

2023

**NCA Annual
Meeting**

**Report
Packet**

2023 NCA Annual Meeting Schedule

Friday, October 27

1:00 NCA Pastors/Ministry Staff and Spouses Retreat

Saturday, October 28

10:00 Plenary Session 1

11:15 Breakout Session 1

12:30 Lunch

1:30 Breakout Session 2

2:45 Plenary Session 2

4:00 Business Meeting

5:00 Optional Evening Meal

Breakout Sessions

There are two slots for breakouts, so you can attend two of the following:

1. God's Amazing Work among a Least-Reached People - Jeff Kilmartin (NAB Missionary to Cameroon)

(Chapel)

2. The Pastor's Finances: Information for pastors and churches about a minister's salary package that may help reduce taxable income and better prepare him for retirement. - Rev. Rich Cook (Pastor, Linton)

(Lakeside)

3. Secondary Trauma and Biblical Self Care - Kalen and Sarah Heller (Sarah - Counselor, Healing Hands Christian Counseling; Kalen - mental health worker and former chaplain)

(Boys Dorm)

4. An Overview of NAB History: The things you may not know about who we are - the people, immigration, education, international and home missions. Dr. Randy Tschetter (NAB Heritage Commission)

(Dining Hall Conference Room)

2023 NCA Business Meeting Agenda

Call to Order

Review Minutes from 2022 Meeting

Treasurer Report

2024 Budget Proposal

Nominating Committee Update

Vote

Regional Minister Report

Other Reports and Testimonies

Adjournment

2022 NCA BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES

Meeting held October 29, 2022 at Crystal Springs Baptist Camp.

Moderator Ethan Johnson called the meeting to order.

Number of delegates voting - 53

Number of Churches represented -22 (see attached sheet in hard copy)

Approve Minutes from 2021 Annual Meeting - No minutes found.

Pastor Dave Gallagher, long time Recording Secretary, passed away from cancer. Last year's minutes passed with him.

Treasurer Report By Mike Wobbema
2023 Budget Proposed.

Nominating Committee Report
Offices up for election:

Moderator - Ethan Johnson

Recording Secretary - Rich Cook

Treasurer - Mike Wobbema

At Large Members - Keith Hurlbut
Peggy Bettenhausen

Vote - Everything passed with only one abstention for Keith Hurlbut nomination. (See attached sheet in hard copy)

Regional Minister Report

Randy challenged us to let the peace of Christ rule in us and the word of God dwell in us. When we share with each other we should share the word of God with each other. He read from Col. 1:15-20. It's about Jesus. "Make it about Jesus."

- It was at this point that Ethan shared that all measures passed.

Other Reports and Testimonies

- Tim Brenner, Ex. Dir, for Crystal Springs, shared. Working on Fireside Building. Theme this year was Thy Word Is Truth. A total of 2635 individuals came this summer. Summer staff growth has been huge. There is a need for volunteers.

Meeting adjourned.

2023 NCA Annual Meeting Ballot (SAMPLE)

2022 Meeting Minutes

Approve 2022 Minutes

Yes No

NCA Budget

Approve 2024 Budget

Yes No

NCA Executive Team

(No Executive Team positions require filling this year)

Current Executive Team:

Ethan Johnson - Moderator

Rich Cook - Recording Secretary

Mike Wobbema - Treasurer

James Schnabel - RLT Representative

Peggy Bettenhausen - At Large Member

Keith Hurlbut - At Large Member

Kaylene Reddig - At Large Member

Randy Jaspers - Regional Minister

Tony Neu - NAB Statistics

Chris Hoke - Mission NCA

Dwight Enockson - Scholarship Fund

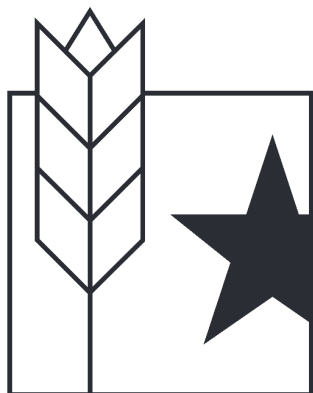
Statement of Financial Condition
FY 2023 Year to Date - September 30, 2023

<u>Operating Statement</u>	<u>FY 2021</u>	<u>FY 2022</u>	<u>FY 2023 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY 2023 YTD</u>	<u>23 Budget YTD</u>	<u>% of Budget YTD</u>
General Income	\$104,241	\$77,693	\$90,000	\$54,501	\$67,500	81%
Operating Expenses	\$97,818	\$93,702	\$90,000	\$64,920	\$67,500	96%
Our Portion of Regional Director Exp.	\$81,500	\$81,500	\$83,500	\$62,625	\$62,625	100%
Additional Expenses	\$16,318	\$12,202	\$6,500	\$2,295	\$4,875	47%
Operating Margin	\$6,423	(\$16,009)		(\$10,418)		

<u>Cash in Bank</u>	<u>9/30/23</u>	<u>9/30/22</u>	<u>Difference</u>
General Fund	\$50,323	\$52,977	(\$2,654)
CD Maturing 5/9/24	\$168,606	\$166,442	\$2,164
Ministry Seed Fund - Restricted	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
Church Planting - Restricted	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
Total Cash	\$238,929	\$239,418	(\$489)

Historical Budget Presentation

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u> (Proposed)
NCA Annual Meeting & Training	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
Office And Executive Committee (RLT)	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Liability Insurance	\$900.00	\$900.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,100.00
Northern Plains Regional Minister	\$81,500.00	\$83,500.00	\$83,500.00	\$83,500.00
Pastoral Resourcing and Enrichment		\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00
	<u>\$86,900.00</u>	<u>\$89,900.00</u>	<u>\$90,000.00</u>	<u>\$90,100.00</u>



North Central Association

Northern Plains Region

October 2023

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the North Central Association,

As I write, conflict has escalated in the Middle East. Conflict also characterizes our federal government, as well as our local contexts. Jesus warned His closest followers of these things, along with promising that the Holy Spirit would be present with them.

