



*Promoting Historic Baptist  
Traditions and Freedoms*

**Minutes**  
**CABF Council Meeting**  
**January 5, 2022**  
**9:30 a.m.**  
**(Via Zoom)**

**Present:** Marlene Knowles (Chair), David Allen, Joyce Allen, John Boyd, Susan Colquhoun, Rusty Edwards, Don Flowers, Dave Gibson, Carol Anne Janzen, Hugh Kirkegaard, Lee Nicholas-Pattillo, Bert Radford, Martin Roy, Sheila Stanley, Jeff White.

**Regrets:** Dan Green

**Guests:** Sobaz Benjamen, Dario Lozano-Thornton (joined at 10:15)

- 1. Open with Prayer:** President Marlene welcomed everyone and wished Martin a Happy Birthday/Bonne Fete after which Council sang him their best wishes. Sue then opened the meeting with prayer.
- 2. Approval of Agenda:** As several members – Sue, Bert, Rusty – may not be able to attend the full meeting and guests would be joining for period after 10:00, Marlene advised that we would re-order some agenda items accordingly and try to get as much done as possible with all members present. Martin moved and Don seconded that the agenda be approved as circulated.

**Motion Carried**

**3. Approval of Minutes:**

Sheila noted a few corrections – removal of those who had expressed regrets from attendee section, Carol Anne had offered prayer, and President's report had been previously circulated. With these amendments, Sheila moved and Sue seconded that the minutes be approved.

**Motion Carried**

**4. Business Arising**

Most business arising from the minutes would be covered in the individual reports later in the meeting. With respect to a potential meeting of chaplains to explore how CABF might

provide support, Hugh advised that he had compiled a list of 13 chaplains to whom he would be sending a letter this week with a view to organizing a virtual meeting, including Marlene and Rusty, for later in January.

## 5. Correspondence

A letter from the Vital Statistics Division of Services Nova Scotia and Internal Services confirmed that Sarah Jane Judith Scott is now listed with the Civil Registrar authorizing her to perform marriages in Nova Scotia. In addition, Marlene and Rusty are now confirmed as contacts for Vital Statistics, Nova Scotia. The document 'Your Word is Truth' had also been received from the Canadian Bible Society. David Allen had received an application for membership in CABF that would be addressed with the Membership Report later in the meeting.

## 6. Standing Reports

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

The Bulletin: Scott noted that the first edition of The Bulletin for 2022 is under development and asked Council to let him know of any news that should be included.

Support Committee: Hugh Kirkegaard

This topic would be addressed later in the meeting following discussion with our guests.

Website: John Boyd

The report of the Website Committee had previously been circulated. [The Website report occurred after the Program Committee reported (See next section for that report)]

John noted that any files posted on the website must in PDF format. Having files for posting submitted in the format will save him considerable time and will be much appreciated.

Marlene suggested that having the CABF Mission and Vision more easily visible on the landing page would be helpful, and John committed to looking at the best option to accomplish this.

Action: John

Moved by John and seconded by Don, the motion to accept the report was approved.

**Motion Carried**

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

#### i. Program Committee

Chair Jeff moved adoption of his emailed report and Rusty seconded the motion. Discussion then followed focusing on implications of previous decisions related to postponement of Anniversary celebrations to June 2022 – specifically the date of the Rushton lecture normally held in June and the timing of an AGM, normally held in early October. One potential theme for the Lecture is LGBTQS + Language Awareness and Manners. Summary discussion points:

- David A. will be meeting with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee in mid-February. That celebration would not be limited by having the AGM occur at the June celebration.
- Dave G. advised there is not an issue holding the AGM in June as our Constitution includes having it within 90 days of the fiscal year end – i.e. March.
- Rusty reminded us that, with some of our individual and Church members being in different time zones, we will need to include that in our considerations of when meetings occur. Also, for the foreseeable future, our gatherings will likely need to continue to be hybrid in terms of delivery.
- Re: LGBTQS Focus:
  - Paula Dempsey from the Alliance of Baptists recommends Cody Sanders of Cambridge Baptist in Boston as a good speaker on this theme.
  - Scott noted suggested David Gushy as another credible option. Carol Anne added that he had spoken at the Acadia Divinity College and well received. Marlene noted that he had also spoken at The Gathering.
  - Brian MacLaren may be another option.
  - We need to be mindful that, while some churches have made the decision to be fully inclusive, others have not. Our focus should be on education vs. pressure to make a decision in a particular direction.
  - Jeff noted that we will need a decision on location if in-person attendance at the Lecture is an option

Marlene called for a vote on the motion to approved the Program Committee Report moved earlier.

