

## **EXECUTIVE MINISTERS & BIOS**

(called General Secretary prior to 1970)

1923 – 1933 -	Rev. Henry R. Boyer, BA, BD, STM, DD
1943 – 1953 -	Rev. W.C. Machum, BA, DD
1953 -	Rev. R.E. Whitney, BA, BD, DD
1954 – 1958 -	Rev. J.Murray Armstrong, BA, BD, ThM, DD
1958 – 1967 -	Rev. Harry A. Renfree, BA, BD, DMin
1967 – 1970 -	Rev. T.B. McDormand, BA(Th), BD, ThD, DD, LLD, LHD
1970 – 1983 -	Rev. Keith R. Hobson, DD
1984 – 1996 -	Rev. Eugene M. Thompson, BA, MDiv, DMin
1996 – 2007 -	Rev. Harry G. Gardner, BA, MDiv, DMin
2007 – 2008 -	Rev. Malcolm Beckett (Interim), BA, MDiv, DMin
2008 – Present -	Rev. Peter Reid, BA, MDiv, DMin



*CONVENTION of Atlantic Baptist Churches*  
*CONVENTION des Églises Baptistes de l'Atlantique*

## **Rev. Dr. Keith R. Hobson**

Keith Hobson was born on December 22, 1918 in England. Following formal schooling in various villages and town throughout England, he attended All Nations Missionary College and Wolsley Hall, Oxford. He was ordained by the British Baptist Union in 1948 and was awarded a Doctor of Divinity by Acadia University in 1975.

In 1940 Keith married Daisy Gwendoline Carter and together they had six children: Neil, Clive, Roy, Adrian, Joy and Heather. Following pastorates in Woodford Baptist Church in Northhamptonshire (1939-42) and Rockingham Baptist Church in Kettering (1943-48), Keith, Daisy, and their family emigrated to Canada. They served in a variety of Convention churches including Glace Bay NS (1949-51), Lawrencetown NS (1951-54), Summerside PEI (1954-64) and Germain Street in Saint John NB (1964-69). In 1970 Dr. Hobson was appointed as Executive Minister of the Convention and served in this capacity until his retirement in 1983. In his retirement he served as Interim General Secretary of the Baptist Federation of Canada (1985-86), as Director of Development for Atlantic Baptist College (1986-87) and as Interim Pastor at Kennebecasis Baptist Church and Brown's Flat Baptist Church.

Dr. Hobson served on a variety of committees and boards including: Evangelism, United Baptist Bible Training School and Atlantic Baptist College and the Canadian Council of Churches. He served as President of the Convention in 1967-1968.

## **Rev. Dr. Eugene Thompson**

In 1931 Eugene Mayne Thompson was born in Oxford, Nova Scotia. He grew up on a farm but most of his time between two and six years of age was spent in the Children's Hospital in Halifax recovering from tuberculosis of the knee. He learned to walk (again) at six years of age. Because of sickness he was unable to do many of the things children and young people usually do but other things took their places. Singing was one of these. In high school a quartet was formed which provided the opportunity to minister in churches. Later, at university, he became a member of the Acadia University Male Quartet visiting churches, singing over CBC Radio and selling over a thousand records made by the quartet. During this period of time Eugene became president of the Maritime Baptist Young People's Convention. That same fall, while he was continuing his training for ministry, Eugene became involved in starting the South End United Baptist Church - a new work in Dartmouth NS. In 1954 he received his B.A. Degree from Acadia University and in 1956 received his B.D. This was later exchanged for an M.Div. degree. In 1979 he received a Doctor of Ministry degree from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville., Kentucky. In 2000 Acadia University conferred on him the degree Doctor of Divinity (*honoris causa*)

Following graduation and ordination Eugene continued to serve as minister at the to the South End Baptist Church. Later he served as pastor of the Immanuel Baptist Church in Truro, NS and Hillcrest Baptist Church in Saint John, NB. Much of his over fifty years of ministry has been in the area of denominational administration and service, first as Director of Youth in the Maritimes and then as Area Minister for Manitoba and Coordinator of Christian Education for the Baptist Union of Western Canada. Returning to the Atlantic Provinces in 1974 he became Area Minister for Western Nova Scotia for the United Baptist Convention. In 1984 he became Executive Minister of the Convention, moving to Saint John, NB in 1983. He retired in 1995.

