#### MANITOBA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



MORE THAN WE CAN IMAGINE EMMANUEL BAPTIST MORRIS, MB OCTOBER 18-19, 2019



NOW TO HIM WHO IS ABLE TO DO IMMEASURABLY MORE THAN ALL WE ASK OR IMAGINE, ACCORDING TO HIS POWER THAT IS AT WORK WITHIN US, TO HIM BE GLORY IN THE CHURCH AND IN CHRIST JESUS THROUGHOUT ALL GENERATIONS, FOR EVER AND EVER! AMEN.

**EPHESIANS 3:20-21** 

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### **STU STREETER - BIOGRAPHY**



Stu has been a part of the NAB International Office staff and Executive Team since 2015. He is also the founding and lead pastor of Disciples Church, an NAB church plant in Folsom, California. In its nine years of ministry, Disciples Church has partnered in the launching of eight other churches. For the last twenty years, Stu has served in several full-time ministry capacities as lead pastor, church planter, and ministry fundraiser. Stu and his wife, Jen, have been married for nineteen years and have four kids, Isaac, 17; Ryin, 15; Sophia, 13; and Aaron, 12. Stu is an avid cyclist and lifelong Denver Broncos fan, and when you get a chance, ask him about his favorite baseball team, the Milwaukee Brewers.

### SESSION NOTES FRIDAY EVENING



### SESSION NOTES SATURDAY MORNING



### SESSION NOTES SATURDAY MORNING



### BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA - 2019

#### WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

#### SEATING OF DELEGATES

#### **APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

- Ballot Committee
- Scrutineers' Committee

#### MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 13TH, 2018 AGM

#### MINUTES OF THE MAY 15TH, 2019 SPECIAL GENERAL SESSION

#### **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

#### PRESENTATION OF THE 2020 BUDGET

#### **REPORTS** -

- Moderators Report
- Regional Ministers Report
- Other Reports

## MOTION TO APPROVE THE ACTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE IN 2019

#### NOMINATION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS FOR 2020

#### **ELECTION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS**

**OTHER BUSINESS** 

#### SCRUTINEERS' REPORT

#### NEXT MEETING -

- Special General Session May 13th, 2020, Abundant Life Baptist Church
- Annual General Meeting October 16th & 17th, 2020. Whyte Ridge Baptist Church

#### CLOSING PRAYER

# CALL TO ORDER & SEATING OF THE DELEGATES

| СНИКСН                    | ELIGIBLE | ELIGIBLE<br>PASTORS | PRESENT |
|---------------------------|----------|---------------------|---------|
| Abundant Life             | 5        | 1                   |         |
| Elim, Beausejour          | 3        | 0                   |         |
| Emmanuel, Morris          | 5        | 1                   |         |
| First, Minitonas          | 6        | 0                   |         |
| Fort Richmond             | 3        | 1                   |         |
| Grace, Ochre River        | 5        | 2                   |         |
| Little Woody, Swan River  | 3        | 1                   |         |
| McDermot Avenue           | 7        | 2                   |         |
| Mission                   | 6        | 1                   |         |
| Moosehorn, Moosehorn      | 3        | 1                   |         |
| New Life Ministries       | 3        | 1                   |         |
| Oakbank, Oakbank          | 5        | 1                   |         |
| Rowandale                 | 7        | 1                   |         |
| Temple, Swan River        | 6        | 1                   |         |
| Waverley                  | 6        | 3                   |         |
| Whiteshell, Seven Sisters | 3        | 1                   |         |
| Whyte Ridge               | 7        | 4                   |         |
| Baptist Care Home Society | 0        | 1                   |         |
| Meadowood Foundation      | 1        | 0                   |         |
| Lake Nutimik Baptist Camp | 1        | 0                   |         |
| Camp Nutimik Foundation   | 1        | 0                   |         |
| Waters Edge Bible Camp    | 1        | 0                   |         |
| Regional Minister         | 1        | 0                   |         |
| Executive                 | 3        | 0                   |         |
| TOTAL                     | 91       | 23                  |         |

### 2019 MBA OFFICERS & TERMS

| OFFICE       | 2020<br>AGM       | ТЕRМ | 2019<br>AGM       | ТЕКМ | 2018<br>AGM       | ТЕRМ | 2017<br>AGM       | TERM |
|--------------|-------------------|------|-------------------|------|-------------------|------|-------------------|------|
| MODERATOR    | Barry<br>Thiessen | 1    | Barry<br>Thiessen | 2    | Barry<br>Thiessen | 3    | Barry<br>Thiessen | 1    |
| SECRETARY    | Brad<br>Quiring   |      | Brad<br>Quiring   |      | Brad<br>Quiring   | 1    | Brad<br>Quiring   | 2    |
| TREASURER    | Al<br>Donald      |      | Al<br>Donald      | 1    | Al<br>Donald      | 2    | Al<br>Donald      | 3    |
| WOMEN'S REP. | Daphne<br>Keck    |      | Daphne<br>Keck    |      | Daphne<br>Keck    | 1    | Daphne<br>Keck    | 1    |
| AT LARGE     |                   |      |                   |      | Grace<br>Elke     | 2    | Grace<br>Elke     | 3    |
| AT LARGE     |                   |      |                   |      | Tony<br>Penner    | 1    | Tony<br>Penner    | 2    |
| AT LARGE     | Andrew<br>Grauman |      | Andrew<br>Grauman |      | Steve<br>Black    | 3    | Steve<br>Black    | 1    |
| AT LARGE     | Nathan<br>Brandes |      | Nathan<br>Brandes | 1    | Nathan<br>Brandes | 2    | Nathan<br>Brandes | e.   |

### **2018 AGM MINUTES**

#### DATE: OCTOBER 13, 2018 LOCATION: ABUNDANT LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH

#### WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Barry Thiessen opened the meeting with announcements and a prayer.

