North Central District Association, EFCA

2023 Reports

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District Superintendent Report

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen. - Ephesians 3:20-21

Dear NCD Pastors and Church Leaders,

Thank you for the privilege of serving the North Central District for the past six years. This role is an uncommon opportunity to see the glory of our triune God "in the church." As you preach, pray, shepherd, and serve, I am blessed to see God's glorious power at work among us. I am grateful for your trust, don't take this calling for granted, and look forward to continued gospel service alongside you.

Our district staff remains the heart of our ministry among you. With joy and humility, bringing seasoned skill and gracious wisdom, empowered and gifted by the Spirit, they are here to serve you. Our team currently includes Paul Anderson (resource development and administration), Steve Austvold (missions mobilization), Dave Linde (placement and credentialing), Kelley Johnson (pastoral care), Dan Moose (church multiplication), Glenn Olson (student ministries), Andrea Tyson (women in ministry), Dena Stromberg (digital communications), Sharon Trucker (administration), Sonja Wallace (bookkeeper), and Pat Wester (church revitalization). In the months ahead, we are excited welcome Frank Lanier (leadership development) to our district staff.

Likewise, I am so thankful for our NCD board of directors. They ensure that our district remains faithful to God's word, focused on gospel ministry, and accountable to our family of churches.

We are in the process of refining our strategic plan for the coming years. This plan helps us keep "churches first" and focus on key ministry areas. Through it, we can affirm our commitments, clarify our priorities, and propose new initiatives. We welcome your input and ask that you pray for this process.

Looking ahead, I am hopeful that God will call me, through our conference vote, to serve another term as our district superintendent. I intend to focus my district ministry on discipleship for pastors and church leaders, encouraging all of us to walk with Christ as we serve His church. In addition, this role has given me an opportunity to help other districts, support Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, and invest in our EFCA family. With your blessing, I will continue to focus my service within our broader movement on our shared gospel mission and cherished biblical convictions.

Godspeed as you walk with Christ and serve His church.

In Christ,

Brian Farone
Brian.farone@ncdefca.org

Church Multiplication Catalyst Report

Over the last ministry year, we have seen God's continued work in our church multiplication; new churches started, renewal and strengthening of our regional church planting centers, continued church planter training, and the ReachNetwork (National church planting team) strengthening their ministries.

In our district, we had five churches start public worship services: Good News Church, Eagan out of Bethlehem Baptist South;The Bridge, Hancock out of Morris EFC; Rock Haven, Montevideo out or Rock Haven, Granite Falls and Anchor Point; Two Harbors out of Anchor Point, Duluth; Rock Hill, Superior from Rock Hill, Duluth. We are seeing consistent growth in each of these plants. The Bridge is starting with lay leadership until they grow enough to afford a pastor. Park Community and Elmwood Churches have sent our Pastor Matt Frey to start a new church in the St Louis Park, Golden Valley, Robbinsdale area. It is so good to see churches planting churches that we get to come alongside to help.

This last year we saw the West Central regional church planting center (team of regional churches working together to reach their region through church planting/revitalization) thrive and unite as they worked together to assist in the planting of Rock Haven, Montevideo. They supported Pastor Jason Haug and the church plant through their prayers, finances, people and personal encouragement. We are currently restarting our Southeast regional church planting center and are planning on starting several other ones this year. It is amazing what God can do through a group of churches and pastors to not only start churches, but to raise up potential pastors and leaders. If you would be willing to start a regional church planting center in your region, get in touch with me.

I continue to enjoy leading the Multiply Cohort training of new church planters and pastors with the help of Steve Erickson. These eleven sessions – six-month cohorts focus on the competencies needed to start a new church but are also valuable for any new pastor and for revitalization. Our current cohort includes Matt Frey and Dorkham See from our district and a church planter from the Bay Area and one from Long Island. Who would have ever thought of the wonderful use of technology like this before Covid. I continue to work with churches to renew their clear vision so the whole church can work together more effectively to advance Jesus' Kingdom in their community.

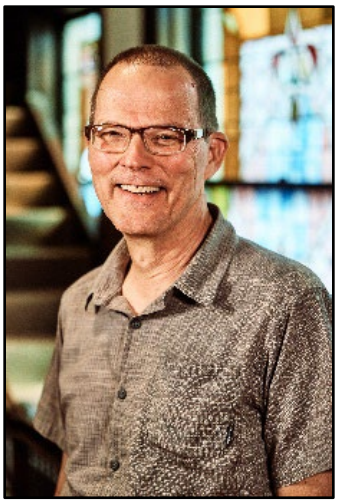
Our EFCA ReachNetwork has continued to strengthen both the relationships of our district church multiplication leaders and the systems we use to assist our church planters. We continue to refine our assessment centers, our multiply cohort training, and our church planters coaching system. We have started a church planters and wives care system and had our first national care retreat. Our new church development system is focusing on helping churches better reach their ministry area and strengthen their disciple-making ministry. If you are interested in joining one of these 3 month cohorts, contact me.

In the coming year I look forward to helping churches continue to develop lanes of multiplication by clarifying Gods' vision for their church, developing cultures of evangelism, intentionally making disciples, equipping and releasing leaders, developing new church planters as they join other churches to plant together. I continue to see church multiplication becoming the culture of more of our churches who are sending out new churches and churches who partner with other churches to start new plants. How can I assist you and your church to open new lanes of multiplication so that together we can advance Christ's Kingdom and plant churches among all people in Minnesota?

Dan Moose | Dan.moose@ncdefca.org

Placement & Credentialing Report

Part-time Status



At the turn of the fiscal year, July 1, 2022, I stepped back from two-thirds time to half-time in my NCD employment. This is on a pathway toward full retirement. The overall timetable for that pathway is intentionally flexible as Brian and I and the district board look at needs and capacities and how we can best serve the churches of the district on a year-by-year basis. It seems likely that I will continue at half-time through 2023, then evaluate what might come next.

Pastoral Search Ministry

This past year I continued to serve various congregations in their times of pastoral transition. I meet with pastoral search teams to coach them in a step-by-step process of exploring potential candidates. I also do some coaching of churches in an important phase of the transitional process that precedes the actual search—namely, the assessment phase, in which leaders and search team, with congregational input, sharpen their answer to the question, "What kind of pastor do we need?" This assessment phase is now largely being overseen by my colleague Pat Wester. Pat has good experience and resources to help churches with this important exploration. (See page14 for a list of pastoral transitions this past year.)

