2020 NCA Annual Meeting

Report Packet

2020 NCA Business Meeting Agenda
Call to Order
Approve Minutes from 2019 Annual Meeting
Treasurer Report
2021 Budget Proposal
Constitutional Changes
Spending NCA Ministry Multiplication money

Nominating Committee Report

Regional Minister Report

Other Reports and Testimonies

Vote

Adjournment

2

Statement Concerning the North Central Association Annual Meeting Scheduled for October 12, 2019, First Baptist Church, Minot

The 2019 Annual Meeting of the North Central Association (NCA) of churches was canceled by decision of the NCA Executive, due to winter storm reports which materialized and in fact impacted travel for most of the Association's area.

In lieu of the meeting and in accordance with the NCA's Constitution and Bylaws, the following necessary items of business were identified for the 2019-2020 year concluding with the 2020 NCA Annual Meeting:

- Approval of the NCA Annual Meeting Minutes for 2018 -- These minutes were sent to each church for distribution to each of their delegates
- Presentation and Approval of the NCA Budget for fiscal year 2019-2020 This budget was also sent to each church for circulation to each delegate

For these two delegate questions, a request was made for church delegates to report their votes back to the Executive by December 19, 2019. Of the 31 NCA churches on record, 22 responded (16 minimum were needed), and for both questions 87 delegate votes were cast (50 minimum were needed), unanimously in favor of accepting the 2018 Minutes and the 2019-2020 proposed budget.

In addition to the minutes and budget documents, copies of all reports to be given at the 2019 Annual Meeting were instead mailed to each church for copies to be freely distributed as the church wished.

Executive Officer Vacancies

The NCA Constitution and Bylaws do not provide for selection of new officers in any way other than inperson voting (Article IX.A). However, the NCA Executive is given permission to temporarily appoint persons to fulfill vacant roles until the next in-person Annual Meeting, at which time an election shall be held to fill the vacancy (Article X).

The Moderator term (Ethan Johnson, Century Bismarck) expired in October 2019. Therefore the remaining Executive Members (with Ethan Johnson abstaining), asked Pastor Ethan Johnson to continue in the Moderator role until the October 2020 Annual Meeting election.

Additionally, 2018 Constitution and Bylaws revision, accepted in October 2018 by the delegates, expanded the number of persons serving on the Executive. This year, to fill those new positions in the absence of an in-person vote, the following persons were asked to fulfill these roles: Kaylene Reddig (Minot), Barry Siefert (Minot), and Rich Cook (Linton).

In January 2020 the Executive received word that Grace Baptist in Grand Forks had invited us to gather there for the October 2020 Annual Meeting. More recently, due to concerns regarding covid guidelines, the church informed the Executive they could not adequately host the Annual Meeting. Temple Baptist in Jamestown has therefore extended invitation for us to gather there on October 24, 2020.

Respectfully submitted. David Gallagher Recording Secretary

North Central Association Statement of Financial Position

As of September 30, 2020

	Sep 30, 20	Sep 30, 19	\$ Change	% Change	
ASSETS					
Current Assets					
Checking/Savings					
01 · General Account	44 = 04 00			2.22/	
012 · Ministry Seed Fund Restricted	14,724.69	14,724.69	0.00	0.0%	
013 · Church Planting Restricted	7,550.00	7,550.00	0.00	0.0%	
01 · General Account - Other	17,590.70	25,491.50	-7,900.80	-31.0%	
Total 01 · General Account	39,865.39 47,766.19		-7,900.80	-16.5%	
Total Checking/Savings	39,865.39	47,766.19	-7,900.80	-16.5%	
Other Current Assets					
100 · Certificates of Deposit					
101 CD maturing 5-20-2021	10,161.53	9,913.31	248.22	2.5%	
102 · CD maturing 5-9-2021	132,404.49	128,541.31	3,863.18	3.0%	
103 · CD maturing 6-27-2021	3,938.74	3,851.95	86.79	2.3%	
Total 100 · Certificates of Deposit	146,504.76	142,306.57	4,198.19	3.0%	
Total Other Current Assets	146,504.76	142,306.57	4,198.19	3.0%	
Total Current Assets	186,370.15	190,072.76	-3,702.61	-2.0%	
TOTAL ASSETS	186,370.15	190,072.76	-3,702.61	-2.0%	
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%	

Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual January through September 2020 North Central Association

	Jan - Sep 20	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
401 · Member church support	50,333.78	65,175.03	-14,841.25	77.23%
Total Income	50,333.78	65,175.03	-14,841.25	77.23%
Gross Profit	50,333.78	65,175.03	-14,841.25	77.23%
Expense				
525 · General Fund Expenses				
01 - General Account Transfers to Regional	61,125.00	61,125.00	0.00	100.0%
505.10 · NCA Annual Meeting (General)	0.00	2,250.00	-2,250.00	%0:0
506 · Hazard-Liability Insurance	691.00	525.06	165.94	131.6%
506.1 · Workmans Comp Insurance	0.00	187.47	-187.47	%0:0
525.1 · Office and Executive Committee				
504 · Bank Service Charges (General)	42.41	0.00		
525.3 · Ministry Expense (General)	10.00	0.00		
525.7 · Office Supplies (General)	47.32	0.00		
525.1 · Office and Executive Committee - Other	0.00	1,125.00	-1,125.00	%0:0
Total 525.1 · Office and Executive Committee	99.73	1,125.00	-1,025.27	8.87%
Total 525 · General Fund Expenses	61,915.73	65,212.53	-3,296.80	94.95%
Total Expense	61,915.73	65,212.53	-3,296.80	94.95%

NCA Budget Proposal										
	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>	2021 Proposed						
NCA Annual Meeting & Training	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00						
Office and Executive Committee (RLT)	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,000.00						
Liability Insurance	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$950.00						
Northern Plains Regional Ministries	\$81,500.00	\$81,500.00	\$81,500.00	\$81,500.00						
	***	***	***	***						
Total	\$86,900.00	\$86,900.00	\$86,900.00	\$85,450.00						

REPORT OF THE CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE OF THE NCA EXECUTIVE

Members: Ethan Johnson, Dave Gallagher, Rich Cook

To be presented at the Executive Committee Meeting April 4, 2020

Twice within the last five years we have been unable to meet as an Association. According to our Constitution, ARTICLE V, we are required to meet annually. We saw our inability to comply with this as a need to reword the Constitution and Bylaws so that we would more readily be able to fulfill them. With advances in technology, meetings can be held that do not require us to be in the same geographic locale. Our goal was to reword things in order to allow for different kinds of meetings if circumstances prohibited a regular face-to-face meeting. The rewording also would allow us to have other types of meetings throughout the year as necessary.

