

ABF Meeting Notes
May 28, 2009

Attendees: Ed Colquhoun
Susan Colquhoun
David Ogilvie
John Boyd
John Gahan
Keith Churchill
John Churchill
Jeff White
Roger Prentice
Paul Burden
Andy Crowell
Lee Nicholas-Pattillo

Agenda: See attachment at the end of this document.

1. Checking in - no regrets! Everyone is present!
2. Agenda - John Boyd added 'Incorporation' discussion under Old Business.
3. Last meeting agenda - there were no notes from the February meeting.
4. Old Business: Rushton Luncheon - Final arrangements:
 - Approximately 50 people have registered
 - The agenda starts at 11:00 am
 - David Ogilvie will chair the luncheon agenda.
 - Joan Keith's wife will introduce Carol Ann Janzen, Speaker
 - Jeff White will say grace.
 - David will give President's remarks.
 - Registration will be done by Cynthia Ogilvie
 - Agenda will also include memorial moment.
 - Agenda will also include a profile of one of the ABF founders: Morris Lovesey (Roger Prentice)
 - Joel would like to show pictures of his trip and if he does this, he requires the use of a computer and a projector. (Keith will check with Tim at the Chapel at Acadia to see if he can assist in providing the equipment.) Keith will talk with Joel about this.
 - \$250 will be the honorarium paid to Carol Anne
 - John Churchill will thank Carol Anne
 - A cheque for the University should be available to pay for the meal.
 - The posters that were prepared for this event were prepared by Kevin Estey - at no charge. Kevin has a business in Kentville. Kevin has done

other work for us as well - at no charge. It was agreed by all that Kevin should receive a \$50 honorarium.

- Acadia has subsidized the meal in the past through the assistance of the previous Chaplain - Roger Prentice; and now through Tim MacFarlane. Lee will send a letter of thanks to Tim for this continued support.

ACTION:

- As noted by name for the luncheon.
- Letter to be sent to Tim by Lee.

Old Business: Lecture Series at ADC

David Ogilvie advised that he and Jeff had the opportunity to meet with President Harry Gardner, and discuss the proposal of ABF partnering with ADC on a lecture series. David's first offer was for a lecture series. After some discussion with Harry - and a refusal - David then suggested a one time offering to ADC. Part of the offer included Harry's participation in choosing speakers.

Harry advised there was no opportunity for any proposal to happen. He backed away from everything. Harry noted that ABF carries 'some baggage'. Harry suggested this was not a good time to take this kind of proposal to his faculty. This was not a battle that Harry was willing to take on. Harry also stated that he wondered what the constituency would think of a partnership of Acadia & ABF.

Some of our board members were surprised by Harry's refusal. Harry's lack of support for ABF is quite different from the previous support once provided by his predecessor Lee MacDonald. It was noted that ADC was working on a statement of faith and that accreditation for the university was being worked on as well.

It was suggested that David should forward a letter to Harry acknowledging his time; that ABF is disappointed we are unable to work together at this time; and that ABF looks forward to the potential of working together in the future. David will draft a letter and send it to Jeff for his input.

In the next ABF Bulletin we will make note of our offer and the current refusal.

ACTION: David will prepare and send letter to Harry Gardner.

Old Business: Incorporation of Convention

The Halifax Association is strongly supporting the working group from FBCH. HRUBA working group continue working on the revised incorporation document. It is evident there is some change; however, it is just as bad as the original.

A presentation was presented at the Halifax meeting in April, by David Dexter. Dan Gibson was as supportive as he could be on David's presentation. There are still many concerns. A few examples:

- Core values - included in the revised document - have never been discussed with the convention membership. The working group is recommending that until such time these values are developed, discussed and adopted - they should not be included in the document.
- The same applies with the objects; the revised constitution has 2 pages of objects; whereas the existing constitution has only 2 or 3 objects....(?)

Convention still has the final say regarding local churches and Association. The working group is suggesting that the Association should be able to dis-associate/remove a church - not Convention.

Overall, the revised document is not doing what Margaret Munro (previous Convention Executive Minister) said they were trying to do; that is, the revised document is not documenting the existing relationships Convention has with churches and Associations - rather, they are attempting to change the relationships.

Gary Nelson said that he thought the Incorporation of Convention would require a vote from each church. This isn't something that has been talked about by Convention.

During the Halifax Association meeting the African Association addressed their concern that the revised Incorporation document had no reference to their relationship with Convention.

