

**ANNAPOLIS – DIGBY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
COUNCIL MINUTES
OCTOBER 28, 2017**

Those present: Elizabeth Legassie, Randy Legassie, Patty Beals, Joyce Marshall, Julia Howard, Deborah Wetmore, Bill McLeod, Sharon White, Jeff White, Mark Cress, Nikki Cress, Linda DeMone, Judy Vantassal, Brian Wallace, Joyce Jackson, Cathy Batson, Fred Bigelow

Regrets from : Bernice MacLean and Libby Amirault

A warm welcome was extended to everyone, but especially to our two new Reverends, - Reverend Linda DeMone and Reverend Mark Cress.

Rev. Bill McLeod lead us in a devotional on John 15:1-5.

Moderator Rev. Patty Beals opened the Council Meeting with prayer.

It was moved by Randy Legassie and seconded by Linda DeMone that the corrected minutes from last council meeting be approved. Motion Carried

The clerk-Treasurer presented the financial report. It was moved by Fred Bigelow and seconded by Jeff White that the treasurer's report be approved. Motion Carried.

CLUSTER GRANT REPORT

from Wilmot Baptist Church presented by Rev. Julia Howard

Senior's Group was established from the community and meets bi-weekly. The meeting includes a free meal, guest speaker or games and a social time. Many who attend are from the church.

The other program is Christmas in July. This was our third year and it is growing each year. DVBS had 2 last year and there were 10 this year.

SURVEY REPORT

The results of the survey and comments were presented by Randy Legassie and much discussion was had. The three main areas taken from the survey were Training and Fellowship. Our connection with CBAC, many felt cut off, key point to work on here--- focus on relationship with pastors.

COMMENTS

Conduct workshops for 2-3 churches at one time

Become a clearing house for expertise in church functions

Denominational relationship needs to be addressed

Encourage Convention to something as well

Council Meetings are effective. Bill McLeod stated that Council brings us together Mark Cress at Council we have fellowship and see people we haven't seen for a time.

In the restructuring of the Convention Bill felt things were taken away. The Well has filled in some of that gap.

Change the thinking of pastor's work is challenging. It was felt that it is our fault as much as it is the church concerning the pastor's responsibilities and time.

As far as Council meetings, Brian Wallace stated that we need to ask ourselves, is this the best use of our time. Joyce Jackson wanted to know what went on between Council meetings.

Julia Howard stated that maybe the Council could restructure itself to include other things rather than business for 3 hours.

Revamp our Council meeting to look a bit different. Give to the Executive the power to develop something different.

Sharon White stated what is said at the "Special Meeting" needs to be communicated to those here. Another meeting needs to be held, not wait six months.

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

The meeting to discuss the results of the meeting in Truro on November 01, 2017 will be held on January 06th, 2018 at 9:00 AM in First United Baptist Church of Annapolis Royal. All churches are invited to attend.

EXECUTIVE WILL MEET

Thursday November 09th, 10 AM the Executive will meet in Lawrencetown Baptist Church to look at revamping Council meetings.

It was moved by Randy Legassie and Jeff White seconded the motion, that the Executive of Council look after making plans for the Annual Meeting.

Three people were chosen to review the Cluster Grants Applications: Rev. Julia Howard, Rev. Jeff White and Rev. Brain Wallace.

A letter should be sent to Convention concerning churches who are members of the Association but not of Convention.

OASIS DELEGATES REPORTS

Joyce Marshall.

Joyce thanked the Council and Association for enabling her to go to Oasis. Some of the areas she attended and enjoyed:

Enjoyed Rick Tobias

Went to a workshop on music and the suggestion for churches to do blended worship

Joyce stated Greg Jones statement that churches were placed where they were because it was how far could a horse travel in February.

NIKKI CRESS

Nikki Cress thanked the Association for the financial support to attend Oasis. Nikki's heart was touched by the genuine respect for each other. As Mark went before the Examining Council and Nikki feeling like an outsider could see and feel genuine concern and respect for one another. For both Mark and herself they heard so many thank you(s) and are you doing ok. It was a heart warming experience for her.

Compassion and Reconciliation in our neighbourhoods was the topic the entire weekend. Nikki was left with questions.

1. How am I doing? And how are you doing? Is my relationship with God close? Distant? Exciting? Do I show it as inviting?
2. Inviting people to church or people back to church, will they see the same church as years ago?
3. "stand on the shoulders to look ahead, not on their toes so that no one can move forward." How do I do that?
4. What would it have been like to be a part of the Early Church? Could I have done it?"

