

ABF Annual General Meeting at First Baptist Church Halifax
October 1, 2011

1. Rev. Jeff White, President welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 1:24 pm.
2. Prayer was given by Rev. Jeff White.
3. Acceptance of minutes of September 25, 2010
Dan Gibson moved that the minutes of last year's meeting (September 25, 2010) be accepted as presented. **Sharon McGill** seconded. Motion carried.
4. Introduction to ABF - Hedley Hopkins
Hedley described what it meant for him to be a member of ABF. Hedley described ABF as a safe place where anyone could come and talk about anything, share experiences, and discuss issues of-the-day. His reference was John 8, 31 & 32. This reference was read from various resources. Hedley believes ABF is important in this changing world. Today's world issues can be discussed in a true and real manner at ABF; we are respectful to one another about anything. **No action.**
5. Motion for acceptance of New Constitution - Rev. Jeffery White
Dan Gibson moved the Annual General Meeting be adjourned so those present could reconvene as a Committee of the Whole to review the amendments/recommendations for the proposed constitution. **Ed Colquhoun** seconded. Motion carried.
Discussion in Committee of the Whole on amendments/recommendations:
 1. David Gibson suggested that rather than keep the 'Memorandum of Association' as a document separate from the By Laws, that the 9 objectives be added to the By Laws, in Article #2. (Perhaps as a 2a. - or whatever works best.)
 2. Within the 9 objectives, **Objective 1** was revised to read: *To witness to the freedom implicit in the voluntary principle of religion, which is a fundamental tenet of historical identity;*
 3. Within the 9 objectives, **Objective 5** was revised to read: *To bear witness to these objectives with and among Baptist regionally, as well as nationally and internationally;*
 4. Within the 9 objectives, **Objective 7** was revised to read: To associate and co-operate with other likeminded organizations, such as **but not limited to**, the Atlantic Ecumenical Council, The Canadian Council of Churches, The Gathering of Baptists, **Canadian Baptists Ministries** and the Alliance of Baptists;
 5. Ed Colquhoun recommended that in Article 1. (b) 'Church Members', be changed to member **church**. This change should be made throughout the document.
 6. Article 8, was revised to read..... 'each eligible to **one (1)** vote at any Members meeting of the Fellowship and may not vote as **an individual member**. Any member of a Church Member who is of legal age is entitled to hold any office in the Fellowship.' **The last line should be deleted...** (i.e., remove 'Any individual voting as a member shall not be eligible to vote as a church member.')

7. Dan Gibson recommended Article 50 (c) be revised. This article was revised to read: the Nominating Committee; which shall work under the leadership of the Past President to prepare and publish an annual slate of Officers and other leaders **which shall be presented as nominations** at the Annual General Meeting.
8. Article 55. - the 5th bullet, was revised to read: Willingness to affirm the Covenant **and share the mission of ABF** and the 6th bullet was revised to read: Commitment to sharing the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ
9. Dave Gibson recommended that Articles 66 and 67 be suspended until we are incorporated. This means these articles will remain as they have been presented in the By Laws; however, they are not in effect until ABF is incorporated. These articles need to remain in the document because they are required for incorporation.
10. David Dexter suggested that the Constitution Committee consider expanding on the existing preamble. Perhaps include the four fragile freedoms of Baptists. At least consider adding something that would more explicitly describe who we are as Baptists. All agreed this will be considered by the Constitution Committee.

The Committee of the Whole was adjourned and members returned to the Annual General Meeting.

Upon returning to the Annual General Meeting **Dan Gibson moved** that the report from the Committee of the Whole be accepted. **Frank McGill seconded**. Motion carried. Once the amendments/recommendations (as listed in these minutes) were unanimously accepted, **Pauline Allsop moved** that the amended draft document (the By-Laws) be accepted. **Terry Tingley seconded**. Motion unanimously carried.

Dan Gibson moved to allow for all those in attendance to have voting privileges from here on in during this Annual General Meeting. **Renee Clark second**. Carried unanimously.

