

MANITOBA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

A family of churches working
together to share the Gospel and
make Disciples.

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

A look at the events and business of the last
year as well as a look at the year to come for the
Manitoba Baptist Association.

MBA ANNUAL REPORT

A look the year
past and a look
towards the
year to come.

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³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me.

⁸ God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Philippians 1: 3-11
New International Version



2025 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Seating of Delegates

Minutes of the November 4th, 2024 Annual Business Meeting.

Business arising from the minutes

Presentation of the 2026 Budget

Reports –

- Moderators Report
- Regional Ministers Report
- Coming Together Conference Report

Bylaws changes –

Nomination of Officer sand Directors for 2025

Other Business

Next Meeting –

- Special Session June 2026
- Annual Business Meeting – November 2026

Closing Prayer

CALL TO ORDER SEATING OF THE DELEGATES

	Organization	Membership (as of 12/31/24)	Eligible	Eligible Pastors	Present
CHURCHES	Abundant Life	50	3	2	
	Elim, Beausejour	12	3	0	
	Emmanuel, Morris	74	5	1	
	First, Minitonas	91	5	1	
	Fort Richmond	51	5	1	
	Grace, Ochre River	50	3	1	
	Little Woody, Swan River	20	3	0	
	McDermot Avenue	114	6	1	
	Mission	71	5	1	
	Moosehorn, Moosehorn	38	3	1	
	New Life Ministries	21	3	1	
	Oakbank, Oakbank	79	5	1	
	Rowandale	206	8	3	
	Temple, Swan River	100	6	1	
	Waverley	107	6	4	
	Whiteshell, Seven Sisters	43	3	1	
	Whyte Ridge	174	7	4	
MINISTRIES	Baptist Care Home Society		1		
	Camp Nutimik Foundation Inc.		1		
	Lake Nutimik Baptist Camp Ltd.		1		
	Meadowood Manor Foundation		1		
	Waters Edge Bible Camp		1		
LEADERSHIP	MBA Executive		7		
	NP Region		1		
TOTALS		1301	92	24	

2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

MANITOBA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 11, 2024
ABUNDANT LIFE BAPTIST CHURCH & ZOOM

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA

1. **WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER, 7:00PM** – Barry Thiessen
2. **SEATING OF DELEGATES**
 - a. 70 Delegates, There is a quorum
3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS BUSINESS MEETINGS.**
 - a. **2024 SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING May 27, 2024, MINUTES**
MOTION MOVED Brad Quiring **SECONDED** Klaus Mueller that
the minutes of the 2024
Manitoba Baptist Association Special General Meeting be accepted
as presented. **CARRIED**
4. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

5. PRESENTATION OF THE 2025 BUDGET

- a. **MOTION** MOVED Al Donald SECONDED Steve Pearson that the 2025 Budget as the alternate proposal with a break-even result be accepted. CARRIED

6. REPORTS:

- a. Moderators Report - Barry Thiessen
- b. Regional Ministers Report – Randy Jaspers
- c. Purpose and Relevance Committee – Andrew Grauman
- d. Life Transformation Ministries – Dan Burton
- e. **MOTION:** MOVED Debbie Neufeld SECONDED Rod Neufeld that the reports be accepted as presented.
- f. Women's Ministry – Daphne Keck
- g. **QUESTION:** What are the actions being approved. **ANSWER:** Any financial or personnel decisions the executive has to make during the year.
- h. **NOTE:** The purpose and relevance committee will be looking at what information will be presented to leadership in churches to inform them better.
- i. **NOTE:** Executive to check to see if this is still a legal requirement.
- j. **MOTION:** MOVED Rod Neufeld SECONDED Randy Jaspers That the women's report be accepted as an addendum to the reports. CARRIED

7. NOMINATION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS FOR 2024

- a. **MODERATOR:** Bradley Quiring
- b. **MOTION** MOVED Elfrieda Keunstler SECONDED Daphne Keck that the motions close. CARRIED