**Motion Carried**

- ii. Partners (Representatives Reports):
  1. Canadian Council of Churches: Bert had circulated his report in advance of the meeting and drew Council’s attention to the three questions highlighted in his report. He welcomes any comments from Council on these topics. Council accepted the report as circulated.
  2. Alliance of Baptists: Rusty noted that there is nothing to report from the Alliance.
- iii. President’s Report:

Consideration of the President's Report was deferred until later in the meeting to enable Rusty to report on Credentials before having to leave.

c. ***Supporting one another as we live out our vision and mission***

iv. Credentials Committee – Rusty Edwards

Rusty reported how he and the Committee had been moved in their meeting with Amanda Strang who, pending confirmation of the requisite RCMP check, would be the first clergy from Alberta credentialed by CABF. Rusty noted that Amanda would be a great guest speaker.

Later this month, Rusty and Dave G. plan to meet with Ryan Soto re the process for having those credentialed by CABF authorized to perform marriages in Alberta.

Rusty and Ryan Soto have also been in discussions with Southpoint Baptist in Surrey BC about potential membership in CABF. The next step will include a meeting with Marlene and the leadership of that church.

Rusty's sense is that there may be others in the Canadian Baptists of Western Canada who may be keen on being credentialed with us as well.

John observed that clergy interest in CABF seems have a primary focus on accreditation and underlines the importance of this support. Hugh noted that this had been a topic of conversation in preparing the current version of the CABF video and, given its importance, we may want to have a short video focusing specifically on this topic.

Bert noted that there had been significant interest in accreditation in earlier discussions with The Gathering but that this seems to have cooled. Bert feels that there may be several clergy in Ontario who would be interested in CABF credentials and wondered whether we should be reaching out further. Rusty agreed.

Rusty moved, and Martin seconded acceptance of the Credentials Committee Report.

**Motion Carried**

**Agenda Item: 6.a. 3: Support Committee – Hugh Kirkegaard**

Hugh welcomed Sobaz and Dario who joined the meeting via Zoom to present an updated version of the CABF video and progress on other deliverables in the contract with Sobaz.

*Video:*

Sample words from Council in response to seeing the video: Impressed, inspiring, divine, leaps and bounds better than first, better with each iteration. A link to the video would be sent to each Council member for comment and any further suggestions to Hugh or Sheila. The video is very, very close to completion. Some members of Council would be participating in recording Zoom clips later today, and these would be added to the ending.

Action: Sheila

*Brochure:*

Sheila asked Council for their thoughts on what they saw as essential elements to include in a brochure for CABF. It is one of the deliverables in the contract with Sobaz, and it would be helpful to have some direction so that we can make efficient use of the time Sobaz and Dario spend on the project. Should it mirror the video in terms of theme – i.e. origins, who we are [mission, vision, values, strategic priorities], reason to belong, etc. Should it have quotes from the video? Images?, etc.

Sample Comments:

- Images in video of sacred space great; good to have images on sacred space but updated to be more contemporary, diverse.
- Perhaps have a more modern version of stained glass such as one of the windows at First Baptist Church Halifax
- Impossible to fit everything in one brochure. Perhaps consider several – e.g. one basic, one on credentials, one educational, etc.
- Is video more relevant than brochure?
- Some people still like to have concrete material to hold and read – multi-faceted approach may be best.
- Consensus was that we need not only video but also brochure
- At some point, we need also to consider making our materials more inclusive from the perspective of language – we are a bi-lingual country

Sobaz and Dario left the Zoom session at this point.

