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THE GATHERING 2026

Friday 8th - Saturday 9th May

158th Annual Assembly



Baptist Churches
of NSW & ACT

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Baptist Churches
of NSW & ACT

Guidelines for Conduct of Assembly Meetings

Please refer to Schedule A of the Association's Constitution adopted on 14 and 15 June, 2024 for 'Guidelines for Conduct of Assembly Meetings'. The Constitution is on the Baptist website at: bit.ly/BA-NSW-ACT-Constitution
Additional guidelines relating to presentation of reports to Annual Assemblies are contained at Paragraph S. of Schedule A of the Constitution.

IMPACT

YOUNG ADULTS



Looking to invest in young adults?

IMPACT CAN HELP!

Designed for young adults aged 17-25, IMPACT Young Adults offer opportunities we hope will have a lasting impact. Supporting young adults as they grow in their understanding of themselves and their giftings is a way for us to invest in you and your church.

IMPACT GROWTH

An 11-month program (Feb-Dec) focused on personal and spiritual growth. Monthly online sessions and mentoring, with 4 in-person gatherings throughout the year

IMPACT ADVENTURE

A short-term Global Exposure program in partnership with Baptist Mission Australia. Including mission prep and debrief sessions and a 2 week trip to Cambodia.

Participants Say:

"This year has been a transformative experience, testing us in many ways but it has grown myself in a way I never knew was possible."

Sam

"The thing I really enjoyed was our fellowship with different people"

Caity

"We were constantly seeing how much faith and reliance in God you had to have and how they had to trust in him that it was worth what they were doing and sacrificing and that things would come of it, even though they can't see it"

Lydia



Want to know more? Contact
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PROGRAM | FRIDAY

8:00am	DOORS OPEN
9:00am	Local Welcome
9:05am	Local Worship
9:25am	All Sites Welcome
9:30am	KEYNOTE: TIM DYER Ready for Leading Ministry in a Complex World
10:15am	MORNING TEA
10:40am	Insights from 2025 Churches Survey
10:50am	Baptist World Aid
11:00am	Recommendation for Reappointment of Director of Ministries
11:15am	Introduction to Bible Breakouts
11:20am	BIBLE BREAKOUTS
12:05pm	LUNCH (Ballot Box Open)
12:50pm	Morling College Update Macquarie Park Campus Property Update
1:20pm	Introduction to Workshops
1:25pm	WORKSHOPS
2:15pm	SHORT BREAK
2:30pm	David Brown Scholarship BaptistCare Update
3:00pm	Prayer Activity
3:30pm	CLOSE

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the first inhabitants and traditional custodians of the lands where we live and minister. We pay respect to their elders past, present and emerging. We acknowledge Creator God who has brought us together, from different lands and nations, and desire to continue together towards deeper understanding and reconciliation.

PROGRAM | SATURDAY

8:00am	DOORS OPEN
8:00am	Baptist Historical Society Breakfast and Annual Lecture
9:00am	Local Welcome
9:05am	Local Worship
9:25am	All Sites Welcome
9:30am	DEVOTION: EMMAH MAKUTHI Ready to Live Faithfully in a Broken World
9:50am	Introduction to Bible Breakouts and Workshops
10:00am	BIBLE BREAKOUTS
10:45am	MORNING TEA
11:10am	WORKSHOPS
12:00pm	Transition Time
12:05pm	2025 Annual Report
12:15pm	2025 Financial Report
12:25pm	Votes to Receive Reports
12:30pm	STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2028: INTRODUCTION
12:50pm	LUNCH (Ballot Box Closes 1:35pm)
1:35pm	STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2028: PRESENTATION including story telling, accreditation of ministers and affiliation of churches
3:05pm	SHORT BREAK
3:15pm	2026 Budget
3:25pm	STRATEGIC PLAN 2026-2028: Wrap up and Vote to Approve
3:35pm	Announcement of Results - Ballot for Positions
3:40pm	Prayer Activity
4:00pm	CLOSE

SPEAKER



**FRIDAY 8TH MAY, 2026
TIM DYER**

Tim Dyer is a trainer of pastors, church consultants, mentors and Christian leaders. He works across many mainline denominations and focuses on the care, development and support of clergy and the health of congregations.

Tim trained in psychology at Melbourne and Monash Universities before researching and publishing on Youth Homelessness as a staff worker with Scripture Union Victoria.

He teaches at a graduate level for several theological colleges in Leadership, Team Relationships, Conflict Management, Resilience and Self Care, Trauma and Recovery and the Personal Life of the Minister.

Tim is married to Merran, a GP with interests in nutritional medicine and women's health. They have 2 adult sons and two adult daughters.

SPEAKER



**SATURDAY 9TH MAY, 2026
EMMAH MAKUTHI**

Emmah Makuthi delights in being a beloved daughter of God, grounded in her faith in Jesus Christ. She brings over two decades of leadership experience across the Church, para-church organisations, government, the United Nations, and civil society. She holds multiple degrees, including in theology and biblical studies.

