

ABF Council Meeting Minutes

for December 8. 2011

Attendees:

John Boyd John Churchill John Tonks
Dan Gibson Jeff White David Ogilvie
Lee Nicholas-Pattillo

Absent:

Paul Burden Kim Sweet

Regrets:

Renee Clark and Roger Prentice

Agenda Items:

1. General updates from everyone
2. Need for new Treasurer
3. Update on ABF's Membership in Canadian Council of Churches (CCC)
4. Update from Accreditation Committee
5. Update from Constitution Committee
6. Update from/about 'The Bulletin'
7. Update from Membership Committee
8. New name for ABF
9. Rushton Lecture for 2012 Spring
10. Review of Truro Fall Assembly
11. Website Update

Meeting opened in prayer by Dan Gibson.

Minutes of November meeting were not reviewed at this time.

1. General updates from everyone

We were advised (by David Ogilvie) that at some point in the process of incorporation Convention had removed the requirement for baptism by immersion from several places within the incorporation document. However, in the more recent version of the incorporation document the requirement for baptism by immersion has been added back into the document.

John Boyd advised that FBCH has started working on a new insurance/benefits package. John pointed out that one of the articles in the benefits document that addresses, who may be covered by CABC benefits, indicates that benefits may be provided to agencies that work with CABC. As tenuous as this connection may be, it may be worth considering for churches that decide to leave Convention and are searching for new benefits. Presently FBCH hasn't come to a decision on how pension will be dealt with for the FBCH staff.

Dan informed us that an individual who is currently in the CABC pension plan (such as John) can demand that they remain in the plan - at least for the next three years. It was suggested that it may be of value for ABF to develop an insurance/pension plan. Dan also advised that CBM manages the CABC pension and they administer the CBM medical plan. Perhaps CBM may be interested in helping ABF establish a medical/pension plan.

Dan attended a meeting approximately 10 days ago to share ABF's view on the current convention issues regarding incorporation. The meeting was also attended by Doug Schofield (to advise of CABC's views), Gary Nelson (for a legal view) and Rev. Ron Baxter, Regional Minister who presented factual detail re: medical, pension, accreditation, etc.. It was intended to be an information session - this lasted for all of 20 seconds. Dan gave the possible options the churches had - including joining ABF. Doug stated that Dan's intent (i.e. ABF's intent) was to split convention. Gary informed everyone that ABF did not start the existing issue - rather CABC initiated the current situation because of their approach of exclusion rather than inclusion of the churches.

Dan will be attending a meeting in Scotch Village in the near future. He will discuss the possible options with them.

Falmouth church will make their decision (whether or not to remain with CABC) at their annual meeting. It appears they may go the way of Port Williams; i.e. they will send a letter addressing areas they do not agree with.)

David (Ogilvie) and Dan met with the President (Cameron (Cam) Watts) of the Gathering. Where ABF is more institutional, the Gathering has never been. The Gathering more likely deals with issues. Presently it doesn't make sense for the Gathering to join ABF. However, the Gathering may want to take on individual membership at ABF.

First Baptist Truro has an information session regarding Convention - to stay or not to stay. Another information session is scheduled. Presently they are considering taking a vote at the annual meeting. This would be after the second information

session. The congregation will vote by secret ballot. The ballot having three choices: (1) yes (2) no (3) yes but.... The count needs to be more than 50% for the 'Yes' ballots; or more than 50% for the 'yes but' ballots. That's the way it looks at this time. John (Tonks) has given his resignation for the end of June; with the disclaimer that if the church does not have a new minister, he will stay and continue to help.

John (Tonks) advised us that Andy called him last week. He is well settled in at his church in Westdale (in Hamilton) and he is happy.

No action.

2. Need for new Treasurer

Dan read an email sent from Paul Burden, resigning immediately, from his position as Treasurer. Paul suggested that an audit be done upon his departure. He also noted his concerns regarding the way payment was being made without receipts. Paul cautioned ABF about the possibility of being audited by the government and the concerns this may cause. We will take Paul's recommendations under advisement.

Dan acknowledged Dan's resignation and asked for a convenient time that he could meet with Paul to discuss the current finances and financial situation.

After a number of previously recommended names had been approached for the position of Treasurer and all have declined it was suggested that Cynthia Ogilvie should be approached. David (Ogilvie) immediately called and discussed this with Cynthia who agreed to accept the position. (Thank you Cynthia!) Cynthia advised she would be unable to attend all our meetings; however, she would perform the duties of the position as best as she could with this guideline.

John Tonks moved that Cynthia Ogilvie be accepted to the position of Treasurer. **Seconded by Jeff White. Motion carried unanimously.**

With Cynthia taking over as Treasurer, this will require documents be signed at the bank; and because we are out of touch with the current financial situation an update of the finances will be required - an update on all accounts.

One action item required (as moved) in our November meeting, all cheques will require a minimum of two signatures. The four officers (President Dan Gibson; Vice President John Tonks, Secretary Lee Nicholas-Pattillo and Treasurer will be the signing officers. Any two of the four will be acceptable for cheques.

Lee will contact Cynthia and together they will determine what action is required; get the action rolling to remove Paul Burden, add Cynthia and then contact those needed to be involved.

Action: Lee contact Cynthia (902.678.5473)

3. Update on ABF's Membership in Canadian Council of Churches (CCC)

Dan advised that the board of CCC has unanimously accepted ABF's application.