Credentialing Ministry

The one-year window of opportunity for senior/solo pastors to obtain the Expedited License closed on November 1, 2022. There was a hearty response from veteran pastors in our district. 19 pastors who have served ten or more years in the EFCA took advantage of this opportunity to formally express their alignment and accountability in our EFCA family. Together with this specific effort, the past year saw an increasing number of pastors applying for the new Five-Year Nonrenewable License. Its streamlined process provides a helpful on-ramp to the credentialing process. I'm thankful for the 30+ pastors and leaders who assist in the various aspects of credentialing ministry, serving candidates at key points in the pathway. And I'm thankful for Sharon's increased oversight of that pathway now that I am part-time. Among other things, she does the lion's share of organizing examination councils. In addition to my district ministry in credentialing, I chair the EFCA Board of Ministerial Standing. I do this partly on NCD time, partly on my own time. (See page 13 for a list of credentials granted this past year.)

A New Staff Member

As of this writing, the district is on the cusp of hiring a new full-time staff member. Part of his responsibilities will be learning, and eventually overseeing, the pastoral placement ministry. A good share of my attention for the rest of this year will be training him in that ministry, with a full hand-off envisioned by the end of the year. I look forward to that partnership and to that shift in my responsibilities.

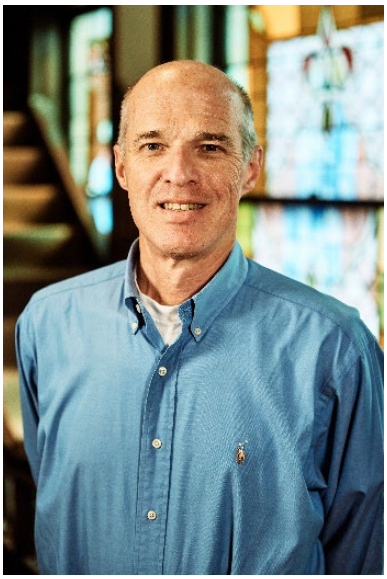
Gratitude

Although my time spent with my colleagues is less than when I was full-time, I still greatly value their friendship, fellowship, and collaboration. It's a blessing to serve with them. Here's a special shout-out to Sharon and Sonja and Dena for their administrative, financial, and communications support. They create and maintain the tracks that district ministry runs on. Three cheers!

Respectfully submitted,
Dave Linde | dave.linde@ncdefca.org

Pastoral Care Report

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. **Matthew 11:28-30 (ESV)**



Dear NCD Pastors and Leaders,

The Matthew passage above continues to be a core truth we cling to as we reflect on last year and look forward to 2023 and beyond. Rest, or the lack of it continues to be a huge factor in the lives of our pastors, their wives, and our churches. The aftershocks of Covid, internal divisions, and some huge cultural shifts continue to stress the foundations of our church families, placing a great deal of stress on our leaders.

As a result, the NCD team has again stepped up and stepped in, seeking to build deeper connections with pastors and their wives by providing them with opportunities to connect with us and with each other. This was done through a continued practice of "assertive availability," the intentional pressing in with a simple question: "How are you doing?" then pressing in deeper to support and encourage. We have also had two very well received Resilient Ministry Couples Retreats, centered on how to gain and build resilience in your life, marriage, and ministry. Those attending came away rested, reconnected, and hopeful.

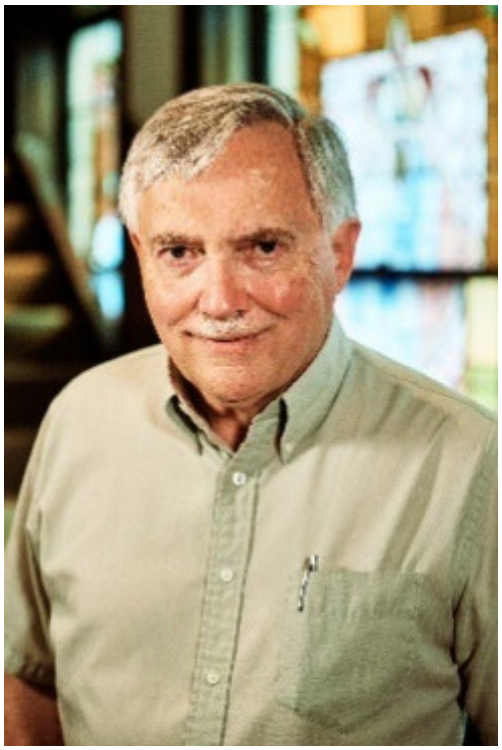
One area of our ministry that has rebounded post-Covid is that of helping leaders and churches implement restorative Sabbaticals, something they set aside during the C-19 crisis because many felt the need to be present in the chaos. This return to rhythms of intentional rest has been very beneficial as our pastors have regained some of their spiritual and emotional footing.

As we shift into '23/'24 with another divisive election cycle, and growing resistance to the truth of the Bible; having an abiding relationship, rock solid assurance, and deep rest in Christ becomes even more paramount. It is the mission and prayer of all the NCD staff to help our churches, our pastors, and their wives find the hope, assurance, and rest that comes from a deeply grounded relationship with Christ. This relationship is built on time in the word, time in prayer, time in worship, and regular times of Sabbath. If we can be of assistance in the year to come, please give us a call.

In Christ,

Kelley & Jola Johnson
Kelley.Johnson@frontiernet.net
320-583-9434 (Cell)

Mission Mobilization Report



In Matthew 9, we see Jesus starting with ministry in His hometown. Twice in this chapter, Jesus passed on to other towns. At the end of the chapter, Jesus went to all of the cities and villages. Each was important to Him. Jesus gives us the perfect example of reaching out to people and ministering to them, (Matthew 9:35-38). As a mission mobilizer, it is our passion to see all followers of Jesus and local churches be (mobilized) for the Great Commission. We do this by informing people and congregations on what God is doing around the world. The result is that people and churches can respond through prayer, giving of their time and resources, or going or sending people from their church for both short-term or long-term service. Whether it is taking a first step for mission involvement or taking next steps, we want to see the Church of Jesus Christ on mission for Jesus both locally and globally. We do this by visiting local churches, meeting with mission teams, offering training and mission strategy to help churches develop mission clarity or mission policy. We also network and promote various mission initiatives through ReachGlobal, Global fingerprints, and other kingdom partners. We are also focusing more on doing and encouraging personal evangelism.

