

Annual General Meeting - CABF

October 4, 2014

Location: Chester Baptist Church

39 people in attendance (including members and guests)

1. Welcome and Called to Order

Meeting was **called to order by Rev. John Tonks**, President at 10:53 am.

Rev. Tonks introduced **Rev. Robin Lunn**, Executive Director of the Association for Welcoming and Affirming Baptists (awab.org). Robin brought greetings from AWAB, along with an invitation to join 97 member congregations of AWAB, in a workshop in **Nashville** at the end of October. The workshop is about building bridges across the different stages of marriage.

Another invitation was extended to join AWAB, next year (2015) in **Durban, South Africa**. This gathering is about human rights. So many countries have criminalized gay lesbian people. This gathering is a coalition of Baptist people advocating on behalf of gay lesbian people for the right to live their rights. Robin indicated that if you are not able to be there, please be in discernment with them as they prepare. Folks from Cuba will be joining this event!

Robin introduced her wife, Shayna. Everyone welcomed both Robin and Shayna.

2. Meeting was opened in prayer by Rev. Dr. Roger Prentice

3. Approval of minutes of 2013 AGM

Moved by Susan Colquhoun; seconded by Marilyn Peers. Carried unanimously.

4. Reports:

4.1 Treasurer Report and 2015 Budget

Cynthia Ogilvie, Treasurer – Cynthia referred to the reports distributed:

Attachment #1 – Financial Summaries (2 page report)

Attachment #2 -2015 Budget

Cynthia stated that due to rulings of CRA (Canada Revenue Agency), no receipts will be issued, in the future for membership fees. All other receipts will be sent out shortly. Looking at one side of **Attachment #1**, one side of the report is for 2013 and other side for 2014.

Cynthia directed attention to '*Honorarium (for The Bulletin)*'. The expenses may appear a little high, because we changed how we paid the Editor. At the beginning of 2013, we paid for the previous year 2012. This year we are paying \$500 per edition, 3 times a year.

For investments we separated funds from the Rushton money. At the end of August we sent \$1,000 for investment to the Baptist Foundation. Cynthia advised that the investment at

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Baptist Foundation is at an interest rate of 3% - interest given annually. We will use the interest money to off-set costs of speakers for the Rushton Lecture Luncheon.

Moved by Cynthia to accept the report as presented.

Seconded by Vicki Brown.

Carried unanimously

President **John Tonks** expressed thanks to Cynthia and David for their work. We always know where we are financially throughout the year. This is good!

Cynthia thanked David Allen for his support and his work with her his year; and David expressed his thanks to Cynthia.

David Allen reviewed **Attachment #2**, 2015 budget for CABF.

David explained the challenge of preparing a budget in October (for the annual meeting), for a fiscal year that ends in December.

Our budget goes from January to December; thus we are looking at 2015 budget – going January to December. The 2015 budget is based on 2013 expenses – therefore there are lots of projections.

David drew attention to line 23 'Rushton Lecture & Fall Assembly': we began by breaking Rushton and AGM separately and found it became complicated. Doing this meant we would be limiting The Program Committee on what they might do.

Expenses can vary greatly dependant on who our speakers are, where they come from (Halifax or US). So, rather than break them out, the Finance folks gave the Program Committee the total amount in the budget for them to manage.

This way the Program Committee can plan and they can decide where they can, and need to spend the money.

David Allen moved the adoption of 2015 budget.

Seconded by John Churchill.

Opened the floor for questions/comments:

Harriet McCreedy asked: *'If we have the funds in investments, can we consider sending a member to Durban, South Africa?'*

Ed Colquhoun suggested we could look at expenses involved, and allow Council to take it under advisement.

David Allen referred the membership to line 16 - \$1,200; this money will only cover CCC meeting. We also have representatives who go to AWBA and Alliance. Because of our important partnerships with these organizations – expenses for maintaining these relationships need to be considered. If this budget is passed today, Council will need to determine how to use the \$1,200.

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Vicki Brown asked **Robin (Lunn)** if she know ball-park cost for getting to Durban. Robin advised travel expenses have not been determined as yet. Robin advised she will have more info, after the next Board Meeting, next week.

John Tonks asked that Robin send info to him regarding the cost.

John Boyd stated that he liked the idea being floated. John pointed out that while Durban is a good idea, the costs associated with that kind of travel goes beyond our ordinary fund raising. The relationships we currently have with CCC, AWBA and Alliance are crucial relationships. They are meaningful relationships that support CABF in being able to maintain our goals in the future. These relationships help to maintain us. We want and need these relationships!

If CABF is going to keep these relationships, and establish new relationship, we need to raise the bar. There are people and congregations who will get on board with these ways of connecting and maintaining the work of CABF in this way.

There are people in congregations who will want to support us. John stated that we should not limit ourselves with our budget of today.

