



*Promoting Historic Baptist
Traditions and Freedoms*

Minutes CABF Council Meeting

May 5, 2021

9:30 a.m.

(Via Zoom)

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

Regrets: Harriett McCready, Bert Radford

- 1. Open with Prayer:** Chair Lee welcomed everyone, opened the meeting with prayer at 9:30 a.m.
- 2. Approval of Agenda:** On motion by Dave Gibson, seconded by Don Flowers, the Agenda was approved as circulated with one addition – Rushton Lecture under New Business.

Motion Carried

- 3. Approval of Minutes:**

Sheila moved and John Boyd seconded approval of the minutes of the Council Meeting held on March 3, 2021.

Motion Carried

- 4. Business Arising from Minutes:**

Hugh Kirkegaard reported on the work of the Support Committee for Strategic Initiatives in seeking a Project Support Coordinator.

Progress on Project Support Coordinator Hire:

The ad hoc committee comprising Hugh, Marlene and Lee had had a couple of meetings and had hoped to be presenting a name at this meeting. Lee had sent a note to all pastors seeking collaborators. Two expressions of interest to date but with splitting the role between coordination and the video production (the latter either an individual or an organization). The next meeting is scheduled for May 13 with two individuals – one with background as a filmmaker and the other with some video experience and other skills. The Committee is cautiously optimistic that they will have a person in place for a May 20 start

date with a video deadline first draft for early September, and final video, brochure and banner end of September.

Other Insights Sought:

Is there a by-line or caption that captures the essence of how we want to present ourselves going forward? This is part of an ongoing conversation and could refer to work on 'elevator speech'. It could also emerge as part of ongoing conversations or from current project.

Thoughts/Reflections:

- How will Covid impact on Ruston Lecture and opportunities for film footage/pictures?
- Will we need to find another creative approach to gathering images?
- Will we need a committee to consider an alternate approach after we have a person in place?
- Assumption is that there will be an on-line opportunity to meet for Rushton Lecture.
- Post on web page for now.

Lee expressed disappointment in the lack of interest expressed by pastors approached about the project. Hugh thanked those who have been providing input to the process for seeking a project coordinator.

5. Correspondence

No correspondence to report, but Sheila noted that annual fees for Registry of Joint Stocks due in June.

6. Standing Reports

a. *Proclaiming: Telling Our Story*

- Publications – Work is well along on next issue of The Bulletin that is due out shortly. Don Flowers moved and John Boyd seconded acceptance of the report.
Motion Carried
- Website – John Boyd
John Boyd moved acceptance of his report that had been circulated in advance of the meeting. David Allen seconded.

Motion Carried

David Allen noted that someone had anonymously donated \$25 via the website.

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

- Program Committee –
Fall AGM
David Allen spoke re the Fall Annual General Meeting. After no success following several attempts to reach a potential speaker, the Committee is moving on to explore other options. They are also in the process of contacting potential devotional speakers.

Ruston Lecture

Everything is in place that can be but uncertainty continues due to lockdown situation with Covid pandemic. The lockdown will likely be extended. There are only nine days after the Victoria Day week-end until the event is to occur. John Churchill and Don Flowers see only three options – cancel, postpone or go virtual. Guest lecturer Rev. Dr. Marjorie Lewis can likely proceed virtually – either from Port Williams Baptist or the Chapel at Acadia University. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for May 20.

It was clarified that holding the meeting virtually would not have a significant impact on CABF finances.

Don noted that some concerns/anxiety had been expressed about holding the event with a physical presence.

Moved by Jeff White and seconded by John Boyd that the Rushton Lecture be a virtual event this year.

Motion Carried

Next Steps:

- Stay as close to current agenda as possible:
 - Welcome by Lee
 - Devotional plus hymn
 - Memorial Moment
 - Guest Speaker
 - Some opportunity for Q&A
 - Closing Remarks
- Don will need some technical support for a large Zoom gathering.
 - John B. shared positive experience at The Gathering where they used a Moderator to read questions submitted virtually. The recorded session was later available on You Tube. This could be a good dry run for future special meetings of CABF.
 - Jeff suggested promoting our virtual session to The Gathering
 - Dave G. suggested potential live streaming or Zoom support from FBC Halifax.
 - We may want to pre-record some aspects of the meeting.
 - Could FBC Halifax help with moderating/coordinating the session?
- John B. will approach The Gathering once details are finalized. A reminder can go out after May 20th. John noted that The Gathering expected 35-40 participants and had over 140.

