North Central Association

Northern Plains Region

2026

Annual Meeting

And

Reports

Fall 2026 NAB Executive Director's Report by Dr. Harry Kelm

Greetings to pastors, delegates, and brothers and sisters of the Northern Plains Region. You are one of twelve geographical associations or regions of the North American Baptist Conference (NAB). The ministry direction of the NAB is summed up by the Four End Goals. They are as follows:

- **NAB churches will be trained to engage in God's mission.**
- **NAB churches will seek opportunities to engage cross-culturally.**
- **NAB churches will develop spiritual leaders.**
- **NAB churches will send and support NAB international missionaries**.

The NAB International Office is thankful for the faithful legacy of support of the Northern Plains Region. The NAB believes that God has called us together, from 1851 until today, to be in relationship with one another and to be on God's mission together. Let me share a few of the exciting ways God is moving in the NAB right now.

Formation in God's Mission Training

Another season of training on what it means to be formed in, with, and by God's mission is underway. This fall sees the start of another cohort of Blue Ocean, a key training tool. Churches are continuing to send their staff and leaders to consider who God is and God's work in this world and through his people.

In 2026, multiple associations/regions took part in workshops exploring the fundamental shift from evangelism to being evangelistic. There is an interest in the NAB in how we can effectively share our faith with others.

Future Focus – A new missional tool has been developed: a self-evaluation survey that assists churches in considering eight key shifts involved in joining God on mission. These shifts include From *Doing For* to *Being With*, From *Strategy* to *Discernment*, and From *Buildings* to *Neighborhoods*. These shifts, and five others, will guide specific potential training on engaging God's mission for that church.

Emerging Leader Engagement

The third cohort of Year of Equipping has started. This cohort helps younger leaders explore the impact of God's mission for them. There are three in-person meetings and six video calls. These leaders are getting a chance to consider God's mission and their part in it. This is also a great connecting opportunity for them.

Regional emerging leader lunches are happening in various locations around North America. At these lunches, younger leaders discuss topics from spiritual formation to ministry engagement to cultural implications.

The Landing is an online meeting place connecting youth ministers from around the US and Canada. It assists these key church staff in learning from one another, sharing resources, and developing ministry relationships.

Cross-Cultural Engagement

The NAB is sponsoring cross-cultural engagement movement cohorts in multiple locations around North America. Those who take part in these cohorts discuss the challenges and the blessings of cross-cultural engagement.

A workshop titled Ground Rules for Cross-Cultural Engagement is now being offered. It uses God's Word to explore the various dynamics that play into how churches and individuals connect with others from a different

cultural background. It considers the beauty and benefit of these relationships.

The NAB is seeing many churches experiencing cross-cultural connections across diverse settings, from urban to rural. There have been many discussions about the dynamics of cross-cultural engagement.

Church Multiplication

Fit Assessment is becoming a crucial tool in helping church planters and revitalizers consider their call to ministry. Each year we plan on two assessments in the US and one in Canada. Seventy individuals have gone through the Fit Assessment process, seven just this past August. The NAB community of multipliers is growing.

There are twenty-two church multipliers on contract, with four in progress. Signed agreements with the NAB and various regions/associations are a key part of planting and revitalizing. These agreements create accountability and support as those on contract receive different resources as specific milestones are reached.

The Sending Church Cohort has met twice, with ten churches represented. This cohort, taking place in various parts of the NAB, explores various commitments involved in being a sending church.

Nine of our associations/regions are involved in multiplication. Church multiplication is a commitment to planting and revitalization being a key part of what is happening in our regions/association.

This year, a group of multipliers went to Romania to investigate engaging in sister-church partnerships.

International Missions

The NAB has committed itself to continue the longstanding commitment of sending international missionaries. Five new missionaries have just been appointed: Lindsey Gelinas to Japan, Jonathan and Jeni Bransford to Romania, Nelson Muzika to Kenya, and John to India.

Gateway sister-church partnerships continue to be a growing and vital partnership. We are seeing the benefit of these partnerships and of the vision they generate. Consider this: There is an established NAB church in North Dakota that is planting a church to the Roma people with their sister-church partner from Romania.

We are seeing more and more opportunities to speak into the diaspora areas occurring all over North America. Our continent is not just a sending place for missions but also a receiving place for missions.

NAB students/leaders who attended The Gathering Southern California in 2025 were challenged to serve on two upcoming Gateway FUSE Teams to Cameroon and the Philippines over the next two years.

The Northern Plains Region churches have a vital and significant part to play in the work of God's Kingdom in North America. You are a valued part of the 400 plus churches that minister in Canada and the United States through the NAB. We thank you for your partnership in ministry and your willingness to pray, give, and serve.

Dr. Harry Kelm

Executive Director, North American Baptist Conference

North Central Association

Northern Plains Region

October 2026

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ of the North Central Association,

To what do you anchor your life? Job? Health? Finances? Mental ability? Work ethic? Government? All of those things can change in a moment.

One of the earliest symbols used by followers of Jesus was an anchor. *We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, (a hope) that enters into the inner place behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf . . .* Hebrews 6:19-20 (cf. Lamentations 3:24) In the midst of all that is unstable, the hope we have is based on the promise of God's unchanging word and character, demonstrated in Jesus, our "forever" high priest. He not only went into the place representing God's presence, but offered Himself as the once-for-all sacrifice for sin.

Jesus has gone before us, is seated at the Father's right hand interceding for us and urges us to run the race of faith together looking to Him. **May our lives and words give daily testimony to our conviction of what will be**.

Some examples of where I see God at work among us. **Kerry and Jodi Bender (Bismarck Baptist)** were recently given a green light through the NAB Fit Assessment as a **revitalizer** couple. Kerry and the Bismarck Baptist leadership are revisioning and reengaging with God's work in their neighborhood. Another couple, **Andrew and Emily Hershey**, sought assessment as a planter couple. They are discerning God's invitation to a different kind of outreach, **engaging people in hands-on discipleship with an international mission emphasis**. This ministry is both exciting and evolving, separate, but accountable to direction from leaders of the three Bismarck churches.

