

Annapolis-Digby Baptist Association

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Annapolis-Digby Baptist Association Council Meeting March 18, 2017

The Council of the Annapolis-Digby Baptist Association met at First Baptist Church of Annapolis Royal on Saturday, March 18, at 9 am with 11 members present. Pastor Deborah Wetmore, sent regrets. Moderator Rev. Patty Beals opened with prayer and Bernice MacLean gave a devotional from a book called "Pigs and God", in which she told of various Biblical references and examples of Jesus working with people in many ways. Bernice read from her book about the various acts of service that Christ had done for his disciples, one of which was washing their feet. We are made clean by the shed blood of Christ but we still get our feet dirty. She stated that the author of the book said that we must walk with Christ and come boldly and directly to the throne of grace and mercy, in time of need, as told in Hebrews 4:16. Bernice closed with prayer. Moderator Patty Beals thanked Bernice for her Devotional.

MOTION # 1: R. Legassie/B. Wallace, that the minutes of the October Meeting be accepted with one correction that the Alpha Programme in Middleton Church was just the Regular Alpha Course and not the Alpha Parenting Course. **CARRIED**

ANNUAL MEETING DISCUSSION: Moderator, Patty Beals decided that we need to discuss more planning of the Annual Meeting which will be held at Bridgetown Baptist Church on April 29th from 8:45 am – 3:30 pm. There will be a full day with lunch of soup, sandwiches and dessert provided for \$10. Brian will check with his church to set the actual menu and see if they want to have pre-registration for the meal. The Clerk will work with the Bridgetown Church if they want a pre-registration for the meal that day. Patty has talked to Rev. Cheryl Ann Beals about speaking on the topic of **Spiritual Formation**, and that John Campbell, Director of Advancement at Acadia Divinity College, would like time to inform the churches about the plans for Acadia Divinity College. As well, Shirley Soleil-Day wishes to come and speak about the value of the Acadia Archives to our churches. Patty will check with these two presenters. A Poster will be sent to churches at the first part of April with details of the Association Annual Meeting plans. Fred offered to do a poster.

Questions on the Nominating Committee, were asked and any position on the Association, if not filled before the Annual Meeting, can be filled by Council or by a nomination "from the floor" at the Annual Meeting.

Mark Reece will check with a speaker from **Palmer-Atlantic Insurance** for coverage for Association Directors (Executive).

DISCUSSION ON OUR ASSOCIATION: The Council had a discussion on the lack of concern and interest for our Association by many of our Association churches. This Council meeting was the smallest we have ever held to this time. Several felt some of the problems were partially due to the termination of the Area or Regional Ministers who were contacts between the Association, the local Churches and the Convention. The question was asked, "what can we do to improve communication between these three bodies?" Mark Reece and Brian Wallace suggested that the Council should find out what churches expect of the Council and Association. It has been noted that very few pastors come to Council and often don't really know or care what the

Council and Association does. Saturday mornings may not be a good time for Pastors and Council to meet. Bill suggested that we get the churches to help us develop the theme of the Association meetings. It was suggested that people may not want a whole day of meetings. Randy thought that something could be presented locally in a cluster rather than at an Association level. (that was one of the reasons for forming Clusters in the first place, it was suggested that we send some kind of Survey, a letter or questionnaire to our churches and get their opinions and reasons why they don't seem to be interested in the Association and/or our Convention, and how we can help them become more interested and active.

This Association needs to connect to the churches more now because we don't have Regional Ministers to do it for us. It was also suggested that send a letter to the Churches in the Association and ask them how we can help them, and what they might want from us. We need to find out what we can do for our churches so we can connect more appropriately with them. Bill stated that some churches have more adherents than members and are not interested in anything more than just attending church. Brian and Randy spoke of having workshops for Treasurers, Deacons or other "HOW TO DO EVENTS" in churches. Any activities that will connect with congregations are needed and appreciated. A workshop with congregations and Pastors such as "Job Description for Pastors" or Duties of Deacons" or other issues would probably be appreciated.

MOTION # 2: B. MacLean/Mark Reece that the Financial Report be accepted as presented. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 3: F. Bigelow/E. Legassie that the \$400 left over from the Cluster funds for the 2016/2017 fiscal year, be added to the Cluster Grant Funds for 2017/2018 Budget. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 4: B. Wallace/M. Cress that the Cluster Grant Money budgeted for the 2017/18 fiscal year be divided into two time periods for the use of churches in Clusters with applications in by June 1 and the second application by October 31st for a decision on November 1st. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 5: E. Legassie/B. Wallace, that a committee of three be selected at the Annual Meeting to administer Cluster funds. **CARRIED.** (If no one is selected, it goes back to the Council Executive).

Licensing Committee: Elaine Bent, Rev. Libby Amirault and Rev. Bill McLeod, make up this Committee. The Committee will arrange for appointments before the Annual Meeting for those who need to renew their licenses, or for anyone wishing to obtain a New License to Minister. The Committee will notify the Council as to whom will be needing Licenses so they can be presented at the Annual Meeting.

Camp Kingswood Representative: Dave Longley has been our representative for Camp Kingswood. Mark Reece will check with the Camp to determine if Dave is still eligible as our Representative on the Camp Board or if we have to appoint someone else to sit on the Committee. Nominations may be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting if we need to appoint someone other than Dave Longley.

