**Introduction**

[Michigan Association of Non-public Schools](http://m-a-n-s.org/) (MANS) was founded in 1972 as an association of Catholic Schools of the seven dioceses of Michigan, The Michigan District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS), and Christian Schools International (CSI). Since its inception, MANS has sought to provide relevant, Christ-centered professional development for the educators we serve.

Founded in 1920, [Christian Schools International](https://csionline.org/about/) (CSI) was the first national organization to exclusively serve Christian schools. Through accreditation, curriculum, employee benefits, and leadership development, CSI is dedicated to increasing the effectiveness of Christian schools as they seek to transform the world for Christ.

[Christian Educator Association](https://www.ceateachers.org/) (CEA) inspires and supports Christian educators and encourages community by providing opportunities for spiritual and professional growth based on God's Word. CEA holds an annual conference which has grown from 140 teachers who attended that first convention to the almost 1700 who attend today.

In 2026 these organizations will combine two well-established events - the MANS Conference and Expo and CEA Christian Educators’ Conference for a larger two-day event to unite Christan educators from across the Great Lakes Region. The ***Great Lakes Unity*** conference will develop, inspire and connect the members of the three host organizations. Located in Grand Rapids, Michigan both the Catholic Diocese of Grand Rapids and CSI District Two have partnered to graciously host and will act as key partners in planning our time together.

**Event Details**

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| **Date:** | October 15-16, 2026 |  |
| **Location:** | Amway Grand Plaza and DeVos Center  187 Monroe Ave NW  Grand Rapids, MI 49503 |  |
| **Overnight accommodations:** | [Amway Grand Plaza](https://amwaygrand.com/)  187 Monroe Ave NW  Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503  616.774.2000  [Courtyard by Marriott Downtown](https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/grrdt-courtyard-grand-rapids-downtown/overview/)  11 Monroe Avenue NW  Grand Rapids, MI 49503  616.242.6000 | [AC Hotel](https://www.marriott.com/en-us/hotels/grrar-ac-hotel-grand-rapids-downtown/overview/?scid=f2ae0541-1279-4f24-b197-a979c79310b0)  50 Monroe Avenue NW  Grand Rapids 49503  616.776.3200 |

**Attendees**

More than 3,000 faith-based educators from across the Great Lakes Region will attend this conference. Approximately 80% of the attendees will be K-12 educators. The remainder will be administrators and other stakeholders.

**Conference Structure**

The two-day event includes workshops, educational excursions, expo area, social events and worship. Each morning begins with praise music, devotions, and a keynote speaker. The first day includes dedicated expo hall time so attendees can visit with the 100+ vendors. Over the course of two days, there will be more than 100 diverse breakout sessions on content for K-12 educators, administrators and the stakeholders of faith-based schools.

**Other Events**

A number of events will be held in conjunction with this event. More information will be provided planning continues.

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| **The MANS Awards Dinner**  Location: TBD  October 14, 2026 | **CSI Preconference Sessions**  Location: TBD  October 14, 2026 |

**Points of Contact**

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