



*Promoting Historic Baptist
Traditions and Freedoms*

Minutes
CABF Council Meeting
November 3, 2021
9:00 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, Scott Kindred-Barnes, Hugh Kirkegaard, Bert Radford, Martin Roy, Sheila Stanley, Jeff White.

Regrets: Lee Nicholas-Pattillo

Absent: Dan Green

- 1. Open with Prayer:** Chair Marlene welcomed everyone, and Don opened the meeting with prayer.
- 2. Approval of Agenda:** David Allen moved and John Boyd seconded approval of the Agenda but with moving the report of the Nominating Committee earlier on the Agenda so that the new member on Council could participate in voting.

Motion Carried

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, Joyce Allen moved that Susan Colquhoun be added to Council for a one-year term as Member-at-Large. Sheila seconded the motion.

Motion Carried

President Marlene welcomed Sue and thanked her for agreeing to serve on Council.

Sheila will update the roster of Directors previously provided to the Registry of Joint Stocks to reflect the addition.

Action

- 3. Approval of Minutes:**

President Marlene asked if there were any errors or omissions to the minutes previously circulated for meetings held on May 2, June 23 and September 1 of 2021. Hearing none, Don moved, and Sheila seconded approval of all the minutes as circulated.

Motion Carried

4. Business Arising

Any business arising from the minutes would be covered in the individual reports later in the meeting.

5. Correspondence

President Marlene noted that we had received a letter in follow-up from previous meetings held with representatives of the Acadia Divinity College(ADC) and Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada (CBAC) thanking the CABF for the discussions and looking forward to continuing dialogue in future.

Sheila reported that the requisite documents in follow-up to the Annual General Meeting had been submitted to and accepted by the Registry of Joint Stock Companies. Aside from notifying the Registry of the appointment of a new Director (member of Council), no further filing is required until the annual renewal fee is paid in June of 2022.

6. Standing Reports

a. *Proclaiming: Telling Our Story*

Publications

- i. The role of Chair for the Publications standing committee is currently vacant; however, Scott reported as Editor of the Bulletin that all is going smoothly with respect to that publication and that he would likely be calling upon members of Council to provide material/articles for the Bulletin in future. Scott extended thanks to David Allen who has been regularly providing updated addresses to Scott to help ensure that the distribution list for the Bulletin is as current as possible.

Website

- ii. The report of the Website Committee had previously been circulated. Moved by John and seconded by Dave Gibson, the motion to accept the report was approved.

Motion Carried

John suggested that, at a minimum, it would be good to have a picture of and brief write-up on the website of the CABF Officers. Pictures and profiles of all Committee Chairs as well would be ideal. Those who are comfortable in having this information posted are encouraged to send the picture and write-up to John at their earliest convenience.

Support Committee

- iii. Hugh reported as Chair of the ad hoc Support Committee tasked with overseeing the production of a video and related materials to help with proclaiming/communicating key aspects of CABF. Council members had previously received a first draft of the video as well as a shorter version ('trailer'). The videos were initially anticipated to be ready in September in time for the AGM. The feedback from Council on the delivered videos was shared with our contractor, Sobaz Benjamin, and Hugh and Sheila have been meeting with him and videographer, Dario Lozano-Thornton, to provide more input regarding deliverables for the contract.

Dave noted that we had committed to provide the soloist and accompanist who had performed the hymn for the 50th anniversary celebration that they would receive a copy of that segment for their own use and portfolios, so we will need to ensure that happens. Also, as our contractors had gone beyond what was outlined in the contract of engagement with respect to music, Dave mentioned that he has a donor ready to give an honorarium in recognition of the additional work.

Hugh acknowledged and thanked Dave while also noting that the priority now must be completion of the video. To that end, Hugh may be reaching out to others to support this and has been working already with Sheila, Don and Scott with that goal in mind. In that context, a focus on framing CABF with a positive self-definition and future-oriented direction are important as is addressing the ambiguity so well captured in the first iteration of the video.

