

## CABF President's Annual Report 2021/22

*May you listen to your longing to be free. . . . May you arise each day with a voice of blessing whispering in your heart. May you find a harmony between your soul and your life. . . .*  
(John O'Donohue *To Bless the Space Between Us*, p44)

CABF is a continually expanding organism, reaching out to include all who are searching for a home for their theologies, preferences, and futures. As an all inclusive soul, we open our hearts and membership to all who wish to enter.

Over the past year, due to the continuance of COVID, our world continued to function more realistically and safely through distance communications. Our Council and full membership meetings were all held via ZOOM, and our Anniversary celebration in June as well as our Rushton Lecture in October were conducted both in person and live streamed. This ensured the safety of all who wished to attend.

In the spring President's Report, I wrote the following:

"This past month brought to CABF and friends a wound to our hearts as we faced the reality of the loss of our brother, colleague and friend, Rev. Dr. Roger Prentice. And we mourned, but we also laughed and found joy in various stories and memories. Roger has touched each of us in various ways and for that we shall appreciate and find joy in having known him. We wear his ties, and we read his Mildred series books, and we find comfort.

On April 23, at the Gathering of Baptists event, I was privileged to be a part of a panel of three where we discussed releasing those strict dogmatic voices from our past, and as pastors, how best to respond to others who are steeped in their fundamentalism. As well, I was invited to bring greetings from CABF at their business meeting."

On June 3, we celebrated with joy the 50th Anniversary of C-ABF, and thoughtfully entertained information from our past, celebrated our present, and peeked into our future, under the titles Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow.

In June of 2022, sadly, our Vice President, Rev. Dr. Don Flowers resigned, and we were grateful for the addition of Rev. Dr. Dan Green to be included on our executive. Welcome.

Over the course of the year, as President, I was invited to bring greetings and a message to First Baptist Halifax, and Port Williams Baptist (x2). Other Sundays were spent in worship via live-stream or Youtube, with the other CABF member churches, from Edmonton, Burlington, Brampton, and the various churches here in Nova Scotia. What an opportunity to have these powerful expressions of worship so easily accessible. It was also a privilege to bring the Induction Message at First Baptist Amherst for Rev. Jeff White in September. (Another rich blessing)

As ex-officio, it was encouraging to spend time meeting the the Credentials Committee (taking part in interviews and zoom discussions with potential member churches and pastors across Canada), the Program Committee (feeling the energy leading up to the Rushton Lecture in October), and the Anniversary Committee (so many ideas and dreams for our celebration). It has also been encouraging to plan for an Ordination Examining Council on November 15,2022.

The executive committee, comprised of Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Nominating Chair were a constant blessing of solidarity and sound judgement. Thank you.

*We bless this year for all we learned, for all we loved and lost and for the quiet way it brought us nearer to our invisible destination. ( John O'Donohue: 160)*

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Dr. Marlene Knowles