

Why the Meductic Mandate?

(A *Read-Only* Companion Document for the 2024 DS Report)

Atlantic District Conference

July 11, 2024

Thank you for taking the time to review this supporting document. This is the most important item for you to digest as you prepare for our time together at District Conference. I trust this will serve as both a refresher of my 2023 DS Report as well as a primer for this year's DS Report (which is *not* included in your advance Virtual Delegate Packet). This will be especially important for those of you who are first-time Atlantic Conference Delegates.

It has been both energizing and encouraging to have conversations with each Atlantic Church over the past couple of months regarding the 2027 Vision to raise and release 400 Leaders for the quadrants of our Acts 1:8 shared mission.

If you are new to the 2027 Vision, you might be wondering – a) **what this is about**, b) **how did we get here**, and c) **why the Meductic Mandate?** These are excellent questions! The following pages will provide the clarity you need to inform how we are all pulling together to see the Lord's work maximized via the 2027 Vision of the Atlantic District.

A) First, what is this all about? The very core of our 2027 Atlantic District Vision is about raising and releasing leaders for Kingdom disciple-making in all four quadrants of our shared mission to be Christ's witnesses in Acts 1:8. [CLICK HERE to check out all the documentation](#) we have provided along the way to help you understand the “what” and “how” questions for each local church to engage their part in this vision. This is not just about raising up pastors, or even leaders for making disciples in the local church. This is so much more. It is about clergy and lay – equally important in how we are mobilized to fulfill the Great Commission in every quadrant of Christ's calling to be disciple-makers!

B) Second, how did we get here? In business arising from the 2019 Atlantic District Conference, the District Board of Administration (DBA) appointed a 6-member task force to bring a report back to the DBA regarding recommendations to address any district matters for which there was concern. The final report was submitted to the DBA in November 2020. In response to these helpful insights, the DBA appointed a 12-member Vision Team to work with a [Senior Lead Navigator of Auxano](#). This District Vision Team presented a “vision frame” of clarity (including a recommended 2027 Vision) to the DBA in November 2021. [CLICK HERE to check out the Atlantic District Vision Frame](#) and [CLICK HERE for the Fleet Tracker Local Church Assessment Tool](#). The Vision Team & DBA agreed that if our churches could work together to raise and release more Kingdom leaders, this would be the one-thing that would most impact the momentum and maximize the potential of our shared mission in the Atlantic region.

The plan was for this to all be introduced in detail to all the pastors at our Atlantic District Ministerial in January of 2022. In a disappointing turn of events, a spike in COVID-19 following the omicron variant did not allow for a legal gathering as planned. A much less detailed introduction to the 2027 Vision was postponed and shared in part during my 2022 DS Report, the first post-pandemic gathering of District Conference. This was followed in the fall of 2022 with

five regional roundtable events for pastors where a more in-depth explanation was unpacked as *The Gathering* in January 2023 did not allow for our usual rhythms of connection for this level of information.

This led to further presentation of the 2027 Vision for 400 Leaders during my DS Report at District Conference in July of 2023. [CLICK HERE for access to the three documents which accompanied this presentation](#). It was at the conclusion of this that our 2027 Vision was given the moniker of our *Meductic Mandate* (which will be fully explained in response to the final question addressed by this document). And in the Lord's providence and timing, we were blessed to fully explore a brand new tool for our local churches in achieving this vision as Kingswood University launched Kingswood Learn in January 2024! We were the first district gathering of any kind to receive two full sessions of presentation with President Lennox on how this incredible new Kingdom resource could help our churches in raising and releasing leaders.

We will soon gather in the Beulah Tabernacle on July 11, 2024, and you will receive my DS Report this year as we celebrate how we are **measuring the early results** of this four-year vision in local churches across our Atlantic region! This will include: a) The percentage of our district churches participating, b) The percentage of those participating who have begun to intentionally cultivate those called (both as lay and potential clergy) to Kingdom leadership as disciple-makers in any of the four quadrants of our Acts 1:8 missional mandate, and c) the total number of leaders who have emerged THIS year in our churches (with names for each number) and the percentage for each of the four quadrants these individuals sense as their primary destination for disciple-making influence.

