

STRATEGIC PLAN • FELLOWSHIP ATLANTIC

CHARTING A COURSE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The following strategic plan outlines the key objectives and actions for Fellowship Atlantic as we seek to further our mission of strengthening and supporting churches in Atlantic Canada. This proposed plan is guided by our updated mission, vision, and values, and includes seven key strategic actions with associated objectives and key results.

These actions include:

- 1. Fill the role of Regional Director to lead Fellowship Atlantic forward.**
- 2. Develop a communications strategy to increase awareness and adoption of the Region's mission, vision, values, and strategic plan.**
- 3. Effectively align Clusters, Superclusters, and Regional Gatherings around Fellowship Atlantic mission, vision, and values.**
- 4. Pursue a formal mission-driven partnership with FEB Central and Fellowship National.**
- 5. Encourage existing Fellowship Atlantic churches to engage in assessments and consultations.**
- 6. Implement a leadership development program.**
- 7. Prioritize support for new church plants.**

The successful implementation of this strategic plan will enable Fellowship Atlantic to strengthen its position as a vital resource for churches in the Region and achieve its long-term goals of promoting Church Planting, Church Leadership, and Church Health in Atlantic Canada.

MISSION, VISION, & VALUES

The mission, vision, and values of Fellowship Atlantic are updated in an effort to refine and focus our strategic direction. These statements were developed through a collaborative process involving input from pastors, church leaders, and members of the Fellowship Atlantic Regional Council.

Consensus was reached on elevating the existing values of church health, church leaders, and church planting to core priorities of the mission of Fellowship Atlantic. The updated mission affirms the centrality of these three priorities while acknowledging it is the churches of the Fellowship who carry out the work of the mission.

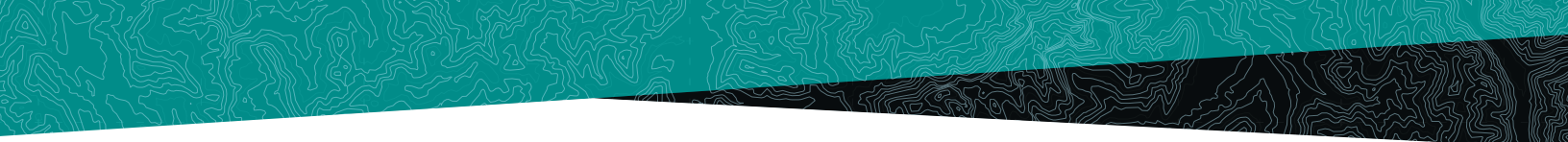
The updated mission statement for Fellowship Atlantic is:

“Fellowship Atlantic enables churches to fulfill the mission of Jesus by fostering church health, developing church leaders, and supporting church planting.”

The vision statement for Fellowship Atlantic is:

“Fellowship Atlantic envisions a future where the ministry impact of our churches reaches everyone in Atlantic Canada.”

This statement represents the desired future state of Fellowship Atlantic, a collaborative, relational group of churches who are growing in health, developing leaders, multiplying congregations, reaching new people, and having a significant impact on our communities. The vision acknowledges



the opportunity to intentionally collaborate with like-minded churches and networks in Atlantic Canada currently outside the Fellowship.

In line with our mission and vision, three core values are identified which guide Fellowship Atlantic's actions and decisions. These values shape how leaders within the Region will interact together, how decisions will be made, how resources are prioritized, and guide future ministry efforts.

These three value statements are the result of input and discussion from pastors and leaders from the Region, consolidating shared values together, and developing descriptive phrases to exemplify these clusters of individual values:

We value supportive relationships and recognize the importance of working collaboratively to achieve our shared goals.

We are committed to faith-filled, biblical expansion of the work of the church in Atlantic Canada.

We prioritize the cultivating of both character and competency in leadership.

The mission, vision, and values along with the Affirmation of Faith are key in shaping future efforts of Fellowship Atlantic as well as clarifying expectations for churches choosing to join together across the Region.

They are also critical in shaping this strategic plan for Fellowship Atlantic. They provide a clear and compelling framework for our activities and help ensure our efforts are aligned with the Region's core purpose and desired outcome of enabling churches to reach everyone in Atlantic Canada.

PRAYERFULLY LOOKING AHEAD

As Atlantic Canadians, family is vitally important. Our family roots help ground us, our family's love and support are unfailing no matter what stormy seas we navigate, and guiding the next generation gives us hope for the future as we seek to perpetuate our legacy. Life here can be tough but with our family's help we can face these hardships together and stand strong.

