

## Historical Brief

Transform Minnesota started in 1965 as a cooperative effort that resulted from Twin Cities' pastors praying with each other; a vision emerged to work together to have greater life-giving impact on their society, leading to the birth of the *Greater Minneapolis Association of Evangelicals*. Rev. Quint Alfors was a key leader in starting the association, and he was hired as Executive Director (and then President) in 1970 followed by Rev. Palmer Yngsdal, who served as President from 1988-2004. Carl Nelson was appointed President in early 2005.

In the 70's, 80's and 90's, Transform Minnesota started many new ministry programs including New Life Family Services, Damascus Way Reentry Center, Christian Counseling Center, Minneapolis Police Chaplaincy, Wings Outreach, World Relief Minnesota, and All Seasons Renewal Center. Today, three of these ministries operate as subsidiary ministries and receive leadership and administrative support from Transform Minnesota.

Beginning with the leadership transition in 2005 the board guided the organization to return to its founding purpose of serving as a network to connect and resource evangelicals. We began the *Evangelical Leaders Forum* and a series of conferences focused on multiethnic leadership called *Coming Together*, collaborated with churches in Bloomington to launch *CityServe*, and continue to host a missions leaders network called *TCAMP*. Some of the subsidiary programs were discontinued or spun off under independent leadership. In 2011 the organization was rebranded as *Transform Minnesota*.

In the most recent years Transform Minnesota has redesigned its membership program and is working to expand its network to 1,000 churches throughout the state. We have become much more diverse, connected with pastors of both large and small churches, and with more urban churches and with leaders from across many evangelical denominations. Transform Minnesota serves as an effective platform to convene major gatherings of evangelicals and to communicate to a wide audience of pastors and leaders in Minnesota.

## Timeline Highlights 1954 – 2013

- 1954 – 13 pastors & 4 laymen form local NAE steering committee. Group hosted monthly ministerial meeting, banquet, and annual NAE meeting. Held prayer breakfasts, evangelism and youth ministry workshops.
- 1965 – April 23, Greater Minneapolis Association of Evangelicals Area Committee organized with 4 committees: Social & Evangelical Action, Spiritual Life, Chaplaincy, and Radio & Television.

- 1966 NAE Ministerial Association joins GMAE's first annual meeting. Meeting includes 20 member congregations, 8 non-member congregations, and 5 organizations. GMAE and NAE committee sponsored World Day of Prayer.
- 1967 "World Relief Committee" raised funds for children's hospital in Vietnam and to bring a Greek child to Minneapolis for heart surgery. Paul Ramseyer of Radio & TV committee interviewed int'l students on KTIS, encouraging GMAE pastors to open homes to foreign students.
- 1968 – Began planning to hire an Ex. Dir to represent evangelicals to "city fathers."
- 1969 – *Gleanings* first issue is printed and mailed to churches. By 1971 - 21,000 copies being mailed.
- 1970 – Quint Alfors hired as Executive Director of GMAE in April, former pastor of St. Louis Park Evangelical Free Church. Membership grows from 47 to 78 churches. Single Parent and Single Adult Christian fellowships begin. Held 3 seminars on drugs and several pre-marital clinics.
- 1971 – *Heavy Water Coffeehouse* begins – 70 decisions to follow Jesus. GMAE raises \$5,000 to contribute towards Chapel of Faith at Stillwater Prison.
- 1972 – Police Chaplain Corps begins in March. Christian Peace Officers fellowship started. GMAE sponsors 1-hour TV outreach on KSTP.
- 1973 – New Life Homes opened in partnership with Youth for Christ at 5257 Emerson N. Prison Chaplain hired. Hosted family life seminar with Tim LaHaye and Howard Hendricks.
- 1974 – Christian Counseling Center and Damascus Way both begin. Single Parent Fellowship has 200 dues-paying members.
- 1975 – *Christian Business Directory* published, and "New & Used Sale" held to raise funds. World Relief Committee raises funds for Guatemala.
- 1976 – Tele-communications committee produces 3 TV specials called "Sharing". Chaired by Wayne Pederson.
- 1977 – Anniversary Banquet with 1,025 attendees. New Life Homes takes over *His Place* boys home. \$50,000 drive for Damascus Way Challenge Drive.
- 1978 – GMAE becomes sponsor of *Twin Cities Christian* newspaper, which is sold to Jankowski's in 1980.
- 1979 – Damascus Way moves into 5730 Olson Mem Hwy. Broadcast 26 "Evangelicals in Action" programs on KTIS.
- 1980 – New Life Homes becomes adoption agency. Damascus Way receives \$30,000 McKnight grant to open Work Center, main projects are furniture refinishing.
- 1981 – Palmer Yngsdal begins as Church Relations & Tour Director.

- 1983 – Broken Wing Outreach begins ministry to disabled. *Faith Academy* Christian school begins around this time.
- 1986 – World Relief Refugee Services begins. Fellowship programs declining. Budget \$1.7m.
- 1988 – Glennpark Manor retirement facility completed, eventually transferred to developer.
- 1990 – Palmer Yngsdal becomes Ex. Dir. (later Pres/CEO), Quint Alfors retires and continues limited development activities.
- 1992 – Headquarters building moved to Richfield, purchased from EFCA.
- 1994 – All Seasons Renewal Property received from donor, development begins of a prayer-focused retreat center.
- 1999 – New Life licensed as medical clinic and performs ultrasound services to abortion-minded mothers.
- 2004 – Palmer Yngsdal retires as Pres/CEO of GMAE. Search begins for successor.
- 2005 – Carl Nelson, formerly Executive Director of World Relief Minnesota, is appointed as new Pres/CEO of GMAE. Board closes Christian Counseling Center.
- 2006 – Damascus Way opens second residential reentry program in Rochester. GMAE launches *U40 Network* for young senior pastors, convenes leadership network for senior pastors of multicultural congregations.
- 2007 – Three *Evangelical Leaders Forum* are held with local Twin Cities pastors as keynote speakers: Leith Anderson, Efrem Smith and John Piper. All Seasons Renewal Center property is transferred to Camp Lebanon. GMAE co-hosts first *Midwest Conference on Missionary Care*.
- 2008 – The first *Coming Together* conference for multicultural ministry is held at Christ Church International in Minneapolis.
- 2009 – Governor Tim Pawlenty is keynote speaker at *Evangelical Leaders Forum*. Planning begins to host 2012 CCDA national conference in Twin Cities.
- 2011 – Strategic planning process begun previous year leads to decision to rebrand GMAE. *Transform Minnesota* is announced in September 2011.
- 2013 – Transform Minnesota co-hosts the first Minnesota Religious Freedom Forum at the RiverCentre in St. Paul.