



Promoting Historic Baptist Traditions and Freedoms

Minutes
CABF Council Meeting
September 1, 2021
9:00 a.m.
(Via Zoom)

Present: Lee Nicholas-Pattillo (Chair), David Allen, Joyce Allen, John Boyd, John Churchill, Don Flowers, Dave Gibson, Hugh Kirkegaard, Marlene Knowles, Sheila Stanley.

Guest: Sobaz Benjamin

Regrets: Jeff White, Bert Radford

- 1. Open with Prayer:** Chair Lee welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer at 9:02 a.m.
- 2. Approval of Agenda:** On motion by Marlene Knowles, seconded by Don Flowers, the motion to approve the Agenda was approved as circulated. **Motion Carried**
- 3. Approval of Minutes:**

As minutes of special meeting of Council on June 23rd had not been circulated, this item was deferred until the next meeting of Council.

4. Correspondence

No correspondence to report, but Lee reported that she had sent both personal and CABF notes to Paula Dempsey on her retirement from the Alliance of Baptists. John Boyd added that he had provided input to a video for the celebration.

5. Standing Reports

a. ***Proclaiming: Telling Our Story***

- i. Sobaz Benjamin joined Council to provide an update on his work toward producing a video to be used by CABF to reflect who we are by telling our story.

Per the contract between Sobaz and the CABF, the video is to be complete by 03 September 2021. He has completed five interviews to this point with one more person in Wolfville, Dan Gibson, to complete. He plans to have a rough cut by Friday. Initial plans to have a choir sing the 50th Anniversary Hymn have met with some challenges, so the plan now is to have a soloist perform it for the video with an accompanist on September 8. Sobaz feels that he is on schedule to complete the video in time for the AGM. One more person with whom he would like to speak as part of this initiative is Don Flowers. Sobaz is inspired by the title of a book by the late Charles (Charlie) Taylor 'Only Love Heals' as a potential tagline/image for the brochure that will be produced as part of his work with us.

Lee thanked Sobaz for the update, and he left the meeting.

Lee reported that she and Marlene have been working continually all summer on this project and that it has been a challenge to manage the timelines. Doing a project such as this in the summer months is not recommended in future.

It was agreed by those commenting that it will be important to watch the narrative in the video to ensure that the emphasis/context remain broad and that we be very careful not to have any reference to the previous 'Convention' or CBAC as a focus/theme. It is important that we model our value of respecting others' rights to hold differing views.

b. *Convening for the purpose of fellowship and growth in the Freedoms*

i. Program Committee –

CABF 50th Anniversary Celebration and AGM

Lee thanked David Allen profusely for all his work on preparing for the 50th Anniversary Celebration. David then shared the draft agenda for AGM sessions scheduled for October 1 and 2. Focusing on the theme of Past, Present and Future, he has intentionally involved as many past presidents of the CABF as possible in the plans for the Anniversary service.

David indicated that the possibility of being able to be present in person on October 1 and 2 was reasonably good in anticipation of the Province being in Phase 5 of re-opening relative to the Covid-19 pandemic. Considerable discussion followed about whether we should have a 'plan B' in place, given the experience of other provinces amid a fourth wave.

- If we were to change the format or dates, how would we let potential participants know?
- Is live streaming a possibility in Wolfville Baptist Church? While the church has technology to do this, not enough people are trained and available to do this for the Fall Assembly.
- Even though different churches use similar technology, there would likely be differences, and training would be required.

- Even if we could find/train other resources to operate the equipment, there would be no interactive capacity as part of live streaming. It would be presentation/observer based.
 - Does Wolfville Baptist have the capacity to show the video Sobaz is preparing both on-site and on-line?
 - David A. indicated he plans to attend a service at Wolfville Baptist to learn more about the technology system and options.
 - John Churchill shared a communication from Dr. Robert Strang, Medical Office of Health for Nova Scotia indicating that even if mask restrictions were lifted in Phase 5, he would be recommending that masks still be worn indoors.
 - Wearing a mask for prolonged periods indoors could be a significant barrier to participating for some people.
 - Mask protocols would also present challenges for meals.
 - Should we consider postponing for a month until we see what happens in September as things open and schools are back in session?
 - Should we consider offering the presentations on past/present/future virtually?
 - The AGM has to involve technology such as Zoom in order to enable two-way communication.
- (John Boyd left the meeting at 10:11 am)
- David A. checked and learned that The Bulletin has not yet gone to press, so changes to the date or format can still be changed and included in The Bulletin.

