

A banner with a green and yellow background featuring a field of grass. The text is centered and reads: DR. LAMAR E. SMITH CENTER FOR EVANGELISM & CHURCH GROWTH.

DR. LAMAR E. SMITH CENTER FOR EVANGELISM & CHURCH GROWTH

At the first of this year, the Central Texas Conference began a new initiative, creating 100 New Faith Communities (NFC) in three years! This was presented at our 2017 Annual Conference and includes a grant up to \$10,000 for each approved proposal. At this point, we have approved 10 grants with one that just arrived on my desk. We are way ahead of any of our projections. Below are the churches currently creating NFC's. Half of these churches have already begun their NFC, and the other churches are in the process and will begin soon:

- First Burleson;
- Wesley Foundation with First Corsicana;
- First Waxahachie;
- First Saginaw;
- First Mart;
- Bethesda;
- TCU Wesley Foundation;
- Trinity Arlington;
- First Comanche;
- First Eastland.

There will be obvious fruits from these faith communities — professions of faith, discipleship opportunities, more people worshiping God together, more missions, more ministry, more everything that matters to the Church of Jesus Christ. But there will also be additional fruit when an effective NFC is added in the life of an existing church, and that is creating an NFC doesn't just add something; it can transform a church. It helps us become more outward-focused and less inward-focused. It creates a focus

on reaching people the church had not already reached rather than just serving those we have already reached. It can help a static, stagnate or even declining church become a growing, changing, dynamic group and one that is more focused on making disciples and loving people who have yet to join the kingdom. An NFC can help a church move from a culture of maintenance or even decline into one of growth. Few things can change a church more quickly and in healthier ways than an NFC done right. NFC's can help create a new future for a church and a new exciting narrative of what the church is becoming, much like the Acts church.

Please join me, the Cabinet, and Bishop Lowry in praying for the success of these NFC's. If you are interested in learning more about the possibilities of an NFC in your church, check out our [website](#).