

Evangelical Free Church of America

2018 Metrics Report

A Narrative Summary



Introduction

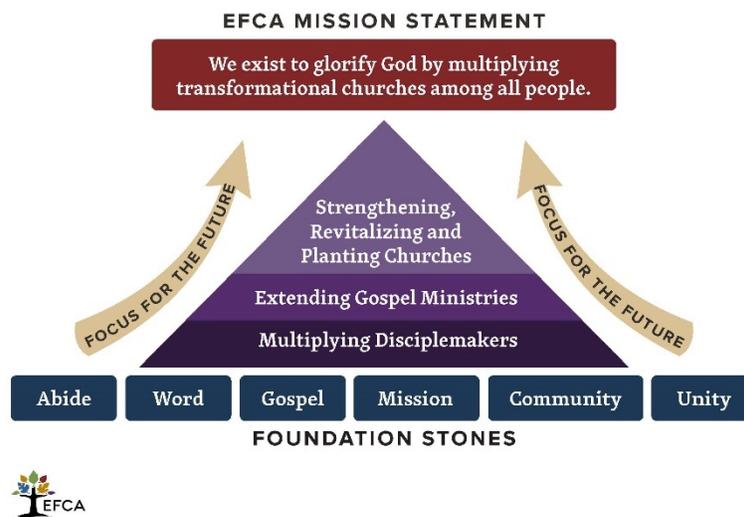
Each of us has a role to play in bringing the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in Heaven. God takes what we do and by His grace, people are saved, ministries grow, and churches planted. The multiplication of transformational churches in our movement leads to more people experiencing God's amazing grace and truth.

Being a movement that multiplies transformational churches among all people doesn't just mean planting new ones. It's about strengthening and revitalizing as well. We want existing EFCA churches to be transformational, for transformational churches to multiply, and for struggling churches to find transformation.

From the beginning, the EFCA has had a conviction to plant churches that plant churches. Healthy and strong churches keep the movement going, because if we don't have strong, healthy, transformational churches we can't plant new churches, launch new ministries and impact people with the gospel.

This year, we made significant changes to the EFCA Metrics Report. First, we have combined the national and international metrics into a single report. Second, we are providing meaningful metrics directly related to the Ends Policy, and reflective of the Missional Diagram and the @EFCA Vision Frame.

Through data and stories of ministry impact, this report shares how the EFCA is multiplying disciplemakers, extending gospel ministries, and how churches are being strengthened, revitalized and planted.



We hope these changes present a more meaningful and comprehensive report providing a clearer and more compelling picture of the state of the EFCA both nationally and internationally.

To God be the glory,

Kevin Kompelien
President
Evangelical Free Church of America

Multiplying Disciplemakers

We have placed significant emphasis on helping EFCA churches through training and coaching. In 2018, over 464 pastors and ministry leaders were involved in various cohorts across the denomination. A cohort meets multiple times, for multiple days, with a facilitator drilling down to acquire knowledge or skill, culminating in a certificate of accomplishment with the result of multiplying within their local church. Each cohort contains the following characteristics:

- Time intensive – often the training requires a certain number of hours and days.
- The participants attend based on their desire to acquire knowledge and/or skills.
- Certified leaders train the curriculum.

In 2018, the EFCA held three different Transformational Learning Cohorts for local church leadership: Future Travelers, Disciplemaking Culture and Leadership Pipeline. We hosted the third iteration of these cohorts with a total of 73 participants. In addition, we are in the process of certifying two coaches for the Leadership Pipeline cohort and two coaches for the Disciplemaking Culture cohort. These coaches will take the training back to their district and implement multiplication by beginning their own cohorts.

Looking ahead, the Transformational Learning Cohorts will include just two offerings, both moving towards a regionalized model allowing the EFCA to expand its impact across the country in local churches. The Leadership Pipeline cohort will still exist but is moving to Mac Lake’s ministry organization with a specific pricing structure for EFCA churches.

In addition to the learning cohorts, the ReachStudents Council has been coaching youth leaders for several years. In the last three years, we have developed 10 youth leader disciplemaking cohorts held virtually three times each year. We also have developed 22 coaching networks for student ministries leaders across the EFCA.

