January 2017

On Our Hearts - Strategically Making Disciples Into the Future

What is your part as a laborer in your corner of the harvest? What might kingdom fruit look like in your sphere of influence? We believe these questions are on the hearts of all of us in the district.

In light of this, how do we all think strategically to fulfill the EFCA vision of raising up a million disciple-makers—an undertaking worthy of our best effort together? Dan Moose, Dave Linde, and I, in consulting with ministry leaders over the years, have found the following five-fold map helpful in giving direction to fruitful, innovative kingdom initiatives in the harvest field.

1. Think missiologically
2. Envision radically
3. Discern collaboratively
4. Lead judiciously
5. Multiply intentionally

Read the full article:

Training/Enrichment Opportunities

NCD Church Security Summit, February 18, Constance EFC

Church Security Ministries are among the fastest growing ministries in the country. That is a mainstream value on our church campuses. Join us Saturday, February 18th, at the 2nd Annual EFCA NCD Church Security Summit, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m and learn from a team of experts on how to implement and/or expand this important ministry at your church. For more details / To register.
2017 Annual District Conference

*Theme: The Church Today and Tomorrow*

Please plan to join us at **New Hope Church, March 27-28, 2017** for the district conference. Kevin Kompalien, EFCA President will be the speaker.

Further information and and registration information will be coming out soon. Watch your mailbox for the brochure.

**Resources**

**Missions Mobilization Update - Local Churches Engaged with Nations Locally**

Please read how local churches are engaging the nations that are coming to their communities. [Here are good ideas](#) for your church.

**Pastoral Care - What Will the New Year Hold?**

Hope? Fear? Uncertainty? Change? All of the above…and something else. [Read more](#)

**Sabbath Rest Retreat - January 25-27, 2017, Timber Bay Retreat Center.**

Come discover the pleasure of His rest. "I think the practical steps are given to help the "Sabbath" (be) not just a time off but a productive yet restful time with our Heavenly Father. I found the release, review, remember to be very helpful. Key thought - live for an audience of One." [For information on details, cost, registration, etc.](#)

**Faith Community Nursing**

**Beating the Winter Blues**

If you find your mood dropping along with the temperature, your energy being zapped as autumn's vibrant colors fade or your temper shortening along with the hours of daylight, you are not alone. [Read More](#)

**NCD Encore Ministry (formerly Senior Adult Ministries) * **

At the June NCD Senior Council meeting it was decided to adopt a new name for the NCD Senior Ministry. Henceforth we will be known as the **NCD Encore Ministry.** An encore is usually indicated when a performance is done well and the audience calls the performer back for an encore.

The NCD Encore Ministry is designed to encourage and inspire adults 50+ to be actively engaged in their local churches and beyond, creating successful retirement years serving in their giftedness. The Encore Council meets several times a year to plan the Spring and Fall Events (see calendar for specific dates). [For more information on upcoming events and contact information.](#)

**Contextualizing the Gospel: Two Stories**

This month’s "On Our Hearts" article touches on taking the gospel to persons who are different from us. That requires, to one degree or another, contextualizing the gospel--placing it in the other person's context. For further perspective on this gospel task, watch **Charmaine**, a lay person in Trinity City Church, St. Paul, as she explains how TCC contextualizes the gospel in a college context. Also watch **Kyle Eaton**, lead pastor of Rock Hill Community Church, Duluth, as he explains Rock Hill's approach to contextualization.
Pastors Praying Together for Harvest
In preparation for the Pulse Twin Cities outreach event at US Bank Stadium, May 13, pastors from across the region will be gathering at Cedar Valley Church in Bloomington on Thursday, February 16th from 11:30-1:30 pm for worship and prayer. Click here for more info.

Are You Searching for an Associate Staff Member?
Dan Moose and Dave Linde will be conducting annual interviews of graduating students at TEDS later this month. Contact Dave if you'd like him to keep his eyes open for a potential candidate for the specific position you're trying to fill.

EFCA Credentialing Resources:
* Licensing-Certification-Ordination Examinations Next Spring*
If you are thinking about applying for an EFCA ministerial credential and sitting for your interview or examination council next spring, please note the following as you plan:

- Give us advance notice of your intent. Send Sharon an email expressing your desire and rationale for credentialing. This does not bind you to a timetable but helps us serve you better.
- Aim at February 13, 2017, as the date for submitting your paperwork, reading, and thesis.
- Examination dates will be announced after January 1.
- If you prefer an interactive classroom experience to merely reading about EFCA history, consider taking the EFCA History, Theology, and Polity Course, taught by Greg Strand at the EFCA national office in Bloomington, March 13-14, 2017, 8:00 am - 5:00 PM. (Email to register)

Mark Your Calendars

- **EFCA Theology Conference** - February 1-3, 2017, TEDS
  Reformation 500: Theology and Legacy ~ God’s Gospel and the EFCA
- **NCD Church Security Summit**, February 18th, 9 am - 4 pm, Constance EFC, Andover
- **EFCA History, Theology and Polity Class**, March 13-14, 2017
  8:00 am - 5:00 pm, EFCA National Office, Bloomington, MN (Email to register)
- **2017 NCD District Conference** - March 27-28, 2017,
  New Hope Church, Speaker: Kevin Kompelien
- **2017 NCD Youth Blitz Conference**, April 21-23, 2017,
  Duluth, MN
- ***Encore Spring Celebration**, April 24, 2017, Trinity EFC, Lakeville
- **2017 EFCA ONE**, June 20-22, 2017, Austin, TX
- ***Encore Fall Retreat**, September 11-12, 2017, Camp Shamineau
- **Pastors Teaching Conference**, October 3-4, 2017 (Tues-Wed)
  Camp Shamineau

**District News**
**Credentialing**

Matt Jenkins, River Ridge EFC, N. Mankato received his license in November.
Mike Sindelar, Valley EFC, Chaska was granted his license in December.

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