

## Greetings from John Campbell, FABM President

Thanks be to God for the indescribable gift of grace that was this year's Conference for Church Musicians! We were able to come together, sing, play, fellowship, worship, learn, and grow. We were able to do so safely by requiring either proof of vaccination or a very recent negative COVID test result; we have had no reports of COVID stemming from the conference. With COVID surging again due to the Delta variant, it is clear that by God's grace the conference came at exactly the right time. I thank God for the protection granted us.

Beyond the safety was the joy of singing and playing together again. We missed last year's cancelled conference, and it was a taste of heaven to meet old friends, make new ones, and make music together. Our clinicians were terrific, and the repertoire both satisfying and uplifting. (I still have the setting of "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go" running through my head. And now it is running through yours.) Workshops were informative and sometimes challenging. The conference was smaller this year—no surprise there—but those who felt they could come were blessed abundantly. It was a very, very good week; thanks be to God!

A huge part of the success of this year's conference was our veteran group of coordinators and staff. Thanks go to Steve Newman (Worship), Rob and Cindy

White (Youth), Breanne Vogelpohl (Children), Martin Young (Instrumental), and Perry and Carol Bentsen (Handbells). Their thoughtful planning, foresight, flexibility, problem-solving skills, and loving spirit made this conference very smooth. Thanks go to Joe and Matt Hamon, and Jason Vogelpohl, for taking care of so very many logistical details, and making it look effortless. Ali West as Facebook administrator helped get the word out, and Vanessa Edwards as Membership Secretary organized registration and much else. Last but far from least, thanks go to your FABM officers, whose work behind the scenes for months—even years—preceding every conference makes it happen: Joyce Crowder (Executive Secretary), Eric Hobbs (President-Elect), Carla Williams (Secretary/Webmaster), and John Campbell (President).



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**Conference for Church Musicians July 17-23, 2022**



## Greetings from John Campbell, FABM President (continued)

The 2022 conference is very much on my mind. Who have you invited to join us, July 17-23, 2022? Are the leaders in your church's music ministry aware of what Green Lake offers? How about the choir member or trumpet player who sits next to you? Who from your church would be drawn closer to God by coming to next year's conference, and be more enthused for creative worship and inspired music in the weeks that follow? What about your friends in the church next door or across the street? Would Green Lake offer them an opportunity to refresh and renew their church's music ministry, and provide them with a personal spiritual renewal like you experience? "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news." Spread the word about Green Lake. Your invitation carries more impact than anything else.

And then, reserve the dates and make your own plans to come. See you there!

John

### **2022 Green Lake Clinicians**

Worship—Mary Alice Birdwhistell

Adult Choral—David Schwoebel

Children and Youth—Emily Burch

Orchestra—Rick Nichols

Piano—Joel Raney

Handbells—Tim Waugh

Organ—Wednesday night hymn festival, Tim Waugh



## A Note from Joyce Crowder, Executive Secretary

We missed several of you at the Conference for Church Musicians last July, but are praying that you are staying healthy and strong as we go through this new resurgence of the Pandemic.

Conference 2021 had a total of 120 conferees, which was a great surprise to the Board. That included all groups, and was about 2/3 of the total group in 2019.

We were able to use all the rooms at Bauer for workshops, rehearsals, etc. and hope to do that again next summer. Even our youth spent a great deal of daytime in that area keeping us close and connected.

Our Patrons are greatly appreciated as they have enabled us to continue our website, rentals, office needs, etc. during this difficult time. We have trimmed the budget as much as possible to pay our bills that go beyond our Conference expenses. The Fall Planning Meeting will be held in Indiana late September as we plan for next summer. Although we no longer have "memberships" your suggestions are important to us.

We have been "cleaning" up the list of emails on our website. Please check with others who have said they are not receiving The Newsletter to see if they got this one. If they did not, they might have us blocked on their computer or we have the wrong email. Please help us spread the news when you get it and encourage them to check the website to read previous Newsletters. We are no longer doing mass mailings.

Fall Blessings,

Joyce





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# A Message from Eric Hobbs, President-Elect/Treasurer

## MY NEW PERSPECTIVE

Boy, have my eyes been opened this past six months to the ton of work our FABM Board of Directors does for all of us! (And, no, they've not paid me to say so.)

If I have learned anything as the Board's newbie over the past half year, it is just that. The time, thought and prayer the Board pours, year-round, into the planning for and execution of the annual conference in July had never struck me ... because I'd not been made aware of it. But I'm aware now. And I am more grateful than I can tell you for all that Joyce, John, Carla, and their predecessors over the years have done, bathed in prayer, to make it possible for you and me to attend, enjoy and be blessed by the conference each summer.

Many of you may know that boards come in different varieties: There are honorary boards, whose members simply lend their names to the organizations they support. Then there are common boards (not a bad thing), whose members meet regularly to offer their wisdom and guidance and leave it to the organization's staff to execute what they decide. And then there are what are referred to often as working boards, whose members immerse themselves in the minutia of the organization's work and execute that work themselves. Our FABM Board is a working board. A very hard working board. FABM, after all, has no "staff" to do the work the Board decides needs to be done; the Board has to do it.



Did you know that the Board retreats together for two and a half days at Joyce's home every Fall to pray and to plan the coming year's and future years' conferences? Or that the Board meets often thereafter during the year to plan, revise the plan and finalize the plan for the coming summer's conference?

Or did you know that the Board not only finds and engages the clinicians and coordinators — no small feat — but also takes responsibility for making the clinicians' travel plans as necessary, takes multiple trips to the airport in Appleton to pick them up and drop them off before and after (and sometimes during) the conference, and makes itself available to do or get whatever the clinicians or coordinators might need during the week? Or that the Board plans how and where at the Green Lake Conference Center every single activity will take place — in which room and when? Or that the Board writes the content for, designs, types up, prints, and collates all copies of the "BOI" (the "book of information") we receive when we arrive ... and this year prepared a separate BOI for the youth?

Or did you know that the Board gets to Green Lake on Friday evening before the conference begins on Sunday evening to pray over the coming week? Or that the Board, with the invaluable help of the Columbus, Indiana, crew, spends all day Saturday unloading, organizing and setting up all over campus all the music stands, instruments, risers, chairs, sound equipment, and office materials that we all use or are blessed — and then tears it all down and helps load it all up on Saturday, after we all have left to go home? Or that the Board takes responsibility to haul to and from Green Lake in a big van all of the materials and equipment needed in the FABM office and elsewhere on the Conference Center grounds during the conference?

Or did you know that the Board gets together every morning of the conference to pray that God will have his way with us and with what happens that day — because that is more important than anything else the Board does?



# A Message from Eric Hobbs, President-Elect/ Treasurer (continued)

And that's not all the Board finds on its plate. There's so much more.

If I weren't writing this short piece, the FABM Board would never say any of the above. In fact, I'm a bit surprised they've allowed me to include it in the newsletter. But I think it important that all of us who are privileged to attend the conference, each year or only once in a while, are aware of the blessing our Board is, to us and to the Lord whom we all serve. When you see or talk with any of the Board members next time, take a moment to acknowledge and thank them for their commitment to making the week we experience every summer so amazing.

Eric





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*For the past 57 years, FABM has helped church musicians make their ministry meaningful and effective.*

#### **FABM Board**

*President:* John Campbell

*President-Elect/Treasurer:* Eric Hobbs

*Secretary:* Carla Williams

*Executive Secretary:* Joyce Crowder

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web!  
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(to access the FABM Facebook page, place your cursor on the words above, then while holding down the Ctrl key press the left mouse button)