Council Appointments: Examining Council Rep for Convention, Oasis delegates and one member for Association Licensing Committee will be needed.

MOTION # 6: R. Legassie/B. McLeod, that any unfilled positions be filled from the floor of the Annual Meeting of the Association. **CARRIED**.

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2017/18: Mark Reece, Bernice MacLean volunteered to work with the Clerk to set the proposed Budget for 2017/18.

The Clerk brought a box of Books and teaching Courses, such as the **Marriage Course, Alpha Videos, Song of the Borderland**, and other materials from several years ago. Some were signed out to be used and other will be stored by the Assistant/Clerk.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES:

Paradise Baptist: Pastor Mark Reece related that the Church and the Paradise (ABW) Atlantic Baptist Women is hosting a Programme, “**Waging War Against Human Trafficking**” at the church on April 2nd, at 7 PM. Pam Mollins MacLeod, Executive Director of **TREY** (Trauma Recovery for Exploited Youth), will speak on human trafficking. The evening will include a **Q & A** session. Everyone is welcome with fellowship to follow. The church continues to support Refugees Sponsorship and held a breakfast in the Community Hall.

Rossway Baptist Church: Pastor Linda DeMone reported that they are planning a Baptism, and that they have a large Youth Group with lots of help so they don't need a cluster grant as this time. They had a Healing time with Susan O'Blenis.

Smith's Cove Baptist : Pastor Mark Cress stated that the Youth Group is still doing well. The Fire Department Hall is the home of the Youth Group and they are having a Fundraiser on this Friday at the Bear River Fire Hall for the Syrian family we are sponsoring in Cornwallis. Mark is busy with his church work, studies and will finish all courses to be able to go before the Examining Council in the Fall.

Middleton Baptist: Bernice told us that the Church had the Alpha programme in the fall. The Youth Group is busy with 30-40 young people. The ABW service will be April 1, with Muriel Bent as the speaker. The church has finished its financial obligations to the Refugee Family Sponsorship. The church is buying a new Piano...one key at a time for \$25.00 a key. The Church has a new Abuse Policy and on April 6th and 7th, the church is having a prayer workshop.

Bridgetown Baptist: The church is holding a baptism at Easter, they have been working on their Constitution and accepted it for a year. They also did the Alpha programme last fall.

Lower Granville: Pastor Randy Legassie reported that the Lower Granville Field held a Deacon's Workshop and invited Deacons from other churches. This time together was very helpful for all who attended. There is interest in having another Deacon's workshop later in the spring. The three churches on this field share a Sunday service each week and have a “Sharing Table” which consists of sharing a meal or refreshments with those who are alone. They also have a Bible Study on Wednesday nights and are doing an evaluation of their church.

Nictaux Baptist Church: Pastor Bill McLeod had their usual activities during the fall and winter and had a Baptism on March 19th. They have an active congregation with a large Bible Study.

Port Lorne and Hampton: Pastor Randy also works with combined Pastorate at Port Lorne and Hampton from April to December with a break from January to the end of March, when he

does some of the church services for Clementsvale Baptist Church. He will be back at the Port Lorne/Hampton pastorate at the end of March.

Bear River East: Pastor Fred Bigelow is pastoring at the Bear River East Baptist Church and the church has a busy schedule with 4 members ready for Baptism. They held outdoor services during the summer and plan to do more services this coming summer. The church will start having evening services once a month in April.

Lawrencetown Baptist: Pastor Patty Beals still works with Nictaux church in their outreach programme, "**Feed My Sheep**", where the Church prepares and serves a full meal to as many as 70 people each Friday evening. This will continue until the end of April. There are plans for a Baptism for some new people who now attend church. Some members viewed the movie, "The Shack".

Clementsvale United Baptist Church: The church has been blessed by Pastor Randy Legassie, Pastor Don Robertson, and Pastor Bob Reid over the past year and a half. The congregation is small but very active and the Lord has blessed the church with part-time competent Organist. We have a Midi machine on the organ so music can be recorded for practice and for some services. We have an Adult Sunday School programme for children, and a Bible study for adults. We have had three members who have returned to the area and are back in church. Two of our deacons attended the Deacons' workshop at Lower Granville. We have a Bi-monthly ladies group from the church and community and provide money and baby clothing for the Valley Care Pregnancy Centre in Kentville. We just finished our Annual Church Report Book.

First United Baptist Church of Annapolis Royal: Pastor Elizabeth Legassie reported that they have a new group, **The Cosy Corner** and a prayer group which rotates between the churches in the Pastorate. The Church is working on their constitution. The church has Bible studies, a Baptism Class, Sunday School and "A Sharing Table", where they share a meal and provide fellowship to people who live alone in the pastorate.

PROPOSED BUDGET: The Clerk, Assistant Clerk and the Webmaster, Mark Reece, worked on the New Proposed Budget for the upcoming Fiscal year to be presented at the Annual Meeting.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectively Submitted,

Mary Billard

Next Council Meeting will be held on October 28th, 2017 at 8:59 am, at the First United Baptist Church of Annapolis-Royal.

PLEASE NOTE: Not having a digital copy of these minutes I retyped Mary's copy that was on file trying to keep them word for word as she wrote them. Fred Bigelow, Clerk