A third example of God's work is through those who are actively **mentoring others**, formally and informally (cf. Paul's charge in Ephesians 4 to equip the saints). Two whom God used to powerfully impact many are **Steve and Carol Vetter,** recently retired from **Turtle Lake** in September. They moved to the Phoenix area to be nearer family and a

climate that is more conducive to their health. Several pastors and others are actively mentoring men, women, girls and boys who are and will be our future leaders. Whether an outreach to children or a pastoral internship (like Oren (Dani) Printy, at Wishek), these are effective disciplemaking examples. **In whom (and how) are you investing?**

Besides the Vetters, others **transitioning from NCA ministries** since last October:

- **Elaine Carlson** (children's ministry director, FBC Minot),
- **Dan (Aly) Weigel** (worship pastor, Bismarck Baptist),
- **Collin (Morgan) McDonald** (pastoral intern/youth, Jamestown) and
- four Century pastors: **Ethan (Heidi) Johnson** (Executive/Worship), **Jason (Kristin) DuPaul** (NextGen) and Vital Church Ministry intentional interim leads **Carl (Vicki) Sutter** and **Dave (Maryanne) Young**.

We welcome several **new pastors/ministry staff** to the NCA, including:

- **Lexi Stavem** (children's ministry director, FBC Minot)
- **Carter (Delaney) Houck** to lead pastor (from student intern), Turtle Lake.
- **Steve (Tiffany) Pearson** recently accepted the call to be the next lead pastor at TBC Jamestown (date TBD).

Additionally, **Jackson (Mikayla) Hankey** is the lead pastor of **Christ Redeemer**, a new plant in **Grand Forks**. River City Fargo is the "mother" church, with Grace Baptist Grand Forks also lending assistance to this **church plant.** The core team has been meeting for several weeks, with public worship gatherings to begin in November.

Other NCA news:

- All **NCA Cluster groups** for pastors and ministry staff are active (West River, North Central, Bismarck area, South Central and East).
- Both **Washburn** and **Century** are engaged in **lead pastor searches**.
- **Century** plans to celebrate their **50th anniversary June 11-13, 2027**.
- The **NAB Triennial**, theme: "One Hope," will be **July 15-17, 2027** at **Heartland Community Church, Medina, OH**. Make plans to participate, as well as send your pastors, to this special gathering for worship, equipping and connection.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve with you in ministry and for reaching out to me. A special thanks to those who serve on the NCA Executive. **Our God is up to something good in our association. How is He inviting you to join Him?**

Blessings!
Randy Jaspers, Northern Plains Regional Minister
Email: nprjaspers@gmail.com; Website: https://npregion.org

9/26/26

Dear Association Members,

Another summer season has come to a close for us at Crystal Springs Camp, and the Lord's grace was evident every day. We had a great summer staff of 25 young adults that worked tirelessly to serve those that God brought to our campus. As new campers would arrive with each passing week, God renewed our strength and resolve to share the gospel with them. Many of them would receive this message with gladness while others determined to harden their hearts. Sometimes the spiritual struggle can be intense during a week of camp, and our staff needed every bit of your prayers and support throughout that time. As we prayed and worshipped together through the difficult times, we saw God opening those hearts up to the truth of his Word. We love to see those days when fruit appears in the life of new believers! I remind my staff often that *this is what it's all about.*

In total we saw over 1,500 kids come to our NAB programming this year. For many of them, this is their home away from home, and they've been attending from the time they were in second grade. It's a real joy to see how the Lord is at work in them, growing them into spiritually maturity. For others, it's literally their first time hearing the gospel, and their many questions keep the cabin devos going long past "lights out" on the schedule. Those are some of my favorite campers!

God has been so good to us year after year. Even as the threat of rising water around camp looms over us, the Lord is still at work here. The pipeline project that has been in the works for several years now is still ongoing. It's hard to predict any hard dates on when construction would begin at this point, but we are praying that God would move the process along faster than anyone can believe. The Preliminary Engineering Report for the pipeline is expected to be completed inside of 24 months. I'm hopeful that it will be significantly less than that, as some of the work has already been completed during the feasibility investigation.

Thank you all for your continued prayers as we overcome these hurdles and trust God's tender care through every season.

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

CHURCHES AND ORGANIZATIONS	2025 Giving	2025 Attendance
Ashley Baptist Church, Ashley, ND	$2,616.00	13
Bismarck Baptist Church, Bismarck, ND	$3,000.00	24
Brandon Valley Baptist Church, Brandon, SD	$150.00	
Calvary Baptist Church, Carrington, ND	$10,450.00	12
Central Valley Community Church, Hartford, SD		
Century Baptist Church, Bismarck, ND	$11,000.00	177
Cornerstone Community Church, Harvey ND	$2,000.00	7
Danzig Baptist Church, Avon, SD	$350.00	11
Discovery Church, Yankton, SD	$502.81	3
First Baptist Church, Avon, SD		
First Baptist Church, Chancellor, SD		
First Baptist Church, Emery, SD	$3,350.00	5
First Baptist Church, Eureka, SD	$681.39	
First Baptist Church, Goodrich, ND	$100.00	
First Baptist Church, Hebron, ND	$220.00	
First Baptist Church, Linton, ND	$21,766.36	10
First Baptist Church, McIntosh, SD	$750.00	
First Baptist Church, Mercer, ND	$865.00	1
First Baptist Church, Minot, ND	$9,999.96	95
First Baptist Church, Plevna, MT		
First Baptist Church, Valley City, ND	$1,500.00	10
First Baptist Church, Wishek, ND	$8,519.57	24
Grace Baptist Church, Gackle, ND	$1,069.00	1
Grace Baptist Church, Grand Forks, ND	$4,200.00	70
Herreid Baptist Church, Herreid, SD	$5,988.83	19
Immanuel Baptist Church, Beulah, ND		57
Immanuel Baptist Church, Wessington Springs,		
Martin Baptist Church, Martin, ND	$2,000.00	16
McClusky Baptist Church, McClusky, ND	$420.00	6
Metropolitan Baptist Church, Fargo, ND	$2,500.00	52
New Leipzig Baptist Church, New Leipzig, ND	$670.00	22
River City Church, Fargo, ND		29
River Community Church, Dell Rapids, SD		66
Temple Baptist Church, Jamestown, ND	$6,800.00	121
Turtle Lake Baptist Church, Turtle Lake, ND	$4,000.00	10
United Community Baptist Church, Anamoose,	$750.00	2
Valley Baptist Church, Milbank, SD	$100.00	1
Venturia Baptist Church, Venturia, ND	$1,000.00	6
Washburn Baptist Church, Washburn, ND	$1,000.00	26
West Center Baptist Church, Madison, SD	$1,000.00	38
Non-NAB Churches and Organization	$13,519.00	991
Total	**$122,837.92**	