**SEATING OF DELEGATES** – 73 Delegates in attendance.

#### APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES

- Ballot Committee Brad Mulller, Terry Janke
- Scrutineers' Committee Jay Lafontaine, Doug Friesen

#### MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 14TH, 2017 AGM

**MOTION 1:** Moved Hans Serger, Seconded Brad Muller, that the minutes of October 14, 2017 AGM be accepted with noted correction. CARRIED

• NOTE: Correction in Report from Ochre River Community Centre. Change year from 2107 to 2017 Minutes of the May 9th, 2018 Special General Session **MOTION 2:** Moved Al Donald, Seconded Nathan Brandes, that the minutes of the May 9, 2018 special General Session be accepted as presented. CARRIED

Business arising from the Minutes

• None

#### 2017 FINANCIAL REPORT

Al Donald presented the 2017 Financial Report **MOTION 3:** Moved Al Donald Seconded David Wynne, that the Financial Report for 2017 be accepted as presented. CARRIED

#### Presentation of the 2019 Budget

Al Donald presented the 2019 Budget. **MOTION 4:** Moved Al Donald, Seconded Daphne Keck, that the 2019 budget be accepted as presented. CARRIED

#### REPORTS

- **2017 Moderator's Report** Barry Thiessen presented the 2017 Moderator's Report
- 2017 Regional Minister's Report Randy Jaspers presented the 2017 Regional Minister's Report
- Other Reports

Delegates were encouraged to read the reports in the booklet.

**MOTION 5:** Moved Cathy EisBrenner, Seconded David Wynne, to accept the reports as presented. CARRIED

- **NOTE** That Camp Nutimik Foundation present a report for the following AGM
- Terry Janke commended the Executive for their work

Motion to Approve the Actions of the Executive in 2017 **MOTION 6:** M Brad Quiring, S Doug EisBrenner, that Approve the Actions of the Executive in 2017

#### NOMINATION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS FOR 2019

Moderator – Barry Thiessen (Reappointment for 3 years) Women – Daphne Keck (Affirmed for 1) Member at Large - Steve Black (Reappointment for 3 years)

#### Nominations from floor - none

#### **Election of Directors and Officers**

**MOTION 7:** Brad Quiring Seconded Christine Schroeder that Barry Thiessen, Steve Black and Daphne Keck be reappointed for the Executive of the Manitoba Baptist Association.

**NOTE:** Point of Order – The Constitution on website states that the election of officers is for two years.

Barry Thiessen responded to the question that the website is likely out of date and will be revised.

Randy Jaspers reported the website constitution is not correct, that the current constitution states 3 year terms.

#### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### 1. Whitemouth Baptist Church

Question: Why has Whitemouth Baptist Church not been listed in the seating of delegates? What is the current state of the church?

Randy Jaspers presented that there are 2 couples remaining in the church. The couples continue to meet once per month as per Canada Revenue Agency regulations. Randy has met with them and has suggested that there be a celebration for the work of Whitemouth Baptist Church and then have the church closed down. A final decision is pending.

#### 1. Canada Summer Jobs Program Issue

What is the status in the MBA and is the Executive addressing it? Barry Thiessen reported that some churches and Camp Nutimik have applied for summer worker funds and have had their applications rejected for refusing to affirm the attestation.

Steve Black suggested that the EFC is one of the best resources who are actively working on this case. The suggestion is that congregations participate with the EFC and engage in the public forums.

Grace Elke encouraged churches to actively contact government leaders

regarding this issue.

Howard Bredin suggested that Ted Falk be contacted as he is a believer and an opponent to the attestation requirement.

#### 1. Ministry Financial Shortfall Assistance

Could Camp Nutimik or any other ministry facing a financial shortfall receive help from the MBA Executive?

Barry Thiessen reported that there is a form that can be filled out to request funds. The Executive will consider every request presented.

#### 1. MBYM

Who is responsible for the MBYM and what is the function right now?

Barry Thiessen reported that there is no youth network leadership or formalized activities.

Jay Lafontaine reported that ALBC, Whiteshell and Oakbank are carrying out youth events together, but not under the formal MBYM banner. It is a move toward reconstructing the MBYM.

#### SCRUTINEERS' REPORT

**MOTION 8:** Moved Jay Lafontaine, Seconder David Wynne, that the minutes recorded reflect the discussion accurately. CARRIED

#### NEXT MEETING

- Special General Session May 8, 2019 at Waverley Church
- Annual General Meeting October 4 and 5, 2019 at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Morris

#### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Barry Thiessen closed the meeting in prayer.

#### ADJOURNED

### MBA SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING MAY 15, 2019

#### ATTENDANCE:

**EXECUTIVE** Nathan Brandes, Al Donald, Grace Elke, Daphne Keck, Tony Penner, Brad Quiring, Barry Thiessen, Randy Jaspers

**CHURCH LEADERS:** Curtis Halbesma, Herb, Jay Fontaine, Neil Effa, Brad Muller, Matt Thompson.

88 registered delegates

**MOTION:** MOVED by Al Donald, SECONDED Nathan Brandes that the 2018 Financial Statement of the Manitoba Baptist Association Inc. be approved as presented. CARRIED

#### ADJOURNMENT

### REGIONAL MINISTER'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 26, 2019

MBA church leaders,

I am hopeful that our time at the MBA AGM interacting with God's Word and our brother, Stu Streeter, will help us move toward health in seeing new opportunities for proclaiming and living the Gospel . . . for ourselves and our churches, whatever our age, wherever we live. How can/will we begin to foster Word-directed, Holy Spirit-empowered imagination?

My goal last year was connecting with our pastors. This year I am trying to also be a resource. I believe our MBA emphases must be:

- identifying and raising up leaders through strategic discipleship approaches, which include dealing with who we are on the inside. Colossians 3:1-4
- considering new ministries to people God has already placed in our spheres of influence. NAB Conference initiatives in missional ministry and leadership formation provide helpful resources in these areas: https://nabconference.org

Some MBA pastors are continuing their ministry preparation using the

Kairos model through Taylor Seminary (Edmonton) and Sioux Falls Seminary. This approach is contextual (allows students to learn in their ministry place without relocating), tailored to that ministry setting and affordable. Another area I would like to encourage is providing training for pastors who would consider serving in transitional ministry, between lead/ senior pastors. Our churches would benefit from this intentional work.