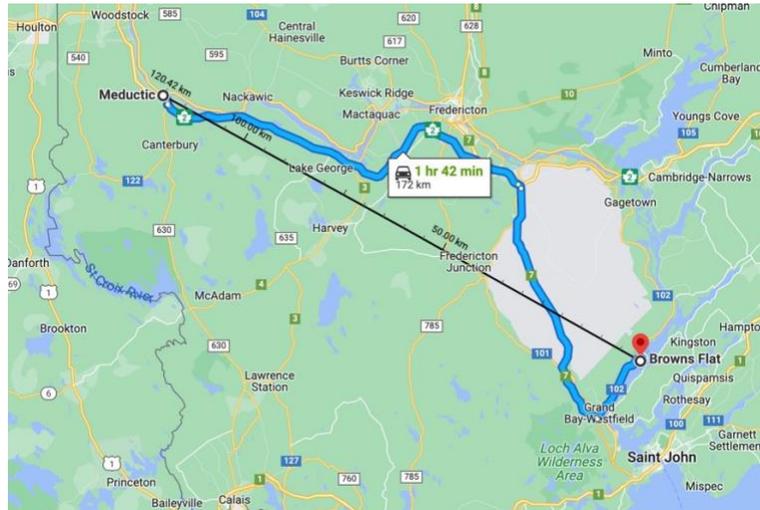
It's going to be an exciting day as we celebrate this together and look ahead to "Year Two" of our 2027 Vision.

C) Which leads to our final question, why the *Meductic Mandate*? As you will soon see, Meductic is a rural New Brunswick community in which the Atlantic District used to have a church (as part of our antecedent denomination, the Reformed Baptist Alliance). Its lifecycle was only 75 years, and even though it remained small throughout this entire period, it launched a surprising and God-glorifying number of high-impact disciple-makers who answered the Master's call to Kingdom leadership in all the quadrants of our Acts 1:8 missional mandate. This was accomplished through the faithfulness of its pastors and key lay leaders over nearly eight decades. And the impact of these leaders raised and released through our Meductic Church continues to have enormous impact in our region today. So, employing this moniker is more of a metaphor to what we are called to do as Kingdom leaders – raise up and release those God is calling to continue the mission.

With this explanation in focus, and *for the benefit of those who may not have attended* the 2023 Atlantic District Conference, the remainder of this companion document is a seven-page adapted excerpt of my DS Report from that day in which we officially declared our 2027 Atlantic District Vision to be our *Meductic Mandate*...

Edited 2023 DS Report

Meductic. Very few of us in this historic Tabernacle today could find it on a map. Even fewer would know how to spell it. Unless, of course, you are a drummer and a fan of Sabian cymbals which have been headquartered there since 1981. Meductic. Centuries ago, it was an epicentre, the place to be if you were a somebody – the capital if you will – of the Maliseet First Nation.



Google Maps – Meductic: There & Back Again

As the proverbial crow flies it is just over 120 km upriver from where you now sit. The reported population of this village today is a whopping 198 souls. Browns Flat is a teeming metropolis compared to the Meductic of today. It is a Maliseet word that literally means “the end of the path.” In the century in which it was first named, it was intended to mean something to the Maliseet people akin to the expression “all roads lead to Rome.” Meductic was where you wanted your destination to end. It was a fortified place of strength, commerce, and importance – the center of the Maliseet Nation.

In the early spring of 2023, I was driving between Fredericton and Woodstock stopped by Meductic. I had never been there before in my life but had heard about the Reformed Baptist Church that once served this community and the many Kingdom leaders raised and released coming from this small, out of the way village, at the end of the path so to speak. Here is what this little country stone church used to look like.



The Reformed Baptist Church of Meductic, New Brunswick

(At this point in my address a document was distributed highlighting a list of just a few of the Kingdom leaders who came out of this Meductic work.)

Please peruse the testimonies of Mrs. Ethel Forbes, Rev. Marven Durling, Mr. David Jewett, Rev. Sheila McCrea-MacCallum, Rev. Arnold Stairs, & Rev. Fred Whittey. My gratitude to each of these Kingdom leaders for the God-glorifying perspectives in their contribution. A special word of thanks to you, Ethel, for enthusiastically embracing the task of compiling the historical summary of the Pastors who served what was called the Meductic circuit from the days of its official organization by Rev. George B. MacDonald on December 5, 1893. This Pastoral Appointment by the Alliance included several preaching points – the satellite locations of their day if you will. Over the lifespan of the main church in Meductic – these were Greenbush, Middle Southampton, & later, Lower Southampton.

