



Present: David Allen, Joyce Allen, John Churchill, Don Flowers, Dave Gibson, Hugh Kirkegaard, Marlene Knowles, Harriet McCready, Lee Nicholas Pattillo (Chair)

Regrets: John Boyd, Jeff White

Call to Order: Chair Lee Nicholas-Patillo called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m., and John Churchill opened the meeting with prayer. Lee welcomed everyone and, in particular, new members to the Council.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved with the following additions under New Business: Update on Joint Stocks, Meeting with Peter Reid of CABF, Potential Flip of Dates for AGM and Rushton Lecture, Dates for Future Council Meetings.

Approval of Minutes of Council Meeting on September 3, 2019:

Following motion for approval by David Allen, seconded by Marlene Knowles, Council approved the minutes previously circulated for the meeting on September 3, 2019.

Business Arising from Minutes:

Re: General Assembly and Annual Meeting: Comments from Council on the Fall Assembly/Annual General Meeting held at Wolfville Baptist Church on October 4 and 5, 2019 were positive. Feedback from attendees affirmed that the program led by Dr. David Odom was excellent. It was agreed that programs of a similar character would be appropriate for future assemblies. Dr. Odom's topic was particularly timely considering the CABF adoption at the AGM of a Strategic Framework for CABF for the future.

The only disappointment expressed about the Fall Assembly and program concerned the number of people who attended – especially the lack of attendees from Acadia Divinity College(ADC). Suggestions to consider in future to encourage greater participation included:

- Meet with ADC and explore opportunities for partnership. It was agreed that Lee contact Jim Stanley, a member of CABF and a Trustee at ADC, to arrange for a meeting with Rev. Dr. Anna Robbins, newly appointed President of ADC.
- Meet with a representative of the Atlantic School of Theology (AST) to explore opportunities for partnership.

- Adopt a policy (and communicate it) that students can attend the program at no cost but are welcome to make a free will donation if so desired.
- Introduce an individual student membership in CABF that is free or at a reduced rate.
- Explore how to do a direct e-mailing of The Bulletin to divinity students
- As part of the credentialing process, make membership in CABF and attendance at the AGM a requirement.

Correspondence:

There had been no correspondence since the last meeting of Council in September.

Standing Reports:

Treasurer and Financial: David Allen reported as Treasurer and on behalf of the Finance Committee. Commenting on the report that had been previously circulated, David noted:

- It is not unusual that Church donations are down as different churches have different practices with respect to when they give their contributions
- Individual donations are up and this is largely because people are increasingly using the Canada Helps option to donate regularly
- The increase in revenue for the Fall Assembly is due in part to the increase in the registration fee
- Returns on Investment Income are neutral
- The Formation Program is a new budget line. CABF applied for and received a \$2000 grant from the Christie Fund at First Baptist Church Amherst to support the CABF in providing a required course on Formation required by AST for students who will be seeking accreditation through CABF. The amount not spent in 2019 (\$2000 – \$519) will be available for 2020. CABF can apply for a similar grant in future years.
- Following motion by David that was seconded by John Churchill, Council approved the report and expressed appreciation to David for his ongoing work.

Membership: Membership Chair, Joyce Allen, presented her report (previously circulated). Of the seven churches in CABF, four have reported and the remaining three (Amherst, Falmouth, and Port Williams) are expected soon. Following motion by Joyce and seconded by Marlene, the Membership Report was accepted.

The Bulletin: As the recently elected Chair, Don Flowers, chose to seek clarification of expectations from Council rather than make a specific report. Our CABF Strategy Framework anticipates *The Bulletin* being a key initiative for Communications, but what does that mean?

Highlights of discussion:

- We consider CABF to be open and welcoming, but how do others outside CABF see us? How do we invite others in and make it clear that we want to be open and to listen?
- How do we make *The Bulletin* a *compelling* read? It currently does an excellent job of keeping the current CABF community updated, but can we do more?
- Should we look at an updated graphic?
- Consider how the United Church Observer has re-invented itself as *Broadview*. Is this a potential direction?
- Should we consider one article of distinction each issue that stimulates reflection?
- Consider including highlights of some lectures we have experienced – for example, David Odom’s presentation at the AGM.
- Make clear what makes us different/unique

- Tell our story in a contemporary context
- To be compelling, we need to include contemporary issues
- Should we take a thematic approach with each issue reflecting a specific theme?

Because *The Bulletin* is a means by which to communicate the CABF story, It was agreed that we invite Scott Kindred-Barnes, editor of The Bulletin, to the next meeting of the Strategic Planning Group.