“I have said these things to you that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

Earlier He said, *“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”* John 13:34-35

It’s easy for me to be distracted and even distressed by conflict, instead of focusing on the Good News of Jesus, Who said He had overcome the world even before His arrest, crucifixion and resurrection.

We have multiple **opportunities for Jesus to be seen and heard in us**, but that means learning to walk with Him, resting in the fact that all who trust Him are His. We can choose to give the things we cannot change to our Lord, or we can try to change them ourselves. Often the latter is motivated by fear, rather than faith, operating from a worldview based on win/lose and power. How does this impact our relationships with each other? Review Jesus’ observation, promise and command above.

We rejoice with and welcome the following to the NCA:

- **Josh (Clara) Vetter, student pastor, Turtle Lake.** Full time January 1.
- **Chris (Jess & family) Eaton, student ministries pastor, Minot.** Began Jan. 1.

- **Brandon (Melaney & family) Smith, associate executive pastor, Minot.** Began August 1.
- **Josh (Kate & family) Steely, lead pastor, Grand Forks.** Began October 1.

Other churches in the lead pastor search include **Wishek, Anamoose** and **Martin** (ND); **Herried** (SD) and Plevna (MT, the McLachlans moved in August after serving 7 years). **Century** (care) and **Jamestown** (discipleship) are looking to fill associate roles.

Thank you for praying with me for God's preparation, discernment and provision for the churches and the men He will lead to these positions. **Please join me in praying also for more lay and vocational leaders for our churches:** board members, ministry leaders, pastors, ministry staff, missionaries, church planters, revitalizers. Whom do you know that you can begin to encourage toward this end?

In May I concluded offering the monthly Zoom calls with the NCA and MBA pastors. Guests earlier this year included Jeff Peters (rural pastor), Luke Miller (president, Living Word Bible College) and Paul and Tanya Gericke (NAB missionaries in Romania)

Please take the opportunity to check out the five-minute **video story of God's work in the Turtle Lake church**. You can find the video and a host of other helpful news and information at our Northern Plains Region website, <https://npregion.org>

I also invite you to **subscribe to the Thursday email updates with NAB news**, including missions, churches, plants, leadership development, cross-cultural connections, etc.: <https://nabconference.org/resources/publications-3/> Registration opens November 1 for the NAB Triennial Conference, "Becoming a People of Peace," July 11-14, 2024, in St. Paul, MN.

Thank you . . .

- To those who serve on the NCA Executive.
- For regularly encouraging your pastor(s), ministry staff and other leaders.
- For your faithful prayer support for our churches, ministries and Kristy and me.
- For your engagement with and prayer for your church, as well as with and for those in your community who need to hear about the Good News of Jesus.
- For your generous giving to your church, NCA budget and NAB causes.

Blessings!

Randy Jaspers, Northern Plains Regional Minister

Mobile: (701) 320-1222; Email: nprjaspers@gmail.com

2023 NCA Moderator's Report

As we enjoy the fall colors, and brace ourselves for the oncoming winter, it's important to remember things that never change. God's love for us never changes. God's mercy and grace are always available to His children. God's promises are as potent now as the day He declared them. God's kingdom will never be shaken. So many things in our world are shaking. We can be comforted that nothing is out of our sovereign Lord's hand, and He will bring all things to pass for His glory and our good.

Speaking of things that do not change...our NCA Executive Team will be the same this coming year as it has been this past year. No terms are expiring this year, so there will be no positions on the ballot for 2024.

I am very grateful for the dedication and flexibility of our NCA Executive. If you see them, please thank them for their service: Rich Cook, Mike Wobbema, James Schnabel, Peggy Bettenhausen, Keith Hurlbut, Kaylene Reddig, and Randy Jaspers. We are also joined on the Executive by three other individuals who lend their experience and expertise in specific areas; Tony Neu, Chris Hoke, and Dwight Enockson.

The Executive Team usually has at least one face-to-face meeting every year, a few Zoom meetings, and many email exchanges. This allows us to stay connected and stay on top of issues as they arise. The team is committed to the mission of the NCA and is active in executing its tasks.

As always, if you or someone you know might be interested in serving on the NCA Executive Team, please reach out to me or anyone else on the team. We are always interested in expanding the representation on the team with people who bring experience and input from a variety of settings.

We continue to be incredibly blessed by the ministry of our Regional Minister, Randy Jaspers. Randy serves the NCA and the Manitoba Baptist Association. His compassion for the pastors and churches has been on full display over these chaotic few years. He has also been very creative and innovative in finding new ways to connect with people. If you see Randy, thank him for his faithful service!

May 2024 be a year of great harvest in the NCA!!!