Cohort Value

“THE COHORT CREATED THE ENVIRONMENT WHERE I WAS ABLE TO WORK WITH MY ELDERS TO DEVELOP SOME GOOD/GREAT DISCIPLESHIP RESOURCES. RESOURCES THAT I HOPE WILL HELP US BUILD A DISCIPLESHIP CULTURE HERE AT NEW LIFE CHURCH.”

The All People ministry hosted six national Hispanic Pastors Gatherings for Church Unique involving 24 people and facilitated two Second Language Service cohorts with 10 leaders participating. Additionally, one community development cohort was hosted with 55 leaders participating.

2018 Cohorts	Offerings	Participants
Transformational Learning Cohort	3	73
Student Ministries Disciplemaking Learning Communities	10	81
Student Ministries Coaching Networks (in 12 districts)	22	210
National Hispanic Gatherings for Church Unique*	2	24
Second Language Service Cohort	2	10
Community Development Cohort	1	55

**partnership with Auxano church ministry resources*

Challenge Conference

In July 2018, the Challenge conference brought together 4,294 total attendees focusing on the theme “Bold Moves.” In 2016, there were 4,505 attendees. This biannual event provides an environment of significant spiritual impact resulting in new believers, repentant believers, and many activated to mission.

Challenge creates an environment that models *one EFCA*—the combined efforts of national, international, district and local leaders—together focused on the next generation. This strategic student event creates partnership and collaboration among EFCA ministries such as Apex Missions, ReachGlobal, Trinity International University and Christian Investors Financial.

The revenue received from Challenge helps fund other ReachStudents initiatives and staff. We are proactively and continually reviewing the benefits and sustainability of Challenge as the best way to impact students and youth workers across the EFCA.

Affinity Groups

Coaching and peer learning also occurs in non-formal venues where EFCA national office leadership assists by convening affinity groups of local church pastors, staff and leaders. In 2018, we convened 271 ministry leaders through various affinity gatherings.

Affinity Group	2017 Participants	2018 Participants
K Club (senior pastors in churches >1,000)	42	48
Team 500 (senior pastors in churches >500)	31	22
Worship leaders	55	51
Executive Pastors	24	33
Children’s Ministry Leaders	69	60
Mission Pastors	33	30
District Superintendent cluster meetings		15
District Superintendent IASIS retreat	N/A	12

In September, the EFCA national office hosted seven ministry teams comprised of 97 leaders alongside 19 national office leaders. The three-day event, comprised of times for learning and team interaction, focused on the topic of what it means to be evangelical, along with a participant panel discussion about church planting.

ReachGlobal has nearly 600 missionaries in 44 countries with a broad spectrum of ministry focus areas all unified by one focus statement: *We invest in disciplemakers to establish the church where the gospel isn't known*. Investing can take many forms and is strengthened by the flexibility of the nature of disciplemaking. As missionaries carry out the individual ministry to which God has called them (in the context of their team goals), each one can be intentional about making disciples who then make disciples. This requires a very clear awareness of *why* we do our specific ministry.

With this goal in mind, ReachGlobal staff focus on the intentional element of disciplemaking by asking these two questions:

- Who are you discipling (intentional, regular, and with visible impact)?
- Who are they discipling (multiplying ourselves)?

The natural result of more disciples who are making disciples is a growing church planting movement. As with disciplemaking, this must be intentional. But the natural outcome of our missionaries discipling disciplemakers will be more churches strengthened and revitalized and more churches planted across the world.

Extending Gospel Ministries

Our desire is to make Jesus Christ known where He is not currently known. The EFCA extends gospel ministries in many creative ways across the globe. One example of extending gospel ministries is the compelling need to reach urban populations in the U. S. The Western District is working with ReachGlobal to identifying new ministry initiatives in the San Francisco bay area. In other ways, ReachNational and ReachGlobal are working together to reach unreached Muslim populations both here in the U.S. and in unreached countries around the world.

Cameroon Team

"OUR WORK WITH CHURCHES AND CHURCH LEADERS IN 2018 WAS PRIMARILY THROUGH OUR CAMEROONIAN PARTNERS WHOM WE COACHED, EMPOWERED AND RELEASED. THROUGH OUR PARTNERS THIS YEAR, 13 PASTORS AND ABOUT 200 LAY PEOPLE WERE TRAINED IN DISCIPLEMAKING OF MUSLIMS, AND MANY OF THESE HAVE BEGUN TO EMBED MUSLIM MINISTRIES IN THEIR CHURCHES. THIS IS BRINGING A VISION FOR DISCIPLE MULTIPLICATION, OUTREACH AND SACRIFICIAL MINISTRY TO ESTABLISHED CHURCHES. CHURCH LEADERS ARE BEGINNING TO THINK CONTEXTUALLY AND STRATEGICALLY ABOUT HOW TO FORM CHURCHES OF MUSLIM BACKGROUND BELIEVERS."

