

1000 Day Agenda



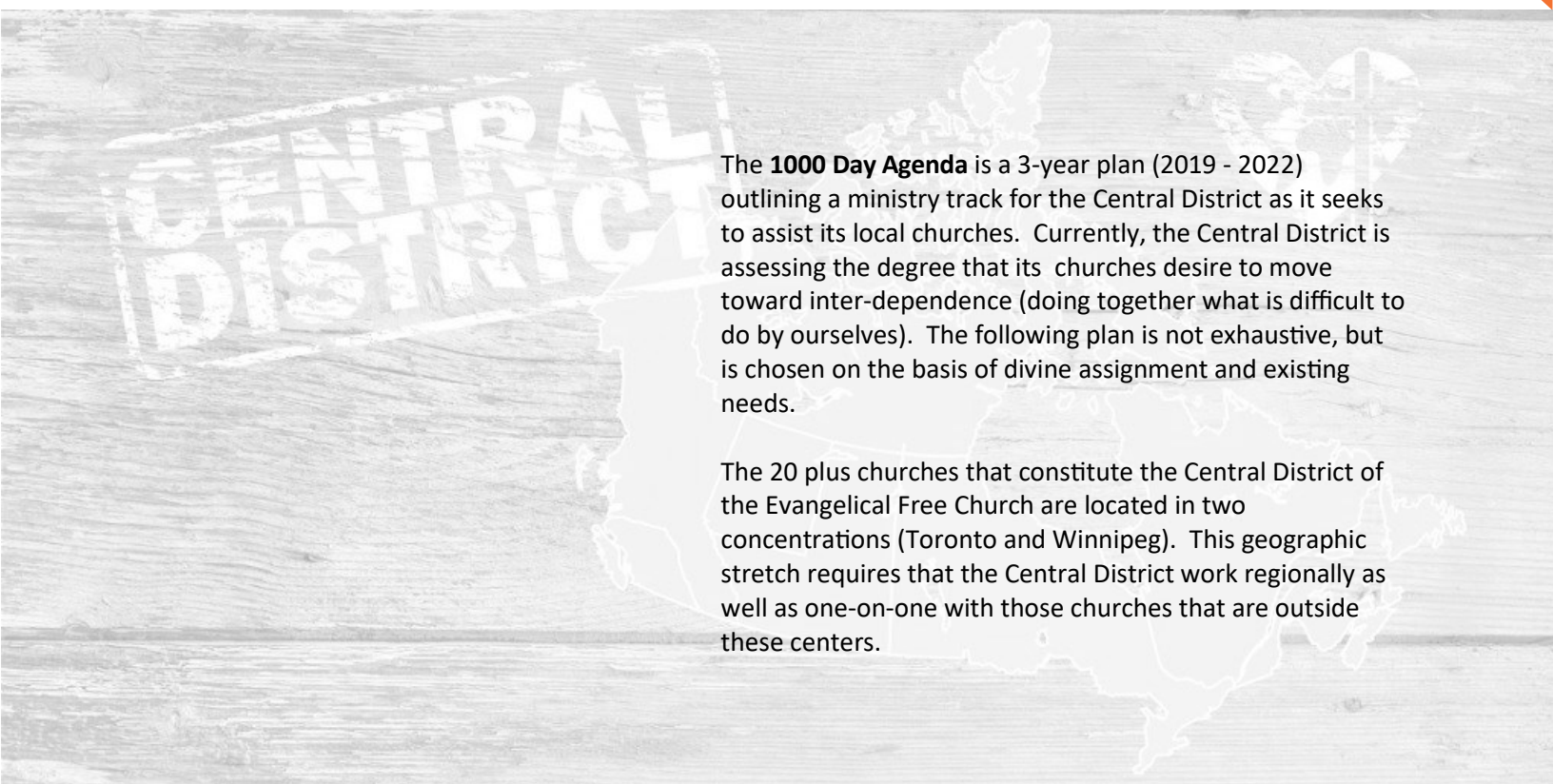
Prepared by:

**Central District Board
Evangelical Free Church of Canada**

Comments regarding the **1000 Day Agenda** of the Central District of the Evangelical Free Church of Canada
may be submitted to

ds@centralefcc.ca

Introduction



The **1000 Day Agenda** is a 3-year plan (2019 - 2022) outlining a ministry track for the Central District as it seeks to assist its local churches. Currently, the Central District is assessing the degree that its churches desire to move toward inter-dependence (doing together what is difficult to do by ourselves). The following plan is not exhaustive, but is chosen on the basis of divine assignment and existing needs.