Ethan Johnson
NCA Moderator

2023 White Cross Report

Through White Cross, NAB churches across the United States and Canada help medical staff and NAB missionaries in Cameroon by filling a critical gap in tangible medical needs. Volunteers sort and repurpose donated materials, such as sheets, pillowcases, hospital supplies and other medical supplies. Volunteers also roll bandages, cut absorbent squares and cut, sew and assemble baby bundles that include a blanket, cloth diaper, knit hat and sleeper (size 0-6 months).

Scale of the ministry:

- 42 churches donate medical supplies.
- 37 churches donate financially.
- 14 hospitals and agencies donate medical supplies.
- 22 individuals donate financially.
- 10 hospitals and 50 health clinics in Cameroon with 5,000 doctors, nurses and staff caring for more than one million patients each year receive supplies.

Accomplishments:

- The most recent shipment filled with medical supplies and other items needed by organizations and missionaries was sent in February 2023 and arrived in Cameroon, West Africa, in May. Another shipment is in process and expected to be sent before the end of the year.
- One shipping process improvement that has been implemented is that each box now has a label indicating its contents to make unloading and organizing them much easier once they arrive.
- Essential large scale equipment, such as a forklift, pallet wrapper and scale, has been added to the warehouse to improve efficiency and safety.
- White Cross is a recipient of donated North Dakota Lions eyeglasses. More than 25,000 eyeglasses have been sent to Cameroon. There are an additional 25,000 ready to be sent.
- Central Dakota Hospital Laundry located in Bismarck continues to generously donate hospital linens, such as patient gowns, scrubs, surgical gowns, towels and blankets, to be repurposed for White Cross.
- A new White Cross brochure was created to explain its history, mission, contact information, items needed and ways to get involved. Rev. Randy Jaspers, our NAB regional minister, uses these brochures to promote White Cross to area churches.
- Century Baptist Church involvement has continued to expand. Teams of men meet regularly to assemble boxes, tape and wrap pallets for shipment and stage the load. A group of women meet regularly to process donated materials. Another team of ladies label boxes and fill out the forms needed for each shipment. Students from elementary through high school often have work nights. Families and individuals also create medical supplies through take-home kit projects that are checked out at church.
- More North Central Association individuals and churches are getting involved in the ministry.
- Crystal Springs Baptist Camp partners with White Cross by having campers produce medical supplies throughout the year. Camp also serves as a drop-off location for churches to bring White Cross donations.

Get involved

As White Cross expands, more and more people are getting involved and even more are needed. There are ways for people of all ages – from 6 to 106 – to contribute to the cause. While these efforts continue to benefit those in Cameroon, they also provide purpose, fellowship and encouragement for those who have come and worked together to make this ministry happen.

Doing the following can help churches enhance their current White Cross efforts or start a new program:

- Take a tour of the White Cross Ministry warehouse located at 1112 S. 12th St. in Bismarck. Call Dan and Debbie Long at 701-220-8338 or 701-214-0605 to set up a time.
- Bring a team of volunteers to work on projects at the White Cross warehouse. Projects include sorting laundry, filling shipping boxes, building baby layette sets and more. All materials are provided and all ages are welcome to come and participate. Junior high students, youth groups, Bible study groups and more have enjoyed helping in this way. Call Dan and Debbie Long at 701-220-8338 or 701-214-0605 to set up a time.
- Financial support is needed to pay for the cost of shipping containers. Churches are encouraged to send a donation to help with shipping along with any items sent to headquarters.
- Visit <https://nabconference.org/nab-white-cross/> to find out what is collected and how to send supplies.
- Contact a hospital, clinic, nursing home and/or other medical assistance facility to share the mission of White Cross and inquire if there are medical supplies and equipment they may be willing to donate. For more information, contact Paul Herr.

Contact information

- White Cross U.S.A.
1112 S. 12th St., Suite A
Bismarck, ND 58504
- Paul Herr, Adult Ministry Pastor, Century Baptist Church
701-2230478 (office) or 701-471-7808 (cell) or pherr@centurybaptist.org
- Robyn Wonnemberg, Adult Ministry Assistant, Century Baptist Church
701-223-0478, ext. 215, or robyn@centurybaptist.org
- Connie Grause, Communications Coordinator, White Cross
whitecross@centurybaptist.org
- Dan and Debbie Long, Volunteers, White Cross
701-220-8338 or 701-214-0605

Fall 2023 Association Report from Executive Director Dr. Harry Kelm

I greet you with great joy as I consider the great partnership the North Central Association churches have with the North American Baptist Conference (NAB). We believe that in God we can do more together than alone. God continues to work his wholeness and peace in this world.

As the NAB, we are looking forward to the 2024 Triennial Conference taking place July 11–14, 2024, in St. Paul, Minnesota. The theme is “Becoming a People of Peace.” This peace can only be found in Jesus. Ephesians 2:14a tells us that Jesus is our peace. At our first session, Dr. Claude Alexander will share the impact of finding our peace in a saving relationship with God in Jesus. In our second session, NAB pastor Rev. Joseph Thomas will challenge us with becoming a people of peace to our brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. Our third session will have NAB’ers Dr. Tony and Fabiola Campos speak about what it means to be peacemakers in our world. We will see and hear testimonies sharing how we can bring the peace of Jesus Christ into our communities. There will be practical sessions and breakouts that will talk about how we as the NAB are seeking to make a difference for Jesus. There will also be the great joy of celebrating together who God is and who we are in him. Registration information will be coming this fall.

The focus of NAB ministry is summed up in four end goals. We have had these end goals since 2012.

