

Canadian Association of Baptist Freedoms
Council Meeting – August 31, 2017
First Baptist Church Halifax

In attendance: Ed Colquhoun, Roger Prentice, Hugh Kierkegaard, Rick Manuel, and John Churchill

Via teleconferencing: David Allen

Regrets: Lee Nicholas-Pattillo, John Tonks, and Joao Matwawana

Agenda:

The meeting appointed Roger Prentice as chair and John Churchill as secretary, *pro tem*

1. The chair called the meeting to order and opened with prayer at 10:05.
2. An agenda was struck and approved.
3. The minutes of June 20, 2017 were approved (Allen/Manuel).

4. Business Arising from the Minutes

(a) . **Members-at-Large** (MaL). Lee has had a conversation with Pam Estey who is agreeable if she can participate via teleconferencing. This was accepted and Lee will be asked about Pam and any further candidates that were contacted or considered. It was agreed to leave the appointment of the fourth MaL for the Annual General Meeting as part of the Nominating Committee's report.

(b). **Officers and Directors Insurance.** The issue was deferred until further conversation with the President, John Tonks, who was in contact with an insurance agent.

5. **Correspondence:** none was received.

6. Reports

Treasurer.

(a) **Banking statement:** David Allen presented a bank statement as of August 28, 2017. The Treasurer noted that donations were up over the same period last year and we ended the period with a surplus of \$6,670. Our total surplus carried in our bank account is \$15,444. Discussion occurred about the way Canadian Council of Churches are reflected in the statement. The report was accepted (Allen/Manuel).

(b) **Budget for 2018:** Liability insurance was discussed. Hugh volunteered to check with an association he is part of it see how it is handle in that organization. Lee will be asked to check on how liability is handled at FBCH and John Tonks will be asked to follow up with the insurance agent he was in touch with.

Fees and expenses related to membership in the Canadian council of Churches (CCC) and their amount in the budget was considered. At issue is the size of our contribution to "shared expenses."

David has suggested \$3,000 to cover the strategic planning exercise.

David recommended the 2018 budget have a deficit of \$4,000 and that it be covered by a portion of our accumulated surplus.

Adoption of the budget was passed (Allen/Churchill).

(c) **Membership:** David Allen reported that our membership list is growing and we now have 78 individual members.

(d) Bulletin: Roger reported that the next edition has been held up, mainly because of the lack of details about the up-coming AGM.

(e) Credentials Committee: Roger reported on a meeting earlier with Rusty Edwards, Minister of First Baptist Halifax, who is preparing his application for recognition of his credentials. Roger said there are several candidates in the “pipeline” working their way towards accreditation or ordination. Roger reported progress on revision of the Credential policies.

(f) Website: John updated the meeting on the effort to make “PDFs” of past Bulletins and include them on the website. A discussion occurred regarding a “members only” section. More discussion is required on what would be contained in this password-protected area.

(g) Rushton Lecture: The consensus was that it was a good event. The council discussed the policy regarding the nature of talks at the Rushton Lecture vs. the AGM.

(h) Fall Assembly: The meeting worked on logistics and details for the meeting of October 13 and 14. The speaker is Rev. Jamie Scott, retired United Church of Canada minister with a background in restorative justice. John confirmed with Tim MacFarland that the location will be the Acadia University Chapel. Because of a wedding and prior rehearsal, variation from the usual schedule is required. The possibility of a “Smudging Ceremony” for the Saturday opening is being investigated by Hugh and Rick. Rick, as chair of the Program committee, is arranging other details and will send John information about them for the website.

(in) Partnership Reports:

1. The Canadian Council of Churches. Ed reported that there is a new acting General Secretary and discussed other staff changes. David Allen presented his proposal for contribution to “shared expenses.” It was passed that “the CABF contribute \$200 per meeting to shared expenses, to a maximum of \$400 per year’ (Allen/Kierkegaard).

(j) Constitution Committee: No report.

7. New Business

(a) Nominating Committee Report: in the absence of an active past president, John C will ask Joh B to prepare a Nominating slate for the upcoming AGM.

(b) Next Meeting: September 21, 10am at First Baptist Church Halifax.

Afternoon Session – Strategic Planning

Present: John C, Roger P, Hugh K, Rick M – presenter.

Rick had prepared and distributed, via email, relevant articles regarding the exercise.

Rick stressed the importance of understanding the nature of what we are doing before we discuss the more important specific components of our strategy. Most of the discussion was about the events leading up to the formation of the CABF and the initial objectives of the ABF. It was agreed that this is a very valuable exercise and that we should continue with Rick guiding us rather than engaging an outside facilitator.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45.

Respectfully submitted,
John Churchill, Secretary, *pro tem*