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Annapolis-Digby Baptist Association
Council Meeting, October 25, 2014

The Annapolis-Digby Baptist Association held the Fall Council meeting on October 25th at First Baptist Church of Annapolis Royal with 14 members present. Those in attendance were Rev. Patty Beals, Rev. Mark Reece, Pastor Mark Cress, Rev. Libby Amirault, Rev. Julia Howard, Danny Townsend, Bernice MacLean, Sheila and Robert Haynes, Dave Longley, Rev. Jeff White, Pastor Deborah Wetmore and Mary Billard.

Regrets from Rev. Fred Bigelow, Leroy Warner and Rev. Brian Wallace.

Moderator Rev. Patty Beals called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

Rev. Jeff White gave a devotional based on 1 Corinthians 15 and also read from a special book, by Elton Trueblood which challenged the church in today's culture." Jeff spoke of Trueblood's insights into the culture and the scope of Christian tasks to find ways to make people listen. Many still look at the church as it was in the past in a complacent society but we have challenges for renewal and how the church should act and look like in this time and culture.

MOTION # 1: M. Billard/B. MacLean, that the March 15, 2014 Council Minutes be adopted as presented. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 2: M. Billard/S. Haynes, that the March Financial Report be adopted as presented. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 3: M. Billard/B. MacLean, that our Spring Council Meeting be held on March 14/15. **CARRIED.**

Moderator, Rev. Patty Beals, initiated a discussion on the Annual Meeting held in Nictaux, with Dr. Anna Robbins, and expressed disappointment that more people did not attend the meeting. Dr. Anna Robbins said she was pleased with the interest and concerns of the people who attended and their participation in the topics. Council members gave comments that local churches do not always have strong commitments to events outside their own churches and the world has been slowly creeping into our churches over the last few years so we don't have time for other events beyond our own. We must remember that we are the cogs in the whole scheme of things and as Pastors and members must try harder to promote our meetings and events. Mark Reece will ask Dr. Anna Robbins if she would provide copies of some of the slides she used in both sessions of her presentations, "The Church and Culture", so these might be used as a programme refresher of the Seminar in our Association for those who may have missed the presentation in April or want to review it.

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 have been more revisions since the Constitution was last written, and this should be done by a committee before sending it out.

KINGSWOOD CAMP Society: Dave Longley, one of our members on the Camp Board, was present and told us of the new format for the camp. The Camp hopes that its Revenue Canada Charity Status situation will be solved by having a separate Board to operate the physical aspects such as buildings, land, etc. and a separate structure to do all the bookings for the camps which take place at Kingswood. A separate Board will run and operate the funds as a Charity for Christian Camping for children who attend the camps. This may require an agreement or a contract between the churches and the Kingswood Camp Society so that Kingswood will now be able to give receipts to churches and individuals for their actual donations to the camp for the

children. Dave stated that 318 campers attended in 2013, with 164 being first-time campers. 90 children made first-time decisions for Christ in the camps for ages 8-16. Older teen camps were not held but Kingswood hopes to continue those camps for 2014 and that attendance will be higher this summer.

Moderator, Rev. Patty Beals thanked "Captain" Dave for his great work and Dave encouraged this Association to become involved in the Camp by doing fund-raising when the Camp Society is eligible to accept donations and give receipts. The Camp is looking for Christian people from our Association to sit on sub-committees of the camp and to volunteer to assist in any way.

The Association is looking for a Vice-Moderator. The Clerk will find the qualifications for this position and bring the "job" description to the next meeting, so that it can be approved and put in the Constitution.

It was suggested by the meeting that Council Meeting Notices be sent to all churches. 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.

The Clerk presented the UIM printout for churches so that Pastors can see how their churches are doing with the Convention's United in Mission quarterly givings and also to see how our churches are doing on an Association basis. It was suggested that both of these lists be sent out to churches so they can see how they are doing.

