North Central District Association, EFCA

2025 Reports

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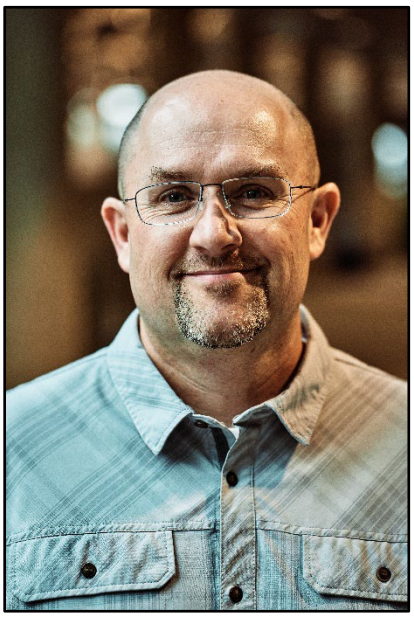
District Superintendent Report

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen. -1 Timothy 1:15-17



Brothers and Sisters in the NCD,

Being an example of humble faith and sacrificial service is at the heart of authentic Christian ministry. Every pastor or church leader is called, in measure, to the gospel-shaped task of modeling faith, humility, trust, and service to the church (and through it, to a world groaning for hope and groping toward so many plastic, saccharine counterfeits). I am thankful that when I look around the NCD, I see many who serve as examples of God's grace and live lives of genuine discipleship.

Likewise, I am grateful that some of the good we see in the NCD is a result of our district staff, examples themselves of God's grace in Christ. They come alongside pastors, church leaders, and churches in so many ways. This year, we have strengthened our team by adding more hours for Dave Abernethy (credentialing and pastoral counseling) and Andrea Tyson (women in ministry). In June, we will welcome Jon Addington to our staff as the NCD director for ministry to older adults. This will be a volunteer role (about 40 hours per month) that will surely bear fruit as we seek to make disciples and extend God's loving care to older adults. And our team will continue to include Paul Anderson (resource development and administration), Steve Austvold (missions mobilization), Dave Bliss (missions mobilization), Kelley Johnson (pastoral care), Frank Lanier (leadership development), Kelly Larson (finance), Dan Moose (church multiplication), Glenn Olson (student ministries), Dena Stromberg (digital communications), Sharon Trucker (administration) and Pat Wester (church revitalization). In the years ahead, we will continue to pass the staff leadership baton to the next generation, ensuring that future NCD congregations have the support and encouragement they need to flourish.

This has been a good year for the North Central Foundation. Through God's provision, the foundation resources have grown considerably. This will allow us to continue to help NCD congregations plant new churches and revitalize existing ones. In addition, we will be able to make a special, expanded impact in pastoral development through the introduction of NCD scholarships for aspiring lead pastors.

Over the last few years, we have crisscrossed the district and connected with local church elders through nine elder growth events (in Wyoming, Willmar, Balaton, Austin, Lakeville, Maple Grove, Duluth, Alexandria, and Maplewood). More than 375 elders have attended one of these training days. During the next ministry year, we hope to broaden our impact with events designed for the entire church leadership team. These new regional events will be designed to bring together church leadership teams from 5-7 individual churches. They will help both vocational leaders and lay leaders live a life worth imitating and model Christlike ministry to their congregations.

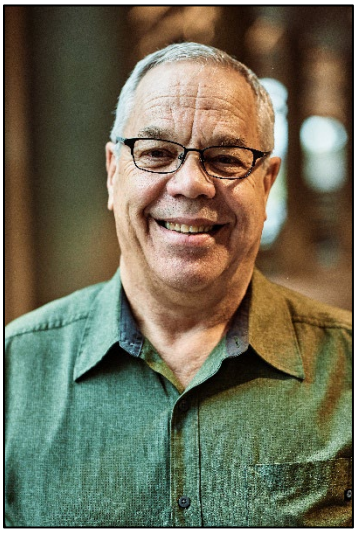
God continues to bless us with new congregations and ministers. I am so thankful for this and expect it to continue. It is a testament, in my view, to the strong reputation of EFCA churches. Since we were established in 1906, the North Central District has made an important contribution to this. We have always been a family of churches built on Gospel and Scripture, passionate about reaching the lost and shepherding the found, with an abiding desire to make a gospel-shaped difference in Minnesota and beyond.

Our district, and especially the servant leaders of our NCD staff, is committed to walking alongside you as you continue to prioritize these things in the year ahead. Our prayer, in harmony with 1 Timothy 1:17, is that through our congregations the immortal, invisible Triune God would receive glory and honor forever. To this, we say with the apostle Paul, Amen!

In Christ,

Brian Farone
District Superintendent | North Central District | EFCA
brian.farone@ncdefca.org

Church Multiplication Catalyst Report



I have the privilege to work with churches to develop a culture of multiplication of leaders, church planters and churches. I also enjoy helping churches work through an evaluation and re-visioning process. I am encouraged by a greater emphasis on prayer and local evangelism that I'm seeing in our district.

We currently have three churches starting new works.

- Five Oaks Woodbury is starting a church in Cottage Grove.
- River Ridge Church, Mankato is sending out a pastor to revitalize 2 churches on the Red Lake Reservation in northern Minnesota.
- Grace EFC in Stewartville is developing a group to plant in the Spring Valley area.

We have three multi-site church plants that are currently preparing to become autonomous churches that will affiliate with our district next year.