John stated that he affirmed what Harriet raised about going to Durban. The concern appears to how we will pay for these kinds of things. (Rather than using our investments to fund these new relationships). John suggested this requires more discussion than what we have time for today. There is lots of opportunity for CABF; and I (John Boyd) can't believe there are not opportunities with resources (even in this room) that may be willing to support these kinds of things.

Everyone agreed this was a suggestion (about a representative of CABF go to Durban) would be left with the Council to consider this opportunity.

Question was called and the

Motion carried unanimously.

4.2 Membership Report

David Allen stated the major initiative this year was the consolidation of all our records into one place. David stated that we now have one data base. We took all the lists – 'Friends' and membership lists, and pulled them all together to make one master contact list. Therefore the master list now includes anyone who was a 'Friend' with CABF and/or had membership with CABF.

See Attachment #3 – CABF Database Facts & Figures– for numbers related to the breakdown of our membership per province, state, etc. **David Allen** read this report.

Starting out this morning we had 41 members, plus 1 or 2 new members added this morning.

David explained that membership fee paid is for the calendar year. We only meet twice a year and sometimes people forget whether or not they paid membership. Please know that if you

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over pay your yearly membership fee, we will carry it over to the following year – and the next year – and next year, and on and on – if required. I (David Allen) encourage you to renew your membership or if you are not a member, become a member. Cynthia is happy to take your \$10. Also Roger has been kind enough to put a page in 'The Bulletin', a form - you can use to send in your membership.

Official membership is down; we hope to get up to 150.

Some notes about The Bulletin: We have been able to collect email addresses, for our data base, using email addresses we have received for our events. We have 100 households we can contact by email. We have 268 friends/membership. If you have an email address and we don't have it, please leave it at the registration desk.

Since consolidating our records, we have an updated mailing list for 'The Bulletin'. With this up-to-date mailing list our printer (who sends out 'The Bulletin') can send it out, and you will receive it within 3 or 4 days of mailing.

Hopefully this means we will not have many returned Bulletins. We are mailing 'The Bulletin' to 257 households and 60 organizations/associations; 1260 copies of 'The Bulletin' are sent out.

David (Allen) moved the acceptance of this report.

Seconded by Susan Colquhoun.

Opened the floor for questions/comments:

Susan Colquhoun asked what happened to the 'Friends' that had been established by Dorothy Lumston.

David answered that all 'Friends' have been included as members.

We have dropped the term 'friend'. As an incorporated body need to have memberships.

Question from **Jean XXXXX**: Couldn't we save money on postage if we send 'The Bulletin' out via email? Why don't we send The Bulletin out via email?

David advised we could do that. If you wanted to have only an email copy of 'The Bulletin', you only need to tell us. Also, if you decide you don't want to receive a copy of 'The Bulletin' at your home, and you would pick up a copy at your church, just let us know. Also, The Bulletin is on our website.

Rick Manuel – self-identified as treasurer of his church

If we can tailor the volume of editions of 'The Bulletin', we should do that; for those who want an online version that would reduce costs; I'd (Rick) be happy to received 'The Bulletin' online version only.

David (Allen) advised that we can do that for Rick. David also spoke to the how much the cost might be reduced. David advised we may save a bit - with post office we can sometimes send

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50, for the cost of 20; and the same applies with printing costs – sometimes it cost as much or more, to print 20 versus printing 50 copies.

Harriet McCready asked if it would be possible to put the date an individual's membership expires on the address label of 'The Bulletin'. Harriet does this for a newsletter she does. Harriet thinks this might help folks know the date they should renew their membership. .

David (Allen) said that was a 'technical thing'. He would have to do this as a one-shot deal – do it for the entire organization. We would have to advise our publisher when it came to printing the labels for mailing. It is something that he would have to look at with our current data base functionality.

Vicki Brown stated she belongs to 'The Canadian Association for Young Children', and she has just been asked to remove the membership expiration date, from their labels.

More discussion followed. It is something to think about; however, the initial reaction is because membership is based on a calendar year and 'The Bulletin' is sent three times a year, there are challenges with organizing this. David advised we can tell you at any time your membership expires. We will give this suggestion some thought. Also, we can just as easily send an email to each member when their membership expires.
Question called.

Motion carried unanimously.

4.3 Credentials Committee Update

Roger Prentice reported:

The Credentials Committee meets about every 6 weeks. The Committee is made up of Rev. John Boyd, Marilyn Peers and me – our President attends as time allows.

The Committee is now working on procedures for ordination, and accredited clergy members. Our work has been interrupted by 2 applications, that is, requests from clergy to be accredited by CABF.

This is all new to us in a variety of ways. Therefore, we are considering very carefully, the process for clergy to be accredited - and we want to do this right. The only other thing I (Roger) can say about these requests from clergy is that we will come back with a notice of motion on licencing people and ordaining them

Roger moved the acceptance of his report as presented.

Seconded by John Boyd.