MOTION # 4: B. MacLean/S. Haynes, that the Clerk purchase a gift for Rev. Don Robertson for his many years of service to our Lord and this Association and present it to him. **CARRIED.**

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: Groups of churches in a vicinity have joined together to work on programmes which will benefit several churches. For instance, Deep Brook, Clementsvale, Hill Grove, and Smith's Cove have a weekly Youth Group for youth in the area, at the Smith's Cove Fire Hall and leaders or helpers from those churches. They started off with a grant and have now been going for 2 years on their own. Annapolis Royal did a Prayer Shawl Ministry, Hill Grove Church did a Christian Exercise and Discussion Morning for 3 years, and Clementsvale is doing a "Ladies Morning Out" on the second and fourth Tuesday for the past year and will continue in 2015. A new youth Group was started at Tiverton in September.

CLUSTER GROUP FUNDS: The Clerk stated 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 of churches. Applications are available each year from churches for projects. The amount given for any project depends on how many applications there are and what the project goals are. Deadlines for submission is at the end of March or October whichever is sooner. A progress report must be given after you have used the funds. There was a possible request from one of our Pastors to provide a one-week intensive course in Smith's Cove from Acadia University for pastors for credit or not with the possibility of another Course next fall.

MOTION # 5: M. Reece/J. White, that the Association pay Mark Cress for any expenses for the cost of the Acadia Course. **CARRIED.**

“A Workshop for Wellness”, is being presented on November 8th at Bridgetown Baptist Church from 8:30am-4:00pm with Sharon Fawcett and Elizabeth Legassie. This will consist of Worship and Prayer and the Workshop and a Dinner at noon. The total cost including lunch will be \$20. per person. A similar program for the Bridgetown-Paradise Youth Group will be held on Sunday Night.

CHURCH REPORTS:

Parker’s Cove is holding a Youth Forum, Clementsvale and Paradise are providing Samaritan’s Purse Shoe Boxes; Clementsvale WMS is doing CBM’s “She Matters” and CBM’s “Little Box of Change”. Clementsvale is working on “The Hanging of the Greens” with Gift Bags being provided to the Residents of “The ARC” in Bridgetown when they come to that service in the church.

Smith’s Cove is circulating books from the Acadia Renewal Course through the church and they may purchase the Reggie McNeil DVD series.

Melvorn Square Church is doing the Alpha Course on-line with 17-18 people signed up.

Wilmot Church is “Taking Back Christmas” in July. They will do carolling, special events, etc. Rev. Julia Howard said the church is really excited to tell the real meaning of Christmas. They plan to spread it out with other churches in the area.

Middleton Baptist will be celebrating Baptist Women’s World day of Prayer on November 3 with Wilmot, Kingston, Middleton, Margaretsville, and Melvern Square. Everyone is invited.

Middleton WMS did a “Celebration of Joy” and an International Dinner on October 18th. Middleton is also doing The Shoeboxes and Pastor Danny, Holly and Joey are doing a video and having the children participate. Pastor Jeff White of Digby Baptist is getting to know his people and looking to what is happening in the church. They will participate in the Journey to Bethlehem on Nov. 30th with the Wesleyan church and other churches in Digby. Pastor Deborah Wetmore apologized for not attending the Celebration of Joy but Culloden Church is doing a Bible Study on Spiritual Gifts and planning for a visit from the Havelock Trio.

Lawrencetown continues with their Friday evening suppers, “Feed My Sheep” each week for people in Lawrencetown. They have had 3 baptisms and are planning their annual “Live Nativity” on December 21, at 6:30 pm at the Exhibition Grounds where they act out the Christmas story.

Margaretsville Church has been holding free food and sales along with short messages at the church and welcome other community groups to join them.

We have not had any response from the Beacon of Hope Church in Litchfield since they joined our Association but they get our minutes and announcements.

ANNUAL MEETING:

MOTION # 6: B. MacLean/D. Townsend, that we have our 2015 Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 25 or May 2, 2015 at Lawrencetown United Baptist Church depending on the speaker.

CARRIED.

MOTION # 7: L. Amirault / R. Haynes that we ask Dr. Steve Mc Mullen to be our speaker at our Annual Meeting. **CARRIED.**

On motion by Rev. Mark Reece, the meeting was adjourned and Mark closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Billard, Clerk

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING MARCH 14, 2015 at 8:59 am at
First United Baptist Church of Annapolis Royal.**

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