

CONFAB

con·fab noun 'kän ,fab,kən 'fab/ 1. an informal private conversation or discussion.

Connections ministry. A generation ago, the term didn't exist in churches. Oh, we *had* it, whether you called it *discipleship* or *church training* or by some other descriptor. But today, you can barely throw a rock without hitting a church that has a connections ministry or a connections pastor.

But what should a connections ministry do, and how should they do it? That's what our current generation of churches is constantly defining. Whether you count *connections* as the umbrella over evangelism, guest services, discipleship, small groups, or volunteer culture, you have to define what you're doing and how you do it better.

That's the reason for the Connections Confab. Whether you're brand new to your ministry position or a seasoned vet, we're providing a common table where big churches, small churches, and in between churches can learn from one another and develop strategies to carry connections ministry forward.

What is it?

- Four on-site sessions at the Summit Church in Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina, led by Danny Franks, Connections Pastor.
- In-depth discussions, coaching, and practical engagement on the following topics:
 - **Guest services.** Honoring guests without losing the gospel, engineering your weekend for the outsider, mechanical vs. organic hospitality, creating and protecting your church's guest services DNA, building and casting vision for the "why" behind the "what."
 - **Connected to committed.** Planning for the second visit, developing next steps, covenant membership, strategies to help newcomers.
 - **Volunteer culture.** Identifying, inviting, training, and keeping volunteers, preventing vision leaks, micromanagement vs. quality control, structuring your teams for success.
 - **Leadership development.** Raising up high-capacity volunteers, leadership pipeline, giving away good people, defining and adding to your connections staff team.
 - **Your stuff.** The best training will come from each other, as we explore the current struggles and successes in your local context.

Who should come?

- Full-time ministers who consider guest services, volunteer ministry, or covenant membership their key areas of focus.
- Part-time or intern staff who are struggling to keep their heads above water and need to get the right tools in their tool box.
- Senior pastors who don't know exactly what this should look like in their churches, but know it's not currently happening.
- Multi-site church leaders who are building the airplane while it's in the air, and trying to keep their ever-growing systems under control.
- Leaders of ministries like kids, students, small groups, etc., who want to infuse gospel-driven hospitality into their culture, ethos, and DNA.
- Not everybody and their cousin. To keep conversation high and anonymity low, we're keeping the Confab to a dozen people or less.

What do I get?

- Practical, applicable training that will help you grow as a leader and help your church grow in the area of assimilation.
- A new community of friends and kindred spirits from the world of connections ministry. The intentionally small gathering will lend itself to relationships that last long after our final meeting.
- A *ton* of resources, from books to tools to documents to...you name it, we'll fill your carry-on bag with it.
- A behind the curtain, all-access look at the guest services processes of the Summit Church, a multi-site congregation that welcomes thousands of attendees and hundreds of guests on a weekly basis.

Getting started

- **Dates.** Check your calendar and be able to commit to all four dates we've set aside for the training. Each meeting will last from 9 AM until 4 PM. (Except for Saturday, May 2, which is 9 AM – 8 PM, with an optional Sunday stayover & campus tour.)
 - **Thursday, February 19**
 - **Wednesday, March 18**
 - **Saturday - Sunday, May 2-3**
 - **Wednesday, June 10**
- **Cost.** The Confab is \$1400 per participant, which covers a truckload of resources, materials, meals on site, and one night's lodging for each day of training (optional extra night's lodging in May). You'll cover transportation and any extra meals outside of the event.
- **Application.** Fill out the [online application](#) ASAP. All applications are due by January 5, 2015. You'll receive a welcome-aboard confirmation (or awesome "It's not you, it's me" parting gifts) by January 7.



Who's he?

Danny Franks has served as the Connections Pastor at the Summit Church since 2003. In that role he oversees the guest services and covenant membership strategies for eight campuses and more than 8,000 weekly attendees. He's been in local church ministry for over two decades and consults with churches, pastors, and ministry leaders across the country.

Danny is a regular blogger at [dannyfranks.org](#), a regular twit @LetMeBeFranks, and an all-around decent American. He and Merriem have been married for nearly 22 years and have four kids ranging from preschool to college age. They hang their proverbial hats in Durham, North Carolina.

Who are they?

The Summit Church is a story of God's faithfulness. Pastor J.D. Greear was called as lead pastor in 2002, and it's been a thrill ride ever since. From 300 core members to more than 8,000 attendees today, the last twelve years have been marked by a renewed commitment to the gospel, a blazing heart for missions, and an eye towards the surrounding community.

The Summit is a multi-site congregation that believes in both launching campuses and planting churches. In the past decade we've grown to eight campuses in the Triangle region of North Carolina, planted over twenty churches in North America, and sent out nearly 200 members to full time, overseas ministry.

Biblical hospitality and great guest service is woven into the fabric of the Summit. We believe that the sermon starts in the parking lot, and so our weekends are planned with the first time guest in mind. We want to meet people right where they are and introduce them to the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ.

