



## Minutes CABF Council Meeting Bedford Baptist Church January 7, 2020

**Present:** David Allen, Joyce Allen, Scott Barnes, John Boyd, John Churchill, Don Flowers, Dave Gibson, Marlene Knowles, Rick Manuel (by phone), Harriet McCready (by phone), Lee Nicholas Patillo (Chair), Sheila Stanley, Jeff White.

**Regrets:** Bert Radford, Hugh Kirkegaard

**Call to Order:** Chair Lee Nicholas-Patillo welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:50 a.m. Marlene Knowles opened the meeting with prayer.

**Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was accepted as circulated.

**Approval of Minutes of Council Meeting on November 5, 2019:**

Following motion for approval by Marlene Knowles, seconded by David Gibson, Council approved the minutes (previously circulated) of the November 5, 2009 meeting.

**Business Arising from Minutes:**

Lee reported that she had reached out to Peter Reid to confirm a date to meet but had not yet received a response. She will follow up on that as well as contacting Jim Stanley about meeting with the new President of the Acadia Divinity College, the Rev. Dr. Anna Robbins.

**Action Item**

John Churchill confirmed that all details related to Joint Stocks are now current, and Sheila advised that she had received a receipt for the fee paid to reactivate CABF under the *Societies Act*.

**Correspondence:**

John Boyd reported that the bill for website maintenance had been received and paid. Lee noted that she had received Christmas greetings from the Office of the Primate of the Anglican Church as well as from the Salvation Army.

**Standing Reports:**

**Treasurer and Financial:** David Allen reported as Treasurer and on behalf of the Finance Committee. He reviewed the Cash Flow Comparison between 2018 and 2019 document as well as the 2020 Budget, both documents having been circulated to Council prior to the meeting. In terms of the cash flow comparison, even with ten thousand dollars (\$10K) having been invested, there was still a balance of nine thousand five hundred ninety-two dollars and seventeen cents (\$9,592.17) on December 31, 2019 - a positive outcome for 2019. Investing in the Baptist Foundation provides three per cent (3%) interest and has the added advantage of being able to be withdrawn at short notice. The one disadvantage is that the investment is not guaranteed.

**2020 Budget:** The number of people who attend the general meetings of the Assembly (Ruston Lecture in June and Annual General Meeting in the fall) tends to influence the number of members paying dues. **Canada Gives** is a better option for payments in terms of our bottom line as is automatic once set up. An earlier unrestricted donation of ten thousand dollars (\$10K) from a member is currently being used to help defray expenses, and it was suggested that we may want to look at either setting up an endowment fund or to using the money for special programs/initiatives.

**Future Discussion/Action**

On motion by David Allen, seconded by John Churchill, the budget was approved as circulated.

**Membership:** Membership Chair, Joyce Allen, presented her report (previously circulated). The membership total was down by five (5) compared to 2018, possibly because attendance has been lower at the Assemblies. The normal retention rate for membership is about seventy-two percent (72%). (Harriet McCready joined the meeting at 10:25 a.m.) Northwest has not contributed for several years, and the Koinonia Church is very small and believed to have fewer than ten (10) members. Dave Gibson volunteered to follow up with the Brantford Church as well as the Falmouth Church with respect to the membership dues.

**Action**

It was suggested that a gentle reminder to those whose dues have not been paid for the current year receive one after the Ruston Lecture in June. It was also suggested that we might add a note to *The Bulletin* payment form explaining the period to which membership dues apply.

**Action**

**The Bulletin:** Chair of the Bulletin, Don Flowers, invited Scott Barnes to provide an update on *The Bulletin*. Scott advised that he had received the feedback from the last meeting about thoughts for *The Bulletin* in future and that the next issue is now ready for production. This will be the final issue prepared by Roger Prentice, and Scott is working closely with him. Scott indicated that his first issue will be in the spring and will focus on Transitions, including

an article from Roger, and there will also be devotional material included.

**Credentials Committee:** Chair John Churchill reported that the December meeting of the Committee had had to be cancelled due to weather so there has not been a lot of activity since the November Council meeting. The next priority is to update the policies and procedures related to credentialing, and there has been some consultation with Scott Sterns about this work. The next meeting of the Committee will be at First Baptist Church Halifax on January 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Website:** Chair John Boyd reported that no substantive changes have been made to the website since November. Jenny Drewitz has kept the Facebook page updated, and both sites will be edited re dues resulting from the discussion at this meeting.

**Program Committee:** Chair Jeff White reported that the Committee had met last month but had not reached a conclusion about the programs for the coming spring (June 19, 20) and fall (October 2, 3) assemblies. The Committee is open to suggestions for topics and speakers as time is now running short. The other planning priority is for the upcoming fiftieth anniversary of the formation of the ABF/CABF.

**Action**

(Scott Barnes excused himself at this point due to a prior commitment.)

**Constitution Committee:** Chair Dave Gibson indicated that the Committee has deferred meeting and taking any additional action until there has been further follow-up with respect to the approved CABF Strategy Framework document. The Committee finished draft amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws in the spring of 2018, but further changes could result from decisions related to implementation of the Strategic Framework document. Once the follow-up meeting on strategy has occurred, the Committee will make any additional edits, if necessary, and bring the body of work back to Council for consideration.

**Strategic Planning:** Lee advised that the next/final meeting of the Strategic Planning working group is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on January 9<sup>th</sup>. Sheila suggested that each of the presenters who had spoken to the strategic direction themes at the AGM in October bring their notes to the meeting as this would help focus the discussion on potential future actions.

**Action**

**Partners:** Lee had invited Bert Radford, representative to the Canadian Council of Churches (CCC) to join this meeting, but he was unable to join. Bert had attended the most recent meeting of the CCC, and Lee will circulate his report to Council.

**Action**

David Allen reported that the CCC will be basing their annual membership fee on the number of worshipping bodies (about fifty-five dollars [\$55] per body), and this could result in a cost of more than five hundred dollars (\$500) to CABF, based on thirteen (13) churches. In response to the question of the importance of CABF being a member of the CCC, John Boyd presented an articulate summary of the rationale for originally joining and gave examples of the important impact membership in CCC has on the lives of CABF members who would otherwise not have the requisite recognition of credentials required for chaplaincy. Given the small size of many of our member churches, it was suggested that we seek special consideration for annual dues more in keeping with our size.

**Action**

**President's Report:** President Lee reiterated her key priorities - i.e. follow-up on meeting arrangements with Peter Reid, contact Jim Stanley re meeting arrangements with Acadia Divinity College President, and focus on the upcoming fiftieth anniversary of the ABF/CABF.

The next scheduled meeting of the Council is on Tuesday, March 3 at 9:30 a.m. in Port Williams Baptist Church.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.