

Atlantic District Nominating Committee Report

July 10, 2025

It was our pleasure to contact at least two or three potential candidates for each vacant position. Some chose to respectfully decline our nomination; however, we are pleased to offer at least one qualified candidate for each election required. Per paragraphs 1320 & 1335 of *The Discipline* (2022), both offices of Assistant DS & District Treasurer are appointed by the DBA in lieu of election by District Conference. District Secretary is a now a two-year term which will expire next summer.

The following pages of biographies are presented alphabetically by last name for your advance review as a Delegate of District Conference. Please cross-reference our nominees with the *Conference Ballots* as you prayerfully discern your choices for the election of two Members-at-Large for the District Board of Administration (Maine), the 2026 District Nominating Committee, and 10 Delegates (five clergy and five lay) for the 2026 General Conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Deborah Gilbert, Rev. Peter Hayes, Mr. Justin McGuigan, Rev. Peter Moore, Mrs. Christina Wheeler

Nominee Bios:



Debbie Allen

Debbie has served Amherst Wesleyan Church for over 20 years, alongside her husband, Darren, in various leadership roles, including as an LBA member, vice chair, and children's director of AWC Konnect Kids. She also contributes to the DBA for the Atlantic District and serves on the board of the Amherst Food Bank. Since 2021, she has worked as the Amherst Senior Service Coordinator for the Canadian Red Cross. Grateful for the opportunities God has provided, she remains committed to serving as called. She is thankful for her growing family—five children, nine grandchildren, and counting—and the blessing of being part of the Wesleyan family.



Paula Bennett

I live and work in Newfoundland, in the St. John's Metro area with my husband Dave Hodder and son Liam. We are members of Solid Rock Wesleyan, where I serve as Treasurer. We have been involved in this church since its inception in 2000 and are happy to be part of the Atlantic District knowing that there are other Wesleyans out there beyond our shores. My day-to-day work is Senior Accountant for a local company where I have held various positions for 43 years. I also serve on the National Board of The Wesleyan Church of Canada, happy to lend any experience I can to our church in any capacity.



Jason Blaikie

I am privileged to serve as Lead Pastor at Framework Church in Presque Isle, ME. I served with Global Partners for 12 years in various roles and locations, including Thailand, Croatia, and the Wesleyan Church Headquarters. I was also the connections pastor and pastor of strategic multiplication before stepping into the lead pastor role here at Framework Church. I am married to Rev. Christine Blaikie, who is my partner in ministry, and we have three kids: Aaliyah (15), Noelle (13), and Elijah (11). While at Global Partners, I served as the first-term missionary coordinator and led a team in rewriting Wesleyan Kids for Missions through CMAD. To me, the Atlantic District feels like a big family. I grew up in this district, having lived in Yarmouth, Greenwood, Truro, and Sussex before becoming a missionary and now serving as a pastor in Presque Isle. My heart is to see God continue to move and work in this district as this family expands and grows, with more kingdom locations, impacting more communities, just like the ones I grew up in.



Kevin Campbell

Kevin Campbell, married to Barbra Campbell, is a member of Tidal Church for 35 years, serving on the board and as vice-chair. He hosts a small group and serves on the World Hope Canada board. Kevin, an entrepreneur for 38 years, is dedicated to serving where led, including the Atlantic District as a DBA member.



Jim Clements

Jim is currently the Lead Pastor at Tidal Church. He has 29 years of ministry experience in various locations, including Moncton, Indiana, Virginia, Iowa, and New York. Jim has held pastoral roles in Children's Ministry (8 years), Family Ministry (5 years), and as Executive Pastor (15 years). Jim and his wife Gisele, have been married for 34-years journeying together in ministry and adventure, along with two children Dominique and Dawson. Jim has contributed to numerous large church initiatives, staff development, and multisite strategies. He is dedicated to sharing the valuable lessons learned—the successes and challenges—with others to aid their Kingdom mission. Viewing challenges as yet-to-be-realized opportunities for the Kingdom, Jim is passionate about fostering unity among churches. Since returning home to the Atlantic District, he has observed how this unity can transform the landscape of Atlantic Canadian communities.



