

Spring 2022

The Neighbourhood



CANADIAN BAPTISTS
OF ATLANTIC CANADA

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Cover: Hopewell Community Church, NB
(Photographer: Ron Scott)

Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada

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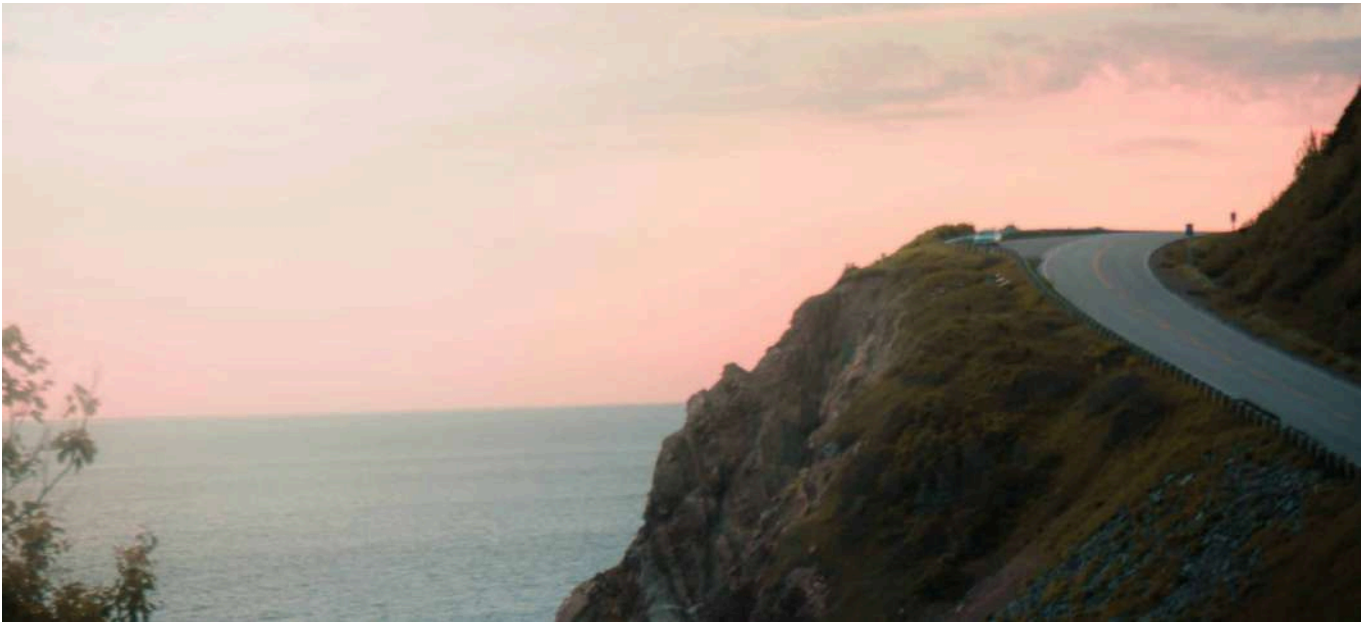
Thanks for reading *The Neighbourhood!* If your church would like to change the quantity we mail to you, please let us know by email: communications@baptist-atlantic.ca.

We encourage you to sign up for our regular email newsletters. There's an easy form for this on the front page of our website: baptist-atlantic.ca.

If your church would like to invite one of our staff to visit and speak, we would love to connect! Reach out by phone (506-635-1922) or email (cbac@baptist-atlantic.ca).

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Ingonish, NS (Photographer: Joseph Holihan)

Letter from our Executive Minister

Dear Friends,
I want to take this moment to thank you as a church family for being part of a mission partnership of more than four hundred churches, Associations, and organizations that is the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada. Together, our CBAC is making a Kingdom difference throughout Atlantic Canada and beyond. Thank you for joining God in your neighborhood. Thank you for being faithful in prayer and supporting the vision of the CBAC.

It is my privilege to offer you this issue of *The Neighbourhood*, in which we share some of the exciting work we are doing together on behalf of our churches and organizations.

