

Canadian Association for Baptist Freedoms (CABF)
Council Minutes
March 12, 2013

Attendees:

Dan Gibson	John Churchill	Lee Nicholas-Pattillo	Jeff White
David Ogilvie	Roger Prentice	John Boyd	John Tonks
Kim Sweet	Cynthia Ogilvie		

Guest: Deacon Ken Eavis, from Wolfville Baptist Church
and Paul Burden, Port Williams Church

AGENDA:

1. Application for Membership
2. AEC meeting
3. Financial Report
4. Rushton Lecture Luncheon update
5. Fall Meeting
6. Credentials Report
7. Waterville Chaplaincy
8. New Business - Paul Burden
9. Update from Dan re: CCC

Meeting opened in prayer by Dan Gibson at 10: 25 am.

1. Applications for Membership

Dan presented a letter from the Union of Scott's Bay Church along with a cheque (\$50). This letter was a request for membership in CABF.

David Ogilvie moved that the Union of Scott's Bay Church be accepted as a member church of CABF. **Seconded** by Roger Prentice. **Motion carried unanimously.**

David Ogilvie informed Council that he received a cheque and a letter from Falmouth Baptist Church requesting membership. It was voted at their annual meeting that they joined CABF.

Roger Prentice moved that Falmouth Baptist Church be accepted as a member church of CABF. **Seconded** by John Tonks. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Action: David Ogilvie will send letters of membership to both churches.

2. AEC meeting

AEC is trying to revitalize themselves. A meeting is scheduled for the end of April, at the United Church in Amherst. They have asked that each denomination send a representative for their Executive. John Tonks will attend on behalf of CABF.

John Boyd moved that John Tonks become the AEC representative for CABF. **Seconded** by David Ogilvie. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Lee will send a note informing them of the new Rep for CABF.
(March 14, 2013, an email was sent to Rev. Wilson, Dan & John Tonks cc'd, advising that John is the new CABF representative.)

ACTION: no further action required.

3. Financial Report

Cynthia advised that things are pretty much the same as last month. No statement has been received from the bank as yet. Falmouth church sent a cheque for \$180.

Also, a form has been received from the Federal government regarding the money CABF sent to Cuba in January 2012. Our communications with the Federal government continues under the name of 'ABF'. When completing the form for the government regarding Cuba, we need to ensure they are aware that us sending money to Cuba was a 'one time' occurrence. This report was accepted.

ACTION: no further action required.

4. Rushton Lecture/Luncheon

David Ogilvie informed us the theme of David (Jordan's - guess Speaker) message is *The Seven Words of Truth*. (Dan will be able to inform a lady from Moncton who has asked about the theme of the luncheon.) This theme will be recorded on our website and in our coming Bulletin.

The date is June 1, 2013 and the location is the Chapel (at Acadia).

David (Ogilvie) has informed David (Jordan) that CABF will pay his Friday night lodging; Port Williams Church will pay the Saturday night lodging and David (Jordan) will take care of the remainder of his stay (with his wife). Also, David (Jordan) has advised that he will rent a car and take care of this himself. CABF will pay an honorarium of \$250. (David (Ogilvie) advised he is attending this meeting; and therefore, is unable to attending the Peace Fellowship meeting. (Thanks David for your support here!)

David advised the presentation will take place in two parts - one 30 minute session, a Q&A, one more info session and another Q&A.

- This will start at 11:00 am
- lunch will be served at 12:30
- Registration is \$20/person (people can register in advance or pay at the door)
- Cynthia will prepare a float
- Jeff White will do the tribute to Dr. Cherry
- Kim will determine who-will-do-what, and inform each person appropriately
- This weekend will also be the 50th anniversary of the Chapel
- Kim suggested that we consider using hymns that were used 50 years ago when the Chapel was dedicated.
- Bob Rushton will be asked by Jeff if he will play the organ.
- Roger, Kim and Tim will meet to discuss the necessary info for invoicing.
- Kim will ensure that it is noted that the Chapel is wheelchair accessible

Roger expressed his thanks for all the work done by Kim - in fact - Roger indicated that Kim is really doing all the work. THANKS so much Kim!

Dan and David (Ogilvie) will get together to merge the two address lists they have into one list. (Dan's list has 250 names that he uses for the Bulletin.) One invitation will be sent to each of the churches/organizations on our membership list.

Dan will be making asking churches if they would like to receive the Bulletin electronically. This will save money in mailing. Each mailing of the Bulletin, we receive a number of Bulletins in returned mail.

ACTION: no further action required for the luncheon.

Dan and David to merge lists as indicated.

5. Fall Meeting

Lee advised that she has made several attempts to contact folks at Falmouth Baptist Church. It has been just this past day that she learned of the illness of their Minister (Dennis Leamont). His health is a huge concern at this time. It is understandable why they are not responding to our request to host the CABF fall meeting.

Although there is no word from Chester Baptist, it appears it doesn't seem much of a possibility. Lee advised that Dan (Green) informed her that it is difficult for the Ladies Auxiliary to cater funerals - they are aging. This is understandable.

David Ogilvie suggested that we should return to Port Williams for our Fall meeting. David will confirm the date (Sept. 27 & 28 or Oct. 18 & 19) within the week.

John (Boyd) advised that Barb Putman is still interested in being our guest speaker. Barb needs the date confirmed as soon as possible. John is checking with Barb to see what date is best for her.