In each case we are proposing that the words with a strike-through be removed and the words in red be inserted.

Constitution

* ARTICLE V – SESSIONS

The Association shall meet at least once a year if possible.

(Reasoning: Since there are times that we haven't been able to meet this would allow us some leeway, just in case there are circumstances that make meeting face-to-face annually impossible.)

Bylaws

* ARTICLE I – QUORUM AND VOTING PROCEDURES

A quorum shall consist of representatives of not less than one-half of the Association churches, with a minimum of fifty delegates voting. Decisions other than those which regard election of officers, purchase or sale of property, or constitutional changes may, at the discretion of the Executive, be voted on by mail ballot via alternate methods with the same quorum stipulations as above.

(Reasoning: We could not see any reason why election of officers could not be voted on through other means. We also could not foresee circumstances which would require the purchase of property. If we don't purchase property then selling it won't be an issue.)

* ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP

A. A Baptist church that wishes to unite with the Association shall make application in writing to the Recording Secretary, with written reports of its origin, development, organization and statement of faith. The Executive, acting as the Credentials Committee (Article VII), shall review the application and then make its recommendation to the Association. The application for membership shall be approved by a (simple) majority of the delegates present and voting.

(Reasoning: If no annual meeting was held, due to weather or other circumstances, delegates would not need to be present in order for a vote to occur. This applies to all subsequent areas in which the same wording occurs.)

* MEMBERSHIP

B. The Association shall have the right to withdraw the membership of a church charged with departing from Scriptural teachings, commonly accepted Baptist beliefs, the NAB Statement of Faith, and the Code of Ethics. Such action shall be taken only after all attempts at reconciliation have taken place. Following the recommendation of the Credentials Committee, a two-thirds majority vote of delegates present and voting shall be required for the withdrawal of the hand of fellowship.

(Reasoning: "Commonly accepted Baptist beliefs" is vague. Since we are dealing with NCA member churches we thought it essential to use a standard with which all member churches must agree.)

* ARTICLE V – SESSIONS

The Executive shall determine the date and place of the annual Association meeting, taking into consideration invitations received. They shall bring their recommendation to the Association sessions for approval.

(Reasoning: The requirement of the Association's approval means that the place for the following year's meeting must be secured before the current annual meeting. This doesn't always happen. Removing the last line leaves some room for modifications and solidification of location if necessary.)

There are two other changes that we are proposing that are not connected to the Annual Meeting. They are:

* ARTICLE VIII – REGIONAL MINISTRIES A. The Regional Minister shall be charged with facilitating and promoting church health within the Northern Plains Region. His focus is to be specifically upon pastors, their families and church and Association leaders pastors and their families, church leaders, and Association leaders.

(Reasoning: The changes, we believe, make the statement more precise. Since the RM often meets with church Boards and Committees we thought it best to make that clear in the Bylaws.)

* ARTICLE XII – ELIGIBILITY (corrected spelling from ELEGIBILITY)

North Central Association Ministry Multiplication Philosophy

- We believe the most effective approach is for local churches (or groups of local churches) to begin new
 ministries. This means that relationship, responsibility, direction and accountability should come from a local
 church(es). The implication for a new ministry is that the ministry leader holds primary responsibility for
 arranging the sharing of the vision and raising of funds.
- The North Central Association (NCA) desires to be a secondary support for approved projects. This includes, but is not limited to coaching, sharing the vision and funding. Other NCA churches will be invited to also be partners. New ministries are expected to engage with other NCA churches and contribute to the mission of the NCA.
- In the case of church plants, the North American Baptist Conference (NAB) desires to be another partner in the
 process, providing both expertise, training and limited funds. Engaging with and contributing to the mission of
 NAB is also expected.
- In the past new ministries/churches were often begun by NAB and/or the NCA. While this may still be a
 possibility in some situations, we believe the most effective approach is for both the NCA and NAB to be
 supporting partners, rather than the primary planter or provider.

North Central Association Ministry Funds

The North Central Association (NCA) would like to come along side and help congregations and/or individual who feel that God is calling them to start new ministries. Realizing there is always a financial obligation with any new ministry, the NCA has established a fund to help with some of those financial responsibilities. Whether it be costs like assessments and training for church planters, or startup costs like equipment, curriculum, or offsetting rental space cost, the NCA would like to help where it can in lessen the financial strain that a new ministry can cost.

To apply for funding please complete the Application Form for Ministry Funding and send it to the NCA address listed on the application or email the application to Dr. Randy Jaspers at nprjaspers@gmail.com.

Depending on the funding request's purpose there might be additional documentation that the evaluation team will request from the applicant.

For larger requests, the NCA may also choose to release the funds in disbursements based on agreed upon outcomes/milestones between the NCA and the applicant(s).

As these are funds that were specifically designated for new ministry efforts in the NCA, the applicant(s) will be required to make a 5 year commitment to be a part of or serve in the NCA. If that commitment is not fulfilled the recipients will be responsible to pay back the funds received from the NCA.

We also ask that the applicant(s) consider giving back through missions giving 2% of all income sources to the NCA to help maintain this ministry fund for future ministry multiplication projects and to support the greater work of the NCA in our region.

