



1—Project Name: Conclave NextGen

2—If this grant is being requested on behalf of an external organization, what is that organization's name and connection with Texas Baptists?

N/A

3—Please request the minimum amount needed—with a maximum of \$20,000 possible—in order to accomplish the project's goals.

\$15,000.00 *(budget attached)*

4—Overview: Give a one paragraph description of the project.

Conclave NextGen is a two-day event designed to encourage and equip those who lead any aspect of NextGen or Family Ministry in the local church. Through powerful worship, practical training, valuable resources, and meaningful connections, attendees—whether coming alone or as part of a church team—find inspiration and support. As the event expands to include more areas of family ministry, it's essential that we continue to feature high-caliber keynote speakers who will resonate with and draw NextGen leaders. We're grateful for the generous support of TBMF, which has made it possible for us to partner with nationally recognized voices in ministry.

5—STRATEGIC: How will this project make Texas Baptists stronger?

Our churches are in urgent need of leadership development for the adults who serve in NextGen ministries—which include preschool, children, youth, college, and parent ministries. Our goal is to equip ministers and pastors to lead these areas with excellence, helping their churches thrive in reaching the next generation. We aim for Conclave NextGen to be a premier destination conference for church leaders across Texas.

Historically, Youth Ministry Conclave became a landmark training event for youth leaders in the 1980s through the early 2000s. Today, we envision Conclave NextGen becoming the leading conference for family ministry in the years ahead.

Currently, there are no comparable training events in Texas that are accessible to our churches. Most NextGen and Family Ministry conferences are located out of state, requiring significant travel expenses. Conclave NextGen meets this need by offering high-quality training at a reasonable cost—without compromising the caliber of our speakers and presenters. In 2024, we also introduced a free registration option for Senior Pastors, resulting in a record number of them attending the event.

6—SIGNIFICANT: What is the anticipated long-term impact of this project?

Conclave NextGen's core mission is to equip the next generation of ministry leaders through dynamic breakout sessions and inspiring main session speakers. For many participants, Conclave serves as their foundational introduction to ministry training, fostering a commitment to lifelong learning and effective service within the church. We aim to encourage and challenge these leaders in their approach to training laypeople within their respective ministries.

The securing of funding from TBMF has been instrumental in elevating Conclave's reach and impact. This support has enabled us to consistently attract nationally recognized speakers, transforming Conclave NextGen into a highly anticipated conference for church leaders. Our impressive speaker lineups have not only enhanced the conference's desirability but also positioned us to attract future A-list presenters. For instance, our 2025 lineup features David Kinnaman, CEO of Barna Group, and Shane Pruitt, NAMB Next-Gen Evangelism Director. Mr. Kinnaman will also lead a dedicated breakout session for pastors, further enriching their training experience.

This strategic investment has directly contributed to significant growth in attendance, from 489 participants in 2021 to 877 in 2024. We project an attendance of over 1,000 for our 2025 event, demonstrating the increasing demand and profound impact of Conclave's ministry training.

7—SUSTAINABLE: How will the grant help this project become self-supporting?

The entirety of the funding we receive from TBMF is directly allocated to securing our keynote speakers. Our vision is to feature four distinct speakers across our main sessions each year, ensuring representation of the diverse ministry leaders who attend Conclave NextGen. This strategy is crucial for our continued success in attracting NextGen leadership teams.

Without TBMF's invaluable support, we wouldn't have the confidence to contract these high-caliber speakers. We are committed to continuing to invite world-class ministry leaders such as Jim Burns, Doug Fields, and Kara Powell, who have previously graced the Conclave stage. These are the influential voices that truly move the needle and draw participants to our event, profoundly impacting the development of future ministry leaders.

8—INNOVATIVE: How will this project break new ground?

In 2026, Conclave NextGen will embark on an exciting strategic relocation to a new region of Texas. While historically rooted in the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) area, our experiences in San Antonio in 2022 and 2024 demonstrated a significant expansion of our reach into South Texas. These events attracted unprecedented attendance from areas such as Corpus Christi, Laredo, and even a notable contingent of church leaders from the Rio Grande Valley. Notably, many of these first-time attendees in 2022 became loyal participants, joining us in Dallas in 2023 and again in San Antonio in 2024.

Though we will return to the DFW metroplex in 2025, our long-term vision for 2026 involves moving south once more. While the specific location is yet to be confirmed, our strong desire is to convene in a thriving area situated between Houston and Austin. We believe this strategic

placement will effectively engage audiences from Southeast Texas without unduly isolating our faithful attendees from the DFW and San Antonio regions.