Thousands of dollars of your donations are given back to Associations, to churches through mission initiative grants, and to key partner organizations, including Canadian Baptist Ministries, Crandall University, and Acadia Divinity College.

Your giving helps us facilitate vital initiatives: for pastors to experience spiritual and emotional healing; for new congregations to come to life; for the renewal of struggling churches; for ongoing leadership development; for impacting and resourcing next-generation ministries and their leaders; and for assisting new Canadians.

I also want to remind you that the only funding that the CBAC receives is from the churches that support our ministry. Our work is carried out with a budget approved by delegates at Oasis, our annual meeting. With this in mind, we ask for your continued prayer and generous financial support throughout 2022 as we seek to meet our obligations.

We gratefully acknowledge your investment in our CBAC—on mission together and calling people to Christ. We pray for you with thankfulness and ask that you continue to pray for us.

My friends, God is at work in our neighbourhoods. Amid moments of uncertainty and challenge, let there be no doubt that Jesus will always be the unshakeable hope and reason for our work. Thank you for your membership in our Atlantic Baptist family as we join Him and journey forward.



Rev. Dr. Peter Reid

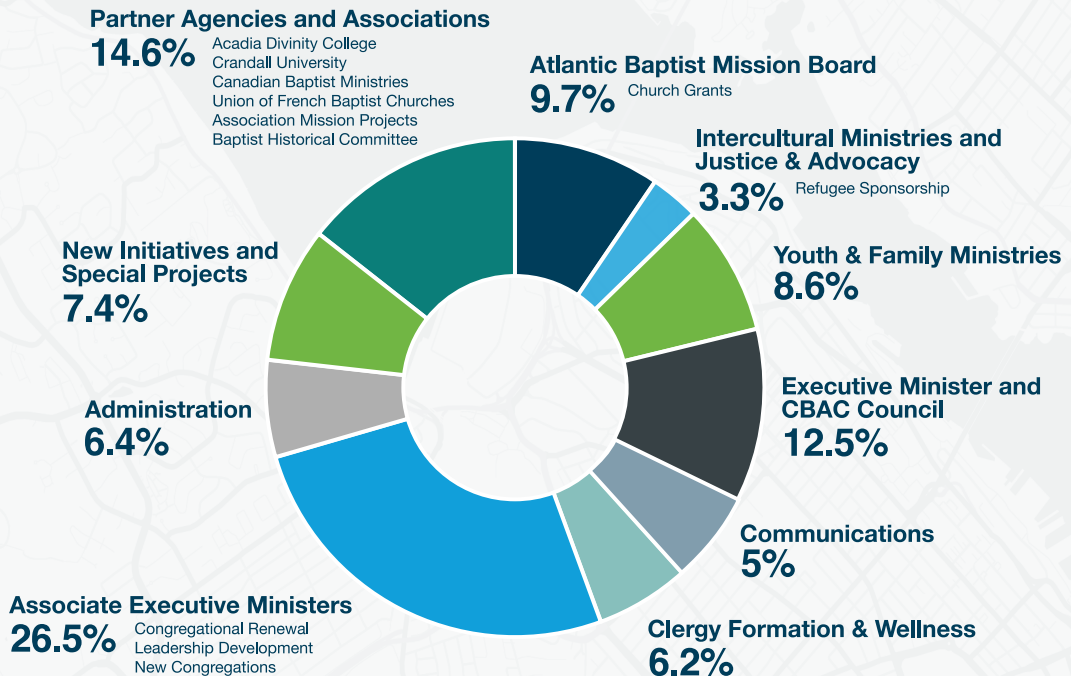
“Together, our CBAC is making a Kingdom difference throughout Atlantic Canada and beyond.”

We seek the growth of God's Kingdom by connecting and equipping churches to fully participate in their God-given mission.

