



## Growing Deeper, Broader, Stronger: Moving from Faith@Work 101 to 201

### Background

The history of Western thought and civilization is dotted with men and women who challenged the mistaken assumption that some types of work are holier than others in God's eyes. Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Wesley, Jonathan Edwards, Abraham Kuyper, and Dorothy Sayers, for example, called the church to recognize the sacredness of all work—be it law, science, business, the arts, education, agriculture, or child-rearing.

While God used these individuals in their eras, and their echoes still bear witness to the truth, erroneous thinking about work continues to plague our culture.

*A faulty theology of work, vocation, and mission is a significant contributor to the secularization of western society.* —Prof. Paul Williams, Regent College

But change is in the wind. The Spirit of God is moving—causing the winds of change to gather strength.

Over the past few decades, more than a thousand workplace ministries have launched. Hundreds of books have been written on faith-work integration. More churches have seen the need to address faith at work. However, while all positive endeavors, these initiatives have been largely disconnected.

The need to assess the state and stage of what appeared to be a movement became evident—and also triggered questions. How could we cooperate with God's Spirit? How could we promote collaboration between organizations and individuals working restore a biblical view of work and better disciple people for their workplace callings?

In response, the first Faith@Work Summit was held in October 2014, co-convened by the Mockler Center for Faith & Ethics in the Workplace at Gordon-Conwell Seminary, the Center for Integrity in Business at Seattle Pacific University, and the Center for Faith & Work at LeTourneau University. Two hundred eighty leaders from diverse industry sectors met to encourage and learn from each other, surface common challenges, and strategize about workplace discipleship. One prominent leader named the Summit "the most important gathering to date in the faith-and-work movement."

### Why a Second Summit?

The Faith@Work Movement is approaching a tipping point. God is blessing the efforts of businesspeople, churches, universities, and ministry organizations to spread a Biblical view of work and calling. Yet amidst encouraging progress, two significant challenges have emerged. First, today's workers are in great need of materials and mentors to show them what it means to follow Christ in their specific work. Second, whole segments of society remain largely untouched by the truth that they can serve Christ in their daily work.

The 2016 Faith@Work Summit will address these important issues, tapping the collective knowledge and collaborative spirit sparked at the first Summit. Four hundred leaders from church, academia, workplace ministries, and every business sector are expected to attend the 2016 Summit in Dallas, October 27-29.

**The Purpose:** To gather active participants and leaders in the Faith@Work Movement from every industry sector to learn from each other and work together to extend Christ's transforming presence in workplaces around the world.

The 2016 Summit will focus on taking the movement deeper and broader, addressing three key questions:

1. How might we help people deepen their understanding of what it means to follow Christ in their specific kind of work?
2. How can we broaden the reach of the Faith@Work Movement to new audiences that remain largely unaddressed?
3. How can workplace Christians and the church strengthen their commitment to work together to develop whole-life disciples?

**Outcomes:** New ideas, initiatives, and collaborative partnerships will emerge and propel the Faith@Work Movement to the next level, furthering continued growth and impact.

## Pioneer Tribute

We recognize that we stand on the shoulders of men and women who have gone before us. We will honor five Faith@Work Pioneers, in keeping with the tradition begun at the first Summit.

## Before the Summit

**Resources:** In the months leading up to the 2016 Summit, the organizing committee will work with speakers, sponsors, and breakout leaders to collect and compile resource summaries for each topic addressed at the Summit.

**Landmark Research:** We will commission the Barna Group to conduct research on the breadth and scope of the Faith@Work Movement, to be released at the Summit.

## Summit Leadership

Hosted by the Center for Faith & Work at LeTourneau University ([centerforfaithandwork.com](http://centerforfaithandwork.com))

### Summit Co-Hosts Organizations

- ▶ Center for Integrity in Business, Seattle Pacific University ([spu.edu/depts/sbe/cib](http://spu.edu/depts/sbe/cib))
- ▶ Institute for Faith, Work & Economics ([tifwe.org](http://tifwe.org))
- ▶ Max De Pree Center for Leadership at Fuller Seminary ([depreecenter.org](http://depreecenter.org))
- ▶ Mockler Center for Faith & Ethics in the Workplace at Gordon-Conwell Seminary ([gordonconwell.edu/ockenga/faith-work/About.cfm](http://gordonconwell.edu/ockenga/faith-work/About.cfm))
- ▶ Oikonomia Network ([oikonomianetwork.org](http://oikonomianetwork.org))
- ▶ The H.E Butt Family Foundation ([hebff.org](http://hebff.org))

### Conference Organizing Committee

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Institute for Faith Work and Economics

## Conference Location: Westin Galleria Dallas

Fifteen minutes from Dallas Love Field (DAL) via car, shuttle, taxi, Uber

Twenty minutes from Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (DFW) via car, shuttle, taxi, Uber

Discount travel via Southwest Airlines available

Discount room rate for single/double suites (\$149/night plus tax)

All meals included in registration other than Friday evening dinner on your own

Partial scholarships available for students

Opportunity to come early, stay longer to enjoy North Texas at same discount hotel prices.

