



*Promoting Historic Baptist
Traditions and Freedoms*

Minutes

CABF Council Meeting

February 3, 2021
9:30 a.m.
(Via Zoom)

Present: Lee Nicholas-Pattillo (Chair), David Allen, Joyce Allen, John Boyd, John Churchill, Don Flowers, Dave Gibson, Hugh Kirkegaard, Marlene Knowles, Bert Radford, Sheila Stanley, Jeff White.

1. Open with Prayer: Chair Lee welcomed everyone, and Jeff White opened the meeting with prayer at 9:30 a.m.

2. Approval of Agenda: With agreement that an update on the meeting with representatives of Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada (CBAC) be addressed under the President's Report, the Agenda was accepted as circulated.

3. Approval of Minutes:

a. *Council Meeting November 3, 2020:* With corrections noted to business titles for Anna Robbins, Lee moved and John Boyd seconded approval of the minutes of November 3, 2020.

Motion Carried

b. *Special Meeting of Council December 2, 2020:* Marlene moved and Jeff seconded approval of the minutes of December 2, 2020.

Motion Carried

4. Business Arising from Minutes:

It was agreed that business arising would be addressed in the reports of the Standing Committees.

5. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to report.

6. Standing Reports

a. *Proclaiming: Telling Our Story*

- i. The Bulletin – Don Flowers (This item was addressed when Don joined the meeting at 10:00 a.m.) Don noted that the most recent issue of the Bulletin had been circulated since the last meeting of Council.

John Boyd has been updating the Communications tab on the website with past articles of the Bulletin in addition to those previously uploaded by John Churchill. The oldest edition at this point dates to 1991, and John B. requested that anyone with older issues share these. John C. noted that he had given some of his past editions to Scott Kindred-Barnes (some produced on mimeograph) so checking with Scott is another potential source. Also, it may be worth checking with the Gaspereau Press in case they have an archive of previous editions. John B. will provide a list of editions missing to Don Flowers.

- ii. Website – John Boyd
John Boyd moved and David Allen seconded that his previously circulated report be accepted.

Motion Carried

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

- i. Program Committee – Jeff White
Jeff White provided a verbal report with the activity focus centering on celebration of the 50th anniversary of CABF and its predecessor Atlantic Baptist Fellowship (ABF).
 - *Rushton Lecture*: This is scheduled for the first Saturday in June – i.e. June 5, and Marjorie Lewis, Chaplain at Acadia University, will be our guest speaker.
 - *Fall Assembly and AGM*: This is scheduled for October 1-2, with three themes – Yesterday (Scott Kindred Barnes), Today (Bert Radford) and Tomorrow (Speaker to be confirmed shortly)
 - *Other*:
 - John B. noted the importance of communicating Anniversary details as soon as they are finalized both on the website and in the Bulletin.
 - David A. reported that the Committee for the 50th Anniversary had invited input from two representatives of the Port Williams congregation and more detail will be provided after that meeting occurs. The format for 50th Anniversary primary events (introductory being the Rushton Lecture in June and major event the Fall Assembly) will likely be a combination of virtual and in-person participation. Most speakers are now confirmed. The biggest challenge remaining is determining how to feed those

who attend in-person. An anniversary dinner may not be practical, given the pandemic. The pandemic could also affect some of the previously anticipated events. On a positive note, the lapel pins and commemorative pens have arrived.

Jeff moved, and Marlene seconded, acceptance of the report of the Program Committee.

Motion Carried

ii. Partners (Representative Reports)

1. Canadian Council of Churches

Bert had submitted a Report of the Canadian Council of Churches Governing Board Meeting held Nov 25-27, 2020 as well as emailed updates since that time.

Hugh moved and Don seconded acceptance of Bert's Report.

Motion Carried

2. Alliance of Baptists

Lee wonders what CABF needs to do to continue to be involved with the Alliance.

On a related note, John Boyd suggested that we have more clarity on our relationship with The Gathering in Ontario and that we add this group to our Partner updates in future.

Should we be a member of The Gathering? It was reported that there may be upcoming revisions to membership categories re congregations and that this may have an impact on whether our CABF congregation members who belong to The Gathering will choose accreditation via The Gathering rather than through CABF. Recent activities of the Canadian Baptists of Ontario and Quebec (CBOQ) suggest there may be some intention to further influence the autonomy of the local church with respect to such matters as inclusion. At their meeting in April, The Gathering will be considering the theme of strengthening the local church re inclusion, etc. with a panel presentation on A Bigger Box of Crayons with our own John Boyd being a presenter on that panel.

Sheila was asked to contact Garry Colwell at The Gathering to ensure CABF is on the mailing list and to explore how CABF can best stay updated with their activities.

Action: Sheila

3. President's Report

Lee moved and Marlene seconded that the previously circulated President's Report be accepted.

Motion Carried

During discussion prior to the vote on the motion, Lee commented on her meeting, along with John Boyd, John Churchill, and Marlene with representatives of the CBAC. It appears that CBAC is not interested in entertaining dual credentialing – i.e. by both CBAC and CABF. CBAC does appear, however, to be open to discussing some form of collaboration/communication on discipline. John C. noted that the dual credentialing matter is important as the Board of Ministerial Standards for the CBAC has a policy against dual credentialing. It is hard to know how deeply divided members of the CBAC are on this matter. On a positive note, having a meeting of CBAC and CABF without a vote at the end is supportive of continuing, open dialogue. John Boyd suggested that while the Board may have made a policy on the matter of dual credentialing, there may not be an appetite to ‘root out’ those holding dual credentials.

