

Canadian Association for Baptist Freedoms (CABF)
Council Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2013

Attendees:

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

Guest: Deacon Ken Eavis, from Wolfville Baptist Church

Regrets: Kim Sweet, Cynthia Ogilvie

**We were welcomed to Wolfville Baptist Church by Rev. Barry Morrison.
Barry was unable to join us for the meeting. He wished us well in our meeting
Meeting was opened in prayer by Dan Gibson at 10:15 am.**

AGENDA:

1. Financial Report
2. Rushton Lecture Luncheon update
3. Fall Meeting
4. Constitution report
5. Credentials Report
6. New Business
- 7.

1. Financial Report

Cynthia's report, Attachment #1, was presented by David.

A few notes:

1. **\$218.70** is for CABF dues to the Ecumenical Council, stationary expense for certificates & folders, and for new cheques.
2. **\$1500** is the honorarium paid to our Editor of 'Bulletin'
3. **\$559.26** is interest paid to CABF from The Foundation
4. **\$59.50** is also interest paid to CABF from The Foundation

Brief discussion followed about income being received from member churches. David informed us there has been no income (membership dues or otherwise) received from 3 member churches; FBCH contributed approximately \$2700 last year and almost the same amount in 2011.

It was also noted that Falmouth Baptist Church is not appearing on our membership list as yet.

ACTION: David advised he would send a letter to the 3 churches noted.

2. Rushton Lecture Luncheon update

David (Ogilvie) has had discussion with Tim (MacFarlane at the Chapel) – everything is arranged there.

Our speaker – David Jordon will be accompanied by his wife, Beth. They plan on staying a couple extra days.

David informed David Jordon that CABF will pay his hotel expense for Friday night; and because David (Jordon) will be speaking at Port Williams on Sunday, Port Williams will pay his hotel expense for Saturday night. (The remaining nights will be David Jordon's personal accountability.)

Joao has agreed to meet the Jordans at the airport; however, David isn't certain that Joao realizes he is supposed to be at a Peace Fellowship meeting on that date. David will work this out with Joao, and make alternate arrangements if necessary.

It was also noted that the Divinity College is hosting a Chaplaincy workshop that same weekend. Although it was thought the audiences would be different groups of attendees, it was suggest it would be good if our lecture plans could be noted in the publicity documents of the Divinity College.

John (Boyd) agreed to follow up with Hugh Kirkegaard to see if Hugh might be able to arrange this. Also, David will follow up with Carol Anne Jenson to see if she might be able to influence this request. David will work on a broucher for the event.

ACTION: As noted in the last paragraph above.

3. Fall Meeting

John (Boyd) confirmed that Barb Putman would be willing to be our guest speaker. Barb will speak about Chaplaincy in the Armed Forces. Barb was honoured to be asked. Once the date and location have been confirmed, John (Boyd) will send the letter that Barb requested – so she can schedule her time away from her work.

Also, we are considering having John Tonks facilitate a panel discussion with various Chaplaincy groups represented: Adele Crowell, from Hospital Chaplaincy in the Halifax Association; Hugh Kirkegaard from Prison Ministry, and a representative from University Chaplaincy: John Dalton from FBCH.

Before approaching these folks, we must confirm our date and location.

Lee advised the current work done on finalizing a date and location.

1. John Tonks advised (just after our last meeting) that FBC Amherst is unable to accommodate us.
2. Lee talked with a couple members of Council.

3. Roger reserved the Chapel for the September date: 27 & 28th, (at Lee's request) in case we are unable to confirm another location. (The Chapel is already reserved on the October dates – October 18 & 19).
4. Lee made calls and left a voice message at Chester Baptist Church, asking Dan Green if Chester would be able to accommodate CABF on either date.
5. Lee will call Dan on Friday, (Feb. 15) to discuss.
6. If Chester is unable to accommodate, Lee will contact Falmouth Baptist (Hedley Hopkins or Dennis Leamont) to ask if they can accommodate us.
7. Lee will keep the Counsel informed.

ACTION: As noted: Lee to work on confirmation for a location and date; John (Boyd) to issue letter once date and location confirmed.

4. Constitution report

John (Churchill) confirmed that our intent is to give notice of the revisions to the Constitution, at the Rushton Luncheon. All agreed. Also, that the notice and revisions should be placed on our website.

ACTION: John Churchill to post our intention to give notice of the revisions to the Constitution, at the Rushton Luncheon. John will also post the revisions on the website.

5. Credentials Report

Roger advised the Committee has not met since our February meeting – they will be meeting next week (February 24th). Roger showed the document '*Legal Analysis of the Church in Canada*' as an example of the kind of documentation that Marilyn Peers (the newest member of the Committee) has been providing to the Committee. This a helpful document – as is Marilyn's contributions to the Committee.

NO ACTION at this time.

