EFCA | NCD
NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

# District Superintendent's Update

March 2023 | District Conference

**download this presentation at ncdefca.org/2023conference**

# Beginning with Discipleship

Christian leaders are, first and foremost,
growing followers of Jesus Christ.

We are disciples of Jesus before disciple-makers.
We are people who grow in grace before we are
people who help others grow in grace.

As we serve you, please know we prioritize your
growth, maturity, joy, and sanctification.

# Grateful for the Past Six Years

Thank you for allowing me to serve you for the past six years (two terms).

I have been blessed, and God has used our family of churches to help me grow as a follower of Jesus and servant-leader for His church.

I am excited about serving another term, continuing to believe that God has called Teri and me to the NCD.

# Welcoming Frank Lanier

The North Central District is overjoyed to welcome Frank Lanier to our district staff.

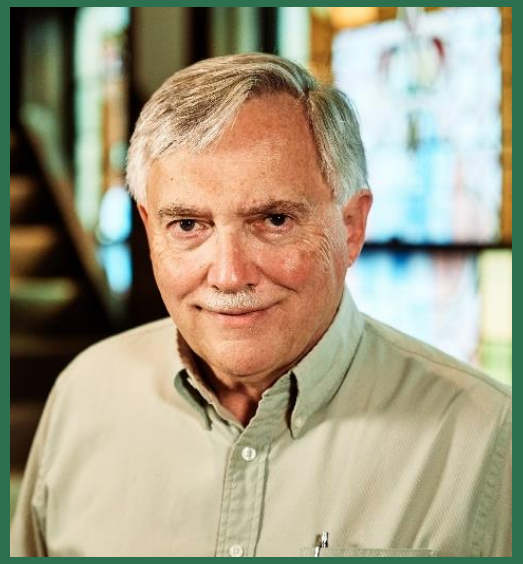
Beginning next month, Frank will serve full-time as our Director of Leadership Development.

You can learn more about Frank's role in our upcoming zipline.