There are a variety of church growth movements happening around the globe today, and the ministry of Global Equipping is involved in many of them.

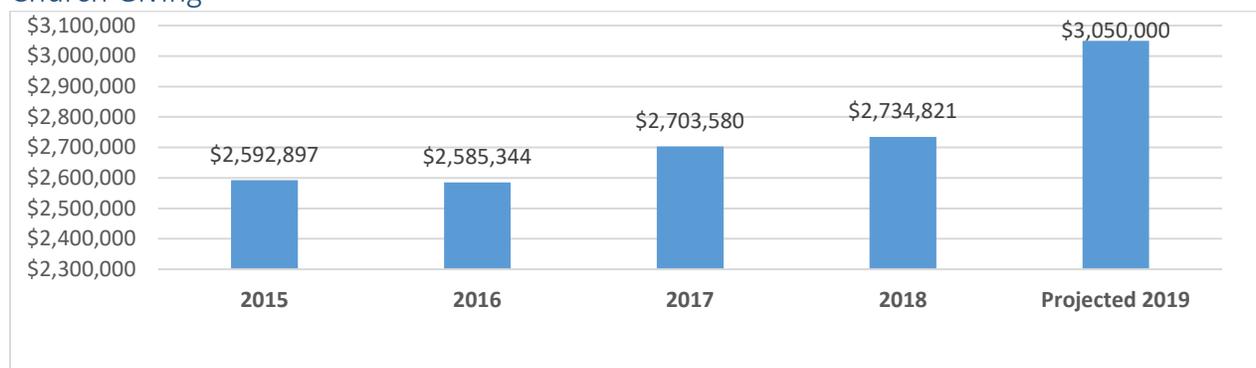
Extending the effectiveness of EFCA ReachGlobal and the local church in making disciples and planting churches, Global Equipping is a unique approach to consultation. Ministry staff engage and listen without preconceived solutions or a designed program. Global Equipping is growing as the missions world is changing – providing a pathway for U.S.-based individuals to engage in cross-cultural, context sensitive ministry according to their spiritual gifting.

Areas of ministry include:

- church planting
- organizational effectiveness
- transformational leaders development
- pastoral development
- cultural engagement
- community development
- unreached people initiative

EFCA ministries cannot continue or expand without the support of churches for both our domestic and international ministries. One of the ways the national office receives support from our churches is through church giving to the EFCA general fund which totaled \$2,734,821 in 2018.

Church Giving



Of our 1,344 churches:

- 261 churches supported the EFCA general fund only
- 611 churches supported EFCA general fund and ReachGlobal
- 180 churches supported ReachGlobal but not the EFCA general fund
- 292 churches did not support either the EFCA general fund or ReachGlobal

Church giving support by size of congregation:

- churches >1000 (68 churches) - 84% gave to the EFCA general fund
- churches between 500-999 (133 churches) - 80% gave to the EFCA general fund
- churches between 250-499 (166 churches) - 80% gave to the EFCA general fund
- churches between 100-249 (448 churches) - 69% gave to the EFCA general fund
- churches <100 (529 churches) - 51% gave to the EFCA general fund

We have 180 missionary projects that raised \$5,381,207 in 2018. Most projects are created by ReachGlobal staff working to extend the gospel in their ministry context. The projects seek funding for training centers, church planting, training and coaching as well as many other ministries. Receiving a very large grant from Samaritan's Purse for ongoing Hurricane Harvey relief allowed us to expand opportunities for teams to participate in the EFCA's Crisis Response ministry.

Internationally, we continue to partner with like-minded ministries across the globe. This year, ReachGlobal launched a new unreached/unengaged peoples initiative with a desire to train all staff to see and reach out to those unreached and unengaged in their ministry context. The All People initiative in the U.S. has expanded to include two team members with an emphasis on helping local churches reach Muslims living in their communities.

