2026 APD CONFERENCE UPCOMING HIGHLIGHTS

This Conference will include:

- Keynote sessions with Prof. Michael Ferber (PhD), Dean of the Leder School of Business at The King's University,
- Two workshops from which to choose.
- The APD Annual General Meeting
- A Church Planting Discussion
- A Lower Pacific District Report from Evans Hundermark
- District news and updates from EFCC Leaders.
- Opportunities to connect and fellowship with others around the District.

2026 NATIONAL EFCC CONFERENCE RECAP - by Marvin Penner

While attending the EFCC Conference in Winnipeg this June, I was encouraged to observe the directional change that was evident. The focus was clearly on essentials that we all agree on, beginning with the importance of Christ highlighted in Matthew St. John's keynote addresses. While Matthew did not speak on John 17, my mind was continually drawn to the prayer of Jesus, "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…that the world may believe that You have sent me." Our ability to remain unified through keeping our focus on the essentials, namely Jesus Christ, is not for our benefit. The salvation of the world around us depends on it.

*Our APD representative on the **EFCC National Missions Board, Gloria Gillett**, recently attended the EFCC National Conference and has shared a detailed recap of her experience. **Gloria's contribution offers a look at the highlights and encouragement from the gathering**. Her full recap is included as an insert in this newsletter. We invite you to read Gloria's report.*

DISTRICT DIARIES

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APD Conference 2026

September 2026

October 23–24 | All The Nations Church, Wembley, AB

Get ready for **APD Conference 2026 and AGM**—an important opportunity to connect, be equipped, and have your church's voice heard! **Conference sessions will take place in person at All The Nations Church in Wembley**, bringing us together for a meaningful time of learning, fellowship, and engagement. For those unable to attend in person, **the APD Business Meeting and AGM will also be available online**, providing an opportunity to participate in the important business of our fellowship.

EVENT PROMO

***APD CHURCHES:** Feel free to share your public events with us. Send your event details to office@albertaparklanddistrict.ca, and we will help promote them. We can also feature your events on our website to reach a wider audience.*

This year, we're pleased to welcome **Dr. Michael Ferber (PhD), Dean of the Leder School of Business at The King's University**, as our guest speaker. Dr. Ferber brings thoughtful insight to the intersection of **faith, leadership, and emerging technology**. His series, **Faith, Leadership & the Future of the Church**, will focus on the timely topic:

Discipleship in a Digital Age

Artificial Intelligence, Ministry, and the Future of the Church

Artificial intelligence is rapidly reshaping how people learn, communicate, and live. As the church seeks to faithfully navigate this changing landscape, Dr. Ferber will help us think **biblically, wisely, and practically** about the opportunities and challenges AI presents for our lives and ministries.

Continued

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Alberta Parkland District
PO Box 50004 Clareview ROP Edmonton AB T5Y 2M9 780 920 8293
www.albertaparklanddistrict.ca

Sessions will explore:

- Challenges & Opportunities of AI
- AI, Technology & Idolatry
- Using AI in Ministry
- Unintended Consequences: What AI May Be Doing to Us

Whether you're a ministry leader, volunteer, or engaged church member, this conference promises meaningful insight and practical tools for following Christ in a rapidly changing world.

Don't Miss the AGM

In addition to our conference sessions, we'll gather for the **APD Business Meeting and AGM**. We'll vote on accepting **All The Nations Church as a fully independent Evangelical Free Church within the APD**, as well as review and vote on **proposed bylaw changes**. With important decisions on the agenda, it's especially important to have your delegates present and your church's voice represented.

Registrations

Registration is now open! Visit our website (albertaparklanddistrict.ca) and the **APD Conference webpage** for full conference information and registration options. Please read through the available information and choose the registration option that applies to you, whether attending the conference in person or participating in the AGM online.
Mark your calendar, send your delegates, and join us for APD Conference 2026! Your church's voice matters.

APD Financial Report For the Month Ended July 31, 2026

Please note, donations can be made through e-transfer to: giving@albertaparklanddistrict.ca

General Receipts	Actual	Budget	Variance
Monthly	7,374	10,200	-2,826
Year-to-Date	102,064	102,000	64
General Fund Balance/(Deficit)	5,728		

CHURCH HIGHLIGHT - EFC of LAC LA BICHE

The **Evangelical Free Church of Lac La Biche** supports numerous missionaries, one of whom is **Cecilia Huezo**, now serving with **Action International Ministries in El Salvador**. Our church has been blessed by our relationship with Cecilia for many years and we have been fortunate to be able to send a number of work teams and VBS teams to El Salvador over the last 12 years.

Team with Cecilia in El Salvador.