Summer Camp Comparison

Camp	*2026*	*2025*	*2024*	*2023*	*2022*	*2021*	*2020*	*2019*	*2018*	*2017*	*2016*	*2015*	*2014*	*2013*
FORGE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	6	4
True North – Guy's	22	11	7	4	4	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
True North – Girl's	9	18	6	10	6	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Junior High Camp	241	276	234	253	264	262	188	270	256	260	230	186	189	131
Family I Camp	321	285	271	289	210	249	199	261	196	217	286	251	283	285
Senior High Camp	194	197	167	174	149	177	145	112	106	118	108	129	147	122
Pathfinders (Intermediate Camp)	198	212	175	285*	237	220	144	232	237	235	192	193	145	140
Explorers (Junior Camp)	126	147	162	163	154	200	141	149	163	140	126	108	123	147
Family II Camp	267	214	192	154	100	146	159	139	182	168	167	138	99	96
Adventurers	127	97	130	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	**1,505**	**1,457**	**1,344**	**1,332**	**1,124**	**1,266**	**976**	**1,163**	**1,140**	**1,138**	**1,109**	**1,008**	**992**	**925**

*Denotes the year we had 2 Intermediate Camps.

2026 Summer Rentals	Campers	2025 Summer Rentals	Campers
Prairie Partners (Kids/Teens)	31	Prairie Partners (Kids/Teens)	34
Nazarene Kid's Camp	203	Nazarene Kid's Camp	217
Youth For Christ	27	Youth For Christ	23
Nazarene Teen Camp	235	Nazarene Teen Camp	282
Buffalo City Church	112	Buffalo City Church	110
Century Baptist Baptism	157	Century Baptist Baptism	119
Church of God	170	Church of God	183
Harvest Baptist Youth Camp	102	Harvest Baptist Youth Camp	114
Moser Family Reunion	80	Prayer Retreat	15
Total	**1,117**	**Total**	**1,097**

2026 Summer Attendance Total 2,622

2025 Summer Attendance Total 2,554

Decisions

2026 Camps	*Salvation*	*Other*	*2025 Camps*	*Salvation*	*Other*	*2024 Camps*	*Salvation*	*Other*
Senior High	0	0	Senior High	1	0	Senior High	0	0
Junior High	3	0	Junior High	2	0	Junior High	5	0
Pathfinders	11	2	Pathfinders	9	0	Intermediate	2	0
Explorers	2	0	Explorers	9	0	Junior	1	0
Adventurers	4	0	Adventurers	3	0	NA	1	0
Total 2026	20	2	Total 2025	24	0	Total 2024	9	0

KAIROS UNIVERSITY

ASSOCIATION UPDATE

TAYLOR SEMINARY | SIOUX FALLS SEMINARY



SUPPORTING

NEW EMERGING LEADERS THROUGH KAIROS UNIVERSITY

Adapted Article Originally Published for NAB Onward

At Sioux Falls Seminary and Taylor Seminary, we found over the many years of doing theological education in North America that some of the ways we had always done things no longer served the mission of theological education. As institutions, we, too, had to learn how to "get out of the way" to support students the way they needed to be supported.

FOLLOWING THE SPIRIT

Part of our journey has been to recognize that, in this world of dramatic changes, the Spirit is calling us to change anything we do that stands in the way of faithfulness to God's mission. This has resulted in our adopting an innovative approach to competency-based theological education and trendsetting operational practices and structures built on faithful stewardship and a robust trust in the abundance of God. These changes have allowed us to provide theological education that is affordable, accessible, relevant, and faithful. We do this now under the banner of Kairos University.

One way we had to "get out of the way" was by not keeping our educational institutions at the center of the student's educational journey. Decentering the locus of education from the institution in favor of the student impacts the educational journey in many powerful ways. One way is by allowing the journey to be located within the context of the church and its work of disciple-making. Each August, we host a Partner Summit, where we bring together a variety of global partners to hear how things are going, what's going well or poorly, what we can do to serve them better, and what God is doing in their contexts. This is always an immensely rewarding time.

SHAPING EMERGING LEADERS

One of those partners was a U.S. church that works with Kairos to support their discipleship and leadership development programs. As a community of faith, they embrace the responsibility of discerning, calling, and preparing young people for vocational ministry. What they needed help with was an educational approach that could serve their people from wherever they were educationally to wherever they needed to go to follow the Spirit's call. Resisting the tradition of sending them away for that kind of preparation and partnering with Kairos, they kept their emerging leaders within their community, all while preparing them to do the things God has called them to do. This partner couldn't be more pleased with what God is doing through their partnership with us. They have seen lives transformed by the Gospel, with many young people sent out into vocational ministry.

