



North Central District Association

EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF AMERICA

Multiplying healthy churches among all people

February 2012

Reaching the Generations Together

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves; ensure justice for those being crushed. Yes, speak up for the poor and helpless, and see that they get justice.” Proverbs 31:8-9 (NLT)

Dear Pastors and Elders,

I don't remember **calling for a 100% response** ever before, especially for you to **join me in a movement of compassion**. Safe Families For Children (SFFC) is an initiative for your church family to minister to children and families in crisis in your own community! It is my own conviction that, without exception, every church in our district has the capacity and every community in our district has this critical need. Have I got your attention?

“When an emergency occurs in our own homes, many of us turn to friends or relatives for support. But, for some families, they have no safety net. Even the most ordinary issue, such as a brief “in-patient” surgical procedure, or more pressing needs, such as treatment for substance abuse, can result in children being placed into state custody. I am very pleased to tell you that, with your church’s involvement, parents experiencing a temporary crisis in your community can arrange for their children to stay with a Christian family while they address the issues that led to their situation.”

Maridel Sandberg, Director, SFFC – MN

The Safe Families tab on our website (under “District Ministries”) provides a snapshot of how your church could implement a volunteer-led ministry model. Key volunteer positions include:

- Ministry Leader
- Case Coaches
- Family Friends

In collaboration with SFFC, we will provide training and counsel to assist you in developing a SFFC team from within your congregation. We would love to come and personally answer questions about how to gear up for this gospel-driven, holistic outreach to your community.

Our Strategic Partnership with Safe Families For Children

This is a call to every NCD congregation to Word-centered, gospel-driven, prayer-filled action! Through much prayerful deliberation and discussion, the NCD board and staff believe we have been led specifically by God to form a strategic ministry partnership with **Safe Families for Children**. SFFC was founded in our EFC movement by Dr. David Anderson of Lydia Homes in Chicago, and has been directed here in Minnesota by our dear friend, **Maridel Sandberg**, for the past two years.

Tom Mouw
SUPERINTENDENT,
CHURCH HEALTH

Dan Moose
CHURCH PLANTING

David Linde
CHURCH RESOURCES
PLACEMENT, CREDENTIALING

Jim Anderson
Kelley Johnson
PASTORAL CARE

Glenn Olson
STUDENT MINISTRIES

Steve Austvold
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Ministry initiatives stemming from Article 8 of the EFCA Statement of Faith are first and foremost akin to the gospel and God's heart for vulnerable people, as revealed in His Word. It is clearly His desire for His people to embody and act according to His character and nature toward various vulnerable people in our society. We have determined that Article 8 ministry initiatives represent a significant opportunity for your church to reach out afresh to your community and join this movement of compassion, for the glory of God.

Please review the enclosures and seek God's direction for your church's involvement. Join me in making this a 100% participation of NCD churches. Have any questions? I would love to answer any questions or pray with you about your commitment. Feel free to contact me at the office 612-338-1716 or my email tom.mouw@ncdefca.org.

<http://ncdefca.org/districtministries/safefamilies/>

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tom