Some MBA highlights of the past year:

- Whyte Ridge moved into its new facility at 2405 McGillivray Boulevard, Winnipeg.
- New staff include Sheilla Taylor (Children's Ministries, Whyte Ridge) and Greg Sherk (Youth and Young Adults, Waverley).
- Pastors Steven Black (retirement) and Lowell Friesen concluded their ministries at Minitonas. The church is currently considering an interim pastor during this transition time.
- Elim Baptist (Beausejour) called a pastor (Matthew Thompson) who came, but recently resigned. Thank you for praying for the church and the Thompsons.
- MBA pastors met for another retreat in Gimli, encouraging us to live out of Christ's design for us in our relationships and leadership.
- Meadowood Manor is in the search process for an associate chaplain.
- Rowandale is seeking an associate. Ben Clouston concluded his ministry as Youth Pastor.
- Bruce Hollins will continue to serve as interim at Oakbank during this transitional time.
- Check out the https://npregion.org website for some of the MBA churches/ministries featured, including Beausejour, Moosehorn and short-term mission works. Thanks to Mark Henkelman for making this site more usable. I welcome your helpful suggestions.

Personally I am continuing to lean into three areas:

- 1. Our identity is as **sons and daughters of Christ** through faith in his work on the cross. To live out of any other identity (role, positions, relationships, status, culture, etc.) leads to all kinds of deception and dysfunction. We continue to come back to, "Who am I, who are you, who are we in Christ?" The MBA Pastor retreats are very helpful in reminding us of that reality.
- When I allow myself to be present to listen to others, it is much easier to see where God is already at work. People are crying out for us to listen. "Let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger . ..." James 1:19

 Our joining God on mission is a joy, born out of our joy in knowing Jesus. Apart from relationship with Him, mission gets off center.
RELATIONSHIP → MISSION → RELATIONSHIP

I thank God for the privilege of partnering with you in ministry.

Blessings!

Randy Jaspers Northern Plains Regional Minister 404 16 St. NW, Jamestown, ND 58401 Mobile: (701) 320-1222; Email: nprjaspers@gmail.com

### REGIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT

The Regional Leadership Team is made up of representatives from the Executives of the Manitoba Baptist Association and the Northern Central Association. Our main task is to resource and support the Regional Minister. We are the first line of interaction that the RM has to accountability and ministry. At our meetings we talk about church issues and everyone is able to make suggestion as to intended results. Often the discussion involves areas of conflict in pastoral situations and churches in difficulty whether financially or in conflict. The aim is to resource the churches through the RM as he has regular contact with them. The RM uses the RLT to bounce ideas and to report on his activities.

This year the RLT consisted of the following; Barry Thiessen and Al Donald for the MBA and Ethan Johnson and Jim Schnabel for the NCA. Barry Thiessen is the Chair. We meet twice a year in person, usually in Fargo, ND. We also meet at times using an App called "Zoom." Any questions regarding the RM can be directed to the RLT.

Respectively submitted: Dr. Barry Thiessen, Chairman.

### MODERATOR'S REPORT

I greet you today with the words of the Apostle Paul in Galatians 5: 1, "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm then and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of bondage."

It is always difficult to sit and write while the weather outside is so inviting. I will however, try to express my thoughts and feelings on paper for your information and to provoke some thoughts on your part.

Over the past two years we have been working on getting ourselves healthy. Pastors and churches can easily get caught up in the repetitiveness of ministry life and because that creates a very busy lifestyle, may find themselves in taking the easy road. The result can be cutting corners in preparation, repeating past preparation and a failure to look inside to review our motives, dependencies and personal issues. We have looked at our motivation, our emotional well together again in Gimli. This year we used the time to evaluate our values and to understand how our value differences can create conflict between two very sincere and truly concerned individuals. We were led through this process by Tom Brooks, the pastoral health director of The Four-Square Gospel Churches of

#### Canada.

While we want to continue this process to increased health, there are two things that we desire. We would like to see more of our church's lay leaders take the material and go through the same process that their pastors have. In our church culture we too often just move along repeating the same things without truly taking stock of our lives or the lives of our churches. The resulting repetition often leads to a legalistic approach that stops us from enjoying the freedom found in a life of grace. The seminars are called Authentic Leadership and is written by Wes Boldt. Wes has a wonderful story of God's grace in the path that God took him through as he found, and continues to find greater spiritual health.

The pastors who took the material are all qualified to teach and I encourage leaders in our churches to ask their pastors to teach them. The ideal group size is twelve and the material will take two or three groups of evenings six months apart.

The second area of desire is a growing conviction toward church planting. Funds are available to make a start. We thank those who have contributed. We do not want to start a church simply because there are some funds available. We need qualified and committed church planters who will do the ministry and we need individual or groups of churches who will take the leadership and sponsorship toward accountability and encouragement. Will you make this a matter of prayer with us?

This is the very reason we have Stu Streeter as our speaker this year. We trust that his encouragement and suggestions will spur us on to ministry. There are thousands of people in our towns and cities who need the freedom that Christ brings. As an Association we have been slack in reaching them. Our church statistics indicate a downward trend. Marriage and the arrival of children will not stop this trend. We need to see a moving of God's Spirit in our churches toward the lost that will result in an influx of new Church members. Please put away any fears of loss of control and begin to look to the adventure of seeing the hand of God's grace will be incredible.

I want to say a sincere thank-you to the members of our churches. Your support of the MBA has been regular and encouraging. As always, if you have questions or concerns, or if you just want to talk about God's goodness, feel free to call. We are here to help.

Personally, I have had the privilege of speaking in many of our churches. Thank you for that privilege. I am available on a first come first serve basis. If you would desire me to visit your church and just participate as a part of the congregation, Ferne and I are certainly open to that as well

Dr. Barry Thiessen, Moderator, Manitoba Baptist Association

### FINANCIAL REPORT 2019

It's that time again and the years seem to slip past quicker and quicker.

First, I want to say "Thank You" to all of our churches and their members for your faithful financial support.

Second, I want to remind all of our Member Churches that we need TWO percent of your annual income to fund the work of the Manitoba Baptist Association.

As we head to the end of 2019, we are currently **\$14,048** in the red and have only received \$31,872 from our churches. While we as an executive try to keep all expenses to a bare minimum, there are some costs that we have to cover. Our largest single expense is funding for our Regional Minister and we believe this investment in the support for and the health of our pastor and churches is critical.

Our current asking of 2% of each church's income is much less than it used to be but it is the minimum that we can operate on.

We budgeted for a small surplus in 2019 and we will realize it if our church support totals are met.

We are proposing a small surplus again in 2020 while continuing to support our member churches and pastors in any way that we are able.