1. **NAB churches will be trained to engage in missional ministries.** This is about training leaders and churches to missionally reach into their communities with the life-changing message of life with Jesus Christ. We are seeking to multiply ministries and plant or multiply churches.
2. **NAB churches will seek opportunities to engage cross-culturally.** We are assisting leaders and churches to engage their communities cross-culturally. God is raising up a church of many people and nations. In this God-given diversity, we have a beautiful unity in Jesus.
3. **NAB churches will develop spiritual leaders.** We are raising up new leaders for the church. God is at work in the lives of emerging leaders. We believe God calls us to elevate new leaders by encouraging, affirming, and engaging young leaders.
4. **NAB churches will send and support NAB international missionaries.** We recruit, send, and support NAB international missionaries. God has called us to work alongside the global church and to reach those who do not yet know Jesus as Savior.

It is these end goals that God is asking us to strategically pursue together. Let me share more about what God is doing:

- Missional training has been a major focus of the NAB for the past ten years. Our missional focus undergirds who we are and what we do in all areas of NAB ministry. In Blue Ocean, Discovery weekends, Ethos, and Bonfire, we are challenging churches and leaders to reach the lost in their community for Jesus. We also offer to churches many different training opportunities in evangelism and spiritual formation and community engagement.
- We see our missional efforts evidenced in how we are multiplying. This multiplication is seen in the thirty current NAB church plants. There is a great diversity in church plants, including campuses, micro churches, and ethnic churches. We are also heightening the focus on church revitalization. The NAB has developed assessment, training, coaching, and residency opportunities in both planting and revitalization. One of our most recent church plants is one of the first Kurdish Christian Churches in North America.
- In our cross-cultural partnerships, we are seeing a great response to various study groups that are focusing on reconciliation, harmony, and the unity in Jesus Christ across cultural lines. NAB

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

churches are moving into cross-cultural engagement with church-to-church connections. We are seeing NAB churches hosting festivals that celebrate the ethnic diversity found in their churches and communities. NAB churches are sponsoring and settling refugee families. We are more ethnically diverse as the NAB today than we have ever been.

- The NAB is moving into emerging leader engagement. There are various regions with study and support groups for younger leaders. In addition, webinar resources are being developed. There is a great online resource called The Landing for youth pastors and those who work with younger leaders. The NAB is committed to engaging and equipping younger leaders as they consider Christian ministry and also as they seek to serve in local NAB churches. There are also internships and training programs being developed by NAB churches, regions, and camps.
- We are thankful for the faithful ministry of our thirty missionaries. Our NAB focus is always on equipping the people of a country to minister to and with the people of their countries.
 - In Cameroon, the Mbingo hydroelectric dam has opened the door to many opportunities. Mbingo Hospital has become a teaching hospital in West Africa. Many doctors are being trained. The newest possibility is for Mbingo to become a leader in radiation cancer treatment. We are seeing more and more churches connecting in Cameroon with programs that are seeking to minister to people in crisis as a result of the civil war in Cameroon. This involves skill training for displaced young adults, as well as trauma and healing workshops.
 - The ministry in Brazil is focused on pastoral training. We are seeing a great application of the online training offered by Kairos University (formerly Sioux Falls Seminary and Taylor Seminary). In the Philippines, the NAB has also been focused on pastoral training. The need for pastors is great in both of these countries.
 - Our ministry in Japan is currently focused on personal evangelism in English-speaking training and on discipleship of youth and women. There has been a strong response to the efforts of our missionaries in Japan. The NAB is also seeking to be a resource to the churches of the Japan Baptist Convention.
 - We have continued to be involved in the ministry of Camp Falcon Rock, which reaches out to the children and people of the Hungarian Baptists of Romania. They have just finished another summer camping season and have seen a great response. Eastern Europe has also given the NAB the opportunity to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the Roma people, as well as the ability to minister to the people of Ukraine.
 - Hispanics for Christ continues to plant churches in Spanish-speaking areas. They are working with 80 churches in North and South America.
 - Gateway is an NAB ministry that endeavors to partner North American churches with churches across the world. These partnerships focus on the value that both sides of the partnership can bring to each other.
 - There are a number of missionaries currently working in areas closed to the Gospel. In this age of web-based information and social media, the work that is being done could endanger our missionaries and those they are ministering to. We are thankful for God's leading and protection.

I am humbled to be a part of the great work God is doing in the NAB. Thank you for your faithful partnership. I am thankful that you continue to give to the work of your churches, your associations and regions, and the NAB Conference.

Dr. Harry Kelm,
Executive Director, North American Baptist Conference

ASSOCIATION REPORT

KAIROS

TAYLOR SEMINARY · SIOUX FALLS SEMINARY

PROGRAMS

UNDERGRAD / GRAD / CERT

Degree Programs

- Doctor of Ministry
- Doctor of Professional Counseling
- Doctor of Theology
- Doctor of Philosophy

- Master of Arts
- Master of Divinity

- Master of Arts in Counseling
- Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy

- Bachelor of Arts in Christian Thought and Practice

Certificates

- Training in Spiritual Direction
- Directing the Spiritual Exercises

Kairos Network

STATISTICS

Approximate Network Enrollment 1100

Approximate Reach

Mentors	1500+
Partner Organizations	35+
Seminary Partners	10+
Denominations	70+
Continents	6
Countries	60+
Provinces	6
States	40+
Languages	5



GLOBAL THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Kairos University Article Originally Published for NAB Onward

Most of you probably remember the Reach Campaign that the NAB Conference and its partner ministries launched back in 2015. In that campaign, two of the important projects the seminaries included were “revisioning theological education” and “global theological education.” You have probably heard a lot about our revisioning of theological education. That’s what we now call Kairos University. What you might not have heard as much about is our progress on “global theological education.”