Emmah serves as Team Leader for Community Transformation with Greater West for Christ. She is a Pastor of Community and Missions at Penrith Baptist Church and an accredited life coach. She is married to Chris, with whom she has three children.

ASSEMBLY COUNCIL



Allen Sibley
Chair



Allyson Beddoe
Deputy Chair

Members:

Dr Catherine Casey
(standing for re-election this year)

Dr Omar Djoeandy

Rev Angelo Gratsounas

Rev Matt J Kennedy

Matt W Kennedy
(retiring)

Dr Edwina Murphy
(retiring)

Vicki Sherry

David Slinn

Attendees:

Rev Dr Steve Bartlett
Director of Ministries
(Baptist Association)

Rev Dr Tim MacBride
Principal
(Morling College)

Geoff Moore
Honorary Legal Advisor,
Property and Commercial

Edwin Ho
Governance Manager
Secretary to the Assembly Council
(from February 2026)

Fanny Wong
Secretary to the Assembly Council
(until February 2026)

Role of the Assembly Council

The role of the Assembly Council is to collectively ensure the delivery of the vision of the Baptist Association of NSW & ACT, to set its strategic direction and to uphold its values.

The Assembly Council should collectively be responsible and accountable for ensuring and monitoring that the organisation is performing well, is solvent, and is complying with all its legal, financial and ethical obligations.

The responsibilities of the Assembly Council that cannot be delegated to any other person or body include:

- Spiritual oversight
- Strategic planning
- Organisational governance
- Regulatory monitoring
- Financial monitoring
- Financial reporting
- Organisational structure
- Leadership selection
- Succession planning
- Risk management
- Social responsibility
- Assembly Council performance and composition

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ONLINE PRAYER GROUP

At NSW & ACT Baptist Churches, we desire a culture of prayer to underpin all our activities. We will be covering The Gathering in prayer digitally, connecting our various venues.

You can join the Online Prayer Group via WhatsApp to receive prayer prompts throughout the 2-day program.

**Online Prayer Hour
Wednesday 6 May,
7.30pm**



**Join the Online
Prayer Group
(WhatsApp)**



**Send in a Prayer
Request to the
Online Prayer Group**





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NOMINATION FOR DIRECTOR OF MINISTRIES

The Constitution of the Baptist Churches of NSW & ACT sets out the process for appointing the Director of Ministries and defines the role within the Association. Upon the recommendation of the Assembly Council, it is the responsibility of the Assembly to appoint and re appoint a full-time Director of Ministries, who is accountable to the Assembly Council.

The Director of Ministries is normally appointed for a five-year term and is eligible for re appointment. Each appointment or re appointment requires a majority of not less than two thirds (2/3) of votes cast. Voting for the appointment is undertaken as part of the ballot process for all positions considered at Assembly.

The Assembly Council has the responsibility to determine the terms of appointment of the Director of Ministries and to regularly review the Director's performance, as well as holding the right of suspension and dismissal of the Director.

As directed by the Assembly Council, the Director of Ministries is empowered to provide spiritual leadership and vision for the ministry of the Association; to manage the Association's staff and resources effectively; to implement the Association's objects and overall strategic direction; to encourage dialogue between the Association and its churches and groups; to serve as the Association's spokesperson; and to carry out other duties as required by the Assembly Council.

Rev Dr Stephen Bartlett has served two consecutive five-year terms as Director of Ministries. In considering whether to recommend Steve for a further five-year term, the Assembly Council and Steve together undertook a prayerful process of review and discernment. Assembly Council has no concerns whatsoever regarding Steve's performance or character and affirms that he has served with excellence during a particularly challenging five-year period for both him and the Association. The Council affirms Steve's ongoing sense of calling to the role.

Accordingly, the Assembly Council unanimously recommends the re appointment of Rev Dr Stephen Bartlett for a third five-year term as Director of Ministries.

Nomination for Director of Ministries



Nominee:

STEVE BARTLETT

Church Membership:

BAYSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Steve has served as Director of Ministries (DOM) since his appointment in July 2016. He has been married to Louise for 32 years and together they are blessed with three children - Josh (24), Jordan (21) and Kiara (18).

Steve is passionate about the church living out its potential as a key agent in God's mission in the world. Prior to commencing in the DOM role he served for 6 years as Associate Director - Church Planting with our NSW/ACT Baptist Association. Until 2013 he was the Senior Pastor at Bayside Community Church in the Homebush Bay area, which he and Louise planted with a small team in 2000. Prior to this he served at NorthWest Community Baptist Church (now Rouse Hill Baptist Church).

From 2006-2011 Steve was also on the faculty of Morling College teaching, mentoring and facilitating in the areas of Leadership Development and Church Planting. His doctoral studies were in the area of the development and support of pioneering leaders.

Steve has been on the journey of following Jesus since early childhood, and in his mid teenage years at Merrylands Baptist Church the implications of this for his life and ministry began to challenge him. This led to a conviction of a call to vocational ministry, and also a sense of the value of marketplace experience and ministry.

