

Event Planner FAQs

Event planners - If you have any other questions that aren't answered here, please ask Scott Lesley (Michelle's husband and speaking engagements coordinator) or Michelle as you're working together to plan the event. The topics below are alphabetized for your convenience.

Books and Merch

- *We'd like to offer some of Michelle's books and merchandise for sale at the conference. What is available?*

Michelle does not have any books or merchandise available for sale at this time. All of her Bible studies and other materials are available for free at her blog, MichelleLesley.com. If you'd still like to offer books and merch at the conference, Michelle would be happy to make some recommendations of doctrinally sound authors and vendors.

Children

- *Is it OK for the women attendees to bring their children or teens into the conference sessions with them?*

Teenage girls are welcome and encouraged to attend Michelle's events. Teenage boys are considered to be men for the purposes of Michelle's events and are not invited to attend (also see "Men" below).

Younger children may attend only if accompanied by their mothers or another responsible adult woman attendee, however, we encourage "Dad care" or other childcare arrangements during the event if at all possible. Our purpose is twofold- a) that Mom might get a brief, uninterrupted time of spiritual renewal, and b) we remember what it was like when we were children - having to sit still and be quiet for hours on end at a boring adult event is difficult and unpleasant when you're little.

Please note that all of Michelle's teaching sessions are geared toward adults, and she occasionally mentions adult topics (e.g. homosexuality, abuse, lust, transgenderism, etc.). Michelle deals with these topics in a reverent and adult-appropriate way, but moms should be aware that if they bring their children, they might get some interesting questions in the car on the way home! :O)

Contact/Communication

- *Can I get Scott's/Michelle's phone number(s) so we can discuss the details of the conference by phone?*

We would love nothing more than a friendly chat and look forward to fellowshiping with you at the event. However, we have found that it is best to conduct all business related to the conference via **email**. This keeps us organized and gives both you and us a written record of what was and was not agreed to. Additionally, if either party forgets a particular detail, we can go back to our email thread and look it up without having to call and ask the other party to jog our memory about things that were discussed on the phone.

Michelle will provide her phone number within a few days of the event (earlier if necessary) in order to stay in touch with the person picking her up from the airport (to report delays, etc.).

Although it's rare for this to be an issue, and we feel very awkward even bringing it up, Michelle's phone number is for conference-related business and travel purposes **only**. We dearly love all of our conference planners, and we are honored that you would want to chitchat or ask non-conference related questions from time to time, but there have been so many of you wonderful brothers and sisters over the years that Michelle is not able to maintain ongoing phone/text counseling or friendship-type relationships, or to answer questions unrelated to conference business via phone/text before or after your event.

We would also ask that you please not share Michelle's phone number with anyone other than those who need it for coordinating travel/accommodations details for your own event. If you know someone who is interested in booking Michelle for an event, please direct her to this link (rather than sharing Michelle's phone number) so we can provide her with the information she needs: <https://michellelesley.com/speaking-engagements/> (Michelle does not answer calls from unknown numbers and usually blocks them due to a high volume of spam calls, so sharing the link above is really the best way for interested planners to get in touch.)

- *What about discussing conference details via social media private messages?*

At any given time, we could be dealing with a dozen or more event planners. Our email program allows us to set up separate folders for each conference so we can keep them all straight, keep everything in one place, and make sure nothing slips through the cracks. Random social media private messages slip through the cracks. We need you to email us instead.

Food

- *Are we responsible for providing Michelle's meals during her stay?*

Yes. Meals during travel are covered by Michelle's speaking or mileage fee, but you will be responsible for providing her meals from the time of her arrival to the time of her departure. A meal at the church, in someone's home, fast food, anything like that is fine. Michelle is not expecting to be wined and dined, just not to starve. :o)

- *Michelle will be staying in a host home, and the host would like to know what she'd like for breakfast.*

Michelle doesn't normally eat breakfast, but coffee with real sugar and some sort of milk, cream, or creamer available would be nice.

- *Does Michelle have any food allergies or dietary restrictions?*

Nope.

- *We would like to take Michelle out to a restaurant to eat. Are there any sorts of cuisine she particularly likes or doesn't like?*

Michelle is not crazy about southern Asian (Indian, Thai, Vietnamese) or Mediterranean (Greek, Lebanese) food, but if that's where everybody else wants to go, she is flexible. (Just please don't be embarrassed if she orders chicken nuggets off the kiddie menu. :o) Pretty much everything else (Italian, Mexican, Chinese, American, etc.) is fine. (Also see "Souvenirs and Sightseeing" section below.)

