

## MBA News & Notes: Upcoming Events

**Tue, Oct 11<sup>th</sup> - Central Baptist Theological Seminary's Fall Conference**  
"Counsel and Encouragement for a Thirsty Soul" with Dr. Nicolas Ellen  
Register online at [centralseminary.edu](http://centralseminary.edu)

**Sat, Oct 29<sup>th</sup> - Deo Cantamus: Abraham, an Oratorio for Worship**

Deo Cantamus of Minnesota, hosted by Fourth Baptist Church of Plymouth, will present Abraham, an Oratorio for Worship, October 29, 2022. The ninety-minute sacred concert will be directed by Al Hawkins and includes soloists, a chorus, and orchestra.

Written by Dr. Josh Bauder, Abraham dramatizes the biblical story of the man called by God to found a new people, through whom the entire world would be blessed.

Deo Cantamus has been serving, educating, and promoting worship through the use of quality vocal and instrumental music since 2003. The group pursues excellence in an effort to worship God and bring others closer to Him. *For more information about the concert visit [DeoCantamus.org](http://DeoCantamus.org).*

**Save the Date! 2023 MBA Ladies Retreat**  
"Tethered to the Savior" with Faith Taylor  
Registration open on Eventbrite



### FROM THE OFFICERS OF THE MINNESOTA BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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# North Star Update

[www.mbaoc.org](http://www.mbaoc.org)

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## MBA Men's Fall Fellowship - Nov 11-12

Pastor Tim Graham - Cornerstone Baptist-Pine Island

Greetings on behalf of the Minnesota Baptist Association of Churches! Cornerstone Baptist Church is thrilled to welcome the men of our churches to Pine Island for a weekend of edification and exhortation as we consider God's Word and grow together.



Our 2022 MBA Men's Fall Fellowship will consider how our daily influences can contribute to biblical discipleship. The theme addresses relationships men have with other men and the way we influence one another in many aspects of life. Some of this is accomplished unknowingly. Some are intentional as we see a brother

in need of help. The 2022 Men's Meeting hopes to focus on doing relationships with other men better.

Our speakers are Pastors Steve Brower (St. Francis) and Ben Gunderson (Chisago Lakes). We will have a breakout session with two areas of focus. One on the "mistake zone" of stepping into manhood and another on serving God in the "retirement" years and the opportunity for fruitfulness.

At the end of the weekend, after lunch on Saturday, we will have three fun breakout sessions: 1. Smoking meats, 2. Roasting coffee, and 3. Choosing the appropriate caliber for concealed carry (industry expert lecturing).  
*Cost: \$15/day Register at [cornerstonepi.org](http://cornerstonepi.org)*



## Letters from Minnesota Baptist History

### UNCLE BOSTON SMITH – SUNDAY SCHOOL MISSIONARY

By Robert Allen

“Caroline, how would you like to move to Minnesota?” Boston Smith set down his knife and fork as he posed the question to his new bride during breakfast.

“Indian territory?” she asked. “Is there work for the Lord to be done up there?”

“I’ve received a letter from some Baptist churches,” he said. “They have about one hundred and fifty chapels started but only half of them have Sunday Schools. They’ve heard about my work here in Illinois and have invited me to come to Minnesota to serve as a full-time Sunday School missionary.”

“Oh, Boston, it’s just what we have been praying for. You’ll tell them yes, won’t you?”

Boston and Caroline Smith moved from Alton, Illinois, to Minnesota in 1880. During the next ten years the Baptist Sunday Schools in Minnesota increased from sixty-six to two hundred and fifteen. Membership in those schools climbed from around four thousand to over sixteen thousand.

“There are four principles involved in this work,” Smith explained to the churches he helped. “We must secure the establishment of a Sunday School in every Baptist church. We must organize mission schools to occupy new fields. We must encourage our schools to seek the highest standards of efficiency, and we must arouse in Baptist churches and schools a sentiment which sweeps from our homes and churches all literature not in harmony with the teachings of our denomination.”

Boston’s methods included participation in the activities enjoyable to the young people he sought to reach. Young boys didn’t realize he had considered professional baseball at one point, but they knew he was good and like to play ball with them.

“Come on, Uncle Boston, hit us one,” came the call from the bench. “The bases are loaded, hit a long one.”

One pitch later the preacher had won the hearts of the young fellows who called him Uncle Boston. But baseball was only a means to an end.

“Good game, fellows. See you in Sunday School tomorrow morning,” he called as they left the field.

“Sure, Uncle Boston. We’ll be there. You can count on us.”

After ten years of starting Sunday Schools in Minnesota, Uncle Boston Smith felt a burden for other unreached areas in the great expanse of the west. From that burden and dream the Chapel Car Ministry was born. Dr. Wayland Hoyt, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Minneapolis, connected Smith with his brother Colgate, who happened to be a railroad executive.

A railroad car called “The Evangel” was fitted out to accommodate about one hundred seats. The car was sixty feet long and ten feet wide. It would be drawn into town on the rail line and parked on a siding. Evangelistic meetings would be held, a Sunday School would begin, and following that, a church. The first year the Chapel Car traveled through North Dakota and Montana. Over thirty churches were started.

Many people became interested in the work of the Chapel Car. The General Manager of Northern Pacific Railroad sent out a letter to the entire company.

“To Division Superintendents and Conductors of the Northern Pacific System: you will pass Mr. Boston W. Smith, and one attendant,



*The Chapel Car “Grace” Commissioned in 1915*

with Gospel Car Evangel. You will take the car on any train he desires and sidetrack it wherever he wishes. You will make it as pleasant for Mr. Smith as you can.”

Soon the Southern Pacific Railway volunteered the same services, and another Chapel Car was added. By the time of Smith’s death in 1908, the work had grown to seven cars nationwide. Their areas of service included the “Evangel” in Kansas, the “Emmanuel” in Idaho, the “Glad Tidings” in Montana, the “Good Will” in Colorado, the “Messenger of Peace” in Missouri, the “Herald of Hope” in Illinois,” and “Grace” in California and Arizona.