

Annapolis-Digby Baptist Association
Council Meeting, March 16, 2013
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The Council of the Annapolis-Digby Baptist Association met at First United Baptist Church of Annapolis Royal on March 16, 2013.

Present were: Cathy Batson, Patty Beals, Fred Bigelow, Mary Billard, David Cumby, Sheila and Robert Haynes, Julia Howard, Virginia Hurlburt, Bernice MacLean, Bill McLeod, Seth Moore, David Phillips, Mark Reece, Lester Simpson, Danny Townsend, Leroy Warner, Elizabeth Waugh, Debbie Wetmore.

Regrets: Mark Cress, Eugene Foster, Sheila Marshall

Moderator, Rev. David Phillips, welcomed everyone and Rev. David Cumby gave the opening prayer. Rev. Mark Reece presented a Devotional about "Being a Neighbour". Mark told of his work as a paper boy from Grade 7-12 and how he got to know his neighbours while delivering the newspapers to them each morning. His Dad often told him stories of how he had helped neighbours during his life and got to know them by reaching out to help them in times of need.

Mark went on to refer to the Parable of "The Good Samaritan", in Luke 10, and pointed out that our "neighbour" is anyone who has a need of any kind: "A neighbor in need is a neighbor indeed." Jesus told of those people who were hungry and thirsty, the strangers in our midst, the sick, those in prisons, and others who had needs to be fulfilled by us. We must go and serve not only in our own neighbourhood, but as Jesus told us in Acts 1:8 "...in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Mark mentioned the ways our people are reaching out to those in need: "Feed My Sheep" at Lawrencetown Baptist, where they provide a hot meal once a week for those in need. Mark pointed out that we must be Hearers of the Word, but also Doers of the Word.

Mark told of a group from the Paradise Church and three people from Bridgetown/Centrelea churches, who went to the Dominican Republic in February through **Servant Heart Ministries** to help finish a house for a young family. Mark told of a letter he recently received from a lady, named Rebecca, who is now living in the home with her family. She expressed how grateful she and her family were to God and the team from Servant heart Ministries, for her lovely home.

Mark left us to ponder and answer two questions, "Are our efforts worthwhile?" and "Will God be Pleased with us as a Council and Association?"

MOTION # 1: M. Billard/D. Townsend, that the Minutes of the October 20, 2012 Council Meeting be accepted as circulated. **CARRIED.**

MOTION #2: M. Billard/C. Batson, that the Financial Report from October 21, 2012 to March 16th, 2013, be accepted as presented. **CARRIED.**

CORRESPONDENCE: Thank-you letters were received from Muriel Bent and Ellen Simpson for our generous donation to their up-coming mission trips.

BUSINESS FROM THE MINUTES:

The clerk had investigated making a change to another bank for our business account, other than the Royal Bank in Digby, but found that changing would not at this time be beneficial as we had just received new Bank Deposit books and new cheques that will last for approximately 3 more years. Changing accounts would be cheaper, but cost of new cheques and deposit books would negate the lower fees of the account.

MOTION # 3: M. Billard/B. McLeod, that we stay with the Royal Bank of Canada until further notice, or until a more feasible, cheaper account is available. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 4: B. MacLean/D. Cumby, that we try to find two representatives to sit on the **Camp Kingswood Board.** **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 5: M. Reece/ D. Cumby, will work on trying to find people to fill the positions on our Council Executive and asked that the Clerk send an email to the Association Churches and announce at the Annual Meeting, the need for a **Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Assistant-Clerk-Treasurer** and a **Member for the Licensing Committee**; and that the duties of each position be defined and available. **CARRIED.**

CLUSTER GROUP FUNDS: The Clerk, Patty Beals, Julia Howard, and Seth Moore will administer this year's fund and will determine who gets the funds and how much. The criteria, guidelines, deadlines and application forms have been set up by the group. They are meeting today to determine how much the two applicant churches will receive.

LICENSING COMMITTEE: Bill McLeod is the Chair of this committee with Cathy Batson and Bernice MacLean. Bill will be finishing his term after the Annual Meeting, so we will be looking for an ordained pastor to be added to the Committee. This year seven applicants will go before the committee to have their Licences renewed.

ANNUAL MEETING: Pastor Seth Moore, of First United Baptist Church of Annapolis Royal, will ask his church to host the Annual Meeting and Spring Assembly of this Association on April 27th. The Clerk will meet with Seth to outline the procedures and requirements of hosting this event and Seth will check with his Church to see if they will agree to host us. This will be an all-day event with Lunch. The speaker will be Rev. Sam Chaise, General Secretary of CBM and the theme will be, "**The Next Chapter in Global Mission**".