- ii. Partners (Representative Reports)
 1. Canadian Council of Churches

John B. moved and John C. seconded acceptance of Bert Radford's CCC Report that had been circulated.

Motion Carried

John B. noted that he had responded to the call for volunteers to participate in contributing material for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. His approach had been acknowledged but he had received nothing since. This may be a future opportunity and something to potentially discuss with Bert.

2. Alliance of Baptists

There was nothing further to report since the last meeting of Council

3. The Gathering

John Boyd participated in the Annual Spring Gathering meeting with the theme: Another Bigger Box of Crayons focusing on how congregations can move to becoming fully affirming. The lead speaker was the Rev. Dr. Cal Malena and his presentation was excellent. The sense from the Zoom meeting was that most want to become fully affirming – lots of interest. David Ogilvie moderated a panel comprising John Boyd who told the story of First Baptist Church Halifax becoming affirming, Rev. Rachel Brooks from Danforth Church in Toronto, ON, and Rev. Anne Smith from Southpoint in Surrey, BC whose small congregation is nearing a vote. John will send a link to the article on our website.

4. President's Report

Lee had circulated her report in advance that raised the question of whether CABF should be federally incorporated that arose from some communications by The Gathering. Lee apologized for framing those communications as 'bragging' as she intended no disrespect. Lee noted that Gary Nelson with whom she had consulted is not officially able to give legal advice. While we have another resource with whom we can consult, he may soon be retiring as well. John Churchill noted that CABF has no legal presence in any province other than Nova Scotia, so we may want to research the possibility of registering in another province. At this point, there is no indication of the merit of federal vs. provincial incorporation. Hugh noted that we are a federal charity and a provincial Society. We may want to investigate federal incorporation in future. John C. said he would put this matter on the agenda for the next meeting of the Credentials Committee.

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

- i. **Treasurer** – David Allen moved acceptance of his report that had been circulated in advance. Seconded by Hugh Kirkegaard.

Motion Carried

- ii. **Financial/Budget** – Dan Green
No budget report was presented.

- iii. **Membership** – Joyce Allen
 Joyce moved acceptance of her previously circulated report and encouraged Council members to pay their membership fees cover a calendar year.
 Marlene seconded acceptance of the report.

Motion Carried
- iv. **Credentials Committee** – John Churchill
 John reported that the Committee has been focusing on updating policies originally approved in 2013 and commented that the discussion has been robust, strengthened by considering ‘What if?’ scenarios. He anticipates a report on revisions to Council in early fall. John moved and Don seconded acceptance of the report.

Motion Carried
- v. **Constitution/By-Laws** – Dave Gibson
 Dave advised that the Committee hopes to bring forth those policies not being updated soon – i.e. September. Work continues on drafting other portions gradually with some sections now waiting for feedback on revisions and/or additions. Dave moved and Sheila seconded acceptance of his report.

Motion Carried

7. New Business –

Although approved in the agenda under New Business, the matter of the Rushton Lecture was addressed earlier in the Program Committee report.

Hugh raised the question of how, considering the earlier discussion on the Coordinator/Videographer role, we create the circumstances to enable that person to do the work. Lee suggested that once we know who will be doing the functions, we will better know how to support or provide leadership resources. That may include support from individual Council members.

Hugh and Don both excused themselves from the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

8. Information Items –

First Baptist Church in Truro no longer exists. The building is to be re-purposed and the Congregation blended with Emmanuel Baptist. The next regular meeting of Council is scheduled for September 1, 2021. It was agreed, however, to have a special meeting of Council on Wednesday, June 23rd to do a follow-up/de-brief on the Ruston Lecture event. This will be a single agenda meeting with no Standing Committee Reports.

9. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m. on motion by David Allen.

Attachments/Reports

Website Report, President’s Report, Treasurer and Finance Reports (Cash Flow Comparison – Year to Date, and Banking Summary Year to Date), Membership Committee Report, Canadian Council of Churches Report.