

2018 Small-Town Pastors' Conference



A conference tailored to pastors and wives
in town and country settings

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Eugene Habecker

Chairman of the Board of Directors, Christianity Today; President Emeritus, Taylor University; author, including *Leading with a Follower's Heart* and *Rediscovering the Soul of Leadership*



Les Lofquist

Executive Director, IFCA International; raised in a small Minnesota town; former small-town church planter and pastor; Bible college and seminary professor; resides in a small town in Michigan; ministers extensively in churches; Editor, *Voice* magazine



Brandon O'Brien

Director of Content Development and Distribution, Redeemer City to City, a global church planting network; two former small-town church pastorates; author, including *The Strategically Small Church: Intimate, Nimble, Authentic, Effective*



Paige Patterson

President, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary; former pastor, including a country church pastorate; has traveled and ministered in more than 125 countries; widely-published author; avid hunter

April 16-18
Morton, Illinois



**Rural Home
Missionary Association**

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Baker Publishing Group



Welcome!



Ron Klassen

RHMA Executive Director

We hope you can join us for our 25th conference in Illinois! Twenty-five conferences back we began with some simple desires. We wanted our conferences to –

- be tailored for those who are serving in town and country places.
- feature speakers and seminar leaders who understand town and country ministry and have a heart for it.
- validate the significance of ministry in town and country areas.
- provide a big dose of encouragement, so that attenders will return to their places of ministry with renewed passion and energy.
- be a place where insights are gleaned that will help us be more effective in the ministries God has entrusted to us.
- take place in a down-home, warm, and friendly atmosphere.

About 75 came to that first conference. About 500 came last year, from 31 states and Canada, and as far as North Pole, Alaska! And, this is just in Illinois. We've also hosted conferences in at least five other locations, and some of them multiple times.

We'd love to have you be a part of this year's conference experience!

For more information about RHMA, go to www.rhma.org.

RHMA

Box 300, Morton, IL 61550

Call toll-free: 866-263-2350 • info@rhma.org



Seminar Leaders



Marylou Habecker

Conference speaker, mentor for women, and writer for Christian publications, including *Today's Christian Woman*; former "First Lady" of Taylor University



Brent Lacy

Rural Ministries Specialist, National Network of Youth Ministries, Great Lakes Region; former rural church youth pastor; grew up on a farm in southern Illinois; head writer for *MinistryPlace.net* and author of *Rural Youth Ministry: Thrive Where You're Planted*



Miriam Lofquist

Women's Coordinator, IFCA International; raised in a small-town church planter's home and served with her husband in small-town church planting ministry; resides in a small town in Michigan; conference speaker; Editor, *Chera Fellowship* magazine



Shawn McMullen

Pastor of a small-town church in Vevay, Indiana; Editor, *The Lookout* magazine; frequently-published author, including *Unleashing the Potential of the Smaller Church* and *Releasing the Power of the Smaller Church*



Karl Vaters

Longtime Pastor, Cornerstone Christian Fellowship in Fountain Valley, California; founder of *NewSmallChurch.com*; conference speaker; writes for *Leadership Journal* and *ChristianityToday.com*; author, including *The Grasshopper Myth: Big Churches, Small Churches and the Small Thinking That Divides Us* and soon-to-be-released *Small Church Essentials*



Ryan Ward

President and Associate Professor in Practical Theology, Montana Bible College; former associate pastor of a small-town church; lives in a small town; serves as a leader in a small-town church



Barney Wells

Graduate and Seminary Dean, Associate Professor of Bible and Ministry, Lincoln Christian University; consultant and professor, RHMA's TACT Program; longtime country church pastor; author, including *Leading Through Change: Shepherding the Town and Country Church in a New Era*

Seminars

Tuesday Morning Seminars

(90 minutes each)

Brent Lacy

Better Together: Multiplying Your Community Impact Through Ministry Networking

The largest demographic in many communities is the “nones,” those with no religious affiliation. They are our friends, co-workers, and neighbors. Churches must work together to reach this growing number of people. We will look at the whys and hows of ministry networking and how it can transform your community by changing lives inside and outside the church.

