



## **BETTER TOGETHER – WORKSHOPS**

**Presenter:** Miguel Alviles

**Title:** **Pastoring a Multi-Ethnic La Vina Church**

**Description:** Join Pastor Miguel as he discusses the challenges and opportunities of leading a diverse La Vina Church.

**Bio:** Miguel Aviles has served as pastor of La Viña de Burnsville MN since May 2012. They have two children, Miguel Angel (19) and Samantha (22). Miguel also serves as an Area Pastor, is a member of the La Vina Multiplica Team, and Miguel and Rocio are a part of the La Viñas church planting team in Minnesota.

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**Presenter:** Rachel Connor

**Title:** **Leading Transformative Change for the Sake of Inclusion**

**Description:** Exploring the testimony of the African American female in the context of the white church, the #MeToo Movement, and the redemptive power of love working through Jesus Christ. This workshop should seed your thinking as you lead your teams to holy and healthy relationships

**Bio:** Rachel Conner has been an active participant in the life and activities of the Sugarland Vineyard since 2001. She now serves as Executive Pastor and is firmly entrenched into the daily operations of the church, leading teams in stewarding their own health and spiritual wellness, teaching, practicing/receiving spiritual direction, working with the pastoral staff and co-directing Thrive Plus, a year-long high level discipleship course.

**Presenter:** Dr. Korie Edwards

**Title:** **Assessing Our Racial and Ethnic Selves:** The Starting Point for Leading Diverse and Just Space

**Description** In this workshop, we will assess and share who we are racially and ethnically. The aim of this workshop is to identify personal barriers and resources for leading racially and ethnically diverse religious organizations.

**Bio:** Dr. Korie L. Edwards is Associate Professor of Sociology at The Ohio State University. She is a leading scholar of race and religion in the United States and President of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, an international, interdisciplinary association ([www.sssrweb.org](http://www.sssrweb.org)).

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**Presenter:** Kevin Fischer

**Title:** **Becoming a Multicultural Church**

**Description:** Where do you begin and what are the steps it takes to reach people of a different ethnicity? That's what this workshop is all about. We will talk about the practical steps it takes to begin to reach people of other cultures and to transition our churches to be welcoming of those who are different from us.

**Bio:** Kevin Fischer serves as lead pastor of the Miami Vineyard Community Church; an outward-focused, multicultural church. Kevin's passion is to see every person experience the life changing power of Jesus Christ and grow to become everything God designed them to be. In addition to pastoring his local church, Kevin also serves as a regional leader for Vineyard USA overseeing churches in Florida and Puerto Rico

**Presenters:** Multiply Vineyard: Michael Gatlin/ Justin Juntunen

**Title:** **The Why and How of Starting New Vineyard Churches**

**Description:** Have you ever felt a nudge toward more leadership? Or have you desired to see a church that meets a new population in your community? The Vineyard wants to be constantly forming new and diverse communities of disciples of Jesus that are missionally-minded, Spirit-empowered, and multiplying churches who are committed to embodying the words and works of Jesus in every area of human life. Join us for a practical and interactive discussion of how you can discern your calling, develop your leadership, and extend the Kingdom.

**Bios:** Michael Gatlin co-pastors, with his wife Brenda, the Vineyard church in Duluth, Minnesota. Michael also leads the Multiply Vineyard team which exists to encourage and empower local churches as they multiply disciples, leaders, and churches.

Justin Juntunen is the Training Coordinator & Project Manager for Multiply Vineyard. After nearly a decade of work in higher education Justin joined the Multiply Vineyard team in 2014, and helps Michael Gatlin run the day to day operations of Multiply Vineyard.

**Presenters:** Multiply Vineyard: Kenneth Kwan/Dennis Liu

**Title:** **Asian American Ministry & Church Planting in the Vineyard**

**Description:** Kenneth Kwan and Dennis Liu both felt called by God (separately) to be pioneers of Asian American ministry in the Vineyard. God divinely brought them together 19 years ago at a Vineyard conference in Anaheim. Since then they have partnered to lead an Asian American Vineyard church in Southern California of about 500 people. Their vision is to plant other similar Asian American Vineyard churches and congregations in other parts of the United States. Come to this panel to hear their Asian American journeys and their vision for the future.

**Bio:** Kenneth Kwan is the Co-Lead and founding Pastor at Vineyard of Harvest Church. He is passionate about building a two generational church that is committed to serving both Chinese and English speaking communities.

Dennis Liu is the Co-Lead Pastor at Vineyard of Harvest Church in Walnut, CA. They are a predominantly Asian-American Vineyard church planted about 27 years ago. Dennis graduated from Cornell University.

And during college, he joined the Vineyard church and began to pursue God's call into full-time ministry. So instead of going on to medical school, he pursued an MA in Intercultural Studies at Fuller Theological Seminary while interning at Vineyard of Harvest Church where he has now been serving for the past 18 years. Dennis also currently serves as one of the area pastors in Southern California.

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**Presenter:** Ramon Mayo/ Cheryl Pittiluck

**Title:** **Vineyard Justice Network: Race 101**

**Description:** Is this your first conference on race and ethnicity? Feel like a newbie to the racial reconciliation conversation? We'll define key terms, discuss a bit of U.S. history, and make space for questions and reflections.

