



Minutes

CABF Council Meeting

September 8, 2020
9:30 a.m.
(Via Zoom)

Present: Lee Nicholas-Pattillo (Chair), David Allen, Joyce Allen, John Boyd, John Churchill, Dave Gibson, Don Flowers, Scott Kindred-Barnes, Hugh Kirkegaard, Marlene Knowles, Harriet McCready, Bert Radford, Sheila Stanley, Jeff White.

Call to Order: Chair Lee welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Opening Prayer: Jeff White opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of Agenda: With the addition of the 50th Anniversary Celebration to New Business, Lee moved and Don seconded approval of the agenda previously circulated. Motion carried

Approval of Minutes May 5, 2020:

The minutes of the meetings held on May 5, 2020; June 2, 2020; June 30, 2020; and August 13, 2020 had been circulated prior to the meeting and were considered separately. With minor grammatical changes and clarifications, the minutes with amendments were approved in one motion moved by Don Flowers and seconded by Marlene Knowles.

Business Arising from the Minutes:

John Churchill reported that the proposed amendments to the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Canadian Association for Baptist Freedoms (CABF) and the Interfaith Committee on Canadian Military Chaplaincy (ICCMC) considered at the meeting on 13 August 2020 have been accepted. Once the finalized LOU is received, a copy will be placed on the record. It will also be incorporated into the Policy and Procedures Manual that will be developed. Council agreed to consider other business arising from previous minutes as part of the Standing Committee Reports later in the meeting.

Standing Reports

a. Treasurer – David Allen

Banking Summary

David reviewed the Treasurer’s Report/Banking Summary that had been previously circulated.

The current balance of \$15, 928.20 will remain in the bank account for now in anticipation of

upcoming expenses pertaining to the 50th Anniversary Celebration. Moved by David Allen, seconded by John Churchill, the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was carried.

CABF Consolidated Financial Statements (2019 for AGM)

David moved that the CABF Consolidated Financial Statements for the 2019 fiscal year (1/1/2019 –12/31/2019) be approved for inclusion in the report book for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for consideration at the meeting. Dave Gibson seconded the motion and the motion carried.

b. Financial/Budget – David Allen

David presented the draft budget for 2020 in the absence of the Chair of the Finance Committee, Dan Green. The draft budget includes increases related to the 50th Anniversary Celebration approved by Council at the meeting on August 13, 2020. David moved, and Harriet seconded, that the proposed budget document be presented for consideration at the AGM. Motion carried.

c. Membership – Joyce Allen

Joyce reviewed her report that had previously been circulated. For clarification, the memberships indicated are paid members up until December 31, 2020 as well as two life members who do not pay annual dues. The four churches listed have made donations (i.e. paid membership) so far in the current fiscal year. It was agreed that it would be helpful for future reports to include a list of all member churches indicating the date of their most recent donation to CABF. In the case of member churches, there is no fixed amount to be paid for membership. It is up to the local church to determine how much it will donate to CABF as its membership fee.

d. The Bulletin – Don Flowers and Scott Kindred-Barnes

Re: CABF Brochure

Don reminded Council that he had invited members to respond to him with their compelling reasons for being a member of CABF and welcomes further submissions. He would also like to have a copy of the application for membership that is sent out to prospective members.

ACTION

Re: Bulletin

Scott reported that the next issue of The Bulletin should be mailed this week and highlighted that Bert Radford has an article in this issue. Scott now has sufficient material for the first two bulletins with him as editor.

Re: CABF History

Scott is enjoying his review of previous records and noted that he has found the record of John Boyd being called to Mahone Bay in 1974. Scott invited any Council members who have historic information to share their documents with him.

ACTION

e. Credentials Committee – John Churchill

John's report had been previously circulated and had been covered under New Business.

f. Website – John Boyd

John will update the website to reflect decisions pertaining to the upcoming Annual General Meeting. The CABF Facebook page has seen a lot of activity with 186 people reached, a lot of posts and engagements and one new follower. John has added a link to the virtual service held at the Acadia Chapel on Sunday 06 September led by Marjorie Lewis, new chaplain at the Chapel. Daily Chapel prayer services are also now available for viewing on the YouTube channel. Lee noted that she has received positive comments from several people about how easy the CABC website is to use.

g. Program Committee – Jeff White

Jeff advised that tentative plans for the AGM as a virtual event are in place and will be confirmed in the next few days. Don indicated that any motions and documents for the AGM need to be submitted to the Program Committee at least one week in advance.