- Anchor Point Fredenberg out of Anchor Point Duluth
- Anchor Point Cloquet out of Anchor Point Duluth
- Bethel Madelia out of Bethel Fairmont

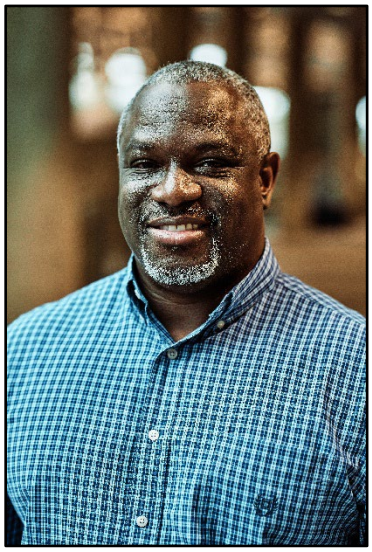
This year, we have been able to use many of the systems developed by ReachNetwork, the national church planting team of the EFCA, to assist districts in planting new churches using whatever model works best for their situations.

- We assessed two church planters.
- We led two Multiply Church Planting cohorts locally which helped train three district planters and four planters from other districts.
- We led two Train the Trainer cohorts for the EFCA to raise up trainers to lead the Multiply cohorts.
- We have EFCA trained coaches for all of our church planters so each church planter has a coach for the first two years of their ministry.
- We had three of our church planting couples attend the EFCA Care retreat for personal refreshment and encouragement.

How can I assist you and your church to open new lanes of multiplication so that together we can advance Christ's Kingdom, strengthen and renew the local church and plant churches among all people in Minnesota?

Dan Moose
dan.moose@ncdefca.org

Placement & Leadership Development Report



The Value of Retreat

In August 2024, I spent time on my first personal planning retreat. This dedicated time allowed me to slow down and assess my previous year: what went well and what needed more attention to improve. I was able to plot out my KRAs for the upcoming year. I read the Bible and took notes. More importantly, I talked with and sought my Lord and GOD. This opportunity convinced me how vital is to set aside time periodically to meet with GOD and seek His guidance for your life. I plan to make retreating a part of my regular yearly rhythm.

Making Broader EFCA Connections

This year I continued to broaden my relational connections in the EFCA. I attended the EFCA Summit on Biblical Justice and Diversity. There, I met pastors and leaders that minister from different areas in the US, including various ethnic and ministry contexts. Our district staff took part in the TED's alumni and friends' dinner and baseball game, where I met Trinity's alumni family. We enjoyed dinner together and Twins baseball. Since the last district conference 21 churches invited me to preach or teach.

NCD Leadership Development

It is a pleasure and privilege to help our district leaders grow personally and in ministry effectiveness. One of the ways we do this is through elder growth events. Brian Farone, Pat Wester and I have led seminars for district elders in which we discuss with them how to be, "Examples to the Flock." These events have borne much fruit in a deeper understanding of what it means to be an elder and in fostering relationships with our non-vocational shepherds. I am facilitating or participating in various pastor clusters this year. These small groups for pastors provide a place for them to be vulnerable and transparent about their personal lives and ministry. Pastor clusters are an important part of knowing that we do not minister alone. I have also had to honor of meeting with more of our district leaders on a personal basis to offer an ear, encouragement, or guidance when needed. I am grateful for our leaders' trust and hope to be of help to them as they reach out in the future.

The Joy of Helping Churches

I really enjoy working with our district churches in their leadership transitions; from taking them through the pastoral search training to praying them through discovering the man GOD has called to lead them. We celebrate every step that leads closer to the fruition of this relationship. I'm also involved with potential shepherds who are looking for a church to serve and lead.

My Personal Development

This year I sought to focus on my personal development as a district leader. I wish to improve my physical, mental, and spiritual fitness for the glory of GOD. A few avenues in which this plays out is that I'm a player/coach for an ordination cohort. This is challenging in good ways and I couldn't ask for a better group of guys for my first time around. Also, having the opportunity to co-lead a church planting cohort has stretched me. Sharing my experiences and mistakes as a former planter has been helpful to me in leading the men and applying the concepts to my current ministry opportunities.

Gratefully,

Frank Lanier | frank.lanier@ncdefca.org

Credentialing Report

Finding a Rhythm
By God's grace, after 18 months serving as the Director of Credentialing, I'm finding my way to a sustainable pace in this remarkably sweet calling. The Lord has been merciful as I've sought to balance family, local church, and district ministry. How grateful I am for his kindness, and for the joy of being a part of the team of men and women who labor together to serve our family of churches on the NCD staff.

Credentialing Network
At the heart of the credentialing ministry is our District Credentialing Network composed of nearly 50 key leaders who read papers, mentor candidates, and serve on examination councils. I continue to praise the Lord for the gifted and godly individuals who make it possible for us to serve over 170 churches across the district. Many thanks to each of you!

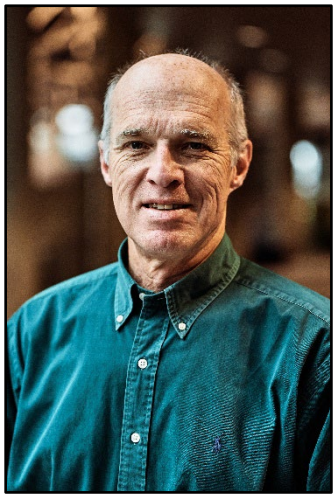
An Active Pipeline
Over this last year, our credentialing pipeline was wonderfully full as we saw Jason Balts, Ed Clay, Mike Giesenhagen, Sammy Gondola, Brian Martin, and Joel Pike each receive a three-year renewable license; Kristin Gerbrandt and Jodi Revell each received an expedited license; Jonathan Christenson, Caleb Cook, Joel Cook, Brad Kompelien, and Frank Lanier each received a five-year non-renewable license; and Scott Wade, Jon Greener, David Capistrant, and Chad Ellenberg each received a certificate of ordination. A hearty congratulations to every one of you on your achievement!

BOMS
In addition to my role in credentialing with the NCD, it continues to be a privilege to serve on the Board of Ministerial Standing of the EFCA. Maintaining a strong relationship with credentialing at the national level has been a benefit to our district and a pleasure in which to participate. I aim to complete my first four-year term and am up for re-election this summer at EFCA One.