Also, it's been suggested that panel members could include: Wilma Janzen from St. Luke's Centre in Springhill, and maybe a prison Chaplain, Phil Farris. These names were not confirmed. Need to confirm the date and location and then will proceed.

ACTION: John Boyd will check date with Barb; David Ogilvie will confirm within a week of being hosted by Port Williams.

6. Credentials Report

Roger informed the Council that the Credentials Committee continues to meet. They have a good draft document that they continue to work on. The hardest part is documenting how to de-credential ('de-frocking'). There are legal ramifications with de-credentialing. The Committee's goal is to have compassion, delicacy and sound processes in all that the Credential Committee does. At the same time, he wants to be assured that they stay firmly with Baptist principles; and at the same time, not compromise the role and responsibilities of the local church. The document still needs to be reviewed by the lawyer. Roger noted it was good to have access to all

the professional people who are in the various congregations - Marilyn has been a great resource.

Roger also suggested this may be the time - when CABF needs to look at insurance for CABF. We may need to start that kind of search.

Discussion followed about looking at liability insurance for the full organization. CABF being incorporated does provide some support; however, we should not be naïve and presume that incorporation by itself will save us.

ACTION: See Agenda Item #8 below.

7. Waterville Chaplaincy

John Tonks, stated that the discussion that was started at last month's meeting, regarding holding a contract for Gerry Bezanson for a position at Waterville Youth Centre, could be deferred at this time.

Discussion:

- It turns out the potential contract would be long term
- Nothing will be advertised
- Gerry, being a non-Baptist clergy, requires an organization to 'hold his contract'
- John indicated that because Gerry is of another denomination and because we haven't determined if CABF really wants to get involved in this kind of process, that he is fine with CABF not moving forward with the original request he made last month (i.e. to hold a provincial contract for Gerry Bezanson).
- John did some research on the original request; he was not able to obtain an example of the kind of contract that would be provided by Waterville.
- Also, John is aware that there is a need for the 'contract holder' to have liability insurance; that there will have to be periodic reviews for the person.
- The institution, will manage the person in the day-to-day position.
- John's understanding is that the person in the position has resigned.
- John stated that CABF needs to decide if CABF is going to get involved with support for Chaplaincy. Will CABF support a Chaplain who is not a CABF member?
- David Ogilvie stated that he was uncomfortable in taking on a contract for someone who isn't a member of the Baptist denomination. It appears that the government would like to see these kinds of contracts supported by an organization that is associated with the individual. Not having a relationship with an individual really puts us at risk.
- Roger indicated that working with the credentials' committee, they have set high standards; they have even noted clinical training. Roger would be concerned that another organization's standards/credentials that would be different than CABFs - and/or their standards/credentials would not be as high as CABF.
- As a matter of fact, our credentials are not even approved by Council as yet.

- Roger said that he would be willing to support the individual based on John (Tonks') recommendation, because he trusts John.
- John (Tonks) stated that he was supporting Gerry (Bezanson) because he knows Gerry personally; he knows that Gerry has grown personally - that he wouldn't just support someone for the sake of getting a contract.
- John (Tonks) stated that now, revisiting his original request, he feels that CABF is not in a position to be able to hold the contract.
- John (Tonks) stated that Chaplains are vulnerable in Convention. When a Minister goes to do chaplaincy they seem to get ignored by Convention.
- Chaplains are ecumenical and liberal; therefore, they are not favoured by Convention. John encouraged Council to seriously consider how CABF might become 'a home for Chaplains'.
- John (Tonks) feels we should stay in touch with Chaplains.
- Roger indicated that the 'College of Clergy' - one of the next steps for Credential Committee - will be a good means to work with Chaplains.

OUTCOME: Consensus at this time is that CABF is not ready to consider being the holder of a contract as requested. CABF is not 'closing the door' - we can revisit this type of request at a later time.

ACTION: Closed - no action.

8. New Business - Paul Burden

Paul indicated that he has access to insurance resources that may be able to accommodate CABF members by providing group benefits, liability insurance etc. Paul requested permission to research/investigate this possibility.

John (Boyd) stated that FBCH struggled to find an insurance company that would carry a small group of employees. That the existing plan they have could become even more expensive upon his retirement - there will be such a small group of staff.

Also, Paul Burden advised that he has access to the area of insurance we may be referring to in Item #7 (liability insurance) - 'errors and omissions'. Paul volunteered to check into this for us. All agreed this was

ACTION: Paul will investigate and advise.

9. Update from Dan re: CCC

CCC has 2 new requests for membership: (1) is the Christian and Missionary Alliance. (2) is the PAOC. It is important to see that denominations are realizing the need for each other and the need for interfaith to be working together. The Evangelical Fellowship of Canada is willing to sign on to support CCC projects; this is good news. EFC sitting with non-Christians and other multi-faiths is a great thing. People are pleased to see EFC is broadening their views. This is exciting!

ACTION: No action at this time. This is FYI

Final note: John Tonks asked that we keep St. David's Presbyterian, Springhill, in our prayers. It is closing March 24 and the congregation is grieving.

NOTE: Cards sent, on behalf of CAFB, on March 14 to St. David's Presbyterian and to Dennis Leamont.

Next meeting date: April 25, 2013, Windsor Baptist.