CABF Vincent Rushton Memorial Luncheon

Port Williams United Baptist Church, June 1, 2019

Meeting Notes

The participants were **registered** by David and Joyce Allen from 10:00 to 10:30 and thereafter assembled in the church sanctuary under the leadership of Vice-President Rick Manuel.

Opening **worship** was led by the Chair of the Program Committee, Jeff White, with Dr. Christianne Rushton at the organ. Dr. Spencer Boersma reflected on Psalm 19, which ties the beauty of the heavens to responsibility, humility and repentance.

Jeff introduced **our lecturer, the Rev. Dr. Michael Dowd**, whose challenging talk entitled “Can Christianity Be Saved in Time to Redeem Humanity?” continued Dr. Boersma’s reflection on God’s greatness. Dr. Dowd is attempting for Theology what historical criticism did for Biblical Studies -to provide context. In this case the context is the Big Story of the evolution of the universe and our gratitude for what came before and responsibility for what follows us.

After lunch graciously provided by the Port Williams church, a **business meeting** with 23 members present was convened by Rick Manuel at 1:30.

David Allen led us in a brief **memorial moment**. Ed Colquhoun continued with a tribute to the second president of the ABF, Jack Matthews who died in February.

John Churchill reported on the recent work of the **Credentials** Committee. Susan Demont of Port Williams United Baptist Church and Arla Johnson of First Baptist, Halifax, both were granted a CABF license; Rick Manuel of the Newport Baptist Church renewed his license, and the Chaplain of Grand View Manor in Berwick, Sarah Jane Scott, was granted full accreditation based on her previous credentials.

The chair called for a brief discussion of our **planning** process; however, because he was not using the language about vision, mission and values which had been circulated prior to the meeting, David Gibson questioned the preparation for the meeting and moved that the matter be tabled. After a tie vote on the question, the chair determined that the discussion should continue. Some questions to be addressed –

Could a “tee-shirt” slogan be found to succinctly state our mission – a punchier statement?

Should diversity, openness, flexibility and inclusiveness be part of our values statement?

Could we integrate our learnings from today’s lecture into our values?

Reflecting #’s7, 2 and 3 of our objectives, should we prioritize Interfaith action?

John Boyd will set up a link to allow all further ideas to be channelled to the planners.

Don Flowers announced a **Youth Retreat** is to be held in Tatamagouche on September 20th – 22nd.

John Boyd closed the meeting with **prayer**.

Ed Colquhoun

CABF Secretary