

The STORIES *that* SHAPE *Us*

AUGUST
1ST - 2ND



URBAN MINISTRY CONFERENCE 2025

with Dr. Brian Fikkert

About the Conference



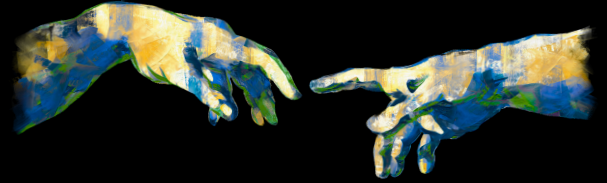
Many Christians feel a disconnect between their faith and the real struggles in our cities, where poverty, loneliness, addiction, and hopelessness are rampant. How can the good news truly speak to these everyday realities? At this year's Urban Ministry Conference, Dr. Brian Fikkert and our other speakers will examine the foundational narratives that drive our ministry. As they share biblical insights, scientific research, and practical experience, we will learn to help in ways that actually help--through living into God's redemptive story. You'll leave encouraged, equipped with a renewed sense of purpose and a fresh vision for fostering hope and flourishing in your own church and neighborhood.



Register



Weekend Schedule



Friday, August 1st

EVENING SESSION

6:15 PM: Doors open

6:30 PM: Main Session #1: "The False Stories that Shape Us"

7:40 PM: Breakout Sessions: Set 1

8:35 PM: Breakout Sessions: Set 2

9:30 PM: UMC Conference After Dark: Documentary & Discussion

Saturday, August 2nd

MORNING SESSION

9:30 AM: Coffee, Pastries, & Prayer Stations

10:00 AM: Main Session #2: "False Stories" Workshop

11:30 AM: Breakout Sessions: Set 3

12:15 PM: Break

12:20 PM: Respond in Conversation & Closing Song

12:30 PM: Afternoon Break

EVENING SESSION

6:00 PM: Prayer stations open

6:30 PM: Main Session #3 - "Practicing God's Redeeming Story"

7:40 PM: Breakout Sessions: Set 4

8:30 PM: Prayer & Closing

9:00 PM: UMC Conference After Dark: Concert featuring Lesley Hill

Childcare provided free of charge with registration

LOCATION: The ROSE BOWL (7419 E 11th St. Tulsa, OK 74112)



Dr. Brian Fikkert is the Founder of the Chalmers Center for Economic Development and Professor of Economics and Community Development at Covenant College. The Chalmers Center takes an approach to poverty that is rooted in God's redemptive story, the local church, and transformational development. He is coauthor of the best-selling book *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor...and Yourself* as well as *Becoming Whole: Why the Opposite of Poverty Isn't the American Dream*. Dr. Fikkert earned a Ph.D. in economics from Yale University, specializing in international economics and economic development. He is the author of numerous articles in both academic and popular journals.

Prior to coming to Covenant College in 1997, he was a professor at the University of Maryland—College Park and a research fellow at the Center for Institutional Reform and the Informal Sector. He and his wife Jill have 3 adult children and live in Chattanooga, Tenn.