

East Midland Baptist Association

EMBA Office, c/o West Bridgford Baptist Church
Melton Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7NF



May 2026

Dear Friends,

EMBA General Meeting – Saturday 20 June 2026 Director Nomination

For the past twelve months the EMBA Board of Directors has not been able to appoint a Moderator from amongst the existing Directors. The Directors have thus agreed to create a vacancy specifically for a person to become the Moderator. The Board are therefore bringing a nomination supported by Belper Baptist Church, for Revd David Harvey to be re-elected as a Director and then subsequently be appointed as Moderator by the board.

The EMBA Directors are taking this unusual action in response to the financial challenges that are being faced by our Baptist Family (Home Mission) and its implications for the Association.

David Harvey, having previously served nine years on the Board as Moderator, would bring continuity, experience and known credibility within the Baptist Family to the highly complex legal and structural issues around the national financial model review currently in progress. Furthermore, having a Moderator in place would reduce any conflict of interest for Revd Mark Clay having to represent the interests of the Staff Team as Regional Team Leader as well as acting as temporary Moderator of the Board.

The Directors feel that this appointment would make pragmatic sense and understand that this is not seen as a long term appointment but help and support to the Association as it transitions through this period. The search for a new Moderator will continue.

It is the hope that our EMBA churches will be able to support this nomination and understand the particular reasons for taking this approach.

Yours in Christ,

Revd Mark Clay (EMBA RTL)
Sent on behalf of the EMBA Board of Directors

Please see the Director Nomination information below.

East Midland Baptists: Serving East Midland Baptists in Mission

Website: www.embaptists.org.uk

The East Midland Baptist Association is a member of the Baptist Union of Great Britain. Registered Charity no 1094457
A Company limited by Guarantee. Registered in England and Wales No; 4302466.

Registered Address: West Bridgford Baptist Church, Melton Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7NF



The EMBA board of Directors comprises ten trustees and a Company Secretary. Eight positions are elected by EMBA churches at a General Meeting for a term of three years. Two positions are ex-officio (held by the Regional Team Leader and EMBA Treasurer).

One nomination has been received for the sole vacancy on the Board of Directors. This vacancy has been created specifically for a person to become the Moderator (a position that can only be held by an Elected Director).

Revd David Harvey

Nominated by the Leadership Team of Belper Baptist Church, Derbyshire.

I became a Christian as a teenager whilst attending a Christian Endeavour Young People's Group at Cinderford Baptist Church in Gloucestershire. Shortly afterwards, I began studies at Loughborough University, worshipping at Loughborough Baptist Church where I was baptised as a believer.

Following our graduations, Jean and I married and settled at Broadway Baptist Church, Derby. We were jointly involved in youth work, and I was elected a Deacon. My involvement in Christian Endeavour expanded to include several years as Convener of Young People's work at National level and I was elected National President of Christian Endeavour for 1984-85.

Becoming members of Wirksworth Baptist Church in 1976 following a house move, we jointly continued youth work whilst I responded to a call to train for Supplementary Ministry. I was ordained in 1982 becoming a member of the Ministry Team serving the church at Wirksworth for over 12 years until mid 1995. I am now on the list of Retired Accredited Ministers. After a few years at other churches, we became members of Belper Baptist Church in 2003, joining the Leadership Team in 2004. At various times I have served as Church Secretary, then Treasurer, alongside contributing to the preaching, worship and pastoral ministry of the church. I am currently an Elder of the Church. I served EMBA as Moderator of Langley Mill Baptist Church from 2011 to 2017.

As Moderator of EMBA Directors between 2015 and 2025, and a member of BU Council, I worked closely with the Directors and Staff Team seeking to provide support and encouragement to local churches during challenging times. I guided the Directors and Staff Team through the process of a Strategic Review to adopt revised Articles of Association, a staffing structure necessary to support local churches, an investment strategy for ministerial and leadership training, and responding to various challenging national consultations. I am currently serving as a Director of EMBTC, and an Advisor to the EMBA Board on the BU Financial Model Review.



I believe that local churches are the beating heart of growing God's Kingdom. Sharing experiences, ideas and resources with other churches and pioneers both locally and amongst the wider church family, and working collaboratively for the Kingdom, makes us all stronger and more effective than if we try to do things alone. Developing and encouraging effective Church Leaders makes a huge difference to growing Healthy Churches.

The Baptist family is facing significant financial challenges that require strong strategic leadership to resolve complex matters in a way that ensures local churches receive the best possible support from the wider family. My involvement with the BU Financial Review at both national and regional level over recent years, together with my experience of being Moderator of EMBA, will equip me to make an effective contribution to shaping the way forward for the Association in the short term, pending the appointment of a new Moderator within this term of office.