



EQUIP. EXPAND. ENCOURAGE



# ARIZONA ——— **DISTRICT PROFILE**

2023 // PREPARED BY THE DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL



# INTRODUCTION

## ARE YOU READY?

After over a decade of Rev. Doug Pierce and our district team laying a solid foundation, the Arizona District is ready to take a next step in district development as we seek to equip leaders, expand God's Kingdom and encourage pastors. As we look across the district, the potential for Kingdom building is incredible. We believe with the right leader, we will see even better days for the Arizona District.

**Equip Leaders.**

**Expand God's Kingdom.**

**Encourage Pastors.**

## WHY ARIZONA?

What is the first thing that comes to mind when thinking about the State of Arizona? Many people think of Arizona in terms of stereotypes such as the "wild west" or the reports of soaring temperatures from the Phoenix metropolitan area. Arizona is home to more than 7,000,000 people with a wide variety of backgrounds and rich cultural histories, who enjoy the ability to take advantage of its vast outdoor recreational opportunities. AZ is also home to several military bases, high-tech companies, copper mines and agricultural communities. As a result of these great characteristics, Arizona is one of the fastest growing states in the nation!

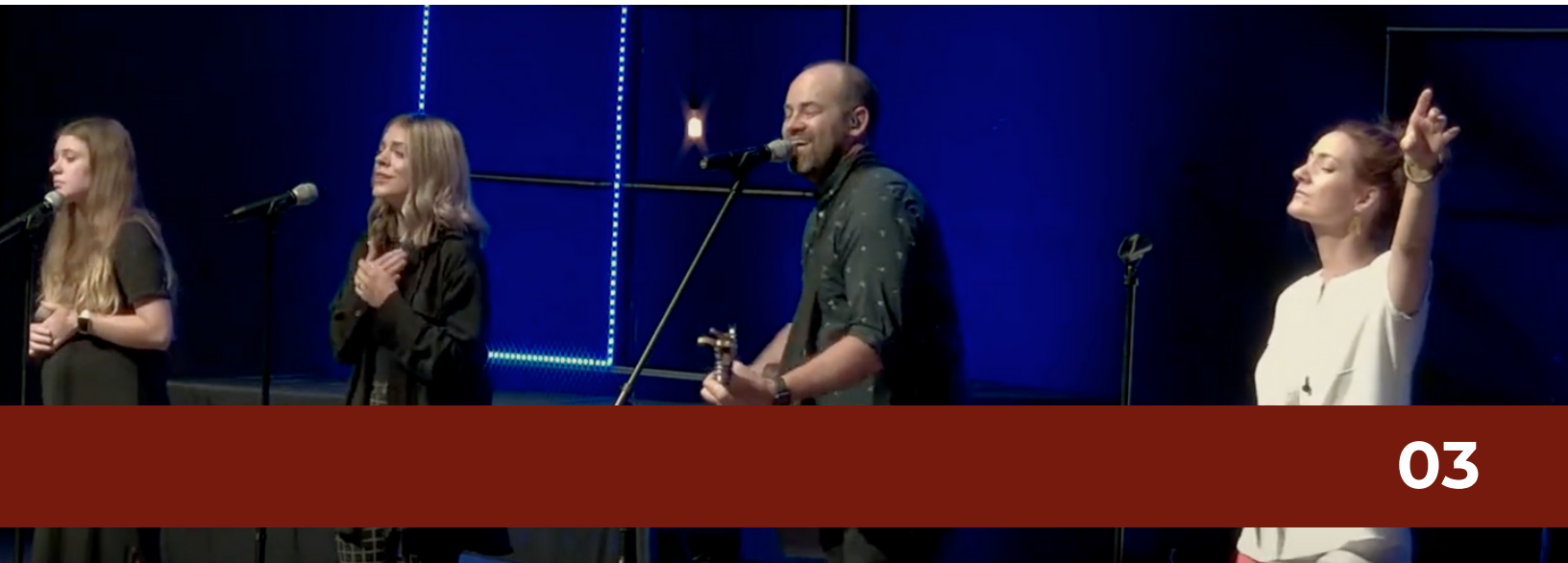
# RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE

When it comes to the number of people who claim a religious affiliation, there has been a significant reduction in those who report an affiliation – often called the rise of the “nones.” The Grand Canyon State has not been immune to this trend and reports similar trends as in other areas such as a significant decrease in affiliation with mainline denominations.