8. ELECTION OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

- a. **MODERATOR. ACCLAMATION:** Bradley Quiring is affirmed as MODERATOR of the Manitoba Baptist Association Executive for a three (3) year term.
- b. **MEMBER AT LARGE. MOTION:** MOVED Randy Jaspers SECONDED Debbie Neufeld that David Purdy be approved as a MEMBER AT LARGE of the Manitoba Baptist Association Executive for a three (3) year term.

c. WOMEN'S MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVE (INTRODUCTION)

Nancy Paschke was introduced by Daphne Keck as the WOMEN'S MINISTRY REPRESENTATIVE on the Manitoba Baptist Association Executive.

9. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS FOR 2024.

- a. MOTION** MOVED Al Donald **SECONDED** Curtis Halbesma that Parker Clark Accountants be appointed for the financial statement for 2024.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. SUGGESTION** – Combine AGM and Conference
- b. 2024 and 2025 CONFERENCE update** – Curtis Halbesma. Next conference in Oakbank, April 4-5, 2025

11. NEXT MEETING:

- a.** Special General Session – June 2025
- b.** Annual Business Meeting – November 2025

12. CLOSING PRAYER – Barry Thiessen

13. ADJOURN – 8:30PM MOTION TO ADJOURN Bradley Quiring

MBA OFFICERS AND TERMS

Office	2023	Term	2024	Term	2025	Term
Moderator	Barry Thiessen	1	Brad Quiring	3	Brad Quiring	2
Secretary	Brad Quiring	2	Kevin Lariviere	1	Kevin Lariviere	0
Treasurer	Al Donald	0	Al Donald	2	Al Donald	1
Women's Ministry Rep.	Daphne Keck	0	Nancy Paschke	1	Nancy Paschke	0
Director At Large	Alvina Moir	0	Dan Burton	2	Dan Burton	1
Director At Large	Kevin Lariviere	2	Dave Purdy	3	Dave Purdy	2
Director At Large	Andrew Grauman	1	Andrew Grauman	1	Andrew Grauman	0
Director At Large	Steve Pearson	0	Steve Pearson	2	Steve Pearson	1

TREASURER'S REPORT & BUDGET DISCUSSION SHEET

**OVER ALL
RECEIPTED
GENERAL
OFFERINGS
WERE UP
AGAIN IN 2024
AS COMPARED
TO 2023.**

I am happy to report that overall membership in our MBA churches grew by over 6% in 2024. This reverses the decline that began in 2021.

Over all receipted General offerings were up again in 2024 as compared to 2023. This makes our budgeting process a little easier but we continue to closely monitor our expenses.

Over the years, a surplus has accrued in the Regional Leadership Team fund. An agreement has been reached with the North Central Association to reduce the surplus by 20% per year over the next 5 years. This will reduce the pressure for funds on our churches and yet leave funds available to transition to a new Regional Minister when the time comes to replace our current RM.

At past meetings, questions have arisen about internally and externally restricted funds. These are funds that past and current executive members have agreed to hold in place for very specific use, outside of the day-to-day normal operational costs. The proceeds of the sale of both the Central Baptist Church (pastoral training) and Southdale Church (church planting & community outreach) fall into this category.

Thank you for your continued support.