Before commencing ministry training and during his first years of church planting, Steve worked in investment banking. He loves music, the beach and family holidays, and tries to ward off unfitness with lap swimming.

ASSEMBLY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP Nomination & Profile of Candidates for Election

Up to two (2) persons to be elected by Assembly from two (2) nominees

Person	Church	Profile
DR CATHERINE CASEY	Parramatta Baptist Church	Page 18
ANDREW JAMES KERR	Gundagai Community Baptist Church	Page 19

The following pages provide background information for those nominated.

THE ASSEMBLY COUNCIL

The Constitution of the Baptist Churches of NSW & ACT describes how affiliated local Baptist churches and affiliated groups work together to fulfil the objects of the Association. Under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, final Governance of the Association is vested with the Assembly, which appoints the Assembly Council.

The Assembly Council is the council appointed under Section 10 of the Association Constitution as the Executive Committee under the Baptist Union Incorporation Act 1919 (NSW) – an Act of Parliament. It is empowered to implement Assembly decisions and to conduct the Association’s affairs between Assemblies.

The 12-member Assembly Council comprises:

- 9 persons elected by Assembly,
- The Chair of Morling College Council, and
- 2 persons appointed by Assembly Council at its discretion.

The Director of Ministries, Principal of Morling College, the Honorary Legal Advisor, Governance Manager and Secretary to the Assembly Council are attendees of council meetings, however are not entitled to vote.

At this Annual Assembly, three (3) positions on Assembly Council are up for election.

Two (2) candidates have been nominated. Per Section 8.4(x) of the Constitution, a two-thirds majority is required for a nominee to be elected.

Under Section 9.2 of the Constitution, as three (3) or less positions are to be elected, the terms of office will be three (3) years.

Candidates for Assembly Council



Nominee:

DR CATHERINE CASEY

Nomination received: 20 March 2026

Church Membership:

PARRAMATTA BAPTIST CHURCH

Qualifications:

BMed FRACGP GradDipClinEd

Having served on Assembly Council for the last three years, I feel honoured to be nominated to continue supporting the ministry of the Baptist Churches of NSW & ACT in this way. I bring a unique voice to discussions at AC, as a Pastor's wife, church planter, a doctor with a passion for individual and community wellbeing, and with organisational leadership and management experience in a national training organisation.

I am a member of Parramatta Baptist Church, serving with my husband Gavin at Parramatta City Church, a church plant with a multicultural community of faith and a missional focus in the heart of Parramatta. As a Christian, I have been disciplined in faith and ministry within Baptist Churches from a young age. I have ministry experience in large Baptist churches, in children, youth and young adult ministries and currently serve on the safe church team at Parramatta Baptist.

Professionally, I am a General Practitioner currently working with Justice Health NSW providing care for vulnerable populations. Over the past twenty years, I have been committed to general practice training in NSW & ACT, developing skills in teaching and training, organisational leadership, risk management, stakeholder engagement, staff wellbeing, strategic development and leading through major periods of transition.

I would like to continue to bring my skills and experience, my faith and commitment to serve and support the Baptist Churches of NSW & ACT, as we exist to advance the gospel of Jesus Christ, as a member of the Assembly Council.

Candidates for Assembly Council



Nominee:

ANDREW JAMES KERR

Nomination received: 4 April 2026

Church Membership:

GUNDAGAI COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

I grew up in Forbes, NSW. My mum took my sister and I to the Anglican Church there. I stopped attending Church in high school and left Forbes to study Business/Accounting. In my 20s I moved around the state for work and attended church sporadically.

I moved back to Forbes and was invited to attend the Baptist church. It was there I heard the Gospel, not some moralistic teaching loosely based on Jesus Life. This deep respect for Jesus, the Gospel and the Bible has stayed with me.

After a few years I moved jobs again this time to a Catholic boarding school (again in Forbes). While working there I continued to attend Forbes Baptist Church eventually becoming a partner (member) then deacon, then later secretary.

I was baptised in September 1999 by Rob McGorman (currently the Pastor at Dubbo Baptist Church). I spent around ten years or so assisting then running youth groups. I married Kellie in 2007.

In 2010, I changed jobs again taking on the role of branch manager with St George (Forbes and Parkes), a role that I really enjoyed.

However, in 2017, Kellie and I prayed about Ministry and Bible college. We also spent time in discussion with close friends at church. In 2019 we left Forbes and commenced study at SMBC (B.Th.) along with Ben and Bron and their family.

It was at SMBC that my Baptist convictions deepened along with my respect for other denominations. Engaging in regular discussions about the distinctions between denominations.

After graduating SMBC I took on the role of solo minister at Gundagai.

Over the past few years at Gundagai we have introduced a new constitution which allowed us to increase the churches official membership. While the church has grown numerically there has also been evidence of spiritual growth among the congregation.

I am currently a Creating Safe Spaces Trainer as well as a member of the Riverina Baptist Network leadership team. Theologically I sit comfortably in the reformed evangelical space.

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15th August 2026

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Telling the story of Baptist churches in NSW and the ACT as we journey towards the Gen1k Goal to become a movement of 1000 healthy churches in a generation.

