

**Canadian Association of Baptist Freedoms
Council Meeting
May 16, 2017 – Port Williams United Baptist Church**

Present: Joao Matwawana, John Churchill, David Allen, Rick Manuel, Roger Prentice, and Hugh Kirkegaard

Regrets: John Tonks and Lee Nicholas-Pattillo

In the absence of John Tonks, John Churchill assumed the chair.
Hugh Kirkegaard volunteered to act as Secretary.

1. Call to Order 10:10

John Churchill called the meeting to order and offered prayer.
John welcomed Joao as a new Member-at-Large.

2. Approval of Agenda

A report on the meeting with the Gathering in Ottawa and concern relevant to the CABF were added to New Business. The agenda was approved.

3. Approval of the Minutes

Minutes of April 11, 2017 were approved as circulated (D.Allen/R.Manuel)

4. Business Arising

a) **Teleconferencing service.** The decision to use Pragmatic Conferencing for future teleconferencing was re-confirmed. David Allen has a membership card. The meeting expressed its thanks to Rick and David for researching this.

b) **Members-at-Large.** The meeting reconfirmed the status of appointments. There are 4 positions: 2 three-year terms; 1 two-year term; and 1 one-year term. David Allen reminded the meeting that all terms began at the Annual General Meeting in October 2016 when this provision in the by-laws was passed.

Hugh is in a three-year term and Joao agreed to a three-year term (expiring at the AGM in 2019). We are searching for people to fill the one and two-year terms. Lee is contacting Alberta Magan (spelling not certain), Naomi Nouenecks (spelling not certain), and Pam Estey. Hugh will contact Donna Darrell. Hugh will coordinate efforts with Lee. The one-year position would expire in October 2017 but the person could be reappointed for a three-year term.

If none of these contacts are successful, the Council agreed that we should find candidates amongst Port Williams, Falmouth, and Chester or other churches outside of Halifax.

c) **Fall Assembly.** John Tonks has not heard back from Ed Colquhoun regarding Amherst as the location of our next AGM. We will wait until the June meeting to do further planning for the AGM.

d) **Liability Insurance.** Liability coverage for the Council will be discussed at the June meeting. Gary Nelson from the Falmouth Church believes that the Volunteers Protection Act makes liability coverage unnecessary for non-profitable, incorporated organizations. Robert Young is to be invited to the June 20 meeting in Halifax, **but it is not clear who is to ask him.**

e) **Rushton Lecture.**

i. A certificate of Recognition will be given to Dan Gibson at the Rushton Luncheon. Lee will update the letter that goes with it. Roger has the certificate.

ii. Lana Churchill is looking after the meal and pre-registration. David Allen will look after registration at the event.

iii. It was agreed that Roger on behalf of ACBAS will sell books containing presentations made at their conference in 2015.

iv. **Opening Liturgy.** Roger and John will produce an agenda for the day which will include a litany and other items related to the opening session.

v. **Memorial Moment.**

- David will e-mail John Tonks and John Churchill with a list of people who should be recognized.
- Lee will be asked to send an invitation to Bob and Barbara Rushton.
- It has been suggested that we should arrange a Skype call with the Burlington church. John Churchill will follow this up and make arrangements.

f) **Canadian Council of Churches.** Ed Colquhoun has agreed to be our CCC representative.

g) **Marriage License.** Lee is working with the Gathering to obtain a temporary license for Ian Easter to perform a wedding in Ontario in 2018.

h) **Strategic Planning Retreat.** The Council reaffirmed its intention to do this, most likely in the Fall of 2017 after the AGM.

i. Rick will work on the kinds of issues and questions that should form the agenda of the process, including a SWOT analysis.

ii. John C. will work towards a consensus as to the exact time and place.

iii. It was agreed that we should have someone outside of the CABF lead the process.

iv. A discussion of CABF values occurred, freedoms being major ones, that should be part of the planning process.

v. David suggested that we might have \$1,000 at our disposal for the process (from delegate expenses, publicity, etc.). We could put an amount in the 2018 budget.

vi. Involvement of the general membership in the process was raised. One possibility is to involve members at the AGM.

5. **Correspondence.**

a) Hugh indicated that an invitation by First Baptist Church Halifax may be forthcoming this week for their May 28 service. The invitation will be sent to John Tonks and John Churchill for distribution to the Council.

6) **Standing Reports.**

a) **Treasurer's and Financial Report** (items a and b). (David Allen, Treasurer)

i. David Allen went through the cash flow statement as of May 15, 2017. Differences from a year previous show that our cash position has increased by \$6,185.

ii. David suggested that in 2018 he will include in the 2018 budget \$250 to buy a license to SUMAC, a data base management software. Currently we have access to the "free" version of the software.

iii. the Council expressed it thanks to David for the wonderful job he does as Treasurer.

iv. The meeting accepted the Treasurer's report (D.Allen/J.Matwawana).

- b) **Membership Report.** (David Allen, Membership Chair). As a result of the meeting with the Gathering, 10 new memberships were taken out. Currently, we have 41 members.
- c) **The Bulletin.** (Roger Prentice, Editor). Roger “unveiled” the Spring 2017 edition. The CABF Bulletin is the only “Baptist” Journal in Canada. Great appreciation was expressed to Roger for his work as editor.
- d) **Credential Committee.** (Roger Prentice, Chair).
i. Five people are in various stages of inquiry for credentials.
ii. David Csinos is enjoying the course on Baptist Church History and Polity with Dr. Bill Brackney. Another candidate will take it this summer.
- e) **Website.** (John Churchill, webmaster)
i. John is striving to keep the site updated.
ii. John informed the Council of an on-going concern by some over the Baptist Foundation’s notice of motion to change their by-laws. Gary Nelson has done an extensive critique of the proposal and has major concerns. John also reported on a financial analysis of the Foundation which has raised concerns in his mind. A member of the Council reported on an unpleasant experience with the Foundation. Given this background, John asked for permission to post an “editorial” on the website in which he will use the material prepared by Gary Nelson to inform people of the issues and concerns before the Fall Convention. The meeting agreed to give permission to the Webmaster to do this (D.Allen/J.Matwawana)
- f) **Rushton Lecture.** Already discussed.
- g) **Fall Assembly and AGM.** Already discussed.
- h) **Partners.** No report.
- i) **Constitution/By-Laws.** No report.

7. New Business.

- a) A discussion occurred regarding the Convention’s credentialing process. The possibility of a “Lay Pastor” stream of credentialing by the CABF was referred to the Credentials Committee.
- b) Appointment of three people to further our relationship with the Gathering was postponed because of a lack of time. To be carried over to our next meeting.**

8. **Information Items.** None.

9. **Motion to Adjourn** 12:15 – David Allen

Next Meeting: June 20, 10:00 at First Baptist Church Halifax.
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Respectfully submitted

Hugh Kierkegaard, secretary *pro tem*

Transcribed by John Churchill