

EFCA North Central District Pastors Teaching Conference  
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## **Interpreting and Applying the Book of Acts**

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### **Session 1: Luke—The Man and his Message**

When reading the book of Acts (or any book of Scripture), we sometimes forget that it was written by a real person with real concerns. The New Testament letter writers (like Paul, Peter, James, etc.) were not the only authors whose writings were motivated by concerns for the local church. What do we know about Luke and the message he wanted to deliver to his church?

- The Relationship Acts to the Gospel of Luke
- Themes and Concerns Present in Luke–Acts

### **Session 2: Special Issues with the Book of Acts**

The book of Acts is relatively unique in the New Testament; of the 27 NT books there are four Gospels, more than a score of epistles (even the book of Revelation has several epistolary features), but only one book of Acts. What does this uniqueness mean for our interpretation of the book of Acts and our application of Luke’s message to our churches today?

- The Outline of the Book of Acts
- Interpretation Issues for Acts (What is normative for us now?)

### **Session 3: Luke’s Focus on the Community of the Church (Acts 2:42–6:7)**

Early on in the book of Acts, Luke has a particular focus on life in the community of the fledgling church. Even before he uses the word “church” to describe the gathering of Jesus’s followers, Luke is concerned to report something of their life together. What are the key features of the Christian community, what are the threats against these elements, and what should we be doing to apply (and protect) these aspects of life together?

- Community Priorities: Teaching, Fellowship, Breaking Bread, and Prayer.
- Community Threats: Intimidation, Corruption, Persecution, Distraction

### **Session 4: Luke’s Focus on the Unity of the Church (Acts 15)**

The central episode in the book of Acts reveals one of Luke’s central concerns for the church: unity. First-century believers were adjusting their thinking to the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy in the expansion of God’s people. In doing so, they found it helpful to sketch behavioral guidelines for themselves. How are we to understand the first-century concerns about Jewish and Gentile interaction, and how are we to apply the first-century resolution of those matters to the twenty-first-century church?

- Issues of Mixed Backgrounds within the Church
- Facing the Non-Christian Culture outside the Church