Robin Churchill

Robin Churchill is a father of 5 and grew up in the Atlantic District. He served several maritime communities as an RCMP officer and was part of the local church in those communities, often sitting on their LBA and involved in youth ministries. He retired from the RCMP in 2015 and became a full-time missionary in Haiti with Global Partners. He continues to serve in Haiti. He and his wife Beth recently moved from Beulah Camp to the Mahone Bay area to be near their children.



Laura d'Entremont

Laura d'Entremont and her amazing husband Zach live in Kingston, NS with their four superb children. They have attended New Hope Church in Kingston since 2023, upon return from serving with Global Partners in Central Asia for 6 years. Laura has a background in education and is currently a full-time mom, actively involved at her children's school. Laura loves the authenticity among so many members within the Atlantic District.



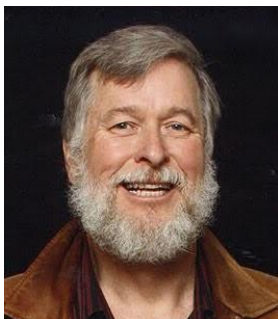
Deborah Gilbert

Deborah Gilbert is one of the teaching Pastors and Missions Pastor at Cornerstone Wesleyan Church where she has worked for 11 years. Deborah and Stefan have 6 kids and one large dog. Deborah has been a part of The Wesleyan Church her entire life and loves the Atlantic District family. She especially loves how our district is a family and takes care of each other.



Ryan Genereaux

Ryan currently serves as the Youth and Communications Pastor at Woodstock Wesleyan Church, where he has served for three years. Before that, he spent nearly five years at The Ridge Church. He also serves as Co-DYP, on the Memorial Resolution Committee, and as the Marriage Celebrant Registrar, overseeing the registration of clergy with the Atlantic Provinces. Ryan is married to Marleigh, a clinical mental health counsellor, and they have a son, Ollie, who is almost four. He has completed the coursework for his Master's degree from Kingswood. Ryan values the rich history of the Atlantic District and believes the past plays an important role in shaping the future. He appreciates the rich history of the Atlantic District and how the past can help inform the future!



Denn Guptill

Denn is the Lead Pastor of Cornerstone Wesleyan Church in Hammonds Plains, the church he planted in 1994. Before that, he served in Brisbane Australia and Truro. Denn and Angela have been married for 42 years and have two children and six grandchildren. The Atlantic District is where I first felt my call to ministry, and I appreciate how the leadership has walked beside me for the past 40 years.



I'm currently the Lead Pastor at Perth Andover Wesleyan Church, serving first as the assistant pastor under Reg Thomas and moving into the lead role after his resignation in 2022. In total I have served for seven years in pastoral ministry. I'm the husband of Sonja Hartlen and the father of Adeline and Aria + one on the way! I have a deep appreciation of being able to be a part of a district that resources and empowers its leaders.

David Hartlen



Andrea Tsang Jackson moved to Halifax from Ontario with her family 13 years ago. They became part of the Deep Water family almost immediately. Since then, Andrea has served in kids' ministry; on the LBA as Member-at-Large, Trustee, and Vice-Chair; and currently is part of Deep Water's multi-ethnic ministry called "The Same Table." In her work life, Andrea is a textile artist and designer with experience in teaching, authoring books, and public art projects. She is married to Colin and is the mom of two boys in early teenagerhood. Andrea enjoys the feeling in the Atlantic District that "We're all in this together!"

Andrea Tsang Jackson



Kelly has been happily married for 27 years to her husband, Andy, and she is a proud mom to Lucas who is 18 and Monica who is 17. She has been leading worship since she was 24 years old and God continues to call her to do that when the opportunity arises. Kelly has been on a journey with her health this past year that was very unexpected with brain surgery and ongoing recovery. With the incredible kindness and support of family, friends and the church, God has reminded her of His goodness over and over. Her recovery is going well, and she is thrilled to be strong enough to lead again at Beulah Camp this summer. Kelly leads worship at King's Church and Beulah Camp, and has served as Worship Pastor, choir member, and vocalist for weddings and funerals. She's a former pharmacy manager, recording artist, and