Life in 2022 was busy for us with local church visits and various church mission consultations. We tried to visit three churches each month on weekends. ReachGlobal crisis response opened a new site in January 2021 at Lake Charles, Louisiana. In 2022, I led two teams to that site. It was encouraging to see a growing interest from churches to be involved in this mission outreach. Starting in July 2022, I started working at 2/3 time with the NCD. I am appreciating this gradual slowdown.

In March/April 2022 Kathy and I returned to South Asia for a short visit to see our mission partners with Global Fingerprints. It was so encouraging to see them. In late May and June, I completed the final part of my sabbatical. This was one part that was not affected by all of the covid changes. In 2023 here is what we have planned:

- Leading crisis response teams again to Lake Charles, Louisiana. May 2023
- Going to Asia again to visit Global Fingerprints partners. Done in February 2023
- Visiting churches and mission teams on weekends.
- Helping churches with mission focus and strategy planning.

Thank you for your prayers and support for us. Let us know how we can serve you in 2023.

in Christ,
Steve Austvold | steve.austvold@ncdefca.org
Kathy Austvold | kathy.austvold@ncdefca.org

Student Ministries Report

It is no surprise to anyone the working with youth has new challenges every year. As a youth worker one of the best ways of staying current on those changes is by attending our monthly Youth Worker Networks. During those times we learn from each other and mostly from God's word how to respond to these challenges like Jesus would. Right now, we have 90.6% of full-time youth workers in the NCD attending these networks (58). Now for the second year the Children's Ministry Network is growing stronger with 10-18 attending every 4 months. The motto "We are better together" is certainly true for the relationships that are being built.

District Blitz Student Conference will be April 28-30th, 2023 again in Duluth. The theme this year is "Mashup" and we are looking at the life of David. How did David handle the joys and struggles of life. Registration is up from last year which is a good sign. Last year we had 1727 students and adults attending from 65 EFC churches. With the Converge denomination our numbers were 2499. My favorite part of this weekend is the prayer opportunities in which hundreds of teens participate.

Two goals I would like to trust God for,

1. this year is starting a Northwest Network and also
2. take some steps towards intentionally helping volunteer led youth ministries in our churches in Minnesota.
3. I could see possibly (3) starting a second Children's Ministry Network. Ok that would be 3 goals. Please pray with be as God needs to lead the way in each of these changes.

Personally… I have been in Student Ministries for 35 years. Anne and I have raised 6 kids in Hastings. The last one just started college. I think we will be experiencing an empty nest soon. This summer I will be on sabbatical for the first time since starting the role of NCD Student Ministry Director in 2010. Please pray for a refreshing and life-giving time. Both Anne and I are excited about our plans for learning and traveling.

Thank you for the privilege of coaching and mentoring the youth workers of the NCD!

Glenn Olson
glennolson@me.com
651-592-6702

Church Revitalization Report

let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works (ESV) Heb 10:24

2022 was a year for churches to reemphasize the importance of in-person worship and rebuilding relationships between the members of their congregation. Many churches made good progress and discovered a renewed sense of the importance of discipleship and equipping. Especially, equipping believers to be able to share their story and the Gospel to the people around them. This was some really good revitalization of church ministry.

I also saw many churches dealing with a pastoral transition that stemmed from a combination of retirements, a few pastors transitioning to other ministries, and some forced transitions coming out of the unhealth of the pastor and/or the church. One thing that has become clear to me is the need to strengthen the Pastor-Elder relationship. Many of the breakdowns in ministry I see can be traced back to this relationship. I believe the elders and pastors need a strong partnership model that has commitment to the Gospel, commitment to the relationship between them that includes transparency, and commitment to the execution of sound doctrine through the ministries of the church. Just a reminder to evaluate where your church is at and strengthen it if you need to.

In addition to working with the churches that have found themselves in a pastoral transition, we had an Elder Chair Roundtable Discussion in the south part of the state. It was an opportunity to gather elder chairs together with Brian Farone and myself. We had a robust discussion on how to strengthen the role of elder, caring for the pastor and other elder related topics. We hope to have additional meeting sin other parts of the state.

I have also helped churches with leadership structure changes, constitution and by-laws modifications and other leadership challenges. This continues to be a niche for me along with church revitalization and leadership coaching. Thanks for putting your trust in me as we serve together to make a Gospel-shaped difference in our communities and abroad.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Wester
pat.wester@ncdefca.org

Women in Ministry Report

I am so thankful to be about a year and a half into my role as the Director for Women in Ministry as part of the NCD staff team. Having been the recipient of the NCD team's prayer and wise counsel over the years in my own leadership roles, I am glad to be among them to continue to pray for the churches of our district and use my gifts and passion areas to encourage health and gospel-transformation. We all benefit from having trusted relationships where we can receive coaching from people who love God, his Word, his Bride, and are committed to giving counsel in ways that strengthen believers and uphold our shared convictions.

I can't tell you the number of conversations this past year where I've walked away thanking God for the opportunity to come alongside a sister in Christ to encourage, serve, help, and/or pray for her as a disciple of Jesus as well as in her God-given roles or ministry areas. I praise God for the opportunities to be face-to-face, on zoom calls, and on the phone with women leaders: Encouraging the weary, asking questions to help people process or think through needs, being a sounding board for ministry dynamics, seeing and celebrating the good God is clearly doing in and through them, equipping with the Word, and addressing heart needs while pointing people to Jesus.

I've appreciated opportunities to encourage and pray for pastors and churches in our district as well as engaging in conversations as they desire to serve and lead the women with whom they co-labor for Christ.

It's also been a joy to use my teaching and exhortation gifts periodically in group contexts like a Children's Ministry Leaders Network meeting, sharing the gospel and teaching the Word at a Christmas gathering, and guest speaking at a Women's Day Conference.

Lord willing, in the coming year, I'm looking forward to increasing networking opportunities among women in ministry. I anticipate continuing to use the majority of this quarter time role to serve women in ministry directly as we talk or meet. Little by little, getting to know the women leaders of the NCD. What a joy it is to get to encourage, equip, listen, love and come alongside women called by God to serve in the local church as well as encouraging and resourcing pastors and churches as part of the Director team as it is fitting.

