

**Canadian Association for Baptist Freedoms ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**(In person and Zoom) First Baptist Church, Amherst**  
**October 4, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.**

*In attendance:* Martin Roy, Harold Corbett, Karin Corbett, Adam Boyd, Dave Gibson, Marlene Knowles; Jennifer Friesen, Rusty Edwards, Ida Armstrong-Whitehouse, David Allen, Hugh Kirkegaard, Luke Dowding, Andrew Lawson, Dawn Stiles, Jim Stanley, Sheila Stanley, John Perkin, Jeff White, David Allen, Joyce Allen, Chuck McCready, Joanne Stonehouse, Harriet MacReady, Marlene Quinn; Ed Colquhoun, Sue Colquhoun, Mandi Hecht.

### **1. Welcome**

Marlene Knowles opened the meeting by offering thanks to FBC Amherst for the food, hospitality, and communion for the AGM.

She also offered thanks to Dave Gibson for working with the technology, which enables us to meet both in person and online with members across the country.

Thank you to all who took the time to join the meeting today.

Marlene went over the rules for voting for this meeting.

- Any individual member who has paid their annual member fee can vote.
- Anyone who is a designated delegate from a member church (and registered as such prior to the AGM) is also entitled to vote.
- Votes are cast by raising hands (in person) and using the reactions (via Zoom).
- There are two people designated to count votes.
- If anyone wants to be part of the debate or address the meeting, you can ask to be a part of the speaker's list. To do this online, raise your hand. Dave Gibson is keeping track of the speaker's list.

### **2. Approval of Agenda**

MOTION: to approve the agenda as circulated. Moved: Hugh Kirkegaard. Seconded: John Perkin.

MOTION CARRIED.

### **3. Approval of CABF Minutes**

#### *a. Annual General Meeting of September 24, 2024*

MOTION: to approve the minutes of the Annual General meeting of September 24, 2024. Moved: David Allen. Seconded Adam Boyd. MOTION CARRIED.

#### *b. Members Meeting of June 7, 2025*

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the Members meeting from June 7, 2025. Moved: David Allen. Seconded Hugh Kirkegaard. MOTION CARRIED.

#### **4. Business Arising from Minutes**

Nothing noted.

#### **5. Treasurer's Report: Consolidated Financial Statement**

David Allen (treasurer) went through the financial statement. He reported that this has been a successful year, ending with a surplus of \$11,237. The surplus is due largely to the support from member churches, so we are grateful for this financial support.

MOTION: to approve the Treasurer's Report. Moved: David Allen. Seconded Martin Roy.

MOTION CARRIED.

#### **6. Reports from Council**

##### *a. President*

Marlene Knowles referred to her submitted report. As this is her final year as president, Marlene expressed that she is grateful for the opportunity to do this work. She thanked everyone who worked with her.

##### *b. Publications Committee*

David Allen drew attention to the submitted report.

The one new development is that the editor of the Bulletin (who has served the past 5 years), Scott Kindred-Barnes, has resigned. Scott will finish out his term publishing the upcoming edition of the Bulletin. Please contact David Allen with any ideas for a new editor of the Bulletin. Thanks to everyone who serves on this committee.

##### *c. Constitution and Governance Committee*

Dave Gibson drew attention to the submitted report. He expressed thanks to everyone who worked on the special project committee to update the constitution. We have now successfully passed By-Law #3 earlier this year (June 7<sup>th</sup>) at a meeting in conjunction with the Rushton Lecture.

##### *d. Credentials Committee*

Rusty Edwards spoke to the submitted report. He drew our attention to some of the math. When he began on the committee, there was only ability to credential clergy to for a licence to marry in the province of Nova Scotia. Since then, this has expanded to four provinces, most recently Saskatchewan.

9 Active clergy in NS, serving 3 member churches

6 Active clergy in AB, 2 member churches

2 Active clergy in BC, 2 member churches

2 Active clergy in SK, 2 member churches

This committee is full of energy and life. Those serving on the committee testify to the joy of being able to meet clergy across Canada who bring unique gifts to their own context and to the Association.

