

Minutes of CABF Annual Meeting
October 20, 2012
Wolfville Baptist Church

1. Welcome and Call To Order – Dan Gibson, President

Meeting was called to order at 11:07 am. Approximately 40 people were in attendance.

2. Prayer – Dan Gibson

Prayer said by Rev. Gibson.

3. Acceptance of Minutes of Annual Meeting October 1, 2011

Minutes of the October 1, 2011 Annual Meeting was made available before this meeting. Dan asked for errors and/or omissions from the minutes. No errors and/or omissions. Minutes approved and accepted as presented.

Dan advised that at the end of the meeting a single motion would be made to accept the reports presented.

4. Reports:

4.1 President's Report – Dan Gibson, President

Dan read his report. **Attachment #1** to these minutes.

Dan gave report for CCC (Canadian Council of Churches). Noted the CCC is the same organization as *US Council of Churches*; however, CCC includes membership of Roman Catholics (RC). RC membership with CCC has been going on for 25 year; whereas *US Council of Churches* does not include RC brothers and sisters. We have one Minister from Ontario/Quebec who has applied (will be announced later in this meeting) for accreditation also with CABF. Presently CABF has 11 ministers registered/recognized by CABF. Dan informed the membership that Ministers can be recognized by more than one organization. CABF is not exclusive. A Minister would not be asked to give up one organization for recognition by CABF.

The intention of CABF is that any Minister can be recognized by CABF and retain other registrations/recognitions. Ministers can have dual membership with CABF and other organizations of their choice. NO ACTION.

4.2 Nomination Report – Jeff White

Jeff White informed the membership that as per our Constitution, Council positions are a term of 2 years. Realizing that we have been incorporated for one year, this means at this time, there are no requirements for new positions. NO ACTION

4.3 Recognition of Clergy – Roger Prentice

As Chair of the Credentials Committee, Roger presented CABF Certificates of Recognition to:

Boyd, John E.	Rev.
Churchill, John	Rev. Dr.
Clark, Renee	Rev.
Gibson, Daniel	Rev. Dr.
Ogilvie, David	Rev.
Prentice, Roger	Rev. Dr.
Tingley, Terry	Rev.
Radford, Bert	Rev.
Tonks, John	Rev.
White, Jeffrey	Rev.
Kirkeggard, Hugh	Rev (Chaplain)

Rev. Dan Gibson presented the certificate of Recognition to Rev. Dr. Prentice. Also, Roger acknowledged that four of our Ministers (Rev. John Boyd, Rev. Dr. John Churchill, Rev. David Ogilvie and Rev. John Tonks) now are licenced by CABF, to perform marriages. NO ACTION.

4.4 Recognition of our good partner Gary Nelson – John Churchill

John Churchill presented Gary Nelson with a gift on behalf of CABF. Gary was acknowledged for his great work, and support with the Council. Gary provided support for the application to Vital Statistics and filed the application for Incorporation. Many thanks to Gary from everyone.
NO ACTION

4.5 Treasurer’s Report – Cynthia Ogilvie, Treasurer

John Churchill acknowledged our blessing of having Cynthia join Council as our Treasurer. **Attachment #2** to these minutes is the Treasurer’s report. A proposed 2013 Budget is included in the report. Cynthia explained the ‘Outreach’ was money that was distributed to other charities.
Moved by Cynthia that the report be accepted.
Seconded by John Churchill. **Passed** unanimously.

4.6 Membership Report – David Ogilvie

David advised we have 80 individual members and 12 churches. He encouraged everyone to pay their 2013 membership before leaving the meeting and those that are not members to consider becoming members.

David read a letter from one of our members – Jud Cory. Because of his age, Jud was unable to travel; however, sent a delightful note. NO ACTION

4.7 Credentials Committee Update – Roger Prentice

Roger read his report, **Attachment #3** to these minutes.

Along with reading his report Roger indicated that one area of the credentials that is being reviewed and re-considered is the reference to Baptist World Alliance.

Also, Roger stated there are two requests from Ministers who want to be accredited by CABF. One cannot be considered at this time; and for the other, a motion will be made at this meeting.

Roger moved that: upon the unanimous agreement of the Credentials Committee, that Paul Dekar be accredited as clergy with the CABF.

Seconded by Hugh Kirkeggard. **Passed** unanimously.