Allan J. Donald
Treasurer

INCOME

	2024 Budget	2025 Proposed Budget w/o Women	2025 Actual to 01/09/25 w/ Women	2025 Actual to 01/09/25 w/o Women	2025 Actual to 01/09/25 w/ outstanding	2026 Proposed Budget w/o Women
Contributions by churches	\$ 67,000.00	\$ 84,800.00	\$ 42,942.90	\$ 42,942.90	\$ 42,942.90	\$ 77,500.00 ¹
Contributions by churches - Women			\$ 300	\$ 300	\$ 300	
General Fund Offerings						
Women's Ministries – MBWM	\$ 18,500.00		\$ 13,577.19			²
Youth Ministries – MBYM		\$ 2,500.00				\$ 2,500.00
Coming Together Conference		\$ 4,500.00	\$ 3,686.66	\$ 3,686.66	\$ 3,686.66	
Transfer from CBC Mortgage	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00				\$ 15,000.00
Interest & Miscellaneous	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 2,785.48	\$ 2,785.48	\$ 2,785.48	\$ 3,000.00
Offerings for Designated Ministries			\$ 3,339.60	\$ 3,339.60	\$ 3,339.60	
Transfers from Invested Funds	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00				\$ 12,000.00
Total MBA Income	\$ 114,000.00	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 66,331.83	\$ 49,375.04	\$ 49,375.04	\$ 110,000.00

EXPENSES

Regional Minister & Expenses	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 75,000.00	\$ 20,719.03	\$ 20,719.03	\$ 58,219.03	\$ 65,000.00 ³
Coming Together Conference		\$ 4,000.00	\$ 6,146.09	\$ 6,146.09	\$ 6,146.09	
Executive & Council Meetings	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,903.40	\$ 1,618.21	\$ 1,618.21	\$ 2,000.00
Office & General Expenses	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,681.88	\$ 1,681.88	\$ 1,681.88	\$ 2,000.00
Pastoral Support	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00				\$ 15,000.00
Electronic Media (Website)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 500.00
Support Activities	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 16,500.00 ⁴
Regional Leadership Team	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,000.00				\$ 2,500.00
Youth Ministries – MBYM	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00				\$ 2,500.00
Women's Ministries – MBWM	\$ 18,500.00		\$ 16,397.80			²
Expended for Designated Ministries			\$ 1,000.00			\$ 1,000.00 ⁵
Professional Fees	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,128.00	\$ 2,128.00	\$ 2,128.00	\$ 2,500.00
Total Expenses - MBA Operations	\$ 135,000.00	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 55,276.20	\$ 37,593.21	\$ 78,093.21	\$ 109,500.00

NET

Net Income (Expenses)	\$ (21,000.00)		\$ 11,055.63	\$ 11,781.83	\$ (28,718.17)	\$ 500.00
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1 - The reduction in required church support comes as a result of an agreement between the NCA (North Dakota) and the MBA to draw down some of the current surplus in the RLT bank account. The RLT leadership team has agreed to use about \$100,000 of the nearly \$150,000 over the next four or five years to reduce the costs of the regional minister to the two associations. It has also been agreed that the RLT would hold about \$50,000 in the account to pay for the transitional costs when a new Regional minister is needed. It is currently the thought of the RLT that the transition would take 6 to 8 months of the new RM and the retiring RM to smoothly transition from old to new.

2 - There are no budgeted income or expense numbers at this time.

3 - The RM budget has been cut to reflect the use of surplus RLT funds. The MBA share of the use of the RLT surplus will amount to about \$8,000 US dollars per year which is more than the reduction

4 - The community outreach program started by Waverley Church and Whytre Ridge Baptist Church is likely going to grow and require additional support.

5 - The women's ministry has been supporting a missionary for the past number of years. This would continue the support with the money coming from the Women's ministry account

MODERATOR'S REPORT

**WE ARE HUMBLY
THANKFUL TO OUR
LORD JESUS WITH
CONGREGATIONS
THAT ARE
GROWING, THAT
ARE EXPERIENCING
HEALING, ARE
LEARNING.**

Greetings, in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

It is an honour for me to be a part of a family of church members, pastors and leaders who love our Lord Jesus and who desire to be part of the Great Commission to make disciples of all nations.

Last year I began a term as moderator of the MBA executive after Dr. Barry Thiessen had led for 15 years. It is a daunting task to take over after someone who I respect served so well in this position for so long. I appreciate the prayerful support not only of the executive members, but also of the MBA family in general.

