



NPD Ministry Update

"Partnering to multiply transformational churches among all people"

December 3, 2019

The NPD Ministry Update is to share information of interest to the Northern Plains District and to inform how we can be praying for one another. This information may be forwarded to your elders, church leaders and/or congregation and it may be copied for church bulletins and newsletters.

Our Vision is to see multiplying communities of believers living on mission with Jesus all across the northern plains with the result that individuals, families, neighborhoods, schools, businesses and communities are transformed by the power of the gospel for the glory of God with the multiplication of transformational churches among all peoples following.

Superintendent Search: The Superintendent search is in full swing with the NL Moore and Associates team contacting a broad swath of possible candidates. After a rigorous assessment process, NL Moore will recommend the top candidates to the NPD Search Team for further interviews and recommendations to the full Board of Directors. They in turn will identify the final candidate that will be presented to the April district conference for the delegate's final vote. Superintendent Thompson will be completing his present term at the end of May 2020 and retiring at that time. Thank you for your continued prayers for the process and person God is preparing!

District Board of Directors: The district board of directors will be meeting January 13th in Bismarck for a regularly scheduled meeting. They will be developing the 2020 budget, doing final planning for the district conference and preparing for the upcoming superintendent transition. Mike Lundberg, pastor of Calvary EFC in Rugby, has recently stepped off of the board due to a full schedule and Ken Kompelien, church chairman of Faith Church in Wahpeton, has been appointed to the board.

Global Outreach Summit: "Growing a Healthy, Missions-Active Church" Saturday, January 25th Hosted by Faith EFC in Grand Forks. Organized by Steve Austvold, the NPD Missions Mobilizer, this one-day missions training event will help you and your church to more effectively reach the lost for Christ locally and around world. Take advantage of this day of encouragement, challenge and networking with fellow mission minded people. <https://faithfree.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/307420>

EFCA Theology Conference: "Contending for the Faith – 7 Critical Contemporary Doctrinal Challenges: A Biblical, Theological & Pastoral Response" February 5-7 at Trinity International University, Deerfield, IL. This conference addresses and follows up on the 2018 Doctrinal Survey of EFCA pastors. Speakers Include: Thabiti Anyabwile, D.A Carson, Graham Cole, Jonathan Leeman, Harold Netland, Fred Sanders, Steve Wellum. <https://www.efca.org/resources/document/2020-efca-theology-conference>

Marriage Retreat at Cooperstown Bible Camp February 7-9 featuring Pastor Tom Smithson and his wife Deb from Salem EFC in Fargo/Moorhead. Investing in your marriage is a wise investment that will pay rich dividends. This retreat will give you and your spouse time to learn together, talk together and relax together. <https://www.cooperstownbiblecamp.com/marriage-retreat>

Pastor/Leader Retreat at CBC at Cooperstown Bible Camp February 24-25. This event is for pastors and church/ministry leaders. It is a time to get away to refresh and connect with others who are also sharing the spiritual and emotional demands of ministry. There is no cost for this retreat! It is a gift from Cooperstown Bible Camp to our pastors and church leaders. <https://www.cooperstownbiblecamp.com/pastors-retreat>

Student "Districts": "Districts" is a conference for middle school and high school students. The theme is "Relationships that Matter". The dates are March 27-29 in Jamestown, ND. Greg Speck, a popular

youth conference speaker, is the featured speaker. Non NPD churches are invited and encouraged to join us for this fun and spiritually life changing conference. districtsconference.org

District Conference: Our annual district conference is coming up April 16-18. It is being hosted by Salem EFC at their Moorhead, MN campus. The theme is "A Time of Transition". Eddie Cole, the new Executive VP of National Ministries for the EFCA and former District Superintendent for the EFCA's Eastern District, will be with us. We will be voting on the candidate for district superintendent. <http://npdefca.com/news-and-events/events>

EFCA Challenge Conference: Challenge is the biennial EFCA national conference for students entering 7th grade through completion of 12th grade. It's a five-day catalytic experience that challenges students to live on mission with Jesus every day, everywhere and with everyone. July 13-17 in Kansas City, MO Contact Steven Dunkel, NPD Student Ministry Mobilizer, regarding riding with others to this event. <https://www.efca.org/opportunities/conferences/challenge>

Youth Leader Network Training: Under the leadership of Steven Dunkel, our District Student Ministry Mobilizer, youth pastors and leaders are connecting bimonthly to learn together and plan for "districts", the annual student conference. To learn more contact Steven stevendunkel@bethelfc.com.

