

CABF Council (Draft Minutes)
Port Williams– March 14, 2019

Present: Dave Allen, John Boyd, John Churchill, Ed Colquhoun, Hugh Kirkegaard, Marlene Knowles, Rick Manuel, Wayne Marsh, Lee Nicholas-Pattillo, Roger Prentice, Sheila Stanley, and Jeff White.

By Telephone: Joyce Allen, Bert Radford.

Regrets: Vicki Brown

Chair Lee Nicholas-Pattillo **called the meeting to order** at 10:01.

The **agenda** was adopted with the change that, to take advantage of the attendance of Wayne Marsh, matters relates to the **strategic planning** process were to be dealt with first.

A wide-ranging discussion was begun by Wayne. Referring to the planning document, he stated and Rick Manuel and John Boyd agreed, that we have had enough reflection, definition, and information gathering and need now to get moving. Some of the many issues raised – concern about the human resources available to us by Lee, the involvement of younger clergy, the importance of people feeling that they are making a difference by Sheila, the up-coming 60th anniversary of the CABF/ABF, the great value to our culture of a correct understanding of Baptist principles and history by Roger, the need for educational programs, the need for publications about these topics, and a possible day-long summer seminar about these questions. Wayne brought the discussion back to the crucial question of who will take ownership of each of these issues and provide leadership to the CABF. With many words of appreciation from Council members, Wayne then left the meeting, his work with the CABF finished.

The **minutes** from the meeting of January 22 were approved as circulated.

No further business arising from the minutes was identified.

There was **correspondence** from **Peter Reid** asking whether the CABF considers itself a denomination. Beyond our name, "Association", there was no consensus about how we should respond to this query other than to seek a meeting with CBAC leadership as was longstanding past practice.

Vickie Brown expressed her regrets that family challenges had hampered her ability to participate in Council deliberations as she would have wished.

David Allen reported correspondence from the **Canadian Council of Churches** about the calculation of dues to be paid to the CCC. The formula review underway appears to favour us considering the number of members rather than the number of congregations, since provision has been made for smaller congregations. Dave asked us to confirm the number of resident members in our churches.

Standing Reports:

Treasurer Dave Allen reviewed his previously circulated Banking Summary and Year to Date Cash Flow Comparison. He noted the role of Canada Helps in sustaining individual donations. He moved acceptance of his report which was duly seconded and adopted.

Dave Allen also presented the **Membership** report, noting an increase of 29 members from the last report as well as the confirmation of several member churches. The report was accepted.

The **Bulletin** report previously circulated was presented by Roger Prentice and Bert Radford. There was discussion of the return of Bulletin copies sent to the Windsor church as well as the news that there would be a name presented of a new editor to be accepted at the next AGM. Having been moved and seconded, the report was accepted by the Council.

John Churchill spoke to the previously circulated **Credentials** report. The Committee was pleased to grant a CABF license to Susan DeMont. He announced that Ed Colquhoun would not be directing the Baptist Formation program at AST next year. Pending is the creation of a status for those in ministry who will not meet all formal educational requirements for accreditation as well as policy revisions concerning ordination. The report was accepted by Council.

John Boyd spoke to his **Website** Committee report, encouraging Churches using Facebook to connect with the CABF site. There were 85 “followers” of the CABF page. He moved acceptance of his report and the report was accepted.

Jeff White reported that the **Program** Committee (aka Convening and Engagement) had plans for the Rushton involving the Ecology – Theology interface featuring the Rev. Michael Dowd and Connie Barlow. We discussed the possibility of a vegan option for lunch on that day. On motion, his report was accepted.

The **Constitution** Committee did not have a new report, since they await the action of the AGM on Constitutional revisions; however, Sheila Stanley suggested that further revisions may be necessary pending the results of planning deliberations.

Rick Manuel noted that matters related to **Strategic Planning** has been dealt with earlier in the meeting. An urgent need for a follow-up session was noted and it was moved that such a **follow-up to the Strategic Plan be set for April 8 in Port Williams**. The motion carried.

President Lee Nicholas-Pattillo gave a brief concluding report mentioning a retreat for youth and noting that Marlene was now the contact for the Alliance. The issue of Refugee rights was postponed for another time.

Next Council Meeting is set for May 7, 10:00 am, at First Baptist Church, Halifax.

Ed Colquhoun
Secretary