Les Lofquist

Small-Town Pastor, Big-Time Stress

The pressures of leadership for the town and country pastor are no less difficult than those that our large church brothers face. Two of the biggest stress points involve criticism and conflict. How do you handle these in the small-town pastorate?

Miriam Lofquist

(Women)

Help...I'm Not Your Typical Pastor's Wife!

What is typical? In this seminar, we are going to investigate the confidence a pastor's wife can have in ministry. We will also examine biblical character that is needed when serving in this capacity.

Shawn McMullen

Things That Matter Most: Reflecting on What God Has Taught Me in 40 Years of Ministry

The longer we serve the church and the closer we draw to Christ, the clearer our perspective of ministry becomes. This seminar is a personal reflection of four decades of ministry in the local church. It attempts to answer these questions: How should I invest myself in ministry? How should I deal with obstacles and disappointments? Where should my heart be in the process?

Brandon O'Brien

A Decidedly Different Reading of Church Growth in Acts

Some argue that the “numbers” passages in Acts are evidence that God expects our churches to always be growing numerically. This session will contend that the book of Acts establishes a different – and more encouraging – pattern in its repeated reminders that the early church continually grew in number.

Karl Vaters

Big or Small: Embracing the Difference for More Innovative Ministry

The difference between small churches and big churches is not a matter of scale or one being better than the other. Many big church principles just don't translate well to a small-church context. In this session, we'll talk about those differences and why they matter, then we'll share what some of those universal small-church principles are.

Ryan Ward

When Lightning Strikes: The “Aha” That Transforms Our Concept of Peace in a Small-Town Context

The local “Hatfields and McCoys” are at it again. Truth be told, they may be members of your church family or even members of the same family. Perhaps you've even taken a side. And above all the noise, God calls for peace. But when God talks about peace, is He talking about the same thing we are? We'll undertake an exploration of the biblical concept of peace, and we'll make a discovery that can transform everything.

Tuesday Afternoon Seminars

(90 minutes each)

Miriam Lofquist

(Women)

Advantages of Women's Ministries in a Small Church

For over twenty years, my life was focused around ministry in three small church plants. I will share advantages of women's ministries, including the testimonies of others across the country who are pastors' wives in smaller churches. God uses us all!

Seminars **[Continued]**

Brandon O'Brien

Designing Ministry That Makes Sense in Your Context

Sometimes we choose programs and approaches to ministry based on trends or traditions, but they don't meet the unique needs of the communities we serve. This seminar looks at a biblical example of ministry programming from Acts and proposes a way of designing an approach to ministry that is uniquely suited to your ministry context.

Karl Vaters

How to Discover What Your Church Does Well

This session will help you as a pastor discover and feature your church's strengths, including utilizing the people and situations that make your church unique. We'll also talk about how to update stale ideas and methods without compromising your message, costing a ton of money, or abandoning the current faithful congregation.

Ryan Ward

When Thunder Rolls: Four "Ahas" That Transform Church Discipline in a Small-Town Church

Bang! Bang! Bang! "Open up! It's the elders!" Is this the perception of church discipline in the minds of our people? Is church discipline dreaded? Feared? Embraced? We'll go after a biblical understanding of church discipline – one surprisingly transformative in the small-town church.

Wednesday Seminars (repeated in the afternoon) (60 minutes each)

Eugene Habecker

Courageous Conversations and Forgiveness in Pastoral Leadership: Its Necessity and Its Pursuit

Churches of all sizes have to deal with situations where relationships between members have broken down. The scriptures provide much guidance about how to go about resolving these broken relationships, including a case study. We will deal with ways to have courageous conversations with people in these kinds of situations, discuss ways that forgiveness and reconciliation can be addressed, and introduce the concept of a forgiveness cycle.

