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Annapolis-Digby Baptist Association
Council Meeting, October 24, 2015

The Annapolis-Digby Baptist Association held their Fall Council meeting on October 24th at First Baptist Church of Annapolis Royal with 14 members present. Those in attendance were Pastor Cathy Batson, Rev. Patty Beals, Rev. Fred Bigelow, Mary Billard, Pastor Mark Cress, Sheila and Robert Haynes, Rev. Julia Howard, the Reverends Elizabeth and Randy Legassie, Bernice MacLean, Rev. Mark Reece, Danny Townsend, Rev. Elizabeth Waugh. ,

Regrets from Dave and Sharon Longley, Linda DeMone, Leroy Warner, Rev. Brian Wallace. Rev. Libby Amirault, Rev. Jeff White and Judy Van Tassel.

Moderator Rev. Patty Beals called the meeting to order and opened with prayer. We also sang, "This is the Day".

Rev. Mark Reece gave a devotional based on Luke 10:25 , titled "Who is my Neighbour?" and told of the parable of the "Good Samaritan". He asked us, " Who is Your Neighbour?" and stated that they may be people who are different from us and may live next door, in our communities, or may live in other parts of the world. Jesus would want us to love our neighbours, as he taught his disciples, when He told them the story of the Good Samaritan. The man in the parable, who was of another culture, helped a stranger, although it was not the usual behavior. The Jews were very religious people but did not usually reach out to others. In Matthew 5, Jesus tells us to love our enemies and Mark pointed out what impact we could imagine if each of us saw others as Jesus saw them, and if we loved and supported them as Jesus did. Mark closed with prayer and the meeting was called to order.

MOTION #1: M. Billard/B.MacLean, that the minutes of the last Council meeting held on March 21, 2015, be approved as circulated. **CARRIED.**

MOTION #2: M. Billard/F.Bigelow, that the Financial Report be approved as circulated. **CARRIED.** The Clerk indicated that according to CRA (Canada Revenue Agency), we should be having more funds designated for outreach to youth, and communities, for education and special training, as well as grants for Pastoral and Church Training Sessions.

ANNUAL MEETING: Many favourable comments were given with an overall approval by those who attended our Annual Meeting, held on April 25th and a suggestion was made to have another session with Dr. McMullen at another time.

CHURCH FEES: The Clerk reminded those present that a motion had been made and accepted years ago that each Church or Field (with small churches) be asked to support the Association by paying a fee of \$ 50 yearly to help with the costs of the work of this Association. Some of our churches do send their fees yearly, but many have not paid for years, and others only pay occasionally.

CONSTITUTION: It was suggested that we send out a copy of our Association Constitution to all churches. The Clerk mentioned that the Constitution has to be reprinted as there may be more revisions since the Constitution is going to be reviewed, by a committee at our Council Meeting in March. A Committee was set with Rev. Dr. Randy Legassie, Rev. Julia Howard and Rev. Fred Bigelow, all whom will volunteer to look at the Constitution and make recommendations to the Council in March.

CABC : The Convention is asking our churches to prayerfully look at their responsibility to support **UIM** (United in Missions). Many churches have lost sight of what UIM does for us.

CABC NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Rev. Libby Amirault is the Regional Member on this board. She is looking for members from this Association who would allow their names to be put on a Nominating List for positions on the various Boards and Committees for our Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches.

Libby was not present, as she was on a Mission Trip, but would appreciate if anyone is interested, to contact her. She has the list of positions needing candidates, one of which is a position of a Council Member of the CABC Council.

ASSOCIATION VICE-MODERATOR WORKING GROUP:

At our 2014 Annual Meeting we voted to seek a Vice-Moderator for our Association. No one has come forward so far. It was suggested that a committee be set up to look at the Constitution to clarify the positions, and to add, change or delete anything to make the Constitution more applicable to our needs. This would be voted on at the 2016 Spring Association, if a candidate is found.

MOTION # 3: M. Reece/D. Townsend, that we set up a Working Group to review our Constitution and make recommendations for any changes. **CARRIED.**

Randy Legassie, Julia Howard and Fred Bigelow offered to be on this Working Group along with the Clerk, and will work on this at the March 2016 meeting.

