

ABF Council Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2012

Attendees:

John Boyd	John Churchill	David Ogilvie
Cynthia Ogilvie	Roger Prentice	Dan Gibson
Roger Prentice	John Tonks	Jeff White

Lee Nicholas-Pattillo

Regrets: Renee Clark

Absent: Kim Sweet

Agenda Items:

1. Updates from everyone
2. Finance Updates and report

1. Updates from everyone

Dave (Ogilvie) advised that he has not had any further conversation with Harvey Cox. Dave will attempt to contact Harvey this coming week; and will keep us informed.

John (Boyd) has received the bios for Rex & Rita Deverall (our guests speakers for Rushton Luncheon). Lee needs to send the picture the Deveralls' used for the FBCH directory to John and to Dan Gibson.

Action for Lee.

Roger indicated that (to his knowledge) there is a possibility of four (4) churches from the Gathering that may be interested in joining AFB. We need to plan how we can/should approach them.

Cambridge Church has decided not to join CABC. Dan's hope is they will join AFB in the near future.

Constitution Committee had a meeting the previous week. Article 30 and another article have been revised. Lee committed to including the articles (how they now appear in the Constitution). See last page of these minutes, Attachment #1.

Also, the Committee has added a note to the website asking for suggested new names. February 11, 2011, a session will be held at FBCH focused on offering suggestions for a new name. A few folks will be specifically invited; and a general invitation will be on the website for all interested persons. The goal of the Constitution Committee is that they have a couple of suggested names by the end of April 2012.

A few points were clarified regarding selection of a new name:

1. We want to get away from anything that includes an identifier for a region. That is, exclude '*Atlantic*' or '*Maritime*' from the name.
2. We do want the word '*Baptist*' in the name.
3. Work '*Alliance*' can be considered. There are connotations both positive and not-so-positive, with this word: in the '*Alliance*' in the U.S. there is the idea that females are not able to participate; and regarding the larger affinity of Alliance - we do not want to be identified as being American.
4. It would be OK to maintain the ABF acronym. (i.e. a name that can be abbreviated to ABF)

Suggestion: Affirming Baptist Fellowship (ABF)

During discussion we want to be sure that we address the thought that ABF does want to *celebrate dual memberships*. An individual and/or a church may be a member of ABF as well as other organizations. For example: a church can be a member of CABC and a member of ABF.

Action for Lee.

Website: It was suggested it would be good if a membership form could be on the website. The idea would be to be able to click on the form and once completed, the information would be downloaded. This way there would be no need to print the form and mail it. John (Churchill) will work on this.

Membership Committee: John (Churchill) and Lee congratulated David (Olgilvie) on the wonderful they received when their membership was paid. David advised this is something that he would like to send to all those who have paid membership. David (Membership Chair) will work on this.

David advised we have 48 paid memberships.

John (Boyd) and Roger (Prentice) had another meeting regarding accreditation.

John advised he would prepare notes from the meeting he and Roger had earlier in the day.

Discussion followed:

- Is there anything that stops us from giving immediate accreditation to the 7 who have asked for it (i.e. the Ministers who are on the Council)? It was suggested that we need to clarify a number of things before doing so.
- Documentation needs to be prepared to discuss things relating to Convention and to Alliance. ABF needs to identify their understanding/view of some topics (example: same sex marriages). Important that we not tell others how they are to lead their lives or what they are to follow.
- We need to put some framework around the meaning of the application for accreditation. We need to identify a reason to receive someone who is qualified to be accredited by ABF.
- We have identified in the grandfather clause that those who are already accredited, will automatically be accredited by ABF. Are we looking to add additional criteria now?
- Addressed: does one have to be a member of ABF to be accredited by ABF? Not decision was made on this; however, being a member assumes acceptance of the objectives listed in the memorandum.
- Addressed: ordination and its meaning with Alliance and its meaning within CABC - they differ.
- There are two issues regarding ordination: 1. There are those who have never been ordained; and 2. There are those who may be grandfathered with a letter from CABC, and have been ordained by CABC.
- Introduced was the question, *How would ABF deal with a Minister who has requested credentialing and we find he/she is in a disciplinary process with another organization (say CABC)?*; or better still, *How would ABF know an individual is in such a process? How would ABF deal with someone not in good standing?* Issues like these need to be considered. (Some thought the list of accredited Ministers are on the CABC website.)
- Also, the request from individual Elaine Walcott needs to be considered.
- ABF needs an application. Need to determine what information is required on the application.
- ABF needs to apply to the government to receive a licence to marry.
- John (Boyd) confirmed that Dan would be advised of the next committee meeting for accreditation.

