

SUMMER 2023

# THE PULSE

A Quarterly Publication of the Rocky Mountain District of the Evangelical Free Church



## District Update

PASTOR BARRY VEGTER, DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT, ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT

"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now" (Philippians 1:3-5). Our desire as a movement of churches in the Rocky Mountain District is to reflect the truth of Philippians 1 that we are partners as we join God in His work of bringing the gospel to every man, woman, and child where churches are located within our District.

One of the ways we partner together in the gospel is through our District conferences. At our Spring Conference in April, we had the privilege of having Dr. Christopher Yuan teach and equip us in how we can apply the gospel to the sexual and gender confusion we see in our culture that is impacting the lives of people in our churches. It was a very encouraging and impactful time for all of us who attended. We have made the main sessions from the conference available on our YouTube channel (Rocky Mountain District EFC) and we want to encourage you to view these videos as well as use the materials Dr. Yuan has created to help equip you in bringing the gospel to people who are struggling with sexual and gender confusion.

Also, as we are seeking to address the need for more leaders to be developed and laborers for the harvest field, we affirmed the calling of Pastor Kevin Boaz to a full-time position as the "Director of Multiplication and Leadership Development" for the Rocky Mountain District. He will be directly involved with the kingdom value of multiplication in multiplying churches, multiplying leaders in the local church, and developing some of those to be pastors, missionaries, and church planters. As Kevin begins his full-time role in the fall, he will be sharing more of his heart and passion in the fall edition of the Pulse.

Please join me in praying that the seeds of truth planted at the Spring Conference will produce spiritual fruit that will make a lasting impact in the Kingdom. Also, pray for Kevin as he transitions into his new full-time role. I want to thank all of you for your interest in what God is doing in our District, for your prayers, and for your financial gifts. We are partners together in the gospel!



Serving our churches and our pastors to multiply God's Kingdom.

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SUPERINTENDENT  
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Kevin Boaz Church Multiplication  
Mark Vaporis Credentialing

### DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM

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Rev. Neil Magnuson District Vice Chairman	Crossroads, Custer, SD
Rev. David Williams Secretary	New Hope EFC, Cedaredge, CO
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Rev. Kevin Boaz	Magnify EFC, Colorado Springs, CO
Rev. Ben Green	Rimrock EFC, Rapid City, SD
MeLissa Houdmann	Magnify EFC, Colorado Springs, CO
Rev. Andrew Johnson	Living Hope EFC, Grand Junction, CO
Rev. Brian Sharpe	Magnify EFC, Colorado Springs, CO

### CHURCH PLANTING TEAM

Rev. Kevin Boaz	Magnify EFC, Colorado Springs, CO
Rev. Francisco Mendez	Vida Nueva Para Denver, Centennial, CO
Rev. Erik Valenzuela	Iglesia El Camino, Aurora, CO

## Christ The Rock Community Church: A Testament of Faith, Miracles, and Transformation

BY CHRIS STASTNY

Christ The Rock Community Church in Timnath, Colorado, has emerged as a remarkable testament to the power of God and the transformative impact of a dedicated community of believers. From its humble beginnings as a church plant in 2018 to its official recognition by the EFCA at the Spring Conference this year, this congregation has touched numerous lives and provided a nurturing environment where people find and follow Jesus. Let us delve into the inspiring journey of Christ The Rock Community Church and the profound impact it has had on individuals seeking a deeper relationship with Christ.

**Answering God's Call:** The story of Christ The Rock Community Church began when Chris and Ciara Stastny sensed a clear calling from God to move to Timnath, Colorado, and establish a church. Despite the challenges that lay ahead, the couple remained steadfast in their faith, trusting in God's provision every step of the way. Through a series of affirmations and divine interventions, they found their path illuminated and their purpose to plant a church clearly defined. With God's will clear, they sold everything they owned and moved their 4 kids across the country from Illinois to sunny Colorado.

**Planting the Seeds of Faith:** Upon their arrival in Timnath in 2017, Chris and Ciara wasted no time in building relationships with unbelievers in the community. The hand of God was evident as families began to encounter Christ's love and experience transformation through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. The first official service of Christ The Rock Community Church took place on December 2nd, 2018, with an encouraging turnout of over 70 attendees. In the subsequent months, the church saw a regular attendance of 50 individuals seeking spiritual nourishment and genuine fellowship.

**Navigating the Challenges:** The year 2020 brought unforeseen challenges in the form of the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet, by the grace of God, Christ The Rock Community Church persisted and adapted to the new circumstances. By God's grace the believers' unwavering commitment to God's will allowed it to weather the storm. Despite physical distancing and limitations on gatherings, the church continued to foster a sense of connection and provided spiritual support to its members.