Read the stories:

ourstory.org.au

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OUR VISION PICTURES

GEN ONE HEALTH

We see a movement of transforming, healthy communities

- Embracing faith and risk in a life of authentic discipleship
- Transforming lives in the power of Christ
- A culture of disciple making being normal and expected
- Diverse in expression and ministry yet united in purpose, values and foundational beliefs.

GEN ONE MISSION

We see an extraordinary mission shaped movement of God across our churches and affiliated groups

- Proclaiming and demonstrating Christ's love in holistic, culturally appropriate global engagement
- Growing faster than population growth to a movement of 1000 healthy churches in a generation
- Support and involvement in church planting and pioneering work being normal
- Mutual support and partnership between our churches, the Association of Churches and its affiliated groups

GEN ONE LEADERSHIP

We see a movement raising and empowering Kingdom-focused leadership

- A culture of leadership development across our movement
- Ample mature leadership to allow our churches, groups and new ministries to flourish
- Healthy pastors and leaders serving our churches and groups with sustained vitality
- Leaders equipped and supported for their roles in the broader community.

GEN ONE JUSTICE

We see a movement impacting our society, culture and world

- Cultivating significant positive societal change
- Asserting a prophetic voice, bringing Kingdom values into the public square
- Advocating for and aiding the vulnerable, voiceless and oppressed.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES LIFTOUT

GOAL: We will be a movement of 100

GEN

VISION PICTURES: Vision Pictures are a landscape of what our

Healthy Communities

with

Empowered Leadership

GEN ONE **HEALTH**

We see a movement of transforming, healthy communities



GEN ONE **LEADERSHIP**

We see a movement raising and empowering Kingdom-focused leadership



PRIORITIES: To achieve our Goal and become the movement

Develop Leaders

1. Develop Leadership across our movement in 3 dimensions

Mobilise Healthy, M

2. Maintain and deepen our momentum in the
3. Increase depth and breadth of younger generation
4. Respond to the cultural shift of openness to
5. Help churches grow a culture of intentional

Our vision lenses:



Prayerfulness & God-dependence



Diverse and Inclusive

1000 Healthy Churches in a Generation.



our movement will look like in the future as we achieve our goal.

that are

Mission Shaped

and

Impact Society

GEN1K MISSION

We see an extraordinary mission shaped movement of God across our churches and affiliated groups

GEN1K JUSTICE

We see a movement impacting our society, culture and world

What we want to see, our priorities over the next 3 years are to...

Multiplying Churches

the multiplication of new congregations
generations disciplined in our faith communities
to faith
and proactive health

Partner for Impact

6. Advance our work with justice and public issues
7. Further develop contextualised and aligned regional ministries
8. Develop our property strategies and processes to best support churches and enable growth
9. Further enable engagement and partnership in our shared Gen1K Vision

**Engagement
Involvement**



**Collaboration
- local and global**



**Digital
Transformation**

OUR MOVEMENT

Goal

Leading up to 2012 a review of all the Association functions and activities was undertaken. Out of this review a bold goal of 1000 healthy churches in a generation (GEN1K) was established and affirmed by member churches.

Our Vision, Purpose and Goal together articulate why we exist, what we need to look like in the future, and what we hope Gen1K will achieve through God.

Purpose

The Association of churches exists to work together in the fulfilment of God's call on us as individual churches – to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are called to do this throughout all the world – locally, nationally and internationally. Our purpose also indicates the vital nature of partnership in ministry as it identifies the need to have interdependent relationships to fulfill this call. As churches and ministers we join together to work towards advancing the Gospel. This includes being supported when we are weak and supporting others when we are strong.

Values

Core values are one of the aspects that identifies and unites us as an Association. They drive what, why and how we do what we do. Core values guide us as individuals, churches and as an Association. Our desire is to see our purpose and vision through the lens of these core values and allow them to assist in guiding ministry decisions moving forward.

Our Core Values:

- Christ Centred
- Mission Shaped
- Relationally Committed
- People Empowering
- Partnership Oriented

Vision

Working together harnesses greater potential to impact the world around us. This combined expression also allows for support and development services to be accessed by all member churches, church leaders and attendees. Our belief is that we can have a greater positive impact on the world around us when we partner together.

Our Vision Pictures:

- Healthy Churches/Community
- Leadership
- Mission
- Justice



P'RU

Being Fruitful

The P'RU theological pathway prepares women and men from *culturally diverse backgrounds* to discern their calling, grow in ministry, and build their confidence for *disciple-making*. This certificate is designed with *cultural safety and bravery* to help join God's mission in their own context.

This program is a partnership between the Baptist Association, Morling College and Baptist Mission Australa.

**LEARN MORE
OR GIVE HERE**

nswactbaptists.org.au/pru



MORLING COLLEGE COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP Nomination & Profile of Candidates for Election

Up to three (3) persons to be elected by Assembly from three (3) nominees

Person	Church	Profile
HELEN BLANCH	Riverstone Baptist Church	Page 30
WILLIAM (BILL) PIERSON	Macquarie Baptist Church	Page 31
DOMINIC (DOM) VALASTRO	Menai Baptist Church	Page 32

The following pages provide background information for those nominated.