- *We would like to put together a hostess basket with Michelle's favorite snacks. What does she like?*

Everything. That's why she has to skip breakfast. :o) But, seriously, a few helpful hints for hostess baskets:

- ❖ Please don't feel *obligated* to provide snacks or a hostess bag/basket. Michelle deeply appreciates and enjoys them but doesn't want to add snack shopping to your conference to-do list. She is there to serve you, not for you to serve her.
- ❖ If you want to provide a bag/basket, we would suggest limiting its size and contents if Michelle is flying to and from your event. Michelle usually travels with only a carry-on suitcase, and has limited space to bring things back with her. For this reason we would suggest not including fresh fruit as it's bulky and doesn't travel well. Also nothing in a glass container or a container that might leak or explode if squished into her suitcase. (Bear in mind the FAA's [size restrictions](#) on containers of liquids and [other TSA restrictions](#).)
- ❖ If there's a particular snack that's iconic to your local area, or a special recipe of someone in your church, Michelle would love to try it.
- ❖ Michelle doesn't like anything with coconut in it, but other than that, she likes most snacks. A few favorites: Cheerwine (soda - *if* it's easily available in your area), Oreos, Nutter Butters, M&Ms, trail mix (especially the kind with peanuts, raisins, and M&Ms), granola bars, brownies, Reese's, Twix, Snickers, Doritos, Cheetos, pretzels. A bottle of water or two is also nice. But feel free to get whatever. Michelle will probably like it and also likes trying new things.

Handouts and Discussion Questions

- *Does Michelle have an outline for her teaching sessions that we can provide our ladies with?*

Yes. Michelle has 1-2 page handouts for each of her teaching sessions. They are in Google Docs (what you're reading right now) format, and she will email them to you in reasonable advance of the event so you can print them out and make as many copies as you need. You're welcome to print them out as is, on whatever color paper you like, reduce them to fit into your program booklet, etc.

- *We are going to have round table discussion groups following Michelle's teaching session(s). Can Michelle provide us with discussion questions based on her teaching session(s)?*

Yes. Michelle would be delighted to provide you with several discussion questions that relate to her teaching session(s). No charge- this is included in her speaking fee. (If you need these, please request them ASAP after booking.)

Lodging

- *Does Michelle prefer to stay in a hotel or host home?*

If logistics and cost aren't an issue, Michelle has found that it's easiest on everyone if she stays in a hotel (or Vrbo, Airbnb, etc.). However, if that would be too expensive or inconvenient in some way, she's happy to stay in a host home.

If the event is a retreat or is being held at a retreat center, Michelle is fine with staying on site as long as she's able to have a private room. (She has found that, when bunking with the other ladies, it's too tempting to stay up late chatting, which is detrimental to her voice for teaching the next day.)

If it is at all possible (and we understand that sometimes it's not, and that's OK), Michelle would prefer to spend all of her nights, or as many nights as possible, at the same place. (Spending the first night in a host home, the second in a hotel, the third in another host home, etc., necessitates a lot of unpacking and repacking.)

If your event is within driving distance and Scott is driving Michelle, we will need lodging that can accommodate both of us.

Wherever Michelle stays, she will need access to **reliable** WiFi.

Men

- *Does Michelle teach pastors, men, or at co-ed events?*

No. In [obedience to Scripture](#), Michelle does not preach to or teach the Bible or biblical topics to men, and men are not permitted at her events as attendees wishing to be instructed. (See the remainder of this section.)

- *Is it OK for a man to run the sound board, be in the room for security, work in the kitchen or adjacent space where he might happen to overhear Michelle, etc., while Michelle is teaching?*

Yes. Michelle is totally fine with that. Those men are there to do a job, not to be taught, and Michelle is not teaching them, but the women present. The Bible doesn't prohibit men from inadvertently overhearing a woman teach other women, it prohibits women from intentionally teaching men. (See #2 [here](#) for more info.)

- *Is it OK for a pastor/elder to sit in on Michelle's teaching to make sure she's teaching sound doctrine to the women of his church? Is it OK for a husband/father to do likewise for his wife/daughters?*

It's more than OK, it's encouraged. In fact, don't be surprised if Michelle hugs him and thanks him profusely. :o) It would be helpful to Michelle for someone to give her a heads up that that's why he's there before she starts teaching, because if she thinks he's an attendee seeking to be taught, she will ask him - kindly, of course, but from the stage in front of everybody - to leave. She's done it before. (See [here](#), and #2 & 7 [here](#) for more info.)