AD ASSOCIATION HISTORICAL SIGN: Rev. Elizabeth Waugh reported that the sign noting the First United Baptist Association meeting held in Annapolis County, situated at Port Royal Baptist Church, needed repairing. The Clerk spoke to the Convention and it was suggested that the Clerk seek help from the Historical Society. The Clerk had done so and the Baptist Historical Society has not met and will not be meeting at this time.. The Port Royal field will look after the repairs and the Association will reimburse the Port Royal Church for the fee when the sign is repaired.

RETREAT COMMITTEE: Plans had been made for the Retreat Team, consisting of Linda DeMone, Jeff White, Elizabeth Waugh, Libby Amirault, Ginny Hurlburt, and Judy Van Tassell, to meet on Saturday, and to report to the next Council Meeting in March.

KINGSWOOD CAMP Society: Dave Longley, one of our members on the Camp Board, sent a report that they need one more member from this Association for the Camp Board, and asked the Council to see if they could find another member as soon as possible. The camp is doing a large Capital Building Project and solicits anyone who might be able to give physical and financial help.

COUNCIL NOTICES: The Clerk stated that she sends Council Notices and Minutes to all pastors and/or clerks or other reps with e-mail addresses in the Annapolis-Digby Association. If you know of any other Member Churches in our Association who do not get Association notices, and want to be on the mailing list, please let the Clerk know. The Clerk, when she receives the UIM posting for our Association will make these available to Churches if they so wish. Please let the clerk know.

ASSOCIATION LICENSING COMMITTEE: This Committee is made up of Rev. Patty Beals, Chair, Mrs. Elaine Bent, and Rev. Libby Amirault. Anyone needing to renew An Association Licence to Preach for Ordination or an Association Lay Licence to Preach, must contact the chair for an appointment in order to meet with the Licensing Committee.

REGIONAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Rev. Libby Amirault is our Representative on the Convention Nominating Committee and has spoken in many churches in the Region to find people who might be interested in having their names stand for a position on various Boards and Committees of the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches. Please let Libby know if you are interested.

CLUSTER GROUPS: Applications for Cluster Funds were presented to an Ad Hoc Committee consisting of Rev. Julia Howard, Rev. Randy Legassie, Danny Thompson and the Clerk, to be dealt with after the meeting. Churches who had received Cluster Grants for their churches in previous years gave a brief report of how the grants were used. Rev. Mark Cress reported that the Smith's Cove Church along with Clementsvale, Deep Brook/Clementsport churches have operated a combined "Impact Youth Group", for 4 years, and are still operating with an average of 16 young people and nine adult leaders each week. Mark Cress thanked the Council for the grants they have received.

Clementsvalle Church received a grant two years ago and still have funds for their "Ladies Time Out", on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from September to June. They support the "Valley Pregnancy Crisis Centre" in Kentville with their own donations. Rev. Julia Howard told how her former church, Hill Grove Baptist, received a grant for a Community Exercise Group, five years ago, and stated that it is still in operation.

CLUSTER GROUP FUNDS: The Clerk reminded all that there is a budget of \$1400.00 for Cluster Grants for churches within Cluster areas to help with programmes, activities, workshops or seminars within your Cluster Group of churches. Applications are available each year from churches for projects for churches. The amount given for any project depends on how many applications there are and what the project goals are. The deadline for submission is at the end of March or October whichever is sooner. A progress report must be given to the Council by the groups at the end of the year, as to how the funds have been used.

MOTION # 4: E. Legassie/M. Cress, that we increase the amount for Cluster Groups from \$1400 to \$1700 for the next year in the Proposed Budget. **CARRIED.**

CHRISTMAS COMMUNION OFFERING: Our Convention reminds us that they still ask our Churches to hold a special Offering on the first Sunday of December (Communion Sunday) to help our older pastors and widows/widowers, who may need a little extra at this time of year because their pensions are still very low, and gifts are made to those who are still living on low incomes.

CHURCH REPORTS:

Paradise Church, along with help from Bridgetown Baptist, have been working with our Convention to bring a Refugee family to their area. Fundraising events have been planned and held, to raise money to cover all the expenses for the Family coming. Mark gave many pointers about the physical and paper work that has to be done beforehand in order to bring a refugee family to their area. The Youth Group for Bridgetown and Lawrencetown, is active in the area and an after school programme is held in the Community Hall instead of a Sunday School where a VBS type programme is held for children from Primary to Grade 5. Mark asked for prayer for himself and the church and its outreach activities.

