



The EMBA Board of Directors currently comprises twelve trustees. Eight positions are elected by EMBA churches at a General Meeting for a term of three years (staff positions are ex-officio).

***Six nominations have been received for the six vacancies on the Board of Directors. You may therefore vote for as many nominees as you wish.***

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### **Revd Elaine Blundell**

*Nominated by the Deacons of Greenhill Community Church, Coalville and Members of Trinity Baptist Church, Derby.*

I was brought up in a Christian home and made a commitment to Christ at the age of 9, I was baptised aged 15 at my local church in Cardiff. At 18 I completed a 1- year mission-based course at Cliff College, then moved to Derby to gain a degree and PGCE giving me access to 23 years of primary school teaching including being a member of the senior leadership team in the last few years.

During this time, I was a committed member of Junction Baptist Church leading children's groups and home groups and being part of the diaconate. I was a lay preacher for several years and visited various churches in the EMBA. I was also part of the Derby Baptists steering group for a short while before the group closed. In 2008 God called me out of teaching and in 2010 I was accepted by Northern Bible College for ministerial training.

I have been the minister of Keyworth Baptist Church (Notts) and Trinity Free Church (Huntingdon, EBA) and am presently serving part time at Greenhill Community Church (Coalville). I have served the EMBA by being part of the Ministerial Recognition Group and the Home Mission Fund Grant Committee for the EBA.

Having been involved in the EMBA for many years, I have always found it a friendly and caring group of churches, from supporting each other at inductions and other celebrations, to the lay preachers who are so supportive during interregnums. My vision is that this inter-dependency will continue to develop, as churches, whether small or large, are able to share their giftings and grow a deeper discipleship as we all follow Christ together.

For the wider Baptist family, my prayer is that despite differences in theological understandings we will continue to work and worship together, recognising that the breadth of understandings can make us stronger in sharing God's love with our communities if we allow it to.

I look forward to having the opportunity to serve as an EMBA director, to work together with the rest of the team to develop the vision that all churches may be inspired and equipped to grow and flourish and find ways to share God's love in their communities.



### **Mrs Kay McManus**

*Nominated by the leadership of New Day Baptist Church, Morton, Lincolnshire.*

I am appreciative of our Baptist Union's history, and I am proud to be a leader within our Baptist family both locally and regionally. I was a Police Officer for 30 years, have 4 children and 6 grandchildren.

My husband Andy and I led 2 Baptist churches in South Lincolnshire for 12 years. My initial calling was for schools, and I enjoyed planning and leading our children's work, which had ceased prior to our arrival. This included a Sunday school, Toddlers group, the Primary group of 5- to 10-year-olds and 11yr-16 yr old Youth group. Our kids Summer Holiday Club is over subscribed.

I have a heart for church unity, and started monthly Messy Church linked to CofE, our local school assemblies, and for several years I have led our 'Open the Book' assemblies across our area. I'm really good with puppets!

I started a women's Bible group as I saw an opportunity for proactive inclusiveness. During 2020-21 I completed a 2-year Theology diploma. From this I organised 2 x visits to the British museum for groups to explore Christian evidence linked to Baptist history. Folk that attended have asked for another, such is the depth of history we Baptists enjoy.

I believe that the local church is key, where we are able to get to know our community and reach people for Jesus. A safe environment for people to come and have fellowship and learn about the love of Christ. I lead Community outreach, from the weekly coffee morning to connecting with 3 x reformed drug addicts. One I currently provide weekly Sunday lunch and more, another weekly 1-2-1 Alpha course reaching completion as I type, another we have followed through to Mattersey Hall Green Pastures Christian rehab. Church is not just a 'cosy club.'

EMBA are an amazingly effective resource for all our churches; a hub of information, experience and advice. If we work together, we can be better equipped to reach our communities that we serve and spread the love of Jesus. We need to be missionary in our thinking to be able to reach the wider community and together we can achieve this. We are able to share best practices and good ideas to make our churches better and more efficient at saving souls!