**A Community of Authenticity and Growth:** The heart of Christ The Rock Community Church lies in its authenticity and commitment to helping others take the next step on their spiritual journey with Christ. Countless testimonies of regular attenders speak of the genuine and selfless nature of Pastor Chris, his wife Ciara, and the entire church community. The intimacy of the church creates an environment where each individual is known, relationships flourish, and growth in Christlikeness is nurtured. Through engaging Bible studies, heartfelt worship, and inspiring sermons, the church strives to deepen the faith of believers and be ambassadors of the Gospel of reconciliation to the lost.

**Impacting Lives:** The impact of Christ The Rock Community Church extends beyond the confines of its walls. Google reviews from attendees speak of lives forever changed and renewed faith. The church's emphasis on biblical teaching, growth in Christlikeness, and a loving Christian community resonates deeply with individuals seeking a place where they can find forgiveness, hope, and purpose by dying to self and living for Christ.

Christ The Rock Community Church stands as a testament to the miracles that can unfold when individuals respond faithfully to God's call. Through unwavering dedication to God, a commitment to authentic relationships, and a fervent desire to see people come to know Christ, this church has become a beacon of hope, love, and transformation. The remarkable journey of Christ The Rock Community Church reminds us that God's plan unfolds in His perfect timing, and when we open our hearts to His guidance, miracles can happen.

Christ the Rock  
Community  
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MAGNIFY  
THE  
LORD  
WITH ME;  
LET  
US  
EXALT  
HIS NAME  
TOGETHER.

PSALM 34:3  
ESV

## Better Together?

BY KEVIN BOAZ AND BRIAN SHARPE

In early 2020, just before our whole world changed, two pastors of churches in Colorado Springs, Colorado met to have lunch together. Kevin was the planter of Incline EFC and Brian was the newly hired pastor of Northview EFC. During that lunch meeting a new friendship began. In the year following the pandemic, Brian and Kevin continued to connect for lunch, encouragement, and they enjoyed playing pick-up basketball together. They talked about the impact of the pandemic on their churches and openly wondered if they might complement one another in powerful ways. It sounded like a good possibility, but they simply did not feel a conviction to pursue the idea any further.

As well as pastoring Incline EFC, Kevin also had a role in the Rocky Mountain District as the Church Planting Director. As Barry Vegter, the District Superintendent, began to share a vision for multiplication and pursuing an emerging need for leadership development, Kevin's role began to expand.

At the end of 2022, Brian and Kevin felt compelled to, along with their elder teams, investigate the possibility of partnering in various ministries and maybe eventually consider a merger. In January of 2023, the District Leadership Team extended an invitation to Kevin to prayerfully consider making his role within the district a full-time one. A path was beginning to form for exploring if these two congregations could truly advance the kingdom in a new way if they came together.

Incline EFC was informed of the opportunity the DLT was offering Kevin, which would not be voted on until April and invited the church to start praying about next steps. The elder teams of both churches had a day long retreat led by PastorServe which began to ask the question, "Could we be better together?" Through conversations, reading books on church mergers, and seeking outside input, they understood there are many kinds of mergers, and that merging did not guarantee kingdom impact. CONTINUED ON PAGE 4.



# Better Together?

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3.

As the teams prayed and processed together, it became evident that the congregations were aligned in mission and vision while at the same time complementing each other in areas of giftedness. In light of these discoveries the two elder teams recommended that their congregations begin a process of considering if they also believed “we could be better together.”

During February-April the elders put together several FAQ documents for their respective churches as they worked through key questions, held congregational conversations, allowed ministry leaders to meet one another, facilitated prayer times, and had one joint service. Each step of the way, God began to bring joy, hearts began to be united around a new vision, and slowly a new work of the kingdom was taking shape. The congregations decided to wait to vote on a merger until after Kevin’s role was determined at the annual Spring Conference, but eventually each church voted overwhelmingly to merge. Northview EFC and Incline EFC voted to become Magnify EFC on April 31, 2023. Pastor Brian will lead the church with Pastor Kevin serving as an associate for several months prior to transitioning to serving the District full time.

As this article is written, Incline EFC and Northview EFC are one week away from their first service as Magnify EFC. It is understood that the hardest part of launching this new church will be the first six months together as they seek unity and focus on the mission Jesus prays about in John 17:20 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one." This new church has the opportunity to make disciple-makers who multiply. Will you pray for Magnify EFC? The coming together of these churches has allowed many of its people who were serving in multiple areas to be freer to make space to build relationships with those who are yet to know the joy of Jesus. Pray that they would Magnify Jesus in Colorado Springs and beyond!



Brian Sharpe and Kevin Boaz demonstrating the MAGNIFY logo.



Todd Erlandson leading a question and answer time with Kevin Boaz at the RMD Spring Conference.

# Pray Together

LET'S PRAY EARNESTLY FOR THE CHURCHES IN OUR DISTRICT. PLEASE CLICK [HERE](#) FOR A HELPFUL PRAYER GUIDE. YOU MAY USE THE CALENDAR BELOW TO LIFT UP EACH CHURCH ON ITS DESIGNATED DAY.