In His service,

Allan Donald - Treasurer

### **BUDGET PROPOSAL 2020**

|                                     | 2020 BUDGET  |  |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| INCOME                              |              |  |
| Contributions by churches           | \$88,255.00  |  |
| General Fund Offerings              | \$100.00     |  |
| Women's Ministries – MBWM           | \$26,555.00  |  |
| Youth Ministries – MBYM             | \$500.00     |  |
| Annual General Meeting              | \$4,500.00   |  |
| Transfer from CBC Mortgage          | \$7,500.00   |  |
| Interest & Miscellaneous            | \$4,000.00   |  |
| Offerings for Designated Ministries | \$1,000.00   |  |
| Trnsfrs from CIF                    | \$15,000.00  |  |
| TOTAL MBA INCOME                    | \$147,410.00 |  |

| EXPENSES                             |              |  |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Regional Minister & Expenses         | \$65,000.00  |  |
| Church Growth Contributions          | \$4,000.00   |  |
| Program Com./Annual General Mtg.     | \$5,000.00   |  |
| Executive & Council Meetings         | \$2,500.00   |  |
| Office & General Expenses            | \$3,000.00   |  |
| Pastoral Support                     | \$15,000.00  |  |
| Ministry Wives Retreat               | \$-          |  |
| Electroninc Media (Website)          | \$2,000.00   |  |
| Church Planting / Support Activities | \$15,000.00  |  |
| Regional Leadership Team             | \$3,000.00   |  |
| Youth Ministries – MBYM              | \$3,500.00   |  |
| Women's Ministries – MBWM            | \$26,555.00  |  |
| Expended for Designated Ministries   |              |  |
| Professional Fees                    | \$2,500.00   |  |
| TOTAL MBA EXPENSES                   | \$147,055.00 |  |

| NET INCOME (EXPENSES) | \$355.00 |  |
|-----------------------|----------|--|
|-----------------------|----------|--|

| 2019 BUDGET  | 2019 to 8/31 ACTUAL | 2018 ACTUAL  |
|--------------|---------------------|--------------|
|              |                     |              |
| \$85,000.00  | \$31,872.00         | \$73,998.00  |
| \$100.00     | \$-                 | \$2,750.00   |
| \$27,340.00  | \$15,673.00         | \$16,205.00  |
| \$3,500.00   | \$-                 | \$-          |
| \$4,500.00   | \$-                 | \$3,847.00   |
| \$2,500.00   | \$12,379.00         |              |
| \$4,000.00   | \$504.00            | \$5,818.00   |
| \$1,000.00   | \$-                 | \$10,802.00  |
| \$30,000.00  |                     | \$-          |
| \$157,940.00 | \$60,428.00         | \$113,420.00 |

| \$64,500.00  | \$32,250.00 | \$65,000.00  |
|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| \$4,000.00   |             | \$10,000.00  |
| \$4,400.00   |             | \$4,500.00   |
| \$1,172.00   | \$1,299.00  | \$2,500.00   |
| \$1,715.00   | \$2,648.00  | \$2,500.00   |
| \$14,720.00  | \$14,485.00 | \$15,000.00  |
| \$-          | \$-         | \$2,500.00   |
| \$765.00     | \$1,495.00  | \$750.00     |
| \$-          |             | \$15,000.00  |
| \$3,602.00   | \$1,310.00  | \$3,000.00   |
| \$1,495.00   | \$2,000.00  | \$3,500.00   |
| \$18,180.00  | \$16,156.00 | \$27,340.00  |
| \$4,062.00   |             | \$4,000.00   |
| \$4,673.00   | \$2,833.00  | \$2,000.00   |
| \$123,284.00 | \$74,476.00 | \$157,590.00 |
|              |             |              |

\$(14,048.00)

\$350.00

\$(9,864.00)

### **ASSOCIATION STATISTICS 2018**









### WOMEN'S MINISTRY REPORT

As always, our Retreat Committee did an excellent job of planning our Women's Retreat at Elkhorn to allow our women to be refreshed spiritually and equipped to better serve in their local churches and communities. This past year, in addition to our speaker, Tressa Lemky and worship leader, Joan van der Linde, we were blessed by the musical gifting of Jayme Giesbrecht, who was able to melodically exemplify our theme, "I Sing Because...". The excellent meals, workshops and fellowship times all contribute to making this a weekend you will want to ensure your ladies are encouraged to attend. It is always held on the last weekend in April, so please keep that in mind when planning your church events each year. Our Retreat committee of: Judy Hart, coordinator, Grace Elke, Shirley Wynne, Evelyn Bredin, Perla Turner, Helen O'Neill, Leanne McKay, Flo Fried and Rhea Jenkinson, are carefully and prayerfully planning all the details for next year's retreat.

Thank you, MBA for ensuring the website and online registration is available for the Womens Ministries' Retreat at Elkhorn. We continue to offer 2 free registrations to the retreat which are assigned to a MBA church on an alphabetically rotating basis. Rowandale Baptist Church was the recipient of the free registrations in 2019 and Little Woody will receive the 2 free registrations in 2020. We also offer financial assistance for registration to women who lack financial resources.

The partnership opportunities we have locally and globally through our Outreach projects, listed in the attached budget, allow us to expand our perspective of God's Kingdom at work. We thank our ladies for their continued stewardship awareness and generosity in supporting our Outreach projects. The Women's Ministry financial report was circulated to the churches in spring so it could be passed at the same time as the MBA financial report.

We want to encourage and commend the events that our women's groups carry out in their own communities. When women hear the truths of God's Word communicated through the voices of other women – strong connections and friendships are built along with spiritual growth. So whether it is a large planned event or a one-on-one coffee outing, God can use these opportunities to share His gospel message.

We thank Abundant Life Baptist church in Winnipeg for hosting the Women's Ministry luncheon last fall and Marla Friesen from Fort Richmond Baptist Church for sharing her passion in the ministry combatting human trafficking.

Many thanks to our faithful WM leadership team:

- Rita Mueller secretary
- Evelyn Bredin treasurer
- Rhonda Keppler Missions Co-ordinator
- Members at Large: Grace Elke, Dorothy DeVries, Judy Hart and Rose Vincze

Please prayerfully consider joining the MBA WM team. It is an opportunity to be stretched as we live for the legacy of Christ while communicating the story of our God and making room for the Spirit to work intimately in the hearts and lives of the people God brings in our way.