Enjoyed Rick Tobias message Nikki was left with these questions:

With all the churches around----why do we have Salvation Army?

With all the churches around -----Why do we have Bethany Bin?

With all the churches around----why do we have Foodbanks?

Summing up Nikki's final remarks, The Holy Spirit is working, with my help or not.. I (we) have to be open / brave to listen and act. We have to get moving and maybe out of the way.

The Moderator Rev. Patty Beals felt that the Association should pay the Clerk for ink and paper in doing the surveys and other printing that needs to be done.

Moved by Linda DeMone and Seconded by Elizabeth Legassie that the Clerk take the necessary funds for printing, etc. Motion carried.

News from our Churches:

Rossway Baptist - Rev. Linda DeMone

Introduced weekly blended music

Youth Group has 14 people

Bible Study in a home

Looking to do more outreach

Smith's Cove Baptist - Rev. Mark Cress

Ordained Mark Cress

Regular ministries up and running

Looking to take some time for health/self-care

Wilmot Baptist - Rev. Julia Howard

Successful program Christmas In July

Senior ministries

Prayer Night. Finding it a challenge to get people to pray.

Inglewood Baptist – Pastor Cathy Batson

In Inglewood after the passing of her husband Ron

Involved in Alpha Program at Bridgetown Baptist

Have a small older congregation

Nictaux and Torbrook Baptist – Rev. Bill McLeod

Atlantic Baptist Ladies, Men's group, Bible study

Gave monetary support to local organizations within the community

Food drive for Food Bank at Thanksgiving time.

Monthly family night/ games night starting

1st Baptist Church of Annapolis Royal – Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Legassie

Getting 3 churches to think of themselves as one church, strengths supports other's weaknesses

Rotate our location of our prayer groups to each of the 3 churches

Some older children interested in baptism. Having a discipleship class for them.

March to Sept. "Sharing Table" once a month a free meal, sharing, fun, outreach

Bridgetown Baptist – Rev. Brian Wallace

Deacons met in Spring and from their meeting came a discipleship plan: Alpha, then emotionally healthy spiritually and training for that to start in February.

New Mission Band to start in March for this summer

Looking at outreach. BBQ's, beach party and follow-up those ministries

Going deeper in discipleship

Looking at the service, what we do & how.

Looking at getting out into the community

A small group out of Alpha has been ongoing for fellowship

Port Lorne-Hampton Baptist Rev. Dr. Randy Legassie

2nd year of experiment to revive ministries in those places

There's an increase impact/perception of churches in and around the community

A switch—having services in the hall during winter months.

Lower Granville Baptist Pastorate Rev. Dr. Randy Legassie

Structuring a schedule amongst churches

Had a Deacon Workshop

Having Bible Study with great discussions

Review & evaluate process of ministries & Vision for self/community

Digby Baptist - Rev. Jeff White

Evaluation process of Ministries & vision for Self and Community.

People are in survival mode, but still need ministries.

People need to pay attention to why are we here now and in the future

Culloden Baptist – Pastor Debbie Wetmore

Small family church

Some have passed on, others are new people who have come in.

Looking ahead, looking at self, looking at things and having a compassionate eye as a bridge.

Looking at a series of discipleship messages

P - Praise

A - Attitude

C - Christ at a Cornerstone

E - Every time - Seek God

- God First
- Practice sharing spiritual happenings in church

Samaritan Purse has doubled even though it is a small group

Basket for needy in the community. Helped young family who lost husband, father in accident. Gideon cards outreach

During the winter if church is cancelled they have a prayer time instead.

Bear River East Baptist - Rev. Fred Bigelow

Ministry going well at Bear River East Baptist Church

Helping those within the community when needed

Need to revamp the church constitution

Had outdoor services in July & August.

Had a DVBS Program in July

Lawrencetown Baptist - Rev Patty Beals

Feed My Sheep – Friday Night meal. Child care provided during the Bible Study time. This held from Thanksgiving to April

New family coming to church

Late Bible study due to Amazon delay in sending books

Bible Study on two different nights. Makes it easier for people.

Starting a Mission Band

Working on a Sabbatical document for a couple of months. Tomorrow will vote on proposal of a Sabbatical recommended by CBAC that after 7 years that the pastor have a 3 month sabbatical for spiritual renewing (not education time) they need a plan for that time written up in a proposal.

Pastor Cathy Batson closed the meeting in prayer

Respectively Submitted,

Rev. Fred Bigelow, Clerk-Treasurer

Next Regular Council Meeting March 3, 2018 at 9 AM First United Baptist Church of Annapolis Royal. Devotional will be given by Rev. Mark Cress.

