

## Search for Trinity Western University's Third President

In fall 2005, TWU's R. Neil Snider, Ph.D., announced plans to step down as university president after 32 years in that position, and after increasing student enrollment 10-fold during his tenure. As of summer 2006, he will begin serving as the university's first chancellor.

Dr. Snider holds education degrees from the University of Manitoba and a Ph.D. from the University of Oregon. Under

his leadership, TWU made significant advances, including being granted full membership in the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada. In 2003, Snider received the Queen's Golden Jubilee Award—given to Canadians who have gone above the call of duty to build the Canada of today.



Neil Snider

"The ongoing contribution of Dr. Snider in the new role of chancellor will be vital," says Dr. Allan Hedberg, chairman of TWU's Board of Governors.

"By continuing to build the relationships he's established with key leaders, decision makers, and supporters across Canada and the U.S.—not to mention Trinity Western alumni—he will . . . sustain and enhance the university's ongoing success."

The university's goal is to announce its third president by May 2006. The first president of TWU (then Trinity Junior College) was Calvin B. Hanson. From 1962 to 1974 he helped shape the university's spiritual vision. ■



Trinity Western University's campus, in Langley, B.C., Canada

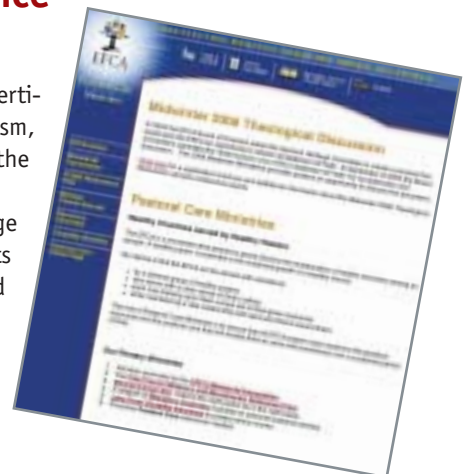
### » Historic Midwinter Ministerial Conference

January 18-20, 2006

Each January, EFCA pastors gather for in-depth discussions about topics pertinent to church leadership and ministry—including biotechnology, baptism, the open view of God. This January's topic promises to be a pivotal one in the history of our movement.

In 2004, the EFCA Board of Directors asked the Spiritual Heritage Committee to begin a process by which our movement might "refresh" its Statement of Faith. In September 2005, the Board of Directors submitted a draft revision of the EFCA Statement of Faith for consideration at the Midwinter Ministerial Conference.

Join fellow EFCA pastors this January for discussions about this crucial document. For registration information, visit the Web ([www.efca.org/pastoralcare](http://www.efca.org/pastoralcare)) or call (952) 853-1773. ■





## [ LETTERS ]

### »The Da Vinci Opportunity

*Bringing faith into the conversation*



Author Dan Brown and filmmaker Ron Howard are handing us a golden opportunity.

At least, that's how Craig Smith feels. Craig is mission/outreach pastor at Heritage EFC in Castle Rock, Colo.,

and founder of Shepherd Project Ministries (SPM)—an organization dedicated to seizing strategic intersections of faith and culture.

*The Da Vinci Code* is an example of such an intersection. Though the popular fiction novel calls into question the foundations of the Christian faith, it also provides an unexpected opportunity through its upcoming movie release.

"When was the last time so many non-Christians were asking questions about Jesus and the Bible?" Craig asks. "Instead of denouncing it, we should be focusing on how to capitalize on the interest it's generating. Everyone's reading the book. They'll go see the movie. They'll have questions. Are we ready with the answers?"

Together with Chosen People Ministries and Campus Crusade for Christ, SPM is producing conferences to equip believers for outreach in response to the movie. Featuring evangelical scholars such as Darrell Bock, Craig Blomberg and Ben Witherington, the *Deciphering the Da Vinci Code* conferences will be offered free of charge in major cities, just before the movie release in 2006. In the Los Angeles area, the conference will be hosted by First EFC of Fullerton.

"The movie could trigger a huge wave of skepticism worldwide or give Christians unprecedented open doors to share the reasons for the hope that is within us," says Dr. Craig Blomberg, conference speaker and professor at Denver Theological Seminary.

"The choice is ours." ■

*For more information on the conferences and other resources regarding The Da Vinci Code, visit the Web ([www.shepherdproject.com](http://www.shepherdproject.com)).*

### »Question of the Month

Do you occasionally—or often—find yourself puzzling over questions related to the Bible; to theology, ethics or morality; or to EFCA history and practice? Perhaps they are questions posed by members of your church. Perhaps they are questions of your own. Now you can submit them online, to the EFCA's director of biblical theology and credentialing, Greg Strand. Each month, Greg will select one to answer and post online. Simply visit the "Question of the Month" section of the EFCA Web site ([www.efca.org](http://www.efca.org)) to find this month's question plus other recent questions and answers, or to submit a question of your own. ■

Recently, God moved me to a staff position at a Southern California church that is not part of the EFCA denomination. However, when I came across an *EFCA Today* magazine this morning (summer 2005), I ate it up, as I have done with many issues over the past several years.

However, this morning I read the magazine with new eyes. Although there are promising articles with titles such as "How Big is Our Tent?" and a book review about *The Mark of Jesus*, and a heading titled "The Diversity of our Movement," I noticed that 100 percent of the 17 pictured columnists were just like me—white.

Four years ago, I would likely have given no thought to this. I spent the first 35 years of my life insulated in suburban communities that were almost exclusively white. I then spent 4-1/2 years in a metro area that is 75-percent white, with a huge and rapidly growing Hispanic population ever-nearing our doorstep.

However, the influx of the new ministry opportunity did not affect our "established white church" ministry strategies. While our church was to be commended for groundbreaking strategies in missions work overseas, we remained unmoved and disaffected by our changing demographics locally.

Now I am immersed in the cultural diversity of color and heritage. While we do not yet reflect our community in terms of race, we are at least acknowledging the issues and talking about what to do about them.

I have greatly enjoyed the dozen or so *EFCA Today* publications I have read. I have not previously had antennas out for this issue before. However, I wonder if the lack of intentional pursuit of columnists and leader voices from other cultural backgrounds is a silent perpetuator (like pictures of Jesus as a European Anglo) that helps subtly feed the lack of culturally diverse engagement that I experienced in my previous EFCA church.

Just some food for thought.

— name withheld, Southern California

**Editor's note:** Thank you for your comments. You are right on the money. We encourage our non-white EFCA leaders to participate in the magazine, but we need to do so more proactively, because we value their input and participation. Too often we allow the press of deadlines to keep us from digging deeper and working harder to truly represent a diverse movement that we so want to see become a reality. Thank you for calling us back to it.

Please send comments to: EFCA Today Letters, 901 E. 78th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55420; fax (952-853-8488) or e-mail ([DianeMc@JourneyGroup.com](mailto:DianeMc@JourneyGroup.com)). Letters may be edited for clarity and space.