

CABF Council Meeting, November 13, 2024 @ 1 p.m. (Atlantic Time) via Zoom

In attendance: Hugh Kierkegaard, David Allen, Dave Gibson, Ed Colquhoun, Jenny Eisener, Ida Armstrong-Whitehouse, Mandi Hecht

Regrets: Jeremy Keay, Rusty Edwards, Martin Roy, Marlene Knowles, Lee Nicholas-Pattillo

Hugh Kirkegaard, Vice President, Chair

1. Open with Prayer

Chair Hugh Kierkegaard offered a prayer from “The Pattern of Our Days” to open our meeting.

2. Welcome New Council members:

Welcome extended to Mandi Hecht, Hugh Kirkegaard, and Jenny Eisner. Each shared a bit about themselves by way of introduction.

3. Approval of Agenda

MOTION: to approve agenda as circulated. Moved: David Allen. Seconded: Dave Gibson.
MOTION CARRIED.

4. Approval of the Minutes of September 11, 2024

There are 3 places where Jenny Eisener’s name is misspelled.

MOTION: To approve the minutes from Council meeting of September 11, 2024 with the above-noted correction. Moved: Dave Gibson. Seconded: Ida Armstrong-Whitehouse.
MOTION CARRIED.

5. Business arising from minutes: Health, dental, insurance options and pensions for Credentialed pastors of CABF

- Not equipped to deal with this at this present meeting, as no one is currently tasked with looking into this. However, it is essential to figure this out, particularly for churches affiliated with CABF who are in danger of losing the benefits and pensions from the other Canadian Baptist Conventions through disaffiliation. FBC Halifax and FBC Edmonton have both found resources for this. If we knew what they had each done, it could give us a template.

- It is a cross-committee issue, involving (at least) finance, credentials, and constitution and governance.

- Issue Flagged to be actioned moving forward, and dealt with in a comprehensive way (involving all necessary aspects of Council).

6. Correspondence:

Unaware of any at this time.

FBC Halifax remains the official, legal mailing address for CABF.

Essential that Mandi (as secretary) is in contact with the secretary at FBC Halifax for any CABF correspondence we need to deal with.

Jenny will send an intro email to connect Mandi with Jean Ferguson (secretary of FBC Halifax).

7. New Business/Decision Items:

a. Donation request from the Canadian Council of Churches

Canadian Council of Churches is looking for contribution from member organization for their 80th Anniversary celebration. This request was presented at the Sept 11 Council meeting; and the finance committee has considered this request.

Discussion: The financial requirements from the Canadian Council of Churches are difficult for CABF to meet. Making this contribution is significant from a finance perspective, as it has implications on the tax forms filed; we have turned down other solicitation requests. Despite this, committee members feel that this is an important fund-raising campaign and would support contributing.

MOTION: That CABF contribute \$350 to the Canadian Council of Churches 80th Anniversary fund-raising campaign. Moved: David Allen. Seconded: Ed Colquhoun.

MOTION CARRIED.

b. Retroactive change to “presenter” honourarium for CABF Assemblies and Conferences

Background and Discussion: This would represent an increase of \$50/half day to the previous guidelines for honouraria. It reflects the amount paid to speakers at the 2024 Cross Canada Conference.

MOTION: That effective October 27, 2024, the honourarium for presentations and lectures at CABF assemblies and conferences be \$300 for a half day and \$600 for a full day and that travel expenses for presenters be a rate established by the Finance Committee based on the distance travelled. If two or more individuals contribute to a presentation the honourarium will be shared. Moved: David Allen. Seconded: David Gibson. MOTION CARRIED.

c. Relationship of the Program and the “Planning Committee’ for Rushton and Fall Conference

Concern: The “Planning Committee” is currently described as a sub-committee of the Program Committee; but it doesn’t really fit the definition of sub-committee or ad-hoc committee, and the lines of communication and accountability aren’t sufficiently clear. Clarifying this needs to be an action item going forward, particularly with the Restructuring discussion.

8. Feedback on the CABF Fall Conference

- Thanks to Jenny for the website registration form.
- David Allen has provided a summary of registrations.
- Financially it was a good outcome. There was a deficit of \$627.00, however there was a \$2000 grant from the Christie Fund that more than covers this deficit.
- Marlene created an evaluation form from the conference, we do not have the information from this form, but this may come at a later date.
- The overall organization of the event was very good.
- There were challenges with construction at the venue and poor wi-fi (as a result of the construction). The streaming did not go well. However, we currently have recordings of days

2 and 3 which will be put on the website; day 1 did not get recorded.