ReachGlobal	2017 Totals	2018 Totals
Staff	611	589
Countries with ReachGlobal Resident Staff	48	44
People Groups Served		847
New ReachGlobal Staff	15	23
Staff with EFCA Credential	84	77
Preliminary Information Forms (recruitment pipeline)	41	40
Retirements	13	9
Resignations	27	21

Healthy partnerships	314	369
Crisis Response events	5	8
EFCA Churches assisted by Crisis Response	23	27
EFCA Churches sending teams with Crisis Response	118	206

Church Planting with involvement of ReachGlobal Staff	2017 Totals	2018 Totals
New churches started		870
Churches strengthened or revitalized		3,664

GlobalFingerprints	2017 Totals	2018 Totals
Children Sponsored	3372	3602

Strengthening, Revitalizing and Planting Churches

Church Planting

The Church Multiplication Team is led by Andrew Hoffman and we recently added Scott Sterner from the Forest Lakes District as an additional part-time leader. The full team consists of district church planters from across the denomination tasked with helping plant new churches in each EFCA district. In October 2018, the first Church Multiplication Sunday was held across the EFCA movement uniting all churches around the theme of “Pray to the Lord of the Harvest.”



The goal was to have 50,000 people praying for church planting, and from anecdotal evidence we believe we reached that goal. Plans are underway for the 2019 Church Multiplication Sunday focused on new churches reaching new people. Simultaneously, Hispanic leaders in our movement introduced Cosecha, a church planting initiative in Spanish with the goal to double the number of EFCA Hispanic churches by 2025.

The Church Multiplication Team has seen tremendous growth as it reviews best practices for church planting in various ministry contexts. The team is using a new cohort-driven church planting training called “Multiply Church Planter’s Training” which is showing great promise for successful planting. The process involves two different segments – one equips the leader and one equips the planter. We continue to use the existing church planting bootcamp materials in some districts, allowing each district to determine which curriculum works best for their ministry context.

Diversity and Multiplication

Thirty percent of EFCA church plants are ethnic or multicultural. In 2017, the number was 29%. The total number of ethnic or multicultural churches (including plants) is 313. At year-end, we had 114 church plants which included 19 new church plants. In 2018, we had 26 churches close or move away from the denomination.

In the past, this report detailed the growing number of ethnic and multiethnic churches and plants in the EFCA denomination. These numbers matter and our efforts to have churches that reach all people is God’s call on the EFCA. You will notice an intentional shift from the term multiethnic to multicultural in our narrative. With the help of leaders in the All People ministry, we desire to move beyond a two-dimensional metric to a higher abstraction that includes a greater diversity of church make-up such as generational, immigrant, gender, socioeconomic, as well as ethnicity.

In considering the metric for ethnic congregations, the numbers include the following categories: African American or Black, Asian, Chinese, Deaf, Hispanic or Latino, Indian/East Asian and International.

Another major difference that you will see in this year’s report is the counting of congregations—not only churches. In the past, we counted multi-site churches as a single church when many of these churches were reaching different communities with significantly different congregations. Counting congregations provides a more accurate picture of church planting today.

There are 141 churches that are multi-congregation churches. The criteria are that a congregation is distinctly different either by language, culture or distance from the primary congregation of the church. In the past, we counted these as only one church even though they were reaching multiple and completely different communities. With this change, we attempt to detail the number of congregations in our movement—shifting away from counting in singular way.

Churches by the Numbers	2017	2018
U. S. Based Churches	Totals	Totals
EFCA churches	1343	1344*
Church plant status	126	114
New church plants	10	19
Ethnic/Multicultural churches	273	278
Ethnic/Multicultural plants	37	35
New churches	30	23
Church closings**	19	26
Churches with Multi-site locations	N/A	69
Second language services		72
Total congregations	N/A	1599