As is the case every year in Manitoba, some churches have been doing well while some are struggling. The reasons for the ups and downs are many and are very much part of each story. It is safe to say it never is one single reason for success or struggle. It would be disingenuous to attempt to apply what is happening in one church to another.

With this in mind, we are humbly thankful to our Lord Jesus with congregations that are growing, that are experiencing healing, are learning, are repenting and are submitting to the Holy Spirit. The results are there because of Jesus.

We also pray with our brothers and sisters in the MBA family when their church is struggling. We pray for God's wisdom in decisions, we pray for repentance when there is sin, we pray for patience with one another as differences come up, we pray for unity where there is division. Most of all, we pray that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will be maintained for the glory of God the Father.

It has been a privilege and blessing to work with our Regional Minister Randy Jaspers over this last year. It is good to have an established RM to work with as I have come into this position. It is to be noted that Randy has established a strong relationship with the pastors and leadership teams in the MBA. He has made the effort to get to know the people and the circumstances in each

congregation on both sides of the border. Randy took a well deserved Sabbatical in July and August and came back refreshed for another season of service. It was good to be able to support him in this time.

The MBA spring conference was held in April, with Oakbank playing fantastic hosts to the event. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend this year because of congregational care needs in my church as well as a big evangelistic event. The reports I received were very encouraging and I would like to thank not only Oakbank Baptist Church's leadership team, but also the MBA conference team for putting on a great family event.

A vital ministry of the Association executive is to support the pastors. Healthy pastors lead healthy congregations. We do this through monthly lunches where pastors get together to spend time with one another, pray for one another and encourage one another. Every October the pastors then meet in Gimli for a retreat and learning time. We have all been challenged and have grown through this ministry. In my 25 years as a pastor, I have never encountered a ministerial group like the Manitoba Baptist Association. I wish every association and denomination had this type of fellowship and I thank Jesus for this constantly.

There has been some movement of leadership in the MBA this year. Most notably, Brian Russel retired after 24 years of service in the McDermot Avenue Baptist Church. The celebration afternoon in September honoured both Brian and the Lord Jesus. We pray for Pastor Kevin LaRiviere as he takes on an interim role for the foreseeable future. We also pray for the leadership team as they seek God's will for future leadership at McDermot. We pray together for other churches as they seek to fill leadership spaces: Elim Baptist in Beausejour and Little Woody Baptist in the Swan Valley are seeking bi-vocational ministers. Whyte Ridge Baptist and Temple Baptist Swan River are in the search for full time lead pastors. Waverley Church is looking for a Children's Ministry Pastor. Rowandale Baptist did bring in a homegrown youth pastor, Jon Martens stepped into the role this year, and he and Rachel also welcomed their own new little one to the family.

As a family, we mourned together as Jennifer Glen was called home to be with her Lord. A packed Whiteshell Baptist Church hosted a beautiful tribute to Jenn and gave much-needed support to Pastor Craig and their sons. The church and the community has stepped up and we see God's work in the congregation as everyone heals and learns to live in this new normal.

With Paul I say to everyone in the MBA, Philippians 1:3-11 (New International Version) 3 I thank my God every time I remember you. 4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

May we continue to seek the Lord, to listen to His voice, to study His Word and obey it in our everyday life.

Brad Quiring
Moderator, Manitoba Baptist Association

**I WISH EVERY
ASSOCIATION AND
DENOMINATION
HAD THIS TYPE OF
FELLOWSHIP AND I
THANK JESUS FOR
THIS CONSTANTLY.**

REGIONAL MINISTER'S REPORT

I CAN LISTEN TO ALL THE OTHER VOICES...AND MISS JESUS' WORDS, FOLLOW ME.

Dear brothers and sisters of the Manitoba Baptist Association,

"*Follow me*," are Jesus' concluding remarks to Peter in John 21, recalling his first call, as recorded in Matthew and Mark. This follows the account of the fishing outing (from nothing to overwhelming), Jesus' restoration and his reminder that Peter is to shepherd Jesus' sheep.

