

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2024

*As a deer yearns for running streams,
So I yearn for you, my God.
In you is the source of life, by your life we see the light. (Ps.42:1; 36:9)*

The year has been one of growth for CABF as we entertained applications from churches and individuals across Canada. To welcome and embrace these new members has been enriching and exciting bringing renewed hope for the years ahead.

The loss of one of our dearest and longest standing members of ABF-CABF, Rev. John Boyd was shocking and most devastating in many ways. For many he was our mentor; for others he was seen as the hard working leader behind the website and Facebook page, but for everyone he was the wisdom undergirding the CABF, from its inception to the present day. We continue to follow his lead and life continues. Thank you to Jenny Eisener for volunteering to step in to the leadership position of the Website/Facebook committee and continue the good work that was begun.

As we approach the more day to day items, there is no less hopeful anticipation. Our executive has been working overtime, bringing you updated notes from all the meetings; keeping our financial records in order; and finding new faces and minds to fill our many vacancies on council and committees.

Our Credentials Committee continues to develop regional officiates for weddings, as well as taking applications for new pastors / chaplains who wish to credential with CABF. These meetings include many interviews and opportunities to meet face to face (albeit ZOOM) those making application. What a rich and touching experience this has been.

Our Publications Committee has produced three very meaningful and informative issues of the 'Bulletin' as well as diligently creating a book focusing on the history of ABF/CABF, entitled 'Unity in Diversity - a broad tent in the Baptist Family'. The Editor and author, Rev. Dr. Scott Kindred Barnes will be sharing a brief overview during our AGM on September 24. Publication is set for January, 2025.

Our Nominating Committee has spent many hours contacting members attempting to fill vacancies on our committees and council. This is how we function - through the hearts and skills of our volunteers. To date we have not found it necessary to hire any individual; all the work has been accomplished through simple love and commitment. It has enabled us to be small but mighty, and we would like to continue in that vein. As we work together, we share our lives and our hopes and visions. This is the strength of CABF.

During a simple request for an informative CABF brochure that could be used for various events, our Chair of Constitution and Governance took it upon himself to create such a document. This has been used and appreciated by many throughout the year.

As we have planned for the upcoming CABF Cross Canada Conference (October 28-31) in Halifax, we have felt the surge of excitement. Coming face to face with our members from Western Canada, and Ontario, as well as those from the Atlantic Region will be such an amazing opportunity, and we pray that as many members as possible will be able to join in. Our three speakers will lead us to their view of what it means to have Christ in the midst of Chaos and we thank First Baptist Church Halifax for hosting this gathering.

In June, at our Rushton Lecture (an annual event), held at Bridgewater Baptist Church, Rev. Sarah Scott and Rev. Joe Green, both chaplains in NS, led us in an informative discussion of MAiD. Although we all have our own thoughts on this topic, these chaplains gave us their first hand experiences and how they perceive its value. This was well received, and we were blessed by this opportunity.

One of our greatest highlights has been the request by First Baptist Church Halifax to examine for ordination, Andrea King and Luke Dowding both from the UK. We met Andrea and Luke last October at our first annual Cross Canada Conference in Edmonton, and so it was a delight to gather an examining council together and after a full afternoon of questions, responses, and discussion, to recommend both Andrea and Luke for ordination through First Baptist Church Halifax. This very historic and sacred service will take place on October 27 at First Baptist Church at 2 pm. We know the excitement and attendance will be overwhelming.

As the year comes to a close, once again, since there is no vice president, I shall offer to lead for one more year, and end my term in 2025. I do pray that new members will come to the Nominating Committee to offer their assistance.

In the meantime I shall endeavor to embrace this amazing opportunity and find ways to envision what the next years will mean for CABF. All those who wish to come on board, please simply contact me.

As I close this report, I do so with thanks - to so many for so much. The people I've had opportunity to meet and get to know through these many committees has been encouraging.

Peace be with you; Shalom

Marlene Knowles (President of CABF)