This church has partnered with Kairos for several years, and the testimony of what they are doing has become well known in their area. The partner reported that increasingly they are being asked to include emerging leaders from other churches, to disciple, educate, train, and prepare them for their communities around the city. It was so gratifying to hear how successful this

partner has been in shaping emerging leaders in and through the partnership with Kairos and to hear of the work they are doing to bear witness to God's Kingdom.

MEETING YOU WHERE YOU ARE

Did you know that Kairos can serve the educational needs of people at many different educational levels? Yes, we offer "classic" seminary degrees such as the Master of Divinity, Master of Arts, Master of Arts in Leadership, Master of Arts in Counseling, Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy, and Doctor of Ministry. Many of these can be focused on a particular area of interest. We also offer other doctoral degrees, such as doctorates in Philosophy, Theology, and Professional Counseling.

What you might not know is that we offer undergraduate degrees as well: Bachelor of Arts in Christian Thought and Practice and Bachelor of Arts in Leadership. These, too, can be focused on a variety of different emphases or vocational contexts, depending on the interest and needs of the student. Some students even choose to accelerate their studies, either by pursuing both bachelor's and master's degrees or finishing previous undergraduate work while pursuing their master's degree. As robust as our offerings are, we recognize that some people may not want a degree at all, so we have non-degree certificates for personal enrichment.

Over this past year, I have been blessed to work alongside Wayne in the NAB's Emerging Leaders Initiative. I have been doubly blessed to see how many of these leaders are in a Kairos degree program or have recently graduated from Kairos. The ways we have changed our two NAB seminaries to "get out of the way" and to serve our emerging leaders in the NAB is not only a blessing to all of us here at Kairos but evidence that the Spirit is at work in our midst: leading and guiding us in and through the dramatic changes of our current situation.

SERVING WITH YOU

If you are interested in talking with us about how we might be able to serve you with the emerging leaders in your context, please contact us. We'd love to hear from you!

GLOBAL NETWORK

2000~ students

2400+ mentors

3900~ alumni

140~ partners

170~ faculty mentors

50/7 states/provinces

75 countries

7 continents

6 languages

NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST CONFERENCE
HERITAGE COMMISSION

Recently I overheard a conversation at my local Subway restaurant. The 70ish sandwich-making-woman who carries a breathing apparatus on her back told another customer that she was ***"living the dream."*** Perhaps she was speaking with a bit of sarcasm, but she appears to be an individual who really enjoys making sandwiches and interacting with her customers. The encounter reminded me that one does not have to be rich, or famous or powerful in order to ***"live the dream"*** – to have a meaningful and purposeful life.


"THERE WERE GIANTS IN THOSE DAYS"
The Story of the Early Pioneers, Distinguished Teachers and Dedicated Pastors

Nearly every day here in the NAB Heritage Center (Archives), we are reminded of folk who found purpose and meaning in life – lived the dream - as they served God and his people in the context of the NAB conference and its churches. Professor A. J. Ramaker used a play on words from Genesis 6:4 (KJV)[1] as he wrote about spiritual "giants" like August Rauschenbusch and Jacob Gubelmann, - both influential NAB pastors and seminary professors. Names like Konrad Fleishman, founder of the first NAB Church (in Philadelphia) and der Sendbote-editor Philip Bickel and astute-business-manager Henry P. Donner and Pastor Jakob Kratt who served for 40 years as pastor of Trintiy Baptist Church in Portland, OR could also be added to the list of "giants" who faithfully served God and his people.

The recent scanning and digitizing of documents from and about early-NAB-missionary- endeavors in Cameroon has led to several conversations about the challenges and hardships which our missionaries faced as they worked to train teachers and pastors, to provide medical care for those with leprosy and other illnesses, and as they did a thousand other things which were not in their job descriptions. Pictured is nurse Laura Reddig – a "giant" among many international missionaries - "living her dream" as she offers hands-on nursing care for a patient.

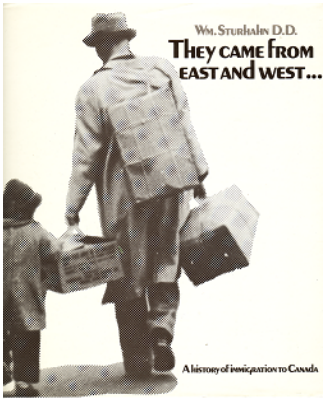


Quite often, we receive requests from constituents for copies of: ***They Came from East and West*** – a book in which Wm. Sturhahn gives an overview of his leadership and of the NAB relief-efforts in response to "reports of unspeakable suffering among refugees from the East (Germany)"[2] following WWII and to the implementation of a program which led

[1] A. J. Ramaker – NAB Annual, 1965

[2] Wm. Sturhahn, *"They Came from East and West – A History of Immigration to Canada,"* (Winnipeg, MB, North American Baptist Immigration and Colonization Society, 1976).

to the migration of many individuals and families to North America – primarily Canada. Sturhahn's efforts, along with the support of many individuals and churches, enabled many people to rebuild their lives in North America, resulting in the formation of many NAB churches and church leaders. Welcoming the stranger became a means of "living the dream."





Struhahn / Immigrants Praying in Alberta Beet Field

Nearly everyone who reads these stories will recall someone, somewhere (a pastor, Sunday School teacher, youth worker, camp counselor, professor, etc.) who made a significant impact in their life. Take a moment or 2 today to remember and give thanks for those spiritual "giants" who have blessed your life and consider how you might "live the dream" of blessing the lives of others.

Things to remember:

#1) Remember we are all in the "Legacy Building Business"
(Those who find themselves in positions of leadership and those who serve out of the spotlight are all important)

#2) Remember that history (your stories / our stories) are important and they need to be recorded

#3) Remember to send your stories (special events and anniversaries, etc.) to the Archives

#4) Remember that the Archival Staff (Randy and Darlene) are available to assist individuals in your research

#5) Remember to check us out on our webpage at nabconf.org and read our written report in your information packet.