Kelly Jay



Nathan is married to Vicky, and together they have six children. After graduating from Kingswood in 2017, Nathan and the fam moved out to Thunder Bay, where they were a part of planting Transformation Church. While planting in Thunder Bay, Nathan completed a Masters Degree from Wesley Seminary with a focus on church multiplication. In March of 2024, God spoke clearly to the Maskerys about transitioning back to the East Coast. This was not an easy move, but it was clearly the leading of the Holy Spirit. Nathan is having a blast serving as lead pastor of Deep Water church in Halifax and is excited about the opportunities for multiplication within Atlantic Canada and beyond. God is up to stuff.

Nathan Maskery



Matt Maxwell

Matthew Maxwell is the Lead Pastor of Journey Church in Fredericton. He has served there for 14 years. Prior to that, he pastored in Easton, Maine for 14 years. Matthew has been married to Suzanne for 28 years. They have 3 children - Aidan, Liam and Brenna. Matthew has an MDiv from Asbury Theological Seminary and a Bachelor's Degree in Religion and Music from Kingswood University. He deeply appreciates the Atlantic District for its pace and passion.



Hollie McAfee

Hollie McAfee is a 35+ year member of Houlton Wesleyan Church in Houlton, Maine, where she has served 20 years leading children's ministries, including 4 years at Riverside Wesleyan Kids Camp. She is married to Tim and has 3 children and 3 grandchildren. She is the V.P. of Marketing at F.A. Peabody Insurance and has 18 years of experience in the insurance industry. She is excited to learn more about the Atlantic District and to join in the great work that is happening for the Kingdom.



Tanya Nace

Rev. Tanya Nace is the CEO of World Hope International (Canada) and resides on Prince Edward Island. She desires to inspire people to step up, be transformed, and push toward impact around the world. She is passionate about developing and leading people to deliver long-term success in challenging environments and has worked across different countries with complex cultures. She is an advocate for the local church, organizational productivity and global, sustainable impact in the Way of Jesus.

Tanya attends Island Wesleyan Church in Hampton, PEI, and has served in roles including Enrolment Counselor at Kingswood University, Mobilizer with Global Partners, and Director of Mobilization at TEAM. She is married to Jonathan and they have two boys. With expertise in organizational development, international leadership, and board governance, she holds a B.A. in Religion from Kingswood University and an M.A. in Organizational Leadership from Indiana Wesleyan University. She loves being part of a Kingdom-minded, creative and unified Atlantic District.



Evan Oxner

Evan Oxner is the handsome Lead Pastor of the Amherst Wesleyan Church & Connection Church (Truro). He has served in various roles in Perth-Andover - NB, Westchester - NS, and Brazil Lake - NS, along with being part of the Atlantic District DBMD Executive. He is married to Heidi (formerly Cheney), and according to Dr. HC Wilson that means he must be alright then. His favourite part of being part of the Atlantic District is that we care more about the mission than about personal glory.



Rebecca Perry

Previously served in Mount Pearl, Newfoundland and Bristol, NB. Currently the Executive Pastor at Saint John First Wesleyan. Married to Graham Perry, Lead Pastor of SJ1. We have three boys, Nathan, Eli and Micah.

I love looking at the history and legacy of our district and know that the same God that has done great things then, is ready to do great things today!



Scott Prime

Scott Prime is the Lead Pastor at New Hope Wesleyan Church, serving a vibrant community across multiple locations in Nova Scotia. With decades of pastoral experience, he is passionate about helping the church grow and multiply through vision, leadership, and pastoral care. Scott and his wife Shari have two sons, Seth and Samuel and daughter-in-law, Joanna. He has served the Atlantic District for over 20 years in District leadership roles, including District Secretary and Assistant District Superintendent. Scott values the strong sense of community and shared mission within the Atlantic District, where collaboration and encouragement among leaders fuels ongoing ministry impact.



