

## Regional Connectors

The CBAC has recently established a team of Regional Connectors to help aid in the work of building a bridge between CBAC pastors and CBAC staff to try and ensure that pastors feel supported and valued in the vital role they play in the CBAC.

The rationale for the establishing of the team of CBAC Connectors is outlined in the following remarks from CBAC Associate Executive Minister Rev. Greg Jones:

As an organization we have been through a number of changes in the past few years. While one of these changes -- the shift from Regional Ministers to Associate Executive Ministers -- has had many positive results, a concern has been the decreased “connection” with a regional CBAC staff person. Some pastors and churches have felt more separated from the CBAC and less certain of whom to address their questions to.

A plan to address these concerns and create stronger relationships on a variety of levels involved initially approaching specific individuals in target regions to pilot a one-year ‘research’ project. These pastors -- ‘*Regional Connectors*’ -- would act as a bridge through representing the CBAC in developing relationships with CBAC pastors in their area and connecting those pastors with available resources and personnel. Our intention is that these positions will be filled with high-capacity, respected pastoral leaders within the CBAC. We believe that *Regional Connectors* will fill a “gap” and increase our effectiveness and strength in Atlantic Canada.

As you can see the establishment of the Connector role is tied to a sense of distance both pastors and the CBAC head office sense in the absence of Regional Ministers. It needs to be clear however, that Connectors are not there to replace Regional Ministers and do not have the same training or qualifications that Regional Ministers would have had. The role of Connectors is much more limited, but the role is an attempt to fill in some of the gap left when regional ministry was discontinued.

There are three key roles that Connectors have been asked to fulfill in their regions. These are:

1. Attempt to initiate individual contact with the pastors in their region each year.
2. Assure pastors in their region that the Connector is available to them if they should need to reach out to them. The purpose of this will be to connect the pastor with the proper helps available to them at the CBAC office or otherwise and to be an encouragement to pastors.
3. Schedule a time to bring pastors in their region together (in some locations this might have to happen in more than one location) for a breakfast (or other type of gathering) at a local restaurant or some such location, preferably a CBAC staff member will be present at these gathering as well.

Connectors are accountable to Rev. Greg Jones who is tasked with overseeing the team of Connectors throughout the CBAC.

Blessings,  
Danny Smith  
Lead Pastor  
Middleton Baptist Church