

Canadian Association for Baptist Freedoms
Council Meeting **Minutes- October 25, 2016**
(Port Williams's church)

In attendance: John Churchill, Rick Manuel, David Allen, Roger Prentice and Lee Nicholas-Pattillo

Absent: John Tonks

Regrets Hugh Kirkegaard

Agenda:

1. **Called to Order** at 10:00 am.

2. **Addendums to and Approval Agenda**

Today's Agenda:

1. AGM – Fall Assembly
2. Burlington Baptist questions – will be addressed in membership report.
3. CCC Invoice
4. Strategic Plan needed – Rick
5. Rushton Lecture Luncheon Speaker and topic

3. **Minutes from previous meeting approved**

September 20, 2016 minutes unavailable. Lee will check for these and send with minutes to this meeting.

4. **Business Arising from the Minutes**

n/a (Sept 20, 2016 minutes unavailable at this time; will be presented at the next meeting)

5. **Correspondence**

1. Communications from **Milt MacLean, Burlington Baptist** (in Ontario). John (Churchill) advised although he has had a number of exchanges with Mr. MacLean, John recognizes that the main concern for Burlington Baptist seems to be how their Ministers, will be able to perform marriages, in Ontario, if the church (Burlington Baptist) becomes a CABF member. After discussion, it was agreed that Lee will contact Fred Demaray, (from the Gathering) and explain to Fred, the

situation with Burlington Baptist. (The resolution for Burlington Baptist, as CABF sees it: is to apply to Ontario, Registrar of Joint Stock Companies – or equivalent- to register CABF as a denomination with Fred’s church as the agent, therefore, using their address on the application. CABF will assist Fred in providing the required documents and in whatever other manner we can. We do understand that even if CABF can register as a denomination in Ontario a temporary license will still be required for Ministers who want to perform a marriage in a province outside of where they are registered.)

Lee will also ask Fred to confirm dates for the spring meeting and additional information he was to provide regarding hotels in the area.

2. Lee advised that ‘thank you’ notes need to be sent to Alana and Joan for working on registration for the AGM; to Jenny and Darcy Gillis for their devotionals; and to David and Kate for the fine meal. Lee will do this.

ACTION: As noted above for Lee.

6. Reports

a) Treasurer’s Report

David Allen provided a Bank Summary (see Attachment #1) in advance of the meeting. **David (Allen) moved** the report be accepted as presented. **Second – Roger Prentice. Carried.**

b) Financial/Budget Report

David Allen provided a 2017 Budget (see Attachment #2) in advance of the meeting. **David (Allen) moved** the report be accepted as presented. **Second – Roger Prentice. Carried.**

Discussion followed regarding CCC’s recent invoice to CABF for the cost of their fall board meeting. David stated his understanding of the past situation and the agreed understanding CABF had with CCC regarding their expectation of CABF paying expenses incurred by CCC for board meetings. David’s understanding was accurate. References were shared about dates, and individuals involved in the previous agreement, and CABF meeting minutes. David agreed that he will contact CCC and review the current understanding and report back.

David advised that he filed HST rebates for 2012 and 2013. 2014, 2015 and 2016 are ready to send; however, he thought he would wait until he has a response from Revenue Canada, to hear if they were satisfied with the reports sent. (Rick stated that normally these reports are filed at 6 month intervals.)

ACTION: As stated above for David Allen.

c) Membership

David advised that at the AGM last month 4 people paid 2016 membership fees and 7 paid for 2017. **NO ACTION**

d) The Bulletin

Roger advised that he continues to receive positive feedback for The Bulletin. Cornwallis Street Baptist Church considered cancelling their copies. However, Rev. Dr. Rhonda Britton stopped the cancellation. Also, the closing date for the **January 2017 Bulletin** is the **end of November**.

e) Credentials Committee

Roger advised the Committee continues to meet regularly. The Committee continues dealing with all requests and issues in a prayerful, compassionate and passionate manner.

Also, the Committee continues to complete its work on documentation of its processes and procedures. **NO ACTION**

f) Website

No report. **NO ACTION**

g) Rushton Lecture

Roger suggested (early in the meeting) that we should be thinking of possible speakers for our spring Rushton Lecture Luncheon. Possibilities: Rev. Lynn Uzans, Interim Minister at FBCH and/or Darcy Gillis. Perhaps we should consider going to the chapel at Acadia for this meeting. We will give this more serious thought and discuss further at our next meeting.

h) **Fall Assembly & AGM**

As discussed early in the meeting, all went well. Remaining 'thank you' notes will be sent.

i) **Constitution/By-laws**

No report.

j) **Partners' Reports:**

1) **CCC** – see notes in agenda item 6b.