Supporting global theological education has always been important to Sioux Falls Seminary and Taylor Seminary, and it continues to be important today. What we have found is that the changes brought about by Kairos actually position us to better support theological education around the world. One of our commitments at Kairos University is to create a system of theological education that supports theological education around the world in a way that is affordable, accessible, relevant, and faithful in the student’s vocational context. We are doing that better today and much more broadly than we ever have before. In fact, around 10-15% of the 1100 Kairos students are living outside of North America, spread across nearly every time zone, and working with more than a dozen different international partners.

One of these partners is Fusion Canada. Fusion supports international community development work around the world through a network of Fusion hubs. Through a partnership with Kairos, Fusion is building its own system of theological education while utilizing the Kairos platform to support its work around the world. Matty Coppin, a Kairos Master of Divinity graduate, describes the Fusion story this way:

Fusion Australia gave birth to an outcome-based discipleship model to equip people to serve faithfully in the Australian contexts. As the ministry impacted communities all over Australia, we began to receive a “Macedonian call” from folks around the world asking for help in reaching their own communities.

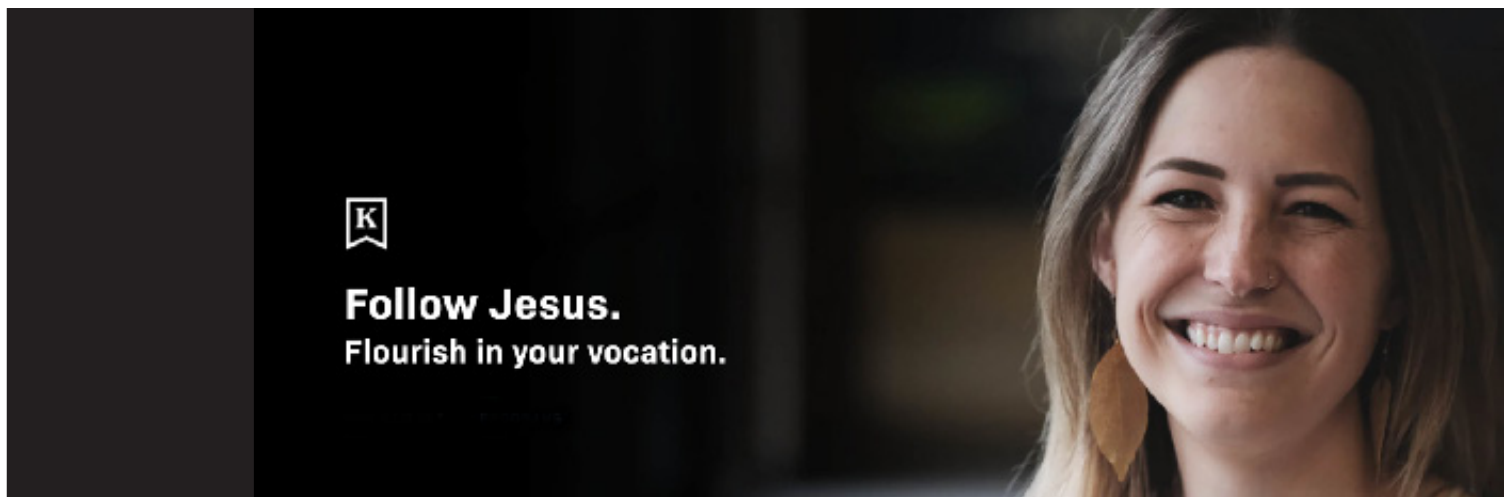
Fusion's unique approach to mission allowed non-western peoples to find creative expressions in their own cultural contexts that made sense to them. Fusion gave birth to ministry contexts all over the world, forming a network of fellowshiping friends who also desired to be the hands and feet of Jesus, recognizing that mission is not just an event one puts on but a process of faithfully responding to the Spirit of God in the place God has them.

Matty is the Fusion Canada lead for the team that is working to build the educational system on Fusion's unique curriculum for work around the world. As with everything Kairos, Fusion's curriculum is built on mentored discipleship. Fusion participants can also work toward earning a bachelor's, master's, or even doctoral degree through Kairos University while on their journey with Fusion. Fusion is building its system for the Australian context and that is exciting in itself, but what is even more exciting is the work being done in non-western contexts.

Matty explains the way this is happening now:

Each Monday, a small cohort of learners gather on Zoom to share in life together. Currently, there are folks from Indonesia, India, Pakistan, and Ghana. Fundamental to this journey is the fact that individuals learn best in a diverse community and can carry each other's burdens while fulfilling their own calling. As this journey continues, the goal is to put teeth to rhythms and practices that make Fusion's missional approach unique and develop a learning process that helps non-western Fusion people journey toward a degree. With many non-western Fusion people globally, there is an opportunity to develop a learning process that will make a difference to God's people all around the world.

For non-western folk who are faithfully serving God in challenging contexts that include poverty, war, disease, and persecution, being a part of regular rhythms of reflection, nurture, encouragement, and mentorship means they never need to feel alone and



that they have the support needed to faithfully serve their people and to grow into the person God has called them to be.