Please let me know how I can serve and support you!

Andrea Tyson
Director for Women in Ministry
andrea.tyson@ncdefca.org

Resource Development & Administration Report

Effective July 1, 2022, my role with the NCD expanded to include overseeing district administration in addition to resource development. It has been a busy and full year, but I am thankful for God's presence and provision through it all.

Resource Development

The North Central Foundation, established last year to provide resources for church multiplication and church revitalization among and through the congregations of the NCD, is up and running. We are off to a good start and are looking to grow the work of the Foundation in the coming year.

- To date, the NCD board has approved 6 grants to 5 churches totaling $55,000. We need your help by recommending churches for grants (go to www.ncd.org/foundation/ to make a recommendation).
- We have received gifts and pledges of over $30,000, and we will begin taking an annual offering for the Foundation at this year's conference. Additional gifts are needed to facilitate the growth of the Foundation. Gifts can be given at www.ncd.org/foundation/ (click on "support the foundation").

We are also working to grow and develop overall support for the district, especially as we approach various staff transitions.

- It is our hope to see churches giving 1% of their overall budget to NCD ministry, and we are thankful that approximately 75% of NCD churches already give something to district ministry. For those that are not giving or that are giving at less than 1%, we ask for your support – it is critical for our ministry throughout Minnesota and across the EFCA.
- We are beginning work to expand our individual donor base. Though this has not historically been a significant focus for the NCD (other than individuals who raise support), we believe this is also important for our continuing work and ministry.
- For churches or for individuals, you can go to https://ncdefca.org/give/ to make your gift.

Administration

This year has been filled with many projects to strengthen and solidify the district's administration and finances. We have completed CPA reviews of our financials for the years ended 6/30/2021 and 6/30/2022 and have created a comprehensive checklist for the NCD board to ensure that there Is visibility and accountability for all significant areas of our district work. Also notable this year was the relocation of the district office, after 20 fruitful years in our previous location. This was a true team effort, and we are thankful for a wonderful new base from which we can serve the NCD.

I am thankful for the opportunity to serve the ministry of the NCD in my role, and our first priority is to serve the needs of our churches, pastors, leaders, and congregations. If you have a need or if we can serve you, please let us know.

In His Service,

Paul Anderson
Director of Resource Development & Administration | paul.anderson@ncdefca.org

NCD Board of Directors
District Ministry Teams

NCD Board of Directors

Abernethy, Dave, (2025)	Mound, Mound EFC,
Andersen, Julie, (2023)	New Hope, New Hope Church
Cairns, Tom, (2023)	New Hope, New Hope Church
Hodgson, Jim (2023)	Bemidji, EFC of Bemidji
Hubbard, Darrius (2023)	Minneapolis, Antioch Community Church
Kvamme, Jennifer, (2025)	Forest Lake, Centennial EFC
Lanier, Frank, (2024)	Maplewood, First EFC
Peterson, Andrew, (Chairman)	St. Louis Park, Park Community Church
Rivera, Jose (2025)	Willmar, Living Hope Church
Tyson, Andrea (2024)	Maple Grove, Living Hope Church plant

Church Multiplication Team

Moose, Dan	NCD staff; Minneapolis, Antioch Cmty Church
Eaton, Kyle	Duluth, Rock Hill Community Church
Lair, Bryan	St. Paul, Trinity City Church
O'Rourke, Andy	Minneapolis, Antioch Community Church
Peterson, Andrew	St. Louis Park, Park Community Church
Ploeger, Kurt	Byron, Northlight Community Church

Missions Council

Austvold, Steve	NCD staff; Fergus Falls, Cornerstone EFC
Troy Nelson	Crosslake, The Log Church

Student Ministries Leadership Team

Olson, Glenn	NCD staff; Hastings, New Life EFC
Andrews, Alex	Granada, East Chain EFC
Bjornrud, Lon	St. Francis, Living Hope EFC
Boardman, Zach	Oakdale, Hope EFC
Chaco, John	Rochester, Calvary EFC
Christiansen, Brad	Isanti, Oxlip EFC
Drury, Josh	Duluth, Rock Hill CC
Erickson, Jordan	Baxter, Lakewood EFC
Fagerland, Seth	Lake Elmo, Rockwood EFC
Hart, Jacob	Marshall, Marshall EFC
Kvamme, Jennifer	Forest Lake, Centennial EFC
Morton, Kyle	Cokato, Albion EFC
Neumann, Mike	Crosslake, Crosslake EFC
Owens, Scott	Austin, Faith EFC
Siemens, Bracston	Buffalo, Buffalo EFC
Tinault, Chris	Coon Rapids, Coon Rapids EFC

District Credentialing Network

Northern Examination Panel

Drebelbis, Jerry	Bemidji, Interim Pastor Ministries
Paul Johnson	Brainerd, Timber By Ministry
Swedburg, Brian	Saginaw, Cornerstone Church (plant)
Widman, Mark	Walker, Calvary EFC

West Central Panel

Mohrman, Marlin	Windom, Interim Pastor Ministries
Sorensen, Kevin	Cokato, Albion EFC
Uggerud, Eric	Fergus Falls, Cornerstone EFC

Metro Panel

Coe, Warren	Rosemount
Droogsma, Bruce	Watertown EFC
Drury, Patrick	Mpls, Antioch CCC Interim
Farone, Brian	NCD
Frey, Matt	Grafted Church Plant, St. Louis Park
Holmes, Matt	Minneapolis, Gospel Life
King, Kirsten	Maplewood, First EFC
Kompelien, Brent	Hastings, New Life EFC
Linde, Dave	NCD
Nydam, Don	Rogers
Ooms, Kim	Blaine, Cornerstone EFC
Peterson, Andrew	St. Louis Park, Park CC
Pulju, Dan	Pine City EFC
Scheumann, Lee	Isanti, Oxlip EFC
Stigall, Gerald	Fridley, Grace EFC
Stromberg, John	St. Anthony Village, Elmwood EFC
Waataja, Coley	Minneapolis, Antioch CC

Southern Panel

Barber, Scott	Worthington, Grace Comm Church
LeClere, Don	Marshall EFC
McConkey, Joe	Winona, Pleasant Valley EFC
Poindexter, Jonathan	Austin, Faith EFC
Schenck, Phil	New Ulm, Grace Community Church
Spenst, Tyrone	Plainview, Trinity EFC
Van Loon, Dan	Faribault