Karen Robertson

Karen and her husband Vince minister together at West Head Wesleyan, CSI, Nova Scotia. They have previously served at SJ1 in lay ministry, then at Le Centre Wesleyan, Norton, River Valley, and Head of Millstream. Karen is active in various aspects in the life of the church, including ladies ministries, music, preaching and kids ministry. Karen and Vince have one daughter, Olivia, son-in-law Dave and grandson Tristan. Love the Atlantic District, especially since my grandson is now a part of it! Tristan will get to experience the ‘family’ of the Atlantic District.



Victoria Rowe

Victoria grew up in Aroostook County and returned in the summer of 2018 to serve at Framework Church in Presque Isle, where she is the Worship & Development Pastor. Prior to moving back to the Atlantic District, she served as a songwriter and administrator with People & Songs in LaPorte, Indiana. She enjoys hiking with her dog Beatrix, fly fishing, and seeing people develop into their strengths and giftings. Her favorite coffee is an americano. Victoria has participated in the Buckingham Leadership Institute and The Wesleyan Church’s Kingdom Force Executive Leadership Institute. She also serves on the DBA and has contributed to the Atlantic District Vision Team. She values the opportunity to serve alongside and adjacent to capable leaders in a beautiful part of the world.



Sarah Street

Sarah Street has been a member of the Wesleyan church and committed volunteer for over 20 years, currently serving as a volunteer Children's Ministry Director and a member of the Teaching Team at Tidal Church, Moncton. Sarah is deeply passionate about helping individuals grow in their faith journey and walk with God. A Clinical Nurse Specialist by profession, Sarah has over 15 years of experience in Oncology Care and is currently the Coordinator of the Breast Health Clinic, helping people navigate their breast cancer journeys. As a dedicated wife and mother of three, Sarah believes in the ministry of the Atlantic Wesleyan Church District as she has directly witnessed five generations both serve and grow within The Wesleyan Church.



Rich Thomas

For over 20 years, I've served as a pastor in Maine—currently at Easton Wesleyan—and a hospital chaplain, blending my Nova Scotia roots of warmth and resilience with a passion for helping others embrace their God-given purpose. Married to Katie for 22 years, dad to 17-year-old Riley and our rescue pup Clara, I believe grace shines through imperfect people, quilts, restored furniture, and gardens. My deepest joy is walking with people as they discover their identity and authority in Christ, transforming faith from concept to daily action that shapes how they live and love. Grounded in family, community, and the conviction that the local church is God's catalyst for healing, I'm grateful to be part of a tribe where second chances and messy growth whisper hope from Maine to the Maritimes.



Marti Trafton

Marti has served in local Wesleyan churches and Kingswood University primarily in music ministry. She is on the boards of Community Youth Services, Sussex Christian School, LAC for Browns Flat Fellowship, and the DBA. After a 40+ year nursing career at Horizon Health, she retired. Marti lives in Brown's Flat with her husband Robert, actively involved in various ministries. She is a proud mother of 2 children and 6 grandchildren.



Jason Vienneau

Jason Vienneau, a native of Saint John, New Brunswick, is married to Marla and is a father of three children: Roman, Grady, and Harper. His career began at Cornerstone Wesleyan Church in Hammonds Plains while pursuing his degree at Kingswood University. Following various roles in the church, he transitioned to The Point Church in Miramichi before assuming the position of Lead Pastor at Corbett Church in Fredericton. Although not always a Wesleyan, Jason feels a deep connection to the district, considering it a second family. His involvement in the maritime community is a source of great pride and joy.



Josh Wong

I live in Halifax, Nova Scotia and have attended Deep Water Church with my wife, Deborah, since 2008. We are active members and serve in various roles with my current role on the LBA as Treasurer and with Deb as she leads the Same Table ministry (our multiethnic/multicultural ministry at Deep Water). This year marks my 25th year on staff with Power to Change (P2C) which started helping plant the campus ministries at Dalhousie University, Saint Mary's University and NSCAD in 2000. I have had the privilege of leading mission trips with post-secondary students to East Asia, India and Denmark and am currently serving as the National Director of Strategy and Operations for the P2C - Students ministry in Canada. I am the grateful father of Abel (passed away 2008), Mischael (15), and Teah (13).