## Conference Schedule

### Thursday Evening, October 27

#### Plenary One – Deeper, Broader, Stronger: Moving from Faith@Work 101 to 201

*The Summit will open with a plenary talk describing critical challenges on the road ahead, followed by a lively panel discussion between veteran Faith@Work leaders. The opening session will orient participants and set the stage for the two days ahead.*

### Friday Morning, October 28

#### Plenary Two - Deeper: Four Opportunities for Growth

*We will focus on new ground the Faith@Work Movement needs to cover. Opportunities include:*

**Vocational Opportunity** - *Going Deeper (Amy Sherman)*

*How can we help Christians develop a deeper understanding of their calling and how they can serve Christ in their particular work?*

**Corporate Opportunity** - *Going Inside (Kent Johnson)*

*How can we build Christian community (ERGs) within companies and corporations?*

**City-Impact Opportunity** - *Reaching Wider (Chuck Proudfit)*

*How can we break down silos and develop collaborative networks within cities?*

**Cultural Opportunity** - *Standing Up (Doug Napier)*

*How do Christians face the challenges of a secular culture and the pressures this brings to workplace?*

#### Plenary Three - Broader: New Audiences to Address

*Friday morning's focus will continue as we identify four groups the Faith@Work Movement should intensify its efforts to address. Groups include:*

**Generation Z** – *Preparing for Impact (Denise Daniels)*

*How do we educate and prepare the next generation of workplace disciples?*

**Young Adults** - *Opening Doors (Pending)*

*How can we bring Millennials & Gen Xers into the leadership of the Faith@Work Movement?*

**The Economically Challenged** - *Spreading Opportunity (Chris Brooks)*

*How can we foster economic flourishing for the underserved?*

**Beyond Race and Gender** – *Reaching Out (Pending)*

*How can we address the needs of minorities and women and draw more into the Faith@Work Movement?*

### Friday Afternoon, October 28

#### Breakout One - Opportunities and Obstacles in Six Key Sectors

*Participants will break into six groups by sector: Commercial Business; Technology and Science; Health Care; Law and Government; Education; and Arts and Media. Each group will identify obstacles, opportunities, and resources specific to their sector.*

## **Plenary Four - Case Studies of Faith@Work**

*Upon reconvening, participants will hear examples of Faith@Work from different workplace sectors.*

*Ed Moy*

*John Samuel*

*Marc Belton*

*Sherron Watkins*

*Margo Engberg*

## **Table Conversations - Trending Topics and Best Practices**

*Participants attend table discussions of their choice to discuss trending topics, best practices, and next-level ideas. Topics include:*

***The Gospel at Work:** How can we motivate and equip the millions of Christian workers to be salt and light in their workplace?*

***Doing Business in a Secular Society:** How can Christian leaders negotiate changing cultural norms?*

***Work - Survival and Human Dignity:** How can Christians extend economic opportunity to the under-opportunities?*

***Engaging Millennials:** How can we harness the passions of today's largest generation in the workforce for kingdom impact?*

***Keeping Boomers Engaged:** How do we keep older Christians engaged for kingdom impact?*

## **Friday Evening, October 28**

### **Networking Dinner**

After the afternoon breakout, conference participants will be free to network over dinner on their own in the 30+ different restaurants and eateries in the Galleria.

## **Saturday Morning October 29**

### **Plenary Six - Stronger: The Church's Vital Role**

*Saturday will focus on the critical nature of the church to the Faith@Work Movement and the Movement's importance to the church. Topics include:*

***The Importance of the Workplace-Church Connection** (Tom Nelson)*

***What Workplace Christians Need from Pastors** (Pending)*

***What Pastors Need from Workplace Christians** (Mark Roberts)*

***The Language of Whole-Life Discipleship** (Mark Greene)*

***What the Church needs from Seminaries** (Tod Bolsinger)*

### **Breakout Two - Whole-life Discipleship**

*In response to the presentations, participants will break into five groups (universities, seminaries, marketplace ministries, churches, workplace/business) to discuss solutions each can offer to foster greater cooperation with the church in developing whole-life disciples.*

### **Plenary Seven - Carpe Monday** (John Beckett)

*The Summit will close with a challenge from a veteran Faith@Work leader.*

## **Summit Postscript**

We anticipate that breakout sessions will provide a rich source of information and resources. The conference co-hosts will work with breakout session leaders to create a repository of each group's report. Group participants will have the opportunity to add to the reports.

In addition, all plenary talks will be made freely available online. We will develop a promotional strategy to share the Summit findings as widely as possible—to seminaries, Christian universities, churches, marketplace fellowship groups and ministries, student groups, and interested individuals.