First Readers

Burr, Paul	2nd Chair ministries
Coe, Warren	Rosemount
Drebelbis, Jerry	Bemidji, Interim Pastor Ministries
Carlson, Darren	Training Leaders International
Frey, Matt	Grafted Church Plant, St. Louis Park
Johnson, Alan	Edina
Loomis, Greg	Watertown, Cassia
Moore, Stephen	Lindstrom, Lakes EFC
Sorensen, Kevin	Cokato, Albion EFC
Wadsworth, Dennis	Fertile, Hope EFC

Credentials Granted

April 2022 - March 2023

Licenses

Three-Year Renewable License

Clare	Andy	Northfield EFC	Northfield, pastor
Erickson	Jordan	Lakewood EFC	Baxter, youth
Fox	Ben	East Chain	Granada, pastor
Ludwig	Jay	Chaplain	Cassia, Plymouth
Neumann	Mike	The Log Church	Crosslake, youth
Omot	Friday	Missionary	Kenya
Ward	Andy	Arise Church	Cloquet

Expedited License

Bushre	Kyle	Calvary EFC	Rochester, pastor
Carlson	Jason	Lake EFC	Lindstrom, pastor
Mahoney	Kelly	Hope EFC	Starbuck, pastor
McCosh	John	Rock Haven	Granite Falls, pastor
Rakow	Marc	Buffalo Creek	Glencoe, pastor
Satterlie	Bob	Calvary EFC	Pelican Rapids, pastor
St. John	Matthew	New Hope Church	New Hope, pastor
Starnes	Jeff	Estes Brook EFC	Oak Park, pastor
Williams	Henry	Five Oaks	Woodbury, pastor

Five-Year Non-Renewable License

Geise	Aaron	Mound EFC	Mound, associate
Nagle	Matthew	Lakewood EFC	Baxter, pastor
Gould	Josiah	Constance EFC	Andover, youth

Certificate of Christian Ministry

none

Ordination

MacLean	Kevin	Thief River Falls EFC	Thief River, pastor
Newberg	Joel	Rock Haven Church	Granite Falls, pastor
Olson	Derek	River Ridge EFC	N Mankato, pastor
Petersen	Ryan	Skandia EFC	Balaton, pastor

Transfer of Ordination

Allen	James	Swan Lake EFC	Cottonwood, pastor
Solis	Mike	Rock Hill CC	Duluth, associate
Watson	Seth	Bethel EFC	Fairmont, pastor

Change of Status

Gagnon, Jeff, ministry license dropped

O'Neel, Zacharias, ordination in trust for purposes of discipline

Pastoral Changes

April 2022– March 2023

New Senior/Solo/Lead Pastors

Bakke	Bjorn	Lamson EFC	Dassel
Doebel	Dan	Grace EFC	Elbow Lake
Droogsma	Bruce	Watertown EFC	Watertown
Frey	Matt	Grafted Church	
Fritze	Loren	The Lighthouse	Hackensack
Gregersen	Josh	Cornerstone	Blaine
Labovitch	Micah	Grand Rapids EFC	Grand Rapids
Lopez	Manuel	Nueva Salem EFC	Mpls
Nelson	David	Centennial EFC	Forest Lake
Runke	Dan	First EFC	Benson

Senior/Solo Pastors Who Have Moved

Bakke	Bjorn	1st EFC	Benson
Hamm	Joshua	Kerkhoven EFC	Kerkhoven
Holmen	Mark	The Log Church	Crosslake
Meyers	Henry	Grace CC	Olivia
O'Rourke	Andy	Antioch CC	Minneapolis

Interim Pastors (current)

Bruno, Tim	Riverside Chapel, Forbes
Drury, Patrick	Minneapolis, Antioch CC
Erickson, Ralph	Kerkhoven EFC
Hercula, Kevin	Cornerstone EFC, Blue Earth
Johnson, Daniel	Hope EFC, Osceola, WI
LaFollette, Ahren	Edgerton
Loyola, Tom	Morris EFC
Polley, Ken	Calvary EFC, Walker

As of March 2023, there are **174 congregations** in the North Central District. Our congregations fall into these four categories: **142 Established Churches**, **10 Plants in Process**, **13 Second-Language Congregations, 9 Multi-site Campuses.**

144 Established Churches

Established Church Name | *City*

Crossroads EFC | Albert Lea
Lake Community Church | Alexandria
Constance EFC | Andover
Heartland EFC | Annandale
South Suburban | Apple Valley
Faith Church | Austin
Calvary EFC | Bagley
Skandia EFC | Balaton
Border EFC | Baudette
Lakewood EFC | Baxter
Becker EFC | Becker
EFC of Bemidji | Bemidji
First EFC | Benson
EFC of Blackduck | Blackduck
Cornerstone Church of Blaine | Blaine
CrossPoint Church | Bloomington
Oxboro EFC | Bloomington
Cornerstone EFC | Blue Earth
Buffalo EFC | Buffalo
NorthLight Community Church | Byron
Valley EFC | Chaska
Living Hope Community Church | Chatfield
Arise Church | Cloquet
Albion EFC | Cokato
Highland Community Church | Cokato
Coon Rapids EFC | Coon Rapids
Swan Lake EFC | Cottonwood
Crosslake EFC | Crosslake
Lincoln EFC | Cushing
Lamson EFC | Dassel
Delano EFC | Delano
Lake Eunice EFC | Detroit Lakes
Anchor Point Community Church: Lakeside | Duluth
Renew Church | Duluth
Rock Hill Community Church: Lincoln Park | Duluth
Rose City EFC | Eagle Bend
Prairie Hill EFC | Eden Prairie
Living Hope EFC | Edgerton
Grace EFC | Elbow Lake
River of Life | Elk River
EFC of Embarrass | Embarrass
Bethel EFC | Fairmont
Faribault EFC | Faribault
Cornerstone EFC | Fergus Falls
Hope EFC | Fertile
Riverside Chapel | Forbes
Centennial EFC | Forest Lake
Grace EFC | Fridley
Buffalo Creek Community Church | Glencoe
Hope Community Church | Glenwood
East Chain EFC | Granada
Grand Marais EFC | Grand Marais
Grand Rapids EFC | Grand Rapids
Rock Haven Church | Granite Falls
The Lighthouse EFC | Hackensack
Dale EFC | Harris
New Life EFC | Hastings
New Life Community Church | Hector
Hinckley EFC | Hinckley
Bethany EFC | Houston
Hutchinson EFC | Hutchinson
Oxlip Church | Isanti