Grace & Peace,

Dave Abernethy
dave.abernethy@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,

At the 2025 Lead Pastor Prayer Gathering sponsored by the NCD, Acting EFCA President Carlton P. Harris shared 11 challenges faced by the church today. First on his list was…

> "Pastors' spiritual, emotional, mental, and relational health: Pastors are tired. Pastors often burn out due to conflict in the church, financial strain, family issues, lack of sabbatical, isolation, and feeling overwhelmed by the pain in their churches. There can be a pervasive loneliness among pastors. Pastors need personal support. As leaders go, so goes the church. *Healthy churches are led by healthy leaders." (Emphasis mine.)*

This statement goes to the heart of who we are in the NCD as we seek to embrace the core truth of Matthew 11:28-30 and as we strive to serve pastors and their wives. Lack of rest, church division, and the current world and national spiritual and cultural climate has a negative effect on the resilience of pastors, their wives, and our churches.

However, we in the NCD are blessed with a team who is committed to building deep relationships with pastors and their wives, providing them with coaching, counseling, and networking, all of which bring needed support and encouragement. This is done through a practice of "assertive availability," the intentional pressing in with a simple question: "How are you doing?" then pressing in deeper with "How can we help?"

One example of this intentionality is the Rural and Small Church Pastor's and Wives Retreat in February. At this year's event, following excellent teaching by three of our NCD brothers, 24 pastor couples came away feeling encouraged, rested, reconnected, and hopeful.

One area of our ministry that continued to bear fruit is that of helping leaders and churches implement restorative Sabbaticals. Since 2012, this has resulted in over 115 pastor sabbaticals impacting approximately 56% of our churches and 28% of our pastors. These times of intentional rest have helped our pastors regain their spiritual and emotional footing.

With true resilience in life and ministry a goal, having an abiding relationship in Christ becomes even more important. 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 in an 11:28-30 relationship 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.

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

Mission Mobilization Report

In Acts 1:8 Jesus says, *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*

This is a good passage to ponder for it gives us good instructions for being an effective witness for Christ today, both locally and around the world. It is our passion to see every Christ follower to be a Great Commission Christ follower and every church to be a Great Commission Church. We do this by informing people and congregations what the needs are around the world. We hope that individuals and churches will respond to these needs by praying, by giving of their time and talents, and by going or sending people out. We do this by visiting local churches, meeting with local mission teams and by visiting NCD pastor clusters. We also network and promote various mission initiatives through ReachGlobal, GlobalFingerprints, Bridges4Justice and other kingdom partners. We are also focusing more on the importance of doing local evangelism.

In 2024, I started working 2/3 time. Kathy and I often visited NCD churches on two weekends a month. I led three crisis-response teams to Lake Charles, LA. This site has been open since January 2021. They will be open until September 2025. In February, Kathy and I returned to South Asia to visit the work of Global Fingerprints and to meet anti-trafficking partners, who are kingdom partners through Bridges4Justice. In May, I also took a national church planting leader around North Dakota and Minnesota to visit area EFC churches.

For 2025 here is what is planned:

- I will begin working half time in January 2025.
- We are going to Asia again in October to visit GlobalFingerprints sites.
- I will be leading another crisis response team in October to Ft. Myers. I led one in January 2025.
- I continue to visit NCD churches on weekends.
- I am working with Dave Bliss as he learns the mission mobilization role.

Thank you for your prayers and support for us! We look forward to serving you!

in Christ,

Steve Austvold | steve.austvold@ncdefca.org
Kathy Austvold | kathy.austvold@ncdefca.org

Missions Mobilizer Report

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."
-Matthew 9:37-38

Joining the team

I begin my tenure with the North Central District on July 1, 2024. Less than two months earlier, in May, my wife and I packed up our home in Sofia, Bulgaria and returned to the United States after 18 years of ministry with ReachGlobal. Having worked internationally for most of my adult life, I had seen first-hand the need for more workers in the harvest field. After years of asking the Lord to send out laborers, it became clear that we were being called to do more than just ask, so we left the field to return to Minnesota and raise up the next generation of workers.

The first nine months

I hit the ground running in July. As of the composition of this report, I have driven 10,604 miles since beginning district ministry last summer. It has been a joy seeing how God is working in and through churches and church leaders in the NCD. I met with several missions committees and dozens of pastors. I also had the privilege of speaking at 16 churches during Sunday visits. In January, I was part of a Crisis Response trip to Ft. Myers led by my colleague Steve Austvold. Additionally, I connected with missionaries from the district who are raising support to help promote them as they prepare to go.

Plans for the future

As Christians, we are commanded to go to the nations with the message of the gospel. It is my desire to help NCD churches take the first or next steps in raising up, sending out, and supporting missionaries. The local church is the well from which new workers for the harvest field are drawn. Missionaries tend to thrive when the churches sending them out are healthy and thriving as well. I look forward to working together with you to ensure that we are doing our part to multiply transformational churches among all people.

If you would like to meet to discuss your church's missions program, please contact me.

Dave Bliss
dave.bliss@ncdefca.org

Student Ministries Report

But godliness with contentment is great gain. 1 Tim. 6:6
This verse is one that I am praying for my life, for the life of each one of my kids and the youth workers I hang out with. I need to remember two things for me to have contentment: **1.** God is a good Father and always has good things planned for me through each situation in life. That means I need to be present in every situation with a posture of learning from God. **2.** God is with me "Emmanuel" in every situation, and I need remember I am yoked with Him. *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."* Matt. 11:28-30

As a youth worker, one of the best ways of staying current on changes in our culture 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 fourth year, the Children's Ministry Network is growing stronger with 10-18 attending every four months. The motto "We are better together" is certainly true for the relationships that are being built.