- The diversity of speakers was a strength.
- The opportunity to talk to people in person was also a strength of the conference.
- Some did not like the decision to segregate clergy from laypeople for *all* the discussions (instead of changing the discussion groups so that we could get to speak with more people throughout the conference).
- CABF didn't organize an Assembly (a few hours) because of the emphasis on the Cross-Canada event (multi-day event). The Assembly has been an historical strong-point of the organization. It might involve more people and offer opportunity for face-to-face gathering if we can have both, and, going forward, it was suggested that one should not be done at the expense of the other.

**9. Approval of meeting schedules for Council and Executive for new year:
Council – January, March, May, June (if necessary), September
Executive: December, February, April, August (?), October**

This proposed schedule does not include enough meetings to get through all the necessary business and the challenges of CABF. The *minimum* number of council meetings as established by by-laws is 4/year. However, this is not intended to be a maximum or ideal number of meetings. Some items remain tabled for quite some time as we don't have enough meetings. Suggested a minimum of 6 council meetings/year.

- *Council meeting time will be the 2nd Wednesday of every other month (Jan, March, May, June/July (if necessary), September, November) at 1 p.m. Atlantic time.*

Next scheduled Council Meeting is on Wednesday January 8th, 2025

- **DECISION** – Agreed by consensus: That planned Executive Meetings be struck from the schedule. Permit Executive to schedule their own meetings if/when they are deemed necessary. Instead, reserved meeting time on the 2nd Wednesday @ 1 p.m. Atlantic time in the months of December, February, April, August (if necessary), October will be reserved for special meetings of Council to attend to business of restructuring.

Next special meeting: December 11, 2024 @ 1 p.m. Atlantic Time.

10. Restructuring of CABF

This is an important and urgent matter, and needs to be looked after in a timely manner.

Dave Gibson's report for Constitution and Governance Committee provides a good entry into this conversation. Please refer to the report as submitted to Council.

Concerns: workload, vacant positions, and communication/organization. These concerns are all related to the growth of the organization – geographically, growth in number of members, CABF taking on more activities, and contact with like-minded organizations in Canada and internationally. Our organization has not caught up with the actual practice of the CABF as it has grown.

Objective: ensure important items are adequately addressed in the Bylaw, and the Association is provided with a governance model that meets current and future needs.

Items that need to be incorporated into re-structure:

Planning for Cross-Canada Conference

Planning for Assemblies and AGM

Ensuring regional representation in governance and planning

Redistribution of workload between existing committees

Clarifying communication pathways between officers, executive, committees, and between committees

Formalize the role of the Executive

Identify impediments to recruiting vacancies on Council

Review roles and responsibilities of Officers (esp. President)

A proposal was put forward that we “jump start” the process using the existing Constitution and Governance Committee. We empower this committee to add interested individuals and to consult others. There is not a predetermined structure in mind. All suggestions will be brought to Council for ratification, and eventually to be voted on by the wider CABF at a Meeting of Members as an Extraordinary Resolution.

Suggestions: Include representative NOT from Atlantic Canada; include someone who is “younger”.

Time frame: within the next 6 months if possible.

Possibly complete this in a modular fashion as different parts become ready.

Council needs to be involved in: Receiving reports of committee, giving guidance, and making important decisions related to the work in a timely manner. This will require more frequent meetings.

MOTION: That the Constitution and Governance Committee be given a mandate to do a thorough review of 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.

Moved: Dave Gibson. Seconded: Jenny Eisener.

MOTION CARRIED unanimously.

11. Next Meeting Dates:

Special meeting of the Council for restructuring conversation: December 11, 2024, 1-3 p.m. Atlantic time.

General Council will meet: Wednesday January 8th, 2025, 1-3 p.m. Atlantic Time.

12. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at this point as we had reached 3:15 p.m. Atlantic Time.

Ida Armstrong-Whitehouse closed the meeting in prayer.

Please refer to the reports circulated via email for information: Constitution and Governance; Website Committee; Fall Conference Fact and Figures; Membership Committee; and the Banking Summary.

Respectfully submitted, Mandi Hecht