Here's a brief introduction to some students journeying through Fusion, a few of who are also engaging, or interested in engaging, in programs at Kairos University:

Yudha is a pastor and health worker in Indonesia. He and his wife care for street children and sex workers in Jakarta. He is highly educated and currently applying for a PhD program in a health-related field. In addition, he hopes to pursue a Doctor of Ministry program through Kairos and work closely with folks pursuing bachelor's degrees in Indonesia. Francis is in Ghana and is pursuing a Master of Divinity while doing community development through a volleyball program that teaches in a number of communities. Khullar serves in India and is working on community development through a unique soccer program, and Sarfraz is from Abbatobad in Pakistan and does similar work by helping develop healthy communities.

Fusion is bearing witness to the Kingdom around the world, and it is our privilege to walk alongside them as Kairos University and help them do more faithfully what God has called them to do.

THE IMPORTANCE OF STORY

HISTORY. From the cosmic to the microscopic, from eternity past to eternity future, from ancient to the present, from global to intimate, from scientific to experiential, from mankind to individuals, from spiritual to physical – there is no escape from the reality of history. The stories of our personal lives, our family lives, our church lives, and our denominational life are all intricately intertwined in a larger reality called history. Our history shows us where and how God has been at work among us and paves the way for our present and future.



The NAB Heritage Commission was officially established in 1991 at the NAB Triennial Conference in Milwaukee, WI. and tasked with collecting, preserving, organizing, and displaying documents, historical books, and artifacts which reflect the stories and the STORY of the North American Baptist Conference. The ARCHIVES, located in Sioux Falls, SD, is home to 1000's of NAB documents, photos, and artifacts related to churches, Triennial Conferences, educational institutions, international missions, and other ministries such as God's Volunteers, camps, senior-living facilities and church planting. Our staff and volunteers have been working diligently to digitize a variety of documents – most recently the scanning of

1000's of photo-slides.

Google describes *archives* as “a place where people can go to gather **firsthand facts, data, and evidence from letters, reports, notes, memos, photographs, and other primary sources.**” Archival staff are happy to welcome visitors and are willing to assist researchers who are searching for historical documents and information. Randy and Darlene are also available to search files, scan documents, and share historical information with those who request it by phone or by email.



CHECK OUT OUR NEWSLETTER



The Heritage Commission's newsletter is available in both digital and postal formats. Please contact Randy or Darlene if you would like to be added to the mailing list.

CHECK OUT OUR WEBPAGE

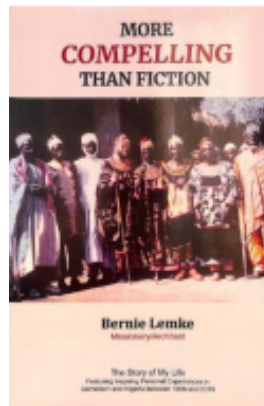
The Heritage Commission webpage (<https://nabconference.org/nab-heritage-commission/>) offers an overview of denominational and archival history and provides access to online documents such as the BAPTIST HERALD, the NAB ANNUAL, HERITAGE HORIZONS (newsletter), and many church histories. Additionally, we have many scanned documents such as: ***IMPACT – INTERCESSOR – NAB LINK – NAB TODAY – SERVANT LINK – ONWARD – THE BRIDGE – TOUCHPOINT***. Please contact us if you are interested in these publications.

CHECK OUT YOUR CHURCH ARCHIVES

Please note that the archival staff can only preserve materials it receives from denominational churches. Perhaps someone in your congregation could be responsible for searching for and sending historical items (founding documents / anniversary booklets / pictorial directories / special events) to the Archives. Our space is limited, so in most cases, historical artifacts are best displayed in the local church. Contact us if you have questions.

CHECK OUT SOME INTERESTING BOOKS BY NAB AUTHORS

We are pleased to recommend 2 books in which former NAB missionaries – Bernie Lemke and Ron Hiller – share some of their call to ministry and experiences in serving God and the NAB Conference.



HERITAGE COMMISSION PERSONNEL:



Rev. Randy Tschetter, D.Min – Director
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Church Investors Fund

2023 Association Report



Church Investors Fund

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Greetings from everyone here at Church Investors Fund, and blessings to you, the church, and the communities you faithfully serve.

Celebrating 50 Years of Ministry

Church Investors Fund is celebrating 50 years of ministry this year! Throughout we have seen God's guiding hand and blessings as we continue to serve our dual purpose... which is to offer churches affordable financing options, while offering as competitive rate of return as possible on our deposits.

Health of our Ministry

In 2022 Church Investors Fund was blessed with another solid year. Churches with loans continued to remain on track with their payments and our investors remained faithful and committed to the ministry.



Due to inflation rising to levels we haven't seen in a long time and rates spiking at one of the fastest paces on record, it certainly has been a challenge to make the necessary adjustments.

Our income in 2022 was a bit lower than we are accustomed too, but that is because we understand that to get through tough times we have to work together – and that is what we are doing by offering competitive rates on both loans and deposits. When the borrower, depositor, and institution work together we can have terms that are acceptable for all parties and have an even greater impact for His kingdom.

2023 is also shaping up to be a good year. Even with the regional banking crisis we were able to see stability in our investment portfolio, and loan demand has been strong. We are optimistic about the future of the ministry and thank you for your partnership.

Highlights

Prayer - As a staff, we prayed weekly for our investors, all the NAB churches, their leadership, communities, and their Associations. We also prayed for missionaries, pastors, the Church, the unrest in this country and in the world.

Loans -We are seeing strong loan demand as churches are buying and building new facilities.