Credentials Committee: Chair John Churchill reported that work on the Credentials Policy is ongoing and not yet complete. The primary concern candidates for CABF accreditation express is that being inclusive essentially means they cannot work within the parameters of the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada (CBAC). It is important that CABF define expectations of candidates in terms of what CABF expects of them in terms of their relationship/involvement with CABF. Otherwise, we are at risk of being little more than an ‘insurance policy’ – a fallback option rather than an organization whose values the candidates share and are committed to. Current candidates for CABF accreditation are students at AST whose graduates must compete instruction in their own denomination (i.e. Foundation course) as a requirement for earning a degree. Ed Colquhoun, who served as Director for the CABF Foundations Program, has resigned. Of the three students initially seeking CABF accreditation, one has moved to the United Church as the prospect of eventually finding employment within a Baptist church in Atlantic Canada were slim. The two remaining CABF candidates are members of First Baptist Church Halifax (FBCH), and FBCH will provide the Foundations Program for these two individuals. John Churchill is serving as Director, and Lee is working on arrangements for the program in concert with the Rev. Rusty Edwards. Funds for the program will be used to support off-site activities and retreats for the program. If a candidate needs a course in Baptist polity and does not have it, Bill Brackney is available to provide it.

Following a motion by John that was seconded by Marlene, the Credentials Committee report was accepted.

Website: Lee reported on Chair John Boyd’s behalf. The site has been updated with current officer and members of Council information.

Program Committee: *(This topic was added under “other” in the approved agenda but discussed as a report from the Program Committee).* In the absence of Chair, Jeff White, Program Committee member Don Flowers reported to Council. The Program Committee has been wondering if it would make sense to flip the program focus for the fall and spring assemblies each year. A handout depicting the last five years shows that the Rushton Lecture has consistently been held at the spring assembly and always at either the Chapel or Port Williams Church. Similarly, the Fall Assembly has consistently included the Annual General Meeting but has been hosted by various member churches and at the Manning Memorial Chapel at Acadia University. One challenge with this practice is that it is not consistent with the requirements of the Registrar of Joint Stocks under the *Society’s Act of Nova Scotia* that the Annual General Meeting for CABF occur within 90 days of the fiscal year end – i.e. December 31st. Flipping the Rushton Lecture program and the Annual Meeting would shorten the period between fiscal year end and the AGM, but would still not satisfy the Act’s requirements. A further suggestion put forward was that the AGM comprise a special meeting of the Assembly in March and that it could include participants joining by phone or other suitable medium. After discussion, it was agreed that no change be initiated immediately, and that the topic be referred for further consideration and recommendation by the Finance and Program Committees. So far,

the Registrar of Joint Stocks has not requested any change, and John Churchill will proceed with filing the required documents in follow-up to the AGM held in October 2019.

Constitution Committee: Lee thanked Dave Gibson for his past role as a member of this Committee and welcomed him to his new role as Chair. Dave reiterated past reports that the Committee had been very active in 2018 and has completed proposed revisions to the Constitution. With the approval of the Strategy Framework for CABF at the AGM in October, this work can now come forward for consideration by Council. Before the next meeting of Council, the Committee will meet to review the revisions to date to determine if there is anything in the Strategy Framework that needs to be revised to align with that framework. The Committee will distribute its conclusions to Council prior to the next meeting of Council. Dave noted that Council will see that some items previously in the Constitution have been deleted as they can be covered off with policies or procedures without having to go through the Registrar of Joint Stocks for approval in future.

Strategic Planning: With the CABF Strategy Framework approved, the question now is how to proceed with implementation of initiatives within the Framework. It was decided that there should be one more meeting of the Strategic Planning Working Group in early January 2020 to consider next steps and report to Council at its next meeting.

Partners: Bert Radford is the newly appointed representative to the Canadian Council of Churches (CCC). It was agreed that Lee would invite Bert to join the next (and any) Council meeting to provide any updates on his participation in the CCC.

President's Report: To facilitate our work this coming year, Lee and Council set the following meeting dates and locations:

December 2019 (no meeting); January 2020: Tuesday, January 7th at 9:30 a.m. at Bedford Baptist; February (no meeting); March: Tuesday, March 3rd at 9:30 a.m. Port Williams United Baptist Church; April: no meeting; May: Tuesday, May 5 at 9:30 a.m. at Bedford Baptist Church; June: Rushton Lecture on June 12/13 at Port Williams United Baptist Church (alternate dates June 19/20 – to be confirmed); July and August: no meetings; September: Tuesday, September 8 at 9:30 a.m. at Bedford Baptist Church; October: October 2 and 3 at First Baptist Church Halifax; November: November 3 at 9:30 a.m. at Port Williams Baptist Church. Marlene agreed to check with Bedford Baptist to determine if these dates can work. Council appreciates the hospitality of the Church and its convenient location.

New Business:

Registry of Joint Stocks: John Churchill reported that he has had discussions with the Office of the Registrar of Joint Stocks about our filing requirements. So far, there has not been an issue with respect to late reporting due to the timing of the AGM, and John noted that he would be filing the required documents after the Council meeting on November 5th.

Meeting with Peter Reid: Lee indicated that she would follow up with Peter Reid to set a date to meet, as previously agreed.

Future Meeting Dates: See President's Report above.

Timing of AGM and Ruston Lecture: See discussion under Program Committee Report.

Information Items: No additional items to those not previously discussed.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.