

Regional President's FY22 Annual Report

Converge Heartland District
September 15, 2022



Our Mission: *Starting and strengthening churches together worldwide.*

Our Vision: *A gospel-centered church bringing transformation to every Heartland community.*

Fiscal Year 2022 was a year of new norms. Like our district churches, the district staff and board worked hard to navigate through the new norms of post-pandemic realities. As we work to fulfill our mission and vision, these new norms have impacted nearly all areas of district ministry.

Starting Churches: Led by Church Planting Director Steve Krier, our new norm is focused on developing a new pipeline of church planters. Church planting is largely about recruiting and developing adequately equipped, called, sent, and supported church planters while also cultivating the right location for new church plants. Many years of church planting experiences and observations have led us to understand the importance of planting new churches in the growth edges of our district's metropolitan and micropolitan areas. We have also learned the importance of a host community's involvement in a new church plant. In FY22, we grew our church planting pipeline and saw one new church planted in Papillion, NE. By the end of FY26, we are working to see five more church planters deployed and planting churches that are being strengthened through strong relational involvement from their host communities.

Strengthening Churches: FY22 Church Strengthening activity involved six pastoral search efforts, 12 strategic planning efforts, 77 church site visits, three retreats, two conferences, one new church affiliation, over 37,000 miles of district driving, hundreds of ZOOM Meetings, and over 100 nights away from home. Sometimes these efforts are helping churches to build upon existing momentum while others are church revitalization efforts. Church strengthening efforts also include Kari Capaldo's work with district ministry wives and Angela Myers's coordination of our district's student ministries. In FY22, we experienced our strongest camp numbers in years with nearly 180 participants! We certainly hope that this growing youth involvement is a new normal. Going forward, we are aiming to advance the work of church strengthening and developing new regions of our district such as the western and northern tiers of the Dakotas, the northern tier of Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, and the KC metro area. We desire to do this, in part, by transitioning towards a new normal of ongoing district mobility. In FY23, we plan to invest in a mobile district office that allows us to base operations regionally for longer periods of time.

Sending Ministers Cross-Culturally: In FY22, our incarcerated ministries team, led by Dr. Greg Friesner, Chaplain Harlan Moss, and Chaplain John Morrison, navigated the upheaval of post-pandemic leadership transitions and staffing shortages in the South Dakota Department of Corrections. As these new norms formed, the ministry advanced from serving four incarcerated facilities to seven. Our incarcerated ministries team leads 24 bible studies per week among our district's most diverse population. Greg Friesner and Harlan Moss have labored hard for several years, and we are excited for them to take sabbaticals during FY23.

Stewardship and Support of District Ministries: We are excited to announce that in FY22, we hired Cristy Slawson to serve as our District's part-time office manager. With our new norm of increasing donors and annual revenues, it is important to have strong competency in the areas of handling donations and district communication. For the second year in a row, we receipted nearly \$900,000 dollars in revenues! Though many of these funds are designated for specific ministry and relief efforts, such as Ukraine and disaster relief, year over year, our dedicated district board of overseers and staff have intentionally stewarded general and reserve fund resources to where we now have the strong financial ability for increasing our district's ministry capacity. We praise God for this growth and for your strong district support!

It is an honor to serve the Converge Heartland District!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James M. Capaldo".

Rev. James M. Capaldo
Regional President



