

# The Bulletin

A Publication of  
Canadian Association for Baptist Freedoms  
(formerly Atlantic Baptist Fellowship)



The Union Church of Scott's Bay, NS  
CABF's Newest Member Church

Spring, 2013

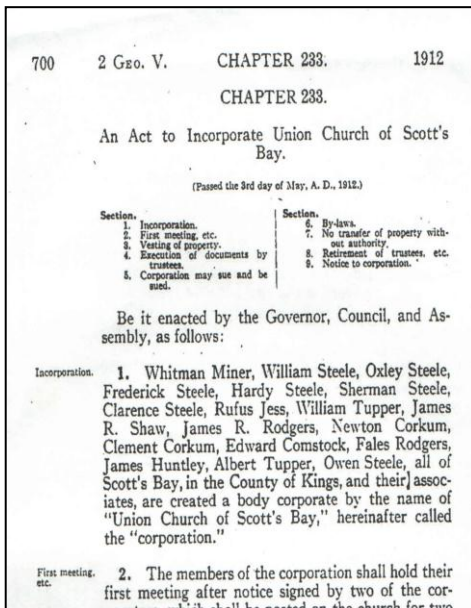
## *From the Editor.....*

### *A Noble Experiment in Ecumenism*

Once upon a time....the rural communities of Atlantic Canada were strong and vibrant. Large families were the norm, and even small communities like Scott's Bay, NS (also spelled Scot's, Scotts, and Scots) could support one or more general stores, a school, and at least one church. This was the day of strong denominationalism, with keen competition for families and converts. So it was that a Methodist Church, a Christian Advent Church, and a Baptist Church were all built in the beautiful village of Scott's Bay.

Decades later, the leaders of the three churches met to discuss a common problem. Building and maintaining these places of worship was expensive and time consuming. It would be much more efficient to keep the best building and create a system in

which each of the three congregations could share the use of the building, and share the costs.



On May 3, 1912, an Act of Incorporation was passed by the Legislative Assembly of Nova Scotia, and the Union Church of Scott's Bay came into being. The three congregations and their ministers negotiated their worship times, and other religious groups were also allowed to use the facilities with the permission of the

Trustees, who were appointed by the three denominational congregations.

Over time, the Advent Christian congregation died out and the Methodists became United Church of Canada. As with most rural communities, the demographics changed – smaller families became the norm, young people went ‘away’ to study or work, and populations shrank. Soon, general stores could no longer survive, and the village schools were amalgamated with students being bussed to larger centres. But the wise decision to form a Union Church meant that the Church at the heart of the village could remain open – though the size of the remaining denominational congregations was dwindling.

A new plan was then proposed; that the two congregations worship together and share a minister, alternating between Baptist and United, while the two congregations maintained their original denominational affiliations. This, of course, ensured that there would be tensions and struggles over issues of the suitability of candidates, and terms of service. For a lengthy time, the ministers – mostly students appointed by the denominational offices – had alternating terms limited to one year.

With time, the only student or part time ministers available were Baptist; giving the Baptist Fellowship a distinct advantage over the United Fellowship. Then, in 2012 the United Churches of the area voted to amalgamate and form one new congregation, which meant that all the local congregations, including the United Fellowship at Scott’s Bay were officially dissolved. This left the Union Church with a Baptist minister, and only one registered denominational fellowship belonging to the Atlantic Baptist Convention. It was not a situation which could be embraced by all.

Meetings were held with the new minister (this Editor) and a bold new plan was devised. What would happen if all the Fellowships were set aside, and the ‘union’ part of the Church name became in fact a union of all denominations working together in one larger membership rather than separate denominations sharing a building.

A proposal was brought to the congregation(s), and a new Constitution and Covenant were prepared. On November 18, 2012, exactly one hundred years after the incorporation of the Union Church of Scott's Bay, these documents were unanimously approved, with a new membership comprised of all persons who have a membership in any denomination of the Canadian Council of Churches; all being welcomed on equal terms. This inclusive new membership includes the original United and Baptist groups, as well as Anglican, Roman Catholic, and Pentecostal. Ministers may be called and appointed from any denomination represented in the membership, seeking the approval of the denomination involved.

