

SUMMER 2026

THE PULSE

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT OF THE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

Blessings Rocky Mountain District Family,

The churches, pastors, and ministry leaders of the Rocky Mountain District gathered at Southwest Community EFC in Littleton, Colorado, on April 27–28 for our annual District Conference. This year's theme, *On Track*, was designed to help our churches and leaders align with the biblical rails that have always carried the mission of Jesus forward: health and multiplication. Like two parallel tracks, these priorities must run together. Through our plenary speakers and four ministry tracks, attendees were encouraged, challenged, and equipped with practical resources to strengthen their discipling mission.

I want to thank Southwest Community Church for serving as our host. Your hospitality and generosity were awesome. Please join me in praying for everyone who attended, that they would be intentional in implementing their next steps toward greater health and multiplication as they continue serving in their local churches. As always, the district is committed to providing resources and support to encourage and strengthen you as you live out your mission.

Planning for next year's District Conference is already underway. Our theme will focus on becoming resilient leaders who are deeply rooted in devotion to prayer and the ministry of the Word. Please pray for the District Leadership Team as they seek the Lord's guidance and wisdom in preparing for next year's gathering.

Praying,
Barry



**SERVING OUR CHURCHES & OUR PASTORS
TO MULTIPLY GOD'S KINGDOM**

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT – EFCA

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SUPERINTENDENT
Rev. Barry Vegter

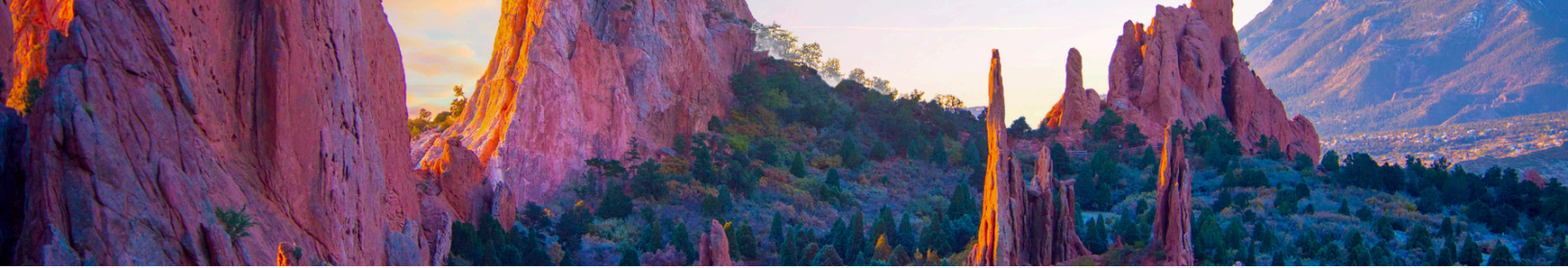
**ASSOCIATE OF MULTIPLICATION &
LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**
Rev. Kevin Boaz

MINISTRY LEADERS

Carson Greenhaw	Student Ministries
Dean Cernek Scott Schaefer	Credentialing Directors
Dr. Robert Evans	Pastoral Care & Coaching
Rex Smithgall	Financial Consultant

DISTRICT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Rev. Ben Green District Chairman	Rimrock EFC Rapid City, SD
Anette Versaw Secretary	Cañon City EFC Cañon City, CO
Rev. Andrew Johnson Treasurer	Living Hope EFC Grand Junction, CO
MeLissa Houdmann	Magnify EFC Colorado Springs, CO
Rev. Brian Sharpe	Magnify EFC Colorado Springs, CO
Jonathan Anderson	Gateway Fellowship Newcastle, WY
Jeff Howard	Fellowship Community Church Centennial, CO



JOINING THE EFCA CHURCH MULTIPLICATION ECOSYSTEM

KEVIN BOAZ
ASSOCIATE OF MULTIPLICATION & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



Across the EFCA, we share a common mission: to glorify God by multiplying transformational churches among all people. That mission is not reserved for a few large churches or specially gifted planters. It is an invitation for every congregation—regardless of size, setting, or season—to participate in Jesus’ Great Commission.

The EFCA Church Multiplication Ecosystem helps churches identify their next faithful step. At the center is the essential work of disciples multiplying disciples. From that center, churches often participate in three connected ways: partnering, sending, and multiplying.

