

GFM National Staff Conference 2025 - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Accessing the Conference

1. Remind me again – how do I access the virtual conference sessions?
Each session has its own Teams link. You can find them in your Outlook calendar or on the [Conference Website](#).
2. I've gotten multiple invitations to the same conference sessions. Are the links in my calendar the correct ones?
Outlook resends invitations when we adjust the details of a session, but the links have not changed. All of the links in your calendar are accurate for attending the conference sessions.
3. I've been avoiding Teams as long as possible. Do I have to put it on my computer?
You can join a session just by clicking the link and attending as a guest. But you'll have a better experience if you [download the Teams App](#) and log in with your InterVarsity credentials.
4. What if I'm having tech issues and can't figure out how to join the session?
Sam Bradley from the Technology Operations Team is on standby to offer tech support during Staff Conference. If you're having problems, [email him](#) or message him on Teams with a brief description of what's going on. He'll set up a call on zoom or the phone with you to figure out the problem. (Please be ready to answer if you're on a Mac or PC and if you're using the App or Browser version of Teams).

Attendance

5. Am I expected to be at all the sessions?
Yes. Unless you have been excused by your supervisor, you are expected to attend all the sessions. Your colleagues are putting a lot of work into leading these sessions; please respect them by being on time and attentive.
6. What if I'm going to be driving during one of the sessions?
While we know some things are unavoidable, the overall expectation is that you'll attend with your camera on, and you'll be in a place where you can be

attentive to the conference content.

7. Can I invite my friend/donor/alumni to attend one of the sessions?
No, this is a staff and volunteer-only event. If you have a prospective staff or volunteer you'd like to attend, please reach out to Emily Umulis.
8. What if I/my kids/etc. get sick the day-of?
Please email your supervisor and copy Emily Umulis.
9. Are we recording the sessions?
Only some of the sessions will be available to watch after the conference. We will be recording the plenary sessions with Dr. Elizabeth Sung and Dr. Steven Garber. Most of the seminars will be recorded. The plenary panel discussions will not be recorded.

Conference Experience

10. A virtual conference feels like I don't get to connect with my colleagues in the same way. Where will I have opportunities to talk with and be in community with other staff?
While it is true that online is a different experience, there will be spaces to pray, study Scripture, and collaborate together in the Daily Prayer Meetings, Small Groups, and Meetups. Our emcees also have fun planned at the start of our plenary sessions, so be sure to be on time to join in!
11. What will the prayer times be like?
There are two ways to participate in prayer during Staff Conference - Daily Prayer meetings and one-on-one Prayer ministry. More details are available [here](#).
12. What will happen during the small group sessions?
You will be assigned to a small group with approximately 8 others. You'll spend time together in Bible study and prayer. It won't be a full-blown manuscript study, but it will be helpful for you to have the text printed out in advance. Printable pdfs are available [here](#).

13. I heard there are Meet-Ups? What are they and how do I access them?

On Wednesday afternoon there will be an opportunity to meet with colleagues to discuss a topic of mutual interest. The full list of Meet-Up options is on the [Conference Website](#). To attend, please follow the link for the Meet-Ups Teams Meeting and we'll help you move into the correct breakout space from there.

14. Is the conference giving us any meal allowance?

No, we've chosen to keep the cost low. Conference fees will cover the actual costs of running the conference. You can talk to your supervisor about expensing a meal to your personal staff account.