



April 30, 2007

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the EFCA:

Greetings in the name of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ!

As Chairman of the Board of Directors (BOD), it is my privilege to communicate with you some important decisions that were made by the BOD at our recent meeting. We have addressed the topics that have been discussed in many different venues across the EFCA over the past eighteen months: the “Proposed Revision of the EFCA Statement of Faith,” the “Transitional Rules for Implementation of a Revised Statement of Faith” (Transitional Rules), and the National Leadership Conference (NLC). Please read carefully this update and also the documents to which this letter links.

Proposed Revision of the EFCA Statement of Faith

The BOD is now prepared to move a document from the “consideration and discussion” stage to a proposal which will be submitted to the Conference as a new EFCA Statement of Faith that would amend Article III of our Articles of Incorporation. **This motion comes to the Conference with the unanimous vote of the Board of Directors.** Based on the results of the “SOF Research Project,” you will see three major changes we made in this Proposal as compared to the Third Draft Revision of the SOF. You will also note a few minor changes that reflect the additional input received.

The first major change is the addition of “premillennial” into article #9. This change had implications regarding the gospel framework which resulted in two other changes. The reference to the gospel in the preamble is removed and the preamble is shortened. This also meant that the gospel headings which flowed from the preamble are also removed and shortened to include theological titles for each article.

The BOD decision to make these major changes from the Third Draft was based on the results of the research project. It revealed that a strong minority had concerns with the Third Draft, which are being addressed in the Proposed Revision. Though the majority of pastors surveyed did not raise those concerns, we are committed to the ongoing spiritual health and vitality of the EFCA. As a result, in the interest of unity within our movement – a strong biblical value we desire to maintain – we have made those key changes.

The other changes are minor and are clearly noted in the footnotes. (Please read them carefully as that is where you will read the rationale for the changes.) These changes are also reflected in the commentary (a revision of which will be released at a later date, and which will spell out the biblical and theological importance of the key statements of the articles). Please read the

Proposed Revision at the following link, located on the right side of the EFCA Web site: <http://www.efca.org/about/doctrine/>. You may also contact the Office of the President for a copy (president@efca.org or 952-853-8492).

This is the Proposed Revision that will be presented as a motion to the Conference this summer (2007), which means there will be no additional changes made to it. The only way it can now be changed is through an amendment made to the motion at the business session of the 2008 Conference. However, if you have questions or comments, please let us know at the following email address: president@efca.org.

Transitional Rules for Implementation of a Revised Statement of Faith (Transitional Rules)

There is one content change that is important to note in this document. Under “Reaffirmations of Statement of Faith,” one who was credentialed under the 1950 SOF will have the option of continuing to affirm that SOF or the revised SOF.

The revised Transitional Rule states, “After December 31 of the year in which the Conference approves the revised Statement of Faith, ministry personnel who were originally credentialed under the 1950 Statement of Faith may **elect** to base their written reaffirmations **either** upon the 1950 Statement of Faith **or** upon the revised Statement of Faith.” There was one additional structural change as well. This topic became a separate category so it is now number 5, and those topics which follow have all changed by a number.

Please read this revised statement and the rationale for this revision in the context of the whole document at the following link: <http://www.efca.org/about/doctrine/>. Please contact the Office of the President if you are unable to download the document.

National Leadership Conference, June 27-29, 2007

The decisions made by the BOD result in these important implications at this summer’s NLC:

1. The Transitional Rules will be discussed and voted on by the Conference.
2. The Proposed Revision of the EFCA SOF will be presented as a motion to the Conference. It will not be discussed as an official part of the Conference business session and will not be voted on at that time. By presenting it as a motion it means that it will be discussed and voted on during the 2008 Conference business session.
3. Though the Proposed Revision will not be voted upon this summer, there will be five different seminars offered to aid in the understanding and discussion of the document and the Transitional Rules for implementing it if it is adopted in 2008.
 - Introductory Session
 - Transitional Rules

- Questions and Answers
- Debate
- Tools and Training

If you are interested in a more detailed explanation of these seminars, please link to the Conference website www.bthetree.org.

What we now propose will come as a relief to some, and it will cause disappointment to others. That is what it means to live together in a world in which none of us has perfect knowledge, and we trust that God is working through the priesthood of all believers to reveal His will. We believe the revisions we propose, though not as far-reaching as some would like, will still be very helpful in strengthening our SOF, with language that is more precise, more theologically rich, and which avoids some of the ambiguities that have caused problems in the past.

Please join us in praying that the Lord may give us all wisdom, grace, patience and love as we seek to come to a common mind on this issue, a mind which we trust will reflect the mind of Christ.

For the Sake of Christ,

Jimmy Kallam
EFCA Board of Directors, Chair