After his report on credentials, Roger commented on 'The Bulletin':
(Roger is 'The Bulletin' Editor). Roger stated that he has received comments (a couple of them) coming from those who get a printed copy, that they appreciate the paper copy. Roger always

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appreciates receiving feedback on 'The Bulletin'. He is trying to give a broad perspective of interest in the various articles in 'The Bulletin'. Roger says he sees 'The Bulletin', the printed copy, as an opportunity for evangelism; remember 'The Bulletin' is not just for you – share it with your family and friends; 'The Bulletin' should be placed in the church bulletin each Sunday. Roger stated his personal experience – 'I don't look at the web pages; having the printed copy laying around the house means it can be picked up and talked about and the articles can be explained.' Also, the printed copy is an opportunity for guests at church to take it home with them. I've very interested in anyone who would like to have a copied mailed to them, because their church does not receive it.'

Opened the floor for questions/comments:

Someone asked how many clergy are presently recognized by CABF? 16 - credentialed by CABF and another 3 that are, licenced to marry.

Motion carried unanimously.

4.4 Constitution Report

John Churchill – indicated that 'once there was a committee - now it is me'.

This past year we have been working trying to prove to CRA we are a charitable organization.

Lee (Nicholas-Pattillo) has been doing the work.

Perhaps she can give a brief update.

Update from Lee: CRA has not as yet changed our name from ABF to CABF.

In the spring, after Cynthia had done a great amount of work with CRA, she turned it over to me. The last communication we received from CRA stated that they '*required one more thing*' before they changed our name. The one more thing was a copy of minutes from our last AGM (2013) along with the most recent copy of our By-Laws and Memorandum of Association. These documents had to be certified by Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

We have the documents. After a number of attempts of getting the documents certified by Registrar of Joint Stock Companies, I have recently been able to communicate with an individual at the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies who knows exactly what CRA requires. Early in September I sent this lady all the documents, paid the money we were required to pay, and am waiting for the certified copies of the documents. Once I receive them I will forward them to CRA – and hope for the best.

Moved by John Churchill this report be accepted as presented.

Seconded by Gary Nelson

Question.

Carried unanimously.

4.5 Website –John Churchill

Our site is alive and well. Send your rants, articles, things on your mind and

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send your replies to question-of-the-day: The question today is: *'Do you think the one day AGM is a good idea?'*

Please give us your vote.

Moved by John Churchill the report be accepted as presented.

Seconded by Vicki Brown

Carried unanimously.

4.6 Canadian Council of Churches (CCC) – John Tonks

CABF is a member of CCC. Dan Gibson was our representative. Since Dan's illness, we haven't sent a rep to any recent meetings. However, as President it falls on me. The next meeting is in the fall. CCC is celebrating its 70th anniversary. I'm unable to attend, so **John Boyd** is going in my place. I will attend the next meeting of the CCC Council (in May 2015), on behalf of CABF. Recently John (Boyd) and I have had a conversation with Karen Hamilton, General Secretary of CCC, she is aware of John attending the meeting next month (November).

At this time, I believe John (Boyd) has greetings from Karen on behalf of CCC.

See Attachment #4 – Greetings from CCC. John read the greeting.

CCC is one of our important links; and certainly if at any time we have military chaplains who we will credential, CCC will play a vital part.

John Tonks moved the report be accepted as presented.

Seconded by Hugh Kirkeggard.

Carried unanimously.

New Business

1. Motion re: increase in membership fees – John Churchill

Current membership fee is \$10/year. Council has recommended raising this fee to \$20/year.

John Churchill moved the membership be raised to \$20/year.

Seconded by Evelyn Buckley

Carried unanimously.

Other business - David Ogilvie

David offered an addendum, regarding the Membership Committee: I am the Committee. I want to express how appreciative I am of David Allen for taking on the task of getting our ONE membership list on line!

And, just in case you are questioned at your church about what right to insert 'The Bulletin' in the church bulletin, remind your folks that your congregation **is** a member of CABF. And if your church is not a member of CABF, I encourage you to have your congregation become a member of CABF. All someone has to do is send a letter from your congregation and send a contribution to CABF.

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We would love to expand our membership of 13 churches.

Hadley Hopkins wanted to refer back to something that John Boyd was part of. Some time ago someone from CABF meet with Harry Gardner. Has anyone from our group (CABF) been to CABC's recent convention? Have we any kind of relationship with the Convention?

Note: There was no direct response.

John Boyd acknowledged that he heard Hadley's comment as an invitation for a conversation with Convention to see if they want to converse with us (CABF). John indicated there is no reason why we wouldn't pursue any reasonable conversation with CABC (Harry Gardner) and that Council will determine if this is possible.

ACTION: Council gives this consideration.

Susan Colquhoun – noted that two members of CABF who are present, are on the Board of the Divinity College and/or on the Board of Governors of Acadia.

Jenny Csinos gave a closing prayer.

John Boyd moved to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned 12:09 pm.