Isle EFC | Isle
Kerkhoven EFC | Kerkhoven
La Crescent EFC | La Crescent
Rockpoint Church | Lake Elmo
Hope Community Church | Lakeville
Trinity EFC | Lakeville
Harvest Community Church | Lester Prairie
Lakes EFC | Lindstrom
Harvest Community Church | Litchfield
Littlefork EFC | Littlefork
Malmo EFC | Malmo
The Grove Church | Maple Grove
Village Church | Maple Plain
First EFC | Maplewood
Marshall E Free Church | Marshall
Birch Hills Community | Melrose
Milaca EFC | Milaca
Antioch Community Church | Minneapolis
First EFC | Minneapolis
Hope Community Church | Minneapolis
New Salem/Nueva Salem EFC | Minneapolis
Riverside EFC | Minneapolis
Hope EFC | Monticello
Morris EFC | Morris
Mound EFC | Mound
River Ridge EFC | North Mankato
New Hope Church | New Hope
Grace Community Church | New Ulm
The Journey EFC | Nisswa
Kost EFC | North Branch
Northfield EFC | Northfield
Estes Brook EFC | Oak Park
Hope EFC | Oakdale
Grace Community Church | Olivia
Hope EFC | Osceola
Crosswinds EFC | Oronoco
Cornerstone EFC | Owatonna
Paynesville EFC | Paynesville
Calvary EFC | Pelican Rapids
Pine City EFC | Pine City
Good News EFC | Pine Island
Riverview Church | Pine River
Cornerstone EFC | Pipestone
Trinity EFC | Plainview
Wayzata EFC | Plymouth
Princeton EFC| Princeton
Wyanett EFC | Princeton
EFC of Redwood Falls | Redwood Falls
Faith EFC | Robbinsdale
Calvary EFC | Rochester
Cornerstone EFC | Rochester
New Hope Fellowship | Rochester
Inspired Word Church | Rogers
City on a Hill Church | Rosemount
Cornerstone Church | Saginaw
Sandstone EFC | Sandstone
Calvary EFC | Spring Grove
Sanctus Missional Communities | St Cloud
Westwood Community Church | St Cloud
Living Hope EFC | St Francis
Payne Avenue EFC | St Paul
Trinity City Church | St Paul
Gospel Life Church | St. Anthony
Elmwood Church | St. Anthony Village
Park Community Church | St. Louis Park
Grace EFC | Stewartville
Stillwater EFC Stillwater
Thief River Falls EFC | Thief River Falls
Anchor Point Church | Wabasha
Calvary EFC | Walker
Christ Community Church | Waseca
Watertown EFC | Watertown
Living Hope Church | Willmar
Windom EFC | Windom
Pleasant Valley EFC | Winona
Five Oaks Community Church | Woodbury
Grace Community Church | Worthington
Cromwell-Wright EFC| Wright
Grace Church |Wyoming
Refuge (An Evangelical Free Church) | Zimmerman

9 Multi-Site Campuses

Official Campus Name | City | Established Church

Anchor Point Community Church: Cloquet | Cloquet | Anchor Point Community Church

Anchor Point Community Church: Fredenberg | Duluth | Anchor Point Community Church

Anchor Point Community Church: Two Harbors | Anchor Point Community Church, Duluth

Rock Hill Community Church: Chester Park | Rock Hill Community Church, Duluth

Rock Hill Community Church: Superior | Superior WI | Rock Hill Community Church, Duluth

Hope Community Church: Heights |Columbia Heights | Hope Community Church, Mpls

Hope Community Church: Lowertown | St. Paul | Hope Community Church, Mpls

Hope Community Church: Starbuck | Starbuck | Hope Community Church Glenwood

Bethel EFC: Madelia | Madelia | Bethel EFC

Church Status Changes

Maple Ridge EFC, Stanchfield closed.

Revive Church, Brooklyn Park withdrew from the EFCA.

13 Second Language Congregations

Congregation name | Established Church Name | City

*Cornerstone EFC | Blue Earth

El Camino Ministry | Bethel EFC | Fairmont

Iglesia Cristiana Trinity |Trinity EFC | Lakeville

*New Salem/Nueva Salem EFC | Minneapolis

*Hope EFC | Monticello

Morris EFC en Español |Morris EFC | Morris

New Hope Church en Español |New Hope Church| New Hope

African Bible Fellowship | Hope EFC | Oakdale

Anywaa Congregation | Calvary EFC | Rochester

Lahu Congregation | Calvary EFC | Rochester

Oromo Congregation | Calvary EFC | Rochester

Esperanza Viva | Living Hope | Willmar

Comunidad de Gracia | Worthington

***Meets for worship with main congregation**

10 Plants in Process

Plant Name | City | Established Church Name

The Bridge | Hancock | Morris EFC

Capital City Church | St Paul|1st EFC, Maplewood

Cultivate Church | St. Paul | 1st EFC, Maplewood

Good News | Eagan | South Cities Church

Hope Church | Albert Lea

Immanuel Fellowship | Minneapolis | Trinity City Church (St. Paul)

Journey North Church | Pine City

Living Hope Church | Champlain |Bethlehem Baptist

Northside Neighborhood Church | Minneapolis | Gospel Life Church (Minneapolis)

Rock Haven Church: Montevideo | Montevideo | Rock Haven Church, Granite Falls

At the end of the 2021 summer camping season, Herb Bloomquist, Camp Shamineau's long-time Executive Director, informed the Shamineau Board of his intention to retire. The board began to talk about what that transition should look like and established a transition committee to guide the work. At the end of the 2022 summer season, Herb's retirement began.

It is difficult to imagine camp without having Herb's smile and booming voice be one of the first things to greet me. The board is grateful for his more than three decades of vision and leadership as we see kids deepen their relationship with Jesus. I am personally grateful for how he poured into my life and my wife's life as we were campers, young staff members, parents, and board members.

Camp looks different than it did when Herb first arrived. Summer camping and retreats have kept Shamineau busy year round. We acquired Rock Ridge in Ely, increased the size of the property in Motley, established camps in Europe and Asia, and most recently began work on new camper housing and facilities.