Action for John (Boyd)'s Accreditation Committee

John (Boyd) noted that since FBCH deciding not to join CABC, a committee at FBC has been looking into a benefit plan.

In reviewing the requirements on how to be included in the benefits provided by CABC John noted that one way of being included is *by being a member of an affiliated organization*. FBCH is a member of HUBRA. Therefore, shouldn't the clergy team (of FBCH) be able to remain in the existing benefits provided by CABC? Communications have been sent making this request and conversations have been taken place making this request.

Additionally, research done by FBCH indicates that the client (CABC) can make a request to their carrier, to cover whoever they (CABC) wants covered/included in their policy. It is usually the client who determines who will be included in a policy. This too was discussed with CABC.

If this turns out to be accurate, this is something that Garnet (at Cambridge church) may be interested in knowing. Perhaps Cambridge could take the same approach as FBCH.

John also indicated that to his knowledge, the date for consideration has been moved to August 2013.

2. Finance updates

- a. Cynthia came and provided an-end-of-year financial report. She advised this is *the best picture of things as she could get* at this time. All were pleased to see this.
- b. Executive (Dan, John Tonks, Lee) gave Cynthia required info to start the process of establishing signatures at the bank. It was agreed the February meeting would take place in Port Williams so we could make a trip to the bank and sign the necessary documentation.
- c. Cynthia distributed a couple '*Cheque Requisition*' forms to each person. It was agreed by all that this form would be used anytime a cheque was requested.
- d. A budget should be prepared for the upcoming Rushton Lecture - planned speaker: Harvey Cox. There was brief discussion on the requirement for future budgets for conferences and other events. This will be discussed further.
- e. Meanwhile, when the Treasure (Cynthia) is ready, Dan advised he will make himself available to meet and discuss budget preparations.
- f. At some time in the future, we may consider moving our investments from Atlantic Baptist Foundation. However, we will wait until our Treasurer is more comfortable and knowledgeable of our financial situation.
- g. There was discussion about PAP (pre-authorized payments). At this time, it appears the cost is rather substantial. It was agreed we will wait until we have our name change.
- h. Motions related to Finance:
 - i. It was **moved** by **Jeff White**, and **seconded** by **John Tonks** that Cynthia should pay the four (4) outstanding accounts from 2011. These accounts are:

1. Frank McGill - \$128.04 for printing material for invitations for Fall 40th Anniversary/Annual General meeting.
2. FBCH - \$553.94 - for meals, parking and other miscellaneous expenses regarding Fall 40th Anniversary/Annual General meeting.
3. Lee Nicholas-Pattillo - \$425.35 - for payment she made to Jeff Haggrove
4. Dan Gibson - \$1,500 - for 2011 production of *The Bulletin*

Motion carried.

- II. **Lee (Nicholas-Pattillo) moved** that the new Treasurer, Cynthia Ogilvie, be allowed to purchase a file cabinet and the appropriate accounting program (if required) to manage the accounts of our organization.
Seconded by John Boyd.

Motion carried.

- III. **It was moved by John Tonks and seconded by John Churchill** that David Ogilvie take the necessary steps so that he can distribute the \$2,000 that was previously approved for the Fraternity in Cuba.

This money was approved approximately a year and a half ago. David is travelling to Cuba in February. David will attempt to contact Paula Dempsey to be sure this money gets distributed in a timely and appropriate manner.

Motion carried.

Dan (Gibson) confirmed that ABF's application for membership/affiliation with CCC has been accepted and will be processed at the annual meeting (in Ottawa) in May. Dan advised the minimum contribution for an organization the size of ABF is \$500; rather than the \$200 originally stated when we started our application or membership.

Next meeting: February 23, 2012

Port Williams Church, at 10:00 am.

Attachment #1.

Articles as revised by the Constitution Committee January 3, 2012:

Article 26. **Qualification for Council.** Any Individual Member shall be eligible to be elected a member of the Council of the Fellowship and a member of the Council of the Fellowship shall be an Individual Member.

Article 30. **Vacancy.** If a member of Council resigns his/her position or ceases to be an Individual Member, his/her position as member of Council shall be vacated and the vacancy may be filled for the unexpired portion of the term by the Council from among the Individual Members.