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ANNAPOLIS-DIGBY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

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Dear Friends,

Many changes have taken place in our Annapolis-Digby Baptist Association since last Spring and we would like to inform you of some of those changes.

Your Council has worked diligently to try to make our Association more relevant to all members of our churches. One of the ideas to accomplish this was to form "**CLUSTER AREAS**." The work on this was done over the past two years by a Working Group from the Association. Churches which are located geographically closer together, have tentatively been placed in a group or area so that work may be done by a "cluster" of churches working together on ministry options applicable to them. Each Cluster can host meetings for the churches in their Cluster Area to accomplish common goals, solve problems or to do ministry together to meet the needs of their members. Each Cluster would be responsible for hosting and planning any meetings they may deem to be helpful or useful, and may obtain financial support from the Association Budget for travel, setting up initial meetings and for some of the related costs of doing the ministry. For instance, the churches in the Bridgetown and surrounding area already have a functioning Ministerial, which allows the churches to do "cluster" activities, with all the churches taking turns hosting and contributing to ministry in a particular field or need, since they already have contacts in their local area.

The Working Group has divided the rest of the churches of Annapolis-Digby into clusters. **(Your Church and/or Pastor should already have received a letter from the Moderator, Fred Bigelow in early July about the Clusters and in which Cluster your church has been placed. A copy of this letter is on the website or is available from the clerk.)**

In order for your church to keep abreast of what is happening in the Association and Convention, we would like at **least one** representative from each church to attend Council meetings which are held in the spring and fall, and where much of the initial planning of events for the Association are done. It would be beneficial for that **person** to attend these meetings, usually held in March and October in order to keep your church informed of what is taking place. Most of the planning and work of the Association is done by Working Groups that are set up with a particular job to do. The Executive oversees and helps if needed, with any work being done by a Working Group. Once the work is completed and the goals achieved, that Working Group ceases to exist and a new one is formed for the next focus or job.

As well, we are looking for members to represent the Association on the **Camp Kingswood Board**. We support the camp financially and are allowed several members to sit on the Board; thus we are looking for **three** people who would like to attend the Board meetings to represent our Association.

The Licensing Committee meets once or twice a year, depending on the need for Association Licences to Minister. Lay pastors, and Pastors who are seeking Ordination, must appear before the Association Licensing Committee to obtain a Licence to preach in an Association Church. The Committee grants that licence on behalf of the Association if all criteria are met. The Committee has three members who are on for 3 years with one member retiring each year. We are looking for **one person** to sit on this Committee.

If God is calling you to any of these positions, please contact the clerk, or the Moderator for more details.

At the Association Annual meeting, held on March 27th, 2010 at Cornwallis Park, a **motion was adopted that each church, as a member of the Annapolis-Digby Baptist Association, would be asked to pay a fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per year as a membership fee to assist with costs incurred by the Association for workshops, meetings, trainings, and other costs borne by the Association.**

*****We had asked for this several years ago and 8 churches have been faithful in sending us that sum most years since that first appeal. **We thank all of you who have sent those allotments each year, and for your prayers for the work that we do in this Association.**

For all of you who have never put the Association Allotment in your budget, we ask that you prayerfully consider our needs for this current year, and for the years to come, as we work for God's kingdom here on earth.

This summer at **Oasis**, our annual Meeting of the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches, there was an overwhelming vote by delegates to support incorporation of the Convention.(CABC). The vote was conducted by secret ballot and there were 479 voting delegates. The Vote was 471 for Incorporation and 8 against.

Letters to churches asking your church members to vote on becoming members of the Incorporated Convention have been sent out to church clerks and pastors, as well as to Associations. Your church should have a meeting before the end of December so that Convention Office will have the result of your vote by January.

The Association will be conducting a vote for this Association to become a member of the Incorporated Convention and this will be held in November by email and Mail. (It will be the same procedure as we did with the vote to accept Inglisville into the Association last fall.)

Rev. Dr. Randy Legassie is the Chair of the Region II Nominating Committee. Randy has forms for positions that are open on various Boards and Committees for the Incorporated Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches. Nominees for positions on all these Convention Boards and Committees have to be in by January 15th in order to be considered for the newly Incorporated Convention in August, 2011 and you can only apply for these positions if your church has voted by Dec. 30th to be part of the Incorporated Convention. If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Dr. Randy Legassie or the Clerk, Mary Billard.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2010 AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANNAPOLIS ROYAL AT 8:59 AM. SEE You all then!

The Programme of the day for will consist of a number of questions which will be discussed. (If you have others, bring them along!)

1. How can we see renewal or revival in our churches?
2. As a pastor, do you ever feel alone or isolated ?
3. Have you ever considered going into part-time ministry?
4. How can a church find a good part-time pastor?
5. Are you or your church struggling financially?
6. What are the biggest struggles you face in your ministry as a church and/or pastor?