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Annapolis-Digby Baptist Association
COUNCIL MEETING, March 14, 2015

The Council of the Annapolis-Digby Baptist Association met on Saturday, March 14, 2015 at First Annapolis Royal Baptist Church at 8:59 am.

Present: Rev. Libby Amirault, Rev. Patty Beals, Rev. Fred Bigelow, Mary Billard, Pastor Mark Cress, Pastor Linda Demone, Virginia Hurlburt, Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Legassie, Rev. Dr. Randy Legassie, Bernice MacLean, Rev. Bill McLeod, Rev. Brian Wallace, Pastor Debbie Wetmore, Rev. Jeff White and guest, Judy VanTassel.

Regrets: Sheila and Robert Haynes, Pastor Eugene Foster and Rev. Mark Reece.

Moderator, Rev. Patty Beals welcomed all the members and our visitor and then opened with prayer. Pastor Brian Wallace presented a devotion based on John 4: 45-53. This is the account of a royal official who tracked Jesus down because he wanted Jesus to come down to Capernum to heal his son. Jesus told him to go back home. The man took Jesus at his word, and when he got home, his servant told his master that his son was well. This was a statement of faith. The man believed and took Jesus at his word. Brian asked us, "What promises do we need to believe?" Brian listed several references to tell us that we need to believe so many things that Jesus tells us, such as, "Come to me and I will give you rest." We need to acknowledge that we are often weary and overwhelmed and should trust that He will give us strength. Brian asked us to think of the promises in Scripture that will give us rest and strength when the going gets tough and we don't know what to do. Patty thanked Brian for his devotional.

MOTION # 1: J. Chaisson/C. Batson, that the minutes of the October Council Meeting, held on October 23, 2014, be accepted as printed. CARRIED.

MOTION # 2: M. Billard/B. MacLean, that the Financial Report be accepted as printed. CARRIED.

MOTION # 3: B. MacLean/L. Amirault, that a letter be sent to all churches in our Association to remind them that each church, is supposed to send a fee of \$50.00 each year for Association Membership. CARRIED.)

A special thank-you to all of the churches who faithfully pay their fees each year.

ACTIVITIES OF CHURCHES:

Rossway: Pastor Linda Demone reported that they were having evening Musical Groups to help raise money for a new roof.

Granville Field: Pastor Elizabeth Waugh, reported that they use the 4 churches on the field for Bible Study and Sunday Services.

Melvern Square: Pastor Libby Amirault reported that they do outreach programmes each quarter. They held a Community Valentine party with games and a lunch and a Heritage Programme to tell where they originally came from and where they are going.

Smith's Cove: Pastor Mark Cress has been pastoring there for 8 years and the church is home to the Impact Youth Group which has an average attendance each week of 15 young people from 12 to 16 years, from Digby, Smith's Cove, Hill Grove, Deep Brook and Clementsvale. The group does a Teen Alpha Programme each week along with games and activities. This is a good use of Cluster money granted to churches.

Nictaux Baptist Church: Rev. Bill McLeod talked about their new church structure, new focus, new blood, new challenges, new name which is still unfolding, but goes by the name right now of "Nictaux Christian Family Centre."

Middleton Baptist Church: Bernice MacLean reported that they will be holding Special Easter services, are having a series of sermons on Faith and have a very large Youth Group. The Church just made Leigh Cox an Honorary Deacon.

First United Baptist Church of Annapolis Royal: Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Legassie started as Pastor of the church on November 1, and felt overwhelmed at times working with the three churches, which also include Granville Ferry and Granville Centre, who alternate at 9:30 on Sundays. They are re-building a Sunday School for the first time in 15 years, and have Junior Church where the children go out during the service. Elizabeth mentioned the rough time she had a year ago before returning home. She is the first female Pastor at the Church, and said, "So far, so good". The church is installing new Deacons and new positions are filled.

Bridgetown Baptist: Rev. Brian Wallace told us that West Dalhousie Church is closed during the winter because attendance is down. Centrelea has prayer time and Bible Study but come in to Bridgetown for other activities, where there are 3 Working Groups: "**Acts of Loving Kindness**", where community is developed in the church and around the community and members are encouraged to do acts of kindness for others. There is a "**Community Garden**", created for church members and non-church people in the community, which helps to build relationships outside the church. The third group on Intercessory Prayer will be starting soon. The Youth Group serves youth in Paradise and Bridgetown churches and the surrounding area and the Sunday School is going well.

Clementsvalle Church is going well with regular services, Bible Study, choir, an Adult Sunday school on Sunday and a Children's Sunday School programme on Thursday evening. There is also a Children's church during the Sunday service. The Tuesday Ladies Group meets every second Tuesday. This was started with a Cluster Grant from our Association and has church members and other ladies from the community and from other churches. We do Bible lessons, quizzes, conversation and coffee and have an enjoyable time.

