

How does a church join our EFCA and NCD family of churches?

**Our EFCA family of churches** exists to glorify God by multiplying transformational churches among all people. The North Central District lives out this mission here in Minnesota. Believing **we are better together**, our district seeks to serve pastors, churches, and church leaders as they pursue this calling.

Two key principles, autonomy and interdependency, guide our churches as we seek to work together. In our denomination, each local church has the freedom, under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, to govern its own affairs. At the same time, every Free Church in our district family pursues gospel-shaped interdependency, as we work alongside our sister churches to invite people from every nation, tribe, people and language to trust, walk with and serve Jesus Christ.

## Getting Started

- The best way to start is by reaching out to an NCD staff member or a member of our NCD board of directors.
- Initial conversations should include motives and reasons for joining, hearing about how we serve and support our churches, and what it means to be part of the EFCA family.
- It is important to know that a church does not need to join the NCD just to receive help. If your church is facing a difficult situation and needs assistance, we can come alongside you and would encourage you to set aside the issue of affiliation for the time being. Put another way, we love the church and are here to serve.
- Our staff and board are available to assist in this process in many ways. We can meet with your church board, meet with the congregation, help you navigate the process, and work with your congregation to discern if the EFCA is a good fit for your church.

## Joining the NCD and EFCA

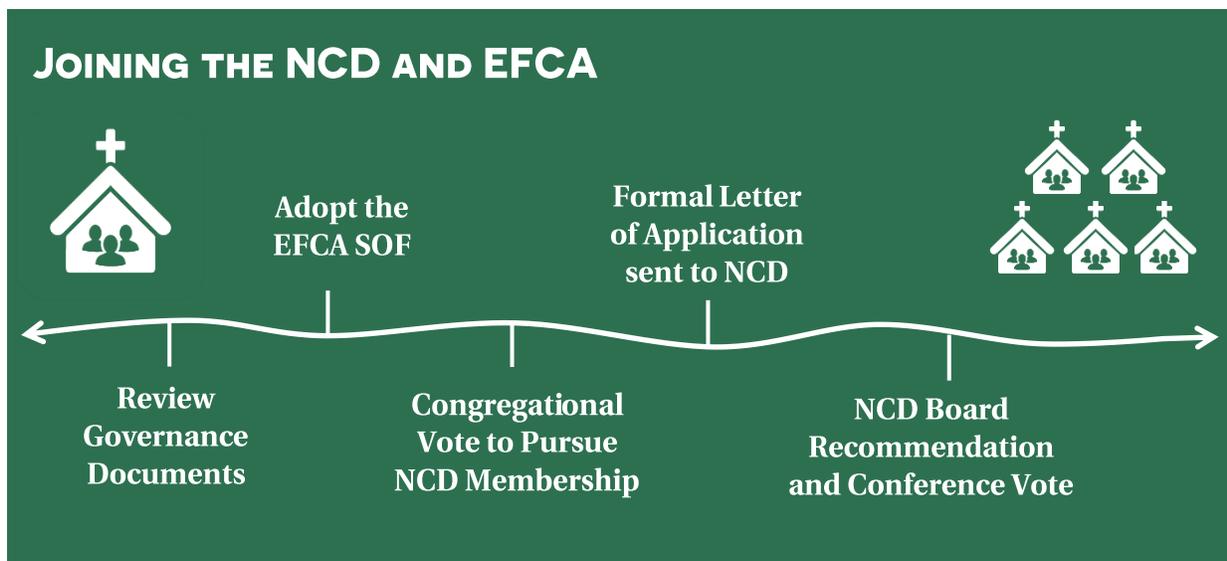
After adequate interaction between church leaders and the district representative, the pathway to affiliation consists of the following three basic steps.

- The congregation will confirm that its Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws are in harmony with EFCA polity and practice, vote to adopt the EFCA Statement of Faith\* and vote to seek membership in the NCD.
- Church leaders will send an official letter (or email) to the NCD District Superintendent requesting affiliation, expressing the church's clear commitment to the values, doctrine, mission, and policies of the EFCA and NCD, and reporting the results of the congregational vote to join the district. This letter should include a copy of the Articles

of Incorporation, Bylaws and Statement of Faith of the church.

- The district Board of Directors will consider the church's request and, upon approval, will recommend the church for membership at the next district conference. The conference will vote to affirm this recommendation and the church will be welcomed into district membership.

Interested in learning more? We invite you to reach out to our district team at [ncd@ncdefca.org](mailto:ncd@ncdefca.org) or 612-338-1716.



*\* Important Note: Our 2019 EFCA conference voted to revise the EFCA Statement of faith, replacing the word "premillennial" with the word "glorious" in Article 9. The transitional rules allow a short window (Until December 2021) for churches to affiliate using the 2008 SOF (which includes the word "premillennial" or the 2019 SOF (which has replaced the word "premillennial" with the word "glorious").*