District Blitz Student Conference will be April 11-13th, 2025 in Duluth again. The theme this year is "Who" which is a focus on the book of Hebrews. *"Who wrote it? Who is God in Hebrews? And who am I in Hebrews?"* Registration is up from last year which is a good sign. Last year we had 1901 students and adults attending from 61 EFC churches. With the Converge denomination our numbers were 2934. 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) to add an additional ten churches to attend District Blitz, (2) take some steps towards intentionally helping volunteer led youth ministries in our churches in Minnesota. Please pray with me as God needs to lead the way in each of these changes.

Personally, I have been in Student Ministries for 39 years. Anne and I have raised 6 kids in Hastings. The last one is finishing college and getting married. Both of us find great joy in spending time with our grandkids and supporting each of their families.

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

This past year has been an extension of the previous one, marked by a generational leadership shift. As the older generation passes the baton, combined with the natural transition of pastors completing their ministries, the demand for interim pastors remains high. Currently, 13 churches are in transition with their Senior Pastor position. Our Interim Pastor Cluster, which meets four times a year via Zoom, has been a valuable space for interims to connect and support one another.

I have had the opportunity to assist several churches navigating conflict and general struggles—ranging from deep divisions to minor differences. A clear trend has emerged: churches that seek outside guidance early have the highest likelihood of success. An outside perspective sought early from the district has proven to be a key factor in positive resolutions.

Additionally, there is a steady need for elder training, leadership structures, and healthy systems, including Bylaws, Constitutions, and Policies. I share this area with Brian Farone and Paul Anderson. We've found that strong systems significantly reduce conflict and improve communication. I want to emphasize once again that if you have any questions or concerns, the North Central District should be your first call. Our 14-member staff is ready to assist, and if we can't, we'll do our best to connect you with the right resources.

It is a privilege to serve alongside the churches of the North Central District. Please let us know how we can serve you.

And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. Galatians 6:9–10

Stay Faithful,

Pat Wester
pat.wester@ncdefca.org

Women in Ministry Report

I am thankful to serve Jesus and His bride in my role as the Director of Women in Ministry as part of the NCD staff team. I am getting to know and come alongside more women leaders in our District who have such varied roles: worship, care, hospitality and assimilation, women's ministries, children's, youth, deacons and more.

I love one-on-one meetings where I get to know, encourage or equip the women God has called into ministry. We all benefit from having people who want to love us and point us to Jesus. I get to encourage with the Word and prayer and help process ministry ideas or dynamics (in the church, in the particular ministry role in which someone serves, in one's family or in one's evangelism sphere of influence). Periodically, I meet with a leader for encouragement or coaching, and it leads to an opportunity to later serve leaders in her area of ministry in her church. As someone with teaching and exhortation gifts who loves to equip saints for the work of ministry, I have enjoyed training women leaders and speaking to groups. It's such an encouragement to get some front row seats to see God work in and through leaders to make himself known and build people up in him for his glory!

I've developed a few group opportunities for women leaders. We have networking opportunities for women leaders in or around existing NCD conferences as a way to help women leaders connect with each other as well as brothers. I finished a nine month Zoom cluster for women who were new to vocational ministry in various types of ministry roles. Then, I started a Zoom cluster for women who are on staff as Women's Ministries Leaders that continues through this spring. By piloting smaller groups, we've benefited from increased depth of relationship and personalized care and discovery. Still, the opportunities for more and different clusters, cohorts, and networking gatherings are evident!

The longer I've been in this role, the more I've recognized the need for more time serving in this role. I praise the Lord for the affirmation of the NCD Board, my NCD colleagues, and my local church in beginning the transition process in December 2024 for increased hours on the District staff that began January 2025.

These additional hours are already enabling more concentrated time to invest in things like:

1) **Discovering** who the women leaders on staff and in key roles in our District are so we can invite them toward existing resources and communicate new opportunities.

2) **Encouraging** women in ministry leadership.

3) **Equipping** women leaders and, at times, their leadership teams or participants as a guest speaker or trainer.

4) **Networking** women in ministry.

I've also enjoyed serving pastors/elders by being a sounding board and resource for how they engage the women in ministry in their churches.

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

Andrea Tyson | andrea.tyson@ncdefca.org

Resource Development & Administration Report

It's been another full, busy, challenging, and fulfilling year in NCD ministry. I continue to be thankful for the opportunity to serve, and for God's continuing presence and provision.

Resource Development

After 3 years, the North Central Foundation is doing well, and by the end of the fiscal year, we anticipate having an overall balance for grants available of over $500,000! We received significant funding this year for seminary scholarships (a new focus for the foundation) as well as for residencies. We are also moving funds for church planting residencies into the foundation, and we are hopeful that the Maple Ridge property will be sold soon, with the net proceeds being added to the foundation.

We appreciate your support of the foundation and look forward to receiving grant requests in the coming months and years. Perhaps most important, we continue to be encouraged that we are providing help, and that relationships between pastors and churches are growing as various grants are being approved and funded.

We are continuing to work on growing and developing overall support for the district, and we are thankful for your partnership with us – we couldn't do it without your support!

- We ask churches to give 1% of their overall budget to NCD ministry - we are thankful that a vast majority 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 ongoing ministry throughout Minnesota and across the EFCA.
- We continue to work on expanding our individual donor base. This has not historically been a significant focus for the NCD, but we believe this is important for our future work and ministry.
- For churches or for individuals, go to https://ncdefca.org/give/ to make your gift.

Administration

Perhaps the most important change in the last year has been the return of Kelly Larson to the NCD as Director of Finance. She has been a tremendous addition to our team – handling our financial and administrative matters very well, as well as consulting with churches, pastors, and church leaders as questions in these areas arise. I am personally thankful for Kelly's work, too, as it has allowed me to focus more on serving churches, fundraising, overseeing the North Central Foundation, and supporting district leadership.

