

2022 Director of Ministry Effectiveness Report

Katie Arnold, Director of Ministry Effectiveness
Friday, February 24, 2023

This year has been a year of change for the District Leadership and District Staff with Brent coming on as the new District Superintendent and sending off Bob Rowley at our last conference into retirement, or at least three-quarters' time retirement. We have retained him on staff for a few hours a week to utilize his expertise and experience in church planting as well as his years served as a District Superintendent.

JoAnn Rowley officially hung up her Administrative Assistant hat at the end of 2022 after relaying all of her knowledge and handing over all of her job duties to Denese Shrum, the new District Administrative Assistant. We are so thankful for JoAnn's faithful service! Denese has done a great job taking on all of her new responsibilities as she transitioned from being the Administrative Assistant at [Cornerstone Community Bible Church](#) to a remote position while learning new technology, new systems and new processes.

Jaime Roy continued to serve as our Communications Specialist from North Carolina, creating and maintaining an amazingly high-quality level for the district communications that are delivered in a well-planned and timely manner! She also handles many behind-the-scenes tasks and responsibilities.

Manuel Abarca Sáez continued to serve as the District Director Hispanic Church Planting building community among all of the Hispanic Lead Pastors in their monthly Zoom gathering, and recruiting, coaching and encouraging new church planters.

John Watson fully embraced his new role as Credentialing Facilitator this past year and is tracking and coaching the *many* pastors and church leaders who have started the credentialing process. As the Small Groups Specialist, John has continued to coach and consult with many of our churches, and small groups are being strengthened and multiplied.

Monica deGarmeaux, District Director of Thrive, continued to offer new and different ways to resource and support Lead Pastors Wives across the district, including seasonal retreat offerings, a summer book club while ongoing Thrive Groups continued to meet during the school year.

Multiplying Together, the district multiplication initiative birthed in 2016, held its sixth Annual Retreat (2020 being virtual) in April at [T Bar M](#) in New Braunfels, TX. Gabe deGarmeaux, Lead Pastor of [King's Community Church](#), led two reflection times focused on soul care; Adam Kane, Executive Pastor at [Northeast Bible Church](#) at Garden Ridge, TX, led an equipping time on "Leading Through Staff"; Bob Rowley passed on his list of Bob-isms; Heath Haynes, Pastor of [The Bridge HTX](#), facilitated a Disciplemaking Pathway Workshop that provided the opportunity for the group to encourage and challenge each other. Of course, fun and fellowship was had too!



Church planting in this post-pandemic world is a different world. We have not had any church plants close, though one church plant decided to end our partnership and not move forward toward joining the EFCA. In the last year, we only assessed one potential planter (and approved him!), which is almost unheard of for our district, BUT church planting has not stopped! These two church plants will launch this spring:

- [Disciple Community Church](#) (San Antonio, TX) Paul & Jolene Hodi
- [Gather Community Church](#) (The Village, OK) Caleb & Hayden Rolan

And, two more Hispanic church planters are gathering and preparing to launch a Second Language Service:

- Gonzalo Mateluna & Daniela Vivanco at [Vista Community Church](#) (Castroville, TX)
- Luis & Venessa Acevedo at [Stone Oak Bible Church](#) (San Antonio, TX)

Also, in the last couple of months, we have had several conversations with people who have expressed interest in exploring church planting, or know of someone they would like to be assessed for church planting to see if that person would be a good candidate.

Congratulations to the following churches who will celebrate their 1st Anniversary this spring:

- [Refuge Church](#) (Houston, TX) Blaine & Anna Hooper
- [Lugar de Él](#) (Fort Worth, TX) Javier Santana & Marielys Alicea
- [Resonate Community](#) (Abilene, TX) Jordan & Kristen Cospier

May God grant us the peace, hope, joy and love for what is in store for us as a district in the coming year – to Him to be all the glory!

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