Digby Baptist Church: Rev. Jeff White, who is in his first year at the church, stated that they are sticking with the previous worship routine, but they are looking forward for some special events and at expanding the ministries into the community. Cairine Robinson is staying on as organist for now and the church is looking to develop new programmes. Jeff announced that the African Heritage Concert will be held in the church on Sunday night. The Church has made previous Pastor, Rev. Don Robertson, Pastor Emeritus.

Inglewood Church: Inglewood is part of the African Association as well as our Association and Pastor Cathy Batson stated that they do many musical events with an African flavor, which is very uplifting. She enjoys serving the Lord and the people in this corner of His Vineyard.

Westport Baptist: Pastor Joe Chiasson told us that they are re-vamping the Church Constitution, that they own an old Church which is a Heritage Property and they are looking to the community to help save the old church. Joe stated that both the cost of restoration or tearing it down is a burden and liability. He stated that there is a lack of vision, but the church is reaching out to the community to build up the church and they have formed small groups for ministry within the church.

Lawrencetown Baptist: Rev. Patty Beals told us of their Outreach to the community- "Feed My Sheep" where the church provides a supper every Friday evening, until the end of April and feeds an average of 70 people each week. They do "Bible Storying" during the time together. The church keeps a list of Active and In-Active members.

Ashmore Baptist Church: Rev. Fred Bigelow stated that the church keeps an Active and In-Active list of members and are trying to get activities out into the community. This is a Senior congregation and they use DVD's such as Reggie McNeil's, "Get Off Your Donkey", to try to reach out to the Senior congregation. (Both Fred and Bill McLeod have a set of DVD's: "Gunnorsbury Baptist Church" and "Symphony of Triumph".)

Kingswood Camp Report: Dave Longley sent a report on the Camp telling of their struggles with the camp regarding Revenue Canada, but the Camp is working it out with CRA. They are looking at building a worship centre over the summer and plan to do a great deal of improvements this spring to be ready for the summer camping time.

Acadia Course on Renewal was hosted by **Smith's Cove Church** and taught by Rev. Steve McMullen from Acadia Divinity College, for those who needed it for credit for their Master of Divinity degree. There were 22 people registered for the course, with two people taking it for

credit, and the rest for their own interest. This was very successful and we may want to do another course again in the future, as most felt it was very beneficial even if they did not need it for credit.

Simpson Lectures: Pastor Libby Amirault reported on the Simpson Lectures on Renewal, which she attended at Acadia Divinity College. She stated that the lectures were excellent, and that Steve McMullen did a superb job. Libby said Patty Beals was a member on a Panel of five and each person spoke and asked questions at the lectures.

Annapolis-Digby Baptist Association Annual Meeting: Plans are being finalized for our Annual Meeting, which will be held at Lawrencetown Baptist church on Saturday, April 26th. There will be pre-registration details which will be sent to all churches. Rev. Dr. Steve McMullen will be our Guest Speaker, with the theme, "**The Life of Christ and the Life of the Church**". It was agreed that we would have two envelopes for offerings on that day: one for Acadia Divinity College and one for the Association.

MOTION # 4: L. Demone/J. Chiasson, that we seek a Vice-Moderator for our Association and present the criteria for the position at the Annual Meeting. **CARRIED.**

Association Licensing Committee: Elaine Bent is the chair; Rev. Patty Beals and Rev. Libby Amirault are the two other members on the committee. Anyone seeking a new Association Licence or a renewal of their licence, will be meeting today with the Licensing Committee to be ready for the Annual Meeting on April 26th, 2015 .

Association Sign at Granville Beach: Rev. Elizabeth Waugh, Pastor of the Granville Field, asked if the sign telling about the 200th Anniversary of the first Baptist Association at Granville Beach Church, could be repaired and painted. The Clerk will check with the Convention regarding who is responsible for it, and what the cost might be. The Clerk will also check with the Baptist Historical Society.

Ladies and Men's Retreat: Discussion was prompted about a Ladies Retreat as the former Ladies Retreat Executive is still holding Association funds and would like to see the funds used for a retreat in the coming year. It was suggested that we form a new committee and that the committee work on ideas to have a joint retreat or two separate retreats, sponsored by our Association.

Libby Amirault, Linda Demone, Judy Van Tassel, (former Ladies Retreat Treasurer), Ginny Hurlburt, Elizabeth Legassie and Jeff White offered to be on the committee and work on some ideas and options.

Camp Kingswood is looking for another member to sit on their Board. Please check with people in your churches to see if they might be interested.

Our Annual Meeting is at Lawrencetown Baptist on April 25. Watch for a poster on details.

With no further business, Bernice MacLean moved that we adjourn and Elizabeth Legassie gave the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Billard

Next Council meeting will be held at First United Baptist
Church of Annapolis Royal on Saturday, October 24, at 8:59.