

NACBA Endowment Fund-Raising Campaign Sets Goal for 55th NACBA Anniversary

by Ross Burton, CCA

HELPING PEOPLE is the only reason Jesus came to this world. NACBA is also about helping people, mostly through helping churches and their administrators be more efficient in the use of available resources, and as a result, reaching more people for salvation through Christ.

While Jesus walked the earth, he sometimes helped people one at a time, such as healing the centurion's servant (Luke 7: 1–10) and the blind beggar Bartimaeus (Mark 10:46–52). He also helped groups of people, such as the healing of the ten lepers (Luke 17: 11–19) and the feeding of the five thousand (Matthew 14: 13–21).

NACBA follows Jesus's example of helping individuals and groups of people. One of the ways it accomplishes this is through the Endowment Fund. While the name

“Endowment Fund” may sound like an obscure line buried on page 7 of a complicated financial report, it is really much more than that. It is one of the important ways available to NACBA to help people.

The endowment fund helps individuals by providing financial assistance scholarships to attend both the annual conference and certification seminars.

Davis Hylkema, church business administrator at the First United Methodist Church in Olympia, Washington, has been a conference scholarship recipient and had this to say:

Truly the only way I have been able to attend the two conferences I have is through the assistance of the NACBA scholarship, among other gifts of support. As far as professions, church related careers are notoriously low on

the economic income scale, and many churches are struggling financially in these days. Ours is not a mega-church by any stretch, yet large enough (barely) to have an administrator on staff (fortunate for me).

I feel very privileged to be associated with NACBA and to have a local chapter to participate in. In 2005 our local chapter was chartered and it was wonderful to be able to attend the “Unlock the Future” conference held in Keystone, Colorado, to receive personally our charter from the hand of Simeon May and to be introduced to the impres-

Newly Certified Church Administrators being recognized at the 2008 NACBA National Conference in Nashville. The Endowment Fund scholarships provide advanced training and certification opportunities.



sive resource of an NACBA conference. Last year (2009) in Long Beach was my next chance to attend, and the scholarship was available again, likely because of low registration that year. What it afforded me was a very important step in my research of church management systems through contacts with vendors in the [exhibit] hall.

So, not only do I feel privileged to have been able to attend those conferences, I try to help our church leaders understand it as well, and appreciate the support extended not only to me, but to our church through my being able to go and learn, that we all may grow to more effective and responsible ministry in the name, honor and calling of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Carol A. Garbisch, CCA, and parish administrator at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Roseville, Minnesota, also attended a national conference with help from an Endowment Fund conference scholarship. Carol wrote this:

I have been very fortunate to have been a recipient of scholarships from the NACBA Endowment [Fund]. The scholarships have allowed me to attend the national conference since I moved to a much smaller church where I'm their first administrator. The budget of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church has not allowed for this type of expense for a number of reasons. I was very excited when I heard that there was an NACBA Endowment Fund that granted scholarships to assist with the cost of the NACBA Conference. This scholarship allowed me to continue to attend the conference even though the church did not have the funds to assist with this continuing education expenditure.

I truly believe I am a better church administrator because I attend this annual conference. Attending the conference has continued my growth as an administrator by gaining new insights from the workshops and networking

Summary

- Endowment Fund-Raising Campaign Sets Goal for 55th NACBA Anniversary
- NACBA is also about helping people, mostly through helping churches and their administrators be more efficient in the use of available resources, and as a result, reaching more people for salvation through Christ.
- NACBA follows Jesus's example of helping individuals and groups of people through the NACBA Endowment Fund: one of the important ways available to NACBA to help people.
- The way the endowment fund helps individuals is through scholarships to conference and to certification seminars.

This article provides testimonials from three NACBA members who have been recipients of NACBA Endowment Fund Scholarships: Davis Hylkema, Carol A Garbisch, CCA, and Steve Parson.

Author

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with other administrators that have a wide variety of experience and knowledge.

I'm hoping that I can repay NACBA for supporting me in my growth as an administrator by volunteering at the local level of NACBA and assisting other churches in the Twin Cities area with administration of their churches. I'm also looking forward to being a part of the 2011 NACBA conference team.

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed to the NACBA Endowment Fund.

Steve Parson, of First Assembly of God in Harrisburg, Virginia, was able to attend a certification seminar with help from an Endowment Fund scholarship. Steve shared this:

Receiving the NACBA Endowment Fund Scholarship last year was liter-

ally an answer to prayer. The economic downturn had made it seem very unlikely that I would be able to attend the second session of the church business administration seminar. Thanks to the \$500 scholarship I was able to complete the training I had started the previous year at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. The CBA Seminar is some of the best training I have ever attended. I am most grateful that the scholarship allowed me to acquire this valuable information and carry it back to my home church where I serve as the business administrator. It has made me a better servant to my church.

The Endowment Fund also helps groups of people. One of the ways it does this is by making the Professional Training and Standards Retreat possible. This event, which is held every three years, involves gathering all six of the certification center directors and the members of the NACBA Professional Training and Standards

committee in one place for extended discussion. Dr. Terry Bertrand, CCA, chair of the PT&S committee, believes this event is of vital importance to maintain excellence in the certification process. Everything from preregistration to standards for written projects is evaluated. Topics and issues to be covered in the certification process are examined and updated as needed. Certification center directors are able to learn from each other's situation and experiences to make improvements and solve problems at their own center. The members of the PT&S committee leave the retreat much better informed and prepared to make better decisions between retreats. The results



Scenes from the 2009 NACBA National Conference in Long Beach. Scholarships from the Endowment Fund made this amazing experience possible for numerous administrators.


of the retreat touch every current and potential CCA and help all of us to be better trained and up to date in our areas of responsibility.

Another way the Endowment Fund helps groups of people is by providing funds to help establish new local NACBA chapters. Church administrators who are able to participate in a local chapter know the many benefits this provides. Hopefully, more chapters will continue to be started so more people can benefit from all that involvement in a local NACBA chapter provides.

The Endowment Fund balance is about \$365,000. Our goal is to increase that by around \$185,000 to reach \$550,000 in 2011 in celebration of NACBA's 55th anniversary.

The NACBA Board of Directors has committed to donate a minimum of \$55 each to the endowment fund, as have the members of the endowment fund-raising committee.

The endowment fund-raising campaign officially kicks off at the Orlando National

Conference in July. The committee invites you to join us in our efforts to help people by increasing participation in NACBA. Increased participation in NACBA means more churches using resources more wisely and efficiently and operating more effectively. Churches being more effective means reaching more people for salvation in Christ. That brings us back to why Jesus came, and what NACBA, as an association and as individuals, has as the ultimate goal. 

I truly believe I am a better church administrator because I attend this annual conference. Attending the conference has continued my growth as an administrator by gaining new insights from the workshops and networking with other administrators that have a wide variety of experience and knowledge.