Dr. Thompson published numerous articles in denominational publications. He also authored three small books for church use: the Baptist Youth Fellowship Handbook, New Design for a Dynamic Church, and Focus Ministry- How Every Christian Can be a Minister. He also wrote a number of hymns, one of which was "God of Life and Lord of Nations" published in the Canadian Baptist Hymnal in 1973.

Following retirement Eugene continued to serve the Convention on a part-time basis and became active with Habitat for Humanity serving on the Saint John Board of Directors

Eugene and his wife Rhoda worked together as a team and visited a number of countries, including China, where they took part in a Baptist World Alliance initiative. They were both members of the Saint John Art Club and paintings were exhibited in a number of galleries. The Thompsons had a daughter, Nancy, and two sons, Adrian and Howard.

## **Rev. Dr. Harry Gardner**

Dr. Harry Gardner, a native of Middlefield, Nova Scotia, graduated from Dalhousie University (BA 1974), Acadia Divinity College (MDiv 1977) and Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California (DMin 1993). He has served as the minister of the Burlington-Victoria Harbour, Wilmot and Liverpool-Brooklyn United Baptist Churches in Nova Scotia.

In 1986 he began work with the Home Mission Board of the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches (as the Director of Church Extension) and in 1989 became the Director of Home Missions and Church Planting. On February 1, 1996 he became Executive Minister of the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches, a position he held for eleven years. In this role he was a member of the Boards of Acadia Divinity College, Atlantic Baptist University and Canadian Baptist Ministries. He has had a keen interest in addressing issues of racism and promoting integral mission as well as international relief and development.

Harry is interested in the work of the Baptist World Alliance and has served on the executive of the BWA and as president of the North American Baptist Fellowship.

In 2007, he answered a call to become the president of Acadia Divinity College and Dean of Theology for Acadia University beginning in January 2008. He & his wife, Gail, moved to the Annapolis Valley in September 2007 and spent 5 weeks in London, England on sabbatical.

He and Gail have two adult children, Rebecca (married to Jonathan) and Adrian (married to Nicole). They have two grandchildren (Elijah David and Grace Cathryn) born to Adrian and Nicole. They live in Kentville, Nova Scotia and are members of the Kentville Baptist Church. Personal interests include fun times with the grandchildren, travel and music.

## **Dr. Malcolm Beckett**

Malcolm was born on May 27, 1954 in Saint John, New Brunswick and grew up in the small rural community of Oak Point, New Brunswick where he attended the Oak Point United Baptist Church. He came to a personal knowledge of the Lord in October 1970 and was baptized in June of 1971.

Malcolm graduated from Saint John High School in 1972 and attended Atlantic Baptist College in Moncton for the next two years. After completing his Bachelor of Arts degree at St. Thomas University in Fredericton (1976) he entered the Master of Divinity program at Acadia Divinity College, Wolfville, graduating in 1979. In 1986 he began pursuit of a Doctor of Ministry degree at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, achieving that goal in 1993. The focus of studies for his D.Min. was in the area of church renewal and church growth.

While studying at St. Thomas University Malcolm and his wife attended the Douglas United Baptist Church, Douglas, NB, where Malcolm assisted Rev. Elwood Bannister with youth ministry. Upon moving to Wolfville, he served as Assistant Pastor and then full-time Associate Pastor to Dr. John Bartol in the Windsor United Baptist Church. In 1980 he was ordained into the Christian ministry in that church. From 1981 to 1988 he served as Pastor to the Barss Corner and Parkdale Maplewood United Baptist Churches in Lunenburg County, NS. While there he was called into denominational ministry (1988) and served as the Director of Evangelism for the United Baptist Convention of the Atlantic Provinces. Since March of 2000 he also served as Interim Part-Time Director of Home Missions and Church Planting for the Convention and in 2001 became the Director of Atlantic Baptist Mission in the newly named Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches.