

2nd  
Annual

# SERVE TO LEAD Conference

Keynote Speaker LEE KRICHER  
Presents: **"Elevating the  
Health of Your  
Organization's Culture"**

**Thursday October 9  
9am-3pm**

## What to Expect:

This one day professional conference will include a thought-provoking keynote, a panel discussion featuring area leaders, lunch, small group discussions, and new connections to help you advance the mission of your organization.



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Beaver County**



Group pricing available!

For more information,  
contact John Merola,  
[doma@beavercountnymca.org](mailto:doma@beavercountnymca.org)

## Key Note & Panelist

# SERVE TO LEAD Conference

### **"Elevating the Health of Your Organization's Culture"**

Lee Kricher serves as Principal Chair with C12 Business Forums in Pittsburgh and Southwestern Pennsylvania. C12 is the world's largest peer-learning organization for Christian CEOs, business owners, and executives, serving 4,000 members throughout the United States and internationally. C12 Pittsburgh CEO Forums and Key Player Forums launch date - September 2025.



Prior to joining C12, Lee served as the President of the Pittsburgh Leadership Foundation, with a mission to bring leaders together for the good of the city. In that capacity, Lee helped to elevate the leadership effectiveness and impact of leaders across the city who joined Senior Leader Collaboratives and Emerging Leader Collaboratives. He also mobilized thousands of volunteers to pack over five million meals for distribution by the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank. Previously, Lee was Senior Pastor of Amplify Church, a multi-generational Pittsburgh-based church, which grew under his leadership from under 200 members to over 2000 members.

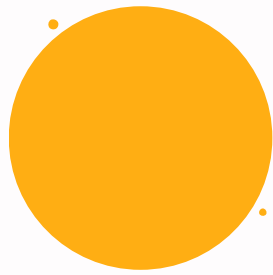
Earlier in his career, Lee served as Vice President of Leadership Development at Pittsburgh-based Development Dimensions International and Executive Coaching Practice Leader at Boston-based Linkage, Inc. Lee's clients included the Federal Judicial Center, Solvay Pharmaceuticals, McKesson, Scientific Atlanta, Citrix Systems, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Ernst & Young, General Motors, Dow, Chick-fil-A, K. Hovnanian, Caterpillar, and NIKE. Throughout Lee's career, he has been a sought-after coach and mentor in the areas of leadership development, organizational change, and leadership succession.

Lee is the author of three books - Seamless Leadership Transition: A Guide for Leaders and Board Members, Seamless Pastoral Transition: 3 Imperatives - 6 Pitfalls, and For a New Generation: A Practical Guide for Revitalizing Your Church. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Human Resources from Geneva College, an MBA from the University of Pittsburgh, a Master in Global Leadership from Fuller Theological Seminary, and a Doctorate from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Lee and his wife, Linda, live in Oakmont, PA. They have two daughters and five grandchildren. Lee's life verse echoes the wise prayer of every Christ-centered leader, "Lead me to the rock that is higher than I." Psalm 61:2

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## TO LEAD Conference Panelists



**"Elevating the Health of Your Organization's Culture"**



Ryan O'Dowd

Vice President of Technology  
Portage Learning



Shannon Libengood

Executive Pastor  
North Way Christian



Moderated by Holly McIlwain



Doug Smith

Assistant Executive Director  
Light of Life Rescue Mission



Mike Harich

Chief Executive Officer  
Beaver YMCA

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### "Elevating the Health of Your Organization's Culture"

#### Ryan O'Dowd

Vice President of Technology, **Portage Learning**



Ryan joined Portage in 2018 to lead an infrastructure project to keep Portage's technology at the forefront of online education through its continued growth. Since then, he has overseen the creation of a secure electronic-transcript transfer service, LMS migrations, custom development for internal tooling, and many other projects.

Ryan has a strong background in technology, having founded multiple startups and having consulted for several others as well as working for several large corporations from California to Delaware. "I'm passionate about building great teams and great products. At Portage, we focus on building excellent services that are scalable to reach as many students as possible."

As the Senior Director of Engineering, Ryan oversees the software development, IT services, and data science teams at Portage. "Leveraging technology to make education more accessible, more engaging, and ultimately, more effective is a fulfilling pursuit. We're committed to creating the best resources for our students in order to maximize their educational experience with us and support them in their academic journeys."

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/rodowd/>

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**"Elevating the Health of Your Organization's Culture"**



**Shannon Libengood**

Executive Pastor of Ministry, **North Way Christian Community**

Shannon is a Pittsburgh native and graduate of Grove City College with a degree in Christian Studies. She served for 8 years in cross-cultural ministry in Asia before returning to Pittsburgh to join the staff of North Way Christian Community where she has served in a variety of roles including student ministry, finance and missions, since 2005. She currently serves as the Executive Pastor of Ministry and is a member of North Way's Directional Leadership Team. She also serves on the board of Catalyst Services, an organization resourcing churches for effective missional engagement.

Shannon and her husband, Ernie, have three children: Ethan, Kaleigh and Brennan.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/shannon-libengood-83531aa4/>

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### "Elevating the Health of Your Organization's Culture"

#### Mike Harich

Chief Executive Officer, **Beaver YMCA**



Mike is a 30-year YMCA employee. His career started in 1994 as an intern at the Beaver County YMCA. Since then, he has held the positions of Youth Director, Associate Executive Director, Executive Director and Vice President of Operations. Currently he is the President/CEO.

Born and raised in Monaca, Pennsylvania, Mike earned an associate's degree in Business Management from the Community College of Beaver County, an undergraduate degree in Sport Management from Slippery Rock University, and a graduate degree in Educational Administration from Franciscan University of Steubenville.

Mike has served in various capacities throughout his career including Facilitator for program assessments at local YMCAs, Program Cabinet and Youth and Community Development Cluster Coordinator, MDQP Coordinator for Western Pennsylvania, Committee Member (NAYDO Pittsburgh), Mid-East Region AYP Conference and Pittsburgh Program Schools. He also served as the two-time director of the Pittsburgh Program School and Regional Training School. He served as a member of the YMCA of the USA Review Panel for various grants and is a Trainer/Facilitator for the YMCA of the USA's Career Development Program which includes Principles and Practices, Program Management, Supervision and PTO. Mike was also the past President of AYP Chapter 15.

Mike is a six-time Ironman and has completed sixteen 70.3 events and many other ultra-endurance events. He is married to Jen and has four children ages 22, 20 19, and 18. Mike's commitment to the YMCA Movement comes from being spiritually called into the profession with a positive, serving attitude. <https://www.linkedin.com/in/mike-harich-66028299/>

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### "Elevating the Health of Your Organization's Culture"

#### **Doug Smith**

Assistant Executive Director,  
**Light of Life Rescue Mission**



Doug is deeply immersed in the world of making a difference. As the Assistant Executive Director at Light of Life Rescue Mission, a non-profit organization close to his heart, Doug brings hope and healing to the lives of men, women, and families struggling with homelessness, poverty, and addiction. Beyond the non-profit realm, Doug is the heart and soul behind L3 Leadership and the L3 Leadership Podcast, a movement that thrives on fostering connections and growing leaders.

Doug isn't just an entrepreneur; he's a companion on the journey of personal growth. A sought-after speaker and a coach admired for his insights, he dedicates his time to empowering others to embrace their leadership potential.

He finds his greatest joy at home with his wife, Laura, and their four children.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/dougsmithlive/>

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### **“Elevating the Health of Your Organization’s Culture”**

**Holly McIlwain**

Founder, **Brave Women Project**

Chief Navigator, **Narrow Spaces Consulting**



Holly is the Founder of a nonprofit serving professional women in 18 states and 2 countries, the Talent Development Partner for a Florida-based retained executive search firm, and the “Chief Navigator” for the Narrow Spaces. she also serves on the Board of Directors for Beaver County YMCA and has a 25 year career focusing on People + Culture, because work should never just be work, and people matter.

She is a Certified Professional Behavior Analyst with DISC, with CPDFA, GALLUP Certified Strengths Coach/Trainer and the author of "For She Who Leads: Practical Wisdom from a Woman who Serves", “For SheWho Grieves: Practical Wisdom for Living Hope”, and a contributing author in “Twenty Won”. She resides in Beaver County with her family.

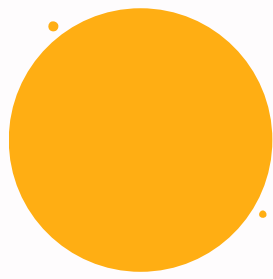
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/hollyjoymcilwain/>

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## **“Elevating the Health of Your Organization’s Culture”**

### **Event Schedule**

**8:00am-9:00am Doors Open** - Enjoy Coffee, Fellowship, and Visiting our Sponsors

**9:00am Welcome** - John Merola - Opening Prayer

**9:30am Keynote Presentation - Elevating the Health of Your Organization’s Culture** with **LEE KRICHER**

**11:00am Panel Discussion** - Courageous Conversations for Leaders who Serve

**12:15pm Lunch**

**1:15pm Smaller Group Dialogues and Breakout Conversations**

**2:15pm Closing Comments from YMCA CEO Mike Harich**

**2:45pm Closing Prayer and Comments from YMCA Director of Mission John Merola**

**3:00pm END**

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