## JUNE

1. Aurora, CO - Harvest Community Church
2. Aurora, CO - New Life Community Church
3. Aurora, CO - Iglesia El Camino Church
4. Black Hawk, CO - Rocky Mountain EFC
5. Boulder, CO - Calvary Bible EFC
6. Boulder, CO - Chinese EFC
7. Broomfield, CO - Calvary EFC
8. Burlington, CO - Evangelical Free Church of Burlington
9. Canon City, CO - Evangelical Free Church of Canon City
10. Casper, WY - Cornerstone EFC
11. Castle Rock, CO - Ridgeline Community Church
12. Cedaredge, CO - New Hope EFC
13. Centennial, CO - Bethany EFC
14. Centennial, CO - Fellowship Community EFC
15. Centennial, CO - Vida Nueva Church
16. Cheyenne, WY - Cheyenne EFC
17. Colorado Springs, CO - Covenant Grace EFC
18. Colorado Springs, CO - Cross & Crown Church
19. Colorado Springs, CO - Faith EFC
20. Colorado Springs, CO - First EFC
21. Colorado Springs, CO - Magnify EFC
22. Cortez, CO - Grace Fellowship EFC
23. Crook, CO - United EFC
24. Custer, SD - Crossroads Church
25. Denver, CO - Ancient Paths Church
26. Denver, CO - Chinese EFC
27. Denver, CO - Open Door Fellowship
28. Denver, CO - Pilgrim Congregational Church
29. Denver, CO - Revolution Church
30. Divide, CO - Little Chapel of the Hills

## JULY

1. Douglas, WY - Lighthouse Church
2. Eaton, CO - Evangelical Free Church of Eaton
3. Erie, CO - Calvary Bible EFC
4. Estes Park, CO - Rocky Mountain Church
5. Evergreen, CO - Bergen Park Church
6. Florence, CO - The Pulse
7. Fort Collins, CO - Chinese EFC
8. Fort Collins, CO - Faith Church
9. Gillette, WY - Living Rock Church
10. Golden, CO - Whispering Pines EFC
11. Grand Junction, CO - Living Hope EFC
12. Greeley, CO - Christ Community EFC
13. Greeley, CO - Mountain View EFC
14. Hot Springs, SD - Southern Hills EFC
15. Johnstown, CO - Cornerstone EFC
16. Kemmerer, WY - Valley EFC
17. Lander, WY - Lander Free Church
18. Laramie, WY - Snowy Range EFC
19. Littleton, CO - Red Rocks Fellowship EFC
20. Littleton, CO - Southwest Community Church
21. Longmont, CO - Grace EFC
22. Louviers, CO - Faith EFC
23. Mead, CO - Abundant Life Church
24. Milesville, SD - Hardingrove Community EFC
25. Montrose, CO - Cedar Creek Church
26. Monument, CO - Cathedral Rock Church
27. Newcastle, WY - Gateway Fellowship Church
28. Okaton, SD - Okaton EFC
29. Ouray, CO - Ouray Christian Fellowship
30. Pagosa Springs, CO - Grace in Pagosa
31. Palisade, CO - Central Orchard Mesa Comm. EFC



# Pray Together

## AUGUST

1. Philip, SD - Community EFC
2. Peidmont, SD - Hills View EFC
3. Peyton, CO - Aspen Ridge Church
4. Pueblo, CO - Grace Life Church
5. Pueblo West, CO - The Peak EFC
6. Rapid City, SD - Parkview EFC
7. Rapid City, SD - Rimrock EFC
8. Rye, CO - Table Mountain Church
9. Seibert, CO - Trinity Hill Church
10. Steamboat Springs, CO - Steamboat Bible Church
11. Thornton, CO - Calvary Bible Church
12. Timnath, CO - Christ The Rock Community Church
13. Wall, SD - Evangelical Free Bible Church
14. Windsor, CO - Evangelical Free Church of Windsor
15. Rocky Mountain District (RMD) Superintendent
16. RMD Staff
17. RMD Leadership Team (DLT)
18. RMD Director of Multiplication & Leadership Development
19. RMD Church Planting Leadership Team
20. RMD Student Ministries Consultant
21. RMD Student Ministries Team
22. RMD Board of Ministerial Standing Chairman
23. RMD Board of Ministerial Standing (Credentialing Team)
24. RMD Healthy Church Networks (HCNs)
25. Pray for RMD Churches searching for pastors
26. RMD Finances
27. EFCA District Superintendents (17 total)
28. EFCA President and Vice President
29. EFCA National Board of Ministerial Standing
30. EFCA Hispanic Ministries Director
31. EFCA Chaplain Director and Endorser

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### DONATIONS

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