2022 Approved Budget

Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada

Total Budget: \$2,200,972



An Invitation:

As you can see, your CBAC is working to connect and equip our churches in many areas. The financial support of churches and individuals is what enables us to enlarge the impact of our ministries for the Kingdom of God. For well over a century, our partnership has allowed numerous

initiatives and ministries to grow and thrive. In 2022, we invite you to prayerfully consider making a contribution to CBAC that will enable us to better connect and equip your church to fully participate in your God-given mission.

Updates

In February we welcomed **Laura Bennett** as our new Coordinator of Justice and Advocacy.

We anticipate that **Embertide Church** (Hampton, NB) will be voted on and welcomed at Oasis 2022 as the newest member of the CBAC.

Rev. Dr. Peter Reid will conclude as Executive Minister later this year. We're grateful for his years of leadership and service. At Oasis 2022 we hope to vote to approve a new Executive Minister.

Stories to Celebrate

St. John's, NFLD—How **The Crossing Church** is reimagining a new vision for joining God in their neighbourhood, and how they have helped another congregation replant in the process.

Moncton/Riverview, NB—The story of the revitalization of **Riverview Baptist Church** as the **Riverview Campus of the Journey Church**, creating new opportunities for ministry in their neighbourhood.

Halifax, NS—New funding has been secured for the **Richard Preston Centre for Excellence**, the community support hub of **New Horizons Baptist Church**, enabling programs such as tutoring and mentoring, youth programming, community gatherings, and other amenities.

Read and watch these stories on our website:
baptist-atlantic.ca

Do you have a story that exemplifies Atlantic Baptists joining God in their neighbourhood? Send it to us!
communications@baptist-atlantic.ca



New Hope Community Church

Stories From Our Neighbourhoods

The story of God bringing together two congregations to become one church with a new identity.

Like the rest of us, Brock Symonds and Gordon Horsman could never have foreseen the challenges COVID-19 presented for New Hope Community Church, the congregation they are pastoring. Nor could their congregation have imagined opening a new church facility in the middle of the pandemic.

Yet God was at work in this rural neighbourhood, a few minutes' drive west of Moncton, New Brunswick.

"I think the first thing that people need to remember [is to]

get over saying, 'this will never happen, we can never do this.'" Says Rev. Gordon Horsman, reflecting on the journey of New Hope Community Church.

"You're right; we can't do it. But we have to realize that God can do it. It's amazing what God can do when you just admit that. It's tremendous."

The story of New Hope Community Church has many chapters, and on every page, you will find both Jesus and people who trusted Him with the next steps in the journey. It's a story of God doing something new in two congregations who joined together. New Hope isn't just a good name; it's at the heart of this rebirthed congregation.

Rev. Brock Symonds, Senior Pastor, sees that God has been active all along: "God worked through the pandemic. God knew the timing. God knows what He's doing."



Steeves Mountain Baptist Church and Berry Mills Baptist Church were vibrant congregations in this corner of Westmorland County with long histories. Spurred by the growth of the Baptist movement in the middle of the 19th Century, they each formally organized at least a century ago: Steeves Mountain in 1906 and Berry Mills in 1922. Over the years, these churches had varying degrees of relationship with one another. For a time, they shared a pastor and had one youth group; for another period, they pursued ministry independently of one another.

Rev. Gordon Horsman has been a witness to a significant part of the story of these congregations, serving as a youth leader for them approximately 50 years ago. A little over a decade ago, he began serving as the pastor of the Steeves Mountain congregation.

This was a pivotal turning point for the two congregations as they both struggled to grow. Horsman remembers an important meeting with the Steeves Mountain congregation. He shared two scenarios: he could help them move into a kind-of palliative care in their declining years, or he could help to facilitate conversations with Berry Mills about a merger.

This situation is not unique; congregations in nearly every community of Atlantic Canada have faced such decisions at one time or another. The causes are myriad and complex: it could be population decline, shifting cultural trends, challenges among the membership or leadership, or something else. And it can be painful when it seems like the “heyday” of the church is in the past.

No matter the causes, these are often uncomfortable moments. And they should move us to ask big questions.

God, what are you up to? What would you have us do?

For congregations asking these questions, a merger isn't a one-size-fits-all answer. Maybe God is calling your church to something else. But we must ask these questions, trust Jesus, and be willing to go where He leads.

