

Canadian Association for Baptist Freedoms (CABF)  
Council Meeting Minutes  
December 13, 2012

**Attendees:**

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

**Regrets:** David Ogilvie, Roger Prentice, Kim Sweet

**Agenda Items:**

1. Accreditation from Convention
2. AEC
3. 2013 Rushton Luncheon
4. Financial Update
5. Bulletin
6. Constitution revisions and wording required
7. Credentials

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

1. Accreditation from Convention

John Churchill shared a recent letter he received from CABF. The letter indicated that John's credentials were still being held by CABF *until he becomes accredited by another denomination*. John assumed others may receive the same letter. It appeared to John that he has not been removed from CABF's accreditation list. Later in discussion, John stated that perhaps he got this letter because he has not been active in ministry for 35 years - being a professor. Everyone agreed that the regulations of CABF state that a Minister can only be recognized by one denomination.

Further discussion included the fact that previously, Ministers had their name listed with CABF. Also, most professional organizations (teachers, law, pharmacy, etc.) require that one's name be listed. Therefore, why don't Ministers want their names listed once they become recognized by CABF? How public will we make our list of accredited Ministers? Will names appear on our website and/or in our Bulletin?

**Decision of our discussion:** Until we have more clarity on the intention of CABF, regarding a Minister being on CABF's list of recognized Ministers, we will defer from listing names of recognized Ministers. We will leave the names as they now appear in the minutes of our Annual Meeting. This reflects our intended transparency. This decision is made based on the climate we are now living in. **CLOSED**

2. AEC - Atlantic Ecumenical Council

AEC has requested representative from our Council. AEC has realized they need more connection with their members. Everyone agreed this is a good opportunity for a younger member of CABF to get ecumenical exposure - there are many opportunities with AEC. AEC is focused on working on their identify. AEC has a bi-annual conference and an annual one day workshop where a lot of churches participate. John Boyd stated he is willing to be the CAFB rep if there is no younger member willing to do this.

During discussion we asked about who else had representatives on the AEC Council (i.e. does Divinity College have a Rep; does Crandall have a Rep)? Crandall was cc'd on the recent letter of request for members.

It was agreed Marlene Knowles should be approached as a Rep. John agreed to attend the AEC meetings for now. If he is unable to attend, John will advise Dan. Dan indicated that he would like to see a Rep present at AEC meetings.  
**ACTION:** Note from Lee - I have no note indicating who will contact Marlene.

3. 2013 Rushton Luncheon

It was discussed and moved that May 25, 2013 will be the date for the Rushton Lecture.

**John Boyd moved** that the 2013 Rushton Lecture Luncheon take place May 25, 2013. **Seconded by John Churchill; motion carried.**

Lee will send email to Roger & Kim to confirm availability of the Chapel at Acadia. (email sent to Roger & Kim on January 7,, 2013.)

**ACTION:** as noted and completed as noted

4. Financial Update

Cynthia advised that CRA has passed our file to someone (other than the person she was dealing with) else regarding our name change.

Cynthia had not received the financial report from the bank at the time of the meeting. She will send the financial report to Lee and Lee advised she will forward the financial report to all. The financial report will be sent with the meeting minutes.

**ACTION:** As noted for Lee.

5. Bulletin

Lee will send her article (an update from Alliance) to Dan by end of day on Monday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. (Lee sent Dec. 17 @ 1:03 am...).

Dan indicated that in past editorials, he has always presented serious themes. He thought he would like to depart from this approach and present something more along the lines of a devotional. All agreed this was very acceptable.

Dan also indicated that he required any corrections made by Kim to the address list. Dan has been working on combining all existing lists to make one master address listing.

**ACTION:** Did Dan get all the corrections?

#### 6. Constitution revisions - wording required

There are a few articles in the Constitution that require revisions.

**Item #9 - currently this article does not mention what will happen to assets of CABF if CABF finds it necessary to dissolve.** CRA expressed interest in knowing what our Constitution says regarding dissolution of CABF's assets.

