



Minutes
CABF Council Meeting
May 5, 2020
(Via Zoom)

Present: Lee Nicholas Pattillo (Chair), David Allen, Joyce Allen, John Boyd, John Churchill, Don Flowers, Dave Gibson, Dan Green, Scott Kindred-Barnes, Hugh Kirkegaard, Marlene Knowles, Rick Manuel, Harriett McCready, Sheila Stanley, Jeff White

Call to Order: Chair Lee called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Opening Prayer: John Churchill opened the meeting with prayer.

Approval of Agenda: The Agenda was accepted as circulated.

Approval of Minutes March 30, 2020: Moved by John Boyd and seconded Harriet McCready the minutes of the March 3, 2020 meeting were approved.

Business Arising:

Updates on the President's approach to Anna Robbins and Peter Reid are covered in the President's Report. Business pertaining to plans for the 50th Anniversary celebration, the Credentials Committee and Strategic Planning were deferred for discussion in reports later in the meeting. Dan Green reported that the Maritime Conference of the United Church of Canada (UCC) had been cancelled and that Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada (CBAC) had had no objection to him representing both the CBAC and the Canadian Association for Baptist Freedoms (CBAF) at the UCC Conference had it not been postponed.

Correspondence:

As outlined in the President's Report, Lee had received and responded to condolences received concerning the Nova Scotia tragedy/massacre in April. John Churchill noted that he receives periodic messages from P. Waldeman, a member of a church in Cuba with which the Port Williams United Baptist Church has a partnership, and who is interested in exploring a potential relationship with CABF. John wondered if perhaps Clayton Dempsey had given him CABF contact information. Lee will check with Paula in the Alliance of Baptists to explore this further. ACTION

Port Williams has met previously with the paternity in a relationship separate from the Alliance.

In the context of our Strategic Framework, should we be looking to partnerships such as these and, if so, what would those look like?

Standing Reports:

a. Treasurer and Finance/Budget Report – David Allen

David presented the banking summary and reported that the Covid pandemic had not had a negative impact on finances. Income has remained the same but expenses were down – e.g. Canadian Council of Churches in-person meeting cancelled. David moved and Dan Green seconded approval of the report. Motion carried.

In related discussion, it is anticipated that revenue is likely to go down in future if in-person events such as the Rushton Lecture and Fall Assembly cannot occur. We could ask for donations even in the absence of in-person gatherings. David Allen agreed to draft a one-page insert for the Bulletin. The motion moved by Marlene and seconded by John Churchill to insert a letter in the Bulletin encouraging donations passed unanimously.

b. Membership – David and Joyce Allen

Five more members have paid since last reported for a total of 28. Moved by Joyce, seconded by Sheila, the motion to approve the membership report was approved.

c. The Bulletin – Don Flowers

Scott reported on suggestions and questions from Andrew Steeves, from Gaspereau Press who print The Bulletin.

Suggestion: Create a better connection to CABF and the masthead page by putting Don and Scott's info there. Perhaps we should consider putting the whole Executive there?

Question: Who holds the copyright and liability for a non-profit organization such as CABF? Should we have a legal review? Perhaps we should look at a similar publication such as Tidings as a model with a standard disclaimer? It was agreed that Dave Gibson provide Scott with contact information for Gary Nelson so that he can consult with him on this matter and report back to Council.

ACTION

d. Credentials Committee – John Churchill

While the Committee is attempting to revise policies, screening candidates for potential accreditation continues to interrupt and take priority. On a positive note, this is helpful as it is an opportunity to test processes that may become embedded in policy.

Current Issues/Challenges:

Fitness for Ministry: How should character problems that do not fit the criteria be addressed? John had had a productive e-mail discussion with Anna Robbins, President of Acadia Divinity College(ADC). ADC has had to abandon previous criteria. The discussion has formed the groundwork for future dialogue on this important challenge.

John Boyd suggested that CABF needs to develop a stronger relationship with congregations who are credentialing/licensing candidates seeking accreditation through CABF. Finding ways to

develop a relationship that implies a partnership would help to ensure the CABF and Congregation are on the same page. Because licensing is not frequent, there is not a lot of legacy or capacity in terms of learning from past practice. John Churchill noted that Anna had expressed a similar sentiment in terms of partnership by working with local church committees on the matter of fitness for ministry.

Ordination – in what context and accountability to whom?

If a local church chooses to ordain a candidate about whom CABF has reservations, where does CABF fit?