THE MORLING COLLEGE COUNCIL

The Morling College Council is the governing body responsible for decision-making in relation to the conduct of Morling College, as the theological college of the Baptist Association.

The 14-member Morling College Council comprises:

- 10 persons elected by Assembly;
- The Chair of Morling College Academic Board;
- A person with academic expertise appointed by the Morling College Council at its discretion;
- A person selected by the Assembly Council of the Baptist Churches of Western Australia; and
- A person selected by the Assembly Council of the Baptist Churches of Queensland.

The Council is responsible for offering training as determined by the Association; the training of persons accepted by the Association for training for Baptist ministry; the training of cross-cultural ministry workers and other spheres of Christian service; the promotion of the Christian faith consistent with the basic doctrines, statement of belief, position statements and values of the Association and offering courses accredited by relevant Government authorities and supportive of national goals for higher education.

The Principal of the College, the Director of Ministries, the Honorary Legal Advisor and the Secretary to the Morling College Council attend meetings of the Council but are not entitled to vote.

Three (3) candidates have been nominated and there are three (3) positions to be filled.

As per Section 8.4 (x) of the Association Constitution, candidates require a two-thirds (2/3) majority to be elected.

Under section 9.2 of the Association Constitution, candidates at this election will be elected to serve terms of three (3) years.

Candidate for Morling College Council



Nominee:

HELEN BLANCH

Nomination received: 20 March 2026

Church Membership:

RIVERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

Qualifications:

M. Education

At 18 years old, in response to a missionary's testimony at a youth camp, I responded to the Gospel and came to know Christ as my Lord and Saviour. Over the many years I have sought to grow in my relationship with the Lord and to walk in His grace through life.

I had a strong sense of God's call to teach in whatever way He would lead. I am married to Kevin and have one daughter and four grandsons. My interests include writing and reading.

I am currently employed as the Christian Education Executive with the Excellence Executive, the Professional Learning centre of the Pacific Group of Schools. I have been in school life for over 45 years and in Christian education since 1987, fulfilling a number of Leadership roles, including Principal. I also served as the Education and Leadership Director of New Hope International. In my leadership roles I have demonstrated fine interpersonal skills, big-picture thinking

and the capacity to enable a team to implement a vision. I am passionate about inspiring and equipping Christian teachers to be deeply immersed in the Word of God so they may embrace a Christ-centred education that meaningfully engages with young people. I have governance experience having served on the Morling Board for the past 3 years and prior to that 12 years on the Norwest Christian College Board and 6 years as an elder at Riverstone. I wish to continue on the Board to be part of being custodian of the vision to be a light for Christ in the educational landscape.

Candidate for Morling College Council



Nominee:

WILLIAM (BILL) PIERSON

Nomination received: 20 March 2026

Church Membership:

MACQUARIE BAPTIST CHURCH

Qualifications:

B.E.; B.Science;

M. Engineering Science; PhD

Dr. Peirson has more than 45 years of lay ministry experience as a youth group leader, thence small BibleStudy group leader, Bible study author, local church group coordinator prior to taking his present role as The Master of New College and its Postgraduate Village at UNSW. In his present role, Bill leads Christian Ministry at New College including as editor-in-chief of CASE Quarterly and convenor of the New College Lectures – nationally leading Christian academic public outreach activities.

Bill has more than 42 years experience in the university sector including as Director of a major research unit (8 years), teaching and research academic (14 years), commercial manager (3 years), Adjunct Professor (9 years) and CEO of two major university residential colleges (9 years).

As Director of the Water Research Laboratory, he oversaw reshaping of a major research facility to embrace International leading research while retaining its longstanding engagement with the engineering industry. At New College, under God he guided the colleges through the perils of COVID, maintaining their outstanding reputation but also seeing the Postgraduate Village now host more than 50 doctoral students and 5 postdoctoral researchers within its resident membership.

Bill has been a member of Macquarie Baptist since 2009, became a widower in 2024 and has three married adult daughters, two with children. Bill has been committed to supporting Morling College for many years and hopes that his contributions have been helpful to its developing national role in the Biblical training of future leaders of churches and missions.

Candidate for Morling College Council



Nominee:

DOMINIC (DOM) VALASTRO

Nomination received: 20 March 2026

Church Membership:

MENAI BAPTIST CHURCH

Soon after coming to faith in 1982 I became an urban missionary for Campus Crusade for Christ, teaching SRE and leading youth group at Clempton Park Baptist Church. I married in 1987 and my wife and I were involved in a church plant, before running prayer groups and then starting a family.

By then around 1993 we started attending Menai Baptist Church and have since served as a deacon and elder, mostly under Rev. Grice and then Heath Smith.

My career has included senior management roles at Zurich Insurance, Telstra and Westpac. I ran several Gloria Jeans franchises and since 2010 I have led Christian NFP organisations before retiring in 2024. I am now developing my experience as an author.