#6) Remember that in-person visits to the Archives are always welcome.

NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST CONFERENCE
HERITAGE COMMISSION

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NORTH AMERICAN BAPTIST CONFERENCE

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Annual Report to the North Central Association
Baptist Health & Rehab, Bismarck, North Dakota

For many of you, Baptist Health & Rehab will continue to be known as The Baptist Home, but we changed our name when we moved into our new facility 14 years ago. We were started by the North American Baptists back in 1940 and have been a part of the Cassia Health care system based out of Edina, Minnesota for the past 17 years.

Baptist Health & Rehab is the second largest nursing home in Bismarck with 140 skilled care beds. Connected to us but run as a separate business is Prairie Pointe Assisted Living with 60 units. 40 of the units are Assisted Living with the units being of various sizes and 20 of the rooms are classed as Basic Care, which is a level of care only in North Dakota. Other states have a similar level of care but call it by different names. If there is a financial need, a Basic Care Room can be paid for through Medicaid but still be able to live with Assisted Living residents. Some of our residents in Baptist Health & Rehab have family residents who live next door in Prairie Pointe and can walk aver in room temperature throughout the year.



We are very proud of our chapel. Each Sunday there are about 75 residents and family members who attend the morning worship service. We also host Catholic Mass every Tuesday and on Wednesday we have multiple activities including Bible Studies, Hymn Sings or communion services. Once a month we also invite in a Lutheran pastor to lead communion. Most of our residents are of the Catholic or Lutheran faith.

We have also had several inspections of our facility over the summer months. All of these inspections were annual inspections, but they come to us unannounced. The big inspection came first with the arrival of the North Dakota State Health inspectors to check on our nursing department, dietary and social workers. They spent 3 ½ days in our facility. When they were done, they gathered each of us as managers together in the community room. As we were waiting breathlessly for the results, the team leader stated that they did not find anything worthy of a demerit. Our room was filled with a lot of happy people. Our facility is now a 4 star, (out of 5) facility. This is a very good rating for a large care center.



The next week we were visited by the North Dakota Public Health for the annual Life Safety and Construction inspection. They inspect things like fire safety, water lines and construction codes that change annually. That inspection we very well.

Then, about a month later the Bismarck Public Health did their Environmental Health Inspection in early September of our kitchen and dietary process. Jill Schiermeister, dietary director, is picture with three staff.



Denyle Swenson, our Director or Nursing was selected recently to be rewarded as one of 20 individuals under 40 in Bismarck to receive the “20 Under 40” Leadership award.

I close this report with a special request for one or two of you. Each Sunday, I have a need for volunteers who serve once a month. One of them accompanies on the piano for our Sunday worship and the others serve as “transporters.” That is, they transport residents in their wheelchairs from their room to the chapel before the church service and then back to the nursing stations close to their room after church. If you are interested in serving as a transporter on the third Sunday of each month, please contact Chaplain Merle Hoots at 701-989-7411.

It is a joy to work at Baptist Health & Rehab. There is a reason why we were selected by the Bismarck Tribune as the Best of the Best Nursing Home in Bismarck for 6 years in a row and also the Best of the Best large business in which to work. It is because of our great Administrator, Deanna Berg, but even more so, because of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Stop in and visit us. We’d love to show you around.

Sincerely in Christ, Merle Hoots, Chaplain

Church Investors Fund

2026 Association Report

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

Health of Our Ministry

2026 is shaping up to be a strong year. After having one of our best years on record in 2025, we are seeing the momentum continue with strong loan growth and continued growth in our investments. Behind every investment dollar, there is an individual or church that is choosing to have their resources go towards funding ministry.

Along with strong investment dollar growth, we have also started to see growth in the number of new investors, which is a great sign for the long-term health of Church Investors Fund. While the interest rate environment remains elevated and margins tighter than usual, we are seeing signs of moderating volatility and an adjustment back to longer-term trends. As of the date of this letter, all borrowing ministry partners are current with their payments. We are thankful for their faithfulness in honoring their obligations. Our liquidity remains healthy, and we stand ready to keep funding ministry projects. Overall, we are optimistic and have great momentum going forward!

Highlights

Webinars! We offer webinars on church finance, construction management, or other ministry topics, which we promote via mailers and e-communications. If you find a topic that you like, feel free to RSVP! We have had good feedback. If you would like to view a webinar but cannot attend it live, you can always request the recording on demand.

Your investments build churches! The churches we serve are growing. Help us ensure there are sufficient funds available to loan out so that we can continue to further God's kingdom. The good news is that everything can now be completed conveniently online, even the banking information. Visit us at **www.ChurchInvestorsFund.org** and click on the "Invest Now" link in the upper right corner.

Loan demand remains strong! Over $20,000,000 in loans were funded in 2025 across Canada and the USA. These churches' ministries are funded by the support of other churches and individuals who invest their God-given resources. For investment information, reach out to us at ministryoutreach@cifinc.org or call us at (800) 543-2343 to learn more.

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

Prayer - As a staff, we pray weekly for our investors, all of the NAB churches, their leadership, their communities, and their associations. Let us know how we can pray for you!

Thank you for all that you do and for allowing us to partner with you to expand the Kingdom.

- Igor Mokhov / President

NCA Scholarship Fund Report

The Scholarship Fund is in place to provide assistance to students preparing for ministry while attending a Bible school, seminary or taking online studies. If money is available funds can be provided for those who might take a year of Bible School prior to starting a career.

This past year two recipients have finished their studies, and three students have started taking courses of study. It is anticipated that the current recipients may continue to receive assistance for the next two or three years.

Currently scholarships are being given in amounts up to $2500 per year. The money is provided directly to the institution, and the student must stay enrolled and actively participating to continue to receive funding.

The NCA Scholarship Fund receives donations from some churches within the North Central Association which makes it possible to provide scholarships. Donations from individuals is also welcome.