Thanks to the generosity of those in the NCD, our finances are healthy. We have completed CPA reviews of our financials for the years ended 6/30/2024 and 6/30/2023 and continue to work closely with the NCD board to ensure that there is accountability for all significant areas of the district's financial and administrative work.

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 in any way, please let us know.

In His Service, **Paul Anderson |** paul.anderson@ncdefca.org

Finance Report

Wow, it's hard to believe I've already been in my role at the NCD for a full year! I'm so thankful for the opportunity to serve as the Director of Finance and am continually thankful for the team around me and the family of churches we serve. It has also been a privilege to see firsthand how the Lord faithfully provided for our financial needs through your generous support of the district.

The early months of 2024 were spent getting acclimated to the routine tasks and monthly cadence of bookkeeping at the district as well as benefits administration and payroll. As the year went on, it was my responsibility to work with the auditors to complete our annual review and then compile a budget for the upcoming ministry year. I also had the opportunity to come alongside leaders from various churches to get set up for the new Minnesota Paid Leave Act, think through pastoral compensation questions, and clarify employee classification issues, to name a few.

As we look ahead, I desire to continue growing in knowledge and wisdom from the team around me (especially Paul Anderson!), help manage and steward our financial resources well, and I look forward to being more involved in the administration of the North Central District Foundation. I hope to be a resource for churches and leaders within the district.

I continue to be humbled by the opportunity to serve on the NCD Staff. Thank you for allowing me to serve and please do not hesitate to reach out if you have questions!

In Christ,

Kelly Larson
kelly.larson@ncdefca.org

NCD Board of Directors
District Ministry Teams

NCD Board of Directors

Abernethy, Dave (2025)	Mound, Mound EFC
Andersen, Julie (2027)	New Hope, New Hope Church
Cairns, Tom (2026)	New Hope, New Hope Church
Cundiff, Chris (2026)	Sandstone, Sandstone EFC
Edens, Lucy (2026)	Woodbury, Hope EFC
Hubbard, Darrius (2026)	Minneapolis, Antioch Community Church
Kvamme, Jennifer (2025)	Forest Lake, Centennial EFC
Lair, Bryan (2027)	St. Paul, Trinity City Church
Peterson, Andrew (Chairman)	St. Louis Park, Park Community Church
Rivera, Jose (2025)	Willmar, Living Hope Church
Uggerud, Eric (2026)	Fergus Falls, Cornerstone EFC
Vang, Toua (Tom) (2026)	Woodbury, Five Oaks Community Church

Missions Council

Austvold, Steve	NCD Staff, Fergus Falls, Cornerstone EFC
Bliss, Dave	NCD Staff, Oakdale, Hope EFC
Bostrom, Dave	Baxter, Lakewood EFC
Nelson, Troy	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
Drury, Josh	Duluth, Rock Hill CC
Earhart, Josh	Lake Elmo, Rockpoint Church
Erickson, Jordan	Baxter, Lakewood EFC
Fagerland, Seth	Lake Elmo, Rockpoint Church
Hart, Jacob	Marshall, Marshall EFC
Kvamme, Jennifer	Forest Lake, Centennial EFC
Magnuson, Tyler	Eden Prairie, Prairie Hill EFC
Morton, Kyle	Cokato, Albion EFC
Neuman, Mike	Crosslake, Crosslake EFC
Owens, Scott	Austin, Faith EFC
Siemens, Bracston	Buffalo, Buffalo EFC
Tinault, Chris	Coon Rapids, Coon Rapids, EFC

District Credentialing Network

Examination council members

Northern area

Drebelbis, Jerry	Bemidji, Interim Pastor Ministries
Johnson, Paul	Brainerd, Timber Bay Ministry
Solis, Mike	Duluth, Rock Hill Church
Widman, Mark *	Walker, Calvary EFC

West Central area

Johnson, Kelley	NCD staff
Mohrman, Marlin	Windom, Interim Pastor Ministries
Newberg, Joel	Granite Falls, Rock Haven Church
Sorensen, Kevin *	Cokato, Albion EFC
Uggerud, Eric *	Fergus Falls, Cornerstone EFC

Metro area

Abernethy, Dave	Mound EFC, NCD
Coe, Warren*	Rosemount, retired
Droogsma, Bruce *	Watertown EFC
Drury, Patrick	Minneapolis, Antioch CC, interim
Farone, Brian *	Oakdale, NCD staff
Frey, Matt	St. Louis Park, Grafted Church plant
Holmes, Matt	Crystal, Gospel Life Church
Johnson, Alan*	New Brighton, retired
King, Kristen	St. Paul, Capital City Church
Kompelien, Brent *	Hastings, New Life EFC
Linde, Dave *	Circle Pines, retired
Nydam, Don	Rogers, retired
Ooms, Kim	Blaine, Cornerstone EFC
Peterson, Andrew	St. Louis Park, Park CC
Pulju, Dan	Pine City, prison chaplain
Scheumann, Lee	Isanti, retired
Stromberg, John	St. Anthony Village, Elmwood EFC
Tyson, Andrea	NCD staff
Waataja, Coley	Minneapolis, Antioch CC

Southern area

Barber, Scott *	Worthington, Grace CC
Greener, Jon	Windom EFC
Johnson, Chris	Sioux Falls, retired
LeClere, Don	Marshall EFC
McConkey, Joe	Winona, retired

Petersen, Ryan	Balaton, Skandia EFC
Poindexter, Jonathan	Austin, Faith EFC
Spenst, Tyrone	Plainview, Trinity EFC
Van Loon, Dan	Faribault, retired
Wulf, Rick	Waseca, Christ CC

** also serves as council chair/moderator*

First readers

Burr, Paul	Minneapolis, 2nd Chair Ministries
Johnson, Alan	New Brighton, retired
Johnson, Chris	Sioux Falls, retired
Loomis, Greg	Watertown, Cassia
Wadsworth, Dennis	Hinckley EFC

