

## **Committee on Disciple-Making Ministries**

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. - Ephesians 1:3

### **District Superintendent**

We are so thankful for David Linn: for his leadership, for his care and concern for the pastors of this district, their families, and their congregations. We are so grateful for his diligent stewardship over the finances of our district, the vision he has cast, the way he works with his team, and the time he gives to each person in our district who requires his ear and attention. We affirm that He is God's chosen leader for us in our district during such a time as this.

We affirm David's thoughts on the importance of a focus on discipleship, evangelism, and church health in our district churches, hoping a focus on those things would eventually lead to the formation of new district churches. We appreciate the shift the Lord has brought in his perspective of church health and church planting and want all district workers to join him in prayer, discussion, and discovery of the work the Lord is doing and how we are to join Him in that work.

We are so thankful for the balanced and informed response he demonstrated and provided to our district leadership and churches at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. The personal vulnerability, balanced perspective, and his timely information, along with incredibly-helpful resources, has helped each of our churches navigate these unprecedented times. His idea to facilitate group Zoom calls with pastors in our district for guidance, encouragement, and idea sharing truly was a great help to the workers of our district as we strive to lead our churches through these difficult times.

We are also thankful for the leadership team he works alongside of. Sally Fry, Jon Schuerholz, Lisa Vogan, David Murphy, Ed Lyau, Barb Linn, and Tracy Murphy have done so much to care for and teach us alongside of David Linn. We are so blessed to have this leadership team in our district. We will miss Tracy and Jon as they move on to their next ministry assignments. Tracy has served every pastor and church through her tireless work in the district office. We so appreciate her. Jon has been a great resource to pastors and churches, sharing his wise insight and extensive leadership experience with us. We know that significant Kingdom work was accomplished by each of them as they served the Lord through their service to this district. We send them off with our thanks and blessings for the next stage of their life and ministry.

This committee would like to remind all who read this report that we need to uphold our leadership team in prayer. In essence, they are our pastors – they need strength to give us that care. They are standing in front of us – they need the Lord to give them strength to protect us. They are caring for us – they need God's wisdom and insight to give us wise counsel. They are teaching us – they need to hear from the Lord before sharing His will for our district. They are doing the hard work of leading us as we lead others. We need to remember to pray for and encourage them as they work to lead and serve us, and others.

## **Disciplemaking Ministries**

It was encouraging to hear how the District Disciple-making Ministries Team has worked to help equip the Northeastern District with tools for disciple-making. We were encouraged to hear how impactful Training Ground has been. Furthermore, we commend the district for partnering with the national office too in their initiative to raise and strengthen youth workers. Lastly, we would like to thank everyone on this team for their labor for the Kingdom, helping us to multiply and grow disciples throughout our district.

## **Evangelism Committee**

Upon hearing about the Evangelism Committee's partnered labor with Jesus we were full of thanksgiving! We also celebrate the synchronicity between the vision of this committee and the Discipleship Committee, seeing that the end goal is not evangelism for evangelism's sake but for the sake of making new disciples of Jesus.

We appreciate the team's initiative to ask pastors how you could better equip them to reach the not yet saved through the survey given at district conference last year.

While we see the holy effort being put forth through Share Jesus workshops including varied forms based off of local leadership preference, we also see how greater connection between the committee and local leaders would advance the mission.

It is our encouragement to the committee to press on with strategies and ideas to reach the unreached and to present them to the district and local leadership, ideas such as online training or "schools" of evangelism.

Thank you for continuing to wrestle with this lifelong topic of seeking and saving the lost. We encourage you to press on towards the goal and prize of Jesus without hindrance!

## **Great Commission Women's Ministry**

We affirm the changes made to the ministry that is now included under the umbrella of church ministries at the National Office. We see great value in the commitment to support our International Workers both prayerfully and financially, as well as to provide connection and support to the women in our local churches.

We affirm Terri Groh in her appointed position within the NED and commend her leadership. We are grateful to Terri and her team for their servant's hearts. We applaud their effort to connect with women in the district through newsletters and the NED Alliance Women's Facebook page and website.

Alliance Women has hosted numerous ministries throughout the year, as well.

- Spring Refresh Conference
- NED AW Leadership Retreat
- Summer Renew Celebration
- Fall Refocus on Missions Conference

NED Alliance Women have prayerfully encouraged and financially supported the NED IW's and their outfit funds, the Lighthouse Cottage at Delta lake, the Ouagadougou

Guest Home in Burkina Faso, West Africa, and raised funds to support the AW National Project.

God has blessed this ministry with fruit: high attendance, generous offerings and 17 women coming to faith this year! We celebrate what the Lord is doing and ask for His continued blessing on Terri, her leadership team and Alliance Women!

### **District Men's Ministry**

We would like to thank Rev. Andrew M. Bashwinger for his faithful ministry in serving as the District Men's Ministry Director and for being an example of a redeemed life. Thank you for praying for our churches, pastors and local men's ministries. We affirm your desire to be a source of encouragement to the coaching clusters and the local men's ministries. Thank you for your hard work, support and the encouragement that has been given.

We would encourage all coaching clusters to invite the next Men's ministry director to hear and share in his vision for the District Men's Ministry. May we all continue to affirm and build upon Andrew's vision that we are "better together."

We suggest that the new District C&MA Men's Ministry Director brainstorm with District leadership and coaching cluster leaders as to how best meet the needs of local men's ministry in light of the current pandemic.

### **Delta Lake**

We would like to encourage and affirm Delta Lake and the various ministries that have been taking place and how God has been at work even in the midst of difficult times. The Haven Camp and it's growth along with the kids who have made first-time decisions and were baptized are just one of many ways that God has been doing great things at Delta and we would like to encourage and affirm Delta to continue to move forward in faithfulness as God has been ever faithful.

We would also affirm that the "Second Century of Ministry" vision that Steve Clark has brought for Delta moving forward has been in synergy with all of the vision and heart of the Alliance and what Dave Linn has set forward as the future direction of Northeastern District. We would like to acknowledge and commend all the work that has been done behind the scenes by Steve Clark and how it has played an important in how God has been faithfully working through Delta Lake. We would like to encourage Steve and the team at Delta to continue to persevere through these challenging times.

### **In Memoriam**

Rev. Joseph M. DeSerio, Sr., Retired District Pastor, 4-1-18

Rev. Gerald M. Myers, Retired District Pastor, 5-16-18

Mrs. E. Virginia Hedger (Rev. James V.) Hedger, Wife of Retired District Pastor, 9-4-18

Rev. Gordon L. Strong, Retired Former District International Worker, 1-16-19

Mrs. Eileen (Rev. William B.) Beers, Widow of Former Retired District Pastor, 4-1-19

Mrs. Diana L. (Rev. O. Thomas) Young, Wife of Retired Pastor, 6-13-19

Rev. William C. Payne, Retired District Pastor, 6-15-19

Rev. Rev. James V. Hedger, Retired District Pastor, 6-16-19

Mrs. Lois J. (Rev. Gerald M.) Myers, Widow of Retired District Pastor, 11-7-19

Mr. Leonard Cacciatore, Retired District Lay Pastor, 1-9-2020  
Mr. James P. Whitman, Former District Pastor, 2-15-2020

Respectfully Submitted,  
Rev, Daniel Piazza, Chair  
Rev. Wade Smith, Secretary