The board and the staff are committed to continuing Herb's work and vision for Christian camping.

We have begun the search for the next Executive Director and are committed to making sure that person shares the same passion for the mission of Shamineau.

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers… I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now." – Philippians 1:3-5

Carl Bliss |Chairman | Camp Shamineau Board of Directors

God has been doing incredible things at Camp Shamineau and Rock Ridge over the last year. Thank you for your support and prayers! As camp grows, the team is excited to continue sharing the Gospel with thousands of kids and youth.

It is our mission at Shamineau to share the Gospel of Jesus with children and youth through relationships and fun camp experiences. And that is exactly what has been happening at Shamineau. Last summer almost 5000 kids, more than ever before, attended a week of camp. During their stay, they were able to disconnect from the distractions of our technological world, participate in many fun and unique activities, spend time exploring God's creation, worship together in an exciting chapel setting, engage in meaningful Bible study, and make personal connections with others. Most importantly, every one of these kids was given the chance to respond to the Gospel of Jesus.

Since the summer ended, we have had the privilege of hosting several weekend retreats. All of the campers that came to these, whether they were youth students, parents and children, men or women, also had the chance to respond to a Gospel presentation. At the same time, we have been working hard to continue to develop Camp Shamineau so that we can share the Gospel with more and more kids in the years to come. Our newest camper housing building, Oakwood, will be ready this summer. Oakwood will give us housing for 80 more kids every week, allowing us to share the love of Christ with each one. After that is complete, our next major project will be constructing a new Dining Hall. This will provide us the necessary infrastructure to continue to expand God's work at Camp Shamineau!

Thanks,
Jeff Cueva | Interim Director | Camp Shamineau

Deeper Life Bible Camp Report

Deeper Life Bible Camp, located just outside of Blackduck, MN is thankful for another great year of camp ministry. In 2022, we served 305 campers in seven camp sessions, with 30% of them being first-time campers at DLBC!

We offer camp experiences for those entering 1st Grade through adults, that build relationships for life. One former camper wrote this to us recently, "I used to be a camper here and I had my life transformed here. I was baptized and I loved Jesus. I never wanted camp to end, I loved it so much and I felt so at home surrounded by Christians and just a whole week of loving God." She went on to describe the ups and downs of her journey and how God used what He did at Deeper Life to pull her back to Him and that now she wants to serve at camp to invest in others like her.

With smaller camp sizes, we have the opportunity to make one-on-one discipleship a high priority and we are thanking God for the many significant decisions that were made by campers in 2022 and the staff who were a part of God doing that work. We are excited to see what God has in store as we head into the 2023 camp season. Deeper Life keeps costs down ($175 for a full week of camp) by not having any full-time staff , so we are grateful for all the people who volunteer their time and their hearts to be a part of the ministry here and look forward to partnering with the staff that God is putting together this year.

This year's camp theme is *"The Way--Finding Your Way Home"* and we are praying that camp will be an experience where campers and staff will renew their commitment to living in the way of Jesus and that many will find their home in Him.

We are currently working on several building projects to help us serve more campers, such as a new boys and staff showerhouse, improved ADA access, winterizing buildings for extended rental use, a new craft facility and upgrades on some of our older buildings.

If you would like more information about Deeper Life, to either be or send campers to Deeper Life, would like to help with some of our projects, or have an interest in applying to be a part of our great counseling or support staff, you can find all this and more at dlbconline.com.

More than anything, we would love to have you supporting us in prayer and any other way you can as we look forward to seeing what God will do in and through the ministry of Deeper Life in 2023 and beyond.

Lon Bjornrud
Lonnie Wernberg, chairman,
(lvwern@paulbunyan.net) (218-835-6307)
57551 8 Mile Rd Blackduck, MN. 56630
Camp phone: 218-835-4902
Email: dlbc@blbconline.com
dlbconline.com

Cassia Care, Inc

2022 Accomplishments

Cassia completed the remodeling or construction of three buildings in 2022. At our Apple Valley campus we completed a major renovation of the skilled nursing building, upgrading resident rooms, dining rooms, increasing the number of private rooms, upgrading the physical therapy space and common areas. This renovation project was completed in June. In September, we opened our new care center in Fargo. The new building replaces the building that was damaged by a fire in January of 2020. The building is an 88 bed skilled nursing facility, featuring mostly private rooms, state-of-the-art design and technology innovations.

In December we completed construction of a new senior living community in Maplewood, Minnesota. Harmony Gardens offers a full continuum of care community (independent and assisted living, memory care, nursing care and transitional care). The community is located on land that we purchased from First Evangelical Free Church in Maplewood. Harmony Gardens is home to the Rev. William J Hamel Memorial Chapel which anchors the mission of Harmony Gardens and Cassia "to foster fullness of life for older adults in the spirit of Christ's love". The chapel was made possible because of a successful capital campaign to fund the cost of construction. We are grateful to our many donors who helped make this vision a reality.

In December we completed the purchase of Praha Village in New Prague, MN. This is a senior living building offering independent living, assisted living and memory care services in 92 apartment units. Prior to purchasing this building, Cassia had been managing the care and services provided there since it opened in 2018.

2021 Challenges

The pandemic has subsided but continues to impact our operations. Covid 19 is still present in some of our sites and has been joined by outbreaks of the Flu and RSV. The lack of an available workforce continues to impact many industries, especially health care. At the beginning of the year we had four hundred open positions for certified nursing assistants and ninety open positions for RN/LPNs. While we made some progress in filling positions throughout the year, it remains our biggest challenge as we head into 2023. The financial impact of the workforce crisis, on the heels of the pandemic are significant and present an ongoing challenge for the organization.

Top Struggle—Prayer request

As we continue to struggle with the staffing/workforce crisis and its impact on quality measures, occupancy and financial stability, we request your prayers. Please pray that God will inspire people who are called to serve older adults, and their unique needs, to seek out Cassia and join our team of caregivers.

Looking Forward

We are excited about what God has in store for 2023 and the new ways that He may call on us to serve people in need. The Board of Directors and leadership of Cassia seek God's direction as we work to fulfill the mission of Cassia: To foster fullness of life for older adults in the spirit of Christ's love.

