

Canadian Association for Baptist Freedoms (CABF)
Council meeting minutes – **April 28, 2015**
(Port Williams United Baptist Church)

Attendees:

Cynthia Ogilvie	John Boyd	Marilyn Peers	David Ogilvie
Kim Sweet	Roger Prentice	John Tonks	Marianne Thomas
Hugh Kirkeggard	David Allen	John Churchill	Lee Nicholas-Pattillo

Regrets: Dan Gibson and Rick Manual

Opened in prayer by John Churchill @ 10:15 am

Marianne asked that we remember Dan Gibson as he prepares to preach this Sunday – the first time since his stroke almost two years ago. Everyone marvels at Dan’s progress and wishes him the very best!

Agenda

1. Approval of Jan. 20, 2015 minutes and review of Minutes of special meeting February 28, 2015
2. Financial update – Cynthia
3. Credentials Committee – Roger Prentice
4. Revisions to the index of the By-Laws – John Churchill
5. The Bulletin – Roger
6. Rushton Lecture and Luncheon – Saturday, June 6, 2015 @ Port Williams
7. AGM in the fall
8. Peace Camp – David Ogilvie
9. Membership – David A.

New Business:

1. Hugh Kirkeggard
2. District Secretary of Shipping bibles to Cuba

1. Approval of Jan. 20, 2015 minutes and review of Minutes of special meeting February 28, 2015

Corrections required in minutes of Jan. 20, 2015

1. Item #5 – the name should be corrected to read ‘Amy Butler, Riverside Church, New York city
2. in attendance roster: correct spelling of Marianne’s name.

Moved by L. Nicholas-Pattillo that the minutes be accepted with the amendments noted; and **seconded** by Marianne; **carried** unanimously.

Minutes of the special meeting of February 28, 2015 were accepted as presented. These minutes will be moved for acceptance at the Rushton Lecture Luncheon, during the business meeting. (**Action:** Lee will ensure copies are made for the general public and John Churchill will add to the website.)

2. Financial update – Cynthia

a) See Attachment #1. Cynthia explained the attachment provided. This attachment shows our standing from January to the end of April 2015. Cynthia stated that membership is in a *good place!*

b) Also, a question was raised about the **previous concern we had regarding CCC request for sharing the expenses for meetings**. John Tonks confirmed that this situation was clarified by John Boyd when he attended the fall meeting of CCC: all members were expected to share in the expenses of the regular meetings; it is understood that smaller organizations (like CABF) will contribute what they are able to. This contribution is in addition to our yearly dues with CCC.

c) John Churchill asked if we had an update from CRA regarding our request for our name change. Lee advised that she has heard nothing. However, she is willing to make a call before the next meeting. Lee will do this and report at the May meeting. **(ACTION: As noted for Lee.)**

3. Credentials Committee – Roger Prentice

Roger informed Council that the recent *situation* dealt with by the Committee has been on-going and well received by those outside of CABF. Roger attributed the good reception to the reputation and credentials of those on the Credentials Committee.

Roger suggested that sometime in the future CABF should consider a retreat for those who are credentialed and recognized by CABF. This would be a good follow up session for these folks. Also, provide an opportunity to listen to them and to provide support.

Also, Roger stated he has had 2 or 3 folks inquire about seeking an association licence from CABF. There is one person actively on track for ordination from CABF.

There is a notice of motion for revisions to article **1.8 – Authorization to Conduct Marriages**. After much discussion it was agreed that what is presently on the website will be used as the original document; we will add Roger's amendments to this document; and at the Rushton Lecture Luncheon the appropriate members of Council will lead discussion on the motion. Meanwhile, David Allen will prepare what we expect the article to read at the successful acceptance of the notice of motion.

4. Revisions to the index of the By-Laws – John Churchill

John Churchill lead the Council through the revisions he prepared related to the Index for the By-Laws. (These necessary revisions were addressed by a member who attended the special meeting on February 28, 2015.) The revisions were accepted by everyone. See Attachments #2 and #3, to view the documents John used for this discussion.

The notice of motion regarding these documented revisions will be presented at the Rushton Lecture Luncheon in June. At the AGM in October, these revisions will be voted on. John will place the revised document on our website. **(Action: As noted above for John Churchill.)**

5. The Bulletin – Roger

Roger presented the most recent edition of **The Bulletin**. John Boyd's picture is on the front cover – nicely done! Roger stated that John's retirement was a big thing; it is a change for CABF and a change for our association. Roger advised he has had lots of good feedback about the last edition!