What we see today with New Hope is the result of those conversations in 2013-2015. It wasn't a fast process—“you've got to go slow,” says Horsman—but two congregations eventually voted to become one.

They renamed themselves New Hope Community Church and began a building project to expand their ministry in the neighbourhood. They selected a site on the Homestead Road, almost perfectly on the border between the communities of Steeves Mountain and Berry Mills.

In 2018, they called Symonds to be their senior pastor. Symonds' joy and energy are immediately apparent when you meet him; it's no surprise that the building project picked up speed from when he entered the lead role. To ensure a smooth transition, Horsman stepped away to allow Symonds to settle in, and then he returned as Pastor of Prayer and Care.



“God worked through the pandemic. God knew the timing. God knows what He’s doing.”

The COVID-19 pandemic was a disruption to the building-project and church ministry—another bump in the road, to say the least. But once again, God was at work. Along with the rest of the CBAC family of churches, New Hope had to pause in-person gatherings in March 2020 but began to experience a surge of growth and reach in the community, thanks to online and phone-based ministry tools.

Then as the first wave of the pandemic subsided in June 2020, they opened the new multipurpose facility and began meeting in person. The new space allowed for social distancing and other safety measures. While COVID-19 is not finished yet, New Hope has continued to innovate in new areas of ministry and community partnership.

If you get the chance to listen as Symonds and Horsman talk about their journey, you'll hear something unmistakable in their voices. It's a certainty in what God is doing amid unexpected and unprecedented times. It's a vibrant excitement for the Gospel at work in this neighbourhood. It's hope.

Along with this written story, we're excited to share a video interview that goes more in-depth with Rev. Brock Symonds and Rev. Gordon Horsman. Check it out on our website at baptist-atlantic.ca.

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Youth & Family Updates



“We long to see fully formed disciples of Jesus who are committed to redemptive participation.”

The Trellis — Our current emphasis is to encourage a framework for flourishing in both life and ministry. We long to see fully formed disciples of Jesus who are committed to redemptive participation; to joining God in the neighbourhood. Through podcasts, blog posts, and upcoming resources, we are asking our leaders important questions to encourage flourishing. (cbacyf.ca/thetrellis)

One Conference — The One Conference is Atlantic Canada’s largest youth conference, aimed to inspire students to see themselves as part of one church, serving one mission, and loving One God. This year we are excited to offer three locations on Saturday, June 4. Please be praying for the youth who will be at One Con! (onecon.ca)

NEXT Videos — Being released over the next few months, this series of videos will inspire children’s ministry leaders and volunteers to “Stay Connected.” These videos will explore the importance of rebuilding connections within your ministry, and supporting families. They’re intended to be used as leadership development, and will be accompanied by small group discussion guides. (cbacyf.ca/next)



**Dan
Pyke**



**Laura
Bennett**



**Jacqueline
Derrah**

Undercurrent — Undercurrent is a locally-based mission initiative, focused on empowering young people to lead and engage the entire congregation to join them in serving their neighbourhood. Resources are available on our website to help you take the next step in exploring mission opportunities in your neighbourhood. *P.S. — We know many people are asking about Tidal Impact. We’ll be making an announcement soon about plans for 2023!* (cbacyf.ca/undercurrent)

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FOR EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES IN **9 COUNTRIES**

BIKE

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RUN

TOWARDS OUR SHARED NATIONAL GOAL OF **\$60,000**

CBM INVITES YOU TO GET ACTIVE IN MISSION!

This year's event is raising support for kid's education. The global disruption to education caused by the COVID-19 pandemic constitutes the worst education crisis on record. However, with your active participation we can bring hope and renewed possibilities for children in 9 countries where CBM partners.

Complete details including promotional resources, event ideas and sign-up instructions are available at

[ACTIVEINMISSION.CA](https://activeinmission.ca)

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JUNE 19-26 2022



Kevin Vincent

New Congregations



If there was one word that has summed up the last two years for the CBAC Centre for New Congregations, the word is **REIMAGINE**.