Partnering churches link arms with their district and the broader EFCA movement. They pray for new works, celebrate church planting, give time and resources, and invite their people into an evangelistic and multiplying way of life. For many churches, this is the beginning of deeper mission engagement beyond their own walls.

Sending churches build on that foundation by intentionally raising up leaders. They help people discern their calling, develop ministry pathways, and create apprenticeships, internships, or residencies that prepare leaders for local and global mission. Like the church in Antioch, they learn to see sending not as loss, but as kingdom fruitfulness.

Multiplying churches embrace multiplication at every level: groups, ministries, congregations, campuses, second-language ministries, and new church plants. They prepare to reach new cultures and communities, often in collaboration with other churches, so that the gospel continues to move outward.

Our hope for the future is that every church in our district will see itself somewhere in this ecosystem and take one next step. Some may begin by praying regularly for planters. Others may contribute financially, encourage a new congregation, develop leaders, or explore planting in a new community.

The beauty of an ecosystem is that *every part matters*. Not every church plays the same role, but every church can participate. As we collaborate together, we believe God will renew existing churches, raise up new leaders, and bring the light and life of Christ to more people and places across our district.



ABOVE & BEYOND

PASTOR LANCE GENTRY
CROSS & CROWN, COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

~Ephesians 3:20-21~

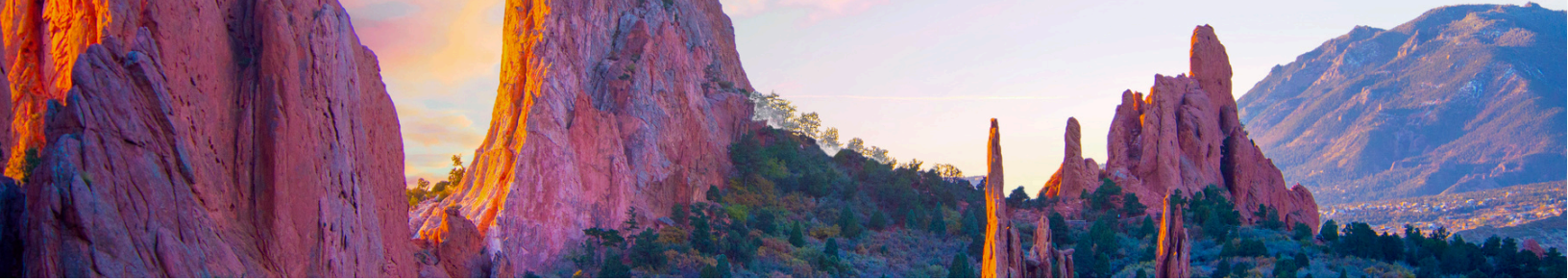
“Above and Beyond.” That’s what we named our facility relocation capital campaign over a decade ago. “Above and Beyond” is also what God did both in meeting our needs and exceeding our expectations and timelines, again and again.

I’ve served as a pastor at Cross & Crown Church (formerly Austin Bluffs EFC) in Colorado Springs since 1997, and by God’s grace, the church has grown both spiritually and numerically during that time. By 2015 it had become clear to us that our existing facility was insufficient to accommodate our growth. We already had two services, the parking lot was full, the auditorium and foyer were packed, and we desperately needed more children’s spaces and restrooms. We were also landlocked without any real options for expanding. So, inspired by Ephesians 3:20 and under the name “Above and Beyond,” we shared the vision for future relocation with our church family, and they overwhelmingly affirmed the elders’ vision by vote.

We then began efforts in earnest to save funds for a future relocation, with our beginning goal being one million dollars. It was initially a slow process, but by 2021 the Lord provided almost two million dollars through the faithful and sacrificial giving of His people. God soon led us to find a vacant warehouse and call center that was for sale, nearly doubling our square footage and almost tripling our parking. When the seller found out that we were a church, he generously took one million dollars off of his asking price. Using the funds from our savings, from the sale of our existing building, and with the help of a sizeable loan through Christian Investors Foundation (CIF), we purchased the property in September of 2021 and began the process of renovations. On January 1, 2023, we held our first Sunday worship service in our new building!