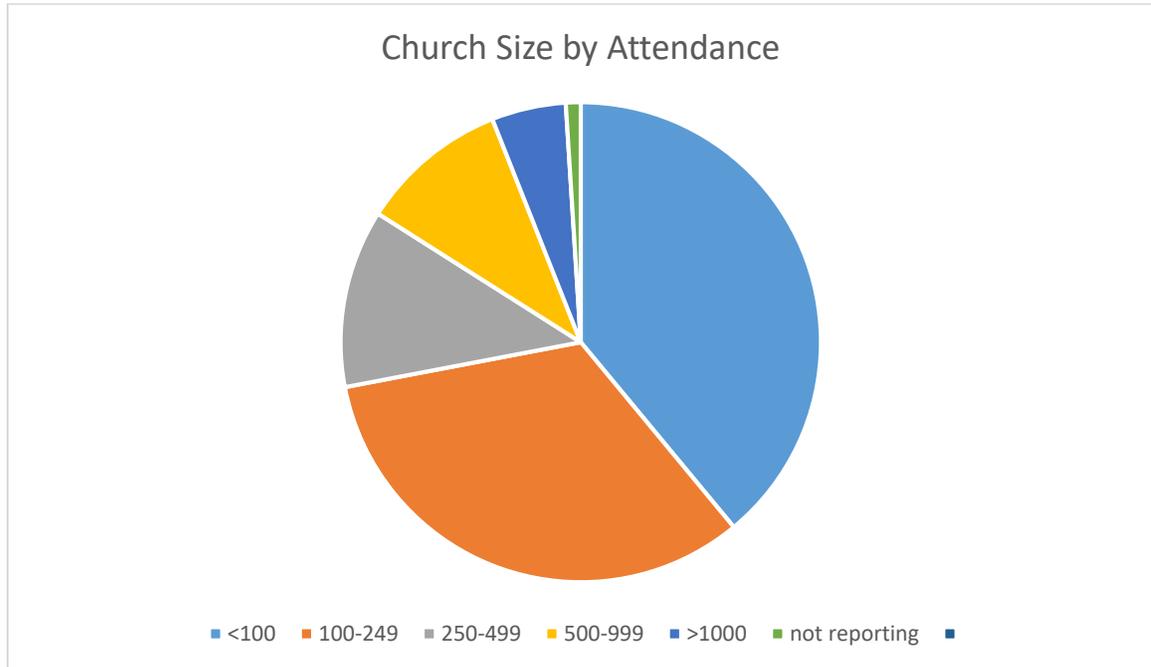
**Based on legal entity status. We refined this data to include only churches in 2018 which accounts for the discrepancy in number of churches in previous years.*

***Church closings include: 13 closures, 1 merged church, 12 disaffiliations.*

The total weekly attendance as reported by EFCA churches for 2018 was 359,240.

- This compares to 2017 attendance of 359,710, a decrease of 470 attendees.

- Our average attendance per church in 2018 was 246.
- Our average attendance per church in 2017 was 244.



- 39% are <100 (518 churches)
- 33% are between 100-249 (448 churches)
- 14% are between 250-499 (166 churches)
- 8% are between 500-999 (133 churches)
- 5% of churches >1000 (68 churches)
- 1% not reporting (11 churches)

In 2018, we reviewed the ethnic diversity of staff in the EFCA national office and ReachGlobal. The national office consisted of 69 employees: 57 are Caucasian and 12 non-Caucasian or 17% of the staff. In ReachGlobal we surveyed our staff and received 476 responses out of 589 staff. Of those responses, 83% were Caucasian and 17% were non-Caucasian mirroring the numbers for staff at the national office.

Strengthening and Revitalization

The EFCA All People ministry continues to expand its influence by meeting the needs of local churches as they seek to impact their communities. The @EFCA Vision Frame strategy includes reaching those near us but not like us. Under the leadership of Alex Mandes, the team has provided consulting and training to districts and local churches. In 2018, they engaged the following:

District and Church Conferences

- Speaking engagements at 20 district and church conferences in 34 different cities.
 - Hosted 34 consultations with district superintendents and district pastor clusters about church planting.
 - Hosted two intercultural gatherings with over 250 people in attendance.
- Strategic planning on mission critical ministries to catalyze and find new frontiers of ministry and platforms.
 - Woman’s Task Force jointly with Trinity International University
 - Disability Ministry
- TIU Mosaix
- Multicultural Church Planting with Mark DeYmaz

Partnerships

We are working with the following partners in the areas of church planting and reconciliation:

- Immigrant Hope
- The Immigration Alliance Board
- Navigators
- The Nation’s Within
- National Association of Evangelicals
- World Relief
- Christian Community Development Association (CCDA)
- Camp Victory

In partnership with Trinity International University, we convened a Women in Ministry Task Force to consider how to better utilize the gifts of women in the ministry of the EFCA. The purpose is to increase the engagement of women leaders serving alongside, and in partnership with men in leadership, as brothers and sisters, to accomplish the mission of the EFCA together by working with national and district leadership resulting in:

- Women being encouraged, equipped, and enlisted to minister, and utilize their God-given gifts.
- Women realizing their potential to contribute to the mission of the EFCA as local church leadership invites and involves women, welcoming their input.
- Women of all life stages, ethnicities, socio-economic levels and educational backgrounds being equipped and empowered to be disciplemakers.

