

Canadian Association for Baptist Freedoms (CABF)
Council Meeting Minutes – October 20, 2015
First Baptist Church Halifax

Attendees:

Cynthia Ogilvie	Roger Prentice	John Churchill
David Ogilvie	David Allen	Hugh Kirkegaard
Lee Nicholas-Pattillo		

Regrets: John Tonks, Kim Sweet,

Agenda

1. **Meeting** called to order by David Ogilvie at 10:17 am.
2. Approval of Agenda – Everyone accepted agenda as presented.
3. Approval of the Minutes of September 22, 2015

Lee Nicholas-Pattillo moved the minutes accepted as presented. **Second** by David Allen. **Carried.**

4. Business Arising

a. David Allen reminded us that we agreed to send all CABF files to him so he could organize them. Now David has suggested that we use Dropbox where each person can easily copy our files and allow him access. Please accept the emailed request to each of us, and drop your files into Dropbox. David will do the rest. Thanks David.

5. Correspondence

a. Lee confirmed that she sent a response to David Gibson's letter of resignation. The response was sent to Dan back in September. Lee hadn't confirmed this at the last meeting.

b. Roger confirmed that he sent the letter for Jenny's ordination to Lee for review. Lee will review, and place the letter on CABF letter for Roger's signature.

6. Standing reports

a) & b) Treasurer's Report and Financial/Budget Report

See Attachment #2. Cynthia advised 46 people attended our AGM. (31 for the full week-end; 8 for Friday night only; 7 for Saturday only). The cost for the AGM meeting was \$1,258; we are a loss of \$756. However, David pointed out that the total budget of the Rushton Lecture and the AGM was set at \$4,300 (\$2000 for Rushton & and \$2,300 for AGM); therefore, we are still under budget!

A cheque was issued for David Ogilvie's flight for the coming CCC meeting; and a cheque was issued to Lee for expenses (flight and lodging only) for the recent Alliance meetings.

Moved by Cynthia the Treasurer's and Financial Report are accepted as presented. **Second** by David Allen. **Carried unanimously.**

c) Membership

John indicated that he would like to have a constitution meeting.

Membership currently is 10 CABF churches and 85 individual members.

John (Churchill) sent a recommendation regarding membership for churches and for individuals prior to this meeting. See Attachment #1. It was suggested that we should consider having a brochure developed that included our constitution, membership registration form, and our covenant. We talked about the idea of having those applying for membership sign the covenant. Hugh gave us a good differentiation: one **affirms** a covenant; whereas one **signs** a statement of faith. Signing a document appears very legal. John (Churchill) advised he would check with Gary (Nelson) to see if we could add our covenant as a requirement for membership. Meanwhile, the Constitution Committee will meet in the future.

Brampton church has inquired about what form they are required to complete as they contemplate CABF membership. Everyone agreed the application form presented should be used at this time. **ACTION:** John Churchill and Constitution Committee as indicated.

d) The Bulletin

Roger advised the most recent edition is out to the public and he has continued to receive positive feedback. He is working on articles for the next edition – an article regarding Jenny Csinos' ordination and our recent AGM.

e) Credentials Committee

Presently, Roger is working with Jenny on preparing for the Ordination Service on Oct. 25. Lee had a few suggestions regarding the Ordination Process she will share with the Credentials Committee at their next meeting. Lee is working on an ordination certificate for Jenny, to be presented at the Ordination Service. Also, it was suggested that the Clergy covenant be added to the ordination service. That is to say, the covenant should be read at the Ordination Service.

f) Website

John (Churchill) advised he is working on the website; a new format is up and working and continues to be under construction. John has been working with his daughter on our site (thanks daughter!). John has received one email from a user who has suggested some concern about security – John will speak with her and clarify the issue.

g) Rushton Lecture

The 2016 date is **June 4, 2016**. Location: **Port Williams**. We need a speaker.

Potentials names: Mike Castles, President of Alliance – Lee will talk with Mike and ask what he might consider as a message. No commitments.

Another name – **Elizabeth May** – topic suggested by Huge: the intersection of faith and politics. **John Perkin (Mt. Allison)** was suggested. Huge will follow up on this. **Rev. Dr. Larry Bethum** from Austin, Texas was suggested – he preached at FBCH when he was considering an internship there. Other names raised: **Rev. Dr. Lawrence DeWolfe**, prof from AST and preached a number of times to FBCH, now residing in Toronto where he is taking

charge of a congregation; **Paul Dakar** – peace and justice are his topics, he is a prof at McMaster; **Coady Saunders** from Alliance – young man who very informed and up-to-date on same gender issues.

ACTION: As noted for Huge.

h) Fall Assembly & AGM

Although we always think travel time seems to be a concern for attendance at our AGM, we cannot really determine if this was the concern for the lower turn out this year. The only other event we are aware that happened at the same time is a music festival. Cynthia will check her records to see if she can provide previous attendance record. We recall that in 2014 the AGM was a one day event – and this year it was back to our original 2 day event. In 2014 – 39 attendees and this year 46 attendees. We will do some checking and see if can come to any conclusions. Comfort of facilities, specifically sitting in old pews, may be another concern. There was a suggestion that group discussions may have some negative impact.

ACTION: as noted for Cynthia.

i) Constitution/By-laws

John (Churchill) advised some changes have been made to the website and it continues to be under construction.

Nomination Committee

David (Ogilvie) advised there is no update on positions left unfilled at our AGM.

Potential new secretary suggested at AGM has not been approached as yet. Marianne Thomas was not present to do these minutes. David (Ogilvie) will follow up on the possibility of a new Secretary.

Suggestion discussed briefly was the possibility of electing '*members at large*'. We know we always invite members to attend Council meetings. However, this suggestion is more definite to ensure members attend Council meetings. This suggestion is deferred to the Constitution Committee for their discussion and review. **ACTION:** Constitution Committee to discuss possibility of '*members at large*'.

j. Partners Reports:

1) Canadian Council of Churches (CCC)

David (Ogilvie) will be attending meetings later in October.

2) Peace Development

No report.

3) Alliance of Baptist

Lee just returned from Board meetings in Baltimore. She advised the Board attended interesting sessions about the sexual components of the XX, XY, XXX (and other various combinations) chromosome , information on same gender, cross dressing, transvestites, – all being discussed as a foundation for the end product of Alliance’s attempt to prepare a statement on Sexual Ethics. All was very interesting. Along with that session, it has been decided that Alliance will ceased the *Recognition Process*. However, they will take components on that process and include them in the *Ordination Process*. Work continues on this. Lee will share more info at future meeting.

It was agreed that other reports and agenda items could be deferred to our next meeting. **Moved** by **David Allen** and **Second** by **Cynthia Ogilvie** meeting adjourned. **Carried** unanimously.

Next meeting date: November 17, 2015 at 10:00 am

Location: Port Williams.