



Canadian Association for Baptist Freedoms

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In Person and Via ZOOM

29 September 2023 at 7:00 p.m.

Attendees: David Allen, Ida Armstrong-Whitehouse, Ron Baxter, Adam Boyd, Carl Cann, Roger Cann, John Churchill, Lana Churchill, Ed Colquhoun, Harold Corbett, David Csinos, Rusty Edwards, Dave Gibson, Dan Green, Amanda Hecht, Hedley Hopkins, Carol Anne Jansen, Jennifer Langley, Scott Kindred-Barnes, Aaron Kenny, Erica Kenny, Hugh Kirkegaard, Marlene Knowles, Monica McKinley, Gary Nelson, Martin Roy, Ryan Sato, Sheila Stanley, Art Stuivenberg, Jeff White

Regrets: Rev. John E. Boyd; Lee Nicholas-Pattillo

- 1: **Welcome and Prayer:** President Marlene Knowles called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. AST, and welcomed everyone attending in person and via Zoom. She confirmed quorum following confirmation of those present. Jeff White opened the meeting with prayer.
2. **Approval of Agenda:** The President advised that the agenda and all materials for the meeting had been posted on the website. John Boyd joined the meeting briefly via Zoom to note that two additional files had been added to the website – i.e. an addendum to the Membership Report (Agenda Item 5g) and a Banking Summary (Agenda Item 4).

Adam Boyd moved and Martin Roy seconded that the Agenda be approved as amended.

Motion Carried

3. Approval of CABF Meeting Minutes

- a. **Minutes for AGM 20 October 22:** Rusty Edwards moved, and Ryan Sato seconded, that the minutes for the 2022 AGM be approved.

Motion Carried

- b. **Business Arising from Minutes of 20 October 2022:** Any business arising from the minutes would be addressed in reports presented at this meeting.

Vision: Baptists freely seeking, living, sharing, and celebrating justice, peace and love under the lordship of Christ.

Mission: We encourage and support churched, pastors and other individuals to understand and affirm Baptist freedoms as they express their faith.

4. **Treasurer's Report:**

Due to the change in fiscal year to 01 August to 31 July each year, the consolidated financial statements presented for approval at this AGM covered the period 01 January 2023 through 31 August 2023 only.

Treasurer David Allen moved, and Jeff White seconded, that the Consolidated Financial Statements for the 2023 fiscal year (1/1/2023 – 07/31/2023) be approved.

Motion Carried

5. **Reports from Council:**

All written reports from the Standing Committees of Council had been posted for review on the CABF website prior to the AGM. Rather than review each one in detail, President Marlene named each report (listed below) asking if there were a need to show each on the Zoom screen or if there were any questions and/or comments on each. She invited the Chairs of the Committees reporting to make any comments. All reports would be addressed in a single motion.

a. **President's Report: Marlene Knowles**

President Marlene Knowles verbally added one item to her written report – the ordination on Palm Sunday 2023 of Arla Johnson, a person accredited through CABF, and – to our understanding – the first married, openly lesbian, ordained Baptist Minister in Canada. This was a highlight not only for the year but also a significant event in history.

b. **Publications Committee: Aaron Kenny**

Chair, Aaron Kenny extended special thanks to the Rev. Scott Kindred Barnes for his ongoing work as Editor of The Bulletin and noted that the January 2024 edition would be available virtually as well as in printed format. For those wanting additional printed copies, please contact David Allen who has access to the master list of members with email addresses.

c. **Constitution and Governance Committee: Dave Gibson**

There were no questions for Chair Dave Gibson on his report previously circulated.