I have been a Director for EMBA for the past 6 years (the first 3 co-opted and last 3 elected) and I would love to continue this role. I really enjoy being part of the team. I have learnt so much and hopefully have more to contribute.

### **Mr David Mellen**

*Nominated by the leadership of New Life Baptist Church, West Bridgford, Nottingham.*



I was brought up in a Christian family on a farm in rural Suffolk. My family attended a small brethren church with lots of activities both within and in partnership with other churches for children and young people. I made a commitment when I was 9 or 10 following a communion service where I was affected by hearing of Jesus' willingness to die for me. I grew in my faith through young people's summer camps and by taking on responsibility for a Sunday school class as a teenager. I came to Nottingham to attend Trent Polytechnic when I was 18 and attended a brethren church in Nottingham as well as getting heavily involved in the Christian Union.

4 years later I became a primary school teacher in Nottingham and started to attend the Lady Bay congregation of West Bridgford Baptist Church. I was a worship leader and in time part of the leadership team at the Lady Bay congregation and later an Elder at West Bridgford Baptist Church. When Lady Bay became an independent church in the later 90's I became a member and was involved in a variety of activities including worship leading and children's work as well as preaching regularly.

New Life Baptist Church came into being in 2006 as a result of Abbey Baptist Church and Lady Bay joining together. In the last 19 years I have had several spells on the Leadership teams, when we have had a minister and over a long period of interregnum between 2017 and 2021. I am currently on the leadership team and am responsible for worship and catering in the church.

Outside of the church, I have 20 years' experience of being a primary school teacher including a period of being a Headteacher of an inner Nottingham school for 4 years. I have also been a Labour local councillor on Nottingham City Council for nearly 23 years and was the Council Leader for 5 years, finishing that responsibility in 2024.

I believe that the church is God's way to bring his message and values to the world. I believe that Jesus' encouragement to be salt and light means that we need to be involved in our society and communities in relevant ways rather than standing separate from the people alongside whom we live. The church needs to make disciples and strengthen the faith of those within the church and show love in a variety of ways to those outside, pointing them to Jesus as the answer to our weaknesses and the world's problems.

My experience both as a church leader, a headteacher and a local politician have given me a variety of experiences of governance and leadership. I have been a trustee of a number of different organisations and a Chair of Governors of a local school. In all three leadership roles I have experience of success and of challenge. I believe I am resilient, compassionate and reliable.

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### **Mr Jonathan Morley**

*Nominated by the leadership of Sutton Elms Baptist Church, Leicestershire.*

I became a Christian as a 5-year-old child and would regularly read the Bible and pray. Some may think this is too young, but I remember the call and conviction to receive and follow

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Christ so clearly. However, as I grew into my later teen years, I began to live off my parent's faith rather than my own and began to drift away from God, engaging in a lifestyle that didn't line up with what Christ calls us to. Much like the prodigal son, I realised the mess I was in, 'came to my senses' and began to turn around, to come back home where I found the loving arms of Father God embracing me and loving me to life. Since then, I have grown and matured in my faith and relationship with God.

Upon leaving school, I worked as a chef for 7 years before hearing the call of God to "go to a land that I will show you". So, I quit my job and applied to a 'School of ministry' in Canada, where after completing the school, I interned for 2 years before moving back to the UK.

There I became involved in serving in my local church in the Manchester area, preaching and helping with the youth. When my wife, Rachel, and I married we moved to Retford to serve at 'The Well', Retford Baptist Church. We soon became part of the leadership team, serving and ministering in various ways before God called us to Sutton Elms Baptist Church. This again was a real journey of faith for both us and the church. Here we have been for the last eight years serving the church and local community, with the vision to be, rooted in and reaching out in Christ.

I always love to hear what God is doing in the wider church, and gathering with other leaders/ministers/believers in different settings encourages me in what is possible when we trust Jesus and follow the Holy Spirit's lead. He really is a much better leader than we are! If, as churches we grow better at trusting and following His lead, I think we will do much better at growing. Lord, lead us, we pray.