2) **Peace Development** – no report.

3) **Alliance of Baptist** – Report from fall Board meeting Lee advised:

A few actions at the recent Alliance Board Meeting:

1. CABF has had many discussions on **setting membership fees**; there is no membership fee for Alliance. An individual or a church *pays what it can*. A new board member (for Alliance) who does fund raises and coaches charitable organizations on fund raising encouraged Alliance to keep its current policy because statistics indicate that if a fee is set for membership that is all that is paid. Just something CABF might consider.
2. Alliance has a lady who lives in Washington DC, and on behalf of Alliance, she consistently delivers papers prepared by Alliance to Governors and/or Senators. The (Alliance) Board prepared a wonderful article on '**Black Lives Matter**'. A number of revisions were made to reflect the compassion and passion for all parties involved in this concern in the USA.
3. The (Alliance) Board also prepared a paper on the lack of action by the **US government on immigration**. I (Lee) was able to share statistics relating to the Canadian situation on immigration. As you many know, the Canadian government has ceased activity on immigration as well. I shared information provided by FBCH regarding the amount of money available and the number of people working on it in churches across Canada. Canada and U.S. share a number of concerns in this area.
4. Financially Alliance is struggling. Churches and individuals are finding it challenging to support the Alliance. Alliance is seeking ways of encouraging financial support. One thing Alliance is being intentionally active in, is applying for grants from various

government agencies as well as various charitable organizations (ex: Lily Foundation).

5. The **2017 spring board meeting** and the **Gathering is planned for North Carolina**. Discussion took place about changing location. The decision was made to continue the plans to go to North Carolina. There are churches there that are very supportive of Alliance and based on the hope and expectation that things will settle by the time of the Alliance Board meeting/Gathering take place, everyone believes things will be safe for all. (Just a note, this concern was discussed based on recent
6. After much research, many meetings with members who were part of the **endorsement process** and some of those clergy who had been endorsed, the Alliance determined that the endorsement process was not meeting its expectation and had out-lived its usefulness, therefore dissolved the endorsement process. All individuals affected, were personally notified and provided the opportunity of being able to discuss any concerns with a qualified Alliance representative. All but one individual was satisfied with the reasoning and the final decision. The one individual's church communicated its displeasure with this decision to the Alliance board. We prepared a second letter of explanation to send to this church. Also, a visit was made to the church by one of the Board members and a member of the committee. (I've not received notification as yet, about the outcome of this 2nd letter.)
7. Also, we reviewed work done on revisiting our brand; the identity we present to the public and our communication images.
8. I had worked over several months with the senior leadership team, on revising job descriptions due to possible changes (if approved by the Board) because of how initiatives for the coming years (2016 – 2018) will be prioritized. The initiatives were discussed at the meeting and accepted as presented; and revised job descriptions were accepted.

A couple of the documents referenced are included with these minutes.

7. New Business

Today's Agenda:

1. AGM – Fall Assembly review

All went well.

It was recommended at the AGM that a 'thank you' should be sent to Cynthia Ogilvie for her great service to CABF. Lee will check with John Tonks to see if he has this communication on his agenda to be done.

ACTION: as noted above for Lee.

2. Burlington Baptist questions

See discussion in **#5 Correspondence** in these minutes

3. CCC Invoice

See discussion in **#6.b.Reports** in these minutes

4. Strategic Plan needed – Rick - carried to next meeting

5. Spring Speaker and topic

See discussion in **# 6. g. Reports** in these minutes

8. Informational Items

It was recommended that we get back to our previous agreement to meet on the **third Tuesday of each month**. There are several advantages to having a pre-determined meeting day, and time. One specific advantage is that Council members would be able to pre-schedule this meeting in their personal calendars and therefore work around this meeting.

It was also noted that it does not have to be Tuesdays; however, we should look at this. Agreed we would do this at our next meeting. This will be added to our next meeting agenda.

9. Adjournment: Closed in prayer by Roger Prentice at 11:50 am.

Next meeting date: November 15, 2016

Location: Port Williams church.