Discussion group mentors

Lanier, Frank/Bliss, Dave – Ordination Peer group, NCD, (online)
Newberg, Joel Granite Falls, Rock Haven Church (online)
Petersen, Ryan Slayton, Plaid Moose Coffee shop
Tyson, Andrea/Waataja, Coley, NCD Office & Antioch CC

Credentials Granted

April 2024 - March 2025

Licenses

Three-Year Renewable License

Balts, Jason, intern, Rock Hill CC, Duluth
Clay, Ed, pastor, Bethany EFC, Houston
Giesenhagen, Mike, pastor, Hutchinson EFC
Gondola, Sammy, missions, Pleasant Valley EFC, Winona
Martin, Brian, pastor, Calvary EFC, Rochester
Pike, Joel, chaplain, Cassia, Buffalo

Expedited License

Gerbrandt, Kristin, ReachGlobal
Revell, Jodi, ReachGlobal & children, New Life EFC, Hastings

Five-Year Non-Renewable License

Christenson, Jonathan, pastor, Grace EFC, Fridley
Cook, Caleb, care/community, Hope EFC, Oakdale
Cook, Joel, pastor, Oxlip EFC, Isanti
Kompelien, Brad, executive pastor, Rockpoint Church, Lake Elmo
Lanier, Frank, leadership development, North Central District

Certificate of Christian Ministry

none

Ordination

Capistrant, David, pastor, Living Hope, Willmar
Ellenberg, Chad, pastor, Pleasant Valley EFC, Winona
Greener, Jonathan, pastor, Windom EFC
Wade, Scott, pastor, Coon Rapids EFC

Transfer of Ordination

none

Change of Status

Burkett, David, Ministry License revoked – no longer in ministry
Lind, Jeremy, Ministry License restored - returned to ministry
O'Rourke, Andy, Ordination restored – returned to ministry

Pastoral Changes

April 2024 - March 2025

New Senior/Solo/Lead Pastors

Aakre	Ken	Hope EFC, Fertile
Byers	Scott	Gospel Life Church, Crystal
Christenson	Jonathan	Grace EFC, Fridley
Clayton	Stephen	Becker EFC
Cook	Joel	Oxlip Church, Isanti
Crawford	Mike	Antioch, Minneapolis
Kangas	Matt	Riverside Chapel, Forbes
Lund	Darin	Grand Marais EFC
Lundstrom	Andrew	Marshall EFC
Marty	Miguel	EFC of Redwood Falls
Perry	Ryan	La Crescent EFC
Pound	Jay	First EFC, Mpls
Whitaker	Russ	Kerkhoven EFC

Senior/Solo Pastors Who Have Moved

Bruno	Tim	Riverside Chapel, Forbes
Cravillon	Dave	La Crescent EFC
Deck	Jeremy	Gospel Life Church, Mpls
LeClere	Don	Marshall EFC
Rakow	Marc	Buffalo Creek CC, Glencoe
Schenck	Phil	Grace CC, New Ulm
Sutton	Joel	First EFC, Mpls

Interim Pastors (current)

Droogsma	Jeff	New Life CC, Hector
Johnson	Daniel	Lake CC, Alexandria
Mohrman	Marlin	Grace CC, New Ulm
O'Brien	Randy	Valley EFC, Chaska
Schlador	Paul	Blackduck EFC
Van Dine	John	Refuge an EFC, Zimmerman
Wright	Bill	Grace CC, Olivia

As of March 2025, there are **176 congregations** in the North Central District. Our congregations fall into these four categories: **144 Established Churches**, **7 Multi-site Campuses, 12 Plants in Process**, **12 Second-Language Congregations, 1 New Church Affiliation.**

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
Resurrection Church | Burnsville
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 Log Church | Crosslake
Gospel Life Church | Crystal
Lincoln EFC | Cushing
Lamson EFC | Dassel
Redemption Hill Bible Church | Delano
Lake Eunice EFC | Detroit Lakes
Anchor Point Community Church | Duluth
Renew Church | Duluth
Rock Hill Community Church | 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
Living Hope Church | Maple Grove
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
Northside Neighborhood |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
Crosswinds EFC | Oronoco
Hope EFC | Osceola
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
Westgate Church| 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
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
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 EFC) | Zimmerman

7 Multi-Site Campuses

Official Campus Name | City | Established Church

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

Rock Hill Community Church: Chester Park | Duluth| 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

Bethel EFC: Madelia | Madelia | Bethel EFC, Fairmont

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

12 Plants in Process

Plant Name | City | Established Church Name

The Bridge | Hancock | Morris EFC

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

Cloquet Community Church | Cloquet |Anchor Point Community Church, Duluth

Cottage Grove – Five Oaks | Cottage Grove | Five Oaks EFC

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

Fredenberg Community Church | Duluth | Anchor Point Community Church, Duluth

Good News | Eagan | South Cities Church

Grafted | St. Louis Park | Park Community, St. Louis Park

Hope Church | Albert Lea

Journey North Church | Pine City

Redby CC | Red Lake Reservation | River Ridge, Mankato

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

12 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

Oromo Congregation | Calvary EFC | Rochester

Esperanza Viva | Living Hope | Willmar

Comunidad de Gracia | Grace CC | Worthington

Meets for worship with main congregation

Church Status Changes

Cornerstone Church | Saginaw closed

Affiliating 2025

South Cities Church | Lakeville

Greetings from Camp Shamineau!

It has been a unique year of ministry here at Camp Shamineau. We have seen one of our most effective years of Gospel ministry take place. In total, over 19,000 guests got to spend time with us, resulting in thousands of significant conversations and decisions for Jesus Christ. Simultaneously, we have encountered some challenging circumstances to work through. Here are some specific updates about the ministry here at camp :

-**A Season of Transition:** Following the transition of our former executive director at the start of this year, we have found ourselves in a season of transition. This transition has been particularly difficult on us as a staff team. We are continually praying and processing through our circumstances. Along the way, God has shown His support and the support of so many people who love the ministry that takes place here. Please be praying for our staff team and board of directors as we navigate this year. While this has been a trying season, we are excited for the future of camp.

