



THE GLOBAL LEADERSHIP  
**SUMMIT 2026**  
August 6-7, 2026

## #GLS26 FACULTY INSIGHTS

### **Craig Groeschel**

*Founding and Senior Pastor, Life.Church; Bestselling Author*

#### **The Invisible Language of Leadership**

Some of the most frustrating moments aren't new problems — they're familiar ones that refuse to go away. The same tension resurfaces. The same conversations repeat. The same outcomes show up again and again. What feels like a people problem is often something deeper. Join Craig Groeschel as he unpacks how the repeated behaviors leaders tolerate, reward and reinforce quietly shape culture and determine results. You'll learn how most leaders spend their energy solving issues without realizing they may be reinforcing the very dynamics that created them. Discover why what you repeat becomes what you produce and how to recognize what's really driving your outcomes, disrupt what isn't working, intentionally design better rhythms and reinforce what moves your mission forward.

### **Priscilla Shirer**

*Cofounder, Going Beyond Ministries; Bestselling Author*

Priscilla Shirer is the cofounder of Going Beyond Ministries, which creates books, Bible study resources, conferences and films such as "War Room," "I Can Only Imagine" and "The Forge." Shirer has authored more than two dozen books and two New York Times bestsellers, including "Fervent: A Woman's Battle Plan for Serious, Specific and Strategic Prayer," which was named the 2016 Christian Book of the Year.

A graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary, Priscilla holds a master's degree in biblical studies and considers it a privilege to serve people from every stream of the global Church. Shirer's latest offering is a book on discipleship called "I Surrender All."

### **Jim Collins**

*Management Educator; Bestselling Author*

#### **What to Make of a Life**

At some point every life encounters cliffs — moments when something ends, unravels or changes course without warning. Success can give way to scandal. Purpose can stall. Clarity can dissolve into fog. And in those disorienting seasons, the question becomes deeply personal: What do you make of this life now? Join Jim Collins as he shares what he uncovered through a decade-long research project exploring how lives are built, fractured and rebuilt through inevitable turning points. Studying remarkable lives at critical inflection points, he reveals how you can reignite the inner fire and build renewed momentum across a lifetime. You'll gain a framework for navigating fog, overcoming fracture points and discovering a role you are uniquely encoded to fulfill — even if you must find one more than once. Leave with practical wisdom to rebuild after setbacks, sustain purpose and shape a life that remains creative, resilient and deeply fulfilling over its long arc.

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**Vanessa Van Edwards**

*Behavioral Researcher; Instructor, Harvard; Bestselling Author*

**The Surprising Micro-Habits of High-Impact Leaders**

Many leaders work hard to increase their impact — yet the most effective leaders know how to focus their energy on what matters most. The difference isn't more effort, but applying effort in the right ways with the right tools. Join Vanessa Van Edwards as she shares insights from two decades of research on high-performing leaders, revealing the patterns that consistently drive results. Unpack the micro-habits, rituals and mindsets that set standout leaders apart — and learn how small shifts in behavior can create outsized results. Walk away with five practical ways to strengthen your influence and leverage your expert power.

**Kwame Christian**

*CEO, American Negotiation Institute; Bestselling Author*

**Why Being Right Isn't Enough**

Every leader has moments when the conversation doesn't go how they hoped. The facts are solid. The logic is sound. And still — the room goes quiet, resistance rises or alignment slips away. When influence breaks down, the issue is often relational, not informational. Drawing from his experience as a lawyer, mediator and negotiation expert, Kwame Christian helps leaders rethink how they approach high-stake conversations. You'll discover how everyday interactions become micro-negotiations that either build trust or create distance. Using Christian's Compassionate Curiosity™ framework, you'll walk away with practical tools to overcome emotional and psychological barriers, reduce defensiveness and move people toward agreement.

**Andy Stanley**

*Founder, North Point Ministries; Communicator; Bestselling Author*

**What Great Leaders Do**

While it's true that leaders are learners, they are doers as well. That's what distinguishes a leader from the rest of the pack. Doing is what makes the difference. Which leads us to ask, what do great leaders do? Join Andy Stanley as he explores the answer to this important question. As both an accomplished leader and student of leadership you'll find his answer to be insightful, helpful and ultimately practical. Because after all, leaders are doers!

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### **Candace Cameron Bure**

*Actress; Producer; CEO, CandyRock Entertainment; Bestselling Author*

Candace Cameron Bure is an actress, producer, entrepreneur and New York Times bestselling author with a career spanning more than three decades. Known to millions as D.J. Tanner from “Full House” and “Fuller House,” she has starred in more than 50 films across the Christmas, family and mystery genres and previously served as a cohost of “The View.”