Across Arizona there is a growing movement of non-denominational churches without the moorings of a historical theology. We believe our communities need our Wesleyan holiness message more than ever.

Our district is comprised of 62 organized congregations, but we believe God wants us to continue to reach more of Arizona and portions of Southern Nevada, Southern Utah and California. There is a strong need for more churches to be planted, creative ministry initiatives started, calls to ministry, continued development of Pinerock Camp and Retreat Center and more. We are praying that our next District Superintendent will have a clear vision of where God is leading and how we can begin to step into that movement of the Spirit.

**THE ARIZONA  
MISSION  
FIELD NEEDS  
OUR  
HOLINESS  
MESSAGE**





# STRENGTHS

## ● OPENNESS TO NEW AND INNOVATIVE MINISTRY

For over 100 years now, the Arizona district has been willing to try new and innovative ministry ideas. We have multiple ethnic congregations, house church networks, coffee shop churches, sports ministries, and missional communities. When a compelling vision is cast, our district is ready and willing to move.

## PINEROCK CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER

One of those opportunities for creative ministry within the District is Camp Pinerock in Prescott. This District-owned property is operated year-round under the Advisory Board. It hosts all of the District camps and retreats, including our annual Camp Meeting held each July. Pinerock is the location hundreds of people around Arizona point to as the place where they met Jesus for the first time. Our desire is for this resource to be developed even more as a ministry of the district.

**CHURCH PLANTING  
AND LEADER  
DEVELOPMENT ARE  
QUICKLY BECOMING  
REAL STRENGTHS IN  
OUR DISTRICT**

## FINANCIAL

Because of the generosity of our members and careful financial management by district leadership, our district is well-positioned financially to take some risks and see ministries started or revitalized.

# CHALLENGES

## GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

The future of the Arizona district will require clear vision to collaborate, encourage pastors, and equip leaders in order to expand God's Kingdom. There are several opportunities for growth across the district that require our attention.

District-wide, reporting indicates that worship attendance and membership has declined for a majority of our churches. Only eight of our sixty-two churches have shown an increase in attendance over the last decade, while half of our churches have seen a 50% decrease in membership over that time. On top of that, there has been a 50% decrease in reported salvations and baptisms within our congregations compared to just four years ago. We are aware of the challenges facing our local churches and the effect this has had on our district as a whole; we need new strategies for an emerging generation to reverse those trends.

### COLLABORATION

The Arizona district would benefit from a stronger collaborative relationship with the Southwest Native and Southwest Latin American districts. These three districts share the same missional territory currently with little intersection. While there are some bright spots within local geographical areas of the state where these relationships exist, it is not the norm. Learning how to effectively lead multiethnic ministries will require us to learn about and embrace the various cultures and ethnicities that make up our mission field.

**THE  
ARIZONA  
DISTRICT IS  
READY FOR  
A CLEAR  
VISION FOR  
A NEW  
GENERATION**

# GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES *(continued)*

## ENCOURAGE PASTORS

Due to the large geographical area the district covers, we face a perceived disconnect from churches outside the Phoenix metropolitan area. Learning how to effectively encourage and resource one another would improve the health of our churches. Similarly, pastors of small or rural churches often feel disconnected from the body and would be encouraged by an environment of greater connection.

