

**Fairfax Church of Christ
East Coast Lectureship
March 2-4, 2018**

“God’s Preferred and Promise Future”

Description for Elder’s Breakout Sessions:

For twenty years terms like *missional* and *missional church* have provided new definitions and concepts for vision in congregations. Church leaders in the 21st Century, seeking to minister both inside and outside the walls of church are examining *technical* change and *adaptive* change. These breakout sessions will explore *missional church* as foundational for moving into God’s preferred and promised future.

“The Shape of Things to Come”

Breakout Session One: (Friday, March 2, 8:30-9:30 pm)

North America is fast becoming a mission field. With Christendom moving south (South America, Africa, and Asia) new vision and spiritual principles are necessary to live the Gospel in 21st Century Post-Modern, Post-Christian North America. This session addresses imagination for congregational leaders who desire to lead their church toward a missional future.

“Treasures in Clay Jars: Missional Best Practices”

Breakout Session Two: (Saturday, March 3, 10:30-11:30 am)

This session examines nine case studies of North American congregations that are diverse faith communities with varied worship styles and various socioeconomic backgrounds. Nine common principles evident in these congregations will be examined with the anticipation of these values providing vision for God promised future in our congregations.

“Embracing a Life of Love, Risk and True Flourishing”

Breakout Session Three: (Saturday, March 3, 3:45-4:45 pm)

Flourishing congregational leaders are strong and weak. True flourishing, says author Andy Crouch (**Strong and Weak**, 2016) mixes two unlikely components in the best leaders—people who use their authority for the benefit of others, while also showing extraordinary willingness to face and embrace suffering. We see it in Jesus, who wielded tremendous power yet also exposed himself to hunger, ridicule, torture and death. Rather than being opposites, strength and weakness should be integrated in every human life and community. When they come together we find the flourishing for which we were made.