New Business

1. (Dan stepped out of role of Chair, for this discussion)

Dan Gibson has had recent discussion with Canadian Council of Churches (CCC):

- (1) Dan had an opportunity to speak with Sam Chase and Blair Clark, Associate Secretary of CBM. In the few minutes of conversation, Dan explained who CABF was – they were aware of us; advised that member churches of CABF include Convention and non-Convention churches; and suggested the possibility that non-convention churches may be interested in maintaining their funding with CBM in exchange for 'services' from CBM. Dan stated he feels he may get an opportunity to talk further with them. Blair complemented CABF on our connection with Cuba. CBM suggested they would like to copy what we are doing. John (Boyd) stated that CBM continues to be in the budget of FBCH. John will share info on amount of money sent to CBM from FBC. Information about a church the size of FBCH, now a non-convention church, and still maintaining a relationship with CBM, may assist in influencing further relationship between CBM and CABF.
- (2) The type of 'services' that CABF would like to share with CBM includes the possibility of being able to participate in their benefits and pension plans. Dan indicated that all the

staff of CCC participates in the benefits and pension plans of the United Church of Canada – because the United Church is a member of CCC. Arrangements are being made for Dan to meet with someone who has the authority to discuss the possibility of CABF member churches being included in these plans. This would be a great asset to offer churches – who may become ‘non-convention’ churches – and want to join CABF.

(3) Dan also met with our newer members (of CABF) Debra and Terry Dempsey.

The Burlington Church is current in discussion about allowing Ministers to do same gender marriages. They are seriously looking at joining CABF.

(4) Dan will be attending a CCC Executive meeting in 2 weeks’ time.

(5) Dan advised that Scott’s Bay Church wants membership in CABF. After discussion it was agreed they are welcome. Scott’s Bay Church is in contact with CCC and they support all denominations that are represented in their congregation. They really are ecumenically based. It was agreed CABF requires a letter containing a copy of the motion made to support the congregation’s request to join CABF; and, the letter should indicate Scott’s Bay support for the CABF Memorandum of Association. Upon receipt of this letter, and membership dues, Council will vote on the membership for Scott’s Bay church.

Discussion on how CABF sent money to Cuba followed:

- Getting money there was a challenge because one bank (Royal Bank) did not want to deal with it; whereas a second bank we approached (Scotia Bank) agreed to send it for us
- It was suggested that to satisfy CRA Cuba really needs to be declared a ‘donnee’; however, getting this classification (from CRA) is very strict – almost impossible because to be eligible as a ‘donnee’ the organization really needs to be a registered donee in Canada – and that’s not possible.
- Keith & Alice – a couple from Wolfville Baptist go to Cuba lots of time and take money and gifts; they were originally encouraged by Ron & Carol Buckley from Port Williams church

2. John Tonks present this proposal for discussion and approval:

Situation: John has been approached by Gerry Bezanson. Gerry Bezanson has applied for a contract position, with the province of Nova Scotia, as part time Chaplain (33 hours/week) at the Waterville Youth Centre.

If Gerry is successful (and it looks very positive that he will be) he needs an organization to be the ‘holder of the contract’. The contract outlines the responsibilities of the ‘holder of the contract’.

Built into the contract is money for the contact holder. The contract holder will need to pay CPP, EI, and taxes for the contractor and ultimately pay the contractor. The holder of the contract basically acts as an employer. If CABF is willing to be the holder of the contract (assuming Gerry is successful) John agreed to perform the administration duties related to holding this contract.

Gerry did approach Convention about this request. He was advised by Rev. Peter Reid that if he were to be credentialed with Convention – that is, become a Baptist Minister, Convention would be willing to hold the contract. Gerry is not able to do this.

About Gerry:

- John (Tonks) knows Gerry and worked with him.
- John is making this proposal because he believes and trusts Gerry.
- Gerry was a 'lifer'; became so, by his own admission to a crime.
- Gerry has previously worked at the Youth Centre and did very well
- He left the Youth Centre to go to work in a small church in the Truro area
- Gerry studied with Charlie Taylor
- Gerry's credentials are with Victory Church International, in Texas
- Pentecostal Association of Canada (PAOC)
- He previously worked with offenders returning to the community
- He also worked with 'lififers' in prison where he acted as Chaplain to them
- Gerry has reviewed our Memorandum of Association and is willing to be a member of CABF

Discussion:

- This appears to be '*a flag of convenience*' for Gerry
- Suggested and agreed CABF should be open to doing this kind of thing; we could be providing this service to people who work in nursing homes, government locations, etc. Also, we do not have restrictions that other denominations place on individuals.
- It was clarified that the government would use their selection process and chose the individual(s) for the specific contract(s).
- It is normal for someone to come and make this request.
- Previously, Gerry worked under a contract that was held by the Valley Association. It is normal for the denomination to be the holder of a contract for a Chaplain.
- This would really be an 'employer/employee' relationship that is required.
- Also, CABF may require liability insurance for this.
- We will also need to understand if there are additional costs required by us.

Outcome (at this time):

It was suggested that Gerry should go to the Valley Association and make this request. They are accustomed to dealing with this from past experience. Dave Ogilvie and Jeff White had previously been on the Chaplaincy Board, they suggested they could check and see who is on the Board now, and refer Gerry. If there is a firm negative from Association, CABF may be able to consider. John (Tonks) will track and advise.

No action at this time.

Next meeting date: **March 12, 2013** in **Windsor**.