The folks at the Union Church are quick to point out that their new Union Church is ***not non-denominational***; rather, it is ***multi- or pan- denominational***, with the heritage of each being honoured.

Where particular rites are requested which an incumbent minister cannot fulfill, appropriate visiting clergy will be invited to participate, with the resident minister assisting. Joining the Union Church may be celebrated according to the requirements of any of the heritages represented in the congregation.

On the next page is the new Church Covenant which is the basis of this noble experiment in ecumenism.



[Rev. Dr.] Dan Gibson, Editor  
President, CABF  
[gibsond@execulink.com](mailto:gibsond@execulink.com)  
902-582-1262

# *Covenant of the Union Church of Scott's Bay*

*In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
we, the members of the Union Church of Scott's Bay,  
make this Covenant of love and unity  
in the presence of God and our neighbours.*

*We covenant*

- to love the Lord our God with all our heart and with all our soul and with all our strength and with all our mind*
- to love our neighbours as ourselves*
- to love each other as Christ loved us*
- to bear witness to the love and grace of God*
- to welcome from the various traditions of Christianity all those who love the Lord and follow Him*

*We covenant that we will honour and respect the freedom of all persons to search for the truth, and make their own relationship with God through Jesus Christ.*

*Where there are differences of understanding, or interpretation, or custom, we pledge to treat each other as equals – sisters and brothers in the family of God.*

*Where there are disagreements and struggles, we pledge that love will prevail.*

*Where there are opportunities for service, stewardship, and support, we pledge that we will be faithful.*

*Where there are personal needs and trials, we pledge that we will pray for each other.*

*We covenant to provide a place of worship where our God may be glorified in the many voices and traditions of Christianity, and where others may find their opportunity to come face to face with the Saviour.*

*May God bless this place and this people as His family. AMEN*

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## ***Proposed By-Law Amendments***

*The following By-Law Amendments are published as official Notice of Motion, and will be voted on at the CABF Annual Meeting to be held September 27 & 28, 2013.*

*Thanks to Dr. John Churchill,  
Chair of the Constitution Committee.*

The following amendments are proposed:

- Amendment 1: Memorandum of Association, Article 9** – disposal of proceeds of property
- Amendment 2: By-Laws, Article 46 - Secretary** – keeping of records
- Amendment 3: By-Laws, Article 51** - Composition of Committees
- Amendment 4: By-Laws, Article 55(2)** - *Grandfathering* of accreditation
- Amendment 5: By-Laws, Appendix I** – removal of name “Atlantic Baptist”

(Proposed additions in **bold and underlined** and ~~deletions struck out.~~)

### **First Amendment: Memorandum of Association, Article 9**

To buy, own, hold, lease, mortgage, sell and convey such real and personal property as may be necessary or desirable in the carrying out of the objectives of the Society.

Provided that: -The society shall not carry on any trade, industry, or business;

- All funds shall be used solely for the purposes of the Society and the promotion of its objectives;

- The society is terminated, wound up or dissolved and, after satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, there remains any property whatsoever, the same shall be paid to some other charitable organization in Canada having objectives similar to

those of the society **and which is a *qualified donee* as defined by the Canadian Revenue Agency.**

**Rationale:** To assure that a charitable organization does not become a front for a non-charitable organization or a conduit for funds, the CRA makes it clear that gifts may only be made to *qualified donees*, that is, other registered charitable organizations eligible to issue receipts for income tax purposes.

This is also an issue upon dissolution of an organization; therefore, the CRA wants to assure that all residual assets are left only to *qualified donees*. The CRA has not dictated that this phrase be inserted, but it is clear that it might. To do it now, gives more assurance to the CRA that the CABF is a legitimate charitable organization whose objectives are those stated in the Memorandum of Association.

