

**EFCA HISTORY, THEOLOGY AND POLITY COURSE**  
**Brookside**  
**11607 M Circle, Omaha, NE**  
**February 18 – 19, 2020 (Following 2020 Transform Conference)**

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**Tuesday, February 18** (12:00-6:30 PM) - Boxed lunch provided

**Wednesday, February 19** (8:00 AM -12:30 PM)

***There is no cost for the class, but pre-registration is required: email the Midwest District Office [mwd@efcamidwest.org](mailto:mwd@efcamidwest.org) or call (308) 234-5400 no later than February 5th***

### **Introduction**

The EFCA History, Theology and Polity course is considered the baseline for any/all of the credentials in the EFCA. If one desires to minister in the EFCA and be licensed and eventually receive their Ordination or Certificate of Christian Ministry, this material is mandatory. In the past this class was only offered at our EFCA seminary, so all those who desired to minister in the EFCA and who did not attend our seminary were required to meet this requirement through an independent study. We are only now beginning to offer the class in an intensive two-day format in other locations. We believe there is much to be gained in a class setting versus the independent study format.

### **Objectives**

- ❖ Designed for those seeking a greater understanding of the EFCA or anticipating possible placement within this denomination. Attention is paid to history, polity, doctrine, missionary outreach, current trends. Attendees are challenged to consider these distinctives in relation to their own concepts of ministry context and potential.
- ❖ Attendees will become familiar with the heritage and distinctives of the Free Church in order to appreciate its present structure and mission.
- ❖ Participants will envision how God might use them in furthering His kingdom through the Free Church ministry.
- ❖ Participants will fulfill one of the key requirements for credentialing in the EFCA. (For those who know they will be ministering in the EFCA, this objective is very important.)

### **Required Reading**

It is recommended you read the three books listed below prior to the course. (It is required that the books are read before receiving a permanent Certificate.) These books are available at Next Step Resources, the EFCA Bookstore, and they can be ordered by calling 800.444.2665 or online at [www.nsresources.com](http://www.nsresources.com)

EFCA Spiritual Heritage Committee. *Evangelical Convictions* (Theology)

Hanson, Calvin B. *What it Means to be Free! A History of the EFCA* (History)

Olson, Arnold T. *The Significance of Silence* (Ethos)

### **Instructor**

Greg Strand

Executive Director of Theology and Credentialing

EFCA

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**History, Theology and Polity Course**  
**February 18 – 19, 2020**  
**Brookside Church, Omaha, NE**

Class Description and Objectives

Class is open to anyone but is designed especially for current EFCA pastors/directors seeking credentialing in the EFCA. Attention is paid to history, polity, doctrine, missionary outreach, and current trends.

Here are some advantages to attending the course vs. independent study:

- Personal interaction, facilitated in a class setting
- Built-in accountability aids in getting this part of the credentialing process completed in a timely manner
- Relationship building and networking with peers in ministry
- Fulfills a requirement for the EFCA credentialing process - provided the course texts are read and the doctrinal paper completed

Required Course Texts (These books must be read before a permanent Certificate is granted.)

EFCA Spiritual Heritage Committee. *Evangelical Convictions*

Hanson, Calvin B. *What It Means to Be Free*

Olson, Arnold T. *The Significance of Silence*

Doctrinal Paper

A doctrinal paper must be presented to your district as part of the EFCA credentialing process but is not a pre-requisite for the class.

**Tentative Course Outline**

Topics will include many/most of the following:

- Course Overview
- The Case for Denominations
- History: Pietism, Scandinavia, American Immigration, Merger, Modern Growth, Mission, Higher Education
- Doctrinal Issues: Statement of Faith, Contemporary and Other Issues
- Polity: Autonomy and Congregationalism, National and District Organization
- Denominational Vision, Mission and Current Direction (OOP)
- Mission Fields and Priorities, Polices, Steps to Appointment (RG)
- Pastoral Care (PCM), Free Church Ministers and Missionaries (FCMM), Christian Investors Financial (CIF)
- Ministerial Credentials, Placement