Also, it still appears that Convention wants control over doctrine. Parts of the proposed document conflict. Lots still to be worked on! A letter - accompanied with a list of concerns about the revised document is being sent from the Halifax working group to Convention to meet the June 1 deadline for feedback. This letter was read by John (Boyd) and will be added to the ABF website. John encouraged others to provide feedback to Convention for the June 1 deadline.

NO ACTION

New Business: Treasure Report - Paul

1. "There's money in the bank; and the bills are paid!"

\$7,074.46 in the bank; \$46,000 - investments; \$6,400 in Rushton Investment.

From January to today we have \$2,700 more in expenses than we have taken in. We are down in givings. Our biggest expense is the Bulletin; and we gave \$1,000 to Joel. It appears we have picked up 2 - 3 new churches who are giving (from the Billtown and Bridgetown areas). One church sent a large donation (\$150).

NO ACTION

2. Bulletin Report - Ed

A summer Bulletin is coming soon! Ed is going to start preparing the Bulletin when David (Mr. President) sends his report. Ed is open for material. The summer production will not be 24 pages; more likely, 16 pages.

ACTION: David Ogilvie to send his report to Ed.

3. Friends - Keith

Report on Spring Rushton luncheon already provided.

A letter to *Friends* will go out in the fall.

NO ACTION

4. Website - John Churchill

There has been no contact with Craig Hubert. There are still things that John isn't able to do. In April there were 350 visits - that equals about 10 visits per day. John is open for suggestions and content. Church links will be added to the website.

NO ACTION

5. Atlantic Ecumenical Council - David

Next Friday, June 5, David will attend a meeting representing Atlantic Baptists. Noteworthy: David mentioned that during his conversation with Harry Gardner, Harry expressed surprise that ABF aligned themselves with Alliance.

NO ACTION

6. Alliance of Baptists - John Boyd

John shared some of his experience from attending the conference in Atlanta.

- About 400 energetic and enthusiastic participants.
- Diane Butler-Bass talked about what is going right: lots of life, renewal and lots of growth in Christianity
- Stan's retirement banquet was wonderful!
- Betty was greatly pleased with the Nova Scotia crystal bowl we sent
- Betty and Stan are hoping to return to Nova Scotia for a private visit
- With Stan's retirement Alliance is re-structuring
- Paula Clayton-Dempsey is the only full time staff person
- There are 5 other part time staff working from their homes
- They are going to try and conduct the business by virtual office
- It will be more mission oriented
- The Cuba situation: Obama has opened the doors. It looks like it will be easier to do jointed missions with churches.
- Alliance needs financial support.

- Next year there will be big changes in the conference: it is being moved to California; changing the time of the convention from near Easter time to July.

New Business: Request from ADC - Carol Anne Janzen for financial support

1. We have received a request (from Carol Anne Janzen) to financially support the pastoral care program to be offered at ADC. Chris Coffin and Gary Myatt have been hired to put the program together. The intended program supports CAPE certification.

Motioned by John Boyd that ABF support the request from Carol Anne Janzen, by sending \$500. This was **seconded** by Keith Churchill

Motion carried.

ACTION: Paul to prepare cheque.

2. Event during Convention Assembly

A request was left on our ABF website, from Convention advising that if we are interested in having a booth at Convention Assembly in August (at Acadia) we should register now.

The booth needs to be attended on August 19 - starting at 10:00 am. David suggested that we should have a give-away with ABF printed on it. There was discussion at whether or not Convention will allow us to participate. David, Paul and Rene Clark (will be asked) and Lee will work on this.

ACTION: Planning needs to be done so we can be ready for Convention. Lee will contact David to ensure this is 'a go'.

3. Fall Assembly - Working with First Baptist Amherst

Presently only one church (FBCH) is preparing to participate in the Friday evening (historical and hysterical?) skits. David Ogilvie will check with Port Williams Church and advise; and Jeff will check with his church (Windsor) and advise - Lee will follow up with Dave and Jeff, and advise Susan & Ed.

The members of the panel on Saturday will be:

Roger Prentice, Peter Paris: Main Speaker, John Brackney, and a representative from the African Association.

Susan stated she thought the Div College was sending a few people to the Saturday panel engagement.

A broucher needs to be prepared for the week-end program. John Boyd agreed to prepare a broucher and forward to Sue. Lee will follow up with John.

There was brief discussion about whether or not Convention is planning anything to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Baptists. This remains outstanding.

ACTION:

David to advise if Port Williams church is participating in Friday night's skits.

Jeff as well will advise if Windsor is participating.

John Boyd to prepare broucher and send to Susan.