Our leadership team was committed to paying off our loan with CIF as quickly as possible, and so our “Above and Beyond” capital campaign was transformed into a debt retirement campaign. Our goal was to pay off the loan by October 2026, before the interest rate adjusted upward. We tracked our progress using a virtual *puzzle progress tracker*.

This consisted of a collage of images displayed on our auditorium screen, divided up into 350 “puzzle pieces,” with each piece of the puzzle representing 1/350th of our debt.



So, once a month we would announce our progress toward debt payoff and then the corresponding number of puzzle pieces would fly around the screen and then into place. It proved to be a fun and visual way to track our progress.

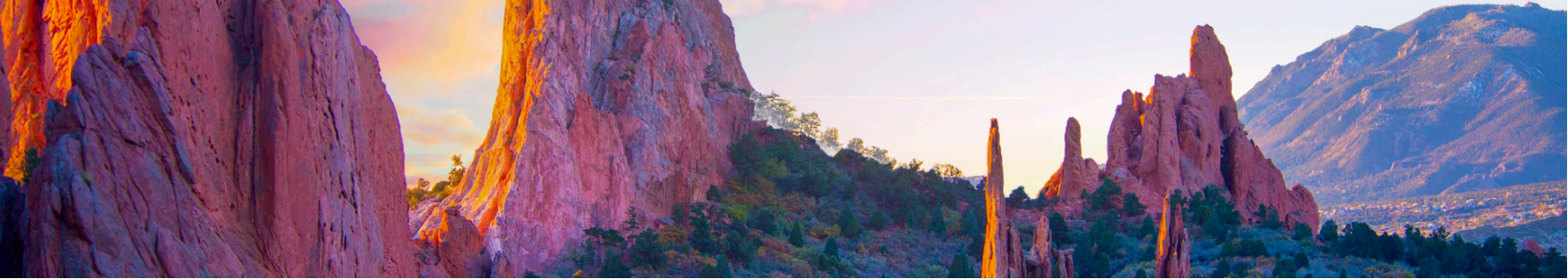
Once again, God provided “Above and Beyond” what we could ask or think, and on the first Sunday of 2026, we celebrated the payoff of our debt, just three years after we held our first worship services in our new building, and 10 months ahead of our goal. To God be the glory!

Now that our loan has been paid off, this has allowed us to pray and dream about what God might have for us in the future. With the growth that we have experienced over the last several years, we have seen the need for some additional pastoral staff and so, Lord willing, in 2026 we will bring on a full-time Executive Pastor and a full-time Pastor of Counseling and Discipleship. Looking out further ahead, we would love to eventually hire a Pastor of Missions and Outreach, and we are also excited about the possibility of planting a daughter church in the next few years. Colorado Springs certainly has a lot of churches, but there is always a need for another gospel-centered, Bible teaching, discipling church.

We give praise to God who has done and continues to do “above and beyond” what we could ask or think.

Visual Debt Reduction Tracker





RMD CHURCHES ARE ON THE MOVE

REX SMITHGALL
RMD FINANCIAL CONSULTANT

Sometimes it's easy to get focused on the hardships facing our churches and forget all that is going so well. This article is about just a few of our churches that are bursting at the seams and expanding their physical building footprints with the help of the Rocky Mountain District Capital Fund.

The RMD Capital Fund was established decades ago with the primary purpose of re-deploying the sacrificial capital giving of RMD church members (from closed RMD churches) to capital-specific projects of our churches throughout the RMD. What a great purpose!

Over the past 18 months the RMD Capital Fund has funded four different church projects throughout our District. From building remodels and new construction to real estate purchases for future ministry expansion, the Capital Fund is accomplishing its intended purpose, deploying over \$1 million in this 18-month period. Praise God!

If your RMD church needs expertise and quick access to funds to help with your capital project, please reach out to me at 970.217.3963 for details. Read more about the Capital Fund by visiting our website: www.rockymountaindistrict.org.

Beyond the Capital Fund, the RMD has other financial expertise and resources available to our churches at no cost,* just for the asking. Some topics:

- Compensation
- Church Financial Structure / Pitfalls
- Housing Allowance
- Financial Resource Assistance
- Building Projects
- Capital Campaigns
- Financial Communications in your Church and many other financial topics

*No cost, high-level question answering via remote and information on other resources available. Special project assistance is available at cost.

