



NPD Ministry Update

"Partnering to multiply transformational churches among all people"

February 22, 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.

2019 District Student Conference: The 2019 conference is coming up March 29–30-31 in Jamestown, ND with speaker Josh Brewer and worship leader Rachelle Hope. The theme is "Live - Love – Lead Like Jesus". Registration deadline is March 7th. To register <https://bethel.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/209/responses/new>.

2019 District Conference: The 2019 District Conference will be hosted by GracePoint Church in Bismarck April 4–5–6. Kevin Kompelien, our EFCA President, will be with us along with Roy Moran. Our theme is "Ministry that Multiplies". Registration deadline is March 28th. For conference information, go to <http://www.npdefca.com/news-and-events/events>.

District Board of Directors: The district board of directors will be meeting next on March 11th in Bismarck. They will meet again just prior to the start of the district conference on April 5th. Three board members will be completing three year terms (Russ Whitaker, Mary Banta, Mike Honl). The Superintendent Search Team is composed of three board members (Mike Honl, Tyrena Hallett, Andy Veith) and two laypeople (Ken Kompelien, Roberta Herr). Superintendent Thompson will be completing his present term in May of 2020 and retiring.

Youth Leader Network Training: Under the leadership of Steven Dunkel, our District Student Ministry Mobilizer, youth pastors and leaders are connecting monthly to learn together and plan for the district student conference. Their next meeting is March 11th. To learn more contact Steven stevendunkel@bethelfc.com.

Disciple Making Cohort: The Disciple Making Cohort (formerly LifeFlow) is a pastoral learning cohort devoted to learning together how to help their churches make disciples who make disciples. The cohort meets twice in person and twice by conference call each year. Four new pastors (Jonathan Hallett, Grace in Beulah; Dave Widerski, Trinity in Minot; Steve Scott, Cornerstone in Cooperstown; Mike Lundberg, Calvary in Rugby) have recently been invited to join the three cohort members (Brian Martin, Liberty in Williston; Russ Whitaker, Mission in Wilton; Dave Ingraham, SonRise in Ada). The ultimate objective of this learning cohort is the development of a disciple making and multiplication culture in our Northern Plains District churches.

Missions Opportunities: Steve Austvold, our District Mission Mobilizer, will be taking a team to Haiti in March. A Cuba Vision Cruise is also planned October 25th – November 2nd. Sign up for the cruise is ASAP. For further information contact Steve Austvold steve.austvold@ncdefca.org or call 218-736-4412

Cooperstown Bible Camp: The summer camping season is coming up with opportunities for not only campers but also camp staff and volunteers. The theme for this summer is "First Commandment with a Promise" with a teaching focus on Ephesians 6:1-3. Cooperstown Bible Camp is an affiliate ministry of the Northern Plains District.

EFCA History, Theology and Polity Class: March 11th & 12th at the EFCA National Office in Minneapolis taught by Greg Strand, EFCA Executive Director of Theology and Credentialing. Of particular value for those seeking credentialing in the EFCA. To learn more and/or register contact credentialing@efca.org.

Trinity Sunday: Trinity International University, the academic arm of the EFCA, is inviting EFCA churches across the country to host Trinity Sunday. Trinity Sunday is a chance to educate congregations about the EFCA's only affiliate American university and provide an opportunity to financially support Trinity students. More information and resources are available [online](#).

EFCA ONE: The EFCA's biennial national leadership conference is coming up June 18-20 in Chicago. It is being hosted by The Compass Church in Naperville. This is a great opportunity to connect, fellowship and learn with other EFCA leaders. Also this year there will be a vote on a change to article 9 (from premillennial to glorious) in our Statement of Faith. To learn more, contact EFCAOne@efca.org or visit <https://efcaone.com/>.

New ReachStudents Director: Following a nation-wide search process, [ReachStudents](#)—the student ministry arm of the EFCA—has named Justin Wevers as its new director. Justin spent the last five and a half years working in student ministry at New Hope Church (EFCA) in New Hope, Minnesota, and has a vision and passion for discipling students.

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.

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.

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. 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.

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.

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 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. <https://bible.org/>

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 Bruce Dick, Bethel EFC, Devils Lake, ND

Pastor Jared Clausen, Faith Church, Wahpeton, ND

Pastor Jody Coombs, Saron EFC, Cooperstown, ND

Pastor Mason Peters, EFC, Pembina, ND

Pastoral Additions:

Interim Pastor Dave Wingarden, EFC, Pembina, ND (starting in March)

Interim Pastor Jon Van Dine, Faith Church, Wahpeton, ND

Pastor Yuan Lai (Ronald) Zhang, Red River Valley Chinese Christian Church, Moorhead, MN arrived from China January 10th!

Student & Family Pastor Jeremy Gonzales, Faith EFC, Grand Forks, ND

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

Eagle Valley EFC, Christine, ND - Pastor

Elim EFC, Valley City, ND - Pastor

Emmanuel EFC, Plevna, MT – Pastor

Liberty EFC, Williston, ND – Associate Pastor

Mission EFC, Wilton, ND - Youth Pastor (bi-vocational)

New Life EFC, Watertown, SD – Discipleship Pastor

NPD Staff Contacts

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Kathy Glass, Executive Assistant 701-214-0877 or office.npd@midconetwork.com

*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.*