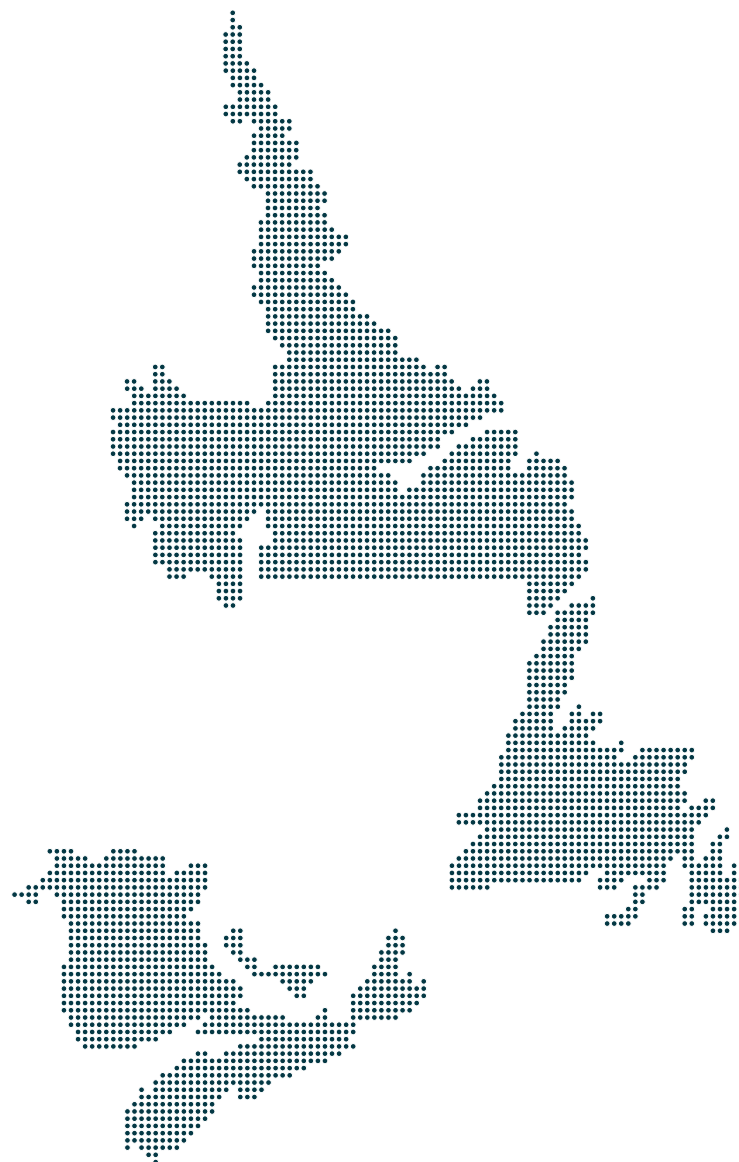
Our church family ought to have these same elements. The roots of the gospel should run deep. The care and watchfulness our church family provides should stir us up to love and good works. Investing in the next generation helps ensure the gospel witness continues for decades to come.

As we prayerfully look ahead to the future of Fellowship Atlantic (FA), we hope this reality of family pervades each part of the proposed plan. As our individual families gladly gather with other like-minded families to form our church families, so too we desire to view FA as a larger family of like-minded churches who all willingly and enthusiastically love and support each other for the greater advancement of the gospel and impact for the Kingdom.

To accomplish this, we believe FA needs a Regional Director (RD) to serve churches of the Region in a way which embodies the enabling of our mission. We see the RD and potentially some other staff in the future prayerfully engaging with and encouraging our churches and church leaders as they help oversee and steward our shared commitment to Church Leadership, Church Health, and Church Planting. We also envision the RD engaging with congregations and church associations outside the Fellowship we may want to link arms with as we faithfully fulfill the Great Commission together.

As pastors we understand the value of challenging and informing our church family of various opportunities to connect and serve together with us in our community. A new RD can help all of us effectively do the same across our Region: informing and connecting our church families and communities with tools, events, consultations, prayer, and encouragement geared towards equipping the saints to do the work of the ministry both locally and regionally.

As an added blessing we are part of yet another family, the Fellowship National family across our nation. They, along with another Region, FEB Central, desire to continue to support our family of churches in our Region by sharing resources, leveraging strengths, and engaging in nationwide prayer, support, and encouragement for the proclamation of the gospel throughout Atlantic Canada.