-**A Record-Setting Summer:** More kids than ever came to camp this summer! In total, 5,161 kids attended the 9 camp weeks. Each of these campers were invested into by our incredible staff and participated in multiple gospel touchpoints each day. This resulted in over 400 kids making first-time decisions to believe in and follow Jesus! Special thanks are due to the nearly 300 incredible high school and college-aged staff that served this past summer!

-**A Fantastic Retreat Season:** The non-summer months have been filled with hosting guests through our various retreats. At every retreat, guests heard the gospel clearly explained and made many fun memories. Similar to summer camp, many of these retreats are rapidly growing (Fall Fling youth retreats had over 3,400 campers during the 6 weekends!) and provided a lot of stories of God transforming lives.

-**Building Projects Galore:** Our building and maintenance team had an incredibly busy year! The Pastor Retreat House, built in honor of Jim Anderson, was completed in spring and used steadily by EFCA ministry workers. The bathhouse for our expanded 3rd-6th grade camp is nearly complete, allowing us to start building cabins in that area. The new dining hall project encountered some permitting delays, but is ramping up again, with lots of contracted work scheduled to begin this spring. Our plan is to have a framed-in building by this upcoming winter. Funding for the project is moving forward, but we still have a ways to go. We would love for you to consider partnering with us in this project!

Special thanks is due to all the churches that support us financially. Your generosity is a huge blessing!

We look forward to hosting you this upcoming year!

Zack Skoglund
Acting Executive Director
zack@shamineau.org

Deeper Life Bible Camp

Grace and peace to you, from Deeper Life Bible Camp!

As we look back on another year of camp ministry, we have so much to be thankful for! I could give you my thoughts, but I'd rather let you hear from some of our campers and staff when asked what they should tell someone who is thinking about going to Deeper Life:

- Davis P- *This place is cool. I definitely recommend it.*
- Yin Di L- *Just do it! Nothing greater than spending time learning and serving while being in a great Christian environment.*
- Hailey B- *I would say that they should definitely do it. It's a great community to be a part of and the people there are so passionate about God and are great people to grow your faith with and that if they want to be a counselor definitely do it because I know that when I was a little kid at camp I always loved the bond that grew with all my counselor and staff.*
- Amalya M- *If you are debating about whether to come to DLBC or not, I think you should! DLBC is super welcoming and shows so much love to everyone, you can learn so much about God and being a disciple.*
- Finn S- *The counselors and Christ-like love the staff show, I've gone to a few different camps but I've never gotten so close and felt so loved by the staff members. I also love how inviting everyone is and how the camp encourages healthy humor and a good time while keeping it clean and honorable.*
- Jaden N- *Deeper Life is a place that will grow you in how it is so conversational, a place full of wonderful staff members that genuinely display love for each member, and a place that will give you a sense of what it means to find freedom in Christ. I've heard several campers say that to them, this camp is the closest thing to heaven on earth. If you open your heart and mind to seeking God's plans at camp, he will surely show you his unfailing love and faithfulness in some extraordinary way. You will undoubtedly find new connections here that can transform your faith into something new.*
- Katie S- *My favorite thing about Deeper Life is how authentically genuine and kind the campers and staff are. I also love the energetic worship and Biblical teaching.*

We are looking forward to seeing God do more amazing things this summer. Deeper Life is located in northern Minnesota and seeks to be an affordable alternative with a commitment to deep discipleship. If you'd like more information, check us out at dlbconline.com.

Keep letting Jesus love you,
Lon Bjornrud
Lonnie Wernberg, chairman,
(lvwern@paulbunyan.net) (218-835-6307)
57551 8 Mile Rd Blackduck, MN 56630 Camp phone: 218-835-4902

Cassia Care, Inc

In August we completed the sale of the Augustana Apartments in downtown Minneapolis. This campus had been the flagship location for the Augustana organization and had provided services to people in need for over 120 years on this site. The sale included four apartment buildings with 380 apartments. In recent years occupancy had been declining as frail older adults were no longer choosing the central core of Minneapolis as their preferred place to live. This was a difficult decision for the board of directors but ultimately the right decision for the long-term and strategic future of Cassia.

In July we completed the purchase of The Pines of Richfield in Richfield, MN. The Pines is an assisted living and memory care facility that we had been managing on behalf of the owner. They offered to sell it to us, and we agreed to the purchase. We are excited to extend the reach and ministry of Cassia to the Richfield community.

One of our ongoing challenges in 2024 was the shortage of health care workers. At the beginning of the year we had 150 open positions for certified nursing assistants. We made great progress in the course of the year, reducing the open positions for CNAs to 90 by the end of the year.

In response to the shortage of RN's we have been recruiting nurses from foreign countries for many years. Last year 11 nurses, mostly from the Philippines, joined our workforce. We have begun working with the government of Kenya to recruit trained and licensed nurses. We have made offers of employment to more than 20 nurses currently in Kenya and are assisting them with immigration applications. It takes 18 to 24 months to successfully navigate the current immigration process.

The post-Covid environment marked by workforce shortages and inflationary price increases caused a financial crisis for Cassia in 2022. In 2023 our focus was on financial stabilization, and we ended the year with a positive operating income. I'm happy to report that we continued to stabilize our financial footing in 2024, ending the year with positive net income.

Looking ahead

In 2023 we completed an update of our CEO Succession Plan. In December of last year, I announced my intention to retire from Cassia in January of 2026. The board has begun the search process for a new CEO and has retained the executive search firm of Carter Baldwin to assist the board. Carter Baldwin has a specialty practice that supports Christian based organizations in their search to find leaders whose personal faith match the mission and values of the organization. Recent clients that they have supported include Presbyterian Homes and Services, American Bible Society, Young Life, World Vision, Bethany Christian Services, Bethel University, and the University of Northwestern.

