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Annapolis-Digby Baptist Association
ANNUAL MEETING 2014, NICTAUX BAPTIST CHURCH
April 26, 2014

Rev. Bill McLeod, Pastor of Nictaux Baptist Church, Nictaux, NS, welcomed all the delegates and guests to the church and to the Annual Meeting of the Annapolis-Digby Baptist Association. Registration, conversation and coffee were enjoyed as all gathered and assembled in the new church auditorium. Pastor Bill opened with prayer for this special day and the Church Worship Team presented several musical selections, asking all to, "Just Listen to our Hearts" and invited us to worship our Lord and Saviour with them. This was followed by an offering for the work of the Association.

Rev. Mark Reece introduced our special speaker for the day, Rev. Dr. Anna Robbins. Anna is Director of Doctoral Studies at Acadia Divinity College, and Academic Dean overseeing the Acadia Doctor of Ministry programme. Anna also serves as Associate Professor of Theology, Culture and Ethics. Mark spoke of Anna's history and education and prayed for her and the message on "**The Church and Culture**" which she has for us today.

Anna brought greetings from Acadia Divinity College and greetings from her husband, Rev. Peter Robbins. Both had been Pastors in this Association at Clementsvale, before moving to Wales to pursue her Doctorate. After moving to England, she and Peter pastored at Watford and later she became Principal of London Bible College. She and Peter have a 5 year old son, David, and now live in Wolfville.

Anna used the title of her message as, "**A Fish Out of Water**", and said if we wanted a definition of such a creature, then we better not ask the fish.

Anna asked us, "What is Culture?" and several answers were given by the audience. Anna stated that the whole world is in turmoil, and in the past, we sent missionaries to other countries with very different cultures. Now we are sending missionaries to bring the Gospel to our own culture within Canada because we are a multi-cultured country. The whole world is in turmoil and we are shocked at the changes in our world. We often are fearful because we don't know what we are being asked to do. Anna told us that we need not fear because the same God who guided the saints of the Old Testament is with us today, and He is always with us! God has given us Christ to show us the way.

Dr. Robbins continued to tell us that it is difficult for us to share our values and our faith, but we must be willing to reach out to others who do not know the Lord, welcoming and including them in our fellowship. We must be careful to be open, welcoming, and inclusive of those whom we think may be culturally different. We must remember that Jesus is present in all our cultures, but people may not know Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. Anna stated that many of our churches today are afraid to reach out to the poor, the marginalized, and less-desirable people in our midst. Anna used a quote from Reggie Mc Neil that, "we often want to clean our fish before we catch them." She went on to say that we may have forgotten what the church is to be, and what is known as "The Great Commission" as commanded by Christ in Matthew 28:19-20.

We broke at this time to attend to the business of the Association and looked forward to continue with Dr. Robbins in the afternoon.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION:

The Annual Business Meeting of the Annapolis-Digby Baptist Association was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. Patty Beals, who then opened with prayer.

The **RULES of ORDER** were read by the clerk, followed by prayer.

OLD BUSINESS:

MOTION # 1: M. Billard/ M. Reece, that the Minutes of the Annual meeting be accepted as printed. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 2: M. Billard/ C. Batson, that the Annual Financial Report of the Association be accepted as printed with the corrected change of date from April 27th to April 26th in the Balance line of the Chequing Account. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 3: M. Billard/E. Bent, that the Proposed Budget be accepted as presented in the Annual Booklet. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 4: D. Longley/B. McLeod, that the report of the Kingswood Camp Society be accepted as presented by David Longley and as printed in the Annual Booklet.

CARRIED.

David spoke of the controversy that Kingswood is having with the Canada Revenue Agency about the Camp's charitable status. The Camp will continue to work with CRA to restore their Charitable Status.

MOTION # 5: P. Beals/D. Cawley, that the Moderator's Report as printed in the Annual Booklet, be accepted as presented. **CARRIED.**

Rev. Patty Beals, Moderator, commented on her report and thanked everyone for their support.

ASSOCIATION LICENSING COMMITTEE:

Pastor Cathy Batson, Chair of the Licensing Committee presented a printed list of all the Candidates for Renewal of Association Licences to Minister :

MOTION # 6: C. Batson/ S. Illsley-Martin, that **Pastor Linda Demone** be granted a Renewal of her Association Church Licence to Minister. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 7: C. Batson/ L. Amirault, that **Pastor Mark Cress** be granted a Renewal of his Association Church Licence to Minister. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 8: C. Batson/ D. Cawley that **Pastor Virginia Hurlburt** be granted a Renewal of her Association Licence to Minister. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 9: C. Batson/F. Bigelow, that **Pastor Vanessa Moore** be granted a Renewal of her Association Licence to Minister. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 10: C. Batson/L. Amirault, that **Pastor Jennifer Smith** be granted a New Association Licence to Minister . **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 11: C. Batson/D.Cawley, that **Pastor Janet Kwantes-Baker** be granted a Renewal of her Association Licence to Minister. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 12: C. Batson/Janet Kwantes-Baker, that **Pastor Shelley Illsley-Martin** be granted a Renewal of her Association Licence to Minister. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 13: C. Batson/B. McLeod, that **Pastor Herb Anderson** be granted a Renewal of his Lay Pastor Association Licence to Minister. **CARRIED.**

The Assembly gave a round of applause for these candidates.

