



Thank you, *God!*

Every year I look forward to gathering with pastors and other church and ministry leaders in Decatur, IL for the annual DHF national conference. DHF '25 was no different. In fact, I may have been even more excited about this year's conference than normal.

My excitement was driven by several factors. First, the number of registrations hit an all-time high. I am not all about numbers, but it indicated God is still blessing the ministry of DHF. Thirty people attended DHF '25 who had never been to a DHF event before. They were part of nine churches who were represented at their first DHF event. I was excited to meet as many of those brothers and sisters in Christ as I could!

I also enjoy rekindling friendships with people God has used to bless my life in significant ways. Many unknown to me a few years ago are now woven into the fabric of my life, and I am richer because of them. I am humbled at the number of people who turn to DHF and become an ongoing part of our shared ministry. The smiles, the hugs, the laughter and the stories all filled my heart.

Each conference has a special moment when I again realize the grace and power

of God. God held this moment back until the very end of the conference. I hugged a pastor, and we said our goodbyes. As I watched him start up the aisle of the worship center, he stopped, turned, and walked back toward me with tears streaming down his face. We embraced once again, and I just held him as he sobbed.

When he could speak, he looked directly into my eyes and said, "I need to thank you, and I need to thank DHF. You not only saved my ministry, but you also saved my life." No more words were said or needed before he turned and exited the building. For one of the few times in my life, I was speechless. Tears ran down my face and the best I could do was mumble a quiet "Thank You, God."

Your ongoing support of this ministry helped that moment happen, and I want you to know the difference you are making in the lives of many.

DHF '25 was a special experience. We marked DHF's 40th anniversary, and we are just getting started! Email me at rgrace@discipleheritage.org to learn more about how DHF can help empower you and your church thrive and fulfill the Great Commission!

Rick



Rick Grace | rgrace@discipleheritage.org

Rick is the DHF Church Liaison. He and his wife, Nancy, have served in pastoral ministry for more than 50 years. Rick earned his doctorate from the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary.



Top: A group of participants gather at the DHF National Conference in May 2025 in Decatur, IL
Left: Cam Huxford speaks at the DHF National Conference in May 2025 in Decatur, IL

Save the date!

DHF '26

April 29-30, 2026 in Decatur, IL

Block off time now to attend the 2026 DHF National Conference. It will move you! Don't just take our word for it! Check out these testimonies from church leaders at DHF '25.

My first DHF conference was in 2022. I missed the next two but couldn't wait to get back this year. Just like in 2022, and even more so, I was inspired. As one example among many I could give, the session on "vision" by Cam Huxford was a much-needed spark that has lit a fire on some things the Lord has been putting on my heart for a few years now. It was also wonderful to have time, live and in person, with the amazing group of pastors I get to see weekly on Zoom. I'm already looking forward to next year's conference!

DAVE HEDGEPEETH, PASTOR
COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC) | MARANA, ARIZONA



Attending the 2025 DHF National Conference was a defining moment for our leadership. We were challenged and renewed. Nathan Loewen called us to abide in Jesus and actively pursue a renewed church culture — reminding us that true transformation begins with His presence, not programs. Rick Grace offered steady, time-tested wisdom: lead with humility, courage, and grace. In a time of pastoral and church transition, we were reminded that change is not a disruption but a Spirit-led opportunity to clarify vision and deepen trust through Christ. We returned focused, encouraged, and committed to Christ's mission with boldness and clarity.

STEPHEN SCOTT, ELDER
BAILEY ROAD CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DOC) | CUYAHOGA FALLS, OHIO



The DHF Conference was a transformative experience for me and First Christian Church of Carthage, IL. The worship services gave me back a part of myself that had been lost since becoming a pastor. I was given the opportunity to be free to raise my hands in the air, be free from the thoughts of what comes next, free to worship as I returned to my first love. The direction the DHF is taking to enrich its effectiveness in the ministry of discipleship aligns perfectly with our mission. The breakout sessions were informative and motivational. Through this experience, I brought a new and fresh outlook home, along with a refreshed spirit. As a direct result of DHF '25, we have become a much more intentional church on a mission to create disciples. Thank you!

JEROME LEE, PASTOR
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH | CARTHAGE, ILLINOIS





LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Disciple Heritage Fellowship is officially beginning the search for its next Executive Director as Rick Grace moves toward retirement. We invite you to join us in spreading the word about this position and praying for God to lead us to the right leader.

As many of you know, DHF exists to **empower churches and pastors to thrive and fulfill the Great Commission**. For four decades, DHF has come alongside congregations and leaders across the country with encouragement, accountability, and Christ-centered resources rooted in the heart of the Restoration Movement. As our fellowship continues to grow, we believe the time is right to identify and call a new Executive Director who can help shepherd us into the next chapter of our ministry.

We're seeking a Christ-centered, visionary leader who brings spiritual depth, pastoral experience, and a passion for empowering others. The ideal candidate will be grounded in biblical truth, relationally gifted, organizationally wise, and aligned with the DNA of the Restoration Movement. Most of all, we're praying for someone who can help continue DHF's legacy of unity, mission, and multiplying healthy churches.

The job description and posting are available now at **discipleheritage.org/employment or scan the QR code**. We deeply appreciate your help in getting this ministry opportunity in front of potential candidates. If you know someone who might be a strong fit — or if you feel a nudge from the Holy Spirit to explore this calling yourself — we would love to hear from you.

To learn more or to submit a résumé, please email Dawn Wendt at dwendt@firstdecat.org.

We also invite you to **pray with us** as this process unfolds. We are confident that God is already preparing the right person for this role. As we step forward with both faith and expectation, our prayer is that DHF will continue to be a vibrant, Spirit-led fellowship that strengthens churches and leaders for generations to come.

Thank you for your partnership and prayerful support in this important season. We are grateful to be on mission with you!

- DHF SEARCH COMMITTEE



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KANSAS

Too good not to share!

We understand not everyone
could make it to DHF '25. That's
why we want to share it with you!

- ✓ YouTube videos of our speakers
- ✓ Spotify worship songs playlist

Enjoy!

YOUTUBE DHF '25 PLAYLIST



SPOTIFY WORSHIP PLAYLIST