The up-coming edition has an article by Gary Nelson, notice of motion, CABF membership form, to name a few things. Everyone looks forward to the next edition!

6. Rushton Lecture and Luncheon – Saturday, June 6, 2015 @ Port Williams

Kim informed Council that the 'Loyal Works' (the group at Port Williams church) is unable to accommodate the full meal normally presented at the luncheon. Kim has approached another group who has provided two alternatives for the luncheon. A chowder and sandwich meal at a cost of \$16/person; or a full meal at \$17/person. Everyone agreed that the full meal at \$17/person should be provided.

Discussion followed regarding the agenda for the meeting. It was agreed that we would have the worship and John Boyd's presentation (John is the guest speaker) in the sanctuary and proceed to the fellowship hall for lunch and the business meeting.

The business meeting would include (1) approval of the minutes of February 28, 2015; (2) discussion on the notice of motion from Roger re changes in article **1.8 – Authorization to Conduct Marriages**; (3) discussion on the revisions for the index (as presented today by John Churchill).

7. AGM in the fall

Date of Fall AGM is October 2 & 3, 2015 (Friday evening and Saturday; something Friday evening like we had at our last meeting would be great!)

Location: is Falmouth Baptist Church

John Boyd will follow up with Ken Myers from Alliance as a guest speaker.

ACTION: as noted for John Boyd.

8. Peace Camp – David Ogilvie

9. Membership – David A.

Agenda Items #8 and #9 will be carried forward to next meeting.

New Business

1. Hugh Kirkeggard
2. District Secretary of Shipping bibles to Cuba

1. Hugh Kirkeggard comments

Hugh took the opportunity to comment on a few things he was thinking about (1) growth potential for CABF, including youth and (2) structure of CABF.

(1) Hugh stated that he saw the need for growth within CABF membership and also the opportunity to get youth from within the churches of CABF involved. This involvement could be through younger folks like Jenny and Dave Csinos – they could contribute greatly. I (Lee) commented that I agreed with him and that one opportunity I saw was through missions. Also, I advised I have had very recent discussion about missions (with a parent from FBCH). I agreed with Hugh that we should be looking at how to engage youth. There was no disagreement from anyone.

(2) Hugh stated that he has been reflecting on his time on the search committee at FBCH. He commented on his conversations with people in Canada and US. Hugh stated that people from across North America spoke about CABF. This is a good thing and a good time for CABF to use this recognition to start carving out a space for ourselves. Maybe we too (i.e. CABF) are at an interim step. Hugh reflected on his personal experience with the Metropolitan Community Church (here Halifax) – it was good. Hugh suggested that this is a good time for CABF to look at its alliances with

other churches and consider hiring a part-time staff person – an ambassador for CAFB! Someone like Vin Rushton was in the 70's! Hugh encouraged Council to seriously consider this.

It was acknowledged that we have come a long way with our documentation; we recognize the need for someone to be designated as a spokesperson – a paid spokesperson. Perhaps we need to establish a fund to be used for this suggestion. It was stated that perhaps this is the kind of thing First Baptist Church Amherst might be interested in supporting financially. It was noted, that in a previous conversation, we were to make contact with First Amherst on how we might be able to get financial support from them for something related to CABF. President Tonks indicated that an initial contact has been made with First Amherst about some kind of financial support.

Others stated that everything seems to be very urbanized when it comes to the churches; it was suggested that the rural churches/congregations want and need something – they are well educated people in the rural areas – waiting for *something!* Perhaps this is the time to go and offer something from CABF?

I (Lee) stated that I agreed with Hugh's ideas; however, before asking a paid individual to 'campaign' for us, we need to be clearer on who we are, what is our mission, our vision, what are our values and how do we want to be promoted and viewed. We need to have a session and clarify these things for ourselves first.

Hugh commented on how Oakville Baptist church ministers to the gay community; this ministry could be very interested in us....We reminded ourselves that as CAFB we do not take a stand one-way- or-another on the gay issue; rather what is significant about CABF is that we encourage each person to make their own choice.

Apparently, the **Ontario Gathering** is also working on credentials at this time. It seems unfortunate that CABF has not been mentioned – this would also be a good resource to partner with. Maybe we could work with **Ontario Gathering** to have licence in Ontario **and** Nova Scotia – a great partnership – a great thing for one provincial group to be recognized by the other!

At this time, there were no commitments were made on Hugh's comments. These thoughts should be re-visited. Hugh stated that he is willing to work with us on these initiatives.

Due to time constraints the meeting adjourned.

Next meeting date: May 19, 2015
Port Williams United Baptist Church