There are representatives from each province that CABF has churches:

Rev. Anne Baxter-Smith (BC)

Rev. Ryan Sato (AB)

Rev. Mandi Hecht (SK)

Rev. Rusty Edwards and John Churchhill (NS)

Rev. Marlene Knowles (as President) and will now involve the incoming president.

*e. Finance Committee*

Dave Gibson drew attention to report online. The finance recommended investing some of the surplus, which has been done. Thanks to David Allen (treasurer) for diligently keeping the finances.

Since we have not contracted an auditor (due to expense), the Finance committee has conducted their own internal review of the finances, and we are pleased to find that the finances are in order.

*f. Membership Committee*

Joyce Allen drew attention to the submitted report. One new member church was added this year – FBC Saskatoon. There are 17 member churches as of September 1<sup>st</sup>. Many thanks to the churches who have joined, as well as the financial support the member churches have offered.

*g. Program Committee*

Please refer to the submitted report.

*h. Cross Canada Conference Committee*

The Cross Canada Conference will be held in Vancouver October 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is invited to attend. The information and details are on the website.

*i. Website Committee*

Dave Gibson drew attention to the submitted report.

*j. Alliance of Baptists*

Refer to the submitted report. At his last report to council, Jeremy Keay emphasized that, due to the political situation in the USA, we may be limited in our ability to work with the Alliance of Baptists, and those in Canada are limited in their ability to travel to their events. We can keep them in our prayers and offer support from afar.

k. *Canadian Council of Churches (CCC)*

Hugh Kirkegaard drew attention to the submitted report. He continues to be active with this group. Due to the geo-political realities, it is a privilege to be a part of a conversation with a diverse group of churches. The conversations at the CCC are important ones. Our friends south of the border do not have a similar organization to provide opportunities for churches to speak across the polarities in the church. We are fortunate to have this organization in Canada, and the CCC is setting an example for other countries. As the CABF is a member of the CCC, we are in a fortunate position to be part of the larger dialogue. This also opens us up to an international dialogue with the World Council of Churches.

MOTION: to approve all the above reports as submitted and presented. Moved: Rusty Edwards.  
Seconded: Martin Roy. MOTION CARRIED.

**7. New Business**

a. *Nominating Committee Report*

Ida Armstrong-Whitehouse spoke to the submitted report. She thanked Lee Nicholas-Pattillo and Marlene Knowles for their work on this committee.

The officers of Council for 2025/26 are:

President: Hugh Kirkegaard

Vice-President: John Perkin

Past President: Marlene Knowles

Secretary: Mandi Hecht

Treasurer: David Allen

\*Editor of the Bulletin: *vacant*

The members of Council for 2025/26 are:

Joyce Allen

Ida Armstrong-Whitehouse

Harold Corbett

Rusty Edwards

Jenny Eisener

David Gibson

Christie Goode

Jeremy Keay

Martin Roy

\**Vacant*

Please send any ideas to Council for additional members.

MOTION: to approve the nominating committee report. Moved: Ida Armstrong-Whitehouse.  
Seconded: Dave Gibson. MOTION CARRIED.

b. *2025-26 Budget*

David Allen presented the proposed budget for the next year.

This budget has been proposed by the finance committee and has been approved by Council. This is a balanced budget, and more robust than last year's budget. We are hoping to make our targets on the income and the expense sections.

MOTION: That we accept the 2025-26 Budget for the Canadian Association of Baptist Freedoms. Moved: David Allen. Seconded: Harold Corbett. MOTION CARRIED.

NOTICE for new Council: There will be a brief organizational meeting of the new Council on Wednesday October 8<sup>th</sup> @ 1 p.m. (AT) via Zoom.

**8. Adjournment**

Congratulations and thanks were offered to Marlene Knowles for her many years and work as president of CABF. We are grateful to her and look forward to her continued work with Council as past president. Congratulations to all on Council.

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting. Moved: John Perkin. Seconded: Dave Gibson. Meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m. (AT)

**9. Closing Prayer**

Hugh Kirkegaard closed the meeting in prayer.