

Affirmation of Faith Report



April 2023

The Motion

On November 15, 2022, the delegates at our Fellowship National Conference voted in favour with the following motion presented by our Fellowship National Council:

The motion:

That Convention approve the “Process for Change to the FEBCC Affirmation of Faith” document.

The journey to conduct a three-year review of our current Fellowship National Affirmation of Faith (AoF) has begun. Our AoF has served our Association of Fellowship Baptist Churches well over the past 70 years. No changes have been made to our AoF since its approval in our inaugural convention in 1953.

However, there has been a growing desire by our constituency to review and possibly refresh our current AoF. The delegates at FNC2022 agreed.

The Process

The Fellowship’s National Council and AoF Team unanimously adheres to the Biblical doctrines upheld in our current FEBCC Affirmation of Faith and together share an intent to clarify and confirm our commitment to historic Baptist and Evangelical doctrine, as taught in the Scriptures.

The delegates at FNC2022 approved the stated three-year review process in the document *The Process for Change to the Affirmation of Faith*.

The process will be an open and transparent experience including opportunities for feedback, dialogue, and prayer. Surveys, online forums, and live townhall meetings will be used to allow our Fellowship family to speak into the process.

An AoF Report will be published twice annually (Spring and Fall) to inform our churches, clergy, and constituency on the progress. Our gathering at FNC2025 will give delegates an opportunity to vote on one or more motions to modify our current AoF.

For more details on the process, please read the “[Process for Change](#)” document.

The Team

From December 2022 to February 2023, Fellowship National and Regional Councils along with our three Fellowship-associated seminaries (Northwest, Heritage, and SEMBEQ), prayerfully chose representatives to form our AoF team.

The AoF team exists to serve our Fellowship churches and constituency by stewarding the three-year review. The “Process for Change” document will be strictly followed by the AoF team through the review process.

The AoF team is as follows:

Fellowship AoF Team

- Chair: **Rev. Doug Blair**, Chair of National Council
 - Secretary: **Rob Cole**, Secretary of National Council
 - **Steven Jones**: National President
1. **Paul Carter**: FEB Central Regional representative, Lead Pastor of Cornerstone Church, Orillia, ON
 2. **Yanick Ethier**: AEBEQ Regional representative, Lead Pastor of Église Espoir in Longueuil, QC
 3. **Alex Hogendoorn**: National Council representative, Lead Pastor of Prince Rupert Baptist, BC
 4. **Barry Howson**: Heritage College & Seminary representative; Seminary Dean, Cambridge, ON
 5. **John Mahaffey**: National Council ad hoc representative, Lead Pastor of West Highland Baptist, Hamilton, ON

6. **Jenn Martin:** National Council ad hoc representative, Women's Director/Biblical Counsellor at Calvary Baptist, Oshawa, ON
7. **Jonathan McLeod:** Fellowship Atlantic Regional representative, Lead Pastor of Forest Hills Baptist in Dartmouth, NS
8. **Krista Penner:** Fellowship Pacific Regional representative, Regional Council staff, Fort Langley, BC
9. **Barton Priebe:** Northwest Seminary representative, President, Langley, BC
10. **James Seward:** National Council ad hoc representative, Lead Pastor of Maple Avenue Baptist, Georgetown, ON
11. **Tom Smith:** Fellowship Prairies Regional representative, member of Bethany Baptist, Red Deer, AB
12. **Jon Stairs:** National Council representative, Lead Pastor of Temple Baptist, Cambridge, ON
13. **Francois Turcotte:** SEMBEQ Seminary representative, President, Montréal, QC
14. **RJ Umandap:** National Council ad hoc representative, Lead Pastor of Crestwicke Baptist, Guelph, ON.

The Survey

Our AoF team has prepared a survey designed to gain feedback on the concerns, desires, and suggestions from our member Fellowship churches, clergy, and constituency. This is an initial opportunity to hear from our family concerning our current AoF.

- Do we believe there is need for change or addition to our current AoF?
- What, if any, modification(s) need to be considered?
- What are our sanctified dreams and desires for a future Fellowship National Affirmation of Faith?

The survey will be distributed exclusively online on April 12, 2023 and **must be**

completed and submitted by April 30, 2023.

The survey allows you to comment on each of the 14 sections of the Fellowship National Affirmation of Faith along with three other questions. The AoF team encourages pastors to send the survey link to leaders and possibly members within their church. The AoF team desires a broad spectrum of our constituency to be involved in the survey process: old/younger, male/female, ethnicity, leaders/laity, etc.

Remember the deadline is April 30, 2023.

Next Steps

The following are the next steps our AoF team is planning for coming year:

1. **April:** survey distribution
2. **May-June:** statistical analysis of survey responses
3. **July-August:** identification of constituents' principle concerns, desires, and suggestions
4. **September - October:** AoF Report sent to churches and clergy
5. **November:** delegate discussion at FNC2023 (Delta Hotel, Toronto, ON)
6. **February - March 2024:** AoF Report providing feedback and findings from constituents (surveys) and delegates (FNC2023). Next steps identified.

Conclusion

If you have any questions or wish to offer a concern or suggestion, please connect with our AoF team chair, Rev. Doug Blair at: bluewaterdoug@gmail.com.

Please join our Fellowship National Council and AoF team in praying for our review process over the next three years. More than anything we desire the “mind of Christ” during this process. Glory to God!



The Fellowship
fellowship.ca