Investments - With the stronger loan demand, we are looking for new investors to join our ministry to help provide loans to Christian ministries and further God's Kingdom.

Bookkeeping - We started a new bookkeeping service in 2022 and have begun serving a few churches with various bookkeeping needs.

Ministry Outreach - Church Investors Fund is looking to reinvest in the community by providing free financial education through webinars and additional resources. Visit our website to see what we have going on.

In His Service,
Igor Mokhov / President

www.ChurchInvestorsFund.org



10/05/23

Dear Association Members,

Greetings from Crystal Springs Camp! As I write this, we are in full swing with our Fall schedule. In fact, there are ladies setting up their sewing machines in the dining hall at this very moment for a weekend of quilting. The busyness of the camp continues in earnest long after the weather turns cold. It's great to be able to provide a spiritual place of retreat not only for the youth of our area, but people of all ages. All told, we welcomed 3,907 individuals through the camp so far this year and there are more yet to come. God supplied us with a large and hardworking roster of individuals to serve on summer staff, and we were so thankful to have them as the summer schedule was very full. This year we added a second Intermediate age camp to the schedule and it was a great success. God continues to grow the camp's activities and impact as the years progress, and it's very exciting to be a part of it all.

Along with the growth comes challenges of course. We are always questioning how we can accommodate more campers and the extra staff that a growing program requires. As we look at questions of growth, we also must address the threats to the camp. One of those looming threats remains the rising lake water all around the property. Stink Lake and Crystal Springs Lake are now connected by water which runs along the north side of the railroad tracks, so the camp's driveway is the only thing that currently keeps us from being a proper island! We are in the process of bringing together a local group of individuals who will petition the county and state to assist us with the rising water. Currently we are faced with the potential of moving/rebuilding several buildings at the camp, and it would be at a considerable cost. It will take a good deal of prayer for the situation to resolve for us, so I would ask that you would continue to pray for God's protection, provision, and guidance as we try to find the best path forward. We know that God is good and his eye is upon us. We will trust in Him!

To Him and Through Him,

Tim Brenner
Executive Director
Crystal Springs Baptist Camp, Inc.

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

	Giving	Attendance
CHURCHES AND ORGANIZATIONS	2022	2022
Ashley Baptist Church, Ashley, ND	\$15,500.00	11
Bismarck Baptist Church, Bismarck, ND	\$1,097.04	25
Brandon Valley Baptist Church, Brandon, SD		0
Calvary Baptist Church, Carrington, ND	\$9,594.00	11
Central Valley Community Church, Hartford, SD		4
Century Baptist Church, Bismarck, ND	\$12,000.00	166
Cornerstone Community Church, Harvey ND	\$3,000.00	6
Danzig Baptist Church, Avon, SD	\$500.00	11
First Baptist Church, Avon, SD		0
First Baptist Church, Chancellor, SD		0
First Baptist Church, Emery, SD		9
First Baptist Church, Eureka, SD	\$864.36	2
First Baptist Church, Goodrich, ND		0
First Baptist Church, Hebron, ND		2
First Baptist Church, Linton, ND	\$15,435.60	3
First Baptist Church, McIntosh, SD		0
First Baptist Church, Mercer, ND	\$531.00	0
First Baptist Church, Minot, ND	\$9,320.04	87
First Baptist Church, Plevna, MT		0
First Baptist Church, Valley City, ND	\$675.00	7
First Baptist Church, Wishek, ND	\$4,847.00	16
Grace Baptist Church, Gackle, ND	\$550.00	0
Grace Baptist Church, Grand Forks, ND	\$3,991.65	44
Herreid Baptist Church, Herreid, SD	\$5,097.99	5
Hillside Baptist Church, Dickinson, ND	\$1,650.00	1
Immanuel Baptist Church, Beulah, ND	\$1,173.00	59
Immanuel Baptist Church, Wessington Springs, SD		0
Martin Baptist Church, Martin, ND	\$2,000.00	8
McClusky Baptist Church, McClusky, ND	\$535.00	2
Memorial Baptist Church, Parkston, SD		2
Metropolitan Baptist Church, Fargo, ND	\$2,500.00	43
Mountain View Baptist Church, Spearfish, SD		0
New Leipzig Baptist Church, New Leipzig, ND	\$3,057.69	13
River City Church, Fargo, ND		20
River Community Church, Dell Rapids, SD		50
South Canyon Baptist Church, Rapid City, SD		0
Temple Baptist Church, Jamestown, ND	\$6,500.00	79
Turtle Lake Baptist Church, Turtle Lake, ND	\$2,000.00	19
United Community Baptist Church, Anamoose,	\$450.00	1
Valley Baptist Church, Milbank, SD	\$100.00	0
Venturia Baptist Church, Venturia, ND		6
Washburn Baptist Church, Washburn, ND	\$3,500.00	34
West Center Baptist Church, Madison, SD	\$1,000.00	0
Non-NAB Churches and Organization	\$16,356.00	751
Total	\$123,825.37	1497

