



MARCH 2023

Evana Network Welcomes New Congregations

We are very excited to welcome new congregations to the Evana Network. Churches that have been in the process of finalizing their membership in Evana over the last few months include Eicher Emmanuel Mennonite Church (Wayland, IA), Holdeman Mennonite Church (Wakarusa, IN), and Agora Christian Fellowship (Columbus, OH). Pastor Josh Wenger joined Eicher Mennonite as their Lead Pastor in early 2022 and the congregation formally voted to join Evana in October. Holdeman Mennonite is currently served by an interim minister, Pastor Steve Slagel, who will be ending his term in April. The congregation formally joined Evana on January 1, 2023.

Agora Christian Fellowship is led by Pastors Rich and Becky Bartholomew and has a long history of relationship and support with Evana Network congregations. Meeting in an urban Columbus neighborhood for over 25 years, Agora has a very active

outreach mission to the children of their neighborhood and provides a home for Agora Christian Services whose programs include a child care center; local, regional, and international voluntary service; and transport services.

Please pray for these new congregations and their leaders as we encourage one another in our joint commission to share the Gospel. Please also continue to pray for ongoing conversations with a number of churches that are discerning their future affiliation and are considering Evana as potential partner for witness and mission together.

Any congregations in discernment over their future affiliation can begin the conversation by emailing info@evananetwork.org or contacting Executive Director Matt Hamsher directly at matt@evananetwork.org.

Olivia Williamson Confirmed for ReGen 2023: Transformed

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind - Romans 12:2

We are excited to announce writer, speaker and musician Olivia Williamson will be our keynote ReGen speaker. As the director of *Claim Your Campus* and the founder of *Enlightened Students* ministry, Olivia has a wide heart for prayer and the next generation. Currently residing in Kansas City with her husband, Kyle, Olivia spends her time helping people learn how to discern God's voice and identify their calling in life.

Evana Network places a high value on offering programming that helps teens and young adults grow in their commitment to Christ and their ongoing formation. Our evening sessions will feature Olivia with our returning guest worship team **Sing Love Worship**. Sing Love is a worship collective based in Central Indiana, made up of all high school youth. Morning worship will feature a variety of voices from within and outside of Evana Network.



TRANSFORMED
June 26-30, 2023

We are also using a new registration platform for this year's event. When you

register, be ready with an individual email address that will be tied to the Whova event app. The app contains maps, seminar information, agenda, chat features and more. Evana also offers a new group ticket option for youth and large church groups.



We'll be hosted by Taylor University, and welcome pastors, church leaders, families and youth to join us. Whether a long-time member or exploring a relationship with us, ReGen is the place to experience what we are all about.

Early Bird Registration Extended to March 31, 2023

Evana Early Bird:

Ages 3-11 at \$349, Ages 12-up at \$399

Public Early Bird:

Ages 3-11 at \$399, Ages 12-up at \$449



A big "Thank You" to all who made our 2022 New Season Campaign a success!

Over the last month of 2022, we raised over \$246,000 towards our efforts to provide support and programs for congregations and individuals. The additional \$46,000 raised over our goal of \$200,000 has helped fund our Church Planting Fund and Event Scholarship Fund. The core funds helped underwrite administrative and travel costs related to day-to-day operations and our ongoing engagement with new partners.

Behind the funds stand individuals and congregations who make our work possible via financial support, prayers and everyday service for the Kingdom. With half of our operating costs supported by congregational support, we depend on the generosity we've experienced in this season and beyond. We are always looking for individual donors who will also join with us through financial support.

If you missed the opportunity to be a part of the New Season Campaign and would like to join others in contributing financially towards Evana Network, be sure to visit our website and click on the "Donate" button.

Sincerely,

Matt Hamsher

Executive Director, Evana Network

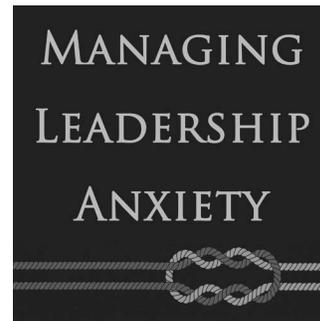
Flourish 2023 is a Wrap!

A special thank you to all the congregations who made it possible for pastors and lay leaders to attend Flourish 2023! Participants are expressing gratitude for time away with their spouses, worship with other ministering individuals, and equipping with teachers and preachers. With 140 attendees from across the Network and partner organizations, this gathering was among one of our best attended retreats. We also thank Everence Financial and Der Dutchman Restaurant (Sarasota, FL) for their sponsorship of the event.

*Mark your calendars for February 15-19, 2024!
We'll be returning to Bradenton, FL.*

Anxiety and Leadership

Over two decades of work in non-profit and for-profit settings, I have had plenty of opportunities for my anxiety to pop up. A natural, God-given response to stress in our environment, anxiety gives us a chance to explore the root of our reactions. And whether it's an unforeseen conflict, a clash between competing expectations, a sudden loss of life, (fill in blank), anxious moments provide opportunity for deepening our toolkit and growing our capacity for leadership.



If interested in tools for working with anxiety, check out Steve Cuss' easy to read text, *Managing Leadership Anxiety: Yours and theirs*. Visit stevecusswords.com or check out your favorite bookseller.

- Tyler Hartford

Strategic Partners join with Evana Network on Shared Mission

Since the beginning of the network, Evana has intentionally chosen to partner with mission agencies, schools, and other organizations that share a common vision and values with us. One new strategic partner in ministry approved by the Evana board in November 2022 is Malone University in Canton, Ohio (www.malone.edu), a four-year college with an explicit commitment to a Christ-centered education with a biblical call to seek Christ's Kingdom First in all things. The vision of Malone's new president, Dr. Greg Miller, is for Malone to be a place where students from Evana can deepen their faith while studying in an environment which supports our biblical commitments.

In January 2023, the Evana Board also approved a Strategic Partnership with Rosedale Bible College (www.rosedale.edu) in Irwin, Ohio, a two-year Bible college serving the Rosedale Network of Churches (formerly

CMC). RBC offers an excellent place for Evana students to deepen their faith and study in an evangelical Anabaptist environment. Earlier in the year, Rosedale International (www.rosedaleinternational.org), the mission agency of the Rosedale Network of Churches, was also approved by the Evana Board as one of our strategic partners. Of particular interest is RI's REACH program, a year of discipleship and missions training for young adults.

We are grateful for opportunities to work with strategic partners for the advancement of the Kingdom of God. What a blessing it is to be able to work together with like-minded brothers and sisters of Christ like these across denominational boundaries for the greater glory of God. We would encourage you to find out more about these partners and consider ways that you personally might support, enroll, or serve with them.