Crossroads, Custer, SD
New Sanctuary



Newcastle, WY
New Classrooms

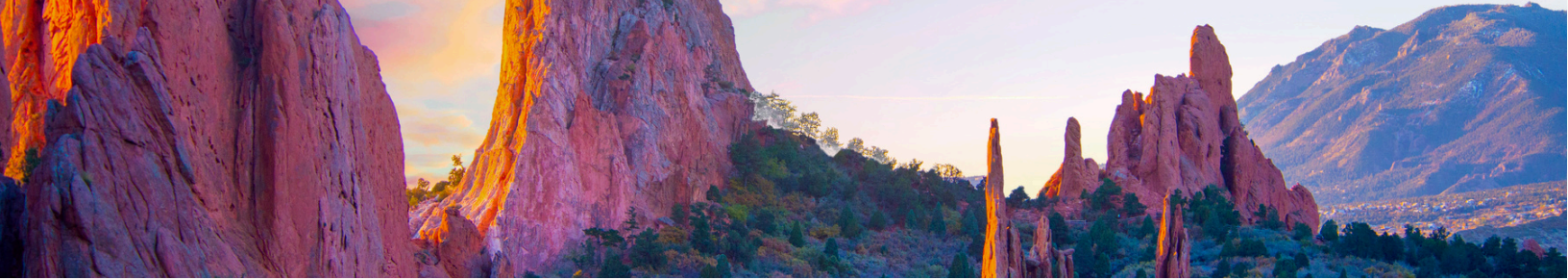


Magnify, CO Springs, CO
Land Purchase



New Hope, Cedaredge, CO
Interior Finishes





A PLACE TO MAGNIFY OUR SAVIOR

MELISSA HOUDMANN, CHURCH ADMIN & BRIAN SHARPE, PASTOR
MAGNIFY CHURCH, COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

A member's perspective (MeLissa):

Some of you remember 1999—baggy pants, bucket hats, and the Backstreet Boys! It was during that year that a group of churches in Colorado Springs joined together to prayerfully plant in a new part of town called Briargate. They launched as Northview EFC in a newly built YMCA.

My husband and I joined this church community just five years later, and I began to pray for a place of permanence for this amazing body of believers. I picked a place on my commute, and each time I passed by, that spot reminded me to pray for God's provision. The church explored various properties and buildings, but nothing was ever purchased. Over the next 21 years, God continued to answer, "Wait, my child. Trust my timing. Keep praying."

A pastor's perspective (Brian):

God called me to serve at Northview in 2020. I experienced faithful people setting up a YMCA each week—46 long curtains hung from the running track, a portable stage set up, sound equipment reconnected, and all the chairs put out. Anyone who has attended a set-up church knows the work that is involved before and after every service. While we were content at the Y, we weren't complacent. I began to join my church family in prayer for a place of our own. Many in the congregation felt that owning property in the Briargate area was simply out of reach because of the high cost of land. Most available properties were already developed, and the buildings that did exist were designed for medical or professional use—too small for our growing church or far too expensive. In many ways, it felt like there was no clear path forward.

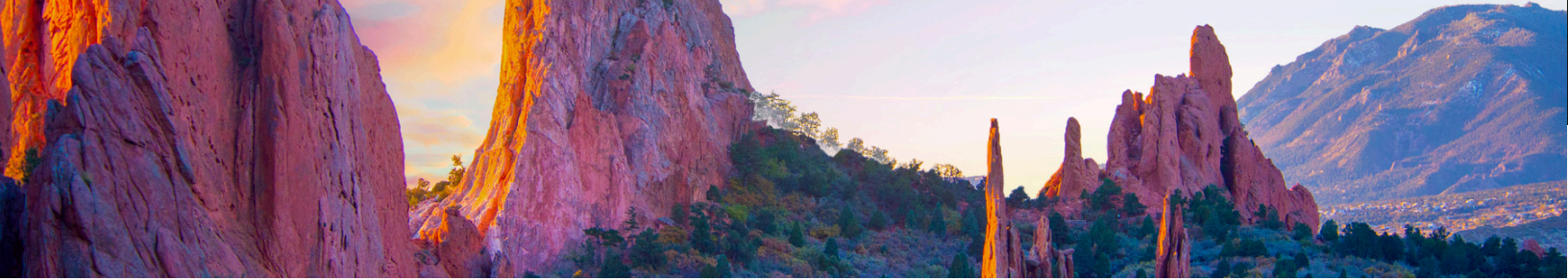
Back to MeLissa:

In 2023, Northview EFC and Incline EFC joined together to form Magnify EFC. Pastor Brian and Pastor Kevin Boaz, along with our elders and the staff of both churches, worked together to form an amazing union!