d. **Credentials Committee: Rusty Edwards**

A question from those present about what happens to related benefits such as pension, medical, dental and insurance when a minister decides to move their credentials to CABF from their current accrediting body sparked several comments. Hugh Kirkegaard

mentioned that this issue had arisen about five years ago during discussions on potential initiatives for the CABF strategic direction 'Supporting'. Carol Anne Jansen commented that focusing on options for this area of support could make the difference between a person exploring accreditation through CABF and actually acting upon it. With respect to the pension question, John Churchill noted that one option that has been provided previously has been commuting existing pension contributions to a lump sum and then making ongoing annual contributions to an RRSP. Art Stuivenberg noted that he had been doing research on this topic and was encouraged that there may be viable options that are comparable to related benefits provided by the Canadian Baptists of Western Canada (CBWC). Given the apparent consensus that this is a priority topic for exploration and action, Dave Gibson suggested that this topic be brought forward to the CABF Council for further consideration. President Marlene asked if this were the wish of those present. Agreed.

e. Finance Committee: Dan Green

Chair Dan Green thanked committee member, Jim Stanley and, in particular Treasurer David Allen for their support during Dan's term as Chair of the Finance Committee.

f. Program Committee: Jeff White

Chair Jeff White reflected on his term as Chair of the Program Committee and thanked members of the Committee for all their work as well as President Marlene Knowles for attending the Zoom sessions of the Committee.

g. Membership Committee: Joyce Allen

David Allen commented on Chair Joyce Allen's report that had been circulated previously. The current number of 61 (sixty-one) memberships and one life member had increased by two since publication of the report. Two new churches had been added in the 2023 calendar year.

h. Website Committee: John Boyd

President Marlene Knowles drew attention to Chair John Boyd's report in his absence and thanked him for his work.

h. Alliance of Baptists: Rusty Edwards

Representative Rusty Edwards' report had been circulated previously. President Marlene Knowles acknowledged Rusty's service and noted that the Nominations Committee Report includes a new representative from western Canada.

j. Canadian Council of Churches (CCC): Hugh Kirkegaard

Representative Hugh Kirkegaard had submitted his report providing highlights of his first experiences with the CCC, and he expressed the importance and value of being present for meetings of that organization. Rev. Dr. Scott Kindred-Barnes noted that the President of the CCC, Peter Notebloom, would be presenting at a session with the Wolfville Area Inter-Church Council in October on the theme Recent Trajectories in Ecumenism. The Rev. Rhonda Brittain, Executive Minister of the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada (CBAC), will also be in attendance. This event may be one in which CABF may wish to participate. In the context of this discussion, the Rev. Hedley Hopkins posed the question of what Baptist Freedoms mean in Canada today. President Marlene Knowles added that this sounds like a topic worthy of further reflection and exploration.

Hugh also provided an update on his work with the ad hoc Committee of Council with Hugh as coordinator supporting the Chaplaincy Support Group. The CABF network of chaplains currently comprises about 18 (eighteen) chaplains, some ordained and some interested in ordination. It has been a difficult year emerging from Covid, and the group has provided an important forum for sharing. It is hoped that there may be some opportunity in the next year for the group to participate in a retreat-like event.

Dave Gibson moved, and Scott Kindred-Barnes seconded that all reports be approved.

Motion Carried

5. New Business

a. Nominating Committee Report: Lee Nicholas-Pattillo

President Marlene presented the Nominating Committee Report on behalf of Lee Nicholas-Pattillo who was unable to be present. As several positions remained unfilled, Marlene asked that anyone with suggestions for potential additions contact Marlene, Joyce Allen or Lee Nicholas-Pattillo. Rusty Edwards suggested that we attempt to engage our colleagues from western Canada to fill some of the vacant roles. Marlene noted that having someone from outside Nova Scotia to also participate on the Nominating Committee would be a positive addition.

Dave Gibson clarified that our Constitution requires that anyone brought forward as candidates for Council between annual meetings will need approval by Council and then be presented for ratification at the next meeting of the full Assembly.

b. Budget 2023/2024: Treasurer David Allen

The recommended draft 2023/2024 budget had previously been circulated. David clarified that the five thousand dollar (\$5000) amount showing in Other Income (line

10) is anticipated revenue from the book on CABF history written by Scott Kindred-Barnes.