Marylou Habecker

(Women)

Cultivating the Marriage and Ministry Garden

Being a pastor's wife is a unique privilege and calling. Our marriages need nourishment to grow like beautiful gardens. Gardens need air, water, and sunshine. The same is true in ministry marriages. In our session, we will enjoy finding ways to make sure we are getting "Air" to breathe, where to find "Water," and how to be warmed by the "Son." We will "dig into" Scripture and life lessons on the importance of planting love, forgiveness, gratitude, grace, and laughter, as well as look at "weeds" we need to pull that choke our joy.

Les Lofquist

Gaining Respect in the Small-Town Church

Each pastor, no matter the size of his flock, must have the respect of his people in order to be an effective leader. How do you gain respect as the pastor in a town and country church? Essential biblical considerations as well as sociological realities will be discussed.

Shawn McMullen

Developing Leaders in the Town and Country Church

Leadership development can be challenging in the town and country context. Even so, there are many things we can do to set the stage for quality leadership in the local church. This seminar presents both a philosophy and a strategy for developing godly leaders in your ministry.

Karl Vaters

Preparing for Tomorrow by Equipping the Church Today

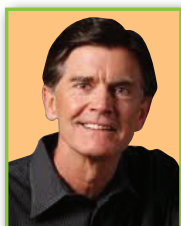
We live in a time of increasing challenges for the church. But there are great opportunities too. We'll talk about renewing the pastoral mandate to "equip the saints," including turning volunteers into leaders, mentoring by relational power, and reaching Millennials.

Barney Wells

Rural Ministry 101

This seminar is an orientation to rural ministry, geared primarily for new pastors and wives who are just getting started. Seasoned pastors and wives are welcome to attend for a refresher course!

What others are saying...



"If you're a pastor in a small town or pastor in a small church and feel like no one really understands what's going on in your life, this conference is for you. The atmosphere is warm and contagious. The teaching is quality! The people are authentic, and God greatly strengthened my heart when I was there. I highly recommend the RHMA conference."

Chip Ingram

President and radio teacher, Living on the Edge; senior pastor, Venture Christian Church, Los Gatos, California; member, RHMA's Board of Reference



"My experience is that there is nothing like RHMA's Small-Town Pastors' Conference. It's rare indeed to have such focus, purpose, fellowship, and encouragement."

Kent Hughes

Senior Pastor Emeritus, College Church, Wheaton, Illinois; member, RHMA's Board of Reference; professor of practical theology, Westminster Theological Seminary; author, including "Liberating Ministry from the Success Syndrome"



"We want and need to be encouraged in ministry by those who understand our situations, have experienced our challenges, and share our joys. RHMA offers just such encouragement and training for small town and rural church leaders. The annual conference serves as a great opportunity to develop regular relationships with pastoral leaders in similar settings, and to receive training targeted for the special needs, concerns and opportunities of churches that are the backbone of North American Christianity."

Bryan Chapell

Senior Pastor, Grace Presbyterian Church, Peoria, Illinois; conference speaker; author, including "Christ-Centered Worship"

Schedule

Monday, April 16

- 3:00-5:00 p.m. Check-in at RHMA's Home Office
310 E. Courtland, Morton
- 5:30 p.m. Supper at Grace Church
1325 E. Jefferson, Morton
- 6:00-6:45 p.m. Bookstore open
- 7:00 p.m. Plenary Session
Speaker: Paige Patterson
Storyteller: Bill Allison
- 8:30 p.m. Dessert and Fellowship
Hosted by the RHMA Board of Directors

Tuesday, April 17

- 8:00 a.m. Prayer Meeting with Carey Gossen
- 8:45 a.m. Plenary Session
Speaker: Paige Patterson
- 10:00 a.m. Break
- 10:00-10:45 a.m. Bookstore open
- 10:45 a.m. Seminars
- 12:30 p.m. Lunch / Free-time Options
- 12:30-1:30 p.m. Bookstore open
- 1:30-3:15 p.m. Seminars
- 5:30 p.m. Supper
- 6:00-6:45 p.m. Bookstore open
- 7:00 p.m. Plenary Session
Speaker: Les Lofquist
Storyteller: Bill Allison

(Continued on next page)

Wednesday 11:30

Get-to-Know-RHMA Presentation

Perhaps you are wondering, "What is RHMA and what does RHMA do?" In this luncheon meeting, information will be shared about the expanding and broad-reaching ministries of RHMA.