Back to Brian:

During my six years of pastoring at Northview and then Magnify EFC, people would occasionally send me listings or rental options to consider. In September 2025, a member emailed me about a 5-acre property with a house, located a few miles from our YMCA. Honestly, I didn't think much of it at first because we didn't have enough in our Future Expansion Fund to make a purchase, so the email just sat in my inbox.

At the same time, Magnify was hiring an associate pastor. During our conversations with the candidate, he mentioned the cost of renting a house in Colorado Springs. As I thought more about the property and what a mortgage payment might cost, the idea of using the house on the land as a parsonage came to mind. I grew up in a parsonage, so the thought resonated deeply. Suddenly, the possibility of what could be began to take shape. We just needed to do more research.



MAGNIFY CONTINUED...

Back to MeLissa:

I knew without a doubt that our church staff needed to call Rex Smithgall, who helps manage loans for the Rocky Mountain District. Rex talked through what the district could loan us and what the payments would be. To our surprise, we realized this opportunity wasn't as out of reach as we had assumed. We still needed God to provide in a remarkable way—we needed to raise \$200,000 in a very short amount of time. We shared the opportunity with the congregation and invited everyone to pray with us about whether this was from the Lord. One of the clearest indicators would be whether the needed funds would come in. We sent an email on Friday, October 31. We announced the opportunity that Sunday, and by the following Sunday, over \$200,000 had been pledged. The support and excitement were overwhelming.

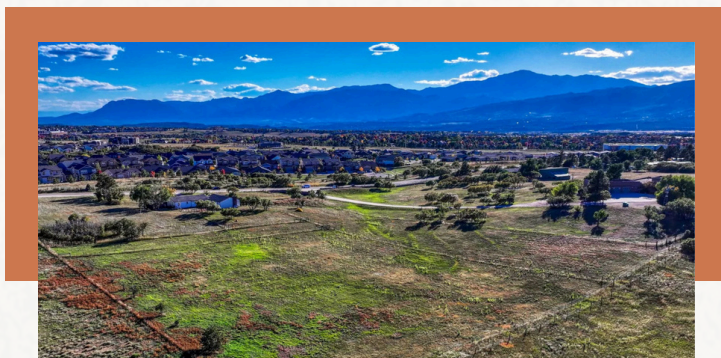
God was saying, "Yes, my child. Trust my timing!"

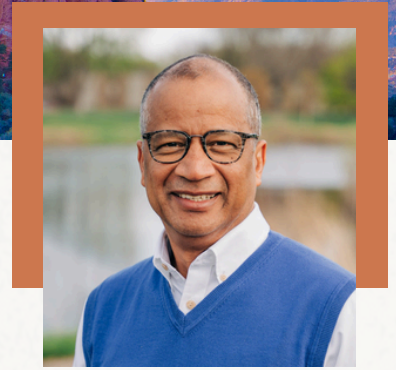
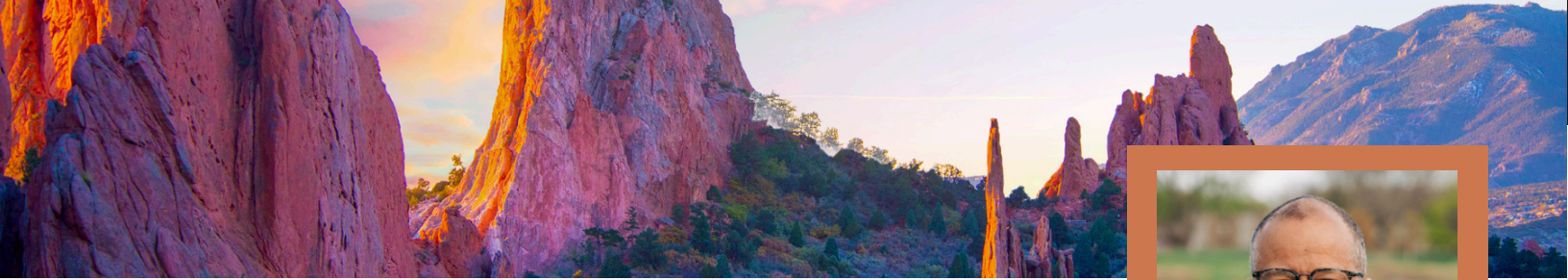
Back to Brian:

