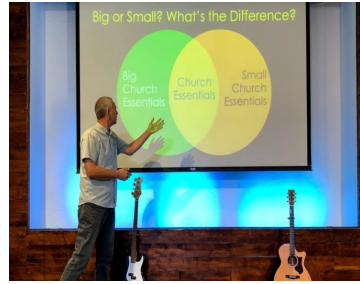


Registration

We encourage all Pastors and Church Leaders in our Association to attend this conference. Karl Vater has a heart to help pastors/leaders of small churches find the resources to lead well, and to capitalize on the unique advantages that come with pastoring a small church. He also believes that big and small churches can and should work together more often—to the benefit and blessing of everyone. Our district has chosen to resource the cost of this excellent conference to you to allow for a time of learning, encouragement, and connection.



Registration deadline is Friday, November 10th to allow for preparation of food and materials. You will find the registration link on our website home page and also under the calendar event—Karl Vater Conference.

Hotel Suggestions (if you need lodging)

Comfort Inn & Suites, 1775 Freeway Ct (breakfast)

Holiday Inn, 3301 Market

Double Tree by Hilton, 1590 Weston Ct NE

Shilo Inn, 3304 Market

Holiday Inn Express, 6150 Keizer Station Blvd NE, Keizer (breakfast)

Restaurants & Coffee available near the Oak Park Church

(a free continental breakfast and lunch will be provided Saturday at the conference)

Olive Garden, 1302 Lancaster Dr (Italian)

Casa Baez, 1292 Lancaster Dr (Mexican)

Red Robin, 831 Lancaster Dr (Burgers & More)

Applebee's, 747 Lancaster Dr (Variety)

Red Lobster, 521 Lancaster Dr (Seafood)

Panera Bread, 799 Lancaster (Soups, Salads)

Elmer's Restaurant, 3950 Market Street (Breakfast & More)

Black Rock, 1288 Lancaster Dr (Coffee)

Starbucks, 1134 Lancaster Dr (Coffee)

Dutch Bros 1102 Lancaster Dr (Coffee)

Baskin-Robbins, 3239 Market St. NE (Ice Cream)

Have Questions??? Call Pastor Paula at the District Office, 503-393-3510



Karl Vater Conference November 17-18, 2023

**Pastors & Church Leaders
Register NOW @ orwacog.org**

Friday, 7pm—Saturday, 9am-3pm

**Oak Park Church of God,
2990 Lancaster Dr. NE, Salem**

FREE Conference

(Lodging, as needed, will be your only cost—with some scholarships available for lodging.)



The Association of the Churches of God in Oregon & SW Washington

715 S River Street, Newberg, OR 97132 www.orwacog.org
(503) 393-3510, districtoffice@orwacog.org

Conference Schedule

Friday, November 17

- 6pm Registration
- 7pm **Session 1—Redefining Success in Ministry**

Saturday, November 18

- 8:15am Coffee & Continental Breakfast
- 9am **Session 2—Big Churches, Small Churches—What’s the Difference?**
- 10:15am **Session 3—How to Discover and Use What Your Church Does Well**
- 11:30am Lunch Provided Onsite
- 12:30pm **Session 4—What’s Working in Churches that are Thriving**
- 1:15pm **Session 5—A New Way to Look at Vision Casting**
- 2pm **Closing Session**

The local church is the main way Jesus chose to bring hope and love to the world. By “church” we don’t mean denominations, buildings, organizations, sacraments or creeds. We believe the church is at its most profound and basic when it acts as an extension of Jesus’ command to love God and love others.

People getting together to love Jesus, each other and the world is what the church looks like when it is stripped back to its essential core. Or, as Jesus put it, “when two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in the midst of them.”

Megachurches are great! Not only do we have nothing against them, we believe the world needs more of them. **House Churches** are great too! No one knows how many of them exist all over the world but, especially where the church is illegal, they are a vital spiritual lifeline for untold millions of believers. They deserve and need our prayer and support.

So, if megachurches and house churches are so wonderful, why is New Small Church all about the churches in between and what do we mean by “Small Church?”

Numerically, the boundaries between churches of each size are fairly fluid, but here’s a guide:

House Church: Less than 25 (and meeting in a house),
Small Church: 25 – 350 (or under 25 meeting in a church building)
Big Church: 350 – 2,000, **Megachurch:** Over 2,000

WHY WE EXIST

Small Churches don’t appeal to everyone. But, as it turns out, they do appeal to most people. More followers of Jesus have attended Small Churches in the last 2,000 years than any other type of church. That doesn’t mean they’re the best way to do church (we believe the “best” way is whatever works for the people who need it), but as the most popular type of church in existence, they need to receive more attention, support and encouragement than they typically have.

Small Churches make up 80% – 90% of the known churches in the world, but are the subject of probably less than 1% of the books and blogs about how to do church ministry. Small Churches are no better and no worse than churches of any other size. But they have been the most neglected, especially when it comes to pastoral training.

New Small Church wants to help fill that gap. We exist to encourage, connect and equip innovative Small church leaders. That’s not just a slogan – it’s what we actually plan to do. We want to see better, stronger, healthier Small Churches, led by passionate, prayerful, capable, innovative and loving pastors.

We believe being small is not a problem to fix, but a strategy God wants to use.

Most Small Church leaders have not been told that – or at least they haven’t been told it enough. If we can help turn up the volume on that message, we will have done what we set out to do.

Karl Vaters is the author of four books.

[The Church Recovery Guide: How Your Congregation Can Adapt and Thrive after a Crisis](#); [100 Days to a Healthier Church: A Step-By-Step Guide for Pastors and Leadership Teams](#); [Small Church Essentials: Field-Tested Principles for Leading a Healthy Congregation of Under 250](#); [The Grass-hopper Myth: Big Churches, Small Churches and the Small Thinking That Divides Us](#)

Want to know more about Karl Vater Ministry? Go to www.karlvaters.com. There are many free resources available on his website.

