Canadian Association for Baptist Freedoms (CABF)

Report of Constitution and Governance Committee

October 3, 2020

The CABF Constitution and Governance Committee has continued its work on a comprehensive review of the CABF By-Laws, started in November, 2017. The most recent version of the By-Laws included amendments that were approved by the Members on October 1, 2016. The Committee used that document as the starting point for its current review. The review has included consideration of recommendations referred from the previous Constitution Committee and those outlined in the 2016 CABF Annual Report and a line by line review of the present By-Laws with regard to the evolving needs of the Association.

More recently, the results of the Strategic Planning initiative have been considered to identify any implications for the drafting of suggested amendments to the By-Laws

In undertaking its work, the committee has looked at the long term view. What will the needs of our Association be in the future as well as at present, and we have tried to draft a document that will give us the flexibility to deal with those changing needs without having to make further amendments every couple of years.

A draft of the proposed amendments and a summary table outlining the changes was presented to the CABF Council on June 30, 2020 and Council approved the circulation of these documents to all individual and church members, which happened in July, with copies also being put on the CBAF Website. A Notice of Motion that the amendment package will be presented as a Special Resolution to the Annual General Meeting of the Association on October 3, 2020 was also circulated.

Following approval by the membership, as an organization incorporated under the *Societies Act* of Nova Scotia, any changes to the CABF By-Laws must be approved by the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

The Committee has also been working on consolidating the governance documentation that has been developed over the years. Under the By-Laws, Council has the authority to establish a Policy and Procedures Manual that can be updated easily (does not require the approval of the Registrar) and much of the detail of the workings of committees and operational procedures will be contained in that document. To date, some committees have provided content for their parts of the P&P Manual, and we plan for a draft of the complete manual to be available for Council to review by the end of this year.

Special thanks go to Sheila Stanley, the former Chair of this committee, to John Churchill with his historic knowledge and previous work on the By-Laws, to Gary Nelson who has provided legal advice, and to our President, Lee Nicholas-Pattillo, who has participated in recent discussions.

Respectfully submitted

Constitution and Governance Committee
Dave Gibson, Chair and members John Churchill and Gary Nelson