In addition to those who have been included in these written testimonies, there are some other names worthy of note. Charles Clark was a lay person born and raised in Meductic who began his walk with the Lord and was discipled by this spiritual family. Charlie's son, Rev. Darren Clark now serves as Lead Pastor of River Valley Wesleyan in Grand Bay, a new Kingdom

location launched in the late 80's where the Clark family played a key role from the early days. Dr. Laurence Mullen graduated from high school in Meductic while his father served as pastor there. In the 2023 Ordination Service we honoured him for completing 70 years of Ordained Ministry – only the third person in our 135-year history to accomplish this impressive milestone!

It would be worth your time to sit down with Rev. Fred Whittey and hear the influence of this church on his life as an adopted child into a family in the Meductic community. God called him in *that* very building to sacrifice a promising career in the RCMP and to answer His call to the office and work of an Ordained Minister of the Gospel. And just *one* of the highlights of Fred & Lilyan's ministry was the planting of Kings Valley Wesleyan more than 40 years ago – now Kings Church. All because of how the Spirit moved to transform the life of a young man in a small church... at the end of the path. Rev. Conard Stairs was also part of the Meductic story, and he served for many years as President of Bethany Bible College. And how can we forget the mighty memory of Randolph H. Nicholson, who was raised and released as a celebrated Kingdom leader – both as a logger turned Ordained Minister and as a world-class artist. It was Randolph who baptized Charlie Clark. Someone captured this moment – an eternal standing stone of faith for Mr. Clark and his spiritual family and descendants.



Rev. Randolph H. Nicholson Baptism of Mr. Charles Clark

The story of the influence of RH Nicholson's ministry through art for God's glory and the advancement of the Kingdom could easily fill the remainder of our morning.

So, you may be wondering – why are we talking in 2023 about a church that closed 55 years ago in 1968, two years before I was born? I will answer that important question in a moment, but first let's dig just a little deeper. Here is what remains of this church building today – directly across from 35 Main St., Meductic.



2023 Site of the Reformed Baptist Church of Meductic

That's right. The building is gone but the true Church remains. The shell was sold in 1995 for \$5000 and now it is a parking lot for a double-car garage. Remember, Meductic is a Maliseet word that literally means "the end of the path." But the main highway that once ran right through Main St. bypassed this village years ago. Rev. Wayne Briggs was the final pastor of this 75-year-old church. The Meductic circuit was his first pastoral appointment and he recently shared with me the common opinion about this humble beginning, "The other pastors told me, you're starting *at the end of the trail*, so you've got no place to go but up!" And while the Maliseet leaders once chose the name to mean "you've arrived at your desired destination," the meaning of that word has completely flipped today. It is the end of the path. You couldn't get farther away from anywhere that likely matters to most people.

So... now that we have this nugget of our historical ethos in full focus, consider the following...

Some of us have been called to be Lead Pastor of a large church with multiple staff in a populated area. Some of us have been called to be a volunteer staff pastor in a small church or a co-vocational solo pastor in an out of the way, small rural community. Hear this, whether we accept our Kingdom assignment as a desired destination or see it as a waystation to something better – is a matter of calling. And *wherever* God leads us, He has a plan for us to raise and release Kingdom disciple-makers... because it is the end of His path for our part in His story.

My friends, whether you are lay leaders or clergy – we all share in the Meductic Mandate. God has called us to the end of a path. It IS a desired destination regardless of whether it is big or small, well-known or forgotten. Others might consider your place of ministry insignificant, an out-of-the-way assignment, but the Meductic story is a powerful reminder that God has positioned you exactly where He wants you to serve in the season of Kingdom influence He has entrusted to you to faithfully steward. There are men and women of faith who will be raised up and released out from under your care and only God knows how their stories will shine for His glory because of your faithfulness. And God has led us as a district through a multiple year journey leading into this post-pandemic season to embrace a modern-day Meductic Mandate.



The Meductic Mandate – 400 New Kingdom Leaders by 2027

As you know from our Ministerial Roundtables in the fall of 2023 and as outlined in your delegate packets, we are entering into a four-year journey. By 2027, we will raise and release a core of 400 church leaders who are equipped and effective in leading healthy churches that are cooperating and multiplying around the district and in the world.

We are believing God for at least 400 new Kingdom disciple-makers by the summer of 2027 – both clergy and laity – who by the Spirit are called, cultivated, and commissioned in the 60+ disciple-making locations we lead. The detailed information in your delegate packet outlines the process and the resources available for this journey which we will now reference as our Meductic Mandate.