Application Form for Ministry Funding

Applications should be sent to:

NCA 205 Colt Ave. Bismarck, ND 58503 https://npregion.org/north-central-associations/	ciation/		
Applicant Information			
Church's/Applicant's Name:			
Name of Principal Contact:			
Primary Phone Number of Principal Co	ontact:		
E-mail of Contact(s):			
Postal Address:			
Street			
City			
State	Zip		
Church Affiliation (if any):			
Additional Partners (& Phone Contact	Information):		
Name:		Phone / E-mail:	

Application Form for Ministry Funding

Overview of Ministry

What is the mission of the ministry?	
What are the 3 year ministry goals:	
Date of Initiation of the Project and Date of Co	onclusion/Termination:
Starting Date	Ending Date
Project location(s), Project Management locati	ion(s):
State the participation of NCA member church and the roles they will play in the mission/ministr	hes if any. (Provide names of churches from the NCA y of the project)
Funded Project Goals and Specific Objectives: delineate the objectives. Each objective should be	(State the overall goal(s) of this mission/project and enumbered)
	nal) report to the NCA. Parts of this report might be used on the images. Also Note: NCA on-site visitations (if appropriate) may

include photography by a NCA member to assist in reporting.

Intended Outcome(s) of the Project Mission:
Procedures for Carrying out Objectives: (State the means to be used in accordance with each objective. Number the procedures in accordance with the objectives. Each objective should have at least one procedure for carrying it out.)
Budget: State the financial needs for this project itemized (State the support needed and how much do you hope to receive from the NCA.)
Knowing that these funds that were specifically designated for new ministry efforts in the NCA, we agree to make a 5 year commitment to be a part of or serve in the NCA through this ministry. If we fail to fulfill that commitment we agree to pay back all money received from the NCA through this funding opportunity.

Application Form for Ministry Funding

The Letter Proposal

Applicants seeking funding at a level of \$300.00 or less should submit a short form proposal being called a "Letter Proposal." This form of proposal should not exceed two pages and contain the following information.

Page 1: Fill out page one of the Application Form for Church Plant Funding.

Page 2: Abbreviated Content of the Proposal:

- a) Describe the overall goal and primary objective of the mission;
- b) Describe the means for executing this project/mission;
- c) Itemize expenditures incurred in the execution of the mission and how much support you wish to receive from the NCA;
- d) State the intended outcome(s) of the mission/project.

Reporting Procedures

The NCA Executive Board requires two (2) methods of reporting on the progress and accomplishments of the mission project:

- 1) The periodic quarterly updates to be sent to the NCA (for long term projects), and
- 2) The Final Report at the termination of the project.

Format for the Final Report

- 1) Title of Funded Project;
- 2) Responsible Contact and Management Member(s);
- 3) Restate overall goal(s) and objective(s);
- 4) Summarize the successes and possible shortcomings of the mission/project;
- 5) State the potential long-term benefits of the mission/project;
- 6) Statement of Expenditures and In-Kind Donations;

Note: Final Reporting should not exceed four (4) pages.



October 2, 2020

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ of the NCA,

This is one of the more extraordinary times for the church in the last century. The impact of the coronavirus pandemic is leading to a disorientation in many, another factor contributing to a combination of global pause and freefall socially, economically and politically. My wife says that this time is revealing the gods we serve.

Most churches now provide online worship, teaching and/or meeting options. Caring for each other is taking new forms. Overall giving to our churches remains fairly strong. We are being forced to reevaluate both the WHY and the HOW of various ministries. How are we intentionally focusing on growing into the image of Christ while also joining Him in mission where we live?

Many churches are experiencing congregational tension in how to respond appropriately to health guidelines and social distancing. Some pastors are feeling frustrated at what they sense are increasing expectations with fewer people willing to assist them. How are you caring for your pastors? Leadership? Each other? Jesus says others will know we are His disciples by our love for each other (John 13:35).

While many are reengaging in worship, some are staying away. Restrictions on interaction are taking an increasing toll on seniors, caregivers and their families. We long for connection.

Yet opportunities abound. Many of us are meeting "new" people who live right around the corner, down the street, on the other side of town. The cancelling of many of our routines has led to increased opportunity to listen. Are we listening to each other? To our Lord?

Sandwiched between the account we know as the Good Samaritan and Jesus' teaching His disciples how to pray is the story of Jesus visiting the home of Martha and Mary. Martha is distracted (the word meaning *pulled* or *dragged away*) by her sense that she must prepare an appropriate meal for Jesus and the others. Instead of paying attention to assisting Martha, Mary is paying attention to Jesus as he teaches. Martha's frustration leads her to blame Jesus for not caring for her.

"Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things, but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion, which will not be taken away from her." Luke 10:41-42

Spend some time meditating on the passage and asking yourself two questions: How does what is pulling us away (especially in this time) speak about what we value? What does stopping and sitting at Jesus' feet look like for you? May we choose the good portion.

Praise God for His provision of Jeremy (Sarah) Nelson, Lead Pastor at Beulah; Rob (Donna) Grunden, Lead Pastor at Dickinson; Vern (Sherry) Dalstein, Lead Pastor at Venturia; Marty (Kelly) Lindstrom, Director of Care & Community at River City (Fargo); Paul (Stella) Stout, Lead Pastor at Mercer; Keith (Jennifer) Hall, Lead Pastor at Herreid; F. Pat (Jody) Russell, Lead Pastor at Eureka and church planters Jamie (Marj) Hamblet, Disciples Church (Mandan) and Josh (Kasey) Huseby, Missio Church (Bismarck).

Pray for God's provision of pastors for Martin, Ashley, Aberdeen, McClusky (beginning January 1) and Beulah (youth), as well as an Executive Director for the North American Baptist Conference. Mark July 8-11, 2021 on your calendars for the NAB Triennial in St. Paul, Minnesota.

Follow the events of the NAB at https://nabconference.org and the NCA at https://npregion.org. Thanks to our NCA Executive Committee for their faithful service.