Schedule (Continued)

Wednesday, April 18

- 8:00 a.m. Prayer Meeting with Carey Gossen
- 8:45 a.m. Plenary Session
Speaker: Brandon O'Brien
- 10:00 a.m. Break
- 10:00-10:30 a.m. Bookstore open
- 10:30 a.m. Seminars
(repeated in the afternoon)
- 11:30 a.m. Lunch / Options
• Fellowship with other pastors and wives
• Get-to-Know-RHMA presentation
- 12:00 p.m. Board vans for Abraham Lincoln Museum and Lincoln's New Salem Historic Site
- 12:45-1:45 p.m. Seminars
(repeat of morning seminars)
- 2:00 p.m. Men's and Women's Dessert Forums
- 5:30 p.m. Supper
- 6:00-6:45 p.m. Bookstore open
- 7:00 p.m. Closing Plenary Session
Speaker: Eugene Habecker



Continuing Education Credit

You can receive 1.0 CEU credit by attending all sessions of the Small-Town Pastors' Conference. Credits will be issued through Lancaster Bible College and Graduate School, Lancaster, Pennsylvania. A fee of \$10.00 is payable at the conference upon completion of a form which will be available in the conference packets. LBC will mail you a CEU certificate following the conference.

Information

REGISTRATION COSTS

POSTMARKED BY APRIL 2:

Pastor ONLY:	\$110
Pastor & Wife:	\$150
Full-time Student:	\$50
Full-time Student & Wife:	\$90

After April 2: ADD \$20 per person to the total registration cost.

Registration includes lunches, suppers, and conference materials.

Registration costs are non-refundable after April 2.

Space is limited. First-come, first-served basis.

LODGING

The following rates have been secured at these hotels:

Holiday Inn Express and Suites Double/Single -
140 E. Ashland, Morton, IL 61550 \$113.00
Phone: 309-263-4400 (rate expires 3/17)

Park Inn by Radisson
201 E. Ashland, Morton, IL 61550 \$83.00
Phone: 309-263-5116 (rate expires 3/31)

Baymont Inn and Suites
210 E. Ashland, Morton, IL 61550 \$60.99 - \$69.00
Phone: 309-266-8888 (rates expire 4/2)

Quality Inn Double/King -
115 E. Ashland, Morton, IL 61550 \$79.99 - \$89.99
Phone: 309-266-8310 (rates expire 3/16)

Days Inn Double/King -
101 E. Ashland, Morton, IL 61550 \$78.00 - \$83.00
Phone: 309-266-1600 (rates expire 3/16)

All hotels provide a complimentary breakfast. The Holiday Inn, Park Inn, and Baymont Inn have indoor pools. To make your reservation, please call the hotel of your choice. Mention RHMA to receive these rates.

We encourage you to make your reservation early, as space is limited at these rates.

CHILDREN

While families are important to us, this conference is for pastors and wives. As a courtesy to our other participants we ask that no children attend with you. Thank you.

Location



ALL SESSIONS HELD AT

Grace Church
1325 E. Jefferson
Morton, IL 61550

RHMA IS SENSITIVE TO THE FACT THAT MANY SMALL-TOWN PASTORS CANNOT AFFORD EXPENSIVE PASTORS' CONFERENCES. THE ACTUAL COST OF THIS CONFERENCE IS CONSIDERABLY MORE THAN THE REGISTRATION FEE, BUT RHMA IS COMMITTED TO RAISING THE DIFFERENCE. DURING THE CONFERENCE, OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE PROVIDED TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARD EXPENSES, IF YOU WISH TO DO SO.



