

## 2022 District Superintendent's Report

**Dr. Brent Burckart, EFCA TX-OK District Superintendent**  
**Friday, February 24, 2023**

Ten months ago, when I stepped into my new role as District Superintendent, one of my top priorities was to meet with as many of our pastors in-person as quickly as possible just to listen and to learn. I've enjoyed traveling throughout our district, visiting with dozens of you, and I've walked away from each of those conversations humbled and grateful to serve such a quality group of church leaders! I am also encouraged by what I see happening in our district churches. Many of our congregations are reporting renewed vitality and record growth in the aftermath of the pandemic.

These are exciting times for the church, but they are also challenging times, and as a district team, we're committed to providing quality resources to help you minister the gospel effectively in this increasingly polarized, post-Christian culture. One example of this was our [Church Health Clinic in October on the topic of Gender, Sexuality, and the Church](#). Our guest speaker, Josh Gatewood, addressed this difficult topic from the Scriptures with both clarity and compassion, and those who attended walked away better equipped to do the same in their churches. It was a great time of fellowship and learning! If you missed this event last year, I encourage you to save the date and invite your ministry teams to our next Church Health Clinic on October 10-11, 2023 at Tejas Camp & Retreat in Giddings, TX.

In addition to providing solid ministry resources, we look forward to strengthening relationships across the district through our Regional Cohorts for pastors ("Healthy Church Networks") and our Ministry Cohorts for church ministry team leaders. These cohorts meet periodically throughout the year both in-person and online for a time of mutual encouragement, equipping, and prayer. This year, we are adding two new Ministry Cohorts, one for Worship Pastors led by [John Denmon](#), Music Lead and Gatherings Pastor at Hillside Fellowship, and another for Children's Ministry Directors led by [Randi Luna](#), Kids Ministry Director at Northeast Bible Church. Connecting with our fellow church leaders through these regional and ministry cohorts is an important way to grow as leaders and live out our "Better Together" mantra.

At our conference Vision Breakfast, we'll be discussing our new mission statement which reads as follows: *"We start and strengthen churches by equipping and mobilizing church leaders for local and regional gospel impact."* Consistent with this mission, we are excited that two new church plants will be launching this spring: [Disciple Community Church](#) in San Antonio, Texas, led by Pastor Paul Hodi and [The Gathering Community](#) in The Village, Oklahoma, led by Pastor Caleb Rolan. We are also happy to report that [King's Community Church](#) in New Braunfels, Texas, a church plant led by Pastor Gabe deGarmeaux, will become a fully autonomous EFCA church this year, pending district approval at the [Annual District Conference Business Meeting](#).

At the end of the business meeting, we will be sending each church our annual survey. This survey plays a key role in measuring our effectiveness, determining our strategy, and stewarding our district resources, so thank you in advance for completing this survey by the deadline on March 24.

As I finish out my first year as District Superintendent, I feel incredibly grateful—grateful to the Lord for providing me with this ministry opportunity; grateful to my predecessor, Bob Rowley, who laid a solid foundation to build on; grateful to our very gifted district staff who serve our churches so faithfully; grateful to the District Board for the healthy accountability and helpful advice that they provide; and grateful to our pastors and churches who give so generously of their time and resources to advance God's work through the ministry of the district. It's truly a privilege to serve you, and I look forward to what God has in store for this coming year as we serve Him together.

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