

Canadian Association for Baptist Freedoms (CABF)
Council Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2013

Attendees:

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

Regrets: John Tonks, Kim Sweet

AGENDA:

1. Financial Report
2. Wolfville Baptist Church update
3. Credentials Report
4. Constitution revisions and wording required
5. Bulletin Update
6. Letterhead finalized
7. Rushton Lecture Luncheon update
8. Fall Meeting at First Baptist Church Amherst
9. Canadian Council of Churches
10. Application for Union Church of Scott's Bay

Meeting opened in prayer at 10:1 8am by Dan Gibson.

1. Financial Report

Cynthia advised that she has not received the December bank statement as yet. As soon as it is available she will send it to Lee and Lee will attach it to the minutes of this meeting. (See attachment #1)

Cynthia informed the Council that receipts this year will come from 'ABF'. Soon all the work will be finalized so that we will be 'CABF'.

Dues for AEC (\$40) have been issued. The cheque for Dan's 2012 honorarium for the Bulletin work has been issued.

In checking on the names of churches that are members, it was noticed that *Sydney Baptist* is not listed and we have had no contact with them. It was agreed that this is the time when we normally hear from the churches about their membership and/or contributions. One church has been removed from our membership list, by their request.

ACTION: Lee to attach financial report when sent from Cynthia.

2. Wolfville Baptist Church update

Dan met with the Deacons of Wolfville Baptist church on January 15th. He received a warm welcome; he spoke for approximately 20 minutes about CABF. This invitation came to him as a result of an agenda item from Wolfville's Annual Meeting last year. While sharing the history of CABF, Dan reminded the Deacons that CABF exists today because of leadership from their congregation. Dan listed names of members (from their church) who were instrumental in working to get ABF/CABF started. Dan spoke highly of the great leaders that came from Wolfville Baptist, who also felt that Baptists should not be dictated to. It was Charlie Taylor and Lovsey who challenged CABF, asking if there really was a threat if an individual was not immersed by baptism; because of course, at that time, a church Representative to CABF had to be immersed. CABF felt ecumenical representation was fine. At that time, CCC welcomed ABF/CABF - it was a safe place for churches to go; churches could leave CABF and be comfortable at CCC.

Dan noted that some of those present were impressed to know their church was so involved with ABF/CABF in its beginning. Their entire reception was very positive. It was noted that the Board of Deacons (at Wolfville) has changed dramatically over the past year or so. A couple of the folks (Ron Baxter and Anne MacFarlane) appeared quite knowledgeable about the ABF/CABF history.

Someone asked about having to choose between CABF and CABF. They were surprised to learn that they did not have to choose; they could hold membership in both CABF and CABF. Also, there were a couple of leading questions about the Div College and Crandall.

One question was *'What was the policy of CABF, on these institutions?'* Dan responded that CABF does not set policies. That's part of what CABF is all about - people can think about things and have their own opinions. Another beauty about CABF - we all don't have to be the same. Dan gave his own opinion about Crandall.

We will be waiting to see what communication may come from this visit. Dan will contact Barry (Morrison) the Minister, to ask about his thoughts from the meeting - to get some feedback. Dan will also ask Barry if CABF can hold our February Council meeting there. Perhaps Barry will attend. Dan will let us know if we are able to have our February meeting there.

ACTION: Dan to advise before the February meeting about the meeting location.

3. Credentials Report

Roger advised us that his committee meets at least once a month. Committee is now made up of himself, John Boyd, Dan Gibson and Marilyn Peers (from FBCH). Marilyn brings good experience, great advice and good information. Roger said the committee is getting close to what they want. They are dealing with one of their last major issues: de-credentialing of a Minister. The committee recognizes there

are a number of legal issues involved in this process. Once the committee has a final document they will review it with a lawyer. Although this is a serious issue, the goal of the committee is to keep the process as simple as possible. The committee has referenced documents of the Alliance of Baptists and the United Church. Once the document is complete, the committee expects to we will need to add a few by-laws to our constitution.

The committee is also working on an application form; what records are required - because there are some legal requirements; how we will secure records; included in the application process, is the request for applicants to sign a document that outlines our standards. This is important so that recognized Ministers will know what is expected of them.

Also, Article 55 is being worked on: the committee wants to change the reference of 'Canadian Baptist Ministries'; the concern is that we (CABF) may have international requests from Ministers. The fact is CABF may recognize ordination of everyone; however, we may only be able to credential some. Or, we may recognize ordination of a Minister with a requirement to do certain tasks. Article 55.2 related to credentials will need to be reformatted, as well.

The goal is to be able to present all this information to the membership at our June meeting.

ACTION: No action at this time. The committee continues to work on credentialing and will keep Council updated.