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

i. Program Committee

Chair Jeff reported that no meeting has been held since the Annual General Meeting but anticipates a meeting in the next fourteen days to continue the plans for the next months. On motion by Jeff, seconded by David, the Committee's report was accepted.

Motion Carried

ii. Partners (Representatives Reports):

1. Canadian Council of Churches: Bert did not have a report as no meeting had been held since his last report; however, the next meeting will be held in November, and Bert was pleased to report that Peter Noteboom's health has improved, and he is now back at work.
2. Alliance of Baptists: Rusty noted that there is nothing to report from the Alliance at this point.

iii. President's Report:

Marlene reported that she has continued her work on the Support Committee with Lee and Hugh providing guidance and oversight to the video project. As

newly elected President, the primary focus of her work has been orienting to the role and preparing for the weeks and months ahead. She thanked Lee for her past service and her support as Marlene transitions to this large role.

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

Note: Although reported here in the same sequence as indicated on the agenda, the Credentials Committee presented first due to the Chair having to leave at 10:30 am.

i. Treasurer

David reviewed highlights of his report that had previously been circulated. On motion by David, seconded by Don, the motion to accept the report as circulated was carried.

Motion Carried

David reported that he had received notification from the company whose software we use for accounting purposes that a new free service is available. David understands that this would enable CABF to accept both donations and fees for membership directly on the website. The fee per transaction is anticipated to be 1.5%. Currently, we can accept donations through Canada Helps for 3% per transaction and we accept membership fees through electronic money transfer (EMT). Don moved, and Hugh seconded, that David explore this option further in consultation with John Boyd who chairs the Website Committee.

Motion Carried

ii. Financial/Budget

There was nothing additional to report at this meeting.

iii. Membership

Joyce moved, and Martin seconded, that the report previously circulated be accepted.

Motion Carried

iv. Credentials Committee

Rusty has met with John Churchill, former Chair of the Committee, to receive files/resources pertinent to the work of the Committee. The priority now is to finish some revisions to the credentialing process that should be ready for approval in June.

Work is continuing with Arla Johnson, a recent graduate with Master of Divinity Degree from the Atlantic School of Theology, serving as Minister of Inclusion at First Baptist Church Halifax and completing a one-year mentorship with Marjorie Lewis at Acadia. Next steps will include discussions on ordination.

Don advised that he had discussions with two students studying at Acadia Divinity College who are struggling with discerning the appropriate route for them in terms of credentialing – essentially a struggle between being able to pursue their calling to ministry in a paid career while also being true to their beliefs with

respect to inclusive issues such as performing same gender marriages. One of these students has since approached Rusty.

Bert shared that he is currently Chair of the Credentialing Committee for The Gathering, and they are experiencing a flurry of interest in this route to accreditation. It may be that we should explore conversations about joint efforts networked across provinces.

Scott wonders whether, within the larger body of the CBAC, there may be individuals who are experiencing similar conflicts of conscience and concern for maintaining their current credential. Is there a way to provide a safe forum for such individuals to have conversations about their journey?

Carol Anne shared her experience when, back in 2003, there had been such pushback to First Baptist Church Edmonton to potentially calling a minister who could perform same gender marriages, that the candidate had withdrawn rather than risk retaliatory action toward the Congregation from external sources. Some western churches have been in a liminal position and may just now be seeing alternatives to credentialing. She would welcome broadening the conversation with such churches.

Rusty suggested that the Baptists of Western Canada had recently introduced a motion that would put any Church granting membership to individuals who openly identify as gay or lesbian at risk of being removed from the Convention.

Hugh noted that another concern for CABF to address is the 'flag of convenience'. How should we be engaging those to whom we have conferred a credential? How do we encourage these individuals to be part of a worshipping community?

Carol Anne and Dave also noted the importance of including some accountability provisions as part of our process. Under what conditions does a credential remain active? Should there be continuing education requirements, for example?

