understanding of marriage, LGBT+ people, language and culture as well as many of the questions being raised by them and others.

The Center also endeavors to help pastors cultivate a fresh culture of belief in their church members. That is, through our Grace/Truth 1.0 small group learning experiences, we want to give Christians theological permission to engage LGBT+ people graciously, without feeling guilty that they've abandoned any core teachings of scripture. In our forums, we also will present practical ideas and guidance on all kinds of questions that pastors are being forced to address from both affirming and non-affirming members.

The Center aspires to be the Church's most trusted source for theologically sound teaching and practical guidance on questions related to sexuality and gender.

*Go to [www.centerforfaith.com/programs/leaders-forums](http://www.centerforfaith.com/programs/leaders-forums) for a complete description of the content of a typical Leaders Forum.*

# Sponsoring a Leaders Forum

*The Center* typically conducts a Leaders Forum in partnership with a local sponsor, such as a church, group of churches, a denomination, seminary, college, etc. A One-Day Forum generally runs from 8:30am-3:30pm with a box lunch provided by the Sponsor. We offer two types of Forums

## **Open Leaders Forums**

*Open* Forums are generally sponsored by a group of churches, a pastors network or a seminary, who are committed to inviting many other pastors and leaders in their city. Open Forums in other cities have been averaging over 200 pastors and leaders in attendance.

*The Center* charges attendees a registration fee of \$95 per person (or \$85 per person for groups of four or more) and we handle all registration (through our website) for those who wish to attend. Attendees will receive several resources at no extra cost, including a copy of the *Grace/Truth* curriculum (book and DVD).

With the Open Leaders Forum, **there is no financial obligation of the Sponsor(s) other than providing a meeting place, tech support, volunteers, a box-lunch, coffee, water and snacks.**

It is important to *The Center* that the Sponsor(s) of an Open Forum commit to a serious effort to invite all like-minded, churches in the city, within a 20 mile radius at least. We ask every city to work toward the goal of having a minimum paid attendance of 225 pastors/leaders. We can provide you with a sample letter and flyer in which you will be able to use as promotion. The most successful forums are sponsored by at

least four leadership churches, from as many denominations, or by an interdenominational pastor's network. We ask that your group submit a rough plan and promotions budget to *The Center*, prior to *The Center* committing to coming to your city.

## **Closed Leaders Forums**

*Closed* Forums are also sponsored by churches, denominations or seminaries, but are closed to the general public or to other denominations or churches in a city. Several advantages of *closed* forums are that topics covered can be tailored to the specific needs of the sponsor, and the sponsor is able to give specific instructions to attendees that may be unique to a particular denomination, or institution.

For *Closed* Forums, *The Center* charges a flat fee, plus travel expenses and materials for attendee's, regardless of attendance. Please contact Chris at *The Center* ([chris@centerforfaith.com](mailto:chris@centerforfaith.com)) for current pricing. As with *Open Forums*, a Sponsor will be responsible for providing a meeting place, volunteers, tech support, a box-lunch, coffee, water and snacks for all participants. Sponsors may choose to charge attendees, but *The Center* will not be responsible for the registration or the collection of those funds.

## **A Gift to the Kingdom**

As a gift to pastors, leaders, seminary students, and perhaps even local Christian school educators, a *Closed* Forum can choose to either underwrite the entire cost, or charge a reduced fee for attendees and underwrite the balance, if needed. These funds could come from either budgeted educational program expenses, or from private donors. Given the importance and

urgency of this issue and the need for pastors and leaders to get this training, we believe theologically conservative donors can be found by most Sponsors to underwrite these forums.

For seminaries or Christian colleges, Leaders Forums are excellent opportunities for schools to also invite donors, alumni and the local Christian community on your campus to experience first-hand how you are addressing these questions with both truth and grace.

# An Introduction to the LGBT Conversation

Occasionally a sponsor wishes to add an evening seminar for lay leaders (elders, deacons, etc.) and volunteers, the night before a One-Day Forum. So we've designed *An Introduction to the LGBT Conversation* as a two-three hour introduction to LGBT people, the questions they are asking, a biblical view of marriage and sexuality, and how Christians can respond better with both grace and truth. For lay leaders and volunteers who may not be able to attend the One-Day Leaders Forum, this seminar is invaluable for getting lay people, especially those who are influential in the church, on the same page with what pastors and staff will be learning. The evening seminar is also a great place for Christians with LGBT loved ones to learn how to build and maintain a Christ-like relationship with them.

This introductory seminar is only available in conjunction with a One-Day Forum. *The Center* does not handle registration for these meetings and most are offered free to invited attendees. Please contact Chris at *The Center* ([chris@centerforfaith.com](mailto:chris@centerforfaith.com)) for pricing.

We do recommend purchasing a *Grace/Truth 1.0* book for each attendee at a cost of \$8.95 each, (by the case, including shipping.) Books may only be ordered through our website (<http://centerforfaith.com/resources-overview>).

E-books are available on Amazon.com, Christianbook.com or through other e-book retailers.

# About the Center

***Our Mission:***

Equipping Christian leaders, churches and organizations to engage questions about faith, sexuality & gender with theological faithfulness and courageous love.

“Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”  
Romans 12:2

For additional information, please contact:

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