Thank you for your partnership in ministry. Currently that includes a lot of Zoom, emails and phone calls with pastors and search committees. Don't hesitate to contact me. This is an exciting time. "Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come." Luke 11:2

Blessings!

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

2020 NCA Moderator's Report

A few weeks ago, our church concluded a sermon series in the Sermon on the Mount. In the section called the 'Beatitudes' at the beginning of chapter 5, there is a verse that jumps off the page in light of our current cultural context:

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God." Matthew 5:9

This verse does not require Christians to pursue international peace-making, but mandates that followers of Christ seek interpersonal peace-making. We can't always influence what happens around us, but we can control what comes from us. World peace is elusive. Peace on earth is miraculously available through the rule and reign of the Prince of Peace.

Being a peace-maker does not mean that you abandon convictions. Peace-making is different than appeasement. Appeasement requires only one side to abandon convictions and leads to an illusion of peace that simply delays the conflict. Jesus never intended for us to try to reach peace with all people at all costs. There have been, and most certainly will be, many situations in which standing for biblical truth and convictions will not cause peace with others, but will only increase the anger and opposition against us. Jesus Himself, who taught us to be peacemakers, was attacked by mobs, rejected by many, betrayed by a close friend, and ultimately murdered.

Jesus' death enabled the only way for people to have the most important peace in the universe: peace with God. Peace-makers, living for the Prince of Peace, show the world how to have peace with God. There are hundreds of opportunities in our current culture to contribute to anger, polarization, and chaos. But if followers of Christ would turn those moments toward peace, God's kingdom would be visible, and God's name would be glorified.

If the body of believers represented by the NCA would take Jesus' words to heart and follow the Apostle Paul's model for peacemaking in Romans 12, our little corner of the world will be positively effected for the sake of the Gospel:

"Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." (Romans 12:9–21, ESV)

Please continue to pray for the NCA Executive Team and Regional Minister Randy Jaspers as we determine how to lead the NCA through this tumultuous and uncertain time. We may need to be more creative about how we communicate and how we meet together as an association of churches. Your patience and flexibility will be greatly appreciated over the next year.

May God's grace and peace be multiplied to you in Christ Jesus our Lord, Ethan Johnson, NCA Moderator

2020 NCA Scholarship Fund Report September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020

Six applicants were awarded scholarships in August 2020. A total of \$8500 was awarded for distribution for the 2020-2021 school year.

Twelve churches in the NCA contributed this year. Two individuals contributed as well.

Pastor David Gallagher, Bruce Schauer and James Reddig serve as committee members for the Fund. Dwight Enockson is the treasurer.

Churches and individuals willing to donate should send their contributions to:

NCA Scholarship Fund % Dwight Enockson 424 20th Ave SW Washburn, ND 58577-9542 enocksond@westriv.com 701-460-9956

Scholarship funds are dispersed each semester so a portion of the balance remaining at the end of the 2020 fiscal year is obligated to the recipients for the 2021 winter semester.

Financial Report:

Beginning Balance September 1, 2019 \$5308.26

Income:

Churches \$8215.00 Individuals \$925.00 NOW Interest \$10.85

Total Income \$9150.85

Expenses:

2019 Scholarships \$5250 2020 Scholarships \$4250

Total Expense \$9500.00

Ending Balance August 31, 2020 \$4959.11

Amount needed for Winter Term \$4250.00

Carryover Funds Available \$ 709.11

Thank you to those churches and individuals who provided the funds.

Churches Providing Support:

Ashley Jamestown
Carrington Martin
Eureka Metropolitan
Goodrich Minot
Harvey Washburn
Herreid Wishek



Report from the Interim Executive Director North American Baptist Conference Fall 2020

Greetings and Blessings

I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return. May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God. (Philippians 1:9–11 NLT)

Greetings from the North American Baptist Conference and the staff of the International Office in Roseville, California. You are probably tired of hearing how unusual this year has been and continues to be. I know I am, but the reality is it is true. However, God is still at work and the Good News of the Gospel continues to be proclaimed around the globe because of the faithfulness and generosity of you and the NAB church family.

While God is doing many things in and through the NAB, there are a few areas that are particularly noteworthy.

The Bonfire. Because of restrictions on traveling across the US—Canada border, we've decided to try something a little different than our typical Blue Ocean cohort. Up to this point, The Bonfire has been a single annual event where many within the NAB who are on this missional/formational journey came together for a time of encouragement, challenging each other, and deepening our understanding of what it means to be formed in the image of Christ and on mission with God. This year, because we suspect God is up to something big in our world and in our nations and communities, we are trying something new in an attempt to deeply reflect on who we are becoming and where God may be leading us. We are calling it A Year of Bonfire. Each month from October to May, we will be meeting online via Zoom to listen, train, repent, hope, reflect, and inspire together on a series of topics, a new one each month. Our hope is that we will then cap off this season with our annual Bonfire gathering at Triennial in July. We are excited to see how God will use this extended time together.

Racial Righteousness. While the area of racial righteousness has been one of the key ends for the NAB for a number of years, the importance of the Church taking a lead role in this area has become even more significant in the months since George Floyd's death and the subsequent protests and riots in Minneapolis and elsewhere. In just the past four months, Wayne Stapleton has co-led two webinars that served as the beginnings of a dialogue about and, for many, a wrestling with the issues of race in our world, as well as within the four walls of the church. The first webinar was a racial righteousness discussion with Pastor Norflette Shumake, and the second was "A Safe Space to Ask Tough Questions about Race" with Chris Gorman. Both webinars had strong attendance; in fact, the webinar with Pastor Shumake broke the record for the number of people attending an NAB video conference. By no means have we reached any kind of endpoint on this, but we trust that as a conference we are moving in the right direction.