Ashmore Church: Fred Bigelow shared that the church works in the community and does a Baptist service for Seniors at the Villa in Metegan, which is mostly French speaking, and Catholic. Sometimes the Sunday school meets at the same time. The Church is taking part in the Samaritan's Purse Shoe Box ministry.

Lawrencetown Church continues with, "Feed My Sheep" which is growing each week for people in Lawrencetown. Two men from the group do the cooking for the 50 or more people who come each week for a meal. Patti has 3 Bible Study groups; one after the supper, one during the week and one where she goes to homes. She does Bible Storying. The Church will be planning their annual "**Live Nativity**" at the Exhibition Grounds again this year where they act out the Christmas story.

Middleton Baptist Church is working with the Congregational Church in Middleton to bring a refugee family of 4 from Iraq, The Church carries on a Baby Band and Little Lightswith the help of the WMS/ABW. This same group visits new babies, young families and have a Children's Lunch Party a couple times of the year. When a new baby arrives in the church family, they place a rose on the pulpit and then present the rose to the family. They visit regularly at the hospital and had a Camp-Out on Labour day weekend. The Youth Group is active and there are several Bible Studies. The ABW has held a Celebration of Joy Day, and the men have a "Men's Night Out" with a pot luck supper.

Wilmot UB Church is celebrating "Christmas in July" with fun and games. Gail Gardner is coming as special speaker and a Nativity Scene is set up. There will be Christmas decorations, music and an afternoon tea. As well, there will be a DVBS for the children, a Blue Christmas on Dec. 21, filling of shoeboxes for Samaritan's Purse, Hanging of the Greens and a Free Movie night. A Women's Retreat was held and The Door Keepers Quartet are back together at Wilmot.

Clementsvalle UB Church sponsored a Fund Raiser and Auction, yielding \$1500. for the Paradise Refugee Sponsorship, The Church contributed to CBM Hopeful Gifts, had free Friday Night movies and a Thursday School for 6 weeks for children from 5-10. Ladies Time Out is held on 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 11 am -1 pm, with food, fellowship and Bible lesson and activities.

Annapolis Royal Pastorate: Elizabeth Legassie is pastoring at present, and she is working with all the people on the field to bring healing to them, and glory to God. She is working with the field on a Pastorate Gospel Concert, Annapolis Royal Church now has an established SS after many years. They also have a Bible Study, Prayer Groups, Ecumenical Fall Fair, Constitution Revision and lots of Christmas activities coming up.

Port Lorne/Hampton: Randy Legassie is presently the Supply Pastor here and it is the only open church on the shore. The church is looking at its options other than closing. Randy is looking for more ministry options and mentors a pastor who is working on his ministry courses.

Smith's Cove: Mark Cress has been in ministry for 9 years and is questioning his need for a degree, but will continue with beneficial courses for his ministry. He serves his church as Pastor and works with the Impact Youth Group.

Inglewood: Pastor Cathy Batson continues to minister at Inglewood and serves on a Community group as well as the Church. The church has plans for a luncheon and the Lawrencetown Male Choir will be ministering at Inglewood on November 31.

MOTION # 5: D. Townsend/B. MacLean, that we accept the offer from **Digby Baptist Church** to host the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Annapolis-Digby Baptist Association on Saturday, April 30, 2016.

MOTION CARRIED.

The group talked about ideas for possible speakers and themes for the Annual Meeting in April, 2016. "Practical Ministry" was one idea, as was "Mental Health in our Churches", "Suicide Intervention", "Dealing with Church Conflict", and "Ministries to Seniors". Rev. Carl Price, Rev. Lennet Anderson, and Rev. Dr. Stephen McMullin, were named as possible speakers.

With no further business, Danny Townsend moved that we adjourn and the meeting was closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Billard, Clerk

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 19, 2016 at 8:59 am at First United Baptist Church of Annapolis Royal.

Regrets to (902)467-3419 or myebillard99@hotmail.com