We have now purchased 5.6 acres in north Colorado Springs. The experience has been a whirlwind, but we have seen God show up in so many incredible ways. Please continue praying for Magnify EFC as we work to pay off the property and explore the possibility of building a church facility in the future.

I am grateful that several Evangelical Free Churches in our area have recently built, are building, or have purchased new facilities—we have much to learn from them! After twenty-six years of praying and seeking the Lord for a place of permanence, we are deeply thankful for this property. We are excited to continue being a gospel influence in Colorado Springs—and, Lord willing, to do so soon with a building of our own.

"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen" (Ephesians 3:20-21).





THE EFCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS JOYFULLY PRESENT

REVEREND CARLTON P. HARRIS **2027 EFCA PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE**

After significant prayer and a rigorous search, the Presidential Search Committee and the EFCA Board of Directors present Rev. Carlton P. Harris as the nominee for the president of the Evangelical Free Church of America. The presidential affirmation vote by credentialed delegates will take place during the Business Session at the 2027 EFCA One Conference. Join us in celebration and prayer as we anticipate this exciting new season of leadership.

Carlton Harris entered ministry as a pastoral intern at First Evangelical Free Church (EFCA) in Wichita, Kansas, in 1981. There, Carlton was impacted by the leadership of senior pastor Mike Andrus, who became a lifelong friend and gave him a deep admiration for the EFCA.

With a Master of Theology (Th.M.) from Dallas Theological Seminary and 40 years of pastoral ministry, God brought Carlton back to the EFCA when he accepted the role of executive vice president of national ministries in 2021. In that role, Carlton brought structure and stability to ReachNational while finding ways to unify national, regional and local ministry efforts, and build relationships with leaders across the movement.

In 2024, then-EFCA president Kevin Kompelien was asked to join Trinity International University as its president in a time of severe need. The EFCA Board of Directors invited Carlton to fulfill the remainder of Kevin Kompelien’s term and serve as acting president of the EFCA. In his time leading our movement, Carlton has built on the foundation of his predecessors, recognizing the unique cultural challenges impacting church leaders and their communities, and calling the movement toward a renewed spirit of prayer and evangelism. He has also equipped ministry leaders, missionaries and staff with a clear and memorable way to articulate the identity of the EFCA by establishing the tagline, “Biblical and missional. United and free.”

Before serving the EFCA, Carlton led three local churches as senior pastor during the course of almost four decades. These experiences helped him to develop and strengthen his interpersonal skills, build bridges with a wide range of people and unify disjointed and siloed church cultures.

Carlton and his wife Carol have three married children and seven grandchildren. They are members of New Hope Church (EFCA) in New Hope, Minnesota. Carlton is a life-long fan of the St. Louis Cardinals, and he loves spending time with Carol and his family.

WWW.EFCA.ORG/PRESIDENTIAL-NOMINEE

More info including EFCA’s recommendation letter, FAQs, and other information about the nominee timeline.

PRAYING TOGETHER

LET'S PRAY EARNESTLY FOR THE CHURCHES IN OUR DISTRICT.
USE THE CALENDAR BELOW TO LIFT UP EACH CHURCH ON ITS DESIGNATED DAY.