### **Second Amendment: By-Laws, Article 46. Secretary**

One of the Officers shall be the Secretary. The Secretary shall:

(a) be responsible for taking minutes of all Council and Members meetings, and

(b) have responsibility for the preparation and custody of all **non-financial** books and records of the Fellowship, including, but not limited to:

(i) the minutes of Members meetings,

(ii) the minutes of Council meetings,

(iii) the register of Members, and

(iv) filing the annual requirements with the office of the Registrar, and...

**Rationale:** It should be the treasurer`s responsibility to keep the financial books and records. This matches the description of the Treasurer`s duties in Article 47.

**Third Amendment: By-Laws, Article 51. Composition of Committees.**

All committees shall consist of one or more Individual Members and/or members of a Member Church. **Council may appoint additional members to Committees.**

**Rationale:** After committee members have been appointed at the Annual General meeting, it may be necessary to replace a member who has resigned or is no longer able or eligible to fulfill committee duties. It may also be advantageous to add to committees if a CABF member expresses a desire to be part of a committee or is discovered to have highly relevant experience or knowledge. Article 52 gives Council the power to appoint additional committees; this power to add committee members is of the same order.

**Fourth Amendment: By-Laws, Article 55 (2)**

...are currently accredited by a denomination within the Baptist World Alliance.

Replaced with the following wording.

**Clergy who are recognized or accredited by a Convention or Union of the Canadian Baptist Ministries or by the Alliance of Baptists may be added to the list of Recognized Clergy of the CABF following their application and their acceptance of the principles of the CABF, and the CABF Clergy Covenant.**

**Applicants from other Baptist conventions and unions are considered on an individual basis by the Credentials Committee.**

**Rationale:** the original wording was too broad and omitted important commitments.





# *Alliance of Baptists*

*Gathering – Greenville, South Carolina*

*April 5 – 7, 2013*

The sky was gray; the weather outside was cold, windy and rainy. In contrast to all of that - inside was warm, bellowing with voices, and warm with hugs and handshakes - I'd arrived in Greenville, South Carolina, Greenville First Baptist Church and all was well!

This year 360 members from the family of Alliance of Baptists, gathered from across the United States and Canada (me!). This was our annual ***Gathering*** (formally known as 'Convocation')! The agenda was full: Community (i.e. Committee) meetings; worship services; updates on the work of Alliance partnerships; workshops on topics that included justice – in many forms, to LGBTQ Community (where Alliance took the opportunity to let it be known '*you are welcome in the Alliance of Baptists.*'), exploration of the Alliance's Clergy Recognitions Process for Ministers and Congregations, Embodied Spirituality – to name a few; exhibits and a bookstore too.

Through this busy time, our Annual Meeting happened: Great attendance, good discussion and decision-making statements on Food Justice, Justice for Palestine/Israel Community and Drone Strikes were all passed unanimously. The ***Gathering*** celebrated the past work of Chris Copeland. Chris was leaving Alliance after seven years of service as the minister for leadership formation with the Alliance in which he lead the processes for clergy recognition of ordained ministers and endorsement of chaplains and pastoral counselors. Everyone wished Chris continued success in his professional career and his personal life as he prepares for his upcoming marriage. New things too happened – ***AllianceConnect*** and the new Alliance logo were launched!

***AllianceConnect*** is a collection of multi-denominational resources for ALL to share. YOU and I can add a resource and/or download

a resource FREE. This year was the first-time use of social media Facebook, Twitter and Instagram – we are moving onward and upward!

I was pleased to be able to:

- deliver best wishes for the success of the **Gathering** on behalf of CABF
- update the Board on the work being done by the Accreditation Committee on credentials
- speak (briefly – or as I was educated: I used ‘*passionate brevity*’) about our past visit from Rev. Dr. J. Brent Walker at our 41<sup>st</sup> Annual meeting last October and our planned speaker Rev. Dr. David M. Jordan for our Spring Rushton Memorial Lecture
- advise the Board of our pleasure at receiving approval from our government body to provide the first authorization for a clergy person from outside our province to be able to solemnize a marriage in our province

The Board of the Alliance and many of those who know us (CABF) sent best wishes and warm regards to everyone in Canada! All-in-all an informative Board meeting, exciting and educational workshops, great services (I read at one of the services), a productive Annual Meeting and many warm and friendly meals and social gatherings. I can hardly wait for next year’s **Gathering** which will take place in Portland, Maine. My hope is that others will be able to join me. Blessings to all!