Prayer request

Please pray that God will raise up, inspire and prepare the next leader of Cassia who will guide the organization. Pray for wisdom and discernment for the board of directors as they interview and select the next leader of this incredible ministry organization.

We are excited about what God has in store for 2025 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.

In gratitude,
Robert Dahl
Cassia Care, Inc. President

2025-2026 Budget

NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

2025-2026 Budget

	2025-2026 Proposed	2024-2025 Budget	2023-2024 Actual
Income			
4100 Gift Income - Churches	720,000	708,200	632,388
4100 Gift Income - Individuals	359,000	331,500	246,540
4600 Conf. & Sem. Income	50,000	30,000	61,777
4700 Other Income	97,997	36,000	72,288
Fund Transfer/Use of Reserves	9,000		
Total Income	**1,235,997**	**1,105,700**	**1,012,994**
Gross Profit	**$ 1,235,997**	**$ 1,105,700**	**$ 1,012,994**
Expenses			
5000 Compensation	1,014,264	879,851	784,541
5100 Employee Expense	96,650	111,000	92,338
5200 Staff Development	29,700	3,650	9,758
5300 Board Expense	1,000	1,000	905
5400 Administration	80,629	70,065	94,154
5700 Program Expenses	13,500	12,350	34,158
5900 Church Properties			6,702
Other Expenses			121,660
Total Expenses	**$ 1,235,743**	**$ 1,077,916**	**$ 1,144,216**
Net Income	**$ 254**	**$ 27,784**	**$ (131,222)**

2025-2026 Budget Notes

Expenses increased from 2024-2025 budget by approximately $149,000. A majority of the increase is the addition of Women in Ministry. It also includes an increase in Pastoral Care resources and a 3.5% increase in compensation for all staff.

5100 Employee Expense and 5200 Staff Development look different from the prior budget because of a change in accounting for employee travel.

2023-2024 Actual Other Expenses were for construction of the Anderson House and Church Planting Grants using funds raised in prior years.

The overall budget includes a use of reserves in the 01 General Fund of $9,000. Reserves are adequate for this purpose.

NCD Board of Directors Nominees

***Jennifer Kvamme**

Jennifer Kvamme is student ministries catalyst at Centennial EFC in Forest Lake, MN, where she has served for more than 20 years, and author of *More to the Story: Deep Answers to Real Questions on Identity, Attraction, and Relationships*. She is wife to Greg, mom to three, and passionate about helping young people see the beauty of the gospel and apply it to all of life.

Jorge Osorio

I have been married to my wife, Chandra, for 17 years, and we have the privilege of raising our four children together. I am currently serving at Hope Evangelical Free Church of Monticello, MN, as their Lead pastor. I graduated from Bethel University with a BA in organizational leadership and I am pursuing my Master of Divinity at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. When the weather allows, I enjoy playing soccer and going for prayer walks. I also enjoy reading, traveling, and exploring new places and cultures.

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

Churches for Membership

South Cities Church, Burnsville

In 1871, the First Swedish Baptist Church was planted. The church thrived among the Scandinavian population that lived in Minneapolis, even meeting the immigrant trains arriving into the city to welcome the influx of newcomers to Midwest America.

First Swedish's building burned to the ground in 1886, which led to their purchase of a thirteen year-old building located at Bethlehem Baptist's current location of 13th Ave & 8th Street South.

By the end of World War II in 1945, decreased Swedish immigration to America and second and third generation immigrants transitioning to English-speaking churches led First Swedish Baptist Church to change its name to Bethlehem Baptist Church.

By 1980, Bethlehem was a smaller, older congregation of faithful saints. Many of the elderly members lived in the suburbs and drove into the city for church. It was at this time that the pastoral search committee decided to call Dr. John Piper as Bethlehem's new pastor.

God blessed the church under Pastor John's leadership. Bethlehem continued to grow over the next thirty years as her people sought to fulfill the mission statement adopted in the mid-90s—"to spread a passion for the supremacy of God in all things for the joy of all peoples through Jesus Christ." When Piper retired from the pastorate in 2013, Bethlehem had launched two additional campuses. The North Campus was established in Mounds View in 2003.

And in 2006, the South Campus began meeting in Burnsville High School with a vision to spread a passion for God and joy in Jesus to the cities south of the Minnesota River.

In 2015, the Lord provided the South Campus a piece of land on Kenrick Avenue in Lakeville, MN to establish a permanent building. In September 2018 Bethlehem South Campus held its first worship service in our current facility. Soon after, Bethlehem's elders began feeling the Lord leading us toward greater contextualization and campus specificity, which led the elders to recommend that the three campuses become three separate, autonomous churches. In 2022, the congregation affirmed the recommendation of the elders, and on December 1, 2022, South Cities Church was born.

Today, South Cities Church exists "as a family in Christ to love God, love our neighbors, and make disciples of all peoples" in the south cities of the metro area. Our prayer is that we would be marked by our desire to meet with the living God, be transformed by his word, and to desire all the gifts he would have for us. We are so excited by the prospect of partnering together with other like minded churches in the North Central District to further the cause of Christ. We love the things that make us distinct as a church, but even more, we love the thing that we have in common with every other faithful church; the gospel of Jesus. It's our hope that affiliating with the EFCA will be a blessing to South Cities, and that we will be able to bless our brothers and sisters in our family of churches. We're glad to be in this together!

Sample NCD Conference Ballot

Ballot for Approval of 2025-2026 Budget

_____yes _____ no

Board of Directors (3-Year Term, affirm 2 total)

*Jennifer Kvamme _____yes _____ no

Jorge Osorio _____yes _____ no

** Currently serving; eligible for another term*

Acceptance of New NCD Churches (voice vote)

South Cities Church, Burnsville