

**Annapolis-Digby Baptist Association Annual Meeting**

**April 21, 2012 Middleton Baptist Church, Middleton, NS**

The Annapolis-Digby Baptist Association met at Middleton Baptist Church on Saturday, April 21 at 9am with an early registration, coffee and a “get acquainted time”. At 9:45 a welcome was given by our Moderator, Rev. David Phillips, who introduced the musical group, “Grafted from the Vine”. This group supplied music for worship for the assembly of members. The music was followed with a special offering for Canadian Baptist Ministries.

Moderator, Rev. David Phillips introduced our special speaker, Rev. Dr. Peter Reid, Executive Minister of our Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches. Dr. Reid presented the first session of his special programme, “Revisioning the Future”. He started with the Biblical account of the woman at the well, as found in John 4 and told of how Jesus knew all about the woman, and saw her as a person open to the Word, who had a need for “living water”. He had already told the disciples that the fields were “white with harvest”, something the Disciples didn’t see and the Pharisees didn’t know. Dr. Reid pointed out that we have trouble seeing people who need the Lord. Jesus had a divine appointment and reason for going to Samaria because it was God’s divine plan for Jesus to meet the Samaritan woman at the well. Dr. Reid said we have to show those who are hurting that we can be loving, forgiving and accepting of all those who need the Lord.

Dr. Reid stated that God is on a Mission. God’s mission has a church rather than a church has a mission! Jesus’ mission was to participate in God’s mission! That mission is to bring the word of God to broken and hurting people. The church is often the last place where hurting people want to go. We need to insure that there is acceptance for all people and we should not be judging people for any reason. The woman at the well was accepted by Jesus even though He knew all about her past life. The disciples didn’t understand why Jesus was talking to a Samaritan woman or why Jesus told them that the fields were white for harvest. We are like the disciples – we fail to see the people needing the Lord right in our midst! We have spiritually hungry people right here in our communities who are hungry for a better life but do not know what they are missing. We must see that they are fed with the word of the Lord.

Sometimes we want others to see us as having perfect lives. Others don’t know how we are hurting, but we pretend that all is good in our lives. Dr. Reid said that we should have a sign in each of our churches that says, “**NO PERFECT PEOPLE ALLOWED.**” We have to trust the Holy Spirit to bring people to Christ and we must allow God to do the work. We have to realize that people are more important than our buildings. Broken, hurting people must be welcome in our churches and we must be accepting of them.

**BUSINESS MEETING:** We had a break and then proceeded to our Business Meeting. The Clerk, Mary Billard read the “Rules of Order” and opened with prayer. The Order of Business was outlined in the agenda and followed in the Annual Booklet.

**MOTION # 1:** D. Townsend/B. MacLean, that the Minutes of the 2011 Annual Meeting held at New Tusket, as presented in the Annual Booklet, be adopted as printed. **CARRIED.**

**MOTION # 2:** M. Billard/ S. Marshall, that the Annual Financial Statement from May 1, 2011 to April 21, 2012, as shown on page 5 of the Annual Booklet, be accepted as given. **CARRIED.**

The clerk thanked all the churches who had paid their Annual Fees to the Association and reminded others who had not paid. The \$50 fee is due from each church or field. These fees help us to carry on our Association activities.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**OASIS DELEGATES:** This Association pays expenses for 2 members to attend our Convention Meetings (OASIS) in August, either at Acadia or at Crandall. The two delegates must be member of a Convention church and be baptized by immersion, and preferably be members who have not attended previously as delegates from the Association. If there is someone in any of our churches who would like to go to Oasis this year, please inform the clerk so that registration can take place for Oasis 2012.

**NOTICE OF MOTIONS FOR 2013:** The Assembly was presented with written forms of the Notices of Motions for changes in the present Constitution. Two Notice of Motions were concerning terms of office for the Clerk and Assistant Clerk, and the other is for a return of the Position of the Vice-Moderator.

**MOTION # 3:** M. Billard/R. Purdy, that these Notices of Motions be presented and a vote taken at the 2013 Annual Meeting. **CARRIED.**

**MOTION # 4:** M. Billard/D. Robertson, that the Proposed Budget for 2012/13 be accepted for the next fiscal year. **CARRIED.**

## **REPORTS:**

Rev. David Phillips presented his written report, as printed in the Annual Booklet, and spoke of some of the recent developments within our Association and Convention. He spoke of the loss of our Regional Ministers and how we need to become more involved in our churches, our Clusters and the Association. He stated that we need to be working to spread the Gospel message in the changing culture in which we find ourselves. David spoke of the call to Elizabeth and Randy Legassie to serve the Lord in Kenya. A Commissioning Service is being planned for the Legassies on Sunday. David urged everyone to stay connected and to "Give God Joy" by reaching out to others in our Association. David extended thanks to the Executive members and the Web Master for their hard work to keep our Association working for our churches. David mentioned all the changes that are going on in our Convention, spoke of the excellent plans for Oasis 2012 and urged everyone to attend if they possibly could. He offered his help to churches as a speaker or for any area where help might be needed.

**MOTION # 5:** D. Phillips/R. Purdy, that the Moderator's Report be accepted as written in the Annual Booklet. **CARRIED**

The chair of the Licensing Committee, Rev. Bill McLeod, presented Renewal Association Licences to Minister, or Association Lay Licences to Minister, to seven former Pastors and one new Association Licence to a new Pastor.

**MOTION # 6:** B. McLeod/E. Waugh, that a Renewal of an Association Licence to Minister be granted to Pastor Libby Amirault. **CARRIED.**

**MOTION # 7:** B. McLeod/ B. MacLean, that a Renewal of an Association Lay Licence to Minister be granted to Pastor Herb Anderson. **CARRIED.**

**MOTION # 8:** B. McLeod/E. Bent, that a Renewal of an Association Licence to Minister be granted to Pastor Janet Baker. **CARRIED.**

**MOTION # 9:** B. McLeod/ K. Purdy, that a Renewal of an Association Licence to Minister be granted to Pastor Patty Beals. **CARRIED.**

**MOTION # 10:** B. McLeod/S. Marshall, that a Renewal of an Association Licence to Minister be granted to Pastor Mark Cress. **CARRIED.**

**MOTION # 11:** B. McLeod/D. Robertson, that a Renewal of an Association to Minister be granted to Pastor Linda Demone. **CARRIED.**

**MOTION # 12 :** B. McLeod/ E. Waugh, that a Renewal of an Association Licence to Minister be granted to Pastor Virginia Hurlburt. **CARRIED.**

**MOTION # 13:** B. McLeod/ J. Baker, that a new Association Licence to Minister be granted to Shelley Ilsley-Martin. **CARRIED.**

**MOTION # 14:** H. Gosbee/ K. Purdy, that the report from Kingswood Camp as presented by Dave Longley be accepted. **CARRIED.**

**CLUSTER REPORTS:** A few Pastors and others from their churches spoke of activities and ministries that were being carried on in their churches and plans for other events in the future.

**OASIS 2011:** Pastors Ron and Karen Purdy were our representatives to Oasis, our annual Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches, and presented their impressions of what they observed, participated in, and enjoyed about being there. Each had a different