International Missions. In the past year, two families have signed on as our newest NAB missionaries. Jason and Erin Bergman will be heading to Romania to work with the couples who are already ministering at Camp Falcon Rock, and Raffaele and Sylvia Gaudio will be joining the team in Japan, serving in the area of church planting. Both families are in the midst of fundraising, which is proving to be a bit more challenging in this season of limited travel. However, God is still providing by connecting them with churches and individuals willing to be financial partners in ministry. There are also some exciting developments on a few of our international fields. At Mbingo Baptist Hospital in Cameroon, the hydroelectric dam is finally nearing completion, and they recently installed a hospital-wide oxygen system. This last March, God brought to fruition the desire of the team at Komyo Christian Church when Hiroyuki Saijo took over as lead pastor from Paul Ewing, who will continue to partner with Pastor Saijo for the next two years. In just the last few months, a partnership between Sioux Falls Seminary and the Rio Grande do Sol Baptist Theological Seminary has brought the Kairos Project to pastors and leaders in Brazil.

Kent's Transition. As of September 1, Kent Carlson has taken on the role of regional minister for NorCal. October 1 is the date marking his transition to that position in a full-time capacity, though he will continue to work closely with the International Office as he remains involved in a number of key initiatives through Triennial in July 2021. I am excited to see him take on the role of regional minister, a position I trust he will flourish in.

Triennial. As is typical of us North American Baptists, much of our current ministry and programs are deeply connected to the upcoming Triennial. We continue to make plans and prepare for the 2021 Triennial under the theme of "Reimagine Hospitality." Our desire is that it would be a time for all of us to reimagine what biblical hospitality truly looks like and how we can practice it in our everyday lives. To that end, we have invited a number of gifted orators to speak into this theme, including Efrem Smith, the former president and CEO of World Impact and author of *The Post-Black and Post-White Church*; Julie Canlis, author of *A Theology of the Ordinary*; and James Choung, vice president of Strategy and Innovation at InterVarsity Christian Fellowship USA and author of *True Story*. Though our plans to meet in person in Saint Paul, Minnesota, remain the same, we will continue to monitor the guidelines from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Public Health Agency of Canada as we seek God's wisdom in determining the feasibility and safety of physically gathering as one body.

All of this and more is a further testament that God is actively at work in our midst, in North America and internationally, and in our hearts and our communities.

In the love and grace of Christ our King,

Dan Heringer

Interim Executive Director







online at www.taylor-edu.ca

online at www.sfseminary.edu

Graduate Programs

- -Doctor of Ministry
- -Doctor of Theology
- -Master's degrees in: Divinity, Christian Leadership, Counseling, and Bible and Theology

Undergraduate Programs

-Bachelor's degree in Christian Thought and Practice

Certificates

-Training in Spiritual Direction Certificate of Completion





Enrollment	782

Reacn	
Mentors	1000
Churches	300
Ministry Partners	35
Denominations	70
Seminaries	10
Continents	6
Countries	28
Provinces	6
States	42



Taylor Seminary and Sioux Falls Seminary Union Expands

Stepping Boldly into the Future

In March 2020, we shared some exciting news about how Taylor and Sioux Falls Seminaries were stepping boldly into the future of theological education by coming together to create a first-of-its-kind, bi-national system of theological education. Through a formal union, we expressed a vision to leverage the Kairos Project to provide affordable, accessible, relevant, and faithful journeys of discipleship that can lead to certificates and degrees at the bachelor, master, and doctoral levels.

Shortly after, we shared that our union now includes Evangelical Seminary (Myerstown, PA) and BLI School of Ministry (Freeport, PA), two schools that also share a passion for developing followers of Jesus who flourish in their kingdom calling. As a result, Kairos is now one of the largest, most diverse, and most innovative systems of competency-based theological education in the world.

Students in the Kairos Project engage in a journey of discipleship that prepares them to thrive in their vocations as they join God on mission. People from all walks of life are engaged in Kairos. Pastors, lawyers, doctors, nonprofit executives, fighter pilots, missionaries, church planters, and more are pursuing degrees that were once out of reach for them. Together, Taylor, Sioux Falls, Evangelical, and BLI are expanding the opportunities available through the Kairos Project. This includes deeper NAB collaboration, new programs, global partnerships, and decreased student debt.

From the beginning, our vision has focused on developing a global system of theological education that is affordable, accessible, and relevant while (more on the back)

remaining faithful to the unshakeable truth of God's Word and the journey of transformation that comes from following Jesus. Our connection to the NAB strongly supports this vision and Kairos has fostered deeper connections with students, regions, and churches within the NAB family. For example, NAB initiatives like Blue Ocean, The Bonfire, and Ethos can be fully integrated into a student's journey through Kairos. Through a commitment to developing followers of Christ who flourish in their vocational context, Kairos has created new opportunities for collaboration within the NAB.

Since 2014, the number of North American Baptist students enrolled in Kairos has more than tripled.

There are also now 23 NAB mentors working with students around the world. It is exciting to watch this all unfold!

Besides the dramatic rise in the number of NAB students and mentors engaged in Kairos, there's also an increase in global collaboration with the conference family. Geoff Hartt, an NAB pastor in Oregon, the Director of Hispanics for Christ, and an NAB missionary, helps lead the Spanish language initiatives within Kairos. He and his team are developing Kairos connections in California, Florida, Paraguay, Colombia, Mexico, and Argentina. Lyndell Campbell-Requia and Brandon Jones, also NAB missionaries, recently launched Kairos in Brazil and are already receiving a lot of interest in various degree programs. NAB missionaries in Japan have started to get involved in Kairos, too. All of these connections are building on a vision first expressed through a partnership between the International Office of the NAB, the Cameroon Baptist Convention, and our seminaries. In addition to the NAB mission fields, Kairos has partners in Spain, Togo, Colombia, Argentina, Singapore, Tasmania, Poland, and more and is connected to Converge Worldwide, Forge Canada, Cru. and others.







