



*Promoting Historic Baptist
Traditions and Freedoms*

Minutes
CABF Council Meeting
December 1, 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, Scott Kindred-Barnes, Bert Radford

Absent: Dan Green

Guests: Sobaz Benjamen, Dario Lozano-Thornton

- 1. Open with Prayer:** Chair Marlene welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with prayer.
- 2. Approval of Agenda:** Marlene noted that there would be some re-ordering of the agenda to accommodate previous commitments for Sheila and Rusty. With the addition of items related to membership requests and notice of motion under New Business, David Allen moved approval of the agenda and Rusty seconded the motion.

Motion Carried

3. Approval of Minutes:

President Marlene asked if there were any errors or omissions to the minutes previously circulated for meeting held on November 3, 2021. With one edit – the correction of the name of the previous Constitution and By-Laws Committee to the current Constitution and Governance Committee, Sheila moved and Dave Gibson seconded the motion to approve the minutes, as amended.

Motion Carried

- 4. Business Arising**

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

5. Correspondence

The only correspondence was receipt of the Annual Report of the Canadian Council of Churches and the applications for membership in CABF, the latter to be addressed later in the agenda.

6. Standing Reports

a. *Proclaiming: Telling Our Story*

Support Committee: Hugh Kirkegaard

Editorial Note: The New Business Agenda was paused at 10:00 to welcome and speak with guests Sobaz Benjamen and Dario Lorenzo-Thornton who shared the next iteration of the CABF Video. The notes are indicated here in the order appearing on the circulated Agenda.

- i. Feedback from Council was positive on the next version of the video shared with them and included comments such as:
 - tone welcoming/safe
 - appealing to anyone who values love and respect
 - like links to scripture and societal context
 - any options for adding more diversity?
 - no mention of credentialing. Can it be added?

Sobaz and Dario thanked the Council for feedback and left the meeting at approximately 10:30 a.m.

Hugh thanked Council as well and asked that any additional feedback be given to him or Sheila in the next day or so. He noted that work on the banner and brochure had temporarily been set aside to focus on the video. He also noted that the recorded anniversary hymn music would likely appear in a separate video.

There are opportunities to take what has currently been produced and use it as basis for several shorter videos focusing on specific themes; for example, the footage on original leaders/founders in the previous Atlantic Baptist Fellowship did not work with the current video format but could be an important video for our 50th Anniversary along with the anniversary hymn. It has also been suggested by our videographer that breaking up the main, longer video into modules, we could better appeal to a younger “tick tock” and “Instagram” generation to whom short clips are the norm.

Dave G. expressed congratulations on the progress made in this second version and the forward-thinking options for future. He emphasized the importance of completing the music video as we had committed to provide a copy to the two participants, and a private donation had been made to make this possible.

Publications

- ii. There was no report from the Publications Committee.

Website

- iii. The report of the Website Committee had previously been circulated. Moved by John B and seconded by Don, the motion to accept the report was approved.

Motion Carried

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

i. Program Committee

Chair Jeff reported that the next meeting for the Program Committee is scheduled for the week of December 6.

ii. Partners (Representatives Reports):

1. Canadian Council of Churches: Bert had advised the President that there was nothing to report at this meeting
2. Alliance of Baptists: Rusty noted that there is nothing to report from the Alliance.

iii. President's Report:

There was no formal President's Report.

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 at the beginning of the Standing Reports due to the Chair having to leave at 10:30 am.

i. Treasurer

David reviewed highlights of his report that had previously been circulated. Given the circumstances of our current operating environment, the balance is relatively healthy. As there is a current liability of \$2250, the balance shown was more accurately in the range of eight thousand dollars (\$8,000). On motion by David, seconded by Sue, the motion to accept the report as circulated was carried.

Motion Carried

Further to discussions at the previous meeting, Carol Anne reported that arrangements for changes to the signing officers are underway.

ii. Financial/Budget

This spot on the agenda is a placeholder for the budget. At the end of December, information will be sent to the Finance Committee. There was nothing additional to report at this meeting.

iii. Membership

It is hoped that Member Churches will submit their financial contributions by end of December. Joyce moved, and Jeff seconded, that the report previously circulated be accepted.

Motion Carried

Discussion ensued on how best to gently encourage/remind Member Churches to submit their contributions prior to year-end and to ensure the commitment is included in budget prep. Conclusion: On a go-forward basis, send a letter (and possibly include in The Bulletin) in the fall highlighting the good things that have happened over the previous year with the help of Member contributions. This update would also serve as a reminder for inclusion of this line item for budgets being prepared for the subsequent year. For the current year, Dave Gibson volunteered to help Marlene draft a communication to Member Churches highlighting what has been happening and thanking them for making it possible through their contributions.

Action: Marlene and Dave

iv. Credentials Committee

Rusty spoke to his report that had previously been circulated.

Policy on Credentials Sections 1-4

Work on editing and updating the Credentials Policy is about 90% complete and is currently being reviewed by Scott Sterns from a legal perspective. One of the additions to the credentials policies is the accreditation of non-ordained lay ministers. These are individuals for whom lay ministry is a second career, and their credential is tied to service in a local church within CABF. Completion of this work is anticipated by March 2022.