Pure Desire Ministry: The Northern Plains District has a partnership with Pure Desire Ministry, a ministry that provides support, healing & restoration to those dealing with sexual sin. Their resources deal with prevention as well as intervention. Attendance at their conferences are free to NPD pastors and materials are available at a discount. Contact the district office for the necessary discount codes. <https://puredesire.org/>

Demographic Information: Discover valuable information about your community through the district's connection with Mission Insite, a provider of demographic information. You may contact the district office (701-223-3007) or Pastor Bill Crosby (701-265-4784) in Cavalier or Pastor Jeff Higbie (701-442-5333) in Underwood, ND. They would be glad to assist you.

New Disciplemaking App: Steven & Sarah Dunkel with the assistance of the staff team at Bethel Church in Fargo have created an app especially suited for use on your i-phone. It is called "Speak Truth" and can be found in the app store on your phone. It is filled with practical advice and resources on how to help someone from an initial conversation about spiritual things to helping someone disciple someone else. There is no charge for this outstanding resource. Check it out!

EFCA Helps: To streamline access to some of the resources, tools, and services most often requested by EFCA churches, a new centralized websource has been developed. By going to efca.org/helps, you can find a user-friendly wealth of information on how to get help in your area of need.

Change in MinisterConnection: For many years, our own MinisterConnection.net has served well as an online matching service for churches looking for pastors and pastors looking for churches. However, it is time for an upgrade. The EFCA is pleased to unveil a new generation of placement software so improved that it has a new name and requires all prior participants to enter new profiles. Pastors and churches with prior profiles on MinisterConnection will not be charged but must migrate their own information. We invite you to check it out here: pastorsearch.efca.org

Certificate Program in Rural Leadership & Ministry: Oak Hills Christian College near Bemidji, MN has a new Certificate Program in Rural Leadership & Ministry. It is designed to provide foundational preparation and in-ministry training and mentorship to current lay and church leaders who will provide pastoral leadership in rural town and country churches. Excellent training for second career people or those desiring to minister in a rural setting. <https://www.oakhills.edu/church-ministries/rural-certificate>

Pastor Financial Planning Help: LifeLight Financial is a ministry focused on helping pastors plan wisely for their financial futures. Their donors have made it possible for them to offer \$600 of best-in-class financial planning resources to pastors for only \$89. This material are specifically designed for pastors and includes a 1:1 coaching session with a LifeLight financial modeling expert and a professional written financial review providing detailed analysis of their full financial picture in a simple to understand presentation. Contact them with questions by email at Lindy@llfcompanies.com.

APEX – EFCA Missions Experiences for Youth Groups and Young Adults: Live and minister in another culture, in community and partnership with local Christians and churches. Opportunities for young groups and college age adults with 1 to 2 year apprenticeships also. For information contact Apex@efca.org.

Christian Investors Financial (CIF): CIF is an EFCA-affiliated ministry that serves churches through investments, loans and campaigns & consulting. Please let us know if we can be of any assistance to you or your congregation. Visit our website at www.ChristianInvestors.org or call us at 800.995.8574.

FCMM – Free Church Ministers & Missionaries Benefits and Retirement: FCMM exists to enable pastors, staff members and missionaries to serve Christ throughout their lives by assisting employing ministry organizations in providing retirement benefits. In partnership with the **National Association of Evangelicals** and the **Lilly Endowment**, they are offering a \$1,000 matching grant to pastors who are not currently in the retirement plan. fcmmbenefits.org

WORKSHOPS & RESOURCES AVAILABLE:

Healthy and Productive Church Boards: This is a workshop developed and presented by Superintendent Daryl Thompson and church chairman Ken Kompelien. Healthy and productive boards bless both the church and those who serve on them. However, this is not always the case. This workshop provides practical insights and recommendations that can help any church board be a delight rather than a dread. To learn more contact Daryl at ds.npd@midconetwork.com.