Applications may be submitted all through the year contrary to what the application says. The application form is found at npregion.org. Look under Resources, find NCA Resources and click on NCA Scholarship Application Form. Return to:

Dwight Enockson

424 20th Ave SW

Washburn, ND 58577

Email: enocksond@westriv.com

701-462-3352

White Cross USA Report – 2026

This past year has truly been a time of great blessing for White Cross USA. We give praise to God for all of the ways He has provided medical equipment and supplies for the Cameroon Baptist Convention Healthcare System.

In January, our White Cross warehouse was moved from Suite A on the east to Suite B on the west side of the For The City building owned by Century Baptist Church. For The City is located at 1112 South 12th Street, Bismarck. This building houses not only White Cross but also Missio Church, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Prison Fellowship Ministry, and Toys for Tots.

The new warehouse provides a better footprint for the work that is essential to this ministry. We now have a meeting room area where food can be served, an office zone for paperwork, adequate space for staging container shipments, permanent workstations and storage. There is one dock for loading the 40-foot containers and a drive-in bay area for deliveries.

Cameroon artwork and items have been donated for display through the NAB Heritage Commission in Sioux Falls, along with private collections from the families of Laura Reddig , Cleo Enockson, Dwight and Elaine Enockson, and Eloise Potratz. Jody Johannes created a lovely display to showcase our connection to Cameroon through White Cross and our faithful missionaries who have served there.

So far this year White Cross USA has shipped three containers. Essentia Clinic and CHI St. A's Hospital have provided hospital beds, exam tables, stackable waiting room chairs, baby incubators, bedside tables, wheelchairs and other medical items.

We continue to have a great working relationship with Central Dakota Hospital Laundry in Bismarck. Their donations of hospital laundry provide White Cross with blankets, sheets, gowns, scrubs and numerous other hospital linens. These items are then inspected with good linens packaged in shipping boxes and damaged ones repaired or repurposed by teams of volunteers.

A log has been kept since January of visitors to the new warehouse. We currently have had over three hundred visitors who came to work, drop off collected items or tour the new location. We have welcomed visitors from Cameroon, Ethiopia, Brazil and France. We have also had volunteers deliver White Cross goods from California, Kansas, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Montana along with guests and volunteers from New York, Texas, Wisconsin and Florida.

Financial support is greatly needed to continue this valued ministry. The cost per shipment is $14,000 including the cost of shipping boxes and supplies. Your support for White Cross USA is greatly appreciated. Thank you to all of the churches who currently donate and provide items as listed in the White Cross handbook. We invite you to schedule a tour or work session at our new warehouse. Please contact Century Baptist Church to become part of this hands-on ministry to serve others.

Pastor Paul Herr, Robyn Wonnenberg - Century Baptist Church Staff

Volunteers -Doug Wonnenberg, Connie Grause, Dan and Debbie Long and many others.

2026 Moderator Report

Greetings members of the North Central Association,

It has been an honor to serve the North Central Association as the moderator for the past year alongside an excellent executive team. We continue to look for ways in which we can better serve our member churches.

I am excited that we have a new church plant that is happening in the Grand Forks area and we pray that God‘s kingdom will grow in the Grand Forks and surrounding area. I want to encourage all of us to seek opportunities for kingdom growth in our own communities.

We continue to be blessed by the service of Randy Jaspers, our regional minister, and his dedication and love for all the churches he serves. We thank him for his faithful service.

We are always looking for input from you if you have any comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact any of the executive team members.

As we enter a new year for the association, may we continue to strive to live out the great commission “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even onto the end of the world. Amen.”

Matthew 28: 19-20

In Christ

James Schnabel NCA Moderator

2025 NCA Business Meeting Agenda and Minutes

22 churches represented with 55 Delegates presents. We have a quorum.

Jim Schnabel, Moderator, called the meeting to Order - 3:47 PM

Scripture Reading - Matt. 28:16-20, Peggy Bettenhausen

Prayer - Rich Cook

Parliamentarian - Brian Held
Scrutineers - Paul Ewing and Susan Faul

Review Minutes of the 2024 Meeting

Motion to approve the minutes made by: John Swan
Seconded: Dwight Enockson
Motion Carried

Treasurer Report

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report: Kaylene Reddig
Seconded: John Swan
Motion Carried

Tim Brenner reported on Crystal Springs Baptist Camp

- Reviewed a little bit of what was in the report. There were a record number of NAB campers for the year. The rental numbers were down a little. Just had Fall Retreat with Ryan Franchuk speaking with 112 in attendance. But the goal is not the numbers but proclaiming the truth. An Internship program was started this Fall called Focus with two students. The water is still there. The Feasibility Study by Houston Engineering showed that financially a water mitigation project is feasible. The plan would deal with water issues all the way from Stink Lake to the Missouri River. There is still more to be done. We have gotten this far because of prayer. We need to continue to pray. Completed project is about 3-5 years out. The ministry is going well. A lake neighbor called Tim and said he needed spiritual help. Tim was able to share the gospel with him and pray with him.

2025 Budget Proposal

Annual meeting & training $3,000
Office and Executive Committee $1,500
Liability Insurance $1,300
Northern Plains Regional Minister $83,500
Ministry Enrichment $3,000
TOTAL 2026 Proposed Budget $92,300

- Motion to approve the budget: Kerry Bender
- Seconded: John Swan

- Discussion: Funds for the Regional Minister have extra available from previous years without a Regional Minister that are assisting to fund Randy even though the listed amount has not gone up.
- Motion Carried

Nominating Committee Report

Peggy Bettenhausen

Keith Hurlbut

- Both have agreed to let their names stand. No other nominations were made.
- Motion to cast a unanimous ballot: Paul Ewing
- Seconded: Paul Staut
- Motion Carried

Regional Minister Report

Randy asked those who were in attendance who had made ministry changes this year to stand. Randy wanted us to see God's faithfulness and then prayed for these folks. Randy is tasked with assisting the churches of our association toward health. Randy took a two mont sabbatical this summer. By way of encouragement Randy spoke about John 21 and Jesus' restoration of Peter. Peter asked about John. Jesus told him not to worry about him. "But you, follow me." These were the words Jesus gave him about 3 years earlier. In spite of cultural changes and uncertainty don't get distracted from Jesus' message to follow Him.