Re: Program Content

- Lecture(s) for meeting by Spencer Boersma will be pre-recorded at Port Williams United Baptist Church and should be available on-line not later than Friday, 02 October. ACTION
- First Baptist Church Halifax (FBCH) is the host for the AGM, but is limited in terms of in-person participation.
 - Lee had consulted with Rev. Dr. Rusty Edwards and the Chair of the Diaconate at FBCH to confirm what is available to CABF in terms of the building and equipment.
 - FBCH guidelines now limit the use of the Sanctuary to Sunday morning worship only, so it is not available for use at the AGM.
 - The FBCH Church Parlour is set up for meetings of up to 10 people and fully equipped for virtual meetings such as Zoom. It is suitable for the Q&A session on the lecture material as well as for the AGM itself.
 - Lee's welcome message and the devotional can be pre-recorded at FBCH in advance of the AGM week-end. ACTION
 - It will be important to know in advance who is planning to attend in-person in advance, and guidelines on protocols provided in advance as well. ACTION
 - **To prepare the AGM Report Book, the Program Committee needs all submissions not later than 25 September.** ACTION

Re: Definition of 'Present' and Quorum

Dave Gibson noted that the current by-laws do not specify what 'present' means as it relates to voting and quorum. Quorum will be particularly important when voting on the proposed amendments to the by-laws as such amendments require a 75% majority for approval. Dave moved:

That Council consider the interpretation of 'present' for the AGM on 03 October 2020 include those attending via Zoom.

Harriet seconded the motion and the motion was carried. It was noted that the Province of Nova Scotia has allowed virtual meetings to be held regardless of by-laws during this period of the pandemic.

Re: Registration Process and Quorum

Normally those attending the AGM would have the option of registering in person at the event. It will be particularly important for people to register in advance as the moderator for the meeting will need a list of participants. The quorum for the current 43 individual members is 20% for most matters voted on. If all members of Council have their dues paid and attend the meeting, quorum is assured.

To ensure that everyone who wants to participate can do so, an advance communication soon to all members about the importance of registering and having their dues paid is important. An e-mail to those whose dues are paid should be different from one sent to those who have not yet paid. Both could potentially include the option to contribute a donation to help offset expenses such as honorarium and travel for the guest speaker.

Once the Program Committee has determined the nature of the advance communication, John Boyd will also post it on the CABF website and FaceBook event page.

Re: Nominations for CABF Officer and Director Positions

John Tonks advised John Boyd that work on this has not yet started. Lee requested, and John Boyd agreed, to provide the template he used previously for completing the nomination records. A first step may be to ask those currently serving to extend their period of service for the coming year or years.

ACTION

h. Constitution and By-Laws – Dave Gibson

As reflected in his report, Dave advised that the proposed revisions and summary had been sent via e-mail to every member of CABF, and Dave thanked John for posting the information on the CABF website as well. Dave has received only positive responses to the information and there have been no questions, concerns, or suggested edits.

i. Strategic Planning – Lee Nicholas-Pattillo

Lee is seeking input on developing a summary of the actions we have taken to ensure we are integrating and aligning our priority actions within the Strategic Framework approved at the 2019 AGM.

ACTION

j. Partners (Alliance of Baptists and Canadian Council of Churches)

k. Representatives' Reports: There was nothing new to report on Partners now. Bert Radford advised that the Canadian Council of Churches meeting will be held in November via Zoom, and he will provide a full report thereafter.

l. President's Report – Lee Nicholas-Pattillo

Re: Meeting with President Acadia Divinity College

Lee had spoken again with Anna Robbins, and Anna is going to send a list of potential dates for a meeting about CABF.

Re: AGM and First Baptist Church Halifax

As noted earlier, Lee has confirmed the availability of space and equipment for use at the AGM.

Re: Sending Financial Support to Cuba

Churches in Cuba are suffering and it is an incredible challenge to find a way to send support. Lee's consultation with a legal professional has advised against doing this due to the potential harmful consequences.

John Churchill suggested that the Canadian Baptist Ministries who already have a viable process in place may be the best route through which to provide support. Don added that Randy Stanton at the CBM may be a good resource to approach. It is unclear whether support can be provided due to tightened embargos. Lee will follow up as suggested. Research into this matter continues.

ACTION

Re: Rick Manuel

Lee has extended condolences personally and on behalf of Council to Rick Manuel on his wife, Janet's passing and also attended Janet's funeral. Council thanked Lee for her follow-up on their behalf.

Upon motion by Lee, seconded by Sheila, the President's Report was approved.

New Business

Annual General Meeting: See information in Program Section of Standing Reports. There will be a mini meeting of Council after the AGM. Anyone planning to attend the AGM in person at FBCH is requested to contact Lee or Dave Gibson.

ACTION

50th Anniversary Committee – David Allen

There is no update further to that provided in the meeting on 13 August 2020, and the next scheduled meeting of the Committee will occur on 22 September. Having the budget approved by Council in August was a significant step, and priorities for consideration at the next meeting are locations and programs for specific events. Uncertainties related to the Covid pandemic remain a challenge to planning.

Adjournment

There being no additional information items, the meeting adjourned at 11:33 a.m.

Supporting Documents/Enclosures:

Banking Summary, CABF Consolidated Financial Statements 2019 Fiscal Year and 2020 Partial Year, Draft 2021 Budget, Membership Report, Credentials Committee Report, Program Committee Report (e-mail), Canadian Council of Churches Report (e-mail)