



The Eastern District Communiqué

Gateway Theological Institute

Gateway Theological Institute is a course of study designed to instruct faithful men and women in Christian doctrine and ministry so that they will be able to instruct others. Started in the Hispanic Ministries of the EFCA, Gateway offers language-specific, practical and accessible theological training for leaders. The facilitators/mentors are EFCA-credentialed, seminary-trained pastors within our District.

Phase One of Gateway is based on a year-long study of the EFCA's Statement of Faith and is intended to assure that church leaders and potential leaders are grounded in a biblically accurate understanding of the core teachings of our faith. It will also help prepare students for licensure in the Free Church if that is desired.

Phase Two, a four-year course based on the curriculum of *The Urban Ministry Institute* (TUMI) of World Impact, Inc. out of Los Angeles, is intended to help prepare for ordination those called to pastor churches but who cannot, for various reasons, attend a seminary or Bible college. It is our effort to take ministry preparation to them so they can continue to minister under their current circumstances and in their communities.



Through the partial support of the Eastern District EFCA Foundation, Pastor Dave Martin (former Senior Pastor of the Evangelical Free Church of Hershey) began serving as the Executive Director of the Eastern District Gateway Initiative on April 1, 2009. His role focuses on developing, promoting and expanding the Eastern District Gateway Initiative throughout the district but

particularly in the New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington, D.C. urban corridor. We are eagerly looking forward to God's provision of qualified pastors and church leaders through this

initiative for churches in our district and particularly in our urban/intercultural churches. Three Phase One Gateway courses were completed in our District this year – one in English, one in Spanish, and one in both languages. Plans for the beginning of Phase Two classes in both languages are underway.

For more information on Gateway, please visit www.efca.org/reachnational/efca-gateway or contact Dave Martin at dmartin@edaefca.org for information on Gateway in the Eastern District.

How can you be involved?

- **Pray** - Please pray for the students attending the two ongoing Phase One classes in Baltimore, MD and Harrisburg, PA. Many of the students are bivocational church leaders already balancing many responsibilities. Pray for wisdom for Dave Martin as he gives direction to this ministry.



- **Give** - If the Lord leads you to make a financial contribution, checks can be made out to “Eastern District” and note “Foundation - Gateway” in the memo line. Our address is P.O. Box 220, Macungie, PA 18062. Online donations can be made at www.edaefca.org; click on the “Eastern District Foundation” link on the left side of the home page. Gifts will be used in a variety of ways, including providing scholarships for students, and honorariums for facilitators.