

Greetings from FABM President Eric Hobbs

Looking Ahead to This Coming Year

Wow, it's nearly Labor Day as I write this brief article. The summer already has come and gone. Our amazing, now-Past President, John Campbell, has rightfully done a victory lap after this year's wonderful, worshipful, and reenergizing conference. If you were with us and were as desperate as I was for refreshment and fellowship, I know you know what I mean. God is so very good – great is his faithfulness!

Now it's time to look to this coming year, next summer's conference and beyond. I'm so very excited by our announced, outstanding clinicians for July. After many years, Anton Armstrong will return to direct our adult choral program. David Winkler will take on the mantle of instrumental and piano clinician. Jill Mahr will lead our bell ringers of all ages. And Heather and Kenny Potter will be back to shepherd and teach our children and youth, respectively. I also am thrilled to be able to announce that Marty Haugen has agreed to return as our worship clinician. What a conference it will be!

Thanks to the Holy Spirit and so many faithful brothers and sisters who have gone before us, we as FABM have a rich history of musical worship, serious musicianship, church and community leadership and service, comradery, and joy in sharing our gifts and ministries with one another and with the church throughout North America. My number one goal for the next two years is not to screw that up! So much of a chief cat-herder's responsibilities is to listen carefully to what s/he believes God is saying, to communicate that to, and confirm it with, others who also are listening, to recruit and encourage like-minded folks to execute what the Lord is directing, and then to get out of their way. That's my plan.

We enter a new era post-pandemic (or so we hope). Many church-goers remain on line only. Many choirs have shrunk in size; others have disappeared entirely. Children's and youth choirs have shrunk and disappeared in even greater numbers. Church music programs, as a whole, have taken a hit and are only very slowly coming back. While it would be wrong to call it a crisis – God is still on the throne – it is a time of transition and, for many of us, angst, pain and uncertainty. But it also is a time of wonderful opportunity ... to see what the Lord has in store for his Church as God rebuilds. I, for one, want to be in sync with him.

That is why I have chosen as our theme for this coming year, "Jesus is the same yesterday and today and forever." We need not fear. We need not be disturbed. We need not even wonder. We need only be comforted and encouraged that, whatever the turmoil around us, Jesus doesn't change. We can take that to the bank, as they say.

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this issue:

Greetings from FABM President Eric Hobbs (continued) Pg 2

2022 Wrap-Up John Campbell Pg 3

Past President

A Note from Executive Secretary Joyce Crowder Pg 4

A Message from Mindy Phomvisay President-Elect Treasurer Pg 5

Conference for Church Musicians July 16-22, 2023



Greetings from FABM President Eric Hobbs (continued)

Please be sure you've blocked off and protect July 16 through 21 of next year, and join us in Green Lake for our 58th Annual Conference for Church Musicians. Just as important, invite your friends to join us and corral some of the youth and children in your life to attend with you – and to see their lives changed! Please pray for your board, all the clinicians for this coming year's conference, our wonderful coordinators, and the other committed brothers and sisters, like Joe and Matt Hamon and Jason Vogelpohl, who work extremely hard to make the conference possible. And pray for each other, that the Spirit will prepare all our hearts for what the Lord has in store for us. Only 10 months away! I can't wait to see you.



FABM Officers (l to r):
John Campbell, Past President
Carla Williams, Secretary
Joyce Crowder, Executive Secretary
Mindy Phomvisay, President-Elect/Treasurer
Eric Hobbs, President

2022 Wrap-Up from FABM Past-President John Campbell

Thank you to all who attended, all who took on leadership roles when asked, all who tackled “grunt” work even without being asked, all who practiced and polished and honed and prepared behind the scenes, for making the 2022 Conference for Church Musicians a deeply meaningful experience. Most of all, thanks be to God!

The unfailing support of FABM Executive Secretary Joyce Crowder was absolutely crucial. Former FABM officers have an inkling of an idea of what she does every year, year after year, to make the conference the best it can be, but none of us knows the sleep lost, the prayers offered, the hours and hours and hours she spends on something she loves, for people she loves, in the service of a God she loves. Thank you, Joyce!

The same is true of the other FABM officers. My personal thanks to now-President Eric Hobbs and Secretary Carla Williams, who caught and solved many a problem before it became a problem, and who jumped in however and whenever asked. Thank you, Eric and Carla! (And welcome, Mindy Phomvisay, new President-Elect!)

I also want to thank former FABM presidents, on whose counsel I leaned, and who were always ready to pitch in as needed. They know what it takes, and are still there to support Green Lake. The clinicians were terrific, each bringing her or his own gifts—spiritual as well as musical—to bear. What a delight to work with Mary Alice Birdwhistell, David Schwoebel, Emily Burch, Tim Waugh, Dave Bullock, and Joel Raney! (If you missed it...well...you really missed it!)