What is God currently up to in our region? Where is He at work in our community? How can we join Him in our neighbourhood? Post-pandemic, how do local congregations need to readjust their model of ministry, realign their priorities and reimagine a new way forward?

To this end, the Centre for New Congregations is putting almost all of its energy into creating those kinds of imaginative conversations and helping pastors and churches see the opportunity that has never been greater! Here are a few initiatives:

1. The **“Reimagining Church Backward” Campaign** is a simple, conversation-creating tool that is easy to implement. There are four phases that move from a video sermon to conversation starters for teams/small groups to full engagement in our Launch Course. Churches can choose to be involved in one phase or choose all four! It works for all sizes of churches, and it’s an effective tool for creating conversations around questions like:

- *What would an effective online ministry look like for our church?*
- *Should our church consider a micro-church experiment to reach our neighbours who will likely never enter our church building?*

The *Reimagining Church Backward Campaign* is free and available through emailing Kevin Vincent: kevin.vincent@baptist-atlantic.ca

2. **unStuck** is a comprehensive strategy for engaging a church leadership team in a re-visioning process. It is in-depth and comprehensive. The 4-6 month process will result in a clear “God-Dream” for your church’s future. It provides the tools for developing critical next steps every 90 days. If your church feels “stuck”, unStuck could be part of your solution!

“The *unStuck* process was instrumental in revitalizing our church, and shifting our focus from the present to a preferred future as God envisions it.” - Rev. David Dubois

3. The **New Kind of Church Pilot Project**: For churches keen to experiment with an innovative expression or gathering like a dinner church, senior’s complex church, meta-church, café church, etc., we are offering \$4000 grants to cheerlead and support these “new kind of church” initiatives. We would love to partner with an

exciting experiment in your neighbourhood!

FINALLY: If you’re looking for short video conversation starters on leadership and reimagining church topics, that teams can use in your church, check out **reShape 333**. These 333 second videos will prompt imaginative discussion with a leadership team in your church. Head to the YouTube channel check it out and subscribe: youtube.com/reShape333

You can find more information about these initiatives at reshapeatlantic.ca.

Leadership Development



Garth Williams

These moments certainly fall into the unexpected category of life and ministry, don't they?

I've seen firsthand how leaders have grown as they serve in many different roles in our ministries. You may be a volunteer leader or a pastoral leader (or anything in between), but let me say this: thank you. It's making a difference. I want to share two initiatives from the Centre for Leadership Development that I think are impactful for our Atlantic Baptist family.

Our **Unexpected Leader Podcast** has focused on the unexpected nature of God's call in many of our lives, but it also helps us understand that leadership and the development of leaders is best done in community with one another. It's

encouragement for the journey as we live through unexpected circumstances.

Our **Leadership Academy Masterclass** has become a Zoom event that occurs six times a year and allows our pastor leaders to connect with experts in their fields of study and ministry, coming from all across North America. We're especially blessed to hear from some who serve locally as pastors and faculty at Acadia Divinity College.

You can find *Masterclass* videos and *Unexpected Leader* episodes online for free. We believe they can benefit all leaders in our churches—clergy or not. baptist-atlantic.ca/leadership-development

Congregational Renewal



Greg Jones

A significant part of my work is on **Mission Edge Churches**—a call to congregations to continue living deeply into their God-given mission of “showing (and sharing) the goodness of God to all.” (1 Peter 2:9)

Mission Edge Churches are “communities of Jesus followers who align themselves around His continuing mission of sacrificial love—starting right within their neighbourhoods, and from there radiating His love to neighbourhoods all around the world.”

What will a Mission Edge Church look like? Here are six markers:

Lives the Jesus Way (both Gathered and Scattered) – A Mission Edge Church recognizes that the local church is like a beating heart, continually contracting and expanding, over and over day by day and week by week. This means they recognize they are not the church just when they gather, but even more important as they scatter outward to wherever life takes them... their homes, offices, classrooms, hockey rinks, and the like. We are to live like Jesus at all times and in all places.