(Attachment 3a to these minutes provides a brief resume of Paul Dekar.)

Approximately half of those present at the meeting know Paul.

ACTION: Lee (Secretary) to send certificate and letter of recognition to Paul and request the necessary documentation from Paul

Roger listed the names of the four (4) Ministers presently licensed by CABF: (1) Rev. John Boyd (2) Rev. Dr. John Churchill (3) Rev. David Ogilvie and (4) Rev. John Tonks.

Rev. John Boyd expressed thanks to Lee (Nicholas-Pattillo, CABF Secretary) for the work done on the application to Vital Statistics to have CABF recognized as a religious body, therefore allowing CABF to request licenses for Ministers to perform marriages in the province of Nova Scotia.

CABF Bulletin – Update provided by Dan Gibson

Dan advised and thanked John Boyd for preparing the brochure for this week-end's meeting. 1600 copies were printed. The brochure was our main advertising tool.

250 copies of the brochure were sent across Canada and the remaining 1200 were distributed (in bulk) to the churches.

NO ACTION

4.8 Constitution Report – John Churchill

John advised CABF is presently working on reports for CRA. CRA is always interested in money that CABF gives to other charities.

John (Churchill) gave due notice for coming revisions to the Constitution:

Article 46.B – currently this article, in part reads

b) *have responsibility for the preparation and custody of all books and records of ...*

Gary suggests that we revise this to add the words '**non-financial**' following '*all*'.

Article 55.2 – currently this article, in part reads...

Or (2) are currently accredited by a denomination within the Baptist World Alliance.

Gary suggests that we revise this to add the words '**and are in good standing**' following the word '*accredited*'.

John noted that there are occasions when it may be a good decision that some not be 'in good standing'. The 'not good standing' could arise from a disagreement – and the disagreement could be 'a badge of honour'.

John indicated that this portion of Article 55 requires attention. This will be reviewed by the Council/Constitution Committee and new language will be determined.

Revisions to both Articles (Article 46 and 55) will be presented and voted on at the Spring Rushton Lecture in 2013 – June 1, 2012, at Acadia Chapel. This is due notice to the membership.

ACTION as noted.

4.9 Website Report – John Churchill

John clarified the new web address for CABF. We are one of the very few web addresses that use the hyphen in our address. Our address is 'C' hyphen (-) 'A' 'B' 'F'.ca. This is because 'CABF' was already in use.

John encouraged everyone to be sure to use the correct address and to visit our website often.

NO ACTION

4.10 Canadian Council of Churches (CCC) Report – Dan Gibson

CCC reaches out to those in good faith. CCC uses the consensus model for decision making. When CABF was presented for membership to CCC, the 24 organization being represented at CCC, unanimously accepted CABF.

Dan advised CCC website is 'councilofchurches.ca'. NO ACTION.

David Allen moved that all reports be accepted as presented.

Seconded by Terry Tingley. **Passed.**

5. New Business:

5.1 Prison Chaplaincy – John Tonks & John Boyd

John Boyd gave the background to the current situation about the withdrawal of clergy in the prison system.

- The clergy work was being done by three resources: (1) Full time Chaplains, (2) Part time contractors – these are identified, well trained, and creditable 'clergy persons'; made up mostly of Muslims, Seeks, Buddhist, etc. and (3) volunteers who are recruited by and trained by the full time Chaplains and the part time contractors.
- The Charter of Rights and the UN Charter of Human Rights indicates the rights of inmates to have religious service in prison.
- The current program has been developed by the experience and work of many over the years. Charlie Taylor saw the great vision for this kind of service.
- In August a request was placed in a newspaper for the Wicca faith; a part time position; a regular, traditional request.

- A Global reporter saw the request and made noise: along the lines, *'this is great; the government is now supporting witches.'*
- Minister Vic Tades, responded with a somewhat knee-jerk reaction, stating that there would no longer for any part time contracts for non-Christian faith groups – the minority group
- Tades stated the 2500 plus volunteers and the full time Chaplains would be responsible for ALL inmates – for all religions.
- The existing full time Chaplains have stated they will continue to work to do what they can, to meet the religious needs of all inmates. They will do what they can to make this work.
- However, these Chaplains are not trained in all religions. And, these Chaplains are the same people who train the volunteers. Not being aware and familiar with all religions, these Chaplains will not be able to train new volunteers for these minority religions.
- These Chaplains cannot read Arabic, or interpret the Koran, etc.
- This decision does not satisfy the rights and religious freedoms of inmates.