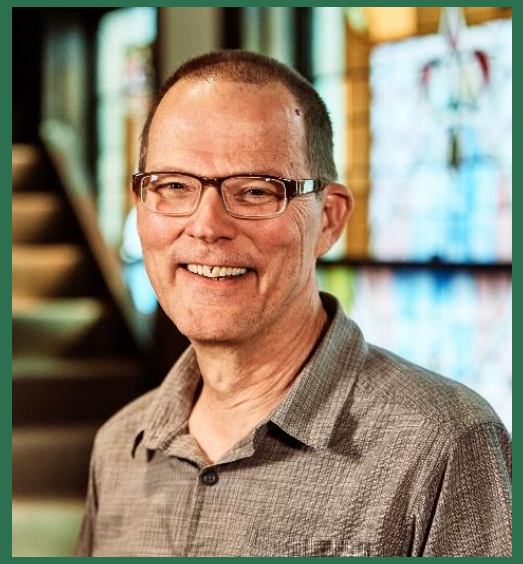
subscribe at ncdefca.org/zipline

# Upcoming Staff Opportunities

**Dan Moose**
Church Multiplication



**Steve Austvold**
Missions Mobilization

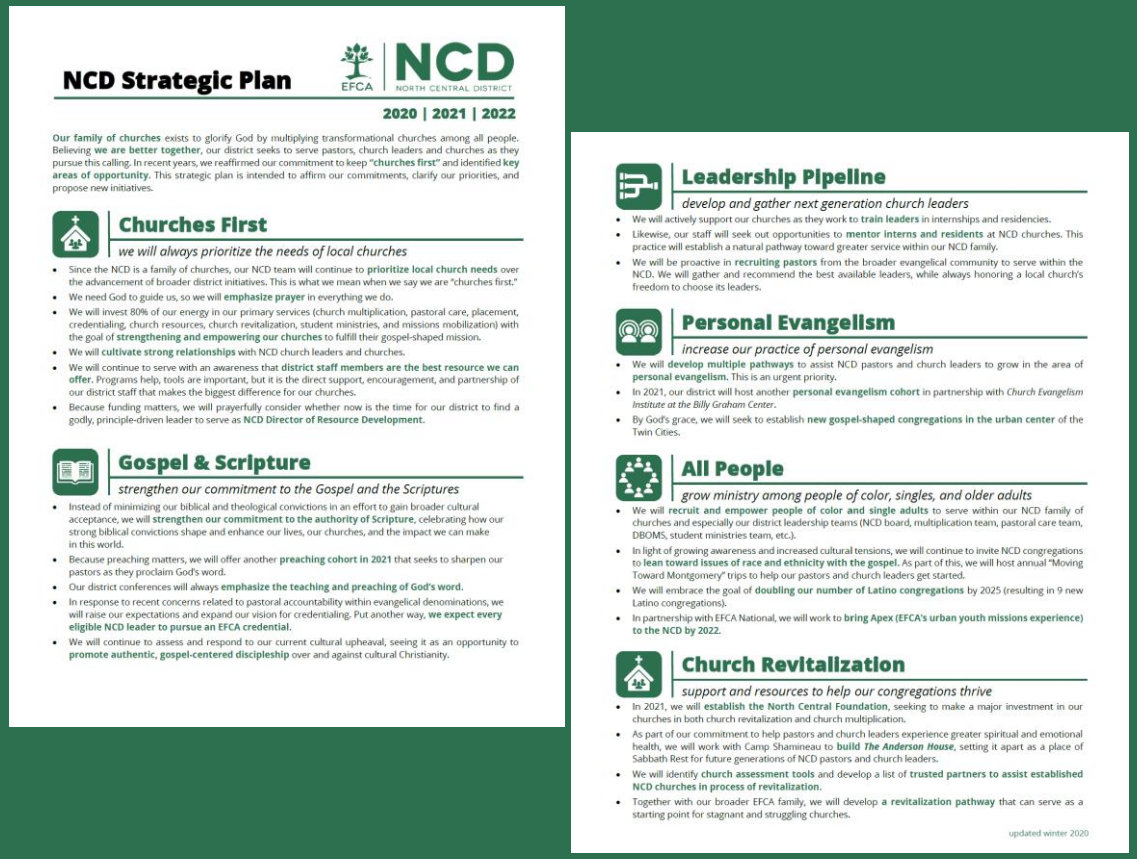


**Dave Linde**
Credentialing and Placement

In the year ahead, we are seeking God's direction as Dan Moose, Steve Austvold, and Dave Linde move toward retirement (likely continuing to serve, but in part-time roles).

We anticipate calling new full-time staff for church multiplication and missions mobilization, and part-time staff for credentialing (since Frank Lanier will oversee placement as part of his new role).

# NCD Strategic Plan



**NCD Strategic Plan**

EFCA | NCD NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT

**2020 | 2021 | 2022**

**Our family of churches** exists to glorify God by multiplying transformational churches among all people. Believing **we are better together**, our district seeks to serve pastors, church leaders and churches as they pursue this calling. In recent years, we reaffirmed our commitment to keep **"churches first"** and identified **key areas of opportunity**. 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*

- 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."
- We need God to guide us, so we will **emphasize prayer** in everything we do.
- 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.
- We will **cultivate strong relationships** with NCD church leaders and churches.
- 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.
- Because funding matters, we will prayerfully consider whether now is the time for our district to find a godly, principle-driven leader to serve as **NCD Director of Resource Development**.

## Gospel & Scripture

*strengthen our commitment to the Gospel and the Scriptures*

- 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.
- Because preaching matters, we will offer another **preaching cohort in 2021** that seeks to sharpen our pastors as they proclaim God's word.
- Our district conferences will always **emphasize the teaching and preaching of God's word**.
- 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**.
- We will continue to assess and respond to our current cultural upheaval, seeing it as an opportunity to **promote authentic, gospel-centered discipleship** over and against cultural Christianity.

## Leadership Pipeline

*develop and gather next generation church leaders*

- We will actively support our churches as they work to **train leaders** in internships and residencies.
- Likewise, our staff will seek out opportunities to **mentor interns and residents** at NCD churches. This practice will establish a natural pathway toward greater service within our NCD family.
- 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.

