



NPD Ministry Update

"Partnering to multiply transformational churches among all people"

November 6, 2017

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.

2018 District Student Conference: The 2018 conference will be held March 23 – 25 in Aberdeen, SD. More information will be coming.

2018 District Conference: "Shepherding God's People" with Pastor Lee Eclov. The 2018 District Conference will be hosted by Bethel Church in Fargo April 12-14. Our featured speaker will be Lee Eclov, senior pastor of the Village Church of Lincolnshire (EFC) in the northern suburbs of Chicago and author of the book Pastoral Graces.

New Student Ministry Mobilizer: Chad Englund stepped down from his Student Ministry Mobilizer role in August due to accepting the position of Senior Pastor at GracePoint Church in Bismarck. Fortunately, a very capable and involved member of the district student ministry team, Steven Dunkel, has agreed to fill this role. Steven is the Pastor of Student Ministries at Bethel Church in Fargo and has been a significant member of the student ministry team since its inception. We thank God for providing such an excellent individual for this important role and for the support of his senior pastor and church leadership. Steven, as Chad before him, will be a member of the national Reach Student Council.

District Board of Directors: The district board of directors is undertaking a review of the mission of the district, of the board of directors and of the superintendent and staff and of the roles of each. This will be especially helpful as the board undertakes a search for the next superintendent to follow Daryl when he completes his present term in 2020. The board will meet next in Bismarck November 12th and 13th.

Youth Leader Network Training: Under the leadership of Steven Dunkel, our new District Student Ministry Mobilizer, youth pastors and leaders along with several other pastoral staff are continuing to meet monthly. Meetings are now at Bethel Church in Fargo. Mel Nelson is continuing training on "Leadership Development". A great deal of positive comments have been expressed about this network time and training. The network will meet next November 28th. To learn more contact Steven stevendunkel@bethelfc.com.

LifeFlow Training: LifeFlow is a district pastoral learning cohort currently composed of four pastors (Brian Martin, Liberty in Williston; Russ Whitaker, Mission in Wilton; Mike Honl, Rose Hill in Langford; Dave Ingraham, SonRise in Ada). The cohort members are learning together how to help their churches make disciples who make disciples. The focus is to clarify the pastoral task in light of the church's mission. They will be meeting next in Bismarck December 3rd and 4th during which time they will be video conferencing with the LifeFlow leaders from the New England District. The ultimate objective of Life Flow is the development of a disciple making and multiplication culture in our Northern Plains District churches.

Cuba Missions Trip: Steve Austvold, our district Mission Mobilizer, is planning to take a team of twelve to fifteen people to Cuba in March to build a playground in partnership with Reach Global, Kids Around the World and the 'Los Pinos Nuevos' denomination in Cuba. The playground will be a significant witness and ministry tool for the local believers to share Christ with the local residents. This is a season of great spiritual harvest in Cuba. The deadline to register for this team is the end of November due to the need to apply for necessary visas. For further information contact Steve Austvold steve.austvold@ncdefca.org or call 218-736-4412.

Cooperstown Bible Camp: The camp is experiencing staff transition. Tom Johnson, a member of the camp board, has stepped forward to serve as the interim camp director. They are actively looking for a Facilities and

Maintenance Director. This is a full time position that comes with a four bedroom house on the camp grounds. A full job description is available by contacting Tom Johnson at tjohnson@cooperstownbiblecamp.com. The camp board of directors is also holding a **Mission Summit December 1st and 2nd** (from noon to noon) to help the camp “move to the next level” by clarifying its mission in light of the present opportunities and realities. This special gathering will be at the camp and is for all district pastors and church leaders along with all present and past camp board members. It is important to be aware that the camp is owned by and accountable to the churches of the NPD. To learn more and to register go to www.cooperstownbiblecamp.com/Events/VisionSummit.aspx.

Rebound: A conference for Youth Pastors/Workers and their spouses to get away and reconnect in Melbourne, FL November 10th – 13th.

Children’s Ministry Networking Leader Gathering: A time for Children’s Ministry Leaders to connect, encourage and learn together at the EFCA national office in Minneapolis, MN November 13th – 15th.
<https://go.efca.org/resources/event/childrens-ministry-leader-network-gathering>

EFCA Theology Conference: “The Gospel, Compassion & Justice and the EFCA” January 31st – February 2nd hosted by Northeast Bible Church in San Antonio, TX. Recent events in our nation and world make it clear that this is a timely topic. The conference also includes a presentation on “Understanding Islam” as well as a legal update for pastors and churches. For further information and to register <https://go.efca.org/opportunities/conferences/efca-theology-conference>.

EFCA Challenge Conference: “Bold Moves: It Starts Here” student conference July 2nd – 6th in Kansas City, MO. Challenge is a catalytic environment challenging students to live on mission with Jesus everyday, everywhere and with everyone. experiencechallenge.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 their website at www.ChristianInvestors.org or call them 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. 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 AVAILABLE:

- **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.

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 Kbaustvold@gmail.com.

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

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

EFCFA Update: Information on upcoming EFCFA 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

Pornography Resources: <http://npdefca.com/outside-resources>

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 Derek Henry, Community Bible Church, Bottineau, ND

Pastor Eric Bonness, Trinity Church, Minot, ND

Pastoral Additions:

Campus Pastor Tom Smithson, Central Campus, Salem EFC, Fargo-Moorhead (transitioning from Children's Ministry Pastor)

Pastor Jared Claussen, Faith Church, Wahpeton, ND

Pastor Yuanlai Zhang, Red River Valley Chinese Christian Church, Moorhead, MN (visa needs approval before relocating from China)

Senior Pastor Chad Englund, GracePoint Church, Bismarck, ND (transitioning from Student Ministries Pastor at Salem EFC)

Student Ministries Pastor Josh Hanson, Salem EFC, Fargo-Moorhead

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

Calvary EFC, Rugby, ND is looking for a Senior Pastor

Salem EFC, Fargo, ND is looking a Worship Director and a Children's Ministry Director

Trinity Church, Minot, ND is looking for a 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.