Moved by Hugh Kirkegaard, seconded by Sheila Stanley that:

The 50th anniversary celebration and AGM currently scheduled to occur on October 1 and 2 of 2021 be re-scheduled to reflect that:

- the AGM be held via Zoom from First Baptist Church Halifax at 1:00 pm Atlantic Daylight Time on Saturday, October 2nd; and
- the 50th Anniversary Celebration of CABF be postponed to June of 2022 in Wolfville, details to be confirmed pending recommendations from the 50th Anniversary Planning Committee.

Motion carried unanimously.

As there is significant value in being able to interact with those presenting the Past, Present and Future segments of the Anniversary Celebrations, it was agreed that Council invite feedback from the Program Committee on how this is best presented.

6. New Business:

Council considered remaining items of new business prior to continuing with the Standing Reports from Finance and Membership.

Preparation for AGM – Reports of Standing Committees

All reports from Standing Committees are due by September 25 so that they can be compiled and posted on the website in advance of the AGM. Chairs of Standing Committees are requested to send their reports to Lee, with copy to Sheila, not later than September 25.

ACTION ITEM: COUNCIL

Preparation for AGM - Nominating Committee Report

Lee will call a meeting of the Nominating Committee comprising John Tonks, Joyce Allen, John Boyd and herself within the next week. She requested that anyone confirming their willingness to continue/discontinue or alter their current role notify her within the next week – i.e. by September 8. Suggestions for younger additions to Council are welcome. Lee asked that any suggestions for new Council members be sent to her as soon as possible. We will also need a Secretary for CABF – perhaps someone from a member church?

ACTION ITEM: COUNCIL

Standing Reports (cont'd)

b. Supporting one another as we live out the meaning of the Freedoms

i. Budget and Financial

Consolidated Financial Statements

Treasurer David Allen had circulated the CABF Consolidated Financial Statements (2021 AGM) 2020 Fiscal Year (1/1/2020- 12/31/2020). This is basically a summary of CABF net worth and needs Council approval prior to the AGM. David moved and Don Flowers seconded that the report be approved.

Motion Carried

Draft Budget

David A had also circulated the draft Financial Budget on behalf of the Finance Committee. The proposed budget is balanced reflecting a total of \$19,400. We have held our own during the pandemic primarily because expenditures were lower than budgeted while revenue was also down compared to previous years. Line 20 re Strategic Planning is anticipated to cover anything in terms of additional projects. The proposed budget reflects a pre-Covid year type budget.

Re: Unbudgeted Expenditure of \$5000 for Video Project. How do we explain that? There were funds/surplus from previous years that Council decided to allocate to the Strategic Initiative.

Re: Formation: Currently there is no one in that program. This amount has been carried forward from a grant from the Christie Fund in Amherst. Lee has a proposal for using these funds for a project in 2022.

Moved by David A. and seconded by John Churchill that the draft budget for 2022 be presented to the AGM for approval.

Motion Carried

Banking Summary

The banking summary reflecting a balance of \$13,689.99 will soon be closer to \$3000 due to existing commitments.

ii. **Membership – Joyce Allen**

Joyce spoke to her previously circulated report. Two more churches have submitted their membership contributions and four additional members have paid their membership dues. Joyce moved acceptance of her report, seconded by Marlene Knowles.

Motion Carried

David A. gently reminded/encouraged members of Council who have membership fees outstanding to do so prior to the AGM.

7. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Attachments/Reports

Treasurer and Finance Reports (Banking Summary, Consolidated and Financial Statements, Draft Budget 2022, and Banking Summary Year to Date), Membership Committee Report.