



Behold!

Discernment, Innovation & Sacred Imagination
for Contemporary Ministry

March 4-7, 2024
Oklahoma City



Is this for me?

Behold! is open to pastors, commissioned ruling elders, and congregation members seeking Community for exploration of God's redemptive work in the church during these rapidly changing times. Whether you're seeking tools for discernment or a theological undergirding to explore adaptive change . . . whether you're excited to step into a bold new journey or you're anxious or grieving (or a bit of all of this), we invite you into a community of committed congregational leaders to wrestle with God's call upon your congregation and to gather skills and tools for a purposeful response.

Join us as we explore practical tools for discernment and change theory, rooted in our rich biblical tradition of adaptive leadership and a God who is ever reforming us. We will celebrate tender sprouts of ministry, mourn the dry places, and practice recognizing and living into God's fresh works.

What is included in the cost?

- Worship and/or vespers to bookend your day in music, liturgy, and prayer
- Meals – Monday night welcome dinner, daily lunch, Wednesday night dinner, morning pastries and coffee
- Interactive Workshops – Workshops provide tools for congregational transformation and change, and opportunities for reflection and exploration of sacred imagination within beloved community
- Free Time – Time is built into the schedule to explore Oklahoma City, take a nap, crowd-source with new friends, play board games, or whatever feeds your spirit. Interested participants may join a trip to the Myriad Botanical Gardens

Note that lodging at the Bradford House is in addition to the registration fee.

Larissa Kwong Abazia Workshop Leader

Rev. Larissa Kwong Abazia serves as the Executive Director of [NEXT Church](#). Larissa is the founder of [Courageous Spaces](#), inviting others to co-create spaces for disruption, transformation, and change. She has served at all levels of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), including Vice Moderator of the 221st General Assembly, the General Assembly Committee on Representation, and in congregations located in Chicago (IL), Queens (NY), Greenwich (CT), and throughout New Jersey.

Larissa was a founding board member of the [Collective Foundation](#), an organization researching and providing training concerning the fundraising practices in Christian Communities of Color. She currently serves as a project coordinator for Princeton Theological Seminary on a grant concerning innovation and ministry in theological education.

Where is the event?

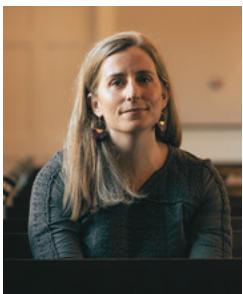
Lodging, and some meals and programming will take place at a charming boutique hotel, the **Bradford House** (bradfordhouseokc.com). Whether you're staying on site or commuting for the day, you're bound to find a sunlit room, porch, or cozy library for reflection or a gathering with fellow participants.

Westminster Presbyterian Church (wpcokc.org), located a mile away, will host workshops, worship, and lunch each day. Participants may choose to walk or hop into a carpool between locations.



Register at opsf-omaha.org





Kate Murphy Worship Leader

Rev. Kate Murphy has been serving as the temporary pastor of The Grove Presbyterian Church (Charlotte, NC) since December 2008. During her pastorate the congregation has transitioned from a faithful traditional majority white, majority elderly congregation into a faithful, thriving multi-generational, multi-ethnic, multicultural, outwardly focused congregation. Kate says she is the happiest pastor she knows.

Kate records a weekly podcast ([2 Pastors Take A Walk](#)) about Jesus and serving multi-ethnic congregations with her friend Rev. Eulando Henton. Her first book, *Lost, Hidden & Small: (re)Discovering the Kingdom of Christ*, will be published by Wildhouse Press in Spring 2024.



Eric Baird Music Leader

Eric is the contemporary worship leader at First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa, where he and his family have called their church home for nearly ten years. In addition to leading the contemporary worship services at FPC, he also leads music for Awana worship, has established and coaches the youth worship band, and sings in the choir for special events and concerts as his schedule allows.

Music has been his primary language and a driving force of his life since birth, having been raised by a band director/composer/trumpeter dad and a flautist/music teacher mom. It has been a most amazing gift from the Lord to use this language to share the love and Gospel of Jesus as his life's work.

How much does it cost?

It is Omaha Presbyterian Seminary Foundation's mission to inspire, equip, and connect committed congregational leaders in a thirteen state area in Middle America. Reduced rates are provided to leaders from OPSF's service area. \$50 of the registration fee will be reimbursed to service-area participants upon check-in at the event, which helps prevent no-shows.

What if I don't have enough funds for travel and lodging? Funds are available to pastors and commissioned ruling elders, from the OPSF region, who are serving a congregation. Travel support may be available to participants who are more than 250 miles from the venue. Lodging support will be determined based upon congregational resources, with possibilities for a rate deduction or to stay in OPSF sponsored rooms. Contact slatham@opsf-omaha.org for more information.



- **Are you from OPSF's thirteen-state service area?** \$100 is required to reserve your spot. \$50 will be refunded upon check-in at the event. (Event cost = \$50)
- **Are you from outside OPSF's thirteen-state service area?** The cost is \$125.

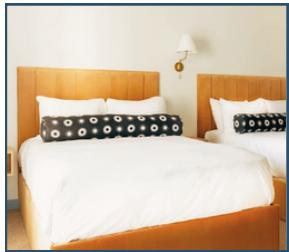
*Note: Lodging is an add on expense.

What are my lodging options?

Participants may commute, secure their own lodging, or stay with the group in OPSF arranged lodging at the Bradford House boutique hotel. Rooms are available at multiple price points. Let us know if you'd like help identifying a roommate to reduce costs, and reach out if the rooms are cost prohibitive (support is available). Visit bradfordhouseokc.com for room descriptions



Modern Bunk
\$345 Single | \$175 Double



Modern Double Queen
\$450 Single | \$230 Double



Modern King
\$450 Single



Historic Juliet Queen
\$550 Single Occupancy



Historic Grand King
\$650 Single Occupancy



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What does the schedule look like?

The sample schedule gives an idea of what to expect. The schedule may change slightly.

Monday, March 4

4-5:30 PM	Check-in
6 PM	Group Welcome Dinner
7:30 PM	Event Preview, Introductions Opening Worship Evening Free Time

Typical Day Structure — Tuesday-Wednesday, March 5-6

	Breakfast on Your Own
9 AM	Pastries & Coffee
9:30 AM	Worship
10:30 AM	Workshop 1
Noon	Lunch
1 PM	Workshop 2
2:30 PM	Free Time Dinner (Tues – on your own, Wed – group)
7:30 PM	Evening Vespers/Worship Evening Free Time

Thursday, March 7

8-9 AM	Breakfast Drop-in
9:30 AM	Evaluations
	Self-Selected Break Outs / Crowd Sourcing
10:30 AM	Check out
11 AM	Closing Vespers Goodbye