The matter of whether CABF and CBAC do/do not share with each other the names of individuals who have had their credential revoked is potentially problematic. CABF cannot make this public due to privacy concerns, and only the affected individual, his/her employer and the complainant are advised. This leaves the potential for a future congregation to call someone whose CBAC credentials have been revoked. Our CABF practice/policy is to make it known publicly when someone’s credential has been revoked. A further complication is that some most congregations who are members of CABF also belong to CBAC.

John C. reported that a questionnaire that is comprehensive in terms of the range of issues explored has recently been circulated to pastors from the CBAC.

All the foregoing underlines the importance of continued dialogue to more fully understand perspectives, and the commitment for the representatives of the two organizations to continue to meet bi-monthly is key to this.

c. *Supporting one another as we live out the meaning of the Freedoms*

- i. **Treasurer** – David Allen
- ii. **Financial/Budget** – Dan Green

In Dan Green’s absence, David presented the Treasurer’s and Finance/Budget Committees’ reports that had been circulated prior to the meeting. David noted that, due to Covid, this has been a most unusual year. There had not been a Ruston Lecture (therefore, no expense) and the Fall Assembly had been primarily virtual (little expense). At the same time donations had increased, leaving finances in a positive state.

With respect to seventy-one thousand dollars (\$71K) in investment assets that are not reflected in the Reports circulated, David advised that they are invested with the Atlantic Baptist Foundation as the rate of return is higher

than that for GIC currently, and there is an added advantage of the assets being liquid.

David moved and Sheila seconded acceptance of the reports.

Motion Carried

iii. **Membership** – Joyce Allen

Joyce moved and David Allen seconded acceptance of the Membership Report that had been previously circulated.

Motion Carried

iv. **Credentials Committee** – John Churchill

John Churchill moved and John Boyd seconded acceptance of the Credentials Committee Report that had been previously circulated.

Motion Carried

v. **Constitution/By-Laws** – Dave Gibson (deferred until later in meeting)

Dave noted that the lack of response from the Registry of Joint Stocks leaves progress on implementing changes in the revised by-laws in an uncertain state and this also has an impact on the ongoing development of policies. It was agreed that Sheila initiate contact with the Registry to determine the status of consideration/approval of the revised by-laws.

Action: Sheila

7. New Business – Report of Support Committee for Strategic Initiatives

An ad hoc Support Committee comprising Hugh Kirkegaard, Harriet McCready and Marlene Knowles had been formed at the special meeting of Council held on December 3, 2020 to draft terms of reference for engaging someone to help implement the elements of the Strategic Plan Framework under the direction of Council. Lee had agreed to coordinate the first meeting of the Committee, and a draft document titled CABF Project Coordinator had been circulated prior to the February meeting of Council.

Hugh reported on behalf of the Support Committee that had met three times. For *Proclaiming: Telling our Story*, the Committee affirmed the need for the pamphlet/brochure on which Don Flowers had taken a lead role. The Committee also affirmed the need for a video, and the Committee is contacting the marketing group responsible for doing the Acadia Divinity College video liked by the group. The Committee envisions the Project Coordinator working, on average, twenty (20) hours per week and recommend starting this during this 50th Anniversary Year.

Sampling of Points Raised in Ensuing Discussion:

- The possibility of having a coordinator is appealing from the perspective that one individual will become the 'face' of CABF – i.e. a common thread throughout implementation of projects/initiatives for about 20 hours per week over 8 – 10 months. Hiring someone for 20 hours per week for a short period of time potentially

means a lack of continuity and someone leaving without retention of the knowledge gained.

- Would fewer hours over a longer period be a better option?
- Caution about committing to one person for multiple projects over a defined or ongoing period. This role is not currently budgeted so having someone on an ongoing basis means defining the needs as well as the reporting relationships
- As currently worded, the Coordinator would have a **lead role** in initiating, monitoring and controlling the strategic initiatives of CABF. This is a huge scope. Does it reflect what we want/need? The wording under the heading Roles and Responsibilities is very different than what is indicated in scope.
- We need to define how the relationship between the Coordinator and Council and/or Executive will function.
- Will the relationship differ depending on the project? For example, if Council has approved Don taking the lead role in ensuring a pamphlet is designed, does the Coordinator work closely with Don on the specifics of making this project a reality? Similarly, if Jeff/Lee are taking the lead on exploring how best to support pastors, will the Coordinator work with them to support actions necessary to accomplish this?
- What does 'handing over' while 'walking with' look like?
- Given that CABF finances vary, may be better to set parameters around a project with a project-specific budget and no long-term commitments. Preference for finding funds within current operational costs vs. dipping into investment fund? We are currently able to fund a project or projects from our surplus.
- Perhaps best place to start is with a pilot.

Council is asked to provide feedback to the Support Committee via Hugh on finances and timeline. It was agreed that being able to showcase the video at Fall Assembly is the preferred goal.

Council Member Action

8. Information Items – nothing to add

9. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m., and the next meeting of Council will be held by Zoom at 9:30 a.m. on March 3, 2021.

Attachments/Reports

Website Report, Canadian Council of Churches Report, President's Report, Treasurer and Finance/Budget (Banking Summary – Year to Date, 2021 Budget, Cash Flow Comparison – Last Year), Membership Committee Report, Credentials Committee Report, CABF Project Coordinator summary (Draft 5)