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COLLEGE

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From single unit study to postgraduate qualifications, Morling shapes people to serve confidently in their churches and communities with wisdom and depth.

Who in your church might be ready to step into their calling?

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- Education

Morling College partners with the Baptist Churches of NSW & ACT to provide theologically rich, spiritually formative training for a wide range of ministry roles.

LEARN MORE



MORLING.EDU.AU

MORLING COLLEGE IS A TEQSA-REGISTERED INSTITUTE OF HIGHER EDUCATION (PRV12034) AND AN AFFILIATED COLLEGE OF THE AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY OF THEOLOGY (PRV12010; CRICOS 02650E).



AUSTRALIAN
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THEOLOGY

BAPTIST CHURCHES OF NEW SOUTH WALES PROPERTY TRUST MEMBERSHIP Nomination & Profile of Candidates for Election

Up to three (3) persons to be elected by Assembly from three (3) nominees

Person	Church	Profile
GEOFFREY (GEOFF) MOORE	Narwee Baptist Church	Page 36
JUDITH CARPENTER	Ashfield Baptist Church	Page 37
MICHAEL JUSTIN WILLIAMS	Northside Baptist Church Crows Nest	Page 38

The following pages provide background information for those nominated.

THE BAPTIST CHURCHES OF NEW SOUTH WALES PROPERTY TRUST

The Baptist Churches of New South Wales Property Trust is an incorporated body created under the Baptist Churches of New South Wales Property Trust Act 1984 (NSW).

Seven members are elected by the Baptist Assembly for three-year terms on a rotational basis. The members of the Property Trust are required to obey the directions of the local congregation, provided those directions do not contravene the Act or the law of the land.

The Act requires that a member of the Property Trust will be a member of a Baptist Church affiliated with the Association. At a personal level, members of the Trust are involved in the ministry of a local Baptist church and have a firsthand understanding of congregational life. They know that church property matters are often complex and that local leaders sometimes require help to properly process transactions. As servants of our churches they will adhere to the Basic Doctrines, Statement of Beliefs and Objects and Values of the Association.

In order to fulfil its role, the Property Trust should ideally comprise members who have various business disciplines including banking, accounting, legal, real estate, management etc. In the past its members have included a Minister.

A member of the Trust cannot be a person who is or becomes an employee of the Trust, the Baptist Churches of NSW & ACT or of any committee, council or agency of the Association.

The Property Trust meets up to six times a year in Sydney. In addition, several members will meet most weeks to sign documents submitted by churches for their property transactions. Country members are paid travelling expenses to attend, or may attend meetings by electronic means.

At each Annual Assembly, an election of members of the Trust shall be held to fill the offices of the members of the Trust which become vacant at the end of that Assembly.

Three (3) Trust members will retire by rotation, having completed their three-year terms.

There are four (4) vacancies able to be filled at this year's Annual Assembly.

A simple majority is required in order for a candidate to be elected.

Candidate for Baptist Churches of New South Wales Property Trust



Nominee:

GEOFFREY (GEOFF) MOORE

Nomination received: 20 March 2026

Church Membership:

NARWEE BAPTIST CHURCH

Qualifications:

Barrister since 1977; LLB, B.A.

Attending Baptist Churches in the Inner West since 1962 – notably at Narwee, Dulwich Hill, Earlwood and Ashfield. Church Secretary at Dulwich Hill 1973 to 1985.

Honorary Legal Advisor to the Baptist Association since 1987.

Member of the Baptist Property Trust since 2020.

Practising barrister in equity, property, commercial matters, Geoff has advised the Association and Morling College over many years.

Candidate for Baptist Churches of New South Wales Property Trust



Nominee:

JUDITH CARPENTER

Nomination received: 20 March 2026

Church Membership:

ASHFIELD BAPTIST CHURCH

Qualifications:

BA; Cert. Teach; MAICD

Judith served on the BaptistCare Board from 2002 to 2019, the last 3 years as Chair. In this capacity she dealt with significant property and governance matters. Judith is currently the Chair of LifeCare SA, an aged care provider and has subsequent experience dealing with development and property issues including valuations.

Judith is an Elder of Ashfield Baptist Church and happy to serve the wider Baptist community as part of the Baptist Churches of NSW Property Trust.

Candidate for Baptist Churches of New South Wales Property Trust



Nominee:

MICHAEL JUSTIN WILLIAMS

Nomination received: 20 March 2026

Church Membership:

NORTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH CROWS NEST

Qualifications:

***B. Town Planning (1st Class Hons),
Grad. Dip. Applied Finance***

Relevant ministry experience or areas of service

I have been attending Northside Baptist Church for approximately 18 years. My primary ministry involvement over this time has been playing drums in a worship setting, while I am also a member of the church's property advisory group.

Relevant expertise for Property Trust (eg: legal, finance, property, other)

I have spent my professional career working in property development – primarily large scale residential development. This has included 11 years working for Landcom, the NSW State Government owned development corporation, and subsequently over 10 years working originally as Head of Strategy & Acquisitions and now as General Manager for a privately owned residential development company, Legacy Property.

