

C-ABF Council – March 13, 2018
Draft Minutes – Reports to be attached

Present: John Boyd, Ed Colquhoun, Marlene Knowles, Rick Manuel, Lee Nicholas-Pattillo, Roger Prentice, Sheila Stanley, and, by teleconference, Dave Allen, Joyce Allen, Dan Green and Bert Radford.

Guests : Canon Dr. Alyson Barnett-Cowan, President of the Canadian Council of Churches and Wayne Marsh of Independent Facilitation Services, who is facilitating our strategic planning exercise.

Regrets: Vicki Brown, John Churchill, Jenny Drewitz, Hugh Kirkegaard and Joao Matwawana.

Chair Lee Nicholas-Pattillo called the meeting to order, welcoming Alyson and inviting her to participate. She noted that Wayne would be joining us for a discussion of the strategic planning focus groups.

Roger Prentice opened the meeting with prayer. Those present introduced themselves.

With four **additions**: consideration of a joint committee with The Gathering; Citizens for Public Justice; problems with scammers using our emails; and follow-up to the TRC recommendations to faith groups; the [agenda](#) as circulated was approved on motion by Marlene Knowles, seconded by Sheila Stanley.

The **minutes** as circulated were approved on motion by Sheila Stanley, seconded by John Boyd.

Business arising from the minutes:

President Lee Nicholas-Pattillo asked that we defer preparation of a response to the following **recommendations of the TRC** considering the strategic planning discussion slated for this meeting:

48. We call upon the church parties to the Settlement Agreement and all other faith groups and interfaith social justice groups in Canada who have not already done so, to formally adopt and comply with the principles, norms and standards of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* as a framework for reconciliation. This would include, but not be limited to, the following commitments:
 - i. Ensuring that their institutions, policies, programs, and practices comply with the *United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.
 - ii. Respecting Indigenous people's right to self-determination in spiritual matters, including the right to practise, develop, and teach their own spiritual and religious traditions, customs, and ceremonies, consistent with Article 12:1 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.
 - iii. Engaging in ongoing public dialogue and actions to support the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.
 - iv. Issuing a statement no later than March 11, 2016, from all religious denominations and faith groups, as to how they will implement the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*.
49. We call upon all religious denominations and faith groups who have not already done so to repudiate European sovereignty over Indigenous lands and peoples, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and *terra nullius*.

The matter of **directors' liability insurance** for the CABF Council is progressing to the stage of quotes from the Stanhope Simpson Insurance Company through Northridge Insurance.

Correspondence:

No correspondence was brought forward

Standing Reports:

David Allen commented on his previously circulated [Treasurer's Report](#). He noted that the GST recovery last year included a catch-up from other years which explains the reduction this year. Dave moved the acceptance of his report, seconded by Dan Green. Carried.

In light of the pending discussion this meeting, Dave deferred his **budget** presentation until later.

Joyce Allen reported that her [Membership](#) report which totalled 23 is somewhat premature, since church members tend to renew their membership later in the year and most individual members renew at the Rushton Lecture or AGM. She did note that there were already a couple of new individual members. Joyce moved the receipt of her report, seconded by Roger Prentice. Carried.

Bert Radford referenced his earlier distributed [Bulletin Report](#). He commended our editor on his diligent work. Bert moved acceptance of his report, seconded by Roger Prentice. Carried.

John Boyd spoke to John Churchill's previously circulated [Credentials report](#). A student at ADC as well as a couple of students at AST are preparing for credentialing with us. John moved acceptance of this report, seconded by Marlene. Carried.

John Boyd then commented on the [Website](#) report previously circulated.

A lengthy discussion was held about recent attempts to **scam** council members and others using email addresses. Since there seems to be no way to secure these addresses, it is important for Council members to be very cautious about suspicious requests for money coming from our officers.

Lee Nicholas Pattillo gave an oral report on behalf of the **Program** Committee which is promising to soon announce the speaker for the June 2nd Rushton Lecture. The AGM will be in Amherst on September 28th and 29th. John moved acceptance of the Program report, seconded by Marlene, Carried.

Sheila Stanley spoke to her previously submitted [Constitution Committee report](#), and asked about the timing and methods of presenting the proposed amendments to the By-laws. After discussion, it was agreed that following the strategic planning exercise, a briefing note will be prepared for Council, a precis of the amendments prepared for the Bulletin, then consideration can take place at a general meeting. Sheila moved adoption of her report, seconded by Roger Prentice. Carried.

Ed Colquhoun reported that he would continue to represent our partnership with the **Canadian Council of Churches**. He expressed his appreciation that Alyson was able to meet our group prior to the May meeting of the CCC in Ottawa. Ed moved acceptance of his report, seconded by Marlene. Carried.

Lee Nicholas Pattillo reported that she was looking forward to representing us at the upcoming meeting of the **Alliance of Baptists** annual meeting – Earth: Beloved Community, April 26-29 in Dayton Ohio. Interested parties were invited to attend. Lee moved adoption of her report, seconded by John Boyd. Carried.

Wayne Marsh joined the meeting for a discussion of the focus group portion of **strategic planning**. We discussed at length the mechanics of the meetings (time, place and participants), the role of the Council hosts, and the general direction of the groups. (In a brief diversion we attempted to explain to Alyson the identity of the Alliance, the Gathering, and our place within Baptist life.)

A few of our conclusions –

1. Individual invitations will be sent to each of the focus group sites.
2. Burlington is confirmed for April 21st at 2:00 with possible Skype link to Ottawa.
3. The Valley site is being confirmed.
4. Halifax is confirmed for April 11th
5. Amherst is confirmed for April 24th.
6. Supplementary meetings with “younger” participants may be arranged for each site.
7. People from the south shore will be invited to join with the Valley or Halifax.
8. Council members will host each site, introducing Wayne, providing coffee, a projection screen, printed background information about the C-ABF, and stand by as a living resource for Wayne.
9. Wayne has prepared a number of questions designed to facilitate engagement and to give feedback to Council about the expectations of our members.
10. Council will proceed with strategic planning while continuing committee dialogue with the Gathering.

The discussion concluded with a motion by John Boyd, seconded by Roger Prentice, that **conversations with the Gathering** to seek opportunity for cooperation proceed following their April meeting. Carried. Lee will name representatives to this dialogue and arrange a first meeting.

Dan Green requested that the C-ABF acknowledge the passing of **Dr. Allen Gibson**. This will be noted in our memorial moment at the Rushton Lecture.

Lee **adjourned** the meeting with thanks to Alyson for attending our Council meeting.

Ed Colquhoun, Secretary