There was discussion by Jeremy Bell on the CCC board. Jeremy asked if CABC had been consulted about ABF's membership request. Jeremy was educated that it was not the habit of CCC to check with non-members (i.e. CABC) regarding requests for new membership.

Also, Dan was asked if ABF holds credentials. He was pleased to advise 'Yes'. With this positive response it was suggested that ABF could be recognized as a denomination. Being recognized as a denomination is good creditability for ABF.

ABF's request for membership will be voted on at the annual meeting of CC to be held in Ottawa, in May 2012.

There is a correction to the membership fee. Rather than the \$250 fee previously anticipated for an organization our size, the minimum annual fee is \$500.

No action.

4. Update from Accreditation Committee

John Boyd tabled a report prepared by him and Roger Prentice. This was their first meeting. Discussion followed.

- ✓ John advised they were going to review the process being used by CABC (45 pages) to see what they might be useful
- ✓ John also advised they would review the process used by BWA. He was aware that '*ordination*' from their perspective was similar to ordination for a Deacon; the individual would be 'ordained' but not credited - i.e. the individual would not have a college education in ministry.
- ✓ Also, consideration has to be given to clinical training or some training where an assessment of training has taken place
- ✓ John is aware that the process with Alliance Accreditation requires a contribution to Alliance and some kind of annual report to Alliance; not sure we want to get into that - at least not exactly as they have it.

Dan suggested that it is important to get those who have asked for accreditation done in a timely manner. It was the intent of the Assembly (at the Annual Meeting in October) to have those who asked to be grandfathered.

It may be that Council (of ABF) act as the accrediting body - at least to start with.

Also, we need guidelines for endorsing Chaplains. Chaplains need to be added to those to be accredited. (i.e. the accrediting community as called by Alliance)

Dan asked that John keep him informed when the next meeting for his committee meets. If possible Dan would like to attend.

John asked that everyone review this report and send feedback to him and/or Roger.

Everyone was pleased with the fact that this project (i.e. accreditation) has been started!

Action: Everyone review report and provide feedback.

5. Update from Constitution Committee

The committee hasn't met since the Annual General Meeting in October. The one communication has been about Article 30. The committee advised they will meet in the near future.

This committee needs to review the items from the Annual General Meeting.

The only thing we need to file for Incorporation is a new name.

Action: Constitution Committee to meet.

6. Update from/about 'The Bulletin'

Dan distributed the newest edition of 'The Bulletin'.

Note: the honorarium of \$1500 payable to Dan is due in January.

The cost for the 780 copies printed for this edition was \$1400. This includes postage.

Dan will add our website address to the front page in the next edition and all future editions.

Action: Lee: follow up with new Treasurer (Cynthia) about payment for the Editor.

Dan: make note to add our website address on future editions.

7. Update from Membership Committee

David Ogilvie advised that at the Annual General Meeting 40 individuals signed up for membership; and a couple of churches (Bayside, Port Williams, and Elaine Walcott's church).

Dan will send the 'Friends' list to David. David will do some work on the membership as it relates to the existing 'Friends list'.

David wants to send an email to the existing churches and to existing members (i.e. Friends) to inform them of our current standing and to ask them to join the membership.

Action: David work on membership/Friends list.

8. New name for ABF

As noted earlier, we require a new name so we can file our application for Incorporation.

This edition of 'The Bulletin' includes a request for suggestions from our members.

Also, if any emails are received with name suggestions Lee will be sure to keep everyone informed.

Suggested that we consider including the word 'Alliance' if we want to work with the States.

One suggested name: *Canadian Baptist of Atlantic Canada.*

Action: Everyone think of possible new name.

9. Rushton Lecture for 2012 Spring

John (Boyd) confirmed that Rita & Rex Deverell will be our guest speakers.

June 2, 2012 is the established date.

Roger needs to be asked to confirm the availability of the Chapel.

A picture is needed, along with a bio of both Rita & Rex.

Action: Lee will send a note to Roger Prentice and to Kim Sweet asking them to start the necessary steps to confirm the availability of the Chapel and the menu, etc.

Lee will also contact Rita/Rex to ask for a picture.

10. Review of Truro Fall Assembly

John (Tonks) advised as far as he was concerned, he has given notice to First Baptist Truro that ABF plans on having the 2012 Fall Assembly at their church.

John may not be at the church by this time; however, that should not be an issue.

David Ogilvie will contact (again) Harvey Cox to see if he is still available and interested in being our guest speaker.

David Ogilvie is on the Board of the Baptist Peace Fellowship. David suggested that if Harvey is not interested (or available), that we might consider the workshop '*Trainers of Conflict Transformation*' given by the Peace Fellowship, as an alternative for the Fall Assembly.

Everyone agreed that David should attempt to contact Harvey once again. If David doesn't receive a response, then we will investigate further on the workshop '*Trainers of Conflict Transformation*'

Action: David to send email to Harvey Cox.

11. Website update

Canadahelps.org is the system used by the Stephen Lewis foundation to accept donations. There is no charge for this. John (Churchill) will work on getting this system set up on our website. This will be helpful for anyone who wants to send a financial contribution or to pay membership.

Receipts are sent by the system - no work for us.

Action: John Churchill to check into getting canadahelps.org on our website.

Note: A brief discussion followed the meeting, where Dan agreed to check with CBM regarding making pension and medical benefits available through ABF.

Action: Dan to consult with CBM regarding possibility of ABF providing pension service and medical benefits to churches.

Next meeting date: January 12, 2012

10:00 am at Windsor