MOTION # 6: B. MacLean/D. Townsend, that this Association make a presentation at the Annual Meeting to Rev. Sharon Budd to thank her for her 26 and ½ years in this Association, in many roles, and to wish her God's richest blessings on her future. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 7: B. MacLean/ C. Batson, that the Association make a presentation at the Annual Meeting to Sheila Marshall, as thanks for her 20 years as Association Assistant-Clerk Treasurer. **CARRIED.**

PROPOSED BUDGET: Elizabeth Waugh and Danny Townsend volunteered to go over the Proposed Budget for 2013/14 with the Clerk before it is presented at the Annual Meeting and noted that Camp Peniel would be added to the proposed budget for this year since some children from Digby County attend camp there.

Rev. Mark Reece thanked the Council for the generous donation to their Mission trip to the Dominican Republic with Servants Heart Ministries and Dave Cawley thanked the Association for the donation to the **STEP** programme in which four members from New Tusket will be going to Bolivia. Each of the people or groups who received donations were asked to make a short, 5 minute presentation at our Annual meeting on April 27th to tell of their experiences.

ASSOCIATION WHITE PAPER: The Clerk and Moderator attended meetings about how the Associations must take a bigger role in supporting their pastors, lay people and churches because we no longer have Regional Ministers on whom to call for help and information. The Associations met

twice to try to find ways to keep our Associations viable and to attend to some of the roles in which Regional Ministers have always been involved. There is a need for more volunteers and for a list of people who can be contacted until the New Associate Executive Ministers come on stream. The Associations will be reviewing this white paper as there seems to be many areas of Association life that need to be defined, revised or deleted. Greg Jones, Associate-Executive Minister, is available at the present time for consultations and help for churches which may be in conflict or trying to find a pastor. Greg is available to all pastors and churches, as is Rev. Dr. Peter Reid.

CHURCH REPORTS:

Nictaux: Bill McLeod gave us an update on what is happening in the Nictaux Baptist Church. The old facility was costing so much that the members decided to close the church in March and they began to renovate the Fellowship center to be their Worship Centre, with many renovations still needing to be done. Bill asked for prayers for himself and his people as they finish their new sanctuary and carry on their ministries.

The Impact Youth Group meets at Smith's Cove on Monday nights from 6:30 to 8:30 pm and ranges from age 11-18, to cover middle and high school students from, Clementsvale, Cornwallis, Hill Grove, Deep Brook, Clementsport, Bear River and Smith's Cove. The Youth Alpha Programme is being used and the youth are really enjoying it as are the adult leaders.

Middleton Church: Sheila and Robert Haynes have accepted another 2 year term as Members-at-Large on the Association Council. Middleton Baptist has a new Governance Board which is very different from their former Church Council. Libby Amirault used the Alpha Course with Seniors.

Bridgetown Baptist: Rev. David Cumby will be resigning in July after 4 years as Pastor at Bridgetown. David was thanked for his contributions at Council and we wish God's blessings on his and Barbara's future in Alberta. David announced that Rev. Dr. George Allen will celebrate his 100th birthday on March 21, and will be honoured at Bridgetown Baptist on Sunday, March 23.

Centrelea Church: An almost-new digital organ was given to this small church, which is part of the Bridgetown Pastorate.

New Tusket has used the Alpha Programme in their church and some are doing the STEP programme which involves a mission trip to Bolivia.

Lower Granville Field: Elizabeth Waugh talked about the small churches on her field and how they must care for each other. The communities have lost their viability with young people moving out of the area, older people unable to work in the churches, few children in the area, the schools and businesses closed. A small group of seniors are still trying to maintain their small churches.

Inglewood: Pastor Cathy Batson is going to Kenya in April and will spend some time with Randy and Elizabeth Legassie. Cathy was asked to bring greetings to the Legassies from our Association.

ASSOCIATION TRAINING KITS: David Phillips has 2 copies of the Association Alpha Marriage Course if anyone is interested. We still have the Older Alpha Course Materials as well as a Resource Kit, "The Song in the Borderland" which was used by Middleton and Margaretsville a few years ago.

With no further business, Danny Townsend moved that the meeting be adjourned and Moderator, David Phillips, closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Billard, Clerk

Next Council meeting will be NOVEMBER 2nd, at First Baptist Church of Annapolis Royal at 8:59 am. See you all then! Regrets to Mary at 467-3419 or myebillard99@hotmail.com