RHMA appreciates the financial support of the Village of Morton, which helps with the cost of producing and mailing this brochure and other conference marketing endeavors.

Registration

You may register online (www.rhma.org) or fill out this form and mail to RHMA, Box 300, Morton, IL 61550.

Name _____
 Wife's name (if attending) _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Church/Ministry _____
 Phone: Home/Cell _____ Work _____
 Email _____

Registration cost if postmarked by April 2: Check where appropriate
 Pastor ONLY \$110 Pastor & Wife \$150
 Full-time Student \$50 Full-time Student & Wife \$90

Registration cost _____
After April 2: Add \$20 per person to the total cost _____
Funk Prairie Home and Museum fee _____ x **\$5.00** = _____
CAT Visitors Center fee _____ x **\$5.00** = _____
New Salem fee _____ x **\$5.00** = _____
Lincoln Museum fee _____ x **\$10.00** = _____
Total \$ _____

To help us plan for seminar materials and space, please indicate your choices below.

Tuesday Morning Seminars

Pastor Wife Title

Choose ONE per person

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Better Together: Multiplying Your Community Impact Through Ministry Networking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Small-Town Pastor, Big-Time Stress |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Help...I'm Not Your Typical Pastor's Wife! |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Things That Matter Most: Reflecting on What God Has Taught Me in 40 Years of Ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | A Decidedly Different Reading of Church Growth in Acts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Big or Small: Embracing the Difference for More Innovative Ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | When Lightning Strikes: The "Aha" That Transforms Our Concept of Peace in a Small-Town Context |

Tuesday Afternoon Seminars

Note: The Tuesday afternoon activities listed on the next page coincide with these afternoon seminars.

Choose ONE per person

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Advantages of Women's Ministries in a Small Church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Designing Ministry That Makes Sense in Your Context |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | How to Discover What Your Church Does Well |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | When Thunder Rolls: Four "Ahas" That Transform Church Discipline in a Small-Town Church |

Wednesday Seminars

Note: The Wednesday afternoon activities listed on the next page coincide with these afternoon seminars and the Men's and Women's Dessert Forums.

Choose TWO per person (each seminar is repeated)

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Courageous Conversations and Forgiveness in Pastoral Leadership: Its Necessity and Its Pursuit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Cultivating the Marriage and Ministry Garden |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Gaining Respect in the Small-Town Church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Developing Leaders in the Town and Country Church |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Preparing for Tomorrow by Equipping the Church Today |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Rural Ministry 101 |

Women's Dessert Forum Men's Dessert Forum

(continued on the next page)

THREE WAYS TO PAY

1. Make check payable to RHMA and mail with this form.

2. Or pay with: _____ Visa _____ MasterCard

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

3 Digit Security Code

Signature _____

3. Or register online (www.rhma.org) and pay there with a credit card or from your bank account.

Questions? Give us a call: 866-263-2350.

Activities

In addition to seminars, the following activities are options for Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon. Please check the activity of your choice.

To help us with planning, please indicate your choices below.

Tuesday, April 17, Activities

(please check one per person)

Pastor Wife Event

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Funk Prairie Home and Museum (\$5.00/person) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Caterpillar Visitors Center (\$5.00/person) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ladies Shopping (no cost) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Golf Outing (to be determined) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Trap Shooting and Fishing (no cost) |

Wednesday, April 18, Activities

(please check one per person)

Pastor Wife Event

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum (\$10.00/person) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | New Salem (\$5.00/person) |

Some activities have limited space and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Funk Prairie Home and Gem & Mineral Museum

(Limited to 30 people)

