

## District Superintendent Nominee Brian Farone

### Who is Brian?

- A first generation Christian in his family, he came to know Christ through the ministry of YoungLife in high school.
- Forty-two years old, he has been married for twenty years to Teri, the love of his life and his best friend. He is the father of Samuel (17) and Grace (15 ½).



- Brian is a family man who prioritizes time and relationship with both his family and his church family. The Farones love their local fellowship, investing a considerable amount of their personal time in relationships and ministry at Grace Bible Church.
- He is an avid hiker, passionate reader, fascinated by technology, and an enthusiastic sports fan, especially the Arizona Cardinals.
- Since 2013 he has served as Director of Biblical Theology and Credentialing for [EFCA West](#), a district that covers all or portions of seven southwestern and western states. In this position Brian has served churches across a spectrum of needs.
- He has a deep desire to serve pastors, church leaders, and churches, and for the past few years has felt God stirring him to open his heart toward a district superintendent position. The NCD aligns with his values and sense of mission. He senses a definite call to this ministry.

### Why did the search team and board of directors select Brian as the nominee?

- Brian is a diligent follower of Jesus and a careful student of the Bible. His ability to communicate and his relational skills allow him to effectively reveal his genuine love for Christ and the church.
- Brian's deep love for the church is evident in his willingness to go above and beyond in his work.
- Brian is people-oriented. He will thrive when he can be interacting with an individual, a team, a group, or a large audience.
- Brian's areas of concentrated strength will be strategic thinking and relationship building. Often people are not strong in both strategy and relationships. Brian is an exception. He can think big and systemically while at the same time truly valuing people. Despite his having an eye for "process," people matter greatly to Brian. His positivity and warmth will be recognized quickly.
- Brian will think outside the box and offer unique perspectives. Yet he has learned to tame his ideas and apply his strategic skills prior to sharing his ideas. These two strengths allow him to balance out-of-the-box thinking with a healthy dose of reality and plausibility in implementing those big ideas. In other words, Brian is a big-picture thinker, but it is balanced with an understanding of what it takes to get something off the ground.
- Brian is a great thinker, brainstormer, and idea generator. What makes this particularly unique is that he is also strong in the ability to flesh those ideas out into action steps. His discernment is strong and effective; he can see the whole picture and the complexities.

Brian will thrive in an environment where he can work on new projects or in new settings to implement ideas. Brian also has a higher "refiner" role, which speaks to his ability to stay with long projects.

- Brian is a coach of the highest order. Discerning and wise, he is willing to speak truth and do it in a way that is perceived as loving, beneficial, and ultimately life-giving for those on the receiving end. His energy and positivity complement these gifts immensely.
- Brian is a natural leader with whom people will want to spend time. He can paint the big picture and effectively call people to action. Brian is a big-picture, high-energy go-getter. He is highly self-aware, which brings balance to his strong leadership and significant capacities to lead. Brian knows how to read situations and respond very effectively.
- All this being true, he is genuinely looking to empower and invest in others for the sake of expanding the church and the kingdom.
- EFCA President Kevin Kompelein, whose insights the search team and district board sought during the search process, says this of Brian: "*I have had the opportunity to interact with Brian over the past couple of years and have found him to have a deep commitment to the EFCA and a heart to come alongside pastors. He brings creativity, energy, experience, and strategic thinking to what he does.*"

### **What is Brian's ministry journey?**

- Director of Biblical Theology and Credentialing, EFCA West, 2013-present
- Elder Board Member, Grace Bible Church (EFCA) in Arroyo Grande, CA, 2014 - present
- Associate Pastor of Adults and Families Grace Bible Church (EFCA) in Arroyo Grande, CA, 2007-2013
- MDiv student at TEDS, 2005-2007
- Associate Pastor for Families/Pastor of Student Ministries Grace Bible Church (EFCA) in Arroyo Grande, CA 2002-2004
- Pastor of Student Ministries North Ridge Community Church in Phoenix, AZ ,1999-2001
- Interim Director of Student Ministries/Intern North Ridge Community Church in Phoenix, AZ, 1996-1999
- Volunteer Leader for Young Life Paradise Valley, Young Life in Phoenix, AZ, 1993-1999

In partnership with our EFCA National Office, Brian built, and currently hosts, the [EFCA Theology Podcast](#).

Brian's preaching and teaching can be sampled here:

Sermon: *Following, Leading and Reaching*

Preached at Hillside Church (week before new pastor arrived) | San Jose,

CA [http://www.hillside.org/listen\\_online/sermon\\_podcast?ei\\_mr\\_TopicID=30958&ei\\_mr\\_ResourceID=66](http://www.hillside.org/listen_online/sermon_podcast?ei_mr_TopicID=30958&ei_mr_ResourceID=66)

Sermon: *What Does the Bible Say About Work?*

Preached at The Harbor Church | Santa Maria, CA

<http://harbor316.org/archive/what-does-the-bible-say-about-work/>

Sermon: *Wrestling with the Tensions as We Go to the Nations*

Preached at Christ Community Church | Laguna Hills, CA

<http://ccclh.org/sermons/sermon/2016-03-13/wrestling-with-the-tensions-as-we-go-the-nations>

### **What is Brian's training?**

- Brian holds a Master of Divinity from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, IL (2007), and has a B.S. in Christian Ministry from Arizona Christian University (1999).
- He was ordained in the EFCA in 2010.
- He was selected to participate in the ReachGlobal leadership cohort (2014-2016).
- He is a trained church-planter assessor.

### **What is the next step in the transition process?**

Delegates to the district conference will vote on the board's nomination of Brian on March 28. Please rejoice with us as we see the faithfulness and goodness of God expressed in the search process and in this culmination of the process. Please keep praying with us for God's leading in the district conference and beyond.

--The search team and NCD board of directors