Given our intended move to a less metropolitan area, the ability to secure nationally recognized speakers will be paramount in drawing attendees to Conclave NextGen. This is precisely where the continued support from TBMF becomes absolutely crucial and will be vital to our success in 2026.

9—INVOLVING: How will the churches served by Texas Baptists be included in this project?

Thanks to the generous support of the TBMF, Conclave NextGen provides churches with first-class training and instruction from national, high-level speakers at a remarkably reasonable cost. Attending a comparable conference would likely pose a significant financial constraint for many church budgets. By keeping our costs affordable, we enable more churches to participate and empower them to send multiple leaders, amplifying the reach of our training.

In 2023, we introduced a tiered pricing structure that rewarded churches for bringing multiple ministry leaders from the same congregation. Critically, we achieved this while maintaining our base price for individual attendees, ensuring accessibility for all. Building on this commitment to affordability, we were able to lower the cost for our Super Early Bird registration in both 2024 and 2025. This initiative allowed leaders who registered before the summer to benefit from the lowest Conclave NextGen prices in years, further expanding participation and ensuring that vital ministry training is within reach for more churches.

How many churches will be involved? 877 registered from 220 churches in 2024, we also utilize numerous volunteers and breakout leaders who serve in Texas Baptist churches

10—INTERESTING: How will this project produce helpful stories and encourage donor engagement for future ministry support?

Conclave NextGen is not just a training event—it's a catalyst for transformation that sparks real stories of growth, connection, and ministry impact. Each year, hundreds of ministry leaders walk away equipped with tools, inspiration, and renewed purpose. These testimonies become compelling narratives that illustrate the tangible return on donor investment.

In 2024, one attendee shared, "Conclave was special because our whole team was able to come. I really appreciate how you have expanded resources for all ministries... Conclave brings me so much encouragement as I am reminded of my why." Others echoed how essential the event was for their development: "Insight into discipling teens," and "Tools through the Breakout Sessions—very helpful as a new ministry leader." These stories show how Conclave builds up local church leaders with wisdom they immediately take back to their communities.

Donor support directly enables moments like this: "Honestly, where I received the most knowledge was coffee conversation. This really opened the floor to real-life scenarios we got to explore with different ministry leaders." From practical training to spiritual encouragement, these experiences shape stories that donors can see, share, and celebrate.

Through breakout sessions, main stage speakers, exhibitor connections, and intentional networking, Conclave sparks insight across all areas of NextGen ministry: “The breakout sessions... gave me useful resources and inspiration for personal growth,” and “The reminder that God has given me all I need to reach the youth in my community with the Bible.”

What makes these stories especially valuable is their diversity—rural and urban leaders, full-time and bivocational pastors, new and veteran ministers all leave with distinct, meaningful outcomes. As one leader put it: “As my first year as a Youth Minister and first time at Conclave, many good connections were made for me.”

These voices, collected and shared, become living proof that donor investment isn’t just supporting an event—it’s fueling a movement. The stories of lives changed and leaders empowered will continue to serve as powerful tools for engaging donors and inviting ongoing support for future ministry impact.

11—Has this project received previous TBMF grants? If YES, list years and amounts.

2025 - \$15,000

2024 - \$15,000

2023 - \$15,000

2022 - \$19,000

2021 - \$19,000

12—Is this request for an ongoing project with a new name? If YES, what was the former name of the project?

N/A

Conclave NextGen 2026 Budget

Main stage personalities and worship professional fees, Travel: \$25,000
Facilities, Production & on-site expenses: \$50,000
Breakout session, Related expenses: \$10,000
Promotion, advertising, graphic support, Office, related expenses: \$35,000
Catering: \$22,000
TOTAL: \$142,000

How and when money will be spent and over what period of time.

Most of the grant will be spent in Aug-Sept-Oct-Nov, which is when we can more accurately determine our need beyond CP. We spend most of these funds on professional fees and travel for our main stage speakers. We will continue to pursue personalities and ministry leaders who can build up our event on a state, regional and national level. There are times when we may need a small amount in January/February for those speakers who require a deposit to secure the dates for later in the year.

Include the amount and source of any other funds you currently have or expect to have.

In addition to our CP for 2026 (\$12,800), we hope to receive assistance from Mary Hill Davis offering. Our MHD funds (\$6,200) help encourage a diverse attendance as the state we represent. Our MHD funds are used exclusively to fund our ethnic ministry scholarships from TXB churches.

We do not use any of the MHD funds for programming.