Our coordinators did a fabulous job, making sure their areas ran smoothly and their clinicians had what they needed, lugging instruments and equipment, cleaning up afterwards, and taking a huge load off this (and every) president/conference manager. Again, most conferees only see the results of your work, and not the preparation and time you give it. Thank you, Rob White and Kaitie McGilvery, Martin Young, Perry and Carol Bentsen, and Breanne Vogelpohl!

The support team of Joe Hamon, Jason Vogelpohl, Vanessa Edwards, and (once more, ladies and gentlemen!) Carla Williams was and is a blessing beyond words to me personally, and to the conference. Late nights, often very early mornings, and non-stop running at full speed—and they call this “vacation” from their day jobs!?!—were the norm, because of their dedication to the conference and the best possible experience for everyone there. Thank you, Joe, Jason, Vanessa, and Carla!

These folks brought you the conference. I cherish their friendships as the best gift of being FABM President.

“Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” (Ephesians 3:20-21)

Grace to you all,
John



A Note from Joyce Crowder, Executive Secretary

We have received a note from Norm Giesbrecht about Carol.

“Carol is still with us. She has no short term memory, never recalls who visits her, etc., but she does know people and names. When I read cards from Cummings, Wilanna, etc. her face lights up.

Her nursing care is first class. She is eating and sleeping and does not seem to have much pain. Some days she is disturbed. Then I pray with her and she calms down. Most times she is still a joy to be with. One doctor predicted only days to live. That was 6 weeks ago. She’s a fighter.”

If you would like to send a card their address is:

103 Woodview Cres
Kitchener, ON N2A 3E 5
Canada

The FABM Officers will meet in Columbus, IN October 20-22, 2022 to continue preparing for The Conference for Church Musicians 2023. If you have any question, information, ideas, etc., please send them to someone on the board before that date.

The Fellowship of American Baptist Musicians is a non-profit organization, incorporated in Michigan, operating as a Foreign Entity in Indiana and providing an annual conference in Wisconsin.

We are sustained by Patrons, private donations, trust funds, etc. Please consider being a Patron for 2023. You can find that info and much more on our website at www.fabm.com

Please also help us to circulate information. Hopefully you’ll be able to stay connected with those who have attended before, those who were your “bell ringing” neighbors, those you sat beside as you sang, worshiped, prayed, laughed, and ate. Connection makes us stronger.

Stay Healthy and Strong.

Joyce



A Message from Mindy Phomvisay President-Elect/Treasurer

Looking forward to future years!

What an honor it is to be invited to be on the FABM Board and also so humbling to be able to send this note to you - to friends that I admire, look up to and have learned from for years. It was truly wonderful to be together with you this past summer at the conference. There is such joy in being together with old and new friends and the "taste of heaven" we experience at Green Lake is like no other. We also truly missed all that were not able to be there.

But this note is about the future! I am so looking forward to the years ahead and all the thrilling things God has in store for our Conference!! Exciting things are happening! Eric has been diligently working to get a fabulous list of Clinicians that will be amazing to learn from! If you aren't familiar with the Clinicians (and I know each of their reputations speaks for itself) look them up and see how amazing these people are- we are in for a real treat! I am also personally looking forward to learning from this incredible Board and being a part of planning the details of this year's conference!

I invite you to honestly think about next year's Conference. How can we help it grow? Who did you miss seeing this past year - can you reach out to them and let them know they were missed and even share with us - your FABM board - if there is something we can do to have them join us again? If we were missing you - I warmly invite you to come back and worship with us this summer. Who do you know that would learn, grow or just enjoy the retreat and renewal of the Conference? Could you encourage a friend to join you this year? I know the family/friends that have visited us during the conference are simply stunned - thinking that we are at a rustic "camp" and find out what a beautiful Conference Center GLCC is including the gorgeous lake, the amenities and of course Lawsonia golf course! And that's just the setting alone - the best part is when they experience the Conference with you and feel God's love through the people here, the music and the worship. Let's do our best to keep sharing this gift - the FABM Conference for Church Musicians - that we have been blessed to experience. I invite you to be thinking this year about who you want to invite for next year and how you could help them get there.

I look forward to hearing all the new and exciting ideas you have for us! Please feel free to email me with any questions or ideas for future years. We truly want to hear from you!

With love, joy and excitement!

Mindy Phomvisay
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For the past 58 years, FABM has helped church musicians make their ministry meaningful and effective.

FABM Board

President: Eric Hobbs

President-Elect/Treasurer: Mindy Phomvisay

Secretary: Carla Williams

Executive Secretary: Joyce Crowder

**We're on the
web!
www.fabm.com**



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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)