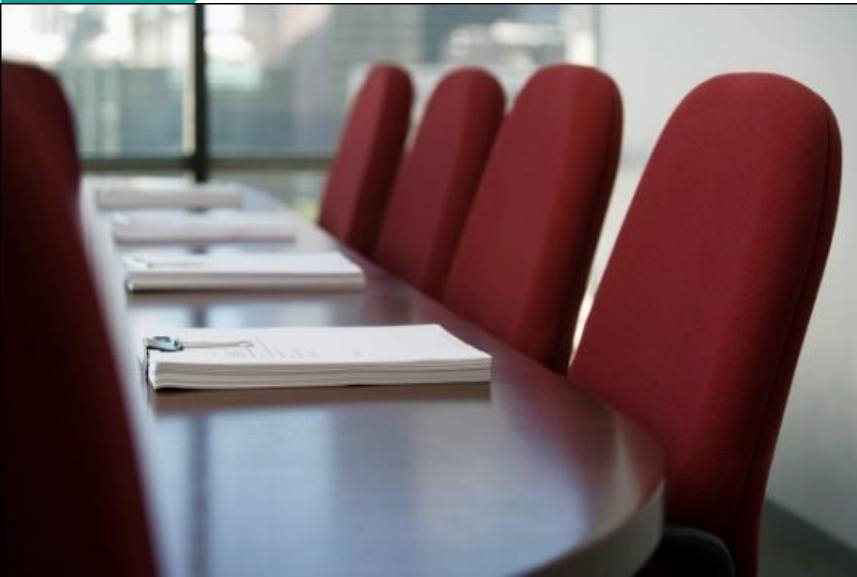
The 20 plus churches that constitute the Central District of the Evangelical Free Church are located in two concentrations (Toronto and Winnipeg). This geographic stretch requires that the Central District work regionally as well as one-on-one with those churches that are outside these centers.

THE CENTRAL DISTRICT WORKS TO PROVIDE DELIBERATE PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN CHURCHES FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING CHRIST KNOWN.

The intention of the Central District is to provide more than support for the local churches and their staff. It desires to foster the development of deliberate partnerships between churches for the purpose of making Christ known.

The following pages invite your contemplation, input, refinement and investment in this **1000 Day Agenda**.

Local Church Board Symposium



Leadership in the local church is of great importance and value to God's kingdom. The local church board, on behalf of the congregation, is tasked with guiding those under its oversight. Such a responsibility is often added to a person's already full load. It is for this reason that the Central District will invest in local church leadership.

The connecting of churches starts with the connecting of local church leadership. The Central District would like to employ two strategies in this area:

The single biggest way to impact an organization is to focus on leadership development. There is almost no limit to the potential of an organization that recruits good people, raises them up as leaders and continually develops them.

John Maxwell

Regional gatherings

These would be done at least once a year. Saturday or Sunday afternoon may be the most advantageous time. Connecting with other leaders, presenting relevant information and the cross-pollination of ideas would constitute the meeting agenda.

Local Church Board meeting attended by the District Superintendent

This meeting would allow the district superintendent to become acquainted with local church leadership, hear of concerns and give a Central District update.

The Central District churches may benefit from training in the following areas:

- Church Structure & Governance
- "The Elephant in the Room"
(existing issues that do not get addressed)
- Handling Conflict in a Biblical Manner

Honouring the Saints



The Seniors in our churches are gradually transitioning away from their positions of leadership after many years of heavy involvement in their local church. Life's changes are always a sensitive matter, whether that involves home, work or the local church.