Music

- *We are going to have a few worship songs before each of Michelle's teaching sessions. Does she have a favorite hymn/worship song we could include, or any other input on the music?*

Michelle has lots of favorite hymns, so her "favorite" hymn could be any one of dozens on any given day. Feel free to ask as you're planning and she will tell you her "favorite" that day. (Naturally, it is absolutely fine to choose whichever doctrinally sound hymns/worship songs you like!)

Respectfully, we would request that **no music from doctrinally unsound or sin affirming sources (such as Bethel, Hillsong, Elevation, Phil Wickham, Brandon Lake, Kari Jobe, Maverick City, etc.)** be used during the conference. Michelle has [spoken out zealously](#) against churches using music from these sources, and in addition to the reasons she has cited for this, we believe it would be confusing to her followers to find out she was the featured speaker at an event with this type of music. If you're not sure about a particular song or group, please feel free to ask us.

If you would like to hire a dynamic and doctrinally sound worship leader for your women's event, we highly recommend our friend, and wife of our worship pastor, Amanda Jo Hess. Please check out her [Facebook page](#), which includes her contact information and other helpful links. (Amanda's

fees, travel expenses, etc., are separate from Michelle's fees, travel expenses, etc., and must be worked out with Amanda directly.)

We would encourage you to allot ample time in your program for music, announcements, door prizes, etc. Michelle will speak for approximately 45-60 minutes during each session.

Payment

- *When and how should I pay Michelle's speaking and/or mileage fee?*

Most conference coordinators simply hand her a check at the event, which is totally fine. If you will be paying by check, we ask that you please make sure the person writing the check spells Michelle's name correctly. It is **Michelle Lesley**. "Michelle" has two L's. Lesley is her last name, not her first name, and is spelled with an "-ey" at the end, not an "-ie".

Payment via PayPal is also acceptable (preferable, if Michelle is appearing virtually at your event). Please ask Scott about this option.

If we are driving to your event and you're paying mileage, you're welcome to write separate checks for the speaking fee and mileage, or combine the two in one check. Whatever works best for your church's bookkeeping is fine with us. Mileage expenses may be paid the day of the event, but if you prefer to mail a check in advance of the event, we ask that you please mail it no earlier than four weeks prior to the event.

We do ask that you **not** pay Michelle's speaking fee until the day of the event instead of paying her in advance. If Michelle or the event planners have to cancel for some dire reason, it is much easier on us if you have not yet paid Michelle than for Michelle to reimburse a payment that has already been made.

Q & A Questions

- *How does Michelle like to receive questions during the Q&A session?*

Michelle is completely flexible on this and will defer to your preferences since this is your event. If you'd like to have a mic for people to ask questions from the floor, that's fine. If you'd like to have people write their questions down and drop them into a basket that's fine too. There's also an [app](#) you can use that allows participants to submit questions electronically. If you'd like to use some combination of these, that's also fine.

The only thing we would add here is that some women aren't comfortable speaking at a mic in front of people, and some have questions they prefer to ask anonymously, so giving them the option of writing questions down can be helpful. Additionally, writing questions down helps the questioner to be more concise and tends to help the Q&A session move along from question to question more quickly. Michelle does not need to see the questions in advance.

Scheduling an Event Date

- *We'd like to schedule Michelle to speak at our event one year (or more) from now. Does Michelle schedule events that far in advance?*

Yes, but we do want to give you a heads up about that. We are currently in the blessed season of life in which our children are having children! Mamie and Pop like to be there when a new grandbaby is born, so if you'd like to schedule Michelle for an event more than seven months in advance, please be aware that due dates of our grandchildren may be a factor when discussing your event date.

- *We noticed on the Speaking Engagement Request form that all of your conference formats are Friday/Saturday or Saturday only. We'd like to schedule Michelle to speak at our weekend retreat which starts Friday evening and ends with a final session Sunday morning. Is that possible?*

No. We strongly believe in the gathering of the entire Body on the Lord's Day. Therefore, Michelle does not teach at retreats or other women's events that take place on Sunday morning outside the gathering of the local church.

Security

- *Does Michelle have any security needs or requirements during the event?*

Yes. We request that for Michelle's security and the security of the attendees, men (the appropriate number of men depends on the size of the venue and expected number of attendees) be present and **vigilant** at the conference venue at all times. Our concerns are twofold: physical safety (e.g. an armed attacker) and event disruption (e.g. a woman posing as an attendee in order to protest or disrupt the event). Minimally, we would suggest a man be stationed at the entrance to the venue as well as in or near the room in which the event is taking place.