Radiates Hospitality – In a world with too much unkindness and isolation, Mission Edge Churches are composed of people who extend their generous welcome and kindness to all who cross their paths.

Fluent in the Good News – People of Mission Edge Churches know and understand how to comfortably and naturally speak the Good News of the Kingdom in contextually appropriate ways. Both in our gathering and our scattering, people of Mission Edge Churches seek to be fluent in sharing the language of God's love.

Embrace Partnerships — Mission Edge Churches seize on the truth that God is already at work all around us, and is inviting us to join Him in what He is doing. People of these churches embrace partnering with others who are similarly moved by God's agenda.

Contextually Responsive – People of Mission Edge Churches know that they're uniquely rooted in their neighbourhoods, and develop eyes to see the unique way God is at work around them. They understand the importance of contextual intelligence, seeking to live with a posture of grace.

Watch for your congregation's Mission Edge Churches kit to be mailed out in mid-2022, and encourage your church to identify as one of our 300 Mission Edge Churches. baptist-atlantic.ca/missionedge

Clergy Formation & Wellness

As we spend time with pastoral leaders and study the results of recent surveys, it's becoming abundantly clear that pastoral health is under threat due to the stressors of ministry. Knowing this must be addressed—and that the health and wellbeing of the pastor is crucial to that of the church—we're engaging intentionally with leaders to support their health, wellness, and spiritual formation.

LeadFresh is the initiative that encompasses our work with pastoral leaders.

In January this year, we launched a new community called **FreshStart**, a spiritual community for pastors to help them become proactive about their own soul care. It includes online sessions and in-person retreats to foster growth and community.



Cheryl Ann
Beals

“Have those important conversations about your spiritual wellness.”

In 2021 we also started **Sozo Journey**, an online community designed to equip leaders to become instruments of God's healing and transformation for their church and for others.

We also recognize that increasing spiritual wellness can't take place in a pastor alone; it requires action on the part of the congregation as well. We want to encourage and challenge our CBAC churches: have those important conversations about your spiritual and emotional wellness. There are steps that you can take to develop your own spiritual wellness and resilience and support that of your pastoral leaders.

Later in 2022, we're excited to launch a new chapter for our work in the area of formation and wellness. We invite you to connect and read more about this on our website. (baptist-atlantic.ca/clergyformation)

Pension & Benefits

Through our Pension & Benefits Board, the CBAC is able to provide excellent pension and benefits services for staff of our CBAC churches, Acadia Divinity College, Crandall University, and other agencies.

Our support for you in this area has a wide range of work, including: sharing resources online; providing administrative services for your staff; helping pastors navigate the retirement process; and providing assistance for spouses and dependents of pastors who have passed away.

The **Treasurer's Handbook** is a useful resource that we produce each year to support the work of church leadership and the volunteers and staff responsible for finances.

Karen Gunn (Benefits Coordinator) would love to connect with you to answer any questions or discuss your church's needs in these areas. (baptist-atlantic.ca/pensionandbenefits)



Karen
Gunn



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KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Rev. Dr. Peter Reid
Rev. Dr. Rhonda Britton

DATE AND LOCATION

August 11-13
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PLUS: Book your spot for a day trip experience to Halifax on Thursday, August 11th, ***Cultural Immersion: Embracing Our African Nova Scotian Community***

This year, regular Adult & Youth Registration is FREE!

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oasis.baptist-atlantic.ca

Key Dates in 2022

May 5	ADC Commissioning Service	Wolfville, NS
May 6	Crandall U Spring Convocation	Moncton, NB
May 27-29	ABW interMission	Moncton, NB
June 4	One Conference	Saint John, NB / Moncton, NB / Halifax, NS
June 19-26	CBM Active In Mission Walk-Bike-Run-a-Thon	
August 10	Examining Council for Ordination	Wolfville, NS
August 11-13	Oasis 2022	Wolfville, NS
September 30	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	
October	CBAC Sunday (Choose your day to celebrate)	
October 3-5	ADC Hayward Lectures	Wolfville, NS



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