



Speakers

(alphabetical)

Stanley Carlson-Thies is the founder and senior Director of the Institutional Religious Freedom Alliance (IRFA), a division of the Center for Public Justice. As part of this role, he convenes the Coalition to Preserve Religious Freedom, a multi-faith alliance of social-service, education and religious freedom organizations that advocates for the religious freedom of faith-based organizations to Congress and the federal government. In addition he is also a Senior Fellow at the Canadian think tank [Cardus](#). From 2009-2010 he served on the President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships task force, helping to draft recommendations on how to clarify the church-state rules that apply to federal funding of social-service providers. He has also consulted with federal departments and several states.



Brian Fleming - Brian serves as executive director of the Sandbox Collaborative at Southern New Hampshire University, which is responsible for the University's futures agenda, early-stage ideation and concept development and coverage of market trends. Prior to joining Sandbox, Brian was a principal consultant at Tyton Partners, a strategy consulting firm focused on education and human capital management markets and a senior analyst at Eduventures, a Boston-based research firm supporting the higher education community. Brian earned a B.A. from Texas A&M University

and an M.Ed. from Boston College. He is currently completing a Doctor in Education in organizational improvement at Vanderbilt University.

Michael Gerson is a nationally syndicated columnist who appears twice weekly in the Washington Post and in more than 100 other newspapers. He is the author of *Heroic Conservatism* (HarperOne, 2007) and coauthor of *City of Man: Religion and Politics in a New Era* (Moody, 2010). He appears regularly on the PBS NewsHour, Face the Nation and other programs.



Gerson serves as a fellow at ONE, a bipartisan advocacy organization dedicated to the fight against extreme poverty and preventable diseases. Until 2006, Gerson was a top aide to President George W. Bush as assistant to the President for Policy and Strategic Planning, where he was a key administration advocate for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI), the fight against global sex trafficking and funding for women's justice and empowerment issues. Prior to that appointment, he served in the White House as deputy assistant to the President, director of Presidential Speechwriting, assistant to the President for Speechwriting and Policy Advisor.



Paul Hawkinson - Since 2014, Paul has served as treasurer and executive director of finance for the Evangelical Covenant Church. He earned a Bachelor of Accounting degree from North Park University and an MBA from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University. Prior to his current role, he spent more than 20 years on Wall Street and beyond, where he served in various finance and executive capacities including senior investment banker, hedge fund partner, non-profit board chair, entrepreneur and impact investor. He brings a

sincere passion for faith and finance to all that he does, with strategic lens towards building financial sustainability. He and his wife, Kristin, have four children.

Eileen Hulme, Ph.D. - Eileen serves as a professor in the doctoral program in higher education at Azusa Pacific University. She possesses 30 years of experience in higher education administration. Prior to joining APU in 2005, Hulme served as vice president for student life at both Baylor University in Waco, Texas, and George Fox University in Newberg, Oregon. Additionally, she has taught at both the master's and doctoral levels for the past 15 years and co-directed the M.S. in Student Services Administration Program at Baylor University. In her role as Vice President for Student Life at Baylor, she was responsible for creating innovative initiatives on campus while managing a staff of more than 200. As a 2001 Fulbright Scholar in Germany, Hulme became passionate about preparing the next generation of strengths-based global leaders. As an APU faculty member, Hulme was awarded the Chase Sawtell Inspirational Faculty Member of the Year and conducted research on the development of curiosity in college students, innovation in the academy, and a strengths-based approach to leadership. Currently, she serves as the Chief Acceleration Office at Warner Pacific University and is responsible for the growth of innovative programs and online education.



Rev. Dr. Soong-Chan Rah is a Milton B. Engebretson Professor of Church Growth and Evangelism at North Park Theological Seminary in Chicago, IL and the author of *The Next Evangelicalism* (IVP Books, 2009); *Many Colors* (Moody, 2010); *Prophetic Lament* (IVP Books, 2015); co-author of *Forgive Us* (Zondervan, 2014); and *Return to Justice* (Brazos, 2016).

Rah is formerly the founding Senior Pastor of Cambridge Community Fellowship Church (CCFC), a multi-ethnic church living out the values of racial reconciliation and social justice in the urban context. He currently serves on the board of World Vision and Evangelicals 4 Justice. He has previously served on the board of Sojourners and the Christian Community Development Association.

He has extensive experience in cross-cultural preaching, as well as on numerous college campuses. Soong-Chan has been a main stage speaker at the Urbana Student Missions Conference, the Congress on Urban Ministry, the Urban Youth Workers Institute Conference, the CCDA National Conference, the

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary National Preaching Conference, the Fuller Missiology Conference, the Justice Conference, and Verge, Catalyst, and Calvin Worship Conferences.

Soong-Chan received his B.A. from Columbia University; his M.Div. from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary; his Th.M. from Harvard University; his D.Min. from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and his Th.D. from Duke University.

Soong-Chan and his wife Sue and their two children, Annah and Elijah live in Chicago.

Rusty Rueff is an active investor, advisor and board director for venture-backed startups and philanthropic causes. In 2014, Rusty was appointed by President Obama to The President's Advisory Committee for the Arts for The Kennedy Center. Rusty is also the former chairman of The GRAMMY Foundation in Los Angeles. Corporately, most recently he was the Chief Executive Officer at SNOCAP, Inc. until the acquisition of the company by Imeem, Inc.

Before joining SNOCAP, he was Executive Vice President of Human Resources at Electronic Arts (EA) for seven years. He was also with the PepsiCo companies for more than ten years, with the Pratt & Whitney division of United Technologies for two years, and in commercial radio as an on-air personality for six years. Rusty holds an M.S. in counseling and a B.A. in radio and television from Purdue University. In 2003 he was named a distinguished Purdue alumnus, and he and his wife, Patti, are the named benefactors of Purdue's Patti and Rusty Rueff School of Design, Art and Performance. He was a founding Board Director of Glassdoor, which sold to Indeed in June of 2018 for \$1.2B. He serves as a Trustee of the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco, where he was also Board President. He is the co-founder and Executive Committee Member of T4A.org and a founding board member of The GRAMMY Music Education Coalition. He is also the co-author of the book *Talent Force: A New Manifesto for the Human Side of Business*. He authors his own blog, purposedworkKING.com and is a co-host of the podcast, The Faith Driven Entrepreneur. Rusty and his wife, Patti, reside in Burlingame, CA and Charlestown, RI.





Wayne Schmidt - General Superintendent, The Wesleyan Church. Rev. Dr. Wayne Schmidt is the General Superintendent of The Wesleyan Church, a role he was elected to on June 6, 2016 by the North American General Conference in Buffalo, NY. Previously, Wayne has served as the chief administrative officer of Wesley Seminary at Indiana Wesleyan University since January 1, 2010. He led the seminary from its infancy to over 500 students from 34 states and 11 countries, achieving full accreditation and offering training in English and Spanish. From 1979-2009, Dr. Wayne Schmidt was first a

co-founding pastor, and then, senior pastor of Kentwood Community Church (KCC) in the Grand Rapids, Michigan, area. He led the Church to become a multiethnic and sending church, launching 10 other congregations.