Respectfully submitted by

Lee Nicholas-Pattillo  
Secretary CABF,  
Board Member Alliance of Baptists

# ***How To Kill A Church***

***By Zachary Bailes***

*(Reprinted with permission from the author, as published in  
Associated Baptist News Blog on December 11, 2012)*

*A prefatory note: This brief story was written based on conversations I've had with ministers, laypeople and leaders, young and old, rich and poor, and those no longer visiting church.*

It was a cold, December day and though the Nativity scene was brightly lit, the truth was all too dim: Main Street Church was dying.

After a series of meetings analyzing finances and low attendance numbers they accepted their reality. They would slowly, but surely, fail to meet the demands of their personnel, building, and grounds forcing an eventual church closing.

Before they closed down the church for good, they sought the quality advice of a seasoned minister, Noah Vale, to ensure they hadn't missed anything. Just as any good doctor would do, Noah decided to spend a year evaluating his patient. He would, of course, hope to find the answer to several diagnostic questions: Was there even enough left to revive them to life? Do they still have tumors that need to be removed? Have they accepted their condition? Are they ready to do the hard work of rehab?

It was through this in-depth patient analysis that Noah realized there was an unhealthy pattern that emerged: how to kill a church. It was unfortunate that no one had shared these pitfalls with Main Street—perhaps they wouldn't be as injured as they are now. Hopefully, these cautions will help save another church's life.

Noah Vale decided to share this, a checklist for how to kill a church:

1. Assume that people are looking for a church based purely on location. Don't worry about getting to know your own

2. neighbors, co-workers or acquaintances. If they need a church, they'll ask you. Or, they'll see it when they are driving by and be compelled to stop.
3. There is no need for you to have a mission or a vision. It is enough that you feel that God wants there to be a church. It is not up to you to decide for what purpose, need, or connection in your city.
4. Focus on money. Make all plans according to how much you do or do not have. Reduce your budget in key areas needed for growth. Examples include (but are not limited to) children's programs, outreach, and communications. When difficult budget reductions are actually needed, continue funding personnel because of loyalty, regardless of job performance.
5. Make poor decisions when hiring your ministers by focusing only on what you can afford, not seeking advice of professionals and other ministers, and elevating age and/or experience as the most important criteria.
6. Rather than living as a community, think about yourself as a family. Families are difficult to join. They bicker and fight, lack a mission or purpose, and are together by obligation and history (or marriage).
7. Refuse to admit that you need to change. Keep things exactly the way they are. Under no circumstances should you learn what it means to be relevant to your particular community.
8. When you have conflict in the church, ignore it, downplay it, or isolate the individuals who are causing it. Do not address it in a healthy, open way. If the conflict is somehow resolved, be sure to carry a grudge. It's important you do not forgive or forget.
9. When filling volunteer leadership positions, regardless if they are necessary, do not look at the individual's gifts or strengths. Rather, fill each place out of desperation. Also, be sure that the volunteers serve years past their energy or success. And do not have any procedures in place to remove unhealthy volunteers.

10. Be sure you do not communicate your needs, dreams, goals, concerns or observations with your ministers or one another. In fact, do not, under any circumstances, communicate anything effectively. This includes all forms of communication: print, digital or verbal.
11. Refuse to make sacrifices of time, money, energy, and emotions. If you must sacrifice, make sure to compare with others for equal effort. Also, be sure that everyone knows what kinds of sacrifices you are making.
12. It is important that you do not learn from your past mistakes. Be sure to repeat them often. When you think of your past, it's best if you do not remember your history correctly. Do not become good storytellers.
13. Above all, forget why you are a church in the first place. Obviously, this has nothing to do with God, love and people. It is about meetings, committees, money and reputation—a place to spend your time.

Now that the warning signs were laid out, it was up to Main Street Church to decide if they could, and would, change their ways. At the least, it is hopeful that their discovery will help others.