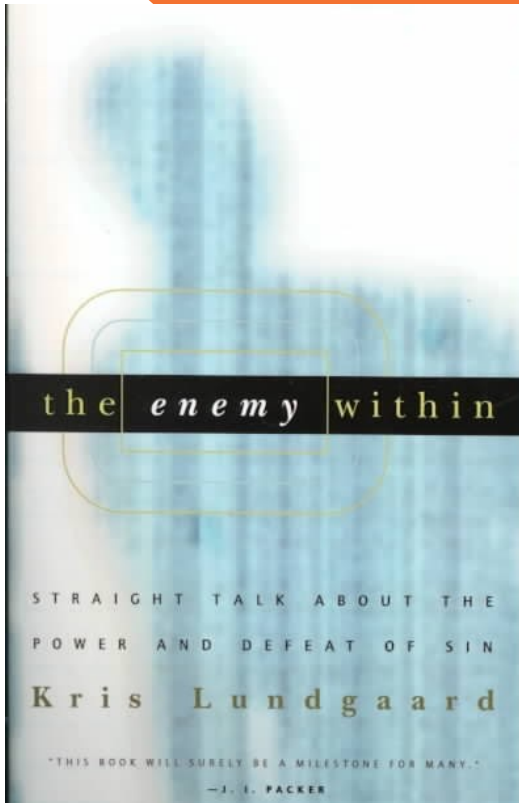
The Central District's desire is to honour and bless these who have served faithfully and sacrificially. We do not want to see them sidelined prematurely. Rather, the intent is to encourage them to continue serving in their local churches as health permits.

The Central District is committed to developing a two to three hour regional "Encouragement & Continued Involvement" seminar for our seniors to be followed by a meal.

"Treat the elderly as a nonrenewable resource ..."

Woodrow Kroll

Book Initiative



The development of the believer's life is a progressive work. The Central District ordered just under 1000 copies of the book, THE ENEMY WITHIN by Kris Lundgaard .

Local churches received their copies on the condition that the District Superintendent was given the opportunity to present the Central District ministry in their service. A copy was offered to each household in attendance.

Currently, the search is on for a new title to be given out on the same basis for the 2019-20 year.

Scholarships

The Central District has young adults who are training for ministry. The cost of theological education is high. The necessity of godly leadership for the succeeding generation is a consistent, critical necessity. It is for this reason that the Central District would like to invest in the future of local church leaders.

Therefore, to encourage our young adults to pursue a life of pastoral ministry or church service, a scholarship fund is being established. Requirements for scholarship funds will be established, based on future service in our Evangelical Free Churches.

Good training results in our future leaders recognizing that which is of infinite worth, seeking it with their heart, soul, mind and strength.

If a Christian is not willing to rise early and work late, to expend greater effort in diligent study and faithful work, that person will not change a generation. Fatigue is the price of leadership. Mediocrity is the result of never getting tired.

J. Oswald Sanders



Resource Development

For a moment let a challenge be given to the conventional interpretation of a well-known Scripture text. The Great Commission in Matthew 28 has been rightfully highlighted in the Church. “Discipleship” has once again become a much promoted theme. The common take-away from the text is that each person is to become a “disciple”.

Interestingly, when Scripture presents its exposition of the Great Commission (chapter by chapter in the book of Acts), “discipling” is church planting and church development, not focussed primarily on the one-to-one relationship.

Our pastors spend a good number of years receiving Biblical training. They study and faithfully preach and teach weekly. **Resource Development** would be an addendum to the discipleship emphasis. This effort could piggy back on **Revitalize**, the EFCC’s initiative.

This effort would be undertaken by interested pastors. The pastor’s would produce printed material for the local church’s use in the area of a believer’s maturity. It could be said that such work should be left to those who publish, but this does little to develop our pastors. Their involvement in this project would allow for their further theological development as well as benefit their churches and the EFC denomination.

This would require 4 to 6 days of your pastor’s time throughout the year.

Evangelism

The mention the above word makes most believers become apologetic. Telling others about Jesus Christ is plain difficult in our culture, especially in current times.

Most believers live godly and commendable lives. Our “passive witness” does not require much work. The picture changes radically when we come to our “active witness” - verbally explaining to an individual what it means to surrender to Jesus Christ.



The Central District would like to consider partnering with the local churches in two ways that may assist in making Christ known.

Skeptic Nights

Local churches arrange for an evening in which their community could ask the tough questions of biblical Christianity. The Central District would assist in bringing in a speaker and coordinate the event with local churches. Such a venue would have appeal to the younger age bracket.

Banquet

The multi-church banquet, with an evangelistic speaker, would present a different venue for local churches to make Christ known. This would follow a similar plan as stated above. This venue would more likely be desired by the older age bracket.