New Candidates

Two students at the Acadia Divinity College have initiated conversations about being accredited with CABF, and one is meeting with the Committee on December 15th. The Rev. Ryan Sato, minister at First Baptist Church Edmonton, will be seeking accreditation, and a member of that congregation involved in prison ministry is expressing interest as well.

Logistical Challenge

Due to differences from one province to another, ensuring those accredited by CABF are recognized by the applicable Vital Statistics authority so that they can officiate at weddings is a challenge. The application for membership in CABF for First Baptist Edmonton would be addressed later in this meeting, and having that approval would enable them to take the lead in collaborating to gain appropriate authority with Vital Statistics there. If Vital Statistics here allows, it would be good to have the Chair of the Credentials Committee added as a person who has authority to communicate with that body directly.

Discussion:

- *Documentation of Interprovincial Procedures Related to Recognition of Credentials:* Dave Gibson requested that the process for getting interprovincial

recognition approval be documented for purposes of the CABF Policies and Procedures Manual. Rusty suggested that a representative from the Constitution and Governance Committee work along with a representative of Credentials Committee to accomplish this.

Action

- *Process for Approving Policy on Credentials:* Dave Gibson clarified that Council has the authority to put a Policy in the Policy Manual but the membership/Assembly needs to ratify. Rusty, as Chair of the Credentials Committee, would present the background and motion to Council for acceptance. Dave, as Chair of the Constitution and Governance Committee, would give notice to the Assembly along with the background.
- *Re: Out of Province Weddings by Those Dually Credentialed*
Hugh asked whether we are at the point of being able to do out-of-province weddings with CABF credentials vs. having to work through the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada (CBAC). Rusty clarified that we still need to explore each Province's requirements – for example, Alberta requires one clergy credentialed in that province to initiate the process. John B. clarified that in the province of Ontario, we had facilitated this through The Gathering. The last wedding

officiated in New Brunswick by a CABF credentialed person had been arranged with the help of CBAC officials.

- *Other:*
 - Rusty advised that the Baptist Church in Surrey, BC would be voting on December 21 to become inclusive, so it is possible that that Church may reach out for membership in CABF in future.
 - Sue noted the importance of those who carry our credentials being actively involved with CABF as part of the expectations of ongoing accreditation.
 - John B. noted that one person holding dual credentials would likely be relinquishing the other credential to become exclusively credentialed with CABF. This raised the matter of needing to have an updated database of those holding credentials with CABF. In earlier years, there had been a presentation ceremony at an Assembly.

Action: Rusty, David A, John B

i. Constitution/By-Laws Committee

Dave advised that there was nothing to report at this point.

2. New Business:

i. Applications for Membership

David A reported that applications for membership in CABF had been received from First Baptist Church Edmonton and also from two individuals from Bridgewater Baptist Church.

First Baptist Church Edmonton

David read a motion passed at the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting of First Baptist Church Edmonton held on November 25, 2021 stating:
We, the members of First Baptist Church, Edmonton, wish to become a Member Church in the Canadian Association for Baptist Freedoms. We agree to support the objectives of this organization as outlined in the attached Memorandum of Association. Furthermore, we commit to support the CABF financially on a yearly basis.

On behalf of the Membership Committee, David recommended approval of the application for membership. Carol Anne moved and David A seconded that the application for membership in CABF of First Baptist Church Edmonton be approved.

Motion Carried

Individual Memberships

David advised that the Rev. Aaron Kenny and Rev. Erica Kenny had applied for individual membership in CABF and that the Membership Committee was recommending approval of the request. David so moved, and Sheila seconded.

Motion Carried

While Council has approved the memberships noted above, these will be presented at the next Assembly for ratification.

ii. Notice of Motion re Membership Year

On behalf of Membership Committee, David indicated that he would be initiating a notice of motion to add clarity to the annual membership period as follows:

At the next scheduled meeting of CABF Council, I will move or caused to be moved, the following motion:

Moved that the *per annum* membership for individual members of CABF be a period of twelve (12) consecutive months commencing for existing members on the calendar date that the membership fee is received and for new members on the calendar date when approved by Council and that individual memberships shall expire on the same calendar date one year later;

And further;

for purposes of renewal, individual members are to be notified by email, letter or other means, one (1) month prior to the expiration of membership.

iii. Nurturing our pastors and member churches – Marlene asked that anyone interested in working on initiatives related to this reach out to her. Hugh suggested that it may be time to pull together chaplains with a view to

determining if there are ways to support them. Hugh would be willing to do this. Marlene echoed the need for this based on her experience. It was agreed that Hugh would host a CABF sponsored event via Zoom to initiate outreach to chaplains. Hugh will need a list of chaplains to get this process going.

Action

iv. Link with organizations – discussion deferred due to time constraints

3. Meeting Dates: The next meeting date is scheduled for January 5th, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. via Zoom.

4. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Attachments/Reports

Website Report; Treasurer’s Report (Banking Summary 2021-01-01 through 2021-11-30);
Membership Report; Report of Website Committee; Credentials Committee Report