

## Introduction: CABF Planning Process

At its June 2017 business meeting, the CABF membership approved a motion to develop a strategic plan for the organization and its ongoing work.

### The Development Objectives

- ✓ To create a constructive space where the participants can engage in frank dialogue;
- ✓ To develop consensus around:
  - Mission, Vision and Values,
  - Multi-year, outcome-oriented Strategic Priorities;
- ✓ To start translating those priorities into goals and actionable initiatives; and
- ✓ To establish rough timelines and accountabilities for follow-through.

### The Development Process

Launch	Co-Design Session	Facilitator with CABF Council. Refining the design for and firming up initial steps in the planning process. Discussing CABF's current directions; reviewing relevant issues and trends; agreeing on planning principles, key milestones; and a membership and stakeholder engagement strategy
Phase I	Membership Engagement	Facilitated in-person sessions with 72 members and any key partners to identify key issues and opportunities; ideas for the Association's future. (Wolfville, Port Williams, Amherst, Burlington, and Halifax)
	Documentation	Synopsis of Membership Engagement findings prepared
Phase II	Extended Council Working Sessions	A series of 6 facilitated 2-hour Strategic Planning Sessions, with Council (and other stakeholders as applicable). Environmental Scan update for Consultation Findings + What findings suggest about Mission, Vision, Values and Strategic Goals.
	Documentation	Brief drafts as the basis for developing the Strategic Plan's more detailed objectives and actions and to inform dialogue with full membership
	Council Debrief	Short meeting to review the draft strategy document and to agree on an approach to next steps including a full membership briefing at the AGM
	AGM Presentation	Draft Strategy + facilitated planning dialogue with full membership
Phase III	Finalization	Assemble AGM feedback, present and participate in subsequent revisions of the draft Strategic Plan to completion

### The Strategic Context

A legal Memorandum of Association sets out objectives describing what the Association is for. Here is the subset that is material for planning purposes:

#### CBAF Core Objectives by Law

- ✓ To witness to the freedom implicit in the voluntary principle in religion, which is a fundamental tenet of historic identity.
- ✓ To affirm and celebrate Baptist participation in, and witness to, the whole visible, catholic and evangelical church of Jesus Christ;
- ✓ To promote peace and understanding amongst people of all faiths;
- ✓ To provide a forum for the discussion of doctrinal and ethical questions, and social issues and policies in that spirit of tolerance and mutual respect which issues from Christian love;



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- ✓ To bear witness to these objectives with and among Baptists regionally as well as nationally and internationally;
- ✓ To provide accreditation for clergy and chaplains;
- ✓ To associate and co-operate with other like-minded organizations, such as the Atlantic Ecumenical Council, The Canadian Council of Churches, The Gathering of Baptists, and the Alliance of Baptists.

### Four Fragile Freedoms

The “Baptist Freedoms “ in the Association’s name refer to basic and historic Baptist principles of local church autonomy and individual freedom of worship under the reign of Christ<sup>1</sup>. They are consistent with what Walter B. Shurden describes in his book, “*The Baptist Identity: Four Fragile Freedoms*”:

**Bible Freedom** is the historic Baptist affirmation that the Bible, under the Lordship of Christ, must be central in the life of the individual and the church and that Christians, with the best and most scholarly tools of inquiry, are both free and obligated to study and obey the Scripture.

**Soul Freedom** is the historic Baptist affirmation of the inalienable right and responsibility of every person to deal with God without the imposition of creed, the interference of clergy, or the intervention of civil government.

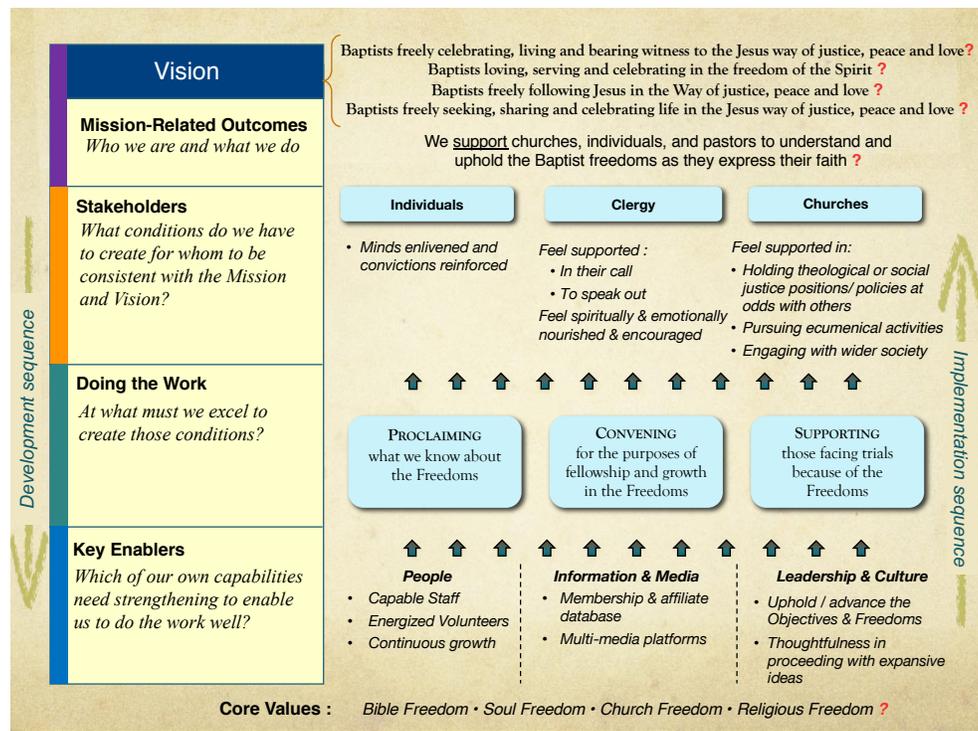
**Church Freedom** is the historic Baptist affirmation that local churches are free, under the Lordship of Christ, to determine their membership and leadership, to order their worship and work, to ordain whom they perceive gifted for ministry, male or female, and to participate in the larger Body of Christ, of whose unity and mission Baptists are proudly a part.

**Religious Freedom** is the historic Baptist affirmation of freedom OF religion, freedom FOR religion, and freedom FROM religion, insisting that Caesar is not Christ and Christ is not Caesar.

### The January 26th Session:

At the recent AGM, the Council received provisional endorsement to implement 3 Priorities capturing the CABF’s work over the next 3 to 5 years: *Proclaiming, Convening, and Supporting*. (See the full, draft strategy document on the CABF Web site.)

The upcoming Working Session will seek broader input on and refine the Priorities and associated Key Initiatives and identify those who will / might contribute to the work.



<sup>1</sup> <http://fbchalifax.ca/four-fragile-freedoms/>