The goal would be that each person who invites a guest would offer to pay for their cost. The Central District’s role would be the coordinating of the event. The follow-up would be done by the local church.

Church Planting & Church Adoption

Church Planting is difficult, requires the right leadership, costly, but necessary. Church Adoption (receiving an existing local church) is easier, but requires the pre-work to make certain that a fit is in place. These are challenges to growing, but we must not let them prohibit us from making Christ known.

The Central District does not currently have an active church plant. There are possibilities. Church Adoption possibilities are being explored.

While there are no concrete proposals for such initiatives at this time, we have funds available for such ministries. Pray that we might not see only the difficulties in these important potential works, but also that God works when Divine Infusion saturates the scene.



Youth & Young Adults

The Central District did not have any district events for either of these age groups. Since our future rests here, there is an urgent need to raise up future leaders for the Evangelical Free Church in this demographic.

This past year the Central District initiated a seminar, **Intensive Church**. The seminar was held in Toronto and Winnipeg with a total of some 80 in attendance.

The coming years will require an expansion of these initiatives. The Central District will work to enable our youth pastors and young adult pastors to focus on providing opportunities that appeal to and reach this demographic .



Big Ideas

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How can we accomplish them?

Relationship Between the Local Church and the Central District

Anyone can “go it alone”. Cooperation takes work, much work. Working together will require a change in attitude towards one another and our organizational structure. Currently the EFCC National is working on restructuring. The effort will address organization details and accountability. The desired goal of this restructuring is to be more effective in ministry. This will require the continued development of good relationships, clear direction and goodwill among us.

The previous pages indicate what our Central District aims to provide for our churches, to be viewed as an “exporter” and not an “importer” (of finances). This agenda is not trying to dictate to the local churches. Rather, it is an effort to move us collectively to accomplish our God-given assignment.

What you hold in your hand is the proposed plan.

In order for this succeed the Central District would be asking that the local church consider adopting the following expectations as a minimum:

- Attendance of pastors and church chairs at conferences
- Attendance of Pastors at pastoral in-services
- Cooperation and support for the initiatives passed by the Central District conferees
- Adjustment of the local church schedule to give one Sunday a year to the Central District



“What we measure improves;
what we celebrate we repeat.”

Big Ideas

How can we accomplish them?

Benefits

The health of our Central District depends on our Lord and the cooperation of His people with Him and one another. There is no “silver bullet” in ministry other than Jesus Christ Himself. The Lord requires that we follow Him, pray, work and obey. He blesses obedience and efforts that seek to present Him to our society. Being a part of a denomination will require us intentionally doing ministries together.

The benefits of “interdependence” are often rivalled by the damage done by “independence”. Therefore, for interdependence to become a reality this will require an openness in church schedules.

It is through uniting with one another under our Lord, as He prayed we would, that society sees His face through His church. When Christ is seen, we can rest assured that others will submit to His loving lordship and find life, not just for today, but for eternity.

"Be united with other Christians. A wall with loose bricks is not good. The bricks must be cemented together."

Big Ideas

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How can we accomplish them?

Financial Plan to Carry Out the “1000 Day Agenda”

We thank you churches, sincerely, for standing with the Central District in your support.
Know that what is received from you is invested for the good of all our churches.

“Christianity preaches the infinite worth of that which is seemingly worthless and the infinite worthlessness of that which is seemingly so valued.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Anyone can “go it alone”. Cooperation takes work, much work. The carrying out of the **1000 Day Agenda** is (in most cases) beyond our current operational budget. To meet the plan laid out in the **1000 Day Agenda** requires the following:

- New support from individuals
- \$30,000 - \$45,000 (these costs are spread out over a three-year period)

Concluding Comments

The opening pages of this report stated, “The intention of the Central District is to provide more than support for the local churches and their staff. It desires to foster the development of deliberate partnerships between churches for the purpose of making Christ known. “

“Glorifying Jesus Christ” doesn’t just happen. “What we measure improves; what we celebrate, we repeat.” The above is our attempt to not come up with the perfect plan, but to see if the Spirit of God would stir us to accomplish His agenda of making Christ known.

Thank you for your contemplation, input and investment in the

1000 Day Agenda