We have been blessed and privileged to be part of God's service in joining together as women to support and encourage one another.

Respectfully submitted, Daphne Keck, Coordinator MBA WM

### WOMEN'S MINISTRY BUDGET 2019

| CATEGORY/DESCRIPTION   | 2019 Budget | 2020 Budget |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| OUTREACH MINISTRIES  |             |             |
| MAYETTE ATIVO-BUENO - Philippines                                | \$1,000.00  | \$1,000.00  |
| JEFF & SONYA KILMARTIN - Nigeria                                 | \$1,000.00  | \$1,000.00  |
| NAB CONF WM  | \$500.00    | \$500.00    |
| TAYLOR SEMINARY - Bursary Fund                                   | \$1,000.00  | \$1,000.00  |
| WOMEN'S RETREAT SPONSORSHIP                                      | \$540.00    | \$520.00    |
| TOTAL OUTREACH MINISTRIES  | \$4,040.00  | \$4,020.00  |
|  |             |             |
| EXECUTIVE  |             |             |
| MISCELLANEOUS  | \$50.00     | \$50.00     |
| POSTAGE/STATIONERY   | \$50.00     | \$50.00     |
| TRAVEL   | \$1,000.00  | \$1,000.00  |
| TOTAL EXECUTIVE  | \$1,100.00  | \$1,100.00  |
|  |             |             |
| LEADERSHIP   |             |             |
| APPRECIATION FOR CHURCH WOMEN LEADERS                            | \$200.00    |             |
| TOTAL LEADERSHIP   | \$200.00    | \$0.00      |
| MBA WM AGM   |             |             |
| SPEAKER HONOURARIUM/TRAVEL                                       | \$350.00    | \$135.00    |
| MISCELLANEOUS  | \$50.00     |             |
| TOTAL MBA WM AGM   | \$400.00    | \$135.00    |
|  |             |             |
| RETREAT  |             |             |
| All workshops (honorariums/expenses)                             | \$200.00    | \$200.00    |
| Venue  | \$15,000.00 | \$15,000.00 |
| Speaker (travel, accommodations, honorarium, meals)              | \$3,500.00  | \$3,000.00  |
| Worship (honorarium, travel, meals, accommodations, equip, Etc.) | \$900.00    | \$900.00    |
| Special touches  | \$750.00    | \$750.00    |
| Team meetings (travel/conference calls)                          | \$800.00    | \$800.00    |
| Publicity/promotion (reg. forms, postage, etc.)                  | \$300.00    | \$500.00    |
| Miscellaneous  | \$150.00    | \$150.00    |
| Total retreat  | \$21,600.00 | \$21,300.00 |

| TOTALS | \$27,340.00 | \$26,555.00 |
|--------|-------------|-------------|
|--------|-------------|-------------|

### CAMP NUTIMIK & CAMP NUTIMIK FOUNDATION REPORT

#### CAMP PROGRAM

The Lord continues to bless us as a camp ministry of the MBA and 2019 has been a remarkable year. We recorded a record number of camper registrations this summer with 387 registrations! Of these campers, approximately 60% are currently affiliated with or have some connection to a church family but 40% indicate minimal or no church affiliation or contact. Additionally, our camper evaluations revealed that 225 or 58% of these campers showed some evidence of spiritual growth during their week of camp, and we know of 18 first time or rededication commitments made.

We were able to provide camperships totalling just over \$18,000 from various partners and our own campership fund which allowed for 43 campers who otherwise would not be able to attend camp to do so. We thank those who give so that these children can experience a life changing week at camp.

The Lord provided us with more than adequate staffing this summer so that we in turn were able to bless other Christian Camps with some of our returning staff for whom we had no positions. We are anticipating that the summer of 2020 will be somewhat more challenging as many of our more senior staff will probably not be returning.

#### CAMP OPERATIONS

We started 2019 with a significant deficit and so our budget was very much a belt-tightening budget. In fact, the 2019 budget total was basically the same as 2014. But the Lord has been faithful and we appear to be in a much better financial situation as we face 2020. One of the key facts that despite the fact that our buildings and infrastructure continue to age, we had no major repairs that were required. Improvements were taken to improve the appearance of several of our buildings in particular our summer washroom facility. New showers were installed and some cosmetic changes were made in order to continue to be in compliance with Manitoba Health regulations.

We are awaiting approval of an upgrade in our water plant by our Manitoba Water Officer and are overwhelmed with the generosity in having this upgrade almost fully funded.

#### CAMP FOUNDATION

We have two major fund raisers in 2019 – our Camp Banquet in spring and our Gala this fall. Our banquet was very successful with Devon Clunis as our guest speaker. We will be holding our second Gala Event which at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights on Friday, October 18th. Our Foundation Board continues to work in developing new revenue streams for the on-going support and enhancement of the Camp program and assets.

#### THANK YOU

On behalf of the Boards, the staff and campers, I extend our grateful thanks to our constituency churches who so generously support us in prayer, with staff and financially. We are one of only a few year round camps in Manitoba who are still a denominational camp and this is largely due to the ongoing support from our NAB-MBA churches. For over 65 years, this Association has poured blood, sweat, tears and financial resources into Camp Nutimik and we thank you so much for all that you do.

Respectfully and Gratefully submitted Wayne Eisbrenner, Executive Director

### WATER'S EDGE BIBLE CAMP REPORT

Theme verse: 1 John 3:1; Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed upon us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore, the world does not know us because it did not know Him."

The verse above, gives us a great opportunity to ponder and reflect on the love of God the Father. We know that as we read Romans 5:8, God demonstrated His great love for us by sending Jesus while we were yet separated from the Father. It is encouraging to consider the magnitude of God's grace and love shown to us.

As a group of summer missionaries, we were able to emphasize the love of God and the fact that through Jesus, we may all enter the family of God. Although the fall-of-man caused separation to transpire, God still desires for all people to be reconciled to Him.

Staff training was held from June 30 – July 2. During this time period, 20 missionaries attended and were prepped on the upcoming camp season. Three main discipleship sessions were held, specifically focused on the need for missionaries to individually seek God as Father. Session #1 embraced

the theme of personal renewal, while sessions #2 and #3, focused on a life of prayer. Regardless of what life brings to us as Christians, Jesus MUST be all-in-all; there cannot be any other gods being worshipped.

