

A woman with long dark hair is sitting on a white sofa in a living room. She is wearing a maroon lace top and a black skirt. The room has a patterned curtain and a floor lamp in the background.

# *Lee Anna Stoker*

*Nurturing healthy, mature,  
people who change lives,  
cities, and the world  
through unconditional love.*

**HUMANITARIAN | ADVOCATE | VISIONARY**

# *A Radical Departure from Conventional Leadership*

Lee Anna is an accidental leader, systems strategist, and road-tested educator who spent seven years discovering that impact is lived, not taught. After 3 decades in the leadership seat, my mission remains the same: **Nurturing healthy, mature people who change lives, cities, and the world through unconditional love.**

I don't want theory; I want transformation. I want a world where leadership isn't a title you're given, but a life you've actually lived. I think we all hunger for a way to turn the chaos of our communities (and our own lives) into something sustainable and rooted in unconditional love, but we've been told we need a traditional resume to start. I'm here to tell you that's a lie, and I am uniquely determined to show you why.

At 16, I went on the road to understand communities. From there, I didn't head for a corporate office; I headed for the mountains of Peru and the front lines of the Zapatista uprising. I traded a 'proper job' for a degree in Revolution and a seven-year journey that took me from the Andes to living on the fringes of society in New Orleans. I didn't learn about human suffering or systemic change in a textbook; I learned it on the road, in the streets, and among the 'unqualified.'

I am speaking to the leaders who are tired of the 'striving' and ready for the 'being.' To those who are ready to stop managing chaos and start taming it through radical, unconditional love and systemic grit.

**Let's rewrite the inherited definitions of what a leader looks like. Let's build communities that offer a safe landing for the weary and strategies that actually work for the marginalized. It's time to own a life of impact while you're still in it, and build a legacy that truly changes our cities.**

*Lee Anna Stoker*

*Leading  
the Local  
Discourse:*

Wrightsville  
BEACH MAGAZINE

WILMA

*VoyageRaleigh*

WECT6  
WILMINGTON



NEIGHBORS  
OF OGDEN



## *get to know Lee Anna*

From her early days as a student to her current role as a globally recognized community leader, Lee Anna has dedicated her life to loving people unconditionally and nurturing them toward maturity and personal wellbeing.

Lee Anna went to the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics to pursue knowledge of quantum and astro physics so she could understand the nature of Creation. In between, she went to a Grateful Dead show and spontaneously left on "Dead Tour," living in parking lots and old caves to explore the nature of community. Her foundation in grassroots organizing began at Evergreen State College, where she earned a degree in Revolution. Her early career saw her "joining the revolution" during the Zapatista uprising in Mexico, organizing labor rights for farm workers with the AFL-CIO, and developing intermediate technologies for Incan farmers in the Andes. Upon returning to the U.S., she lived homelessly among drug users and commercial sex workers in New Orleans; this lived experience of chaos became the fuel for her life's work.

In the late 1990s, Lee Anna founded First Fruit Ministries in Wilmington, NC. What began as a humble effort to provide food to neighbors living in the street evolved into a comprehensive organization offering a "safe landing" for those traumatized by homelessness and human trafficking. For almost thirty years, she has been a pillar of the Cape Fear region's humanitarian efforts, serving on the Executive Committee for the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness and founding Open Vision International to cultivate just, sustainable communities.

Recognized in 2015 with the Cape Fear Council of Governments' Leadership Award, Lee Anna continues to innovate. In 2020, she launched C.A.S.T. (Collaborative Against Sex Trafficking) to create a robust response network on the Carolina Coast. Today, Lee Anna is a sought-after speaker and innovator who empowers communities to tame their chaos by designing strategies rooted in personal growth, systemic solutions, and unconditional love.

# *The Architect of Change: Why Lee Anna Stoker?*

In a landscape of surface-level fixes and reactive charity, Lee Anna Stoker offers a radical departure through unconventional leadership; a synthesis of high-level systemic strategy and profound lived experience that moves beyond traditional advocacy into true community transformation. This approach challenges the status quo by proving that the most effective solutions often come from those who have navigated the very fringes they seek to change.

Audiences walk away with a refreshed framework for leadership and a renewed vision for how unconditional love can drive systemic, global impact. By embracing this non-traditional path, Lee Anna empowers others to realize that leadership is lived, not just taught.

## *The “Lazy” Leader*

Is your audience ready to trade "hustle-based" leadership for a high-impact, sustainable alternative that prioritizes clarity over constant activity?

## *Formation-Based Authority*

Is your organization looking to move past "titles" and develop leaders who lead from an integrated identity and grounded action?

## *Signal vs. Noise*

Does your audience want to learn how to identify the "true signal" within organizational chaos, using fear and desire as information rather than obstacles?

## *S.O.U.L. Framework*

Does your team need a practical methodology for excellence rooted in **Synergy, Ownership, Urgency, and Learning?**



*how do these  
frameworks resonate  
with your audience?*



*signature session*

## “Lessons from a Lazy Leader”

When you lead from clarity, connection, and truth,  
you won't strive for power, **you will become it.**

Leadership today is often shaped by reactivity, striving, and constant performance. While these pressures may produce activity, they rarely produce clarity; without clarity, leadership becomes exhausting, volatile, and difficult to sustain.

This session introduces a formation-based approach to leadership that begins not with strategy, but with perception. Participants will learn how to identify the true signal within the noise, recognizing fear, desire, and distortion as sources of information rather than obstacles to overcome. From there, leaders are guided into comprehension: integrating insight into a coherent understanding of identity, values, and responsibility.

The session culminates in articulation: translating integrated identity into clear vision, sound judgment, and grounded action. Participants will be introduced to a practical framework for excellence rooted in Synergy, Ownership, Urgency, and Learning (S.O.U.L.), offering a sustainable alternative to hustle-based leadership.

Rather than emphasizing technique or performance, this session equips leaders to lead from a state of being, where thoughts, words, and actions align with core values. When leadership is integrated in this way, it becomes steady, trustworthy, and life-giving.

**KEYNOTE SPEECH | 45-60 MIN**  
**BREAKOUT SESSION | 60-90 MIN**

# Start your conversation with *Lee Anna*

## INTERVIEW QUESTIONS TO INSPIRE YOUR TIME TOGETHER

1. You've said you never held a "proper job" before founding a major ministry. How did an unconventional path prepare you for leadership in a way a traditional career couldn't?
2. You credit "seven years on the road" as your primary leadership development. What is the most "ridiculous" lesson you learned during that time that you still use today?
3. Why do you believe we need to reframe our idea of who is "qualified" to be a leader?
4. You often say your leadership journey started long before First Fruit Ministries was founded in 2000. At what age did you realize you were actually being developed as a leader?
5. What are the "7 leadership lessons from 7 years on the road" that every traditional executive needs to hear?
6. How does having no formal leadership education allow you to see "elegant solutions" that others might miss?





## *Bring Lee Anna in front of your audience*

Lee Anna Stoker doesn't just lead; she nurtures the healthy, mature catalysts who change cities and the world. Drawing from a journey through the fringes of society, she offers a rare and powerful lens on leadership that conventional wisdom misses. **Bring a visionary perspective to your next event. Book Lee Anna for your organization or podcast today.**

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