



901 EAST 78<sup>TH</sup> ST. MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55420  
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Dear Partner in Ministry,

By God's grace, the EFCA West district ministry team has helped to start many churches and strengthen many more. We have shared in countless stories of transformed lives, families, and communities. But we believe God has us poised to continue doing this on an even greater level. To meet the challenge of planting and serving a new wave of churches in a growing and diverse population, we are asking God for favor as we build upon the solid foundation of our partnership with district churches.

Our goal is this: to expand the prayerful and financial support of our current partner churches as well as mobilize a new segment of EFCA West churches who understand the strategic and eternal significance of a healthy denominational-district connection... a family of churches which understand that God is the owner and giver of all things. Our question is simple: "***Has God called your church to be a part of this effort?***" Perhaps your church is not in need of the many support services that we provide. But our experience from serving regional churches since 1966 has taught us at least four things:

1. While it is ideal for churches to plant churches, most new churches are born with the district acting as a primary catalyst and partner in the process.
2. Almost all of our member churches end up needing our services in one way or another.
3. At any given time, 10-20% of our district network needs assistance and involvement by our team.
4. Most of the support we receive comes from the sacrificial giving of healthy churches intent on empowering their sister churches in need.

### **Background...**

It has been said that the greatest strength of the Evangelical Free Church of America is local church autonomy, and that our greatest weakness is also local church autonomy. In the realm of financial partnership between local churches and denominational ministries, there is simply no mechanism to "mandate" support within the EFCA. And no one wants such a mechanism. But the downside of entirely voluntary support is a chronically anemic level of support from local churches to enable their denomination to serve them in the purposes for which the EFCA was created. Consistently, anywhere from 40-50% of our affiliate churches have chosen to offer zero support to the denomination to which they belong. Clearly, while this might be a marginally sustainable model, it is clear that a bold future initiative of aggressive church multiplication will require some changes. We much prefer thriving over surviving.

### **Our Promise...**

For our part, we recommit ourselves, as God enables, to strengthen and serve our local churches. Under the banner of the durable mission of the EFCA "To Glorify God by Multiplying Transformational Churches Among All People," our purpose is to help you fulfill God's mission for your church. We are not here for us, but for you. We are not interested in self-preservation, but in acting as servants and catalysts to release the power of the Holy Spirit in and through you and your church, the bedrock components of God's Plan-A strategy to fulfill the Great Commission.

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STEVE HIGHFILL • Regional Director

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LINDA BISHOP • Women in Leadership   BRET BREMBERG • Resource Development   XOCHITL CACHON • Administrative Assistant  
TIM JACOBS • Church Multiplication   BOB OSBORNE • Church Health   RUBEN NAVARRETE • Hispanic Ministries  
ALEX RIVERO • All People Ministries   PAUL SCHLIEP • Pastoral Care, Theology & Credentialing

### **Our Request...**

Simply put, we are asking you to consider what God might want our relationship to look like.

- **For those churches currently giving:** Thank you! Together, we have much to thank God for as you stand with us in this important endeavor. Your generosity has been a blessing to so many.
- **For those churches which are not giving:** We believe this is a new day for a new partnership. Our team will work with you and your team in any way possible to build a bridge of connection as we step into the future together. What follows are some ideas for you to consider as we begin that journey.

### **One-Check Giving to EFCA Partnership...**

Several years ago, EFCA West pioneered an effort to simplify local church partnership with district and national ministries. When you make a single contribution to “**EFCA Partnership**,” we automatically direct 1/3 of the gift to our national office partners, and 2/3 to our district budget. This is a simple and effective way to partner with the entire EFCA family. Simply make the check out to “EFCA Partnership” and it is mailed to the EFCA Minneapolis main office address:

*EFCA West  
901 East 78<sup>th</sup> Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55420*

### **Some Ideas of How You Can Partner With Us...**

(these are taken from examples of current partner churches)

- ✓ Designate *EFCA Partnership* as a line item in your general annual budget
- ✓ Make *EFCA Partnership* a part of your annual missions budget
- ✓ Based on 1 Corinthians 16:2, commit to contributing based on what God provides (after-the-fact rather than pre-budgeted). Accountants resist this, but some have found this to be a blessed faith approach.
- ✓ Take a special offering at least once a year (can be coordinated with EFCA West team representation)
- ✓ Allow EFCA West staff to participate in weekend service and make direct appeal to individuals
- ✓ Allow EFCA West staff to directly contact potential individual donors who you identify
- ✓ Partner with EFCA West to conduct a Planned Giving event for your congregation

A word we consistently hear describing the EFCA is “family.” We are, in fact, family. Thank you for the privilege of serving our King together with you.

Warmly,



**Bret Bremberg**

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