

Nominating Committee Report - Sharla Friesen

April 2023

Hello everybody. My name is Sharla Friesen, and I have been serving on this team since 2020. I'm happy to report on behalf of the Nominating Committee, which includes Scott Koop, Les Riediger, Kendall Feenstra (board rep) and Paul Loewen (non-voting). Engaging with skilled, godly men and women willing to consider serving on the ABMB Board continues to bless us all.

The Nominating Committee's mandate is to present potential qualified nominees to the ABMB Constituency for our provincial conference's executive board. Nominated candidates are then affirmed at the ABMB Convention.

Our team meets over Zoom to begin highlighting names of potential board members and praying for the Holy Spirit to guide this candidacy process. Following the team's discernment and agreement, we approach and encourage interested candidates to complete personal questionnaires and submit references to our team. Upon receiving the candidate's necessary documentation, we review it, and personal interviews with candidates are scheduled and conducted by members of the Nominating Committee via Zoom. After completing this process, the Nominating Committee meets again to review the applications before putting the nominee's names forward for affirmation.

The nomination committee is pleased to present Jason Schellenberg as a candidate for affirmation to the ABMB Executive Board.

We would like to thank Scott Koop for faithfully serving on the ABMB Nomination Committee since the Fall of 2017. He will be stepping down from his role on the team following the spring convention. His wisdom and willing heart to serve God have been a blessing and joy to the rest of the team.

The Nominating Committee is presenting the following for the Executive Board:

Jason Schellenberg: Incoming nominee for 2023 (see bio)

Incumbents:

Jason Schellenberg, Nominee for Executive Board



Jason is a husband to Nadine, and father to four daughters. He is a high school teacher in Vauxhall and holds a B.Sc/B.Ed. from the University of Lethbridge, and a Bible Discovery Certificate from Briercreech Bible College. Jason is currently serving on the board at the church and preaches regularly at the church as well.

Here are some excerpts for Jason's faith journey as he articulated in his application:

My journey of faith is a testimony to God's goodness and faithfulness. For as long as I can remember, I have been a follower of Christ. This is the product of growing up in the church, surrounded by family, relatives, and friends who have deeply loved Christ. I was surrounded by so many people that loved God, that for a good portion of my childhood, I just assumed that this is what all people did. Looking back on this, I praise God for this incredible blessing! I do not take for granted what an incredible gift it was to be set on the path of following Christ from a young age.

In the fall of 2021, I became seriously ill with Covid-19. After what can be best described as a near-death experience, I spent three months at home hooked up to an oxygen machine. It was during the moments when my life was most critically in danger, that I was able to let go of any sense of control that I thought I may have had and I was able to genuinely declare that no matter the circumstance, God is good! This event in my life spurred on a renewed confidence and passion in me to be bold and active in my faith. God has used this experience to open so many doors of conversation with friends, family, and coworkers.

My journey through Covid also taught me that I need to trust the work of the Holy Spirit and that I can have confidence to do the hard things that God is calling me to. This is not because of my abilities or gifts, but because of the power of Christ working in me. I am not sure that without the difficult journey of Covid, that I would have followed God's leading in my life to do things such as taking an active role in children's and youth ministry, speaking at different camps (Southern Alberta Bible Camp and the Linden Church Retreat), and serving as part of the preaching team at our church.

Another significant event for me in the past few years was the church disagreement and subsequent split that resulted because of it (Vauxhall MB Church). I am grateful to the work and help of the conference in mediating the conflict and it still saddens me that the conflict could not be resolved without a split in the congregation. God has taught me many things about reconciliation and what it means to pursue right relationship. I have also seen firsthand how the conference structure can help assist churches in times of need. The conference leadership was invaluable in both mediating the conflict as well as helping the church grow and flourish on the other side of the split. I cannot stress enough how God's faithfulness was so overtly apparent during the entire duration of the conflict and I know that God will continue to be faithful as we continue to pursue right relationships with those who are still hurting and who are still angry.

Many aspects of both my journey through Covid as well as my journey through the church conflict are incredibly hard to succinctly write down on paper. These events were incredibly nuanced and took place over a long period of time. I happily welcome any questions or further conversations about these events!

