

**Association of Confessional Baptist Churches  
in the United Kingdom  
Report of Association Meeting June 20<sup>th</sup> 2023**

It was a joy to see representatives from eight churches gathering for the second assembly of the Association of Confessional Baptist Churches (UK) at Trinity Grace Church, Ramsbottom on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023. It was a delight to meet together, under the sound of God's word, and share fellowship together in prayer and in the business of the churches. We praise God for the unity and love that was expressed in our Lord Jesus Christ.

We were glad to receive the ministry of God's word from Brett Shaw, who has laboured in the past 3 years, helping to bring the churches to gather together towards the end of association. This was his last time at an association assembly as he will be returning to the US to engage in ministry according to God's providential leading. Brett directed us to 2 Corinthians 2v12-3v6.

We were reminded that the work of the ministry is the most honourable work, with ministers being called to proclaim the mysteries of God. The weight of the ministry is enormous. On the one hand ministers cry out, "Who is sufficient for these things". However, on the other hand they can either fall into pride or despair. These can be resolved by looking at the true nature of ministry & the sufficiency of Christ. Of ourselves we are utterly insufficient for ministry. Our confidence and sufficiency must be in Christ. We see the lowliness of ourselves & the loftiness of the ministry, being instruments of salvation & judgement. This ought to store up humility in our hearts, as well as cause us to see our need of a higher view of the self-sufficient God who is at work in the ministry of the gospel. Thus, we must depend upon the one, true, living God who is Father, Son & Holy Spirit. For He who made us ministers is able to work through our weakness to display His power.

In addition, in order to encourage meaningful relationships, and prayer for one another, each church represented gave a report of their spiritual state, as well as the challenges and opportunities that they faced. Whereas each church's situation is different, as a whole they reflect the ups and downs of church life. Some churches were struggling with small numbers, a need for more leadership, historical problems, as well as significant recent difficulties. However, the churches were also seeing openings for witness to the gospel of Christ, being built up through the faithful preaching of God's word, as well as opportunities to support mission throughout the world. We thank God that we are able to support one another through all the changing scenes of church life, as we seek to glorify the head of the Church, our Lord Jesus Christ.

It was with delight that we were able to formally receive 2 new churches into the association, namely North Church, Leicester and Countesthorpe Baptist Church. These 2 churches were no strangers to the association, having been represented at many of the discussion meetings. We thank God for their input in these meetings, and look forward to many years of meaningful association with them

The assembly also gave itself further to the business of the association. Tim Hughes from Warrington Reformed Baptist fellowship gave a report concerning the church planting work in the needy town of Warrington. The work is facing challenges in terms of a weakness of numbers, and the need to be not weary in doing good. The association is committed to supporting this work, and much prayer needs to be made for the glory of God in this situation.

In addition, Nathan Tarrant reported back on the desire for an evangelist to work alongside Living Hope church, Lydd for a time. In order to make this viable, further funds would be needed. The assembly was urged to pray concerning this, and if any felt able, contributions towards this would be greatly appreciated.

Much time was given over to a discussion concerning principles that should be laid down, for any future support of mission work. Although more work would need to be done in future assemblies, the discussion was positive and fruitful. It was encouraging to see a desire to give ourselves to biblical and confessional principles in order to see the work of God progress throughout the world.

Nathan Tarrant also presented to the gathering the newly constructed website for the association (acbcuk.org). We are grateful to Nathan and the team for their work on this, and trust that it will be a useful resource for the churches of the association as well as introducing other people to the churches and the association.

Before concluding the meeting with a precious time of prayer, the assembly agreed to hold the following 2 meetings for the good of the churches:

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September – This meeting is planned to be held on a Saturday to enable the members of the churches to be more readily able to attend. In the morning we will have a teaching session on the confession, as well as news from the churches and opportunity for prayer. There will also be an extended lunch break to give the opportunity for fruitful fellowship. Then the rest of the afternoon will be devoted to the business of the association. The venue will be Christ Church, Loughborough.

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January – This will be the normal format for the assembly. The venue will be Stanley Park Church, Liverpool.

May the Lord continue to work for the good of the churches, bringing glory to His name.

Trinity Grace Church, Ramsbottom

On behalf of the Association of Confessional Baptist Churches UK

Churches represented at the meeting:

Living Hope Bible Church, Lydd

Stanley Park Church, Liverpool

Trinity Grace Church, Ramsbottom

Countesthorpe Baptist Church, Countesthorpe

North Church, Leicester

Christ Church, Loughborough

Reformed Baptist Fellowship Warrington, Warrington

Trinity Baptist Church, Charlesworth