## Personal Evangelism

*increase our practice of personal evangelism*

- 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.
- In 2021, our district will host another **personal evangelism cohort** in partnership with *Church Evangelism Institute at the Billy Graham Center*.
- By God's grace, we will seek to establish **new gospel-shaped congregations in the urban center** of the Twin Cities.

## All People

*grow ministry among people of color, singles, and older adults*

- 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.).
- In light of growing awareness and increased cultural tensions, we will continue to invite NCD congregations to **lean toward issues of race and ethnicity with the gospel.** As part of this, we will host annual "Moving Toward Montgomery" trips to help our pastors and church leaders get started.
- We will embrace the goal of **doubling our number of Latino congregations** by 2025 (resulting in 9 new Latino congregations).
- In partnership with EFCA National, we will work to **bring Apex (EFCA's urban youth missions experience) to the NCD by 2022.**

## Church Revitalization

*support and resources to help our congregations thrive*

- In 2021, we will **establish the North Central Foundation**, seeking to make a major investment in our churches in both church revitalization and church multiplication.
- As part of our commitment to help pastors and church leaders experience greater spiritual and emotional health, we will work with Camp Shamineau to **build *The Anderson House***, setting it apart as a place of Sabbath Rest for future generations of NCD pastors and church leaders.
- We will identify **church assessment tools** and develop a list of **trusted partners to assist established NCD churches in process of revitalization**.
- Together with our broader EFCA family, we will develop **a revitalization pathway** that can serve as a starting point for stagnant and struggling churches.

updated winter 2020

This May, we will begin a revision process for our strategic plan.

We will review our commitments, affirm and refine our priorities, and consider new initiatives.

ncdefca.org/strategicplan

# Our Biblical Convictions

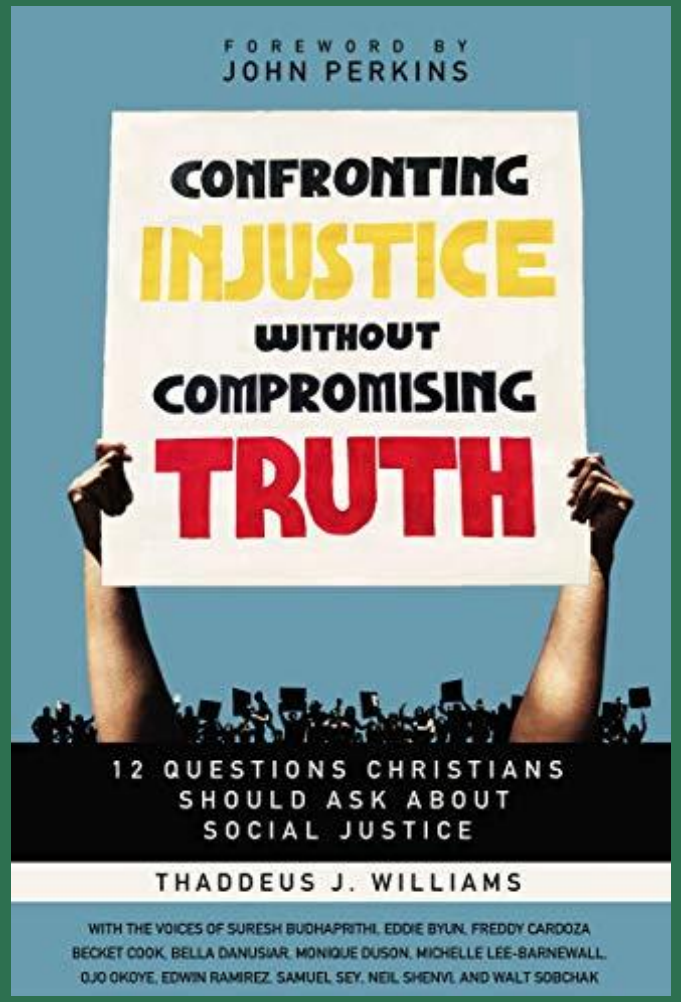
*Our culture is divided, broken, and is surely moving further from God's word and His gospel. Moving forward, it will be increasingly important for our family of churches to be clear about our shared biblical convictions.*

- Our shared commitment to the inerrancy, infallibility, and authority of God's word remains strong and growing. His word is truth, light, good, holy, helpful, necessary, understandable, beautiful, lifechanging, etc.