Beyond her on-screen work, Cameron Bure is a seasoned executive and creative leader. She is CEO of Candy Rock Entertainment, overseeing film, television and media projects, including her self-titled podcast. Her entrepreneurial portfolio includes a successful clothing line with QVC and Bure Family Wines, reflecting leadership across entertainment, consumer goods and media.

### **Arthur C. Brooks**

*Harvard Professor; Bestselling Author*

Arthur C. Brooks is a professor at the Harvard Kennedy School and the Harvard Business School, where he teaches courses on leadership and happiness. He is also a CBS News Contributor, columnist with The Free Press and host of the weekly podcast “Office Hours With Arthur Brooks.”

Brooks is the author of 16 books, including the #1 New York Times bestsellers, “Build the Life You Want,” coauthored with Oprah Winfrey, and “From Strength to Strength: Finding Success, Happiness, and Deep Purpose in the Second Half of Life.” His most recent book, “The Meaning of Your Life: Finding Purpose in an Age of Emptiness,” releases March 31.

Brooks is one of the world’s leading experts on the science of human happiness, teaching people in private companies, universities, public agencies and faith communities how they can live happier lives and bring greater well-being to others.

### **Julio García**

*Cofounder and CEO, Ambriza Social Mexican Kitchen*

#### **Leadership Is Not a Privilege**

Many leaders pursue success with the hope that one day the sacrifices will pay off — through recognition, financial security or the honor that comes with achievement. But what if leadership was never meant to be a reward? Julio García’s journey began in survival mode, working as a dishwasher and doing whatever it took to move forward. But along the way, he discovered something that changed the trajectory of his life: Purpose is not found in status or success, but in using your gifts to serve others. Join Julio as he challenges us to rethink what we are working for. Drawing from pivotal moments in his own story, he reveals how leadership becomes truly meaningful when it moves beyond personal ambition and toward helping others grow. Walk away with three essential questions every leader must ask. Gain a renewed vision for how purpose is often forged through struggle, how pain can shape your calling and how putting people first leads to a life of deeper meaning and impact.

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**Ryan Leak**

*CEO, the Ryan Leak Group; Bestselling Author*

**Building a Culture They Never Want to Leave**

People rarely leave a job suddenly — they leave mentally and emotionally long before they turn in their resignation. Disengagement shows up quietly and is often missed by leaders who focus on retention instead of culture. In this talk, Ryan Leak unpacks research and real-world insights on what the best leaders do to build environments where people don't just stay, but grow and flourish. Learn how to engage your team early, recognize warning signs before turnover happens and create conditions where staying feels like progress — not compromise. Walk away with practical language, simple frameworks and actionable steps to build a culture where people do their best work and reach their full potential.

**Alison Levine**

*Polar Explorer, Mountaineer; Bestselling Author*

Alison Levine has climbed the highest peak on every continent, served as the team captain of the first American Women's Everest Expedition and skied across the Arctic Circle to the geographic North Pole. In January 2008, she made history as the first American to follow a remote route across west Antarctica for 600 miles to the South Pole. Her success in extreme environments is noteworthy given she had three heart surgeries and suffers from a neurological disease that causes the arteries that feed her fingers and toes to collapse in cold weather, leaving her at extreme risk for frostbite.

Levine spent four years as an adjunct professor at the United States Military Academy at West Point, where she focused on leading teams in extreme environments. She is the author of the New York Times bestseller "On the Edge."

**Kelly Merryman Hoogstraten**

*CEO, Wonder Project*

**Make the Call: When Risk Beats Certainty**

We all feel the weight of decisions that can't wait, even when the right path isn't clear. We aren't just managing risk for ourselves; we're carrying it for our teams and customers. Drawing from experience leading in complex, fast-moving organizations, Kelly Merryman Hoogstraten helps us rethink our relationship with risk and uncertainty. She challenges leaders to become more comfortable making critical calls without complete clarity. Walk away with fresh ways to assess risk and move forward decisively, eliminating unnecessary bottlenecks and reducing the tendency to push every call up the organization. Learn how to build a culture where people are equipped and empowered to exercise sound judgment and act with confidence.

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**David Ashcraft**

*President and CEO, Global Leadership Network; Author*

David Ashcraft is president and CEO of the Global Leadership Network. He is also the founder and president of The Advantage, a leadership collaborative that mentors and encourages pastors across Pennsylvania. As senior pastor of LCBC Church in Pennsylvania for 32 years, David helped grow weekly attendance from 150 people to a combined average of more than 22,000. He is the coauthor of "What Was I Thinking? How to Make Better Decisions So You Can Live and Lead with Confidence." He also hosts The Global Leadership Podcast, featuring conversations with leaders from diverse fields about their leadership journey.

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