Baptist Formation Course at Atlantic School of Theology (AST)

Lee has mentored students in the program this past year, but students are entering last year of the program; therefore, one of the program requirements (Baptist History/Polity) will not be available at AST. The course developed by Bill Brackney for self study is not currently accredited and it does not appear likely that AST will recognize it. In the discussion that followed options suggested included exploring a suitable on-line course, checking whether a course offered at Wakeforest would be suitable in terms of perspective, and re-visiting the possibility of a course offered at ADC. John Boyd reminded Council that CABF does not reject a because a course on Baptist History and Polity on the basis that it had been taken at ADC. This issue was referred back to the Credentials Committee for further consideration.

On motion moved by John Churchill and seconded by Harriet, the report of the Credentials Committee was approved.

e. Website Committee – John Boyd

Chair John Boyd reviewed his previously circulated report. He has noted the increase in on-line presence of member churches during the pandemic and has been sharing those posts with the CABF broader community. He is also taking care of the First Baptist Church Halifax Facebook presence while Jenny Eisner is on maternity leave.

Moved by John and seconded by Jeff, the motion to approve the report of the Website Committee was approved.

Questions Raised in Further Discussion:

- Should we have history of CABF on website?
- Do we have plans for listing pastors on the website? What privacy issues need consideration?
- Should we be looking at re-design of the website? It may mean hiring someone to re-design and/or provide training.
- Who will generate the scintillating content?
- Do we need a bigger website committee so that all the work does not rest with one person?
- What is the purpose of our website? Is it a bulletin board or a newspaper? Who is the audience?

f. Program Committee – Jeff White

Jeff reported that the Committee had met once since the last meeting of Council and had cancelled the next meeting. The two items needing Council's attention were ratification of the Committee's decision to cancel the Rushton Lecture and either a decision or date for a decision on the Annual General Meeting.

Rushton Lecture:

Moved by Jeff and seconded by Hugh that Council ratify the decision of the Program Committee to cancel the Rushton Lecture for June 2020. Motion carried.

Annual General Meeting:

We need an AGM of some sort to satisfy constitutional requirements. Any cancellation would have to be a Council decision. Perhaps we could split into two components – i.e. livestream a good program over Facebook and YouTube and use Zoom for the business component. No decision was reached. It was agreed that the Program Committee look at options and logistics and report back to Council. Perhaps plan to do on-line as we can always do in-house as an add-on. Lee noted her preference is to continue with holding it at First Baptist Church Halifax but needs to check re audio and dates.

Moved by Jeff and seconded by Dave, the report of the Program Committee was approved.

g. Constitution – Dave Gibson

The recommendations for changes to the Constitution had previously been circulated but no feedback had been received. Council was asked to review and comment. ACTION

How should the draft recommendations be distributed? Council was asked to respond by May 12 so that John can then post on the website .

Moved by Dave and seconded by John C., the report of the Constitution Committee was approved.

h. Strategic Planning – Rick Manuel

Rick had reviewed the previous documents. As the Strategic Plan is by its nature a 'big pieces' document, it is important to follow up with an operational plan that will inform day by day priorities and actions. Lee suggested - and it was agreed - that any work on a specific operational plan be deferred until a further discussion at a special meeting at a later date to specifically discuss the Strategic Framework implications following discussions at the March 3rd meeting.

Updates from March 3rd Meeting:

- Don Flowers met with Hugh about an 'elevator' speech re CABF, so that work is in progress. He also had an initial meeting with Dave Csinos, but no further work has occurred.
- David Allen had done some research on benefit plans – LTD, medical, dental and life insurance. The plan that CABF uses costs approximately \$1500 per person per year, the

most expensive component of which is LTD. The Treasurer's Handbook has all the information readily available. For the purpose of comparing benefits offered, he had also reviewed information on the Canadian Council of Christian Churches and United Church of Canada plans. Bert Radford offered to introduce David to someone with ACTRA to investigate what may be available there.

- David noted that we can approach this task from two different perspectives:
 - What can we get for a fixed budgeted amount?
 - What will a specific benefits package cost?

i. Partners – Canadian Council of Churches – Bert Radford

Council accepted Bert's report which had previously been circulated.

j. President's Report – Lee

Moved by Lee, seconded by Marlene, the previously circulated President's Report was approved.

New Business – Strategic Initiatives

Rick observed that he had not seen anything on initiatives related to partnerships or interdenominational activities. Because there is a need to spend more time focusing on Strategic Initiatives, Dave Gibson moved that Council reconvene in four weeks' time in a special Zoom meeting to have a more thorough discussion these initiatives. It was also agreed that additional agenda items for that special meeting include an update on plans for the AGM as well as updates on 50th Anniversary planning. The meeting was set for June 2, 2020 starting at 9:30 a.m.

Adjournment

Upon motion, the meeting adjourned.