Warren Ironstand attended missionary (staff) training and gave the missionaries a perspective on First Nation Children. As cabin leaders and missionaries, we must be aware of issues concerning other people groups and cultures. With this knowledge, cabin leaders may better be able to reach local indigenous groups with the message that Jesus saves. It should be noted, that each year, WEBC rents its facilities to the Valley River First Nations Reserve. Warren Ironstand serves as the camp director for this time period. For the 2019 camping season, Valley River witnessed 85 youth attending camp, to hear about Jesus.

Approximately 100 children and youth attended WEBC camp for the 2019 season. Although this number suggests an overall drop in attendance from the previous two years, the board was able to recognize the need to change some formatting for the future. An adjustment for the future will be to hold potential "theme" type camps. Themes such as wilderness survival, artisan camps and even a LEGO camp will be explored.

Family camp saw a total of 49 campers and staff attend WEBC for the August long weekend. The benefit for families to attend and be discipled, cannot be overlooked. Pressures on families in the 21st century, are at times intense. Having the opportunity to attend camp as a family, is a huge blessing. WEBC will be exploring additional family camps for the 2020 season.

The future potential for WEBC is limitless. Please continue to pray that God will lead, that the board will follow God's leading and that campers will hear about Jesus.

On behalf of the WEBC board; Ian McKay Board President

### MEADOWOOD MANOR CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

"Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be afraid, for I am your God. I will strengthen you; I will help you; I will hold on to you with my righteous right hand." (Isaiah 41:10 -CSB)

I shared the above verse at the Meadowood Foundation Board Meeting last month and we noted that we have:

Two "Do Nots" - Do not fear. Do not be afraid

Two "I Ams" – I am with you. I am your God.

**Three "I Wills"** –I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will hold on to you with …"

Isaiah Chapters 40 to 66 were written to people who had had to flee and were in a strange land. They, like many today, needed comfort and hope and these 27 chapters contain some of the most encouraging verses in the Old Testament! What a privilege to remind the residents and tenants at Meadowood Manor of these amazing promises from God!

Thank you as a group of Churches and as individuals for making the Chaplaincy Ministry possible at Meadowood. Because of you we are able to encourage, pray for and remind those who live at and work at Meadowood with the promises of the above verse.

This past year has again seen changes at Meadowood: 1) We have a new CEO (Nicole) and we appreciate her desire to continue to make Meadowood a better place [A BIG THANK YOU to Nicole]; 2) We said good-bye to our former CEO (Laurie); she did a great job of helping us to get back on track; 3) We have a new Leadership Team in place and we are all working together; 4) We continue to have a long waiting list for those wanting to get into the Personal Care Side and Towers; we are thankful for all our new residents and tenants and see them become part of our family; 5) Some great updates have been done to our building that make Meadowood more home-like and secure; and 6) The Foundation has continued to look for ways to support the Chaplaincy and also make improvements to Meadowood. We want to continue to strive to make Meadowood "the best little Care Home in the city".

#### A FEW "THANK YOU" NOTES

- 1. Thank you for the privilege of serving at Meadowood, I enjoy each day with its blessings, opportunities and challenges!
- 2. Thank you for your support in prayer, finances, encouragement, and serving in so many ways at Meadowood!
- 3. Thank you to the various boards and committees for all you do!
- 4. Thank you to all our faithful supporting churches for your ministry in sharing, singing and praying!

# A FEW "HIGHLIGHTS" OF THE MINISTRIES THAT GO ON AT MEADOWOOD:

- 1. The Sunday Morning Service continues to be a very important part of our Meadowood ministry. I am amazed each Sunday to see the residents, tenants, visitors, staff and couples that call Meadowood their Church. The ministry of music provided by the churches is always a highlight of our times together. I have so many opportunities to share very personally with some because of what is shared on Sundays. I believe that decisions for eternity have been made.
- 2. Our Daily Announcements and short devotional challenge is shared every morning at 9:00 a.m. over the P.A. system on the care side. This is an opportunity to share with residents and staff what is taking place that day and then leave a short challenge based on God's word with them.

- 3. Our 10th Floor Tower Bible Study is held each Wednesday (from September to May). We have had a great time studying God's Word together.
- 4. We continue to have the privilege of having various groups come in during the year to share in music and various other ways.
- 5. Each year we are able to celebrate Thanksgiving, Remembrance Day, Christmas (even have a Christmas Candle light Service), Good Friday, Easter, monthly Communion services and many other events.
- 6. My wife & I have had the opportunity to visit with the tenants and residents when they are in the hospital. This is always a special time as it is one on one and they are usually very open to having Scripture read, singing and praying together.
- 7. We try to hold a Memorial service every other month to remember those who have passed away. This is a good time for families to come back and share in the lives of their loved ones.
- 8. One of the special privileges I have is to be able to meet with staff members. I can encourage them and share God's word and promises.

I could share about several other ministries and activities that take place; but you can get the picture that the Chaplaincy ministry continues to be very important. But none of these things could take place without the help of many volunteers. We have many very faithful and committed volunteers who help on Sundays, for Sing A-Longs, Memorial Services, Bible Studies and other times and days. Thanks again for all you do!

And remember that this ministry is part of your region's and church's outreach into our world. Meadowood continues to be part of the "mission field."

Please continue to pray for the many activities at Meadowood. Pray that God's Word would continue to work in hearts and lives of the residents, tenants, families, staff and volunteers.

Remembering God's promises;

Chaplain Dave (and Darlene) Holland 36
## MEADOWOOD MANOR FOUNDATION REPORT

Meadowood Manor Foundation is very blessed to be able to continue providing full funding for Meadowood Manor's Chaplaincy Program. The Foundation receives donations in support of the Chaplaincy Program through the weekly Sunday worship services held at Meadowood Manor, donations from the supporting Churches of the Manitoba Baptist Association, memorial donations, the Foundation's fund raising events, corporate donations, Estates and miscellaneous donations. Along with all in the Meadowood Manor community, the Foundation is very thankful for the continued loving, faithful and tireless service of Chaplain David and Darlene Holland.