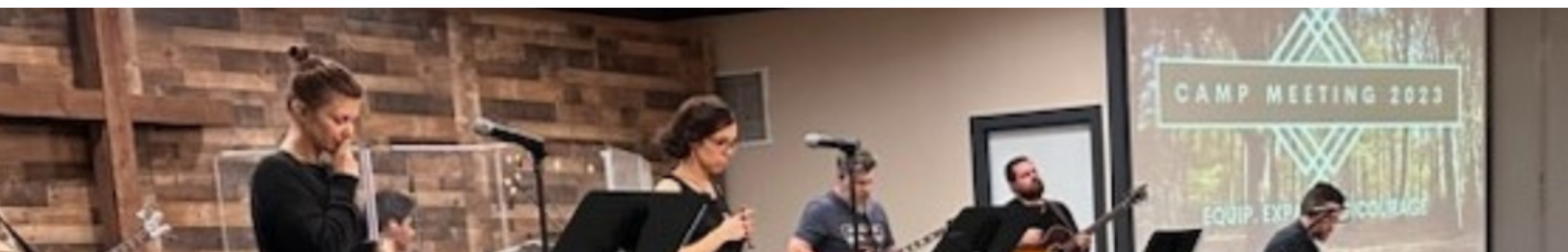
## EQUIP LEADERS

Our pastors are facing enormous new challenges as the world is rapidly changing around us. Arizona district pastors will benefit from training in methodologies of outreach and discipleship, rooted in our distinctive Wesleyan Holiness theological paradigm. Strengthening collaborative relationships among churches will also help equip leaders by allowing the natural sharing of resources and ideas from one congregation to another.

## CONCLUSION

Overall, we are praying that we can begin to move ministry forward in all of these areas of challenge and growth. The survey results on page 7 reveal that our district sees a great range of opportunity requiring a diverse skillset. We recognize that one person cannot enact all the district's opportunities for growth; this means we are well-poised for a team-building leader who can collaborate, encourage, and equip our district to live out a shared vision of making Christlike disciples.