Robert Dahl

Cassia Care, Inc. President

2023-2024 Budget

NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

2023-2024 Budget

	2023-2024 Proposed	2022-2023 Budget	2021-2022 Actual
Income			
4100 Gift Income-Churches	**$659,000**	$650,573	$584,059
4100 Gift Income-Individuals	**$282,000**	$222,186	$297,788
4600 Conf. & Sem. Income	**30,000**	5,000	32,814
4700 Other Income	**28,200**	9,000	16,609
Fund Transfer/Use of Reserves	**36,000**	32,583	0
Total Income	**$1,035,200**	**$919,342**	**$931,270**
Gross Profit	**$1,035,200**	**$919,342**	**$931,270**
Expenses			
5000 Compensation	***$793,635***	$725,181	$692,774
5100 Employee Expense	***87,000***	77,850	75,838
5200 Staff Development	***9,150***	8,885	7,085
5300 Board Expense	***2,000***	600	947
5400 Administration	***69,020***	69,126	90,260
5700 Program Expenses	30,600	37,700	32,533
Extraordinary Expenses	0	0	0
Total Expenses	**$991,405**	**$919,342**	**$899,437**
Net Income	**$43,795**	**$0**	**$31,833**

2023-24 Budget Notes

- Expenses increased from 2022-2023 budget by approximately $70,000. The increase is due almost entirely to increased staff and increased compensation (5% COLA).

- Full time staff positions in the budget are Brian Farone, Frank Lanier, Glenn Olson, and Sharon Trucker.

- Part time staff positions in the budget are Kelley Johnson (3/4), Paul Anderson, Dan Moose, and Steve Austvold (2/3), Dave Linde and Pat Wester (1/2), Bryan Lair, Dena Stromberg, Andrea Tyson, and Sonja Wallace (1/4).

- While the overall budget shows a positive bottom line of $44,000, this includes a fund transfer/use of reserves in the amount of $36,000 in the general fund/01 budget to so that it balances. This is due to planned for overlap in staff roles as new staff are added & trained by existing staff who will be retiring.

NCD Board of Directors Nominees

Tom Cairns*, New Hope, MN

Tom grew up in Bemidji where his father was on staff at Oak Hills. He accepted the Lord at age 6. After attending various schools in Bemidji, he graduated from the U of Minnesota Medical School in 1968. Tom and his wife Annette served for 19 years as Free Church missionaries in Congo (Zaire). Since 1989 they have lived in the Twin Cities where Tom had a private medical practice for ten years. He then served as the Associate Executive Director for EFCA International Ministries for a decade.

Tom is a member at New Hope Church, served as Elder at Cross Point church in Bloomington (6 years), Board member of the NCD (9 years), Board of Elim Care (12 years). He also served on the DS Search Committee. His present role is as Archivist for the EFCA, serving our churches, districts, National Office and ReachGlobal as a volunteer.

Chris Cundiff, Sandstone EFC, Sandstone, MN

Pastor Chris attended Moody Bible Institute in Chicago, IL graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Pastoral Studies in 2002. Upon graduation Pastor Cundiff took a pastoral position in Geneseo, IL serving as an associate pastor for two and a half years. At that time Pastor Chris resigned to return to Seminary at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, IL. Pastor Cundiff graduated with a Masters of Divinity in the spring of 2007. Pastor Chris accepted the call to Sandstone Evangelical Free Church in October of 2007 where he is currently serving. Pastor Cundiff is married to his lovely wife Katie and has three children Rebekah, Keturah, and Josiah.

Lucy Edens, Hope EFC, Oakdale, MN

Lucy is the wife of Clay Edens, Lead Pastor at Hope Church Oakdale. Lucy has grown up in the EFCA. She is passionate about volunteering in her church's youth ministry, leading an adult small group with Clay, and fostering strong relationships with her neighbors and co-workers in order to help them take steps towards Jesus. She is the mom of two sons Judah (8) and Theo (6). Lucy serves as a Pediatric Physical Therapist for Minneapolis Public Schools

Darrius Hubbard* Antioch Community Church, Minneapolis, MN

Darrius serves as the Pastor of Community Engagement at a North Central District church. Darrius grew up in a non-Christian home in the Twin Cities area after his family relocated to Minnesota from Illinois at an early age. He has overcome many challenges which he uses as tools to share the Grace of God and the Gospel since becoming a follower of Christ at age 19. He is a graduate of University of Northwestern St Paul and has a variety of experience working in leadership, community outreach and youth enrichment.

Darrius lives in North Minneapolis with his wife Jennifer and five children Darrius Jr., Jalynn, Jeriah, David, and Josias.

Eric Uggerud, Cornerstone EFC, Fergus Falls, MN

I have served at Cornerstone EFC in Fergus Falls, my hometown, since 2007. I received my MDiv from TEDS that same year. Prior to that, I served on staff with Campus Crusade for Christ for six years - and I still lead the Cru movement at Minnesota State, Fergus Falls. My undergrad degree is from NDSU in civil engineering. I have been married to my wife, Christine, since 2005. We have five kids, ranging from one who is a new driver to another

who is still in diapers. In my free time, I enjoy basketball - playing, watching, and coaching my kids. Since being approved for ordination in 2012, I have continued to lead a licensing/ordination discussion group and served on many licensing and ordination councils. I am committed to the Gospel and Scripture. It is a joy to know Jesus as Savior and Lord, as well as a privilege to proclaim him to others.

Thomas Vang, Five Oaks Church, Woodbury

Tom serves as the Worship Pastor at Five Oaks Church in Woodbury, MN. His wife, Kelsey, and their three kids: Tobias, Gideon and Beatrice live in South Saint Paul, MN. You'll often find them at home dancing to worship songs, doing arts and crafts, or playing board games. Tom loves to think strategically about anything and everything (especially board games) and loves a good conversation around assessing ministries and making them better.

* (Current board member, eligible for re-election)

Sample NCD Conference Ballot

Re-election of NCD District Superintendent (3rd term - 3 year term)

*Brian Farone _____yes _____ no

Board of Directors (3-Year Term, affirm 6 total)

Tom Cairns* _____yes _____ no

Chris Cundiff _____yes _____ no

Lucy Edens _____yes _____ no

Darrius Hubbard* _____yes _____ no

Eric Uggerud _____yes _____ no

Thomas Vang _____yes _____ no

** Currently serving; eligible for another term*

Ballot for Approval of 2023-2024 Budget

_____yes _____ no