A question was asked about what gives Randy joy. "When churches see ministry opportunities right before them." This was tied to specific events that happen in churches and things that happen that people are seeing. Ministry multiplication can happen in any of our churches.

Jim Schnabel asked Jason Haas to pray for Randy and Kristi.

Other Business, Reports, and Testimonies

- Moderator's Report - Jim is honored to serve as Moderator. Results of a survey we did are in his report. Jim is thrilled by the fact that our pastors and churches value our Regional Minister. We need to work on our relationships. The Regional Team had a face-to-face meeting and have agreed to give Randy a month off every summer as long as he is Regional Minister. He needs time to unplug from stressful situations. Jim encouraged the churches to call for help when there is just a little spark. Don't wait until it is a raging inferno. There is value to having third-party eyes come in and evaluate things. Seise the opportunities before you.

Jim asked for questions?

Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn: John Swan
- Seconded: Roy White
- Motion carried.

North Central Association
Statement of Financial Position
As of December 31, 2025

ASSETS	Dec-25	Dec-24	$ Change
• Ministry Seed Fund Restricted	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00
• Church Planting Restricted	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00
• General Checking Account	65,452.83	40,255.98	25,196.85
Total Checking/Savings	85,452.83	60,255.98	25,196.85
• CD maturing **5-9-2026**	184,820.19	175,784.00	9,036.19
TOTAL ASSETS	**270,273.02**	**236,039.98**	**34,233.04**

North Central Association
2025 Budget vs. Actual
January through December 2025

INCOME	JAN-DEC 25	BUDGET	$ OVER BUDGET
Member Church support	112,616.64	92,300.00	20,316.64
EXPENSE			
Transfers to Regional	83,500.00	83,500.00	0.00
NCA Annual Meeting	2,710.81	3,000.00	-289.19
Hazard-Liability Insurance	930.00	1,300.00	-370.00
General Office Supplies	278.98		278.98
Office Executive Committee	0.00	1,500.00	-1,500.00
Pastoral Resourcing & Enrichment	0.00	3,000.00	-3,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	87,419.79	92,300.00	-4,880.21
NET INCOME	25,196.85		

North Central Association
Statement of Financial Position
As of September 30, 2026

ASSETS	Sep 30, 26	Sep 30, 25	$ Change
• Ministry Seed Fund Restricted	10,126.70	10,000.00	126.70
• Church Planting Restricted	8,705.10	10,000.00	(1,294.90)
• General Savings Account	101,114.09	0.00	101,114.09
• General Checking Account	3,293.73	49,007.01	(45,713.28)
Total Checking/Savings	123,239.62	69,007.01	54,232.61
CIF Foundation account 3.35%	33,564.68	0.00	33,564.68
• CIF CD maturing **5-9-2027** 3.95%	162,612.76	184,820.19	-22,207.43
TOTAL ASSETS	**319,417.06**	**253,827.20**	**65,589.86**

North Central Association
2026 Budget vs. Actual
January through September 2026

INCOME	JAN-SEP 26	JAN-SEP 26 BUDGET	$ OVER BUDGET
Member Church support	59,408.94	69,225.00	-9,816.06
Interest	1,710.85	0.00	1,710.85
TOTAL INCOME	61,119.79		
EXPENSE			
Transfers to Regional	56,625.00	62,625.00	-6,000.00
NCA Annual Meeting	0.00	2,250.00	-2,250.00
Hazard-Liability Insurance	960.00	975.00	-15.00
Workmans Comp Insurance	250.00	0.00	250.00
General Office Supplies	220.48	0.00	220.48
Church Plant reimburse	1,414.80	0.00	1,414.80
Office Executive Committee	0.00	1,125.00	-1,125.00
Pastoral Resourcing & Enrichment	0.00	2,250.00	-2,250.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	59,470.28	69,225.00	-9,754.72
NET INCOME	1,649.51		

NCA Annual Meeting agenda, Saturday, October 17, 2026, Bismarck Baptist Church
Theme: "Living for Jesus in a Polarized World"

REGISTRATION DEADLINE - October 8. You may register
1) here: 2026 NCA Association Registration – Fill out form
2) at the Bismarck Baptist website. Go to https://bb.church
3) at the Northern Plains Region website. Go to https://npregion.org

CHILDCARE IS PROVIDED, BUT YOU MUST REGISTER (Nursery; PreK - Grade 5)

8:15 a.m. - Registration

9:00 a.m. - Worship

9:15 a.m. - Two special reports (Jackson Hankey/Christ Redeemer church plant & Shan Reed)

9:35 a.m. - Kimlyn Bender - "What Do They Notice?" - How the Church is to live when our children, our neighbors and the world are watching

10:20 a.m. - Break

10:50 am - Breakout Sessions (1 hour)
Breakout 1 - Kimlyn Bender - "Uncomfortable Advice for Churches When Everything Is Political"
Breakout 2 - Brandon Smith - "A Biblical Approach to AI"
Breakout 3 - Shan Reed & Brandon Jones - "Fanning the Flame of Compassion Around the World"
Breakout 4 - Terry Okken - "Jesus' Relational Approach to People"

12:00 p.m. - Lunch

1:00 p.m. - Two special reports (Brandon Jones & Terry Okken)

1:20 p.m. - Worship

1:35 p.m. - Kimlyn Bender - "But Who Is My Neighbor?" - Expanding our witness by enlarging our world

2:30 p.m. - Second Breakout Session. (Repeat of Breakout sessions 1-4)

3:30 p.m. - Break

3:45 p.m. - Business Meeting

Presenters::
Kimlyn Bender, Professor of Christian Theology, Truett Seminary (Baylor), Waco (TX)
Brandon Smith, executive pastor, First Baptist, Minot (ND)
Shan Reed, NAB Director of (Mission) Mobilization (formerly NAB missionary to Japan)
Brandon Jones, NAB International Missionary (Brazil)
Terry Okken, NAB Director of Advancement

Kimlyn Bender (Sioux Falls, SD), Brandon Jones (Herreid, SD) and Terry Okken (Edmonton, AB) have all served as NAB pastors. Kimlyn is a native of Venturia, Terry of New Leipzig, Shan of Madison, SD.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO THE NCA MEETING, OCTOBER 16. Below are the guidelines from the NCA Constitution regarding delegates to the 3:45 p.m. business meeting.

