

ABA Update



Our Values

Impact
Growth
Relationships
Progress
Vision

Our Mission

The ABA exists to connect and enable churches to impact communities for the growth and advancement of the Kingdom of God in Alberta and the World.

Our Priorities

Serving Churches

To make the personnel and resources of the ABA available to respond to the needs of churches, leaders and pastors of ABA churches.

Planting Churches

To facilitate a church planting focus in which every church of the ABA can participate in a real and relevant way.

Connecting Churches

To connect pastors, leaders and churches in intentional relationships and ministry partnerships.

Church Planting

Listening to pastors and leaders of ABA churches, it has become clear that there is a renewed interest in and commitment to planting churches and multiplying congregations in the ABA. While the ABA has always been a strong church planting association, the desire is to raise the profile, increase the activity and dedicate more resources.

In this regard, things have already begun to happen. The Leadership Council has approved the reshaping of ABA priorities to reflect this renewed focus.

We have formed a Church Planting Team (CPT) that will serve to encourage and guide the planting ministry of ABA churches. In this effort the CPT will seek to:

- Cast a vision for church planting in the ABA;
- Encourage planting partnership;
- Define ways in which every ABA church can participate in planting;
- Communicate what is presently happening in the ABA;
- Clarify and communicate different planting models;
- Identify and promote resources for planting;
- Assess plant and planter viability.

As we move forward, there are some things we need to keep in mind, including:

- The mission of the ABA has not changed nor has our commitment to being missional changed. Rather this brings into sharper focus how we will engage our mission and missional commitments;
- The approach we use will not be limited to a traditional model. In fact, we will consider and support any method of planting churches and multiplying congregations that is motivated by and focused on making new disciples. We will encourage the Mother Church Model, Partnership Model, Satellite/Multi-Site Model, Cross-Cultural Model, Cell Church Model and any other that will result in new followers of Christ.

Please join with us as we pray, plan and work together to become a stronger church planting association.

Thank You

The Leadership Council of the ABA would like to express thanks and appreciation for the way churches and individuals have supported the ministry during this challenging financial period. Clearly the economic reality of today is causing struggles across the association, a struggle that is being felt by the ABA as well.

Watching the situation unfold during the summer and fall, the council revised the 2015-16 ABA budget in September, reducing both anticipated revenue and projected expenses by more than \$28,000.00. We are happy to report that we finished the mid-way mark of our fiscal year in good shape. Income thus far has been \$202,807.00 or slightly less than half the projected revenue. Likewise, expenses at the mid-way mark were \$199,011.00, again less than projected. This allowed us to finish December in the black, a better position than we were in a year ago at this time. This has been very encouraging.

The council and Regional Minister remain committed to engaging and further developing the ministry of the association, while exercising careful stewardship of the financial resources God has provided. Like churches, the association depends on the faithful support and sacrificial generosity of God's people and we are most grateful for all we have received.

We have already received word from some churches that their contribution to the ABA will be reduced in 2016. We understand and we believe that leaders of our churches are working diligently to keep local expenses and commitments in line with present and expected revenue realities. We appreciate your efforts and share in the struggle.

As we move through the second half of our fiscal year and plan for 2016-17, our request remains the same. Please continue to give to the mission and ministry of the ABA. This ministry belongs to the churches of the ABA and is dependent upon the generous giving of churches and individuals. Also, to what ever degree possible, please consider an increased contribution to the ABA as you build your budgets for your next fiscal year.

Once again, thank you for your support. It is a pleasure to serve on your behalf as we see God doing so many great things in and through the churches of the ABA.

ABA Leadership Council

CONNECT IN PRAYER

Prayer continues to be one of the most important parts of ABA ministry. As we pray, we connect with one another, we become partners in life and ministry.

Pray for...

...the Ministry Worker's and Family Retreat held at Camp Caroline Jan 31-Feb 3. Dr. Syd Page, Dr. Dick Paetzel and Dr. Willy Muller are the speakers.

...Carbon Baptist Church as they get settled in their new facilities.

...Sam Nikkel as he leads the Sabbatical Workshop next week. Also pray that this will be of great benefit to the participants who are planning for a sabbatical.

...those pastors who are presently working through the ABA Ordination Protocol.

...those churches presently searching for senior/lead pastors, including: Bethel Baptist, High Prairie; First Baptist, Golden Prairie; Hillview Baptist, Edmonton; West Meadows Baptist, Edmonton.

...safety on the road and Jim and Terry travel across the province serving the churches of the ABA.

...Cam Roxburgh as he prepares to be the presenter at our upcoming ReNew events.

...Dan Hamil, David Williams, Ben Trites, Steve Wile, Les Colins and Ron Norman as they give leadership to our respective ministry partners.

...all of our churches as we struggle with the financial realities of the present Alberta economy.

...Andrea Schroth who serves as the ABA Office Administrator.

...God's leading as we plan for the 2016 ABA Annual Online Business Session and the Annual Conference

Church of the Week

Check the ABA website for the church of the week.

Go to www.nab.ca

Calendar**Mar 8**

ReNew - Renfrew, Calgary

Mar 9

ReNew - Temple, Medicine Hat

Mar 10

ReNew - Trochu, Trochu

Mar 15

ReNew - McKernan, Edmonton

Mar 17

ReNew - Emmanuel, Valleyview

Ap 6

ABA Annual Online Business Session

Ap 22-23

ABA Annual Conference - Edmonton

May 4

Pastor's Connection - Edmonton

May 5

Pastor's Connection - Calgary

Partners in Ministry

Taylor Seminary & E.P. Wahl Centre

www.taylor-edu.ca

Camp Caroline

www.campcaroline.ab.ca

North American Baptist Conference

www.nabconference.org

Church Extension Investors Fund

www.ceif.org

The Mustard Seed

www.theseed.ca

NAB Foundation

www.NABFoundation.org