Summer Camp Comparison

<i>Camp</i>	<i>2023</i>	<i>2022</i>	<i>2021</i>	<i>2020</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2016</i>	<i>2015</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2010</i>
FORGE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	4	-	-	-
True North – Guy's	4	4	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
True North – Girl's	10	6	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Junior High Camp	253	264	262	188	270	256	260	230	186	189	131	136	156	135
Family I Camp	289	210	249	199	261	196	217	286	251	283	285	276	305	207
Senior High Camp	174	149	177	145	112	106	118	108	129	147	122	148	149	172
Intermediate Camp	285	237	220	144	232	237	235	192	193	145	140	156	166	125
Junior Camp	163	154	200	141	149	163	140	126	108	123	147	121	135	135
Family II Camp	154	100	146	159	139	182	168	167	138	99	96	112	40	47
Total	1,332	1,124	1,266	976	1,163	1,140	1,138	1,109	1,008	992	925	949	951	841

2023 Summer Rentals	Campers	2022 Summer Rentals	Campers
Prairie Partners (Kids/Teens)	85	Prairie Partners (Kids/Teens)	57
Nazarene Kid's Camp	174	Nazarene Kid's Camp	179
Youth For Christ	155	Youth For Christ	134
Nazarene Teen Camp	269	Nazarene Teen Camp	240
Zimmerman Family Reunion	40	Moser Family Reunion	136
Buffalo City Church	121	Buffalo City Church	83
Century Baptist Baptism	138	Century Baptist Baptism	266
Church of God	163	Church of God	219
Prayer Retreat	18	Prayer Retreat	24
Adoptive Family Camp	58	Adoptive Family Camp	43
Vetter Family Reunion/Wedding	183	7 th Day Church of God	130
Summer Staff Wedding	200		
UJ Conference/Meeting	9		
Total	1,613	Total	1,511

2023 Summer Attendance Total 2,945

2022 Summer Attendance Total 2,635

Decisions

<i>2023 Camps</i>	<i>Salvation</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>2022 Camps</i>	<i>Salvation</i>	<i>Other</i>	<i>2021 Camps</i>	<i>Salvation</i>	<i>Other</i>
Senior High	0	1	Senior High	2	0	Senior High	1	0
Junior High	0	0	Junior High	2	1	Junior High	3	0
Intermediate	8	0	Intermediate	0	0	Intermediate	7	1
Junior	4	0	Junior	2	0	Junior	18	2
Total 2023	12	1	Total 2022	6	1	Total 2021	29	3

BAPTIST HEALTH & REHAB/PRAIRIE POINTE ASSISTED LIVING CHAPLAIN'S REPORT - 2023

Greetings from Baptist Health & Rehab and Prairie Pointe Assisted Living. Our work and ministry have pretty much returned to pre-pandemic conditions. May 11th was an exciting day for us as staff. The announcement came from CMS (Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services) that nursing home staff were no longer required to wear face masks. There was whooping and shouting among the staff and our masks were taken off immediately! The only time we are required to wear a facemask is if there is a COVID outbreak in our facility. This happened one time this past summer.

Each year the Bismarck Tribune does a "Best of the Best" event. We were very proud to be named the Best of the Best Nursing Home as well as Prairie Pointe receiving Second place as the Best of the Best Assisted Living facility. Denyle Swenson received Best of the Best nurse Zins (pictured right) received "Favorite" Nurse. Also, Mayo Pharmacy, the pharmacy that serves us received the Best of the Best Pharmacy.



Denyle Swenson



Each month, Baptist Health & Rehab takes part in a Pinnacle Report in which a Pinnacle representative interviews a random number of residents or their POA.

This year we received the Pinnacle "Customer Experience" award for the top 15% of senior care locations. In the Skilled Nursing category, we received the top award for: overall satisfaction, Nursing care, cleanliness, communication from the facility, response to problems, treatment/dignity, recommend our facility to others, overall safety and overall customer experience.

The Bismarck Tribune hosts the "Nurses Heart of Healthcare." This year, our Director of Nursing, Clairissa Arlt, received the People's Choice Vote for the outstanding nurse in healthcare. 68 nurses were nominated



One of the challenges that Long Term Care is undergoing is the shortage of nurses willing to work in Long Term Care. We are blessed to have a number of nurses from the Philippines join our team. Each of these nurses spent several years in the U.A.E. (United Arab Emirates), where they developed their English and then they came here to the United States where they commit to a two-year term. They are truly a gifted group of nurses that we are blessed to have.





The residents really enjoy having a pet in their presence. At left is Christy and her dog Cooper. They were selected as our volunteers of the year. To the right is a worship service in the chapel. As you can see we really fill our chapel for church. Below are some special activities over the past year.



Trick or Treaters



Christmas Eve Service



Group Games

At Christmas, our residents took part in a Christmas pageant. This was the first time that we did this since 2019. For many of our residents this was a new experience. We were privileged to have one of our nurses, Miranda Schmitt and her baby, play the role of Mary and baby Jesus for us.



We would like to thank our present board for both Baptist Health & Rehab and Prairie Pointe Assisted Living are:

Gerald H Grosz – *Chairperson*, Grace Point (EFCA), Bismarck
Maysil Malard – *Vice Chairperson*, Bismarck Baptist (NAB), Bismarck
Pastor James Grupp – Century Baptist (NAB), Retired
Duane Grubb – Century Baptist (NAB), Bismarck
Denny Sotebeer - GracePoint (EFCA), Bismarck
Dr. Guy Tangedahl – Century Baptist (NAB), Bismarck
Michael Just – GracePoint (EFCA), Bismarck
Karen Schindler – GracePoint (EFCA), Bismarck
Rev. Brian Wright – Northern Plains District/EFCA, Valley City

Thank you for your support and prayer for us.

Blessings,

Pastor Merle Hoots, Chaplain, Baptist Health & Rehab/Prairie Pointe Assisted Living