I have comprehensive end to end experience in the development process, including detailed knowledge of legal and financial structuring for property acquisition and development.

Other Relevant Personal information

I am married to Kristen and we have two children – Mark (nearly 8yo) and Phoebe (5yo).

Reason for Accepting Nomination for Property Trust

I continue to enjoy my involvement in the Trust and believe that I have provided a useful contribution during my membership. I have found that my experience translates very well to the functions of the Property Trust, particularly those matters involving more complex development proposals, and serving on the Trust provides an opportunity to use my professional expertise in a ministry setting.



But keep the Lord Christ holy in your hearts. Always be ready to answer everyone who asks you to explain about the hope you have. But answer them in a gentle way with respect.

—1 PETER 3:15-16A (ERV)

ASSEMBLY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE 2026 ANNUAL ASSEMBLY

FRIDAY 8TH MAY, 2026

That the Scrutineers in the 'List of Scrutineers' be appointed (by show of hands).

Note: The recommendation of Assembly Council to approve the re-appointment of Steve Bartlett as Director of Ministries will be voted on via the Assembly ballot paper. Presentation to occur on the Friday 8 May.

SATURDAY 9TH MAY, 2026

1. That the Annual Reports for 2025 be received (by a show of hands).
2. That the annual Financial Reports for 2025 be received (by show of hands).
3. That the individuals listed below be approved to proceed to accreditation and after being set apart for ministry, their names be added to the List of Accredited Ministers, on recommendation of the Affirmation Oversight Team (by show of hands):
Alison Booth
Jessie Hampe
Luke Kefford
James McMaster
Lachlan Miller
Nathan Spies
Rachel Stuhr
4. That the individuals listed below be approved to have their accreditation transferred to the Baptist Churches of NSW & ACT and that their names be added to the List of Accredited Ministers, on the recommendation of the Affirmation Oversight Team (by show of hands):
Keith Todd
Anthony Watson
5. That the affiliation of the following churches be approved (by show of hands):
Calderwood Valley Baptist Church, Calderwood NSW
Greenhouse Church, Long Jetty, NSW
6. That the Baptist Association Strategic Plan 2026-2028 be approved (by show of hands).
7. That the 2026 Baptist Association Church Partnership Support Budget (CPSB) be approved

2025 FINANCIAL RESULTS

The Association’s operating surplus for 2025 was \$35,000. The overall surplus of \$7.4m was driven by surpluses from Other Ministries of \$1.4m, a surplus from Designated Funds of \$5.7m, and other comprehensive income of \$316k.

During 2025, we have continued to focus on building up resources for the Gen1K vision by further consolidating funds

with the aim of efficiency and mobilising resources for strategic initiatives. Some further funds have become available from closed churches and are included in the surplus from Designated Funds.

Below is a summary of our 2025 financial results.

	Actual	Budget	Diff	\$Diff %
Operations				
Income	5,508	6,610	1,102	17%
Expenses	(5,473)	(6,794)	(1,321)	19%
Surplus/ (deficit) from operations	35	(184)	(219)	119%
Other Ministries	1,378	376	(1,002)	(266%)
Surplus/ (deficit) from operations including other ministries	1,413	192	(1,221)	(636%)
Designated funds	5,668	(206)	(5,874)	2851%
Other comprehensive income	316	-	(316)	-
Total surplus for the year	7,397	(14)	(7,411)	52936%

The figures for Other Ministries include Kiah Ridge, GodSpace, FaithSpace and our Regional Ministries (Greater West for Christ, Riverina District Baptist Association, H100, TSS, Western Districts, Canberra Region, South Coast, Northern Rivers and Central Coast). Other Ministries has exceeded budget expectations, reflecting stronger-than-anticipated surpluses from Regional Ministries during the year, including proceeds from a property sale.

These surpluses were applied to reduce an existing loan balance.

The surplus from Designated Funds is above budget due to the proceeds from the sale of properties of closed churches. These funds are required to be reserved for future property acquisitions and support of the GEN1K Vision.

Other comprehensive income of \$316k represents the gain on the revaluation of investments.

CHURCH PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT BUDGET 2026

Church Partnership Support Budget of \$1.55m covers less than a quarter of our annual operating costs of \$6.7m. The 2026 Operational Budget forecasts an operating deficit of \$571k, reflecting a planned and intentional investment in ministry capacity, compliance, and strategic priorities. The increased deficit compared to 2025 is primarily driven by higher staffing and ministry costs, partly offset by disciplined cost control in administration and stable core funding. The budget reflects a sustainable not-for-profit approach, with short-term deficits supported by reserves and designated funds to enable long-term mission impact.

