



Dying Church, Rising Hope

2026 Higher Things Conferences

Table of Contents

Contact Information	1
What's the conference theme?	2
Pre-registration Instructions	2
Registration Timeline	3
Group Leader Checklist	3

Contact Us

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Dying Church Rising Hope

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Conference Theme

So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

(Romans 6:11)

The Church is dying. It's a constant refrain sung by both a culture departed from virtue and those who whisper "remember when" to each other amidst crumbling spires, dwindling numbers, and struggling institutions. It's hard not to feel alone. Frustrated at the hypocrisy. Scared of the future. It's a trick of the devil.

Satan paints a picture of an ideal church. Full to capacity. Free from the sinners who actually need what's offered there, doing terrible things while pointing fingers elsewhere to hide their dark deeds. Leading a culture that counts us as wise and follows along. In short, a church that needs no cross.

You'll catch sight of it when you realize that every whispered "remember when" is about attendance, culture, and the trappings of power and safety instead of the day the faithful were scattered, the crowds yelled "crucify", and the sun was darkened as the Christ cried out it is finished. Remember when Jesus saved you?

Christ builds His church at the gates of hell, and hell will not prevail against it, even if hell is really hot. We focus more on the gates than the God of Jacob, who is our fortress. Repent. Rejoice. Rest. Be still. Know who your God is. Know that the church is marked by being near to Jesus, not far from your fears.

Then realize that some of this stuff is supposed to die. Pride should die. Idolatry should die. Lust for power should die. Every trapping of a theology of glory should die. And so should you, united with Christ in your baptism. "For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his." Good. So also you must consider yourself dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. Look around. The word is preached faithfully. The sacraments are administered rightly. This is how it's supposed to be.

Dying church.... Rising hope.



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2026 Higher Things Conferences

Pre-registration Instructions

Regarding Deposits & Balances

Non-refundable deposits of \$150.00 per person may be made at any point during the registration period to ensure your group's admission to a conference should it reach capacity. In other words, if the maximum number of people begin the registration process for a given conference, those who have paid deposits will be given priority over those who have not, regardless of the date they started the process. Deposits will only be refunded for a cancellation if there is a waiting list for that conference at the time of the cancellation.

Please remember that per-person rates are determined by the date your group's registration fees are **paid in full**. Checks mailed to Higher Things will be processed according to the postmark date. Unpaid balances and new registrations on or after May 1 will be charged an additional late fee of \$50.00/person. An additional fee of \$50.00 will apply for substitutions made on or after May 1. All payments must be made in U.S. funds.

Pre-registration Steps

- Distribute individual registration forms to all youth and adults attending the conference with your group.
- Set a date when completed individual registration forms and deposits must be returned to the group leader. Each registrant must complete a registration form and have it signed by a parent (if applicable), the group leader, and your church's pastor. Please use the information in the completed forms to register your group online and keep the completed form for your records. This form will also permit minors to travel with the group out of state to attend a Higher Things conference. *The completed forms do NOT get turned into Higher Things.*
- DO NOT mail forms to Higher Things. You must register all members of your group online.

Registration Timeline

Date	Registration Event
November 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Early-bird discounted registration opens.• CCV application process opens.
February 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Registration rate increases to regular registration rate.
March 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CCV application process closes.• Scholarship applications are due.
March 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CCVs notified regarding acceptance.



Dying Church Rising Hope

2026 Higher Things Conferences

April 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Final balances due (including day before/after and private rooms).• All cancellations must be made by this date or groups will be responsible for the full registration fee.• Last day to receive a refund for a canceled registration.
May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Registrations made or paid on or after this date are considered late and will be charged an additional late fee. (\$50.00/person)• All substitutions made on or after this date will incur a change fee (\$50.00)• No refunds given on or after this date.• Deadline to request roommates.
May 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All t-shirt sizes must be up to date.• Deadline to register to stay the night before or the night after the conference.• Deadline to request a private room.
June 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Waitlist procedure changes (if applicable).

Group Leader Checklist

Registration

- I understand the registration deadlines and fees below:
 - Non-refundable deposits of \$150 per person may be made at any point during registration to ensure your group admission to a conference should it reach capacity. However, the per-person registration fees above are based on the date your group's registration fees are **paid in full**. Partial payments (including non-refundable deposits) do not "lock in" your registration rates. All payments must be made in U.S. funds.
 - Refunds are not given for cancellations (including no-shows at conference check-in), and a \$50 change fee will apply to substitutions made on or after May 1, 2026. As of May 1, 2026, new and unpaid registrations will be considered late and will incur an additional late fee of \$50/person.
 - The online registration system will state that the final payment is due in the fall after the conference season is completed. *This is a product of the system's retention of your credit card information and is not the case.* **You must be paid in full by April 30, 2026, or you will incur a late fee of \$50/person. All payments are due absolutely no later than the start of the conference.**
- I have received individual registration forms for each person in my group with all the appropriate signatures. Each individual also has a unique email address.
- I have noted any registrants' special needs, medical conditions, and/or disabilities, particularly those that will affect housing assignments or dietary requirements (not dietary preferences), while at the conference.



Dying Church Rising Hope

2026 Higher Things Conferences

- I understand that I, as the group leader, will serve as the primary contact between Higher Things conference staff and my group, and I am responsible for sharing information with the individual registrants of my group and their parents/guardians.

Housing

- I have read and understand the Higher Things Registration and Housing Policies.
- I understand that requested private rooms will incur a charge of \$50/night per room and that a private room does not guarantee the use of a private bathroom.
- I understand that my group may stay on campus for an additional day before and/or after the conference for an additional charge of \$50/person/night (housing only).
- I understand and have explained to all youth and adult registrants in my group that if our group does not fill a room or suite to capacity, a registrant from another group (of the same sex and age category) may be assigned to share that room and/or suite.

Chaperones

- I have recruited the appropriate number of chaperones for my group.
 - One (1) male chaperone for every seven (7) boys and one (1) female chaperone for every seven (7) girls in your group. They are (or will be) at least 21 years of age at the time of the conference.
 - If you cannot recruit the necessary number of chaperones for your youth to attend a conference, we can assist you in finding other groups from your area who might be willing to share their chaperones with your group.
- I understand that Higher Things does not provide chaperones during the conference and that I, with the other chaperones in my group, am responsible for my group's conduct and supervision during the conference. My group's chaperones are aware of their responsibilities to the youth of our group.
- I have made plans and budgeted funds to complete necessary background checks and any other requirements for chaperones in my group to attend the conference.