

January 2023

To All North Central District Pastors and Churches:

Greetings from the District office. This message concerns eligibility for voting in the business session of our upcoming district conference, March 27-28, 2023. (Anyone may register for and attend the conference; this notice concerns eligibility for official voting at the business session.)

What is this all about?

New requirements and procedures for conference voting went into effect in 2021. Please be aware of these new and officially required procedures. They are designed to help safeguard the integrity of conference voting.

Why is this important to me and my church?

If you do not follow these procedures, which are called for in the bylaws, you may not be able to vote at district conference. This may be so even if you are a pastor! So please take some time to acquaint yourself with these matters.

So who can vote at district conference?

To be eligible to vote at the District Conference, you must be a duly credentialed delegate. (See bylaws Article 6.D. on page 4 of this packet.)

What do you mean by “credentialed”?

Here “credentialed” refers to conference credentialing, not ministerial credentialing (licensing and certification/ordination). However, as you will see, ministerial credentialing does affect conference credentialing.

What is a “duly credentialed delegate”?

There are two categories of credentialed delegates:

- 1) Designated delegates. These are delegates who are officially selected by their local Free Church.

If you are not ...

- a pastoral staff member of an NCD church and holding active ministry credentials with the EFCA
- An individual who holds an active ministry credentials of the Evangelical Free Church of America and is a member of a member church of the North Central District.
- a member of the NCD Board of Directors, or

- a church planter approved by the NCD and holding active ministry credentials with the EFCA
... you must be duly designated by your church as a conference delegate in order to be eligible to vote.

2) Other delegates

If you are in one or more of the categories above, and you are registered for the district conference, you will automatically be a conference delegate who is eligible to vote.

So if I'm a pastor I can vote?

Not necessarily! **Please note that being a pastor does not automatically confer voting privileges on you.** You must fall in one of the categories above. If you do not hold active EFCA ministry credentials or not on the NCD Board of Directors, you will not be a voting delegate to the conference unless your church duly designates you a delegate.

What if I hold active EFCA ministry credentials but I'm not on a pastoral staff?

Individuals who hold active ministry credentials of the Evangelical Free Church of America and who are members of a member church of the North Central District are eligible to vote.

If I'm a lay person can I vote?

Yes, but only if your church duly designates you a conference delegate.

What's our next step to make sure that I and others from our church will be able to vote?

Register for the conference and fill out the accompanying delegate form with the names of the church designated delegates.

How does a church designate delegates?

The NCD bylaw does not specify a process; it only states that the church must select its delegates. The process is left up to the local church. It should be official and should be characterized by reasonable communication and accountability. Examples would include (but not necessarily be limited to):

- Action at a congregational meeting
- Action by the church governing board

How many delegates is our church allowed?

See the accompanying form.

How does a church report its delegates to the district office?

Please submit the attached form. On it you will identify both categories of delegates: *designated* (page 1) and *other* (page 2).

When and where do we submit the form?

Please send the delegate form to our office by March 15. It can be sent by regular mail, faxed (612-338-1519), or emailed (ncd@ncdefca.org). Our mailing address is 3510 Hopkins Place N, Blding 4, Oakdale, MN 55128

What, then, are our next steps?

- Have the church governing board determine a workable selection process for duly designating conference delegates.
- Invite individuals from your church to be conference delegates.
- Formally select and designate delegates.
- Complete the accompanying form and submit it to the district office by March 15, 2023

I have some additional questions or concerns about all this.

Contact Dan Moose at 612-338-1716 or dan.moose@ncdefca.org or Sharon Trucker at 612-338-1716 or Sharon.trucker@ncdefca.org.

NCD Bylaws: Conference Delegates (from Article 6)

D. DELEGATES

All delegates to an annual conference or to any special business conference of the North Central District shall be members in good standing of a North Central District Evangelical Free Church.

1. DESIGNATED DELEGATES

Designated delegates shall be selected by each member church of the North Central District and shall have full voting privileges. Each church shall be entitled to the following number of designated delegates according to active membership.

150 or less members2 delegates
151-300 members3 delegates
301-500 members4 delegates
501 or more members5 delegates

2. OTHER DELEGATES

Other delegates having full voting privileges shall be limited to the following:

- a) Individuals who hold active ministry credentials with the Evangelical Free Church of America and are on the pastoral staff (whether one or more) of a member church of the North Central District.
- b) Individuals who hold active ministry credentials of the Evangelical Free Church of America and who are members of a member church of the North Central District.
- c) The members of the Board of Directors of the North Central District.
- d) Church planters approved by the North Central District and who hold active ministry credentials with the Evangelical Free Church of America.

E. CONFERENCE CREDENTIALS

1. Two or more members of the North Central District Board of Directors (other than the chairman) shall serve as the Committee on Conference Credentials of any district business conference.
2. The Committee on Conference Credentials shall examine the conference credentials of delegates for conference approval.
3. The District Superintendent shall appoint the Tellers, Distribution Committee, and all other committees necessary for the work of the conference.

**North Central District Association 2023 Annual Conference
March 27-28, 2023
Constance EFC, Andover, MN**

This form is for your certifying that the following individuals are official delegates to the 2023 Annual Conference of the North Central District Association of The Evangelical Free Church of America, March 28, 2023, at Constance EFC, Andover, MN.

Please read carefully the accompanying article from the North Central District Bylaws describing conference delegates. In submitting this form you are affirming that these delegates are eligible to vote at this year’s conference either by (1) having been duly selected by your church to be “Designated Delegates” or (2) qualifying on other grounds as “Other Delegates.”

Category 1: Designated Delegates (see Bylaws 6.D.1.)

According to EFCA National Office records, there are ___ members of _____ in _____, MN and, therefore, your church is allowed ___ “designated” conference delegates to represent the congregation. These delegates are in addition to “other delegates” on the reverse side of this page.

Name of Delegate	√ Check to indicate member-in-good-standing
1.	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	<input type="checkbox"/>

IMPORTANT! Pastors and other staff who do not hold EFCA ministerial credentials (i.e., are not licensed or certified) will need to be duly selected by your church as delegates. Unlike credentialed pastors, they do not automatically qualify to vote at the conference.

*(This form **DOES NOT** serve as registration for the conference. You **MUST** register on the conference registration site or on-site.)*

This form is to be signed by the Senior (or solo) Pastor and an elected church officer. It affirms that the above-named individuals were duly selected and authorizes them as conference delegates.

Signature of Senior/Solo/Interim Pastor (required) Date

Signature of an elected church officer (required) Position Date

Category 2: Other Delegates (see Bylaws 6.D.2.)

If an individual qualifies under one of the four categories listed below and they register for and attend the conference, they will be considered an official conference delegate. Official selection by church action is not necessary.

Name of Delegate	√ Check to indicate basis of qualifying as a delegate			
	EFCA- credentialed (licensed/ certified) and staff member	EFCA- credentialed (licensed/ certified) and local church member	Member of NCD Board of Directors	Church planter approved & EFCA- credentialed (licensed/ certified)
1.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(Attach separate sheet for more names if necessary)



Please submit this form to the district office (by email, mail, or fax) by March 15, 2023. Or bring onsite to the conference. Our preference is receiving this prior to the conference to ease the registration process. Thank you!



3510 Hopkins Place N, Blding 4 | Oakdale, MN 55128
ncd@ncdefca.org ~ ncdefca.org
 Fax 612-338-1519

If you have further questions, please call 612-338-1716, or email ncd@ncdefca.org