JUNE

15. Aurora, CO - New Life Community Church
16. Aurora, CO - Iglesia El Camino Church
17. Black Hawk, CO - Rocky Mountain EFC
18. Boulder, CO - Calvary Bible EFC
19. Boulder, CO - Chinese EFC
20. Broomfield, CO - Calvary EFC
21. Burlington, CO - Evangelical Free Church of Burlington
22. Cañon City, CO - Evangelical Free Church of Cañon City
23. Casper, WY - Cornerstone EFC
24. Castle Rock, CO - Ridgeline Community Church
25. Cedaredge, CO - New Hope EFC
26. Centennial, CO - Bethany EFC
27. Centennial, CO - Fellowship Community EFC
28. Centennial, CO - Vida Nueva Church
29. Cheyenne, WY - Cheyenne EFC
30. Colorado Springs, CO - Covenant Grace EFC

JOIN THE 10:2 CHALLENGE

Pray for Church Planters and Plants to be strategically launched throughout the RMD.

Set an alarm on your cell for 10:02 AM and/or PM to remind you to stop and pray Luke 10:2, asking for workers for the harvest in these strategic areas in our district.

[Click to learn more.](#)

10
02

JULY

1. Colorado Springs, CO - Cross & Crown Church
2. Colorado Springs, CO - Faith EFC
3. Colorado Springs, CO - First EFC
4. Colorado Springs, CO - Magnify EFC
5. Cortez, CO - Grace Fellowship EFC
6. Crook, CO - United EFC
7. Custer, SD - Crossroads Church
8. Denver, CO - Chinese EFC
9. Denver, CO - Pilgrim Congregational Church
10. Divide, CO - Little Chapel of the Hills
11. Douglas, WY - Lighthouse Church
12. Eaton, CO - Evangelical Free Church of Eaton
13. Erie, CO - Calvary Bible EFC
14. Estes Park, CO - Rocky Mountain Church
15. Evergreen, CO - Bergen Park Church
16. Florence, CO - The Pulse
17. Fort Collins, CO - Chinese EFC
18. Fort Collins, CO - Faith Church
19. Gillette, WY - Living Rock Church
20. Golden, CO - Whispering Pines EFC
21. Grand Junction, CO - Living Hope EFC
22. Greeley, CO - Christ Community EFC
23. Greeley, CO - Mountain View EFC
24. Hot Springs, SD - Southern Hills EFC
25. Johnstown, CO - Cornerstone EFC
26. Lander, WY - Lander Free Church
27. Laramie, WY - Snowy Range EFC
28. Littleton, CO - Red Rocks Fellowship EFC
29. Littleton, CO - Southwest Community Church
30. Longmont, CO - Grace EFC
31. Louviers, CO - Faith EFC

PRAYING TOGETHER

AUGUST

1. Loveland, CO - Pioneer Grove Church Plant
2. Mead, CO - Abundant Life Church
3. Milesville, SD - Hardingrove Community EFC
4. Montrose, CO - Cedar Creek Church
5. Monument, CO - Cathedral Rock Church
6. Newcastle, WY - Gateway Fellowship Church
7. Okaton, SD - Okaton EFC
8. Ouray, CO - Ouray Christian Fellowship
9. Pagosa Springs, CO - Grace in Pagosa
10. Palisade, CO - Central Orchard Mesa Comm. EFC
11. Philip, SD - Community EFC
12. Piedmont, SD - Hills View EFC
13. Pueblo, CO - Grace Life Church
14. Pueblo West, CO - The Peak EFC
15. Rapid City, SD - Parkview EFC
16. Rapid City, SD - Rimrock EFC
17. Rye, CO - Table Mountain Church
18. Steamboat Springs, CO - Steamboat Bible Church
19. Thornton, CO - Calvary Bible Church
20. Timnath, CO - Christ The Rock Community Church
21. Wall, SD - Evangelical Free Bible Church
22. Windsor, CO - Evangelical Free Church of Windsor
23. Rocky Mountain District (RMD) Superintendent
24. RMD Director, Multiplication & Leadership
25. RMD Staff
26. RMD Leadership Team (DLT)
27. RMD Finances
28. RMD Healthy Pastor Gatherings (HPGs)
29. EFCA Chaplain Director and Endorser
30. EFCA President & Vice President
31. RMD Church Plants (present & future)

THE PULSE IS A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT OF THE EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF AMERICA SENT TO MEMBERS OF EFCA CHURCHES WITHIN THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT

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Tax deductible donations for the Rocky Mountain District can be made on the website or mailed to:

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