**Bio:** Ramon Mayo is the student ministry coordinator for the South Suburban Vineyard Church. You can check out his blog [ramonlmayo.com](http://ramonlmayo.com) where he writes about faith, creativity, and diversity.

Cheryl Pittluck functioned as Pastor of Social Justice at Vineyard Anaheim until recently, when her husband, Lance, retired as Senior Pastor. She continues to participate in ministries relating to poverty and homelessness, immigration reform, children at risk and human trafficking.

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**Presenter:** Eloise McDowell/ Le Que Heidkamp

**Title:** **Helping Kids Navigate a Multiethnic Discipleship Journey**

**Description:** Did you know that among babies born in America, there is no longer any ethnic or racial group that is in the majority? As the world grows more diverse ethnically and culturally, it's vital that the church can adapt and help disciple our children to live in a diverse world. Join Eloise McDowell and Le Que Heidkamp as they share some principles they've learned over the years about raising disciples in a multiethnic world.

**Bios:** Dr Eloise McKitric McDowell is the former Associate Pastor of Children's Ministries at the Evanston Vineyard. Previously, she served a a Manager

of Consumer Services at Kraft-General Foods and was an Associate Professor of Consumer Science and Family Management at Bowling Green State University. She is happily married to James McDowell and they live in the Evanston area.

Le Que Heidkamp is the Co-lead pastor of Mercy Vineyard Church that she planted with her husband Jeff in Minneapolis, MN. Le Que has been involved on at the local, regional, and national level, leading diversity initiatives over the past decade for Vineyard USA.

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**Presenters:** Dr. Charles Montgomery Jr. / Rich Nathan

**Title:** **Pastoral Responses in the Era of Trump**

**Description:** We live in an extraordinarily partisan age. How can we as pastors and Christian leaders provide a prophetic voice for justice and truth without contributing to the partisan rancor? When should we speak? When should we remain silent? This gathering is an interactive forum for us to share our questions and our experiences regarding the challenge of pastoring in the age of Trump.

**Bios:** Dr. Charles Montgomery, Jr is the Vineyard Columbus East Campus pastor. Charles earned his Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics from Morehouse College, a Master of Divinity from Emory University, and a Ph.D. from Union Institute and University, with an emphasis in Ethical and Creative Leadership.

Rich Nathan is the senior pastor of Vineyard Columbus, a position he's been serving in since 1987. Rich is also the author of several books including *Empowered Evangelicals*, *Who is My Enemy?*, and most recently *Both-And*.

**Presenters:** Mike OBrien/ Casey Corum

**Title:** **Enlarging the SOUND of Worship - best practices and hard-won lessons from the frontlines of the local church**

**Description:** In this practical, hands-on workshop we will provide tools that worship leaders, pastors, and local worship teams can use as they seek to move forward in their efforts to enlarge and diversify the sound of their music. From gospel chord substations to bi-lingual worship to authentically accessing new genres of music - we will tackle all of these topics and more.

**Bios:** Mike O'Brien has served as a worship pastor, speaker, record producer and songwriter for Vineyard USA for two decades. He holds his Masters of Worship Studies from the Webber Institute of Worship and is currently serving the church at large in worship team training and worship leader mentoring. You can find out more about Mike at [themikeo.com](http://themikeo.com).

Casey Corum is a songwriter, worship leader, record producer, and creative catalyst based in the greater Los Angeles, California area. Casey is best known for his work with Vineyard Music having served as Chief Creative Officer for over 10 years. Casey's songs have been sung in thousands churches all over the world in numerous languages. Some of his best known songs include "Dwell", "Form Us", "No Longer Strangers", and "You Have Set Me Free".

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**Presenter:** Dr. Gabriel Salguero

**Title:** **Xenophilia: A Christian Perspective on Immigration and Refugees:**

**Description:** An analysis of Biblical and theological perspectives on Christian responses to immigration. Do these have anything to say on how we speak on immigration and refugee policy in the US and beyond?

**Bio:** Dr. Gabriel Salguero is a pastor at Calvario City Church in Orlando, FL. Much of his work focuses on leadership development, faith and public life, diversity and racial reconciliation.

**Presenter:** Josh Williams

**Title:** **Soul Care and Multi-ethnicity: Better Together**

**Description:** Once we gather a multi-ethnic church, how do we keep its members healthy? Join Josh Williams and a team of people from the Elm City Vineyard as they talk about building culturally sensitive soul care practices and habits for a diverse congregation seeking wholeness for the long haul.

**Bio:** Josh Williams is the Lead Pastor of the Elm City Vineyard, a dynamic multi-ethnic church in New Haven, CT. He is a graduate of Yale Divinity School and is currently serving a 1 year term on the Vineyard USA Exec Team.

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**Presenter:** Donnell Wyche

**Title:** **Vineyard Justice Network: Our Gentrified Gospel**

**Description:** Let's talk about the intersection of faith, race and economics. What will it take for our churches to be "decolonized"?

**Bio:** The Reverend Donnell Wyche currently serves as Senior Pastor and Head of Staff at the Vineyard Church of Ann Arbor where he has been on staff for 19 years. Passionate about the intersections of race, faith, politics, and technology, Pastor Donnell is the president of the board of the InterFaith Council for Peace and Justice (ICPJ) and has pursued issues of affordable, fair, and accessible housing as a board member of the Religious Action of Affordable Housing(RAAH).