

## **Why Conferences?**

Something new you will notice in 2009 will be three conferences which, Lord willing, will become annual events. Unlike our annual February district conference which is always a helpful tool for training leaders and keeping everyone informed on the EFCA, the conferences I am talking about will be put on and hosted by our own congregation.

### *An Overview Of The Conferences*

The first conference will be the “Parent’s Game Plan” Parenting Conference January 31 (9:00-1:30). This will be a time during which parents can learn a biblical view of parenting along with advice on how to put it all into practice. The desire is to provide an intense time at least once a year that we can equip parents for this all-important task God has given to moms and dads.

The second conference will be our March 21-22 Missions Conference. This will be a time to envision all of us for missions, how we can be involved (both cross-culturally and here in our own area), and it will also serve as a tool to call the next generation of full-time vocational missionaries into the field.

The third conference will be an early fall Theology/Worldview conference. Though the date has not been set yet, the purpose is clear: To help equip us in the entirety of God’s Word—dealing with key topics more intensely and in-depth than we might during the rest of the year.

These will be the only conferences we plan for this year. Yet, we also will have a Valentine’s Banquet scheduled for February 15. This will be a time when couples can come out and enjoy a nice meal served by the youth group free of charge and also hear a message which will be designed to strengthen their marriage. Though not technically a conference, it has a similar purpose.

### *The Purpose Behind The Conferences*

In Romans 1:5 Paul wrote that the purpose behind his missions work was to bring about the obedience that arises from faith and which results in God’s glory (meaning of “for the sake of his name”). Paul was adamant that true saving faith comes in response to God’s Word (Rom. 10:17) and results in obedience which itself is grown by the Word (Acts 20:32). I take all this to mean that if we are to fulfill our mission of making disciples to God’s glory (Mt. 28:19-20; 1 Cor. 10:31),

we must be diligent in equipping each other in how to carry out God's will (Eph. 4:11-13; 2 Tim. 2:2). Conferences serve as a helpful tool toward these ends.

*Some Current Needs*

Here are some ways we can help to make sure these conferences are fruitful.

1. First and foremost, pray for them.
2. Put them on your calendar and plan to attend.
3. Invite others outside the church to them. We want these to bless more than just our church.
4. If you are good at planning events and would like to help with one or more of these conferences, please contact the church office.