

NCD STRATEGIC PLAN



2019 | 2020 | 2021

OUR FAMILY OF CHURCHES exists to glorify God by multiplying transformational churches among all people in Minnesota. Believing **we are better together**, our district seeks to serve pastors, churches, and church leaders as they pursue this calling. In 2018, we reaffirmed our commitment to keep **“churches first”** and identified **five key areas of opportunity** that we will emphasize and promote in the coming years. This strategic plan is intended to affirm our commitments, clarify our priorities, and propose new initiatives.



CHURCHES FIRST

we will always prioritize the needs of local churches



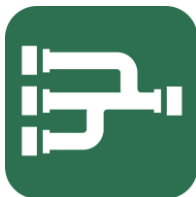
GOSPEL & SCRIPTURE

strengthen our commitment to the Gospel and the Scriptures



ALL PEOPLE

greater impact among people of color, singles, and older adults



LEADERSHIP PIPELINE

develop and gather next generation church leaders



CHURCH REVITALIZATION

support and resources to help our congregations thrive



PERSONAL EVANGELISM

increase our practice of personal evangelism

1. Since the NCD is a family of churches, our NCD team will continue to **prioritize local church needs** over the advancement of broader district initiatives. This is what we mean when we say we are “churches first”.
2. We need God to guide us, so we will **emphasize prayer** in everything we do.
3. We will invest 80% of our energy in our primary services (Church Multiplication, Pastoral Care, Placement, Credentialing, Church Resources, Church Revitalization, Student Ministries, and Missions Mobilization) with the goal of **strengthening and empowering our churches** to fulfill their gospel-shaped mission.
4. We will **cultivate strong relationships** with NCD church leaders and churches.

5. We will continue to serve with an awareness that **district staff members are the best resource we can offer**. Programs help, tools are important, but it is the direct support, encouragement, and partnership of our district staff that makes the biggest difference for our churches.
 6. We will actively support our churches as they work to **train leaders** in their ministry internships and pastoral residencies.
 7. In partnership with the Center for Transformational Churches, we will hold a **Resilient Ministry Cohort** to help church leaders pursue long-term health.
 8. We will be proactive in **recruiting pastors** from the broader evangelical community to serve within the NCD. We will gather and recommend the best available leaders, while always honoring a local church's freedom to choose its leaders.
 9. In partnership with EFCA National, we will work to **bring Apex to the NCD in 2020**.
 10. Our staff will seek out opportunities to **mentor interns and residents** at NCD churches. For these leaders, this is the single best way we can help them. This practice will establish a natural pathway toward greater service within our churches.
 11. In September 2019, our district will host a 10-month **personal evangelism cohort** in partnership with EFCA National and the Billy Graham Center.
 12. In the coming years, we will **develop multiple pathways** to assist NCD pastors and church leaders to grow in the area of **personal evangelism**. This is an urgent priority.
 13. Because preaching matters, we will invite Dr. Greg Scharf to lead a **preaching cohort in 2019/2020** that seeks to sharpen our pastors as they proclaim God's word.
 14. We will embrace the goal of **doubling our number of Latino congregations** by 2025.
 15. We will **recruit and empower people of color and single adults** to serve within our NCD family of churches and especially our district leadership teams (NCD board, multiplication team, pastoral care team, DBOMS, student ministries team, etc.).
 16. Our district conferences will **emphasize the teaching and preaching of God's word**.
 17. In response to recent concerns related to pastoral accountability within evangelical denominations, we will raise our expectations and expand our vision for credentialing. Put another way, **we expect every eligible NCD leader to pursue an EFCA credential**.
 18. Instead of minimizing our biblical and theological convictions in an effort to gain broader cultural acceptance, we will **strengthen our commitment to the authority of Scripture**, celebrating how our strong biblical convictions shape and enhance our lives, our churches, and the impact we can make in this world.
 19. In 2019/2020, we will **establish the North Central Foundation**, seeking to make a major investment in our churches in both church revitalization and church multiplication.
 20. We will identify **church assessment tools** and gather a variety of resources for ongoing church revitalization.
 21. We will seek out and **empower a Director of Church Revitalization** (part-time).
 22. We will develop a list of **trusted partners to assist our churches in revitalization**.
 23. Together with our broader EFCA family, we will develop a **revitalization pathway** that can serve as a starting point for stagnant and struggling churches.
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