Lafayette Funk was a founder of the Chicago Union Stockyards and director of the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. His family had one of the largest farms in America and created the first commercial hybrid corn. His grandson traveled extensively for the Funk Brothers Seed Co. and collected gems and minerals from around the world. The farm was electrified in 1910 (first in the world) and the 13-room home, built in 1864, has been extensively restored to its original condition. The museum houses more than 4,000 specimens, from gemstones of every type to an intact saber-toothed tiger skull! **The cost of the bus trip is \$5.00/person.**



Caterpillar Visitors Center

(No limit)

The Caterpillar Visitors Center in Peoria is a fascinating look at the company

CAT

— from the humble beginnings of the first tractor to the company's present-day leadership in building infrastructure and powering the planet.

You'll enjoy experiencing Caterpillar on a self-guided journey of interactive displays and exhibits. Climb into the seat of a massive two-story Cat® 797 truck and take a virtual ride into a customer's mine site down a haul road. Unleash your inner engineer and design your very own Cat machine. Hop onto a simulator and see first-hand what it's like to operate equipment the way real-life operators do. Experience the sheer massive volume of the rugged Cat machines and learn of the customer-driven design and innovation that has made Caterpillar a world-leading manufacturer.

The cost is \$5.00 per person.



Ladies Shopping

(Limited to 15 people)

Take a van ride to Bloomington for an afternoon of shopping at an indoor mall with over 25 stores. **No cost.**

Golf Outing

(Limited to 15 people. Driving maps will be available.)

Weather and interest permitting, we will schedule a golf outing for Tuesday afternoon. Please mark "Golf Outing" if you are interested in participating.

The cost will be determined. We will contact you before the conference with further information.

Trap Shooting and Fishing

(No limit)

Weather permitting, we will fish and shoot clay pigeons at an RHMA friend's hobby farm. Guns and fishing gear will be provided at **no cost.**



Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum

Step through the doors of the official Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum, and you'll feel as if you've stepped into the life of our 16th president, widely acclaimed as our nation's greatest. The museum features state-of-the-art exhibits, interactive displays, and multimedia programs. It also contains the world's largest collection of documentary material related to the life of Lincoln. Join us for an experience you will never forget, and learn more about Abraham Lincoln and his legacy to the United States and the world.



This tour is limited to 15 people.

The cost for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum is **\$10.00 per person.** Advanced tickets for the tour are required. Therefore no refund will be given.

Lincoln's New Salem Historic Site

(Limited to 15 people)

New Salem is a reconstruction of where Abraham Lincoln lived from 1831 to 1837. While in his twenties, the future U.S. President made his living in this frontier village as a boatman, soldier in the Black Hawk War, general store owner, postmaster, surveyor, and rail splitter, and was first elected to the Illinois General Assembly. **The cost is \$5.00 per person.**



On-your-own Activities

Driving Maps will be available at the Information Center

Ronald Reagan Museum at Eureka College

(Twenty minutes from Morton. Driving maps will be available.)

President Reagan's alma mater houses a collection of over 2,000 items from his student days, movie career, and political life. It's the largest collection of Reagan memorabilia outside of the Reagan Library in California. **No Cost.**



Bass Pro Shops – East Peoria

(Ten minutes from Morton. Driving maps will be available.)

Bass Pro Shops is an outdoor retail leader in hunting, camping, nature gifts, outdoor cooking, and much more. They have become one of America's premier outdoor retailers with destination outdoor retail stores across America and Canada, serving over 75 million sportsmen a year. Each store is unique and offers a truly unforgettable shopping experience – as close to the Great Outdoors as you can get indoors!



Metamora Courthouse State Historic Site

(Twenty minutes from Morton. Driving maps will be available.)

The Metamora Courthouse State Historic Site is located in Metamora, Illinois. Built in 1845, the courthouse is best known for being only one of two surviving Illinois Eighth Circuit courthouses where Abraham Lincoln practiced law. **No Cost.**



Box 300
Morton, IL 61550

*Join us at RHMA's
Small-Town Pastors'
Conference!*

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