- We remain joyfully committed to our gracious complementarian convictions, both within our churches and through our ordination policy. We have no plans to change this, and every intention of strengthening it in the years ahead.

- We have a strong commitment to biblical justice, believing the gospel is the only solution for the many social problems that our world faces.

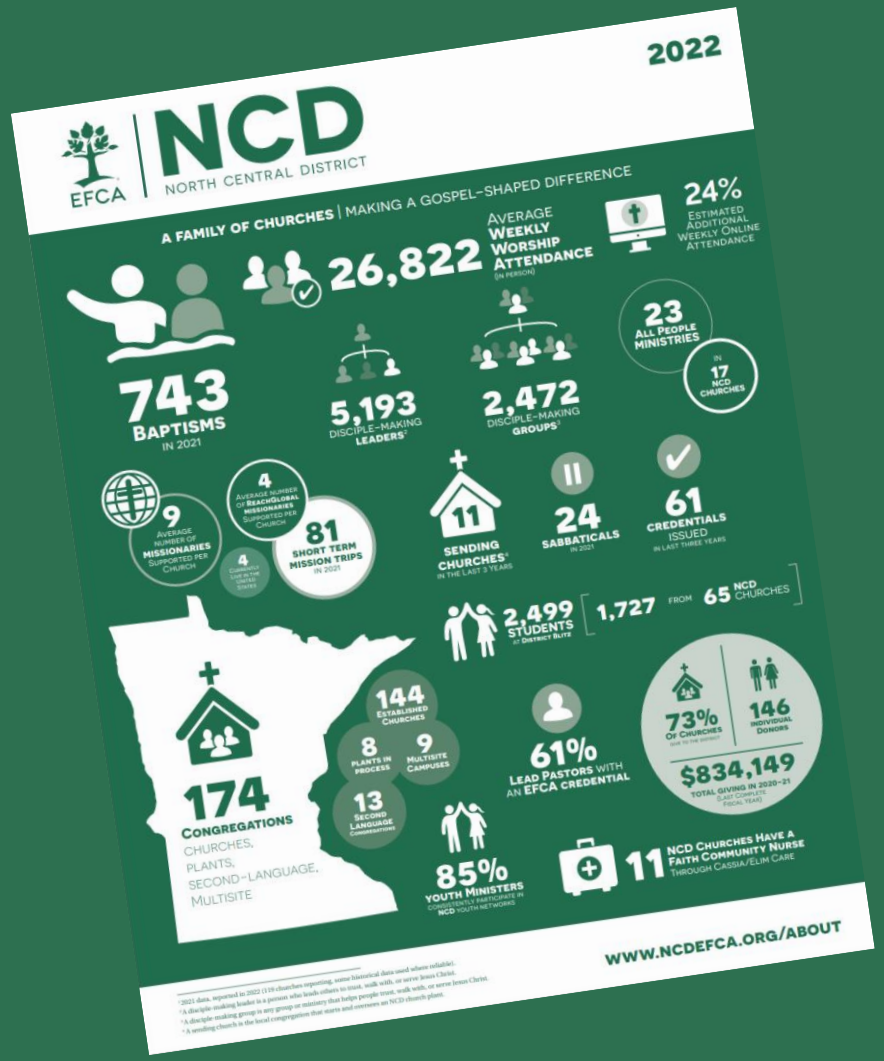
# Confronting Injustice Without Compromising Truth




We have invited Dr. Thaddeus Williams for a one-day event to help our family of churches lean toward issues of race and justice with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

January 15th, 2024

# NCD Infographic




Highlighting key measures, our NCD Infographic is designed to help us **count and celebrate** what God has done in and through our family of churches.

ncdefca.org/infographic

# Anderson House Update

## The ANDERSON HOUSE

**a place for rest at CAMP SHAMINEAU**

*In honor of Jim and Lois Anderson's long, faithful service to the pastors and church leaders of the North Central District*

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CAMP SHAMINEAU MOTLEY, MN

- We are excited to share that Camp Shamineau expects to begin construction this year.
- Permitting is planned for late April
- Work on the foundation should begin in summer
- Framing and weather sealing likely complete by October
- We are hopeful that construction will be complete by May 2024.
- Starting then, NCD pastors and church leaders will be able to use it free of charge for personal retreats, ministry rest, and sabbaticals.