As pastors we also know the pain of disengaged or indifferent members who seem content to receive our ministry to them but are not eager to engage collaboratively with their church family for greater Kingdom impact. We know we are always better together than we are on our own, blessing others as we have been blessed and receiving blessing from others as we are in need of such (1 Thessalonians 5:11). Coming together in a greater way will require investment but the benefits for our church families and communities is immeasurable. As we share with each other in a greater way, we can all serve those around us more effectively for the glory of God.

We have already seen the incredible impact of banding together and pooling our resources (financial as well as time and other resources) to plant and revitalize churches across our Region. By continuing to do so as well as helping each other assess our health as individual churches, train future leaders, share resources, pray for each other, discuss ministry together, and just generally share our life and ministry with each other in a deeper way we are convinced we will honour God in doing so and will see Him save souls, disciple believers, and change lives by the gospel for His glory alone.

This is our prayer for the future of FA and we are confident it is yours as well. We look forward to seeing all that God will do as we increase our voluntary commitment to each other and each others' church families for the glory of God, the spread of the gospel, and the advancement of His Kingdom.

Soli Deo Gloria.

OUTCOMES

The outlook for this plan in terms of a 5-year future for Fellowship Atlantic could look like this:



A Regional Director with a small team of staff helping focus the churches' efforts toward Church Health, Church Leaders, and Church Planting.



Awareness across the churches of the Region of the role of Fellowship Atlantic in enabling them to be healthy, develop leaders, and support new plants.



Events for pastors, elders, and lay leaders where they are encouraged, equipped, trained, and resourced in their local church calling and their participation in Fellowship Atlantic.



Healthy, fruitful interaction between pastors and leaders in Atlantic Canada with FEB Central and Fellowship National ministries, sharing resources, leveraging strengths, and celebrating victories together. Relationships are growing beyond the functional aspects of the partnership, with pastors across the Regions engaged in meaningful, encouraging friendships.



Congregations aware of where they are thriving, where they have room to grow, and how to take next steps forward through assessments and coaching. Trained leaders from Fellowship Atlantic churches coming alongside congregations to honestly but humbly explore how the church could be more effective.



Future lay and vocational leaders identified by pastors and provided with equipping opportunities focused on developing character and competency for church leadership. Some would pursue this calling with focused theological education in Atlantic Canada through a partnership with Heritage Seminary.



Collaborative effort of Fellowship Atlantic churches in seeing church revitalization and planting, reaching and discipling more people in more communities across Atlantic Canada.

STRATEGIC SEQUENCE

Moving forward in faith to see the plan's objectives realized will be pursued through a sequence of phases. Rather than producing a strict timeline, this approach creates flexibility and milestones without the expectation of certain activities happening by a certain date.

PHASE

1

- Hire a Regional Director, bringing leadership to the Region and someone who can help move the strategic plan forward.
- Communicate the new mission, vision, values, and plan priorities to churches within the ministry influence of Fellowship Atlantic.
- Finalize the partnership between Fellowship Atlantic, FEB Central, and Fellowship National.

The proposed timeline is to see this phase as a focus for the remainder of 2023.

PHASE

2

- Focus on Clusters, Superclusters, cohorts, and networks on facilitating the Fellowship Atlantic mission, particularly related to Church Health, Church Leaders, and Church Planting.
- Begin Church Health assessments, starting with churches identified with capacity to be trained in performing future assessments.

This phase would begin in early 2024 and continue through 2025.

PHASE

3

- Launch Church Leader development networks using the Next Level Leadership curriculum.
- Engage Church Planting focus by identifying church planters and developing plans toward launching new Fellowship Atlantic church plants.

Elements of this phase may begin earlier but the hope is it would begin in Fall 2025.

RESOURCE ALLOCATION



- Dedicated participation by 75% of Fellowship Atlantic churches investing 3% of their annual budgeted offering toward the collaborative effort of the Region.
- Commitment to supporting mission-driven priorities of Church Planting, Church Leadership, and Church Health at the church and regional levels.



- Resource and expertise sharing through curriculum (Greenhouse and Next Level Leadership), networks, and training events.
- Availability of Church Planting, Church Leadership, and Church Health directors to collaborate with Fellowship Atlantic leaders and Regional Council.



- Commitment to match financial investment of Fellowship Atlantic churches up to \$25,000/year for 3 years toward training, resourcing, and supporting Church Planting, Church Leadership, and Church Health.
- Increased participation opportunities within National services of Fellowship International; FAIR, Chaplaincy, Francophone ministry, and the Fellowship Foundation.