MOTION # 14: P. Beals/ F. Bigelow, that we give a vote of thanks to Rev. Bill McLeod for his work over the past three years as Chair of the Licensing Committee. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 15: J. Roscoe/S. Haynes, that Elaine Bent be added as the third member on the Licensing Committee. **CARRIED.**

Delegates for Oasis 2014:

MOTION # 16: J.Kwantes-Baker/Connie Demchenko, that Pastor Linda Demone be one of the two delegates to Oasis 2014, being held at Crandall University on August. 21-24th, 2014, and that Pastor Shelley Illsley-Martin be the second delegate if no one else submits his or her name. **CARRIED.**

CLUSTER GROUPS:

Pastor Vanessa Moore started a Prayer Shawl ministry in the Annapolis-Royal pastorate and the group has completed almost 17 Prayer Shawls so far, to give to people in nursing homes and to others in the community who have need of them.

Clementsvalle has a "**Ladies Time Out**" every second Tuesday of the month. They share a meal, conversation and Bible activities for fun and learning. Smith's Cove Baptist Church is in their third year of **IMPACT YOUTH GROUP** which includes youth from Deep Brook, Hill Grove, Clementsvalle, Cornwallis and Smith's Cove.

Other Pastors were invited to share what was happening in their individual churches or fields.

OASIS DELEGATES: Shelley Illsley-Martin and Virginia Hurlburt were delegates to Oasis 2013, held at Acadia University and both spoke on their participation at the many events they attended, such as Mission Events, Seminars, Worship and evening programmes, including the Tidal Impact Youth Forum, held at the "Apple Dome" in Berwick. The ladies spoke of taking part in seminars at ADC, the prayer walks and the evening programmes. Both delegates thanked the Association for funding and encouraged others to go to Oasis if they have the chance. They related that it was a wonderful Christian social and learning experience, with like-minded people. In August of this year, 2014, Oasis will be at Crandall University with Dr. Phillip Yancey as theme speaker.

MOTION 17: J. Roscoe/J. Kwantes/Baker, that the Report of the Oasis Delegates be accepted as given. **CARRIED.**

OTHER BUSINESS:

The Assembly was given Notice that Rev. Doctors Elizabeth and Randy Legassie will be terminating their work with CBM in Kenya. They are finishing up their work in Nairobi and May be coming back to this area, and are awaiting God's call on their lives. We have been asked to keep them in prayer during this time.

With no further business, Rev. Patty Beals moved that the Business meeting of the Association be adjourned and offered the closing prayer. Rev. Bill McLeod offered the Blessing for the noon meal which was enjoyed by all.

AFTERNOON SESSION

After a delicious lunch, everyone gathered in the Sanctuary where Rev. Patty Beals gave a Devotional based on John 13:34-35. Patty stated that this was a command from Jesus before He left his disciples, when He told them they could not come with Him where He was going. He gave them a new commandment: "Love one another as I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another."

Patty said we often want people in our churches to agree with us and act like we do. She made reference to a quote from Reggie McNeil who said, "We want to clean our fish before we catch them". In other words, we don't want to take people as they are, with poor backgrounds, few or no social skills and often down on their luck. She urged us we to meet all people where they are, just as Jesus would do.

Patti told us of a young woman who was a drug addict and with help from those who cared, was able to turn her life around. She was told that Jesus loved her and cared for

her, and others cared about her, as well. They showed her by their actions that they did really love her and care for her.

We all need to be ready to reach out to those who need help, regardless of their problems or social standing and background. We must have the mind of Christ, his forgiving love, and his concern. We must also be Christ's heart, hands and feet to reach his people who are hurting! God can work in any life and He will love without condition, as we should do!

An offering was taken for Acadia Divinity College at this time.

The assembly went into Small Groups to discuss questions and ideas suggested by Dr. Robbins as to what we need to do as churches to reach the lost. We like the 'comfortable pew', as well as our structures and systems which stay the same, so we don't have to bother telling others the "greatest story ever told". We need to work hard at being missionaries in our own back yards. Dr. Robbins reminded us that the whole world belongs to God and throughout major changes over time, God has always had the victory. The world has come to us and we must not miss the reason why we are here on earth. We don't have a long time! God is telling us that the time is NOW to reach out to others and bring them into the fold.

We were asked how one fish reaches another? We were told that they swim to meet the others and we must go to meet the lost, to be a disciple, to release Jesus and follow Him. We know life is hard but we have to die to our own desires because we can be pilgrims on a journey to the Kingdom, and that Kingdom is here and now.

We were told that our churches must be ready and able to answer the questions of people who are seeking to know Him. We must see ourselves reaching out to others and doing valued things for them, even if they are not of our culture. We have to know who we are in Christ before we can minister to others. We have to be changed from the inside out, and believe that we can be so blessed by doing what God has called us to do. God's Salvation does not change and it is for everyone. God will be with us. He will not leave us. Dr. Robbins noted that in Acts 21 and 22 that Paul was an excellent example to Christians then and today because he shows us how to adapt to the people to whom we must minister.

Anna also reminded us that life is short, and we cannot wait until Christ returns, as it will be too late for those we could have helped. Many may perish because we did not obey our Lord and tell the nations. With Christ as our Guide, all things are possible to reach others for Him, but we must not confuse irrelevant cultural issues with the Gospel of Christ and miss the opportunities God sets out before us.

Dr. Robbins was thanked for her inspirational message and insight into having us learn and do more about reaching the lost in our own culture as well as in others. Anna then dismissed us with prayer.

COURTESIES AND CLOSING PRAYER:

Moderator, Rev. Patty Beals thanked Dr. Anna Robbins for her presentation today and thanked the Nictaux Baptist Church and Pastor Bill McLeod for hosting our Association. Patty thanked all those who came and took part in the various activities. She then closed in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Billard, Clerk