Another exciting development as we move forward together is the impact that we can make in the lives of those God has called us to serve. Kairos Project students continue to accumulate less debt while in seminary. When the Kairos Project first launched in fall 2014, nearly 150 students were collectively borrowing over \$1 million in student loans—an average of over \$3,000 per student. This past year, nearly 450 Kairos students borrowed less than \$40,000—an average of roughly \$90 per student. In short, educational debt incurred by students has dropped by over 96%!

Thank You for Joining Us in Mission

As we look to the future, we are excited about what God has in store. Already more schools and partners are reaching out to us and asking how they might participate in the Kairos network. We continue to see growing numbers of students enrolling in programs throughout Canada, the United States, and around the world. We are thankful for God's provision and for our NAB family as we work to make theological education more affordable, accessible, relevant, and faithful.

THE KAIROS **PHILOSOPHY** OF EDUCATION



lower cost for students multiple paths to education embedded into everyday lives enriched by history, tradition

for unique kingdom

North American Baptist Conference Heritage Commission

The mission of the North American Baptist Heritage Commission (NABHC) is to tell the story of God at work in and through the ministries of the North American Baptist (NAB) conference of churches. Staff and volunteers in the "Archives" which is located on the campus of Sioux Falls Seminary work to collect, preserve, and organize historical documents and records which reflect the history of the denomination. Artifacts such as the pulpit furniture from the Fleishmann Memorial Baptist Church in Philadelphia are on display (see photo to right).

Currently, in the age of COVID-19, the Archives are closed to the public. However, staff are willing to work with historians and researchers to locate items of interest



from NAB churches, mission fields, seminaries, and personnel as they are requested. Contact us at nabarchives@nabconf.org or check out our webpage at nabarchives.org.

Resources include:

- Directories and conference reports dating back to the 1850's
- Many church anniversary and dedication books and programs
- A complete set of Der Sendbote and The Baptist Herald. (The Baptist Herald is currently being scanned and uploaded to the web. Just "Google" BAPTIST HERALD and click on the desired issue).
- Many German Bibles and other books related to German Baptist history, beliefs, and practices
- An extensive collection of books pertaining to NAB missions in Cameroon.



Churches are encouraged to send important historical documents – including anniversary books and dedication programs – to the Heritage Commission. As is the case in most archives, space for storing documents and displaying artifacts is limited, so please contact us before sending written materials or artifacts.



Be watching for the Fall 2020 Edition of our newsletter - *Heritage Horizons*. Below is an excerpt based on 1960's-era correspondence between the General Mission Secretary and various Field Secretaries in Cameroon and Nigeria: Both electronic and hard-copy-

versions are available. Contact Randy if you are not subscribed.

"As I read letters and reports about financial resources, recruitment and placement of missionaries, interpersonal relationships, vehicle use and maintenance, travel and deputation schedules, passports and visas, health concerns of missionaries, an automobile crash which led to the death of a missionary, a gasoline explosion which badly burned another missionary, and the deadly Lassa virus in 1969, I came to a new appreciation for the sacrifices missionaries faced, the challenges of difficult decisions, and above all, God's hand of blessing on this NAB mission enterprise."

Notes on one particular missionary DOCTOR included the following items:

- I am arranging for delivery / installation of some WATER TANKS;
- I am purchasing PAINT;
- I need to buy CEMENT and SAND for a building project;
- At a minimum we need to deal with the need for LATRINES;
- How do we dispose of GARBAGE?
- Our GENERATOR needed a new CRANKSHAFT;
- We have had to deal with some CATTLE RUSTLERS (perhaps an employee);
- We need KEROSENE;
- I have the supplies for the construction of a CHICKEN HOUSE / etc.



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Church Investors Fund

2020 Association Report

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.

Health of our Ministry

2019 was another solid year for Church Investors Fund. Over the past year, we have seen a slight upswing in loan demand and are excited to put our investor's dollars to work to make a difference for God's Kingdom.



Although COVID-19 (Coronavirus) has made for uncertain times, Church Investors Fund has remained strong and our ministry partners have shown amazing resiliency. We have been blessed to remain open and continue serving our investors and churches through the pandemic. Although it's hard to predict what the future has in store, our significant reserves remain in place to protect our investor's dollars. We continue to pray and trust in 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. This is why Ron Norman continues to serve with us at Church Investors Fund. Ron has served in various leadership roles throughout the NAB for many years. His role now is to reach out to NAB churches, discover your needs and determine how we can better serve and pray for you. If you have not had the chance to connect with Ron Norman, please do not hesitate to reach out to him at RNorman@cifinc.org.

Thank You!

Thank you to our investors! The funding of many building projects were made possible by people in our churches who decided to partner with us in ministry through entrusting 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
www.ChurchInvestorsFund.org



09/15/2020

Dear Association Members,

What a year 2020 has been! I don't think anybody could have predicted the wild ride that we've been on for the last 6 months. Fortunately, our God is not the least bit troubled by the ups and downs that we face, nor is he fretting about the future. God has seen this moment from eternity past, and we can rest in the knowledge that he will continue to sovereignly order all things according to the counsel of his will.

That said, it's not always easy to take rest in the hope that I have. I have been challenged this year as I've seen the camp lose a significant amount of income as a result of cancellations from the Coronavirus pandemic. Altogether, our income is down nearly \$200,000 at the time of this writing, and I know there are several other guest groups that we will be losing in the coming months. That's admittedly hard to swallow, as it's a constant temptation to put my faith in the bottom line of our budget instead of the Lord.

God has not forgotten us though - not by a long shot. Instead, he has prepared us for this moment by providing the support and encouragement we need from many generous and caring donors. Those gifts and prayers translated into a wonderful summer of ministry at the camp. We saw 30 campers repent and turn to Christ. We witnessed dozens of God-honoring conversations and Bible studies taking place all through the summer. It was evident that God's spirit was moving and bringing heart change to many campers as the weeks went by.