Souvenirs and Sightseeing

- *We would like to give Michelle some books / gifts / souvenirs. What kinds of things does she like?*

It's incredibly kind and touching that so many of our hosts want to give Michelle gifts. Unfortunately, when Michelle flies, she usually packs only a carry-on suitcase and has limited space to bring things back with her. (See also "hostess baskets" under "Food" above) But what she would love instead is if you would...

- ❖ Take her out for (or prepare for her) a meal or dish that's iconic to your area. Michelle has enjoyed clam chowder in Cape Cod, deep dish pizza in Chicago, a bison burger in Wyoming, etc. (Just be sure to check with Michelle first. There are a few food textures she can't handle.)
- ❖ Take her to a landmark or site that's special to your immediate area. Whether it's Mt. Rushmore or the world's largest ball of string, Michelle would love to see it.
- ❖ If you would like to include some small gift items in a hostess basket, Michelle would be delighted with them. (One item she has enjoyed collecting of late is non-breakable souvenir-type Christmas ornaments pertaining to the state or area she is visiting.) We do ask that you please avoid anything glass and keep in mind the airlines' [size restrictions](#) on containers of liquids, creams/lotions, etc., in carry-on bags, and [other TSA restrictions](#). Michelle does not want to have to forfeit your lovely gifts at airport security screening.

Of course, if any of these aren't feasible, or are expensive, inconvenient, etc., we ask that you please not put yourself to any trouble or extra cost. Again, Michelle is coming to serve you, not for you to serve her.

Tech

- *Does Michelle use PowerPoint-type projected computer slides and graphics or videos?*

No. The more tech you use, the more things can go wrong, so Michelle's presentations are very low tech. She uses printable handouts (see "Handouts" section above) instead of slides.

- *What will Michelle need while she is teaching?*

Michelle will need a lectern sturdy enough to hold her laptop (for her speaking notes - she will *not* need WiFi while speaking). Some music stands are notorious for sliding down if you put anything heavier than a piece of paper on them, so be sure to check that, if that's what she's using. Other than that, a bottle of water would be nice.

- *We are a small church and the only place we can hold our conference is in our sanctuary. Is Michelle OK with using the pulpit to teach from?*

Yes. A pulpit is a piece of furniture. It does not have any supernatural powers that imbue the person using it with any sort of spiritual authority. On the other hand, if, for any reason, you would prefer that Michelle *not* use the pulpit, we are totally fine with that, too. Michelle's philosophy is that she will stand and teach wherever you tell her to stand and teach. :o)

- *What kind of microphone does Michelle prefer?*

Anything but a hand held, please, if possible. Michelle is virtually incapable of speaking without gesticulating, so losing the use of a hand might render her mute. (You'll see. :o) Lapel/Lavalier mics are fine. Stationary (mic stand, pulpit mic) mics are also fine as Michelle doesn't walk around when she teaches.

- *Is it OK to livestream, record, distribute recordings of, etc., Michelle's teaching at our event?*

Yes, absolutely! This is your event. Please do whatever you like regarding streaming, recording, and distribution.

Theme

- *Can the titles of Michelle's teaching sessions be modified slightly to fit better with our theme?*

Absolutely, just please ask Michelle to do the modifying so she can make sure the title is true to what she's teaching *and* fits with your theme. (You're welcome to make suggestions, though.) For example, if the theme of your event is "Women of Faithfulness" and one of the teaching sessions you've selected is "Managing Media," Michelle can alter that title (for your programs and on her handouts) to "Faithfully Managing Media" or "Managing Media for Women of Faithfulness" or something like that.

Travel and Transportation

- *Does Michelle drive or fly to events?*

Usually, if it's more than a 6-8 hour drive from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Michelle flies. If it's in the neighborhood of 6-8 hours or less, Scott typically drives her.

If flying, Michelle flies out of Baton Rouge (BTR), which currently offers **only** Delta, American, and United airlines. She is fine with flying into whichever airport is closest and most convenient to your event.

Scott will discuss further travel arrangement details (including mileage, if driving) with event coordinators via email. **Please do not purchase airline tickets without coordinating with Scott first.**

- *How do we handle ground transportation (to/from the airport, conference venue, etc.) during Michelle's stay if she is flying in?*

Typically, one or more of the event planners will pick Michelle up from the airport, drive her to her hotel/host home, to and from the conference venue, and so on, during her stay. However, if this doesn't work for you, you are welcome to lend or rent her a car, or make Uber, Lyft, or other ride-sharing, or taxi arrangements. (Ground transportation expenses are not included in Michelle's speaking fee.)