*Invoice for the Video*

Hugh advised Council that he had received an invoice pertaining to recent work on the video just before the Council meeting. Deciding to do additional interviews to incorporate into the recent version had required meetings, days filming and editing and equipment rental. Revisions to shorten and re-order the original video were also required. It was not clear at this point whether the invoice reflected expenses that were beyond those included in the original contract or included some of the work done in preparing the first video. Due to this lack of clarity, Hugh was asked to contact Sobaz and gain clarity on the details of the invoice and seek a satisfactory resolution. Concern was expressed by Dave Gibson that the matter of production of and honorarium for the music video be kept separate from the deliverables in the contract for services. Dave Allen asked that we be mindful of the total amount approved or budgeted to the end of 2022 for projects related to strategic initiatives – i.e. total of twelve thousand five hundred dollars (\$12,500) comprising ten thousand dollars

(\$10,000) approved by Council for the contract related to video production and other “telling the CABF story” deliverables and two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) budgeted for strategic initiatives in 2022.

#### *CABF Logo*

Hugh drew attention to the fact that the current CABF logo includes an image of the Jerusalem cross, a symbol used by the Crusaders and that this might be offensive to some. We may want to revisit this in further discussion before including it in material on a go-forward basis.

#### Agenda Item 6 (cont'd)

##### **c. *Supporting one another as we live out our vision and mission (cont'd)***

###### 1. Treasurer

###### 2. Financial/Budget

David Allen, Treasurer, presented on the Banking Summary for 2021 and the Cash Flow Comparison to Last Year for the period 2020-01-01 through 2021 - 12-31 as well as the 2022 Budget. All documents had been circulated prior to the meeting.

David noted that the donations for Member churches in 2021 had been less than in 2020. Each Member church represents an expense to CABF of fifty dollars (\$50.00) as a fee to the Canadian Council of Churches and forty-five dollars (\$45.00) for production/distribution of The Bulletin.

###### 3. Membership – Joyce Allen

The membership report had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Council was advised that is customary for the Membership Chair to send a letter to each new Member as part of an effort to have each Member feel welcomed into CABF.

###### 4. Credentials Committee – This agenda item had been addressed earlier in the meeting.

###### 5. Constitution and Governance – Dave Gibson

Dave advised that there was nothing to update at this time.

#### 7. New Business

###### 1. Notice of Motion re Membership Dues – David Allen

David had served notice of motion to Council at its previous meeting in November and circulated details in advance of this meeting. Moved by David and seconded by Sheila, the motion to adopt the new practice was carried.

Motion Carried

Council thanked Joyce and David for their work on this. The new practice of a membership renewal lasting twelve months, regardless of budget year will be much simpler for Members, but it will also involve more work in tracking for the Membership Chair.

Another item related to membership was the application of the Rev. Joe Green for individual membership. David recommended acceptance and so moved, seconded by John.

Motion Carried

2. Letter of Support and Recognition for Members – Marlene Knowles  
Marlene had circulated a draft letter recognizing the importance of Member Churches contributions to CABF. It was agreed that we also have a letter of similar nature recognizing the value individual Members bring to the CABF experience.
3. Proposed formal connection with ASBE (Atlantic Society for Biblical Equality)  
Marlene noted that the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada (CBAC) will not connect with the ASBE as not all in the CBAC believe women are biblically equal. Marlene moved and Don seconded that CABF recognize the ASBE as a partner organization.

Discussion:

Questions of Council authority to approve an affiliation with ASBE as well as whether the ASBE is limited in recognizing biblical equality to those persons identifying as male or female. Dave Gibson committed to research the latter.

Action: Dave Gibson

Given the need to gather more information, John Boyd moved that the motion be tabled until the next meeting of Council. President Marlene put the motion to table to a vote.

Motion Carried

**8. Information Items:**

*Meeting Dates:* The next meeting date is scheduled for February 2, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom. Don Flowers gave his regrets as he will not be available to attend on that date.

*Good News:* Carol Anne shared the good news that Marlene has officially qualified for the Doctor of Divinity Degree that will be conferred on her at the Spring Convocation. Carol Anne had provided support and supervision to Marlene in her journey to this significant achievement. Council joined Carol Anne in extending their heartfelt congratulations!

**9. Adjournment** – The meeting adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

**Attachments/Reports**

Website Report; Program Committee Report; Canadian Council of Churches Report; Treasurer's Report – Cash Flow Comparison to Last Year and Banking Summary for 2021; 2022 Budget; Membership Report; Credentials Committee Report; President's Report; Notice of Motion re Term of Membership.