I am so thankful that we were able to hold camp this year when so many other organizations around the country were locked down and could not operate. I am also thankful for your prayers and support that you provided in our time of need. Despite the significant difficulties, 2020 really has been a great year for the ministry.

To Him and Through Him,

Tim Brenner

Executive Director

Crystal Springs Baptist Camp, Inc.

Crystal Springs Baptist Camp, Inc Profit & Loss YTD 9/15 Comparison

	Jan 1 - Sep 15, 20	Jan 1 - Sep 15, 19	\$ Change
Ordinary Income/Expense	• •	• .	•
Income			
4000 · Coffeehouse	3,258.26	3,295.32	-37.06
4001 · Bookstore	2,439.94	3,282.15	-842.21
4002 · Candystore	8,510.70	18,397.30	-9,886.60
4003 · Registrations	135,589.91	163,496.55	-27,906.64
4005 · Donations	153,309.78	173,379.89	-20,070.11
4008 · Miscellaneous Income	5,731.84	7,856.02	-2,124.18
4009 · Investment Income	2,250.00	2,250.00	0.00
4010 · Rental Income	50,341.99	164,835.87	-114,493.88
4014 · Steer Inc.	56,118.10	69,807.55	-13,689.45
4015 · Brochure Sponsor	600.00	0.00	600.00
4021 · Refunds/Rebates	2,175.00	4,144.93	-1,969.93
Total Income	420,325.52	610,745.58	-190,420.06
Expense			
6000 · Program Expense	20,071.49	30,973.40	-10,901.91
6101 · Book Store	3,225.35	0.00	3,225.35
6102 · Candy Store	5,025.09	12,174.34	-7,149.25
6103 · Coffee House	1,037.75	1,343.94	-306.19
6104 · Telephone	2,106.26	2,468.02	-361.76
6106 · Electric	14,988.05	25,236.35	-10,248.30
6107 · Internet/TV Services	1,053.28	1,133.71	-80.43
6108 · Postage	5,166.27	6,245.50	-1,079.23
6110 · Mileage	98.56	146.56	-48.00
6111 · Repairs & Maintenance	82,582.51	23,297.19	59,285.32
6114 · Camp Furnishings	43.05	1,062.39	-1,019.34
6115 · Gas & Fuel 6116 · Insurance	6,705.77	9,849.57	-3,143.80
6117 · Groceries	13,621.64 54,489.07	16,731.88 83,770.10	-3,110.24 -29,281.03
6118 · Advertising	7,441.76	7,718.64	-29,261.03
6119 · Tools	1,689.86	2,014.62	-324.76
6121 · Donor Development	-150.00	0.00	-150.00
6123 · Video/Sound	100.00	0.00	100.00
Equipment	286.73	856.77	-570.04
6124 · Supplies	12,400.06	25,583.91	-13,183.85
6125 · Missions Giving	450.00	600.00	-150.00
6126 · Miscellaneous	1,892.62	7,551.53	-5,658.91
6127 · Staff Development	791.37	1,379.84	-588.47
6138 · Travel Expenses	271.16	1,125.28	-854.12
6141 · Water	2,679.33	3,037.48	-358.15
6142 · Heating Fuel	8,560.28	10,240.07	-1,679.79
6500 · Payroll	225,139.18	251,996.46	-26,857.28
6550 · Payroll Tax Expenses	16,873.34	18,911.16	-2,037.82
6800 · Capital Expenditures	31,610.73	61,199.92	-29,589.19
Total Expense	520,150.56	606,648.63	-86,498.07
Net Ordinary Income	-99,825.04	4,096.95	-103,921.99

Crystal Springs Baptist Camp Inc. Church and Para Church Organization Contributions

CHURCHES AND ORGANIZATIONS	2019	2019
Ashley Baptist Church, Ashley, ND	\$2,307.64	7
Bismarck Baptist Church, Bismarck, ND	\$2,000.00	23
Brandon Valley Baptist Church, Brandon, SD	\$309.00	1
Calvary Baptist Church, Aberdeen, SD	\$1,300.00	6
Calvary Baptist Church, Carrington, ND	\$8,618.00	16
Central Valley Community Church, Hartford, SD		8
Century Baptist Church, Bismarck, ND	\$13,000.00	168
Cornerstone Community Church, Harvey ND	\$2,000.00	16
Danzig Baptist Church, Avon, SD	\$500.00	8
First Baptist Church, Emery, SD		29
First Baptist Church, Eureka, SD	\$695.46	1
First Baptist Church, Goodrich, ND	\$21.50	
First Baptist Church, Hebron, ND	\$300.00	3
First Baptist Church, Linton, ND	\$10,200.22	14
First Baptist Church, McIntosh, SD	\$1,224.26	1
First Baptist Church, Mercer, ND	\$516.00	5
First Baptist Church, Minot, ND	\$8,464.96	47
First Baptist Church, Valley City, ND	\$4,950.00	10
First Baptist Church, Wishek, ND	\$5,182.06	17
Grace Baptist Church, Gackle, ND	\$790.00	1
Grace Baptist Church, Grand Forks, ND	\$3,998.31	46
Herreid Baptist Church, Herreid, SD	\$4,954.12	10
Hillside Baptist Church, Dickinson, ND	\$1,650.00	2
Immanuel Baptist Church, Beulah, ND	\$277.00	23
Immanuel Baptist Church, Wessington Springs, SD		13
Isabel Baptist Church, Isabel, SD	\$1,400.00	11
Martin Baptist Church, Martin, ND	\$3,250.00	21
McClusky Baptist Church, McClusky, ND	\$871.00	1
Metropolitan Baptist Church, Fargo, ND	\$2,500.00	48
New Leipzig Baptist Church, New Leipzig, ND	\$1,200.00	6
River City Church, Fargo, ND	·	14
River Community Church, Dell Rapids, SD		27
Temple Baptist Church, Jamestown, ND	\$3,672.00	61
Turtle Lake Baptist Church, Turtle Lake, ND	\$1,000.00	15
United Community Baptist Church, Anamoose, ND	\$1,425.00	3
Valley Baptist Church, Milbank, SD	\$300.00	5
Venturia Baptist Church, Venturia, ND	\$700.00	5
Washburn Baptist Church, Washburn, ND	\$6,700.00	25
West Center Baptist Church, Madison, SD	\$1,000.00	22
Non-NAB Churches and Organization	\$3,519.93	855
North Central WMF	\$4,000.00	NA
Total	\$104,796.46	1594