Local Church Leadership: This is a workshop developed and presented by Superintendent Daryl Thompson. The church is the hope of the world and leadership is the hope of the church. This workshop focuses on what leaders must do to have a healthy church that effectively carries out Christ's commission to make disciples of all people and on how congregational governance functions in the EFCA. To learn more contact Daryl at ds.npd@midconetwork.com.

Recovering the New Testament Church's Mission and Methods: This is a workshop developed and presented by Superintendent Daryl Thompson. It will help your staff, leaders and church members understand how the western church has drifted over the centuries from the New Testament church's missional clarity and methodological simplicity. It will also help you to recover these critical components for your church. To learn more contact Daryl at ds.npd@midconetwork.com.

Emotional Intelligence: The Often Unrecognized and Frequently Overlooked Problem: This is a workshop developed and presented by Superintendent Daryl Thompson. There is a relationship between emotional intelligence, healthy relationships and spiritual maturity. This workshop will help you understand how low emotional intelligence (often called EQ) creates problems and how it can be addressed and improved. To learn more contact Daryl at ds.npd@midconetwork.com.

Principles and Practices of New Testament Churches: This is a workshop developed and presented by Superintendent Daryl Thompson. New Testament churches were a result of Jesus' disciples following His example and making more disciples just as He did. This workshop will help you to discover Jesus' simple principles and practices so that you and your church can more effectively obey His parting command (Matthew 28:18-20). To learn more contact Daryl at ds.npd@midconetwork.com.

Credentialing: Pastor Jeff Higbie leads our District Credentialing efforts. If you are interested in assisting in this ministry or in the credentialing process for yourself contact Pastor Higbie at jeffhigbie@hotmail.com.

Missions: Steve Austvold, District Missions Mobilizer, is available for church mission consultations and training events. Steve's wife, Kathy, is also available for presentations on [The 6:8 Gospel](#) (formerly Asia Justice Initiatives) ministry addressing "human trafficking". She can be contacted at Kathy.Austvold@ncdefca.org.

Other Helpful Resources:

Bible.org: A great variety of resources to study the Bible as well as pastoral resources on weddings, funerals, etc.

Biblical Training: Free on line Bible classes and articles. www.BiblicalTraining.org

Church Growth Network: Newsletters and articles from one of America's foremost church consultants.

www.churchgrowthnetwork.com

Church Whisperers Seasoned wisdom on all sorts of church ailments and cures

www.churchwhisperers.org

EFCA Theology Podcasts: <https://go.efca.org/podcasts/efca-theology-podcast>

EFCA Update: Information on upcoming EFCA activities. <http://go.efca.org/newsletters/efca-update>

Leadership Network: Resources for innovative leaders. <http://leadnet.org/>

Natural Church Development: Resources for assessing church health. www.ncd-international.org

Rural Home Missionary Association: Encouraging news, articles and resources for ministry in rural settings. www.rhma.org

Stand to Reason Apologetic resources to help Christians think more clearly

<http://www.str.org/about/mission-values>

Pastoral Departures:

Pastor Glen Stevens, Salem EFC, Fargo, ND/Moorhead, MN

Pastor Tom Elseroad, Living Hope Church, Plentywood, MT

Associate Pastor Scott Connolly, Faith EFC, Grand Forks, ND

Pastoral Additions:

Interim Pastor Mark Thacker, Mission EFC, Wilton, ND

Pastor Eric Botzet, Emmanuel EFC, Plevna, MT

Pastoral/Staff Searches: Pray for these churches in active pastoral/staff searches.

Eagle Valley EFC, Christine, ND - Pastor

Elim EFC, Valley City, ND – Pastor

Faith EFC, Grand Forks, ND – Discipleship Pastor

Living Hope Church, Plentywood, MT - Pastor

Pembina EFC, Pembina. ND - Pastor

Salem EFC, Fargo, ND/Moorhead, MN – Lead Pastor

Saron EFC, Cooperstown, ND – Pastor (bi-vocational)

NPD Staff Contacts

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We value teamwork because it accomplishes far more for the cause of Christ.

We value multiplication on all levels because it is God's strategy to reach the world.

We value healthy churches because they are God's primary means for advancing His kingdom.