



Michigan Association of Regular Baptist Churches

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Dear Brother Pastor and Ministry Servants of the MARBC,

Greetings in the name of our Glorious and Triumphant Lord!

We are grateful for the wonderful, rich heritage which the Lord has given the Michigan Association of Regular Baptist Churches for almost seven decades. This joyful partnership as a fellowship of churches is highlighted by a great theological heritage, fervent prayer, Biblical unity, and practical methodology.

God's blessings upon this dynamic partnership have enabled us to impact the State of Michigan through many effective ways in our seventy year history. This includes:

- Church planting – many city neighborhoods, small towns, and rural areas now have churches as the result of this 70 year partnership in obeying Christ's Great Commission.
- Church strengthening – many of our churches have benefited from MARBC resources such as, pastoral search consultations, counsel for pastors seeking resources, dependable pulpit supply, Bible conferences and seminars, regional fellowships which enable personal interaction between churches and pastors, print and media ministry for the edification of believers and churches, prayer initiatives, ministry consultations, and other special initiatives.
- Ministry enhancement – over the years MARBC churches have partnered together to launch support ministries such as, camps and schools, media ministry, scholarships for ministry students through the Talents for Christ ministry.

As you can imagine, these ministries represent the collective stewardship of many churches and their faithful members who have sacrificially given of themselves and their resources to honor the Head of the Church, the Lord Jesus Christ. We give Him praise for His work through each church and member.

In the past two decades God has blessed the MARBC with a wonderful opportunity to benefit from a unique financial program offered by Brotherhood Mutual Insurance. Brotherhood has offered a special dividend program for church groups who select them for property insurance coverage.

MARBC Churches who have chosen to receive property insurance coverage from Brotherhood and select to join the MARBC Group Dividend Program have assisted in providing great financial opportunities for our fellowship. In those years when the claims of the MARBC group are kept to a minimum Brotherhood has given a dividend to the MARBC. What started out as a small refund has steadily grown over the years. We praise God that, after twenty years of participating in this Group Dividend Program, the MARBC has been blessed with a significant amount of dividends that the fellowship has been able to use in several ways.

These funds have been reinvested in various ministry projects since the partnership started. These have included the provision of vehicles for the use of the MARBC Executive Director as he ministers to the churches of our state, office equipment for the MARBC office, underwriting of special retreats and seminars, purchase of

Unity ▪ Partnership ▪ Enrichment

"With one mind striving together for the faith of the Gospel," Philippians 1:27

books and other resources to encourage pastors and churches in need, assisting in the conference and retreat expenses for pastors from small or financially struggling churches, and several other projects.

Significant new opportunities have been funded through the growth of this partnership. These include:

- The “CPR Initiative” (Church Partnering Relationships). “CPR” was created three years ago to coordinate joint church ministry and service projects, as well as help to defray the costs of ministry and project materials. This initiative helps to foster partnering opportunities between churches in ministries such as evangelism, building projects, ministry enrichment, and church planting. Dozens of churches have benefited by this special resource.
- Brotherhood dividends are being used to encourage current MARBC pastors in bi-vocational ministry or in small church settings to secure computer equipment and technology in order to be involved in online Biblical Continuing Education. Other resources are also being purchased through the dividends.
- This fall, the MARBC is announcing the launch of a special new scholarship in partnership with Baptist Bible Seminary for third year seminarians. The “MARBC Future Pastor’s Scholarship” is fully endowed (\$50,000) and offered to MARBC seminary students who qualify and commit to do their practical ministry internship in an MARBC church. The MARBC is talking with other likeminded Baptist seminaries about similar partnerships.
- A strategy is currently being developed to work through MARBC regional fellowships to plant new churches in communities that are devoid of a clear gospel testimony. Funds from the dividend program will be used to offer “start up” funds for these plants.

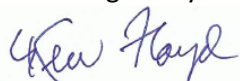
As you can see, this program has not only been a great blessing to our fellowship of churches in the past but also gives us a great opportunity to become involved in significant and strategic ministry for God’s glory in the days ahead, as Christ tarries. It would be my joy to share with you and your church family about these opportunities, if you would so desire.

We would encourage your church to prayerfully consider joining with many others in our fellowship who participate in this Brotherhood program. Since each church needs to purchase property insurance coverage, this is a convenient way for you to receive good coverage for your church ministry and also assist the MARBC in expanding its ability to minister. And, this provides a special way for churches who currently cannot afford to increase their support of the MARBC to still impact the fellowship financially.

Brotherhood Mutual representatives Ralph Caudill and Del Sanders of the Caudill Insurance Agency have been authorized by our office to contact you with this special opportunity. Ralph and Del are good Christian brothers who helped former MARBC Representative Maynard Belt and the MARBC start this program on behalf of the MARBC. The MARBC Council of 15 and I would encourage you to seriously consider this opportunity to extend the stewardship investment of your church by joining other sister MARBC churches in this program. Ralph and Del will be able to share with you Brotherhood’s competitive rates and answer your stewardship questions.

Thank you for giving your prayerful attention to this matter. We appreciate your participation and fellowship with us and look forward to seeing God at work in our midst in the days ahead.

Partnering with you for God’s glory,



Kenneth E. Floyd
MARBC Executive Director