Each year we will be counting and celebrating new leaders from our churches who are called, cultivated, and commissioned for the Here, Near, Hard, & Far quadrants of our Acts 1:8 mission-field of harvest. Once you have helped a disciple determine WHERE God is calling them to serve, the resources to cultivate their preparation as Kingdom leaders for disciple-making are on the second page of our Meductic Mandate 2027 Vision PDF ([CLICK HERE to access the hyperlinks to these resources](#)). I know this is a lot to digest. The good news is we have four years to land this.



WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST

PRA YER

Lord, give our Church Your heart for the nations. A heart of love and compassion for the lost. A renewed love of the Gospel and a deep admiration and concern for those who are already giving their lives in service to you. Provide for them, encourage them, prosper their work and embolden their hearts. Raise up and equip more workers for Your harvest f elds. Fill them with Your spirit, deliver them from the evil one and empower them to boldly proclaim and represent You and Your Word to the world, until You return. Help us to be obedient to Your voice and do our part in advancing Your Kingdom on earth. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PROMISES

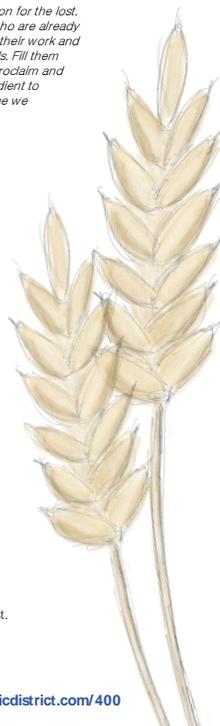
- Matthew 9:35-38, "Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness. 36 When He saw the crowds, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into His harvest."
- John 4:34-36 Jesus explained, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me and to finish His work. 35 Do you not say, 'There are still four months until the harvest'? I tell you, lift up your eyes and look at the f elds, for they are ripe for harvest. 36 Already the reaper draws his wages and gathers a crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may rejoice together."
- Galatians 6:9, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."
- 2 Corinthians 9:6, "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously."
- Revelation 14:15, "And another angel came out of the temple, calling with a loud voice to him who sat on the cloud, 'Put in your sickle, and reap, for the hour to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is fully ripe.'"

PROPHETIC PROCLAMATIONS

We declare that we are deeply moved to compassion for the lost.
 We prophesy that the harvest is plentiful and ripe with fruit.
 We proclaim that workers for the harvest are flooding into our Church.
 We decree that new Believers are often the most fruitful evangelists.
 We prophesy that we are not weary but energized in our mission.
 We proclaim that we are sowing generously and reaping generously.
 We declare that new Believers are being trained up quickly to reach the harvest.

This prayer was birthed through the intercessory ministry of Rev. Ray Smith

www.atlanticdistrict.com/400



Local Church 10:2 Prayer Event for Workers in the Harvest

First and foremost, each Lead Pastor is encouraged to schedule a call to prayer in the spirit of Luke 10:2 to lay the foundation for God to move in our churches. This may be with only the pastoral team, and/or ministry leaders, and/or the board, a combination of these, or with the entire congregation. Whatever is best for your context. Our first step must be to invite the moving of the Lord of the harvest to call out the workers He needs for the reaping ahead in the four quadrants of our Acts 1:8 mission.



Unleashing Churches for Transformed Lives

The Meductic Mandate (2027 Vision)

By 2027, we will raise and release a core of 400 church leaders who are equipped and effective in leading healthy churches that are cooperating and multiplying around the district and in the world.

“The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few.
Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers
into his harvest field.” (Luke 10:2)

Atlantic District Mission & Vision

One day, all our names will be forgotten by those who lead in the future days God has entrusted to them should the Lord tarry. And some of the places we now serve may be as forgotten as a little stone church in a Maliseet village upriver. Thank the good Lord, it is not about us, it is about the One who builds His Church, the Head of the Body – Christ Himself. It is about the glory God receives – in the ways He chooses to measure it. So, stand firm, proud, and strong in your Meductic Mandate for the time he has given you to serve His story for His glory.

Who is your church family raising and releasing for the Acts 1:8 quadrants of disciple-making leadership? The Meductic Mandate starts today – Lord, you gave Gideon 300 – we’re asking for 400 Kingdom leaders at the end of the path for the harvest ahead. My Kingdom colleagues – we have arrived at the end of the path – and we are exactly where God has called us to be.