

## **CABF Credentials Committee Annual Report September, 2024**

The introduction to the policy that guides the work of the CABF Credentials Committee states the following:

The Committee shall be the first official contact for a candidate requesting accreditation, an association licence, or seeking ordination. The Committee shall be a nurturing one, assisting the candidate to meet the standards desired within the CABF... It shall advise the CABF of any application for ordination and the need for an Ordination Examining Council.

These words have continued to guide the work of the Committee.

### ***The Committee shall be the first official contact for a candidate requesting accreditation***

Over the last year, we have worked with a number of ministers to complete the process of credentialing and, in some cases, to move their registration as wedding officiants to the CABF list in their Province (we are recognized by British Columbia, Alberta, and Nova Scotia and could be applying for Saskatchewan and New Brunswick in the coming months).

We strive to remain a Committee that serves the needs of our Member Churches. We know that ministry in these rapidly changing times is challenging and our churches are striving to meet the needs of their Congregations and communities. To that end, we have worked with the Constitution and Governance Committee and the Council to create a third path of credentialing titled **Local Church Minister**. This track is open only to CABF Member Churches. It is in recognition that our churches are served by a variety of positions (music, education, children, etc.) and that those positions might involve the calling of a minister by a Congregation who might not fit into our track for Ordination or our Lay Minister track designed specifically for bi-vocational or late career ministers serving as solo staff members. Instead of trying to imagine every possible position a church might call a minister to, the Committee determined to create a category that is driven by a Member Church. In this case, it is the Congregation that applies for credentialing, not the individual. Credentialing remains for the individual only as long as they serve the Congregation that applied for their recognition. It is also up to the Congregation to request the individual be added to the provincial list of wedding officiants. We hope this serves our Member Churches well and is a meaningful way of recognizing the varied gifts our community of ministers brings to the body of the CABF.

***It shall advise the CABF of any application for ordination and the need for an Ordination Examining Council.***

Upon the request of the Congregation of FBC Halifax, an Ordination Council was called on September 7, 2024 to consider the ordination of Andrea King and Luke Dowding. That Council recommended to FBC Halifax that the Congregation proceed with ordination. As of writing this report, the Congregation of FBC Halifax will act on this recommendation on Sunday, September 15, 2024. Pending approval, the ordination of Luke and Andrea will take place on Sunday, October 27 at 2:00pm. We anticipate leaders from the global Baptist family travelling to participate and attend in person (as of writing we know at least a dozen folk from the UK plan to attend, including prominent Baptist leaders).

The Credentials Committee is currently working with a minister in New Brunswick who is completing the steps in our Ordination process. He is in the midst of his year of mentorship, with Rev. Jeremy Key of FBC Edmonton serving as his mentor. We anticipate that the church in New Brunswick could request an Ordination Council in 2025.

**New Committee Responsibilities**

As we have grown across Canada, so our Committee has worked with the Council, Nominating Committee, and the Constitution and Governance Committee to make sure we form a Credentials Committee that can carry the increasing workload. Thus, we have requested that we have a member on the Credentials Committee from each province where we have credentialed clergy and maintain a wedding registry list. Pending AGM approval of this year's nominating report, the Committee structure looks like this:

Rusty Edwards, Chair  
Anne Baxter Smith, BC Representative  
Ryan Sato, AB Representative  
Madi Hecht, SK Representative  
John Churchill, NS Representative  
President, Ex-officio

Respectfully Submitted  
Rev. Dr. Rusty Edwards  
Chair, Credentials Committee