# Thank You Hope Community Church!

For almost 20 years, we shared the former Central Free campus.

We are grateful for the partnership that resulted in so much ministry in the Twin Cities.

We are thankful for our continued relationship, glad you are a part of our NCD family, and blessed by your ongoing generosity to our district.

# New District Office

We have a new office in Oakdale, located inside the 4Front Technology & Office Campus.

It is available, free of charge, for church leadership teams to use for meetings, planning retreats, and offsite leadership gatherings.

We would love to host you!

# District Staff

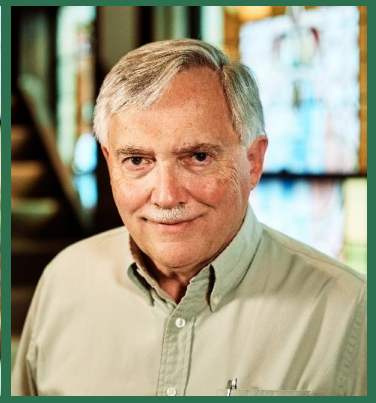
These servant leaders are gifted, love you, and are here to sacrificially serve your congregation.

**Brian Farone**
District Superintendent

**Pat Wester**
Church Revitalization

**Glenn Olson**
Student Ministry

**Dena Stromberg**
Digital Communication



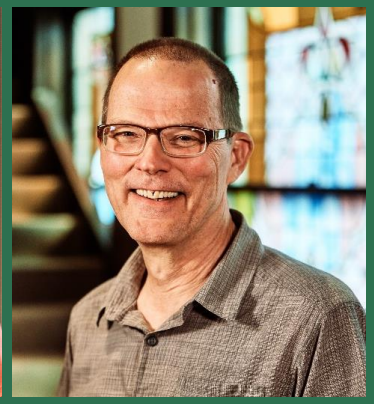
**Steve Austvold**
Missions Mobilization

**Andrea Tyson**
Women in Ministry

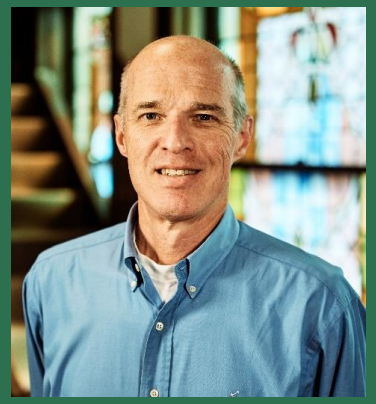
**Frank Lanier**
Leadership Development

**Paul Anderson**
Resource Development and Administration

**Sharon Trucker**
Administration

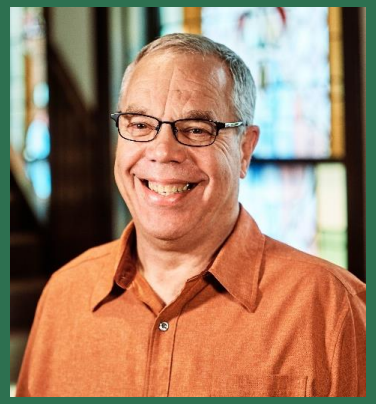


**Dave Linde**
Credentialing and Placement



**Kelley Johnson**
Pastoral Care

**Sonja Wallace**
Finances



**Dan Moose**
Church Multiplication

# Moving Forward

- Please know we love you, are here to help you grow, and are eager to walk alongside you as you serve Jesus.
- Things will be challenging for many years to come, as our culture continues to drift and our congregations work through how to respond.
- The church, bearing the gospel and faithful to scripture, remains at the very center of God's plan "to redeem a people for Himself and to make all things new for His own glory."