

# 2026 CEF Fall Leadership Conference Agenda

*“Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Luke 12:32-34*

## Friday, September 25, 2026

5:00 p.m. .... **Hotel Check In & Pre-Registration**  
Fountain Terrace

6:00 p.m. .... **Oktoberfest Dinner & Gemütlichkeit**  
Alpine Trio

## Saturday, September 26, 2026

7:45 a.m. .... **Breakfast Buffet Opens**  
Ottawa Ballroom

8:00 a.m. .... **Registration & Promotions**  
Fountain Terrace

**Main Conference**  
Oakland Ballroom

9:30 a.m. .... **Welcome**

10:00 a.m. .... **No Fear of the Future: Trends in Church and Culture That Give Us Hope**  
Rev. Matt Popovits

*Despite the headlines about decline, division, and disengagement, there are significant cultural and spiritual trends that should give the Church tremendous hope for the future. We will explore where God may already be opening doors, particularly through a renewed hunger for meaning, authentic community, deeper relationships, digital engagement, and a faith that offers something radically different from the anxiety and exhaustion of modern life.*

11:00 a.m. .... **Break**

11:15 a.m. .... **State of the Fund**  
CEF Executive Management

12:15 p.m. .... **Lunch Buffet**  
Ottawa Ballroom

1:15 p.m. .... **A Conversation with the Michigan District President**  
Rev. David Davis

2:00 p.m. .... **Making CEF Simple**  
Rev. Matt Popovits

2:45 p.m. .... **Break**

3:00 p.m. .... **A Reformation of Prayer**  
*Rev. Chris Paavola*

4:00 p.m. .... **No Fear of the Future: Tactics for Nurturing Joy in an Anxious World**  
*Rev. Matt Popovits*

*We can't offer an anxious world much hope if the Church is just as anxious about the future. We will get practical about how Christian leaders and communities can resist fear, cultivate joy, celebrate grace, deepen relationships, and build cultures rooted in the confidence that our identity, our future, and the future of Christ's Church ultimately rest in God's hands*

5:00 p.m. .... **Break until Dinner**

6:30 p.m. .... **Dinner & Awards**  
Oakland Ballroom

7:30 p.m. .... **Music Through The Decades**  
*Benje Damen & Kanola*

## **Sunday, September 27, 2026**

7:00 a.m. .... **Continental Breakfast Opens**  
*Ottawa Ballroom*  
**Promotions Open**  
*Fountain Terrace*

**Main Conference**  
*Oakland Ballroom*

9:00 a.m. .... **Worship Service**

10:00 a.m. .... **Conference Closing**

10:15 a.m. .... **Brunch Buffet**  
*Ottawa Ballroom*