**John Tonks moved and Jeff White seconded, and motion carried** that this Article be revised to indicate that upon necessary dissolution of CABF, any assets of CABF, would be disbursed to another charitable organization recognised by CRA.

John (Churchill) (along with any assistance he requires from Gary Nelson or others) will revise this Article so that a proposal can be presented to the membership at the May Rushton Lecture Luncheon.

#### **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'. Therefore the revised article will read:

*'b) have responsibility for the preparation and custody of all **non-financial** books and records of ...'*

Everyone agreed with this revision.

#### **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'

Therefore the revised article will read:

*'Or (2) are currently accredited **and are in good standing** by a denomination within the Baptist World Alliance.'*

All agreed these revisions were reasonable and accepting.

Looking back at the meeting minutes of October 12, 2012, it is recorded:

John Churchill will give notice of these revisions at the Annual Meeting. And, advise we will vote on these revisions at our next meeting. The next meeting will be our Rushton Lecture in June 2013.

Everyone agreed these revisions should be voted on at the Rushton Lecture Luncheon.

Discussion followed about removing the reference to 'Baptist World Alliance' and replacing it with something along the lines of 'conventions'. It was suggested the Credential Committee should provide the wording to John, so he can give notice of this revision as well.

John also addressed Gary's suggestion that we look for a set of procedures, that is, rules of order for CABF meetings. John agreed that he would get books from Gary (Nelson) and Lee agreed that together they could discuss the procedures.

**ACTION:** John & Lee to review suggested rules of order; books from Gary. Action for the Rushton Lecture Luncheon as noted.

## 7. Credentials

John Boyd noted that the Credentials Committee has had one meeting since our last Council meeting. Marilyn Peers has agreed to be a full member of the Credentials Committee. Marilyn is a member of FBCH. Marilyn has been very helpful in the past with the Committee when documenting the process for accreditation and discipline. Marilyn will be a great asset!

The Committee is now focusing on de-credentialing. Council members who are on this Committee want to be sure to keep an arm's length in documenting this process because of possible future action that may be required. However, being a small Committee, Marilyn's participation will be very helpful. Some of the discussion the committee is having includes: ***Who would CABF inform of de-credentialing?*** The thinking right now is, the person, the person making the complaint, CABF would inform its member churches and individual members of CABF and the employer.

There is much to be worked on: an individual could be going through discipline and their employer doesn't know; this is the way Convention operates, CABF does not want to take that track...If there is a suspension, who would tell others? Who need to know? ....these areas are being discussed and need to be addressed. All this and more is being worked on.

Alliance has a few pages on de-credentialing; CABF has a lot; Untied Church has a 25 page document - we would like to just get-it-right.

Supervising and mentoring are other areas to be worked on by this committee.  
**NO action at this time.**

**Next meeting date:** January 17, 2013 at 10:00 am Windsor United Baptist Church

**Additional discussion:**

**#1:** Dan indicated that he didn't feel it was worth continuing to search the possibility of ABF partnering with CBM for benefits. All agreed. Dan suggested he would like to investigate if CABF could be included as a group-within-a-group with Canadian Council of Churches (CCC); perhaps CABF could be added to the medical and/or the benefits plan. Worth noting, United Church of Canada does the benefits and payroll for CCC. All agreed that Dan should investigate.

It was also noted that at one time ACTRA has excellent benefits and they are open to other bodies joining them. (This info came from Rita Deverall.) Dan will proceed with his investigation with CCC.

**#2: Agenda Item for Fall Assembly**

A lady at the IWK palliative care (has a ministry degree from Harvard) talked with John Dalton (from FBCH) and asked if Harvey Cox was still teaching. She knows Harvey Cox. She said she would contact Harvey Cox to see if he was interested in coming. She said she would attempt to contact Harvey. That would be good!

We will wait to hear from Roger to see if he has made contact with Malcolm Evans; before we proceed with Harvey.

Also, we should consider contacting First Baptist Church Amherst, to see if they would/could host the Fall Assembly.