6. Motion to Incorporate ABF

Gary Nelson moved that the Executive in Council continue their work to incorporate ABF. **Debbie Boyd seconded**. . Carried unanimously.

7. Motion to join 'Canadian Council of Churches' - Dr. Dan Gibson

Dan Gibson moved ABF seek membership in the Canadian Council of Churches. **John Tonks seconded**.

Discussion followed: Dan Gibson explained membership in *Canadian Council of Churches* means:

1. We will be 1 of 23 Christian denominations across Canada who are members of CCC.
2. The mandate of *Canadian Council of Churches* is to represent 85% of Christians in Canada (including Military Chaplains, hospital Chaplains, prison Chaplains, etc.).
3. *Canadian Council of Churches* dialogues with various faith groups across Canada.
4. *Canadian Council of Churches* uses the 'forum' model for discussion; there is no voting.
5. Membership fee is any contribution made by any association.

6. A contribution of \$250 from ABF would be a reasonable donation for a fellowship our size.
7. There are meetings (two times a year) that we can have representatives attend.

Carried unanimously

8 Reports:

8.1- President's Report - Rev. Jeff White

Jeff expressed thanks for the work done by everyone on three (3) main tasks, during his time as President. The three (3) tasks include: (1) the Constitution Committee who worked on the By-Laws; (2) everyone who worked on the incorporation of AFB and (3) the talented people he had the pleasure of working with during this Annual General Meeting. Jeff expressed his gratefulness and thanks for all of this. **No action.**

8.2 Nomination Report - Rev. David Ogilvie

David Ogilvie distributed the nomination report (**Atlantic Baptist Fellowship - Report of the Nominating Committee**) and moved the report be accepted.

See the attached '**Atlantic Baptist Fellowship - Report of the Nominating Committee**'.

Additional nominations were asked for the appropriate three times.

David Allen moved nominations cease. **Susan Colquhoun** seconded. **Carried.**

John Boyd moved the new Council fill any remaining vacancies.

David Ogilvie seconded. **Carried.**

8.3 Friends Report - No Report.

8.4 Treasurer's Report - Paul Burden - No Report

8.5 Atlantic Ecumenical Council Representative - Rev. John Boyd

John provided info on the Ecumenical Council:

1. In the 1960's the Atlantic Ecumenical Council (the Council) was formed by various religious bodies
2. Over the years the Council had many accomplished speakers; and every second year a major speaker was invited
3. Something unique about the Council was the involvement of the Roman Catholic Church in the Atlantic Council but not involved in the Canadian Council of Churches.
4. Because of this Council it became 'old hat' that Christians would get together for various reasons.
5. Unfortunately, leaders in the various regions forgot to appoint people to the Council; so much so that in the last year and a half, it has to the point that a decision needs to be made as to whether or not the Atlantic Ecumenical Council should exist.
6. John indicated that he did not think it was realistic that the Council would continue.

John moved that his report be accepted. **Frank McGill** seconded it. **Motion carried.**

8.6 Website Manager - John Churchill

John Churchill was absent. Lee advised the website (www.atlanticbaptistfellowship.ca) was up and working and that we would be using it to keep members informed.

Also, she encouraged the members to use the established email address: abf@ns.sympatico.ca as a means of communicating with us to address their comments, questions and/or concerns.

She advised we are continuing to work on the website and through the website we will keep them informed on the progress of the By-Laws, the new name, etc.

No motion made.

9 New Business:

1. Search for a new name:

Gary Nelson moved that the Council be directed to search a new name.

David Dexter seconded. Motion carried.

2. Membership Fees:

Dan Gibson moved individual membership fee be \$10.00 annually and Church membership fee be an annual donation.

Roger Prentice seconded. Motion carried.

David Gibson moved that all member churches under the former constitution of ABF be accepted as new members of the new ABF, if they (the churches) want to.

Hugh Kirkeggard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

David Dexter thanked all members of ABF who helped in making the 40th Anniversary celebration and this Annual General Meeting so successful.

Meeting adjourned at 3:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Lee Nicholas-Pattillo

Secretary