David moved, and Sheila Stanley seconded, that the motion to approve the 2023/24 Budget as presented be approved.

Motion Carried

c. Ratification of New Members: Joyce Allen

On Membership Chair Joyce Allen’s behalf, David presented the following motions previously approved by Council for ratification by the Assembly:

Motion 1

Whereas, the Membership Committee recommended acceptance of Kitsilano Christian Community Church, Vancouver, be a CABF Member Church, and

Whereas CABF Council on May 3, 2023, by motion approved the application of Kitsilano Christian Community Church to be a CABF Member Church

I move that the membership of CABF ratify the action taken by the Membership Committee and CABF Council regarding the approval of Kitsilano Christian Community Church as a CABF Member Church.

The Rev. Ida Armstrong seconded the motion.

Motion Carried

Motion 2

Whereas the Membership Committee recommended acceptance of Gordon Trisher for CABF individual membership, and

Whereas CABF Council on March 8, 2023, by motion approved the application of Gordon Trisher to be a member of CABF

I move that the membership of CABF ratify the action taken by the Membership Committee and CABF Council regarding the approval of Gordon Trisher as a member of CABF.

Martin Roy seconded the motion.

Motion Carried

Motion 3:

Whereas the Membership Committee recommended acceptance of Karin Corbett and Harold Corbett for CABF individual membership, and

Whereas CABF Council has not met to approve the application for membership of Karin and Harold Corbett

I move that the membership of CABF approve and ratify the action taken by the Membership Committee regarding the approval of Karin and Harold Corbett as members of CABF.

Martin Roy seconded the motion.

Motion Carried

7. Other Business/Special Resolutions

- a. Ryan Sato indicated that it would be wonderful to hear from the newest individual members and member churches about what prompted them to seek membership in and be part of CABF.

Being inclusive was increasingly becoming an issue for Monica and Malcolm McKinley, and they were drawn to CABF to be part of the welcoming and inclusive CABF community. Ryan commented how Monica had led her congregation in a thoughtful, reflective and caring journey resulting in them becoming members of CABF.

Harold Corbett shared how First Baptist Church Saskatoon had been exploring CABF. Harold had attended Acadia University with John Boyd, and he feels blessed to now to be part of CABF.

Mandi Hecht echoed her enthusiasm for her own membership in the CABF and is looking forward to her continued engagement.

- b. Additional Resolution: David Allen

David Allen presented an addition motion for ratification of membership that had been missed earlier.

Motion 4:

Whereas the Membership Committee recommended acceptance of Amanda Hecht for CABF individual membership, and

Whereas CABF Council on September 6, 2023, by motion approved the application of Amanda Hecht to be a member of CABF

I move that the membership of CABF ratify the action taken by the Membership Committee and CABF Council regarding the approval of Amanda Hecht as a member of CABF.

Hugh Kirkegaard seconded the motion.

Motion Carried

8. Adjournment

Upon motion by Martin Roy, President Marlene declared the meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

9: Closing Prayer:

The Rev. Ida Armstrong closed with prayer.

ADDENDUM: 30 September 2023 at 2:00 p.m.

President Marlene Knowles convened a brief business meeting at 2:00 pm on Saturday 30 September 2023 for the purpose of voting on one motion intended to have been put by the Membership Committee at the Annual General Meeting on the previous evening.

David Allen presented the motion:

Whereas the Membership Committee recommended acceptance of Andrea Tisher and Joyce Peasgoode for CABF individual membership, and

Whereas CABF Council on September 6, 2023, by motion approved the application of Andrea Tisher and Joyce Peasgoode to be a member of CABF

I move that the membership of CABF ratify the action taken by the Membership Committee and CABF Council regarding the approval of Andrea Tisher and Joyce Peasgoode as a member of CABF.

Ryan Sato seconded the motion.

Motion Carried

President Marlene declared the meeting adjourned.