**GOD IS MOVING  
IN THE ARIZONA  
DISTRICT AND  
WE ARE READY  
TO JOIN HIM  
WHERE HE  
LEADS**



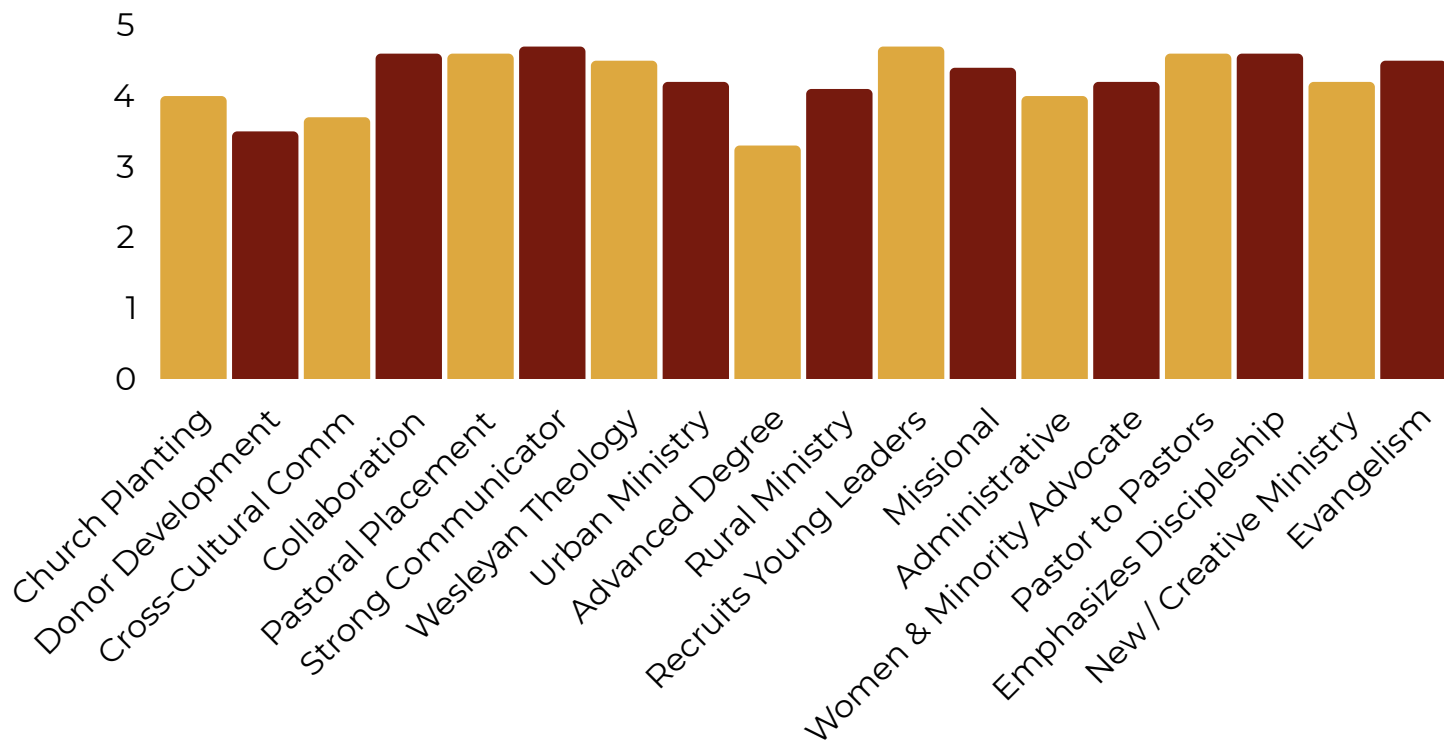
# THE FUTURE

## OUR HEART

We want to see Christ-like disciples made across our district. While our ranked survey (below) shows little differentiation between qualities, our write-in results reveals that certain characteristics are of urgent importance (page 8). Our hope and prayer is that God would direct a visionary leader that can lead our district into a new season of thriving ministry.

## ARIZONA DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENT PROFILE

The following are gifts, strengths and skills that we believe are important for our District Superintendent to have:





# THE MISSION

## WHAT ARE WE PRAYING FOR?

From the survey results in the graph, we believe that our district is looking for a leader that is strong in these areas:

### **VISIONARY LEADERSHIP:**

Our pastors and leaders want to know where we are going, how we plan to get there and how they can partner together. A strong communicator will lead clearly into the future.

### **PASTOR TO PASTORS:**

We believe our pastors want to be known, supported and encouraged. Our next DS will be able to connect with our pastors where they are and find ways to develop them.

### **RECRUITS NEXT GENERATION LEADERS:**

We have seen progress being made in giving younger leaders a chance to speak into the larger scope of the district. Our desire is to see this continue to develop and more leaders being equipped well for the ministry God is calling them into.

### **LEADS THROUGH OUR DISTINCTIVE WESLEYAN THEOLOGY**

They will manage the tension of holding firmly to doctrine while holding loosely to methods and paradigms that have outlived their effectiveness so that by all means we will reach many.

**WE BELIEVE  
THERE IS A  
GREAT NEED  
FOR NEW  
LIFE AND  
VITALITY IN  
OUR  
DISTRICT'S  
EXISTING  
CHURCHES**



## JOIN US IN PRAYER

Discerning God's will for the nomination of the next DS is high-stakes work: the future of the district will depend upon us hearing from the Lord. Prayer is such an important part of this process. We are asking that you and your church family, both staff and membership, be praying that the Holy Spirit would reveal those that you feel would be a good consideration in the search for a District Superintendent.

We are asking that as many people as possible on the Arizona District are made aware of this search process, participate in praying for God's leading, and give input as to who they think would be a good candidate to prayerfully consider. Everyone's feedback and input are needed.