**Zachary Bailes** holds a Master of Divinity from Wake Forest University School of Divinity.

He is the Editor of Crazy Liberals and Conservatives ([www.libsandcons.com/](http://www.libsandcons.com/)), a website dedicated to engaging the intersection of faith and public life.

The CABF Bulletin is available as an electronic copy by email. This would save publishing and mailing costs. If anyone would like to be on the email list, please contact the Editor at **[gibsond@execulink.com](mailto:gibsond@execulink.com)**

## **CABF Annual Meeting      September 27 & 28**

### **Port Williams United Baptist Church**

Theme Speaker: **Lt Col Rev Barbara Putnam**

Lieutenant-Colonel (The Reverend) Barbara Putnam is a Baptist Chaplain from Saint John, NB. She enrolled in the Canadian Armed Forces in 2000 and has been posted to CFB Petawawa , CFB Galetown, CFB Borden and now currently lives and works in Ottawa. Promoted to her current rank in 2012, she serves as Deputy Director of Chaplain Services, and is the Principal Protestant Chaplain for the CAF. This summer she moves to a new position as the Command Chaplain of the Royal Canadian Air Force. She is graduate of UNB, Acadia and the Canadian Forces College in Toronto. She enjoys travelling with her husband, Brad, and riding the back roads on her Yamaha cruiser.

### **Colonel John Fletcher (Acting Chaplain General, Department of National Defence) at the National Defence Committee, said this about our chaplains:**

“All of our chaplains are qualified religious professionals who have been endorsed by their faith groups, recruited by the Canadian Forces, and mandated by the chaplain general to provide comprehensive religious and spiritual support, advice, and care to our men and women in uniform and to their families, and to thereby contribute to their spiritual well-being and readiness, which in turn enhance the effectiveness of the Canadian armed forces.

The chaplaincy has approximately 220 Regular Force members, and about 120 Reserve personnel. We come from over 20 different Christian denominations and represent the Jewish and Muslim faith groups, as well. Together, we are committed to providing religious and spiritual services in both official languages, and in all military settings.

All of our chaplains are expected to provide a comprehensive ministry by facilitating and accommodating the religious beliefs and spirituality of those entrusted to their care, without compromising our own theological beliefs and without imposing our own religious doctrine or practice on others.

All of our chaplains are professionally trained to the master's degree level, and in some cases of specialization, beyond that level. We are experienced in spiritual leadership within our own faith groups, and we remain professionally accountable to those faith groups, throughout our military service.”



Canadian Association for Baptist Freedoms

The Annual Rushton Lecture and Luncheon

*of the Canadian Association of Baptist Freedoms*

With Guest Speaker

**Dr. David Jordan**  
Saturday, June 1, 2013  
Manning Memorial  
Chapel  
Acadia University



We are very pleased to have the Reverend Doctor David Jordan as our guest lecturer this year. His presentation, entitled *Seven Words of Truth*, offers a refreshing look at the relevancy of the Bible and the continued power of its message for today's world. David is the Teaching Pastor at Providence Baptist Church in Charlotte, N.C. He is also the author of *Subversive Words: Biblical Counterpoints to Conventional Wisdom*, and *Approaching the Presence: A Year for Living Faithfully*. He has preached, taught, led groups and studied in over thirty countries. David's wife, Beth, who is also a Baptist minister, will accompany him on this, their first trip to Nova Scotia.

As part of our Lecture and Luncheon, we will be honouring the memory of **Dr. Millard R. Cherry**. He was the Dean of Theology, and then first Principal of Acadia Divinity College, as well as a founding member and lifelong supporter of the ABF.

As always, it promises to be one of the highlights of our CABF year. We would like to extend an invitation to you all to attend the Lecture and Luncheon. Registration (which includes the meal) is \$20 and can be paid when you register that day.

To assist us in our preparations, please pre-register as soon as possible by sending an email to Kim Sweet at [ksweet2@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:ksweet2@ns.sympatico.ca) or by calling Kim at (902) 542-1261. Please include any dietary restrictions or allergies. Also please note, both stairs and an elevator are available to assist in movement between the lecture and luncheon.