In addition, over the past year and in consultation with and upon the recommendation of Meadowood Manor's Chief Executive Officer, the Foundation was able to provide funding in excess of \$75,000.00 for various Special Projects in an effort to enhance the living experience of those who reside at Meadowood Manor, and to improve the physical environment in which they live. These Special Projects included:

Personal Care Home: Lounge/Hallway Tables, Hallway Chairs, Lobby

Furniture, Additional Furniture, Artwork, Alternating Pressure Mattresses; Apartment Tower: Outdoor Glider Chairs, Artwork for the Friendship Room; Chapel: Platform Chairs; Recreation White Board; Dietary Steam Cart; Personal Care Home Elevator interior refurbishment; Donor Board.

The Foundation receives donations for these Special Projects through its fund raising events, corporate donations and miscellaneous donations.

The fundraising events in support of the Foundation's efforts continue to be popular and well attended, and include the Chaplaincy Support Dinner & Concert (October), Bellissima Sera ("Beautiful Evening") at DeLuca's Cooking Studio & Banquet Centre (February); and the Annual Fund Raising Dinner (May).

The Foundation sincerely thanks all its donors, and all Meadowood Manor supporters within the Manitoba Baptist Association, for their continued and faithful generosity in allowing our Foundation through its funding of the Chaplaincy Program and Special Projects to exhibit Jesus Christ's love, care, compassion and support for all the precious seniors that live in both the Personal Care Home and the Apartment Tower at Meadowood Manor.

Board of Directors of Meadowood Manor Foundation Inc.:

Norman Piel (President & Board Chair, Whyte Ridge Baptist Church) Al Donald (Vice-President & Treasurer, Whyte Ridge Baptist Church) John Giesbrecht (Secretary, Whyte Ridge Baptist Church) Ed Bergstresser (Assistant Treasurer, Emmanuel Baptist Church) Wolfgang Tiegs (Rowandale Baptist Church) Helga Kahler (President, Meadowood Manor Auxiliary, Rowandale Baptist Church)

## MANITOBA BAPTIST HOME SOCIETY REPORT

The following may appear like a promotion for our care home. It is.

Meadowood Manor was established over forty years ago. With God's blessing, the vision of one combined with the enthusiasm of many from our MBA churches built our facility on St. Anne's Rd in St. Vital. Meadowood Manor is comprised of an eighty-eight bed personal care home and an eighty-nine suite elder persons apartment building. Through the years Meadowood has served where daily care has become a necessity. Over time these needs have escalated. Today's level of care is generally higher than when our doors first opened. We are meeting that challenge.

Adding an elderly persons apartment building to the original plan was a wonderful idea. Here we offer a place to call home for people that choose to downsize and can still live independently. As a tenant you join a community of neighbors all in one building.

We are thankful for the good leadership of our CEO and management team. With the effort of the Meadowood Manor Foundation, we have a chaplaincy program complete with a fulltime chaplain. Sunday services are attended by residents, tenants, and numerous people that choose to make it "their church". Our Foundation works diligently to allow us to enhance our facility and level of care.

Volunteers fill the gaps in many areas ...chaplaincy program, resident movement, meal times, special functions, Sunday morning service, auxiliary, boards, etc. There may be a place for you to join in.

We've entered decade five. Our Mission: To provide Christian care programs developed primarily for elderly Residents in a non-profit facility. Guided by the compassion of Christ, we develop and manage resources to satisfy our Resident's physical, social, emotional and spiritual needs. Our goal is to preserve the personal dignity of our Residents in a peaceful, safe, respectful and home-like environment.

Sig Muth Board Chair Manitoba Baptist Home Society Inc.

#### **Church Investors Fund**

2019 Association Report

# elf

#### Church Investors Fund

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Loans Extension 315 loans@ceif.org

Investments Extension 316 investments@ceif.org

#### **Greetings and Blessings**

Greetings from everyone here at Church Investors Fund, and blessings to you, the church, and the communities you faithfully serve. We pray for you regularly and will continue to do so in the coming year.

Over the past year, we have seen churches pay down their debt, which is a very good thing; now we would like to get that money working again, to make a difference for God's Kingdom.

#### **Health of the Ministry**

2018 was another solid year for Church Investors Fund. Our equity continues to grow at a healthy rate. We continue to pray and ask for God's guiding hand as we look to Him for guidance in the days and years ahead.



#### We Need Your Help

We still need your help in sharing the Church Investor Fund ministry with your church body. You can **be a blessing to our ministry by sharing our video on a Sunday morning**. The video is under 2-minutes in length. Call or e-mail us and request a USB drive or an online link to our video. It will make a difference! Thank you!

#### **Ministry Consultants**

We always strive to provide you a quality of service that glorifies God. We recently welcomed Ron Norman (RNorman@cifinc.org) and Fred Hammond (FHammond@cifinc.org) to our Church Investors Fund team. Ron and Fred have been serving the NAB and its churches for years. Their role is reach out to our churches and discover the needs of the churches we serve, and determine how we can better serve you. Fred Hammond will be reaching out to our churches in the west, and Ron Norman will be reaching out to our churches in the midwest and east.

#### Thank You!

Thank you to our investors! The funding of building projects were made possible by these people in our churches who decided to entrust a portion of their savings to Church Investors Fund and invest in making an eternal difference in God's Kingdom.

In His Service, Bob Glim V.P./Marketing

## ASSOCIATION REPORT





online at www.taylor-edu.ca

online at www.sfseminary.edu

## PROGRAMS

#### Graduate Programs

- -Doctor of Ministry
- -Master of Divinity
- -Master of Theological Studies
- -Master of Arts in Christian Leadership
- -Master of Christian Ministries
- -Master of Arts in Counseling
- -Master of Arts
- -Grad Certificate in Theological Studies

#### Certificates

-Training in Spiritual Direction Certificate of Completion

-Kairos Leadership Certificate



| Total Enrollment  | 450                                   |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Average Age   | 42                                    |
| Geographic Reach<br>Continents<br>Countries<br>Provinces<br>States  | 4<br>15<br>3<br>20                    |
| Denominations<br>Baptist<br>Lutheran<br>Reformed<br>Wesleyan/United Methodist<br>Non-Denominational<br>All Others | 38%<br>15%<br>14%<br>11%<br>9%<br>13% |



## THE FUTURE OF THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Message from presidents David Williams (Taylor Seminary) and Greg Henson (Sioux Falls Seminary)

As institutions of the NAB, we are dedicated to supporting the church in fulfilling her task of developing disciples who observe all that the Lord commanded them. Together, we are finding new ways to create a journey of theological education centered around the person and work of Jesus and tailored to the needs and context of each student. The Kairos Project, which is now offered at both schools, is that journey.

