



Canadian Association for Baptist Freedoms

Promoting Historic Baptist Traditions and Freedoms

Website: <https://www.c-abf.ca>

April 9, 2025

Special Project to Update CABF Governance Structure

Background

In our January letter, we noted that we are embarking on an exciting project – the restructuring of CABF governance to move into the future. There has been a rapid expansion of the CABF in recent years, both with respect to the number and geographic distribution of individual members and member churches. There has also been an increase in the number of activities, such as the Cross Canada Conferences.

Mandate

Recently, a number of issues and opportunities for improvement have been raised in the governance of the Association related to workload, vacant positions, coordination and communication. On November 13, 2024, CABF Council unanimously approved the motion: *"That the Constitution and Governance Committee be given a mandate to do a thorough review of the needs of the CABF organization with regard to structure and governance and any necessary changes to the By-Laws, to position us to move forward as a national organization."*

Objective

The objective of this process is to ensure that the Association is provided with a governance model that meets current and future needs and that important items are adequately addressed in By-Law #2 and the Policy and Procedures Manual

Progress

The Special Project Team has been meeting regularly, and the team has had monthly meetings with Council to report on progress and to seek Council's approval of recommendations as discussion of individual topics/issues/opportunities for improvement are completed. A series of resolutions have been presented to Council for approval, dealing with improvements to management structure, accountability, documentation and communication. Details on the Special project may be found at the CABF Website <https://www.c-abf.ca/documents/constitution-and-policies>.

Proposed Amendments to By-Law #2

Suggested amendments to the CABF By-Law #2 have been developed and approved by Council for presentation to the Membership. Documents containing the detail of these amendments and showing the proposed changes, including a "clean" copy of what the amended By-Law #2 will look like when all the amendments have been approved by the Membership, are available for viewing on the website <https://www.c-abf.ca/documents/constitution-and-policies>.

Vote by Membership

Council has approved a vote on a Special Resolution to adopt the amendments that will be held at a short Special Meeting of the Membership to be held in conjunction with the 2025 Rushton Lecture on Saturday, June 7, 2025 in Mahone Bay. It will be a Hybrid Meeting with in-person and on-line Zoom attendance so members in all locations may participate.

Between now and the Meeting of Members, on-line (Zoom) "Town Hall" sessions will be planned for members to receive a briefing, ask questions and engage in discussion of what is being recommended. The first Town Hall Zoom sessions are scheduled for Thursday evening May 1, 2025, Wednesday evening, May 7, 2025, and Tuesday evening, May 13, 2025—all at 8:00 pm Atlantic Time. Registration and Zoom Login information will be given on the CABF website closer to the dates.

If you would like to comment on the work completed to date or to suggest a date and time for a Town Hall session, please send an email to constitutionchair@c-abf.ca.

In Christian fellowship,

Special Project Team: Dave Gibson, Chair, Marlene Knowles, Hugh Kirkegaard, Mandi Hecht, David Allen, Lee Nicholas-Pattillo, Ida Armstrong-Whitehouse, Rusty Edwards, Jeremy Keay, John Churchill and Jeff White