 NAB Camps
 1,594

 Rentals
 2,926

 Total
 4,520

Summer Camp Comparison

Сатр	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
FORGE	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	4	-	-	-	-	-
Junior High Camp	188	270	256	260	230	186	189	131	136	156	135	127	145
Family I Camp	199	261	196	217	286	251	283	285	276	305	207	223	204
Senior High Camp	145	112	106	118	108	129	147	122	148	149	172	178	159
Intermediate Camp	144	232	237	235	192	193	145	140	156	166	125	146	148
Junior Camp	141	149	163	140	126	108	123	147	121	135	135	112	82
Family II Camp	159	139	182	168	167	138	99	96	112	40	47	67	89
Total	976	1,163	1,140	1,138	1,109	1,008	992	925	949	951	841	879	864

2020 Summer Rentals	Campers	2019 Summer Rentals	Campers
Prairie Partners (Kids/Teens)	CANCELLED	Prairie Partners (Kids/Teens)	84
Nazarene Kid's Camp	CANCELLED	Nazarene Kid's Camp	220
Youth For Christ	CANCELLED	Youth For Christ	52
Nazarene Teen Camp	CANCELLED	Nazarene Teen Camp	134
New Song Family Camp	69	New Song Family Camp	75
Valley City Boy's Basketball Team	19	Oakes Volleyball Team	25
Century Baptist Baptism	100	Century Baptist Baptism	223
Church of God	154	Church of God	213
Metropolitan Prayer Retreat	7	Metropolitan Prayer Retreat	8
Adoptive Family Camp	50	Cru Leadership	19
Buffalo City Church	65	Moser Reunion	80
		Zoom (Evangel) Camp	81
		CEF Good News Camp	92
Total	464	Total	1,306

2020 Summer Attendance Total 1,440

2019 Summer Attendance Total 2,469

Decisions

2020 Camps	Salvation	Other	2019 Camps	Salvation	Other	2018 Camps	Salvation	Other
Senior High	1	0	Senior High	2	0	Senior High	3	6
Junior High	16	3	Junior High	16	2	Junior High	4	2
Intermediate	0	0	Intermediate	4	0	Intermediate	7	2
Junior	10	0	Junior	3	0	Junior	17	0
Total 2020	27	3	Total 2019	25	2	Total 2018	31	10

NORTHERN PLAINS DISTRICT- EFCA BAPTIST HEALTH CARE CENTER/PRAIRIE POINTE ASSISTED LIVING ADMINISTATOR'S CONFERENCE REPORT October 1, 2020

As we celebrate our 80th year of service to the community and surrounding areas, we continue to be grateful to our Lord and Savior for guiding us through the challenges and difficult times that we have endured along the way.

The last year has brought many changes to Baptist Health Care Center (BHCC) and Prairie Pointe Assisted Living and Basic Care (PP). Our long-time administrator, Augie Pepple retired the end of March last year. With Augie's retirement, I (Deanna Berg) completed my training and testing to become a nursing home administrator and was hired as the new administrator. Since I had been the Director of Nursing (DON), were blessed to hire Tanya Moszer, a former DON at the St. Alexius Transitional Care Unit as our new DON.

Let me tell you, Augie left me some big shoes to fill. Summer/Fall led to some turnover in nurse managers, but we have had some amazing individuals join our team and we are very blessed as the Lord seems to always provide. Pastor Allen Finger who was our part-time Assistant Chaplain, ended up retiring at the beginning of the 2020 due to health issues. He was replaced by Pastor Perry Schnabel who is settling in very well. Steve Knodel, Plant Operations, also retired as of February 13. Paul Nickolauson has taken his position and his new title is Director of Environmental Services.

Long term care facilities in the Bismarck Mandan areas are constantly struggling with occupancy. We have been quite blessed. For 2019, our occupancy was 98.61%. We are still struggling a bit with staffing, mostly nurses, but again, we are seeing a turn- around in that area and have decreased turnover and increased employee retention. We have amazing leaders to credit this to.

Mel Soupir (Prairie Pointe Assisted Living Housing Director) and her team are doing a phenomenal job at Prairie Pointe. We have 35 Assisted Living (AL) apartments at Prairie Pointe plus a guest suite (for families to rent if they want to stay with their loved one) and now are finally approved for Basic Care for the other 16 beds there. Census is pretty stable on the AL side, staying full or almost full and as of last week, we have 3 open beds on the Basic Care (BC) side. With the COVID-19 epidemic, we haven't had many new tenants fighting over the openings, but I assume that once this epidemic is over, that we will be able to fill up our beds and have full occupancy.

Our spiritual goals continue to be the same, serving all by serving one, and to be there to guide and assist residents as they travel this difficult physical path which eventually leads to eternal life. Our new mission statement is "To foster fullness of life for older adults in the spirit of Christ's love." Our work is centered around 8 Core Values which include Compassion, Integrity, Excellence, Innovation,

Stewardship, Unity, Respect and Collaboration. All these things play a vital role in our day to day work and service to our Lord and Savior.

With the current COVID-19 epidemic going on, we have had to make a lot of changes that are difficult for our residents and staff. We miss having the resident's families come to visit and the volunteers from your churches who are faithful in their service. The residents are anxious for the day when the team from GracePoint can once again come for Bible Study. We are however, grateful to know that it is all in the Lord's hands and ask for your continued prayers throughout this very difficult time.

Blessings,

Deanna Berg, Administrator and Pastor Merle Hoots, Chaplain