This past April we sent another multigenerational team of 8 people down to El Salvador who were able to help lead a VBS program, build a few houses, and complete various other maintenance tasks. Cecilia has shared that this relationship with our church and the team visits are an encouragement and blessing to her and her community, but the impact on our church here in Lac La Biche is just as significant! It has been such a joy to see the church rally around and support the teams that go and it has been remarkable to hear the team members share how God worked in their lives through the short term mission trip. As a church we are grateful for the long term relationship we have with Cecilia, her numerous visits to us here in Lac La Biche, and the opportunity for many of our church family to visit Cecilia in El Salvador. We are also very thankful for the way that God has used this relationship to bless His church both in El Salvador and here in Lac La Biche!

Submitted by Rob Wicker - EFC, LLB

Team with VBS Kids in El Salvador.

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SESSION 3: CHRIST WE PROCLAIM

“Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples.” — Psalm 96:3

Our fresh commission is clear: our world is full of spiritually hungry people.

A Special Evening
An additional highlight was the Friday evening banquet at Emmanuel EFC in Steinbach, Manitoba.

A Spiritually Complete Experience

My Conference “bucket list” was spiritually complete. My goal in sharing this is to whet your appetite for Conference.

Will I see you at District Conference in Lloydminster in October 2027?

Special thanks to Marvin and Colleen Penner for being my taxi to Steinbach and providing overnight accommodation during the Conference.

Submitted by Gloria Gillett
Parkland District Representative, EFCC National Missions Board

Check out this video recap from the 2026 EFCC Conference.

https://youtu.be/ggYdIciHguA

2026 EFCC CONFERENCE RECAP

(Insert)

My EFCC Conference “Bucket List”: Spiritually Complete

I look forward to Conference—a wonderful opportunity to be challenged, grow, make new friends, renew old relationships, and appreciate all the leadership and preparation that take place behind the scenes.

Have you attended recently—or ever?

I encourage you to prayerfully consider attending. Come with a curious, seeking, and learning attitude, and I think you will find the experience both meaningful and enjoyable.

My Conference Experience

I attended the EFCC National Conference in Winnipeg from June 18–20. The theme was **“In All Things: The Centrality of Jesus Christ.”** I represented Knox Edmonton and the Parkland District as your representative on the EFCC National Missions Board.

It was wonderful to return to my EFCC “roots.” My late husband and I joined the EFCC in 1960, when the church—then known as Windsor Park EFC—was just beginning.

My Conference “bucket list” included the following:

Music
The Winnipeg EFC Worship Team led us in spiritually uplifting worship.

Food
We enjoyed outside catering provided by the local church, along with cinnamon buns and pastries made in the church kitchen. Delicious!

Seminars

The seminars provided excellent opportunities for learning and participation. We could choose two of six topics, which included:

- Coping with grief.
- Disciple-making.
- Missional engagement in the local church.
- Working together for impact.
- Healthy church finances.
- Considerations for a church board.

Missions

I love meeting missionaries in person rather than knowing them only through a prayer card. The EFCC now has 12 missionaries serving internationally with Serve Beyond and 14 serving in Canada through Serve Canada. We were encouraged to promote the EFCC Missions Directory and the Monthly Prayer Guide. I also appreciate being able to join a Zoom meeting on the first Wednesday of each month for prayer and an update from one of our missionaries, Neil, our director, or Shaun, our president.

We also honoured 80-year-old Helen Blackburn, who devoted 50 years of energetic and enthusiastic service in Africa, Ukraine, Russia, and Bolivia.

Renewing Friendships

Conference provided the opportunity to renew several special friendships:

- **Ann Griffiths**, the first National President of Women's Ministries, coached me as I prepared to become the second president.
- **Stephen Chute**, pastor in Lac La Biche, was once my piano student.
- **Julia Wick**, our president's wife and a piano teacher, has shared many struggles and experiences with me over the years.

Leadership

I am always amazed by the godly leaders in our denomination who serve so faithfully with servant hearts. After meeting them personally, I find that my prayer time for them becomes more focused and meaningful.

On Friday evening, President Shaun Wick presented his report to an appreciative and supportive audience. He has travelled extensively, visiting churches, District Conferences, Leadership Training and Ministry Orientation sessions, as well as the TWU Board.

His desire is for us to be a people who are passionate about sharing the Gospel and who are a gracious, welcoming family of churches. The evening concluded with prayer and the laying on of hands for Shaun and Julia.

Plenary Speaker

Matthew St. John presented excellent and challenging messages. I also had the pleasure of meeting his wife as they celebrated their anniversary.

The sessions focused on the following themes:

SESSION 1: CHRIST WE CELEBRATE

- What do you treasure most?
- How big is your God?

SESSION 2: CHRIST WE IMITATE

"Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus." — Philippians 2:5

- How might the Holy Spirit help you adopt the unifying, humble dignity of Jesus Christ?
- Will you listen to Him right now?