Moved by John Boyd, that the Canadian Association for Baptist Freedoms write to the Government of Canada requesting that the Minister of Justice rescind the decision to cancel all part-time chaplaincy contracts in Correctional Services of Canada. See **Attachment #4**

Seconded by Frank McGill

Discussion followed:

- It was recommended this motion should be adopted and sent on behalf of CABF and it should be copied to XXXXX with a covering letter and others should be copied too. We also need to make this public.
- Hedley Hopkins said there were significant statements in the document. He stated that he didn't recall meeting a prisoner who wanted the religion process a concern. Rather, he found them accepting of what was presented them. Hedley felt this was not a helpful resolution; there was not need to be requesting more resources and training. He explained his view of Charlie Taylor's approach of getting willing and accepting good people to assist and support the inmates; people who could share and support what the inmates desired and felt they needed, as individual, in their specific circumstances. This worked and could work this approach versus a religion specific approach should work.
- John Boyd indicated that Aboriginal spirituality would not be changed by this decision. People in prison are not all Christians; even Charlie Taylor could not deliver to the Jews. What is being directed now will not give the same perspective; at the same time, the resolution does not stress on 'training'.
- John said anyone could go to the St. Luke Centre (on Springhill grounds) and have a service; however, this decision removes the possibility to bring in a 'specialist' – to be there. It is more likely it means a volunteer will be called in. This doesn't work, when there are more Islamic people

in the country and consequently, the possibility of more Islamic people in prison – where's the specialist for these people? What about the Roman Catholics who want last rites and mass....it may be that a local priest will have to be called.

An amendment was suggested....supply permanent Chaplains of other faiths....

David Allen commented that the amendment meant we were talking 'apples and oranges'John (Boyd) was speaking of services and rights of inmates and Hedley was talking about a method of training.

The amendment failed.

John (Boyd) stated he agreed with Hedley's intention, if there was more possibility that the decision would be reversed.

Hugh (Kirkeggard) indicated that there are 70 Muslims in 5 prisons across the country. Part Time clergy for a minority group like this would normally be hired and would work with the Chaplains. This faith group of Muslims is the largest of the various faith groups, to the smallest group - Jewish inmates – and other small groups – Hindu for example. As things sit, using existing Christian clergy to support and service these minority groups will definitely be a challenge.

Hugh expressed his appreciation at being able to speak to this issue with colleagues.

The original amendment was accepted by John (Boyd) as a 'friendly amendment.'
The revised motion reads as:

Be it resolved that the Canadian Association for Baptist Freedoms request that the Minister of Public Safety rescind the decision to cancel all part-time chaplaincy contracts in the Correctional Service of Canada.

The motion passed. **Attachment #4a shows the revised motion.**

John Tonks has the names the letter/motion should be sent to.

ACTION: President, Dan Gibson to send and accompanying letter along with the passed motion, on behalf of CABF.

5.2 Relationship with Peace Fellowship – David Ogilvie

David Ogilvie spoke to the existing relationships that CABF has (i.e. Peace Fellowship via David Ogilvie; Alliance of Baptist via Lee Nicholas-Pattillo) and how there is no established covenant about how these relationships should be established, what it means for CABF to be partners in these relationships and how funds and/or dues for these relationships should be addressed by CABF.

David suggested that CABF establish a model that would be inclusive for all existing and future relationships. Dan suggested that we include the Baptist Joint Committee Religious Liberties as well.

Hedley Hopkins stated that he would encourage us to be certain that we not lose our own identity while establishing this covenant.

Other groups listed that CABF might consider partnership with included:

- The Gathering
- Welcoming and Affirming Baptist
- Cuban Fraternity

David indicated that the Baptist Peace Fellowship was searching for a new Board Member from Eastern Canada. He asked that folks give this some consideration; and anyone could speak with him or Ledayne.

ACTION: David Ogilvie and Lee Nicholas-Pattillo will work on establishing a Partnerships' Covenant.

John Boyd moved the meeting be adjourned.

Seconded by Hugh Kirkeggard

Meeting adjourned approximately 1:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted by
Lee Nicholas-Pattillo, Secretary CABF

Approved by Chair and President CABF
Rev. Dr. Dan Gibson