ARTICLE IV – REPRESENTATION

A. Each member church shall have five delegates for the first 200 members of the church and one additional delegate for each additional 100 members as specified below. Each church may also select an alternate for each delegate to serve in his or her absence. The delegates and their alternates from each church shall be active members of that church and shall include at least one member from each of the three following categories:

1. The senior pastor or pastoral designee. The pastoral designee may be:
- An Associate Pastor
- A lay leader when the pastor serves multiple churches.
- A **l**ay leader when the church is without a pastor.
2. A member of the governing lay leadership board of that church.
3. Members at large of that church.

Nominations for NCA Executive Committee & 2027 NCA Proposed Budget

(For the NCA Business Session, Saturday afternoon, October 17, Bismarck Baptist)

***Moderator (2-year term). Currently serving - Jim Schnabel. Nominated - Jim Schnabel**

Bio: James is the fourth generation on the family farm where he and his wife of 33 years, Pamela, raise livestock and hay. James also sorts cattle for Napoleon Livestock and drives semi for J and P Livestock. He is an active member of Venturia Baptist Church having held multiple positions there and has been a member of the Association Executive for several years serving as Vice Moderator, Moderator and Regional Leadership Team representative. James and Pamela have two adult married children, Ellen (Scott) Quanbeck and Addie (Marly) Schnabel. James and Pam are blessed with 4 grandchildren.

***Recording Secretary (2-year term). Currently serving - Rich Cook. Nominated - Peggy Bettenhausen**

Bio: My husband Reggie and I live in rural Wishek where Reggie farms and I am a substitute teacher. We are members of First Baptist of Wishek where I am involved with children and music ministries and serve as church clerk. I was raised in a NAB church and attended Crystal Springs Camp where I came to know Jesus as my Savior. Reggie and I have 4 married children and 9 grandchildren.

***Treasurer (2-year term). Currently serving - Tony Neu. Nominated - Tony Neu**

Bio: Tony Neu, of Ashley is a member of Ashley Baptist Church. He is married to Lisa since 1990. They have two adult children. Kendra lives in Fargo and works at Ag Country, Farm Credit Services. Jakob lives in Ashley and works on the family farm. Tony farms with his wife, brother Dan and his wife Jennifer. He currently serves on Deacon board of Ashley Baptist Church.

***At-large (2 years remaining of a 3-year term). Currently serving - Peggy Bettenhausen. Nominated - (Currently open for nominations)**

If you have someone to nominate for this position, please contact Jim Schnabel. Mobile - (701) 851-0557 or Email: jim.schnabel68@gmail.com

2027 NCA Proposed Budget

Annual meeting - $4,000 (2026 budget is $3,000)
Office and executive expenses - $1,500
Liability insurance - $1,300
Northern Plains Regional Minister expenses - $83,500
Ministry Enrichment - $3,000
Total - $93,300 (2026 budget is $92,300)

Pastor/Ministry Staff/Spouse Mini-Retreat, Friday, October 16, Bismarck Baptist Church

1 p.m. - Gather

1:30 p.m. - Brandon Jones & Shan Reed - “Navigating Theological Differences - Cultural Elements”

Free Time

Supper - 5:30 p.m.

7 p.m.. - Kimlyn Bender “Navigating Theological Differences”

2026 NCA Business Meeting Agenda

- Call to Order
- Review Minutes of the 2025 Meeting
- Treasurer Report
- 2027 Budget Proposal
- Nominating Committee Report
- Vote
- Regional Minister Report
- Other Business, Reports, and Testimonies
- Adjournment

NCA 2027 Budget Proposal

• Annual meeting & Training	4,000
• Office and Executive Committee	1,500
• Liability Insurance	1,300
• Northern Plains Regional Minister	83,500
• Ministry Enrichment	3,000
Total 2027 Proposed Budget	93,300

Delegate Information for Business Session (3:45 pm)

Excerpt from the NCA Constitution and Bylaws concerning delegates:

A. Each member church shall have five delegates for the first 200 members of the church and one additional delegate for each additional 100 members as specified below. Each church may also select an alternate for each delegate to serve in his or her absence. The delegates and their alternates from each church shall be active members of that church and shall include at least one member from each of the three following categories:

1. The senior pastor or pastoral designee. The pastoral designee may be: -An Associate Pastor -A lay leader when the pastor serves multiple churches. -A lay leader when the church is without a pastor.

2. A member of the governing lay leadership board of that church.

3. Members at large of that church.

Continue below for the Business Meeting Agenda, the 2026 Proposed Budget, and a Registration Form. Please make copies for your leaders, delegates, and congregation. Looking forward to seeing you in Beulah!

In Christ,

James Schnabel, Moderator

2026 NCA Annual Meeting Ballot

NCA Executive Team

Moderator (2-year term)

-Jim Schnabel Yes No

-_____ Yes No

Recording Secretary (2-year term)

-Peggy Bettenhausen Yes No

-_____ Yes No

Treasurer (2-year term)

-Tony Neu Yes No

-_____ Yes No

At-Large (2-years of 3-year term)

-_____ Yes No

SAMPLE