As we look to the future, we are excited about what God has in store for our schools. Already, we have programs offered in Spanish, students enrolling from countries around the world, and new partnerships forming in Canada and the United States. In addition, the Kairos Project is opening doors that were once closed. For example, Blend, a special track within the Kairos Project, is creating ways for young people to, first, earn the equivalent of a bachelor's degree and then finish with a full Master of Divinity in a total of five years! About the journey, one student recently shared,

"I'm a completely different person because of Kairos. I am flourishing the way God intended because of the mentor team approach and academic structure of Kairos. I never thought I would be able to make a difference in this world, but the faculty and my mentors have circled around me and are helping me fulfill my calling."

We thank God for making it possible for students to fulfill the call on their lives. Whether telling others about the impact of the Kairos Project at Taylor Seminary and Sioux Falls Seminary, supporting us, or referring students, you are vital to our mission. Thank you for coming alongside us in our work!

## WAYS TO JOIN US

- Encourage the individuals that God has gifted for service in his kingdom to consider theological education.
- Support the seminaries as we develop disciples who make a difference in the world.
- Pray for the exciting work that God is doing in and through the seminaries as we create systems of theological education and integrated counseling that are affordable, accessible, relevant, and faithful.
- Attend an event, consider taking a class, or enroll in a program.
- Join our mailing list to receive monthly updates on God's work.



## THE KAIROS PROJECT

#### AFFORDABLE, ACCESSIBLE, RELEVANT, AND FAITHFUL // FOR YOU, IN CONTEXT

#### What is Kairos?

The Kairos Project is now recognized as one of the most innovative systems of theological education in North America, helping to change theological education and how it is done both in North America and around the world.

We are embracing the fact that the Kairos Project, which began as just a "project" in 2014, is now also the educational philosophy that drives our work at both schools. The mantra that goes with this philosophy—affordable, accessible, relevant, and faithful is so much more than a set of words. It is integral to everything we do.

#### A Journey of Discipleship

The Kairos Project is, first and foremost, a journey of discipleship. While enrolled in the Kairos Project, students walk alongside a mentor team and in community with fellow students. Kairos develops students in the places where God has placed them. Simply stated, the journey of theological education is integrated into the various aspects of a student's life (home, work, church, etc.). Learning is facilitated through contextuallyintegrated educational moments and adaptable assignments.

The Kairos Project is designed for individuals who are actively engaged in ministry and/or desire to integrate their faith and work. Kairos students move toward outcome-based Christian maturity under the supervision of a mentor team, by the direction of faculty, and through participation in a cohort-based community of learning. With the exception of intensives in Edmonton or Sioux Falls, coursework is typically completed in context. All of the seminaries' learning resources, however, are available for students to supplement or enhance their in-context work.

In addition to being accessible and relevant, the Kairos Project is also affordable. Students pay a low monthly fee for tuition, which ends up costing only a third of the average cost for a Master of Divinity in North America. Kairos Project tracks are available within the following programs: Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Christian Leadership, Master of Arts, Master of Arts in Chuseling, Master of Christian Ministries, Master of Theological Studies, and Doctor of Ministry.

THE KAIROS Philosophy of education





#### Report from the Executive Director North American Baptist Conference

#### Fall 2019

#### **Greetings and Blessings**

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:14-19 ESV)

Greetings from the North American Baptist Conference and the staff of the International Office in Roseville, California. Concerning this family of churches thriving in both Canada and the United States, our ongoing prayer for both NAB churches and members is that God would truly strengthen each of you in your inner being and empower you to comprehend God's overwhelming love.

The regular form of these reports I write is to share extensively about a number of ministry activities or significant objectives that have been reached in the last period by our conference of churches. If I were to take that tact again, I would give details of the exciting work that Kerry Bender is accomplishing in International Missions to recruit and send new international missionaries around the world on behalf of our conference. I would talk about how Stu Streeter has taken a new vision for planting churches in our conference and spread that vision in real and tangible ways through regions and associations in both Canada and the United States. I would point you to see how the NAB Blue Ocean training and the annual Bonfire reunion led by Cam Roxburgh and Kent Carlson are stoking the flames of a missional/formational movement in our churches. I might also touch on other good work that is happening in student ministry (with the upcoming Gathering in Southern California), in women's ministry (as they have rebranded as Women's Connection), in the ethnic partnership work that is happening through Wayne Stapleton, in the Gateway training and international partnerships through Randy Schmor, and in the work of the NAB Heritage Commission—led by Randy Tschetter—in archiving and communicating the NAB's legacy.

Forming leaders and sending missionaries across North America and around the world who are a sign, servant, and foretaste of God's Kingdom.

Instead, though, I'll take a few moments and address a significant conviction that God has recently placed on my heart and mind. As you may know, this past year I was granted a threemonth sabbatical by the NAB Governing Board. Among other activities, I invested a good amount of time in prayer during the summer months, seeking to discern what God's will and way might be for the NAB. Especially significant and meaningful for me in this time of discernment was listening for God's direction during a week of silence and solitude at a Baptist camp in northern California.

Reflecting now on what I sensed during that time of listening and refreshment, I believe God is calling us as a conference of churches to a season of deep spiritual renewal. Entering into this renewal would center on intentionally and regularly practicing those important spiritual disciplines that allow us to experience the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit in real and tangible ways. What greater longing could we have, then, to proclaim with the hymnist, "Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control; our spirits long to be made whole." With this prompting from God, I personally am praying for a spirit of repentance, obedience, and overwhelming trust to pervade all of our beings. Candidly, I believe any movement of the Spirit is completely of His timing and His movement. Our efforts, though, can begin in praying for the Spirit to move in our own lives and our churches. Would you join me in the coming days, weeks, and months in praying earnestly that God would renew us deeply through His empowering presence and allow us to bear much fruit for His glory alone?

Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me: Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me. Break me, melt me, mold me, fill me. Spirit of the living God, fall fresh on me.

In the love and grace of Christ our King,

and Hamil

Rev. Dr. Daniel Hamil Executive Director





