



# NPD Ministry Update

*“Partnering to multiply transformational churches among all people”*  
May 22, 2020

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 Transition:** At our virtual conference business meeting April 17<sup>th</sup> Dr. Brian Wright was unanimously confirmed to be the next Northern Plains District Superintendent. He will begin his ministry the first week of July and plans to locate in Valley City. He may be reached by email at [npdefca.ds@gmail.com](mailto:npdefca.ds@gmail.com). Daryl Thompson is officially retired May 31<sup>st</sup> but May 21<sup>st</sup> was his last day in the district office. He is no longer receiving emails at [ds.npd@midconetwork.com](mailto:ds.npd@midconetwork.com). He and Beth plan to relocate to Beth's hometown in MO this summer. During this interim period, Mel Nelson, chairman of the Board of Directors, will fill in for the district superintendent. He may be contacted by email at [mdn@ExecutiveManagementSystems.com](mailto:mdn@ExecutiveManagementSystems.com) and by phone at ((701) 364-9500 or (701) 367-5950. Kathy Glass, the district's Executive Assistant and Financial Administrator is still available at email [office.npd@midconetwork.com](mailto:office.npd@midconetwork.com) or by phone at (701) 214-0877.

**District Board of Directors:** The district board of directors will have a virtual meeting June 8<sup>th</sup>. They will be addressing a variety of matters but focusing on items relating to the superintendent transition. The board is now composed of Mel Nelson (chairman); Mike Honl (vice chairman); Randy Alexander (Treasurer); Tyrena Hallett; Andy Veith; Steven Meckle; Ken Kompelien; Mike Dahlen and Bryce Harcey.

**EFCA Challenge Conference:** Due to COVID-19 the Challenge Conference, originally scheduled for Kansas City, MO July 13-17, has been changed to a virtual event. Details are still being worked out. Contact Steven Dunkel, NPD Student Ministry Mobilizer with your questions.

**Cooperstown Bible Camp:** COVID-19 has forced the cancelation of the camp's summer schedule. Please go to the camp's website to learn of their alternative virtual activities.

**COVID-19 Resources:** There are many resources out there concerning ministry during this pandemic. However, the EFCA website is a great resource regarding information on the corona virus and on matters regarding reopening church activities. Don't overlook it!

**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.

**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.

**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 centralized web source has been developed. Visit the website to find a user-friendly wealth of information on how to get help in your area of need.

**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 their website 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.

**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](mailto: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 online Bible classes and articles.

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

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

**EFCA Theology Podcasts:** Free podcasts.

**EFCA Update:** Information on upcoming EFCA activities.

**Leadership Network:** Resources for innovative leaders.

**Natural Church Development:** Resources for assessing church health.

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

**Stand to Reason:** Apologetic resources to help Christians think more clearly.

### **Pastoral Departures:**

Senior Pastor Scott Sheets, Riverside EFC, Mayville, ND will be departing in July  
Associate Pastor Kevin Lardy, GracePoint Church, Bismarck concluded his ministry at the end of April

### **Pastoral Additions:**

Associate Pastor Anton Van Straaten, Faith EFC, Grand Forks, ND began in January  
Lead Pastor Seth Dunham, Salem EFC, Fargo, ND/Moorhead, MN beginning in June  
Pastor Jeff Roth, Eagle Valley EFC, Christine, ND beginning in June

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

Elim EFC, Valley City, ND – Pastor  
Living Hope Church, Plentywood, MT - Pastor  
Pembina EFC, Pembina, ND - Pastor  
Saron EFC, Cooperstown, ND – Pastor (bi-vocational)

### **NPD Staff Contacts**

Steve Austvold, Missions Mobilizer 218-736-4412 or [Steve.Austvold@ncdefca.org](mailto:Steve.Austvold@ncdefca.org)  
Steven Dunkel, Student Ministry Mobilizer 701-232-4476 or [stevendunkel@bethelfc.com](mailto:stevendunkel@bethelfc.com)  
Kathy Glass, Executive Assistant 701-214-0877 or [office.npd@midconetwork.com](mailto: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.*