

ABCUSA Announces Launch of North American Baptist Fellowship Pastors Network

In a desire to connect Baptist missional pastors with one another and with the world through a dialogue revolving around relationship, inspiration, and information the NABF (the North American Regional fellowship of the Baptist World Alliance) launched a new networking forum for pastors of its member denominations on Monday, August 4.

George Bullard, recording secretary for the fellowship, noted "The purpose of the NABF Pastors Network is to significantly increase the involvement of Baptist pastors in North America with one another, with missional efforts, and with Baptist pastors throughout the world.

This network may over the years take on many forms. At the launch three methods of digital connection are UNDER CONSTRUCTION. **First** is a blog where pastors and NABF member organizations can post and dialogue about missional issues. The web address for this blog is www.pastorsnetwork.info.

Second is a Facebook group for dialogue for lead and solo pastors. To connect with the Facebook group each person must formally join Facebook, which is free. The direct web address for the Facebook group is <http://groups.to/pastorsnetwork/>. Again, it will be necessary to join Facebook to connect with and post to this group.

The Facebook group is limited to the lead or solo pastors of churches connected with conventions/unions who are members of NABF. ABC pastors fitting this description can send an e-mail to gbullard@thecolumbiapartnership.org and provide their name, church of which they are lead or solo pastor, zip/postal code, and the fact they are an ABC congregation. An invitation will be sent within two days.

Because many Baptists may be interested in connecting, and because anyone can view the blog at www.pastorsnetwork.info, there will be an open Facebook group simply called North American Baptist Fellowship. The direct link to this site is in <http://groups.to/nabf/>. This is primarily for people who are not lead or solo pastors but who want to connect around these same or similar issues as Baptists of North America. To access this site one needs to join Facebook.

The content of the blog and Facebook group will change almost daily for the next several weeks as NABF continues to construct it.

Third is a periodic e-zine that will go out to pastors and member organizations of NABF sharing information, announcements, and posts that have been made to the blog or the Facebook group.

In addition, a series of teleconferences and webinars for pastors will begin this fall and move into full swing in 2009. Announcements about these will be forthcoming.

"These efforts are the tangible fruit of the commitment by North American Baptist denominational leaders to strengthen our interrelationships as Baptists," remarked Roy Medley, General Secretary for American Baptists. "This is the first of a number of new or emerging initiatives American Baptists will have an opportunity to participate in with other Baptists in the spirit of the New Baptist Covenant and the commitment made by the signatory denominations two years ago. The Office of the General Secretary is pleased to see its efforts in this arena moving forward with such positive results. We hope these will be valuable as we seek to promote stronger missional congregations and pastoral leaders."