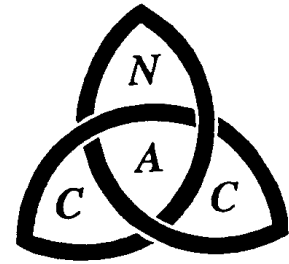


# NEWS BRIEFS

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## Tenth Annual General Meeting - Highlights

- Following AGMs in Cranbrook, BC (2000) and Lewisporte, NF (1999), we met this year in **London, ON**. Our gracious hosts were Byron UC.
- All six regional associations – Newfoundland/Labrador, Maritimes, Central Ontario, London, Alberta, and BC – were formally represented.
- The 2001 planning session built on the **new directions** established in 2000, including the determination to “be highly visible, proactive, and challenging”, acting “in a loving and caring manner, [but] without compromise, articulating our faith clearly and with confidence”.
- Reports showed that, among other things, planning at the 2000 AGM had led to:
  - NACC congregations receiving **News Briefs** by email, for copying and distribution to all members;
  - local Sessions and Boards receiving other important materials of a more formal nature, also by email;
  - the NACC maintaining its usual active presence at General Council, even though denied the formal status of previous years;
  - clear and uncompromising communications with the **Governor General** re. her congratulatory letter to two homosexual couples on their “weddings”; with the Women’s Inter-Church Council of Canada re. the deeply flawed order of service distributed for the **World Day of Prayer**; and with General Council Executive re. the 37<sup>th</sup> G.C.’s ill-informed and unbalanced statements about the **East Coast Fishery**;
  - sponsorship of Natural Church Development, a program to revitalize congregations;
  - recruitment of a team of knowledgeable “reactors” who have agreed to provide user-friendly analysis of coming remits, etc.;
  - establishment of a coast-to-coast prayer chain.

- Prompted partly by “unofficial” moves in the UCC to revise the **20 Articles of Faith**, one of the 5-year goals set by the 2001 meeting was “to have more than 400 congregations formally support the original [1925] Basis of Union and the Articles of Faith of the United Church”
- For several years now, the NACC has coupled its AGM with a supplementary program for its host community. On this occasion, London region pastors and others were invited to learn about **Marriage Savers**, a US program with a well-established record of helping communities build healthy families through “preparing, strengthening, and restoring marriages”. Presenters were Mike and Harriet McManus, Marriage Savers’ founders and co-chairs.
- **Ted Wigglesworth** reported on the decision of the Alberta Court of Queen’s Bench to refuse his request that the UCC be ordered to reinstate him as a minister. The ruling did, however, offer some encouragement regarding how the eventual civil case might go. (That hearing is still probably several years away.)
- Ted’s legal costs are high, and the **Legal Defence Fund**, which is attempting to cover his legal fees, is at this time severely in arrears (even though last year’s contributions exceeded \$15,500).
- The AGM decided to ask our member congregations to set aside June 10 as “**NACC Sunday**”, re-covenanting themselves as members of the Alliance, praying for its work, and taking a special offering for the Legal Defence Fund.
- Disappointingly, the 2001 **Prayer Calendar** was not purchased as widely as was hoped, leading to a \$2,000 loss. The meeting decided to “return the Prayer Calendar ministry to the Lord pending his further direction, and not to produce a 2002 calendar”.
- The Alliance’s Operating Fund also ran a significant deficit in 2000. The regions and their member congregations will be asked to help turn this around in 2001.
- The **NACC’s Officers** for 2001-2002 are:

Immediate Past Chairman	Bob Blackburn
Chairman	Geoff Wilkins
Vice-Chairman	Allan Berg
Secretary	David Fisher
Treasurer	Jack Scott
Member at Large	Ted Wigglesworth

(That is, two from the West, two from Central Canada, one from Atlantic Canada.)

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All contributions to the NACC’s Legal Defence or Operating Funds will be most gratefully received. They should be mailed to:

Jack Scott, Treasurer

792 Headley Dr.

London ON N6H 3V8

(Tax receipts will be issued.)