Rusty advised that these issues are currently part of discussions at the Credentials Committee and that he would soon have more to share. Rusty left the meeting at 10:27.

On motion by Hugh, seconded by Carol Anne, Rusty's report was accepted.

Motion Carried

- v. Constitution and Governance Committee
Dave advised that there was nothing to report at this point.

7. New Business:

- i. Nominating Committee
Marlene asked that suggestions for filling any remaining vacancies on the Nominating Committee report be sent to her or a member of the Nominating Committee.
- ii. Resolution re Signing Officers 2021
A recent inquiry concerning signing authority for members of Council who are also US citizens had precipitated a review of current practice.

Dave Gibson advised that our approved by-laws indicate that any two members of Council, designated by Council, are authorized to sign. Section 49 (b) states “For cheques on the CABF account, the Signing Officers shall be any two of the persons who are members of the Council who are so prescribed by resolution of Council.”

David Allen noted that changing signing officers has historically been challenging as it has required the signing officers to be physically present at the Bank with whom CABF has its account – currently the RBC in Kentville. The Bank requires a profile of the signing officers. Current signing officers are David Allen, John Churchill and Roger Prentice. In an ideal world, those whom we choose as signing officers will continue serving on Council for the next few years. After further discussion, Dave moved and Don seconded that David Allen, Scott Kindred-Barnes, and Carol Anne Janzen be designated as signing officers.

Motion Carried

- iii. Draft Policy and Procedures Manual
The Constitution and Governance Committee has been developing a Policy and Procedures Manual. Dave had circulated the first draft to Council members on March 6, 2021. Due to other priorities, it had not been considered by Council previously. Dave had recently reviewed the draft and circulated an updated draft on November 2. The Manual will continue to be developed over time, and Dave suggested that it would be good if Council were to approve the draft Manual so that we can apply those as working policies at this point. Accordingly, Dave moved, and Martin seconded, that the draft Policy and Procedures Manual be adopted as circulated and then presented for approval by the full Assembly in the spring.

Motion Carried

Don and all members of Council joined in thanking Dave for his careful and thorough work in developing the Manual. Dave is truly gifted in projects such as these, and his work – along with that of his Committee – is truly appreciated.

- iv. Future Links (e.g. ASBE, BM, Gathering of Baptists, AUBA, etc.)
President Marlene indicated that we will want to have a further discussion at future meetings about how we might seek further links with other organizations.

In consideration of the recent flurry of activity/interest in CABF accreditation reported through the Credentials Committee, Sheila asked for clarification on the process by which a church would seek approval for membership in CABF. We have an application process in place for membership. Several Council members shared their memory of the experience when the Burlington Church joined. The vote by the Assembly occurred at the time of the Rushton Lecture with members of the Burlington Church joining by video. Presumably, both the Membership Committee and the Credentials Committee would have been involved and a recommendation from Council presented to the whole Assembly. It was agreed that we seek clarification on and document the process.

Action

v. Discussion Opportunities re CABF

Sheila suggested that a further action arising from the current interest in CABF membership and credentialing may be to have a further discussion at a future Council meeting about how best to facilitate/enable that discussion in a manner that is safe for participants. President Marlene asked Jeff White as Chair of the Program Committee to discuss this challenge/opportunity with the Program Committee and report back to Council.

Action – Program Committee

vi. Meeting Dates

Although there is no requirement for Council to meet more than four times per year, it was agreed that we continue to hold the first Wednesday of each month for potential meetings of Council. If a meeting is not required, Council will be so advised. If a meeting is to be held, an Agenda will be circulated not later than the Monday previous to the meeting.

8. Adjournment – On motion by David Allen, the meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.

Attachments/Reports

Website Report; Treasurer's Report (Banking Summary 2021-01-01 through 2021-10-3); Membership Report; Resolution of Council re Signing Officers, Draft Policy and Procedures Manual to November 2, 2021; Support Committee Report