\$(000)

Budgeted Church Partnership Support Budget	1,550
How these contributions are utilised in ministry:	
Leadership Development	(315)
Baptist Youth Ministries	(458)
Children and Families	(160)
SRE	(139)
Accreditation and Recognition	(251)
Mission and Church Development	(182)
Church Witness	(221)
Church Multiplication	(511)
Church Health	(294)
Global Mission	(208)
Strategic Support and Regional Development	(464)
Standards	(436)
Communications and Events	(472)
Ministries Management	(798)
Operations	(646)
Property Management	(450)
Information Technology	(451)
Human Resources	(50)
Balance Ministry Services	45
Contribution to Morling	(150)
Contribution to Australian Baptist Ministries (ABM)	(124)
TOTAL MINISTRY ALLOCATIONS	(6,735)

CHURCH PARTNERSHIP SUPPORT BUDGET 2026 (Cont'd)

\$(000)

These ministries are funded by income from:

Church partnership contributions	1,550
External Grants	1,120
Property Trust (cost reimbursement)	159
Greater Wester for Christ	58
Transform Southern Sydney	58
Kiah Ridge	25
Legacy Fund	350
Christian Finance Ltd	1,000
Insurance	412
Investment Fund	700
Investment Fund - Redress Reserves	97
Tax Deductible Fund	26
Gen1K Fund	609

Income excluding designated funds **6,164**

OPERATING DEFICIT **(571)**

DAVID BROWN SCHOLARSHIP

The David Brown RURAL AND REGIONAL SCHOLARSHIP is an exciting scholarship awarded annually to a pastor, promoting excellence in pastoral leadership. This scholarship was established in memory of Rev David Brown, once a Team Leader, Ministry Support and Development with the Baptist Association of NSW and ACT.

In David's time in leadership in our movement he had a passion for regional and rural ministry, encouraging and supporting pastors and leaders ministering in those contexts.

To receive this scholarship a person must:

- Be a pastor of an affiliated church or fellowship of the Baptist Association of NSW & ACT.
- Be located outside Sydney, Wollongong, Newcastle and Canberra areas.
- Be recognised as having potential or demonstrated excellence in pastoral leadership in a rural or regional setting.
- Demonstrate having made a contribution to the local community.
- Demonstrate a commitment to and connection with the wider family of Baptist Churches in NSW and ACT.

Previous winners include:

- 2015 David Strong**
Wagga Wagga Baptist
- 2016 Ian Davie**
Moree Baptist
- 2017 Ian Vippond**
Dubbo Baptist
- 2018 Steve Maynard**
Gundagai Baptist
- 2019 Wayne Spencer**
Molong Baptist
- 2020 Rob & Cheryl Burton**
Batemans Bay Baptist
- 2021 Stephen Gaut**
Casino Baptist
- 2022 Samantha McNally**
Cootamundra Ministry Hub
- 2023 John Wilson**
Lismore Baptist
- 2024 Trenton Grofos**
Cobar Baptist Church
- 2025 Terry Allan**
Sandy Beach Baptist Church

The David Brown Award was instigated by Ken Clendinning, who first encountered David when he, as a youth leader, refereed his soccer games. Sometime after 1986, the two (along with John Cox) went on to establish the pastoral teams day training at Epping Baptist.

Then after 1999, Ken worked closely with David when he served as the Associate Superintendent for Pastoral Development for the Baptist Union. After graduating from Morling College in the 1970s, David was appointed as pastor at Yass Baptist. This was his first country experience which subsequently led to him having a great love for country ministry. David died on Christmas Day in 2005, and the David Brown Memorial Scholarship Fund was established in 2007 to enable rural and regional pastors to continue the work of David and attend some learning and development experience.

Ken says:

“David was a humble, godly man, who was relationally strong across a diverse range of persons. He was committed to building God’s Kingdom yet pragmatic about how this might best be done. He was a very caring guy which was reflected in his preaching, church governance and relational sensitivity.

He was a great pastor to pastors. He had a great passion for country churches and a deep understanding of pastoral life and ministry, especially in country churches.”

Celebrating

Churches who achieved their SCHC in the last six months*

- Blacktown Baptist Church
- Calderwood Baptist Church
- Castle Hill Baptist Church
- Clemon Park Baptist Church
- Community Life Church Cherrybrook
- Concord Baptist Church
- Cowra Baptist Church
- Goulburn Baptist Church
- Heathcote- Engadine Baptist Church
- Hillston Baptist Church
- Jervis Bay Baptist Church
- Karing Community Baptist Church
- Kempsey Baptist Church



*As at 21 April 2026

Safe Church Health Check

- Merrylands Baptist Church
- Mudgee Baptist Church
- New Sound Church (Bankstown)
- New Vine Lakes Baptist Church
- New Way Church
- Sans Souci Baptist Church
- Sydney Grace Community Church
- Table Church
- The Hub Grafton
- Toongabbie Baptist Church
- Toronto Baptist Church
- Windsor District Baptist Church
- Woonona Baptist Church

UPCOMING EVENTS



20 May



25-26 May



1 June



2 July



7 & 20 July



25 July | 8 or 10 August



13 August



10 September



25 - 28 September



23 July & 15 October

Discover more at:
www.nswactbaptists.org.au/events

Scan the QR code to visit
our events page on our website





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of NSW & ACT

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