4. Constitution revisions and wording required

John Churchill advised articles that are being revised will be published in the next edition of the *Bulletin* and will also appear on our website.

ACTION: John is working on the revisions.

5. Bulletin Update

The *Bulletin* got printed and distributed with the work of Dan and the support of Gary Dunfield. Only 5 of 6 copies were returned to us. This is a great improvement over the last publication - many more were returned. Only one mailing list exists now. It continues to be 'a-work-in-progress'; however is coming along very well! Thanks to all that contributed in getting this list updated and organized.

ACTION: No action required.

6. Letterhead finalized

The last letterhead sent to everyone from Lee is our agreed letterhead. This is the one with the two (2) different blues and the logo as prepared and presented by Roger. This letterhead can now be used by everyone.

The letterhead has been saved as a 'jpeg' file so that it can be used without losing its format. Dan will send a jpeg file to everyone so everyone will have it available for their use.

ACTION: Dan to send jpeg files of letterhead to everyone.

7. Rushton Lecture Luncheon update

David Ogilvie will confirm with our speaker David Jordan, the date of June 1, 2013. The Chapel is the location. David will also confirm with Joao (Matwawana) transportation arrangements. Joao knows David (Jordan) and asked if he can assist us by picking David (Jordan) up at the airport and getting him to the valley.

Some concern was expressed by Kim about accommodations at the Chapel last year. Roger agreed to speak with Kim about these concerns; together they will make a list of the concerns that can be addressed to the University catering. Roger cautioned us about how we deal with the catering folks; we need to be respectful and reasonable. We do have a special accommodation from the Chapel - we receive a 15% discount and we do not pay for space rental.

Some concern was discussed about the invoice not coming from the Chapel for the meal for 2012. It was discussed and agreed that the email sent from Tim (MacFarlane) is sufficient for our records. The cheque sent to the Chapel has been cashed and the amount of the cheque agrees with the email information sent by Tim.

David Ogilvie will prepare a draft of this year's program for the luncheon for the next Council meeting.

ACTION: David Ogilvie, as noted above.

8. Fall Meeting at First Baptist Church Amherst

First Baptist Church Amherst has agreed to host us, as long as we can work around events planned for their congregation. Two dates were selected (1) September 27 & 28 or (2) October 18 & 19. Lee will inform John Tonks (who made the initial contact with Amherst) and ask him to confirm one of these dates with FBCA.

We still need a speaker. John (Boyd) agreed to contact Barb Putman, who is a Chaplain in the Armed Forces, to see if she would be willing to come and speak about chaplaincy and its role in the Forces. Everyone agreed this would be interesting.

ACTION: John Boyd will speak with Barb Putman about being guest speaker. Lee follow-up with John Tonks to confirm a date with FBCA.

9. Canadian Council of Churches - (CCC)

The leaders of this Council are meeting the week of January 21st. Dan will not be attending this meeting. Although there will be the regular Council meeting May 22 - 24, 2013.

John Boyd moved that Dan attend this meeting as a representative of CABF.

Jeff White seconded this motion.

Motion carried unanimously.

CABF has previously committed support of \$500 to CCC. This is really our dues for membership in CCC.

It was suggested that we revisit this amount. Perhaps we can change this. John (Boyd) explained how FBCH has calculated its support to organizations that calculate membership dues in the same manner as CCC does. FBCH contributes by making a definite line in their operating budget and then, the congregation determines and commits an amount that will be contributed from their mission fund. (Just FYI.)

ACTION: No action at this time. (This item should be brought forward as an agenda item in the future.)

10. Application for Union Church of Scott's Bay

Dan educated us on some of the history of the Union Church of Scott's Bay. One note was that Scott's Bay is not a Baptist church. Scott's Bay church has representation from various denominations. Any Minister of the church pledges to be open to all denominations and to make desired sacraments available to all who want them. Scott's Bay still keeps its affiliation with Baptist. They are truly an ecumenical church.

We are a member of CCC and the Scott's Bay church is also affiliated with CCC. CABF constitution states that '*any Baptist church*' may join our membership. The question suggested was, '*Would CABF accept a request from Scott's Bay for membership?*' Dan recommended that We may need to consider revising our constitution regarding the reference to '*any Baptist church*'.

While reviewing the Constitution, John Churchill noted that our Covenant needs to be revised. The name currently reads as '*ABF*'; it needs to read *CABF*.

ACTION: (1) Dan will bring a report from Scott's Bay church to our next meeting.
(2) John Churchill will revise our Covenant to read our name change.

Next meeting date: February 14, 2013

Location: Dan confirmed that we will meet at **Wolfville Baptist Church**, at 10:00 am.