I'm humbled to be nominated to this position of service to the wider church in the EMBA. I trust that if appointed, by God's grace, I will be able to be a blessing to help encourage ministry and mission in our association.

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### **Mrs Elizabeth Shaw**

*Nominated by the Deacons of Eastwood Baptist Church, Nottinghamshire.*

#### **Conversion**

As long as I can remember I've always gone to church and have always known and believed that God loves and values me, that I am beautifully and wonderfully created by Him and that Jesus died for me. I was christened as a baby and confirmed when I was 11. At the age of 13 I rebelled by attending a Pentecostal church. It was there that I heard for the first time that I needed to be saved, I gave my life to the Lord that same year and the following year I was baptised. At the age of 21 I married my husband Martin and we made our home in the Baptist church he grew up in, and we are still members of the church in Eastwood today.

#### **Christian experience/ministry**

I sing in our worship team and sometimes lead services. I have been a deacon for three years and have recently been re-elected for a further term. I run The Hub, which began as a warm hub in the winter of 2023 but due to popular demand is now a regular event throughout the year. The Hub is a community focused coffee morning where everyone is welcome and is regularly attended by people who live in the town, our local community worker and police officers as well as people from our own church and other churches in the

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town. I am also part of the ministry team that meets together to pray, plan services and organise pulpit supply whilst we are without a minister. I organise our prayer circle and am also the designated person for safeguarding.

### **The wider church**

I am a representative for our church as part of Eastwood and District churches together. I help organise our joint churches carol singing, photo booth and information stall at our town's Christmas Light Switch on, the Good Friday march of witness, Easter Sunday sunrise service and breakfast. I am also in contact with representatives from Leprosy Mission and Christian Ministry to the Jews. I enjoy attending the EMBA Gathering and Refresh.

### **Gifts and Skills**

When leading services I bring a creative dimension through the use of props to illustrate key points. I am a capable organiser and an able communicator, skills which I have used to develop a network of contacts within the locality in both church based and civic communities, in order to raise the profile of my own church and churches together in the town.

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### **Pastor Andy Warner**

*Nominated by the leadership of Oundle Road Baptist Church, Peterborough.*

I grew up in a Christian home and would have heard the gospel message many times, but it was a day an evangelist visited with a very simple gospel message that I 'heard' that Jesus had died for me, and that evening accepted Jesus into my life as Saviour and Lord. I found the teenage years a struggle between faith and friends, but in my late teens I decided it was time to get baptised. Over the coming years I became more open to the leading of God in my life and more involved in my local church, leading children's and youth work, leading worship and preaching in various churches. It was during this period of my life I felt the call to full-time ministry and moved away from secular work. This led to theological training for ministry at Spurgeon's College, and the start of full-time church pastoral ministry.

I have now been in church leadership for over 20 years, and I am currently the Pastor of Oundle Road Baptist Church (ORB Church) where I have been for the last 7 years. It has been so encouraging to see significant growth in the church, from an average of 40-50 to now over 100, and recently one of our weekly services had over 50 children and young people.

My heart is seeing lives changed by the gospel of Jesus, seeing people baptised, becoming disciples and serving Jesus with their whole lives. My vision is to see churches growing - people growing in their faith, growing in their relationships with one another, and growing in sharing Christ to the wider world. That the churches we grow would be healthy, loving, caring and examples of Jesus' words, "they will know that you are my disciples by the way you love one another."

I have experience of serving in small, medium and large Baptist churches. I would also bring the experience of serving as a charity trustee (including two years as chair) for the Len Pick

# East Midland Baptist Association



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Trust, a grant making trust, with assets of over £8 million. I have good experience and insight into the needs of churches, the need for good governance, the need to manage finances well and in making grants. I am a strategic thinker, enjoy working in teams, and well organised. I believe the experience and skills I have would help in the role of Director of EMBA and the vision to grow healthy churches through inspiring, equipping, pioneering, caring and partnering. I enjoy sport, photography, and music and at the annual EMBA Minister's Conference you will find me in the worship band on the keyboard!