To advance the engagement of women in the mission of the EFCA, so that:

- EFCA churches become mature transformational churches as men and women are encouraged, equipped, and enlisted to minister as partners in their God-given mission.
- The potential of women to contribute to this mission is realized.
- Women of all life stages, ethnicities, and socio-economic and educational backgrounds are equipped and enabled to make disciples who make disciples.

Resources

AS A DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT, IT IS A REAL GIFT TO HAVE NATIONAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO US LIKE ALEX MANDES. MULTIPLE TIMES THIS YEAR HE HAS HELPED US BUILD BRIDGES, CONSULTING WITH OUR PASTORS ON ALL PEOPLE CHURCH PLANTING. ALEX HAS BEEN A GOOD COACH FOR ME IN WORKING WITH CARLOS BELSA OUR HISPANIC MINISTRIES DIRECTOR. I KNOW THAT IF HE SPEAKS TO OUR PASTORS, THEY WILL INCREASE IN THEIR APPRECIATION OF THE EFCA. HE UNITES, INSPIRES AND LIVES OUR MISSION.

Hispanic Cohort

THE HISPANIC LEADER COHORT LED BY RICARDO PALMERIN HAS HELPED ME SHARPEN MY LEADERSHIP SKILLS AS SOMEONE WHO SEEKS TO INFLUENCE ANGLO CHURCHES TO CONSIDER LAUNCHING LATINO MINISTRY. THE COHORT HAS BEEN AN IMMENSE VALUE NOT ONLY TO MY PROFESSIONAL CAREER BUT ALSO TO MY PERSONAL LIFE AS I INTERACT WITH HISPANIC LEADERS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY.

Theological Integrity

Undergirding all our work to strengthen and revitalize local churches are key efforts guarding the values and beliefs of the EFCA movement through theological education and credentialing.

- Every five years, we conduct a Doctrinal Survey and in 2018 the survey was sent to 3,000 individuals with a 50.3% response rate. In comparison, in 2013 we sent the survey to 1,928 individuals and received a 55.7% response rate. Even though there are some outliers doctrinally, overall, the EFCA is strongly committed to the inerrancy and authority of the Scriptures and the fundamentals of the faith, as espoused in our Statement of Faith; and our unique characteristic of the “significance of silence” is considered a strength among most pastors and leaders.
- Statement of Faith discussions were held at district conferences. Over the last 18 months, these sessions set the foundation for movement-wide understanding of the Motion to Amend Article 9 of the Statement of Faith.
- Increased credentialing of EFCA pastoral staff and ReachGlobal staff has been identified as a short-term goal of the @EFCA Vision Frame effort being led by the national office in collaboration with districts.
- Readership of the EFCA blog has grown significantly outpacing an average of 80,000 monthly page views. Blog posts are the most viewed pages on the EFCA website in the last 6 months of 2018.

Acknowledging the EFCA blog and website as a significant resource provided to the movement, EFCA Communications led a migration effort to move Greg Strand’s blog content into the EFCA blog for greater readership exposure. More and more people are finding EFCA blog posts by entering keywords into search engines, and we can surmise that we’re bringing in new readers. With many posts falling in the categories of Understanding Scripture, Engaging Culture and Making Disciples, we are reaching pastors and leaders across the EFCA movement and beyond.

The mission and vision of the EFCA is about action. We must have disciplemaking leaders raised up and equipped to do the work. We want to see passion for ministry multiplication, church reproduction, and partnerships around the world focused on seeing churches planted because that's what leads to transformation and increasing gospel impact.

We rejoice in all the ways God has used the faithful and transformational ministry of EFCA churches, leaders and partners to see the mission of the EFCA lived out.

2018 EFCA METRICS

VITAL STATS																							
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