"Peter, don't worry about what you don't understand. Don't dwell on your failure. Think of yourself not as a fisherman, but as a shepherd to care for my flock. Don't worry that your future will be different from that of John. Don't think I am releasing you from my call. Follow me."

This summer I was graciously awarded a two-month sabbatical by our Northern Plains Regional Leadership Team (MBA members: Brad Quiring and Al Donald). One of the learning pieces for me is to become less connected to internet news, to unplug. I find myself often caught up with so much of what is happening in our countries and world to the point that the constant buzz becomes distracting, even distressing.

As one of Jesus' disciples, I need to abide, like Peter, in that simple direction: *Follow me*. I can listen to all the other voices, including those from other believers who want me to follow what they are saying, go in the direction they think necessary, align with the causes they think important . . . and miss Jesus' words, *Follow me*.

I do need others to help me listen to Jesus' voice. Would asking together how we are following Jesus also help us discern how to better navigate these times? Would dwelling on *Follow me* help us as congregations to simplify a lot of what becomes cloudy and complex as to our call to be and make disciples? Would asking how we are following Jesus help us discern the opportunities to connect with *the nations* all around us, who need to hear about the good news of Jesus, as they see Him in us?

I celebrate with you the Jesus-discoveries by youth groups on mission trips,

people identifying with Jesus through baptism, individuals formally connecting with local churches through membership, the everyday interacting and equipping as we share life together in Christ with those who know Him . . . and those who do not yet know Him.

Thank you to **Brian (Margo) Russell** for 24 years of faithful ministry as senior pastor of McDermot. Pray for **Kevin Lariviere**, who is serving in the interim role, and the church as the leadership determines next steps. Thank you for continuing to pray for **TBC Swan River and Whyte Ridge**, as they and their Search Committees discern God's next **lead pastor**. Wally Pohlmann concluded his time as transitional pastor at Swan River. Bruce Hollins continues at Whyte Ridge. God graciously provides.

Merv Budd, at the **Spring conference in Oakbank**, helped us reevaluate evangelism as individual, communal and institutional emphases. All spiritual gifts are to be used evangelistically and not "hidden under a bowl". We learn to share the Good News through our stories of God's work in us, sharing where we see God at work around us and helping each other realize we are part of God's story. Two important gifts we give others are curiosity (asking questions) and time.

The recent **Gimli Pastors retreat**, facilitated by Sam Nikkel, helped us: reevaluate where our stories are intersecting with God's story, consider the life of Elijah as a model for leadership, and attend to our health by monitoring the gauges on our dashboard.

Thank you for . . .

- Supporting the MBA through your prayers, participation and giving.
- Praying for and thanking our faithful MBA Executive members.
- Consistently encouraging your pastors and leaders. How do you value them?
- Joining God in His mission by imaginatively using your gifts where you live.
- Utilizing the resources and supporting our NAB Conference re: missional living, emerging leaders, multiplying ministries, cross-cultural engagement and international missions. Consider subscribing to the weekly NAB Update email.
- Checking out the MBA resources and occasional articles at <https://npreigion.org>
- The privilege to serve with you . . . and for your prayers for Kristy and me.

Blessings!

Randy Jaspers, Northern Plains Regional Minister
(701) 320-1222 nprjaspers@gmail.com

**I CELEBRATE
WITH YOU...
THE EVERYDAY
INTERACTING AND
EQUIPPING AS
WE SHARE LIFE
TOGETHER IN
CHRIST WITH THOSE
WHO KNOW HIM . . .
AND THOSE WHO DO
NOT YET KNOW HIM.**

**ANNUAL
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2025**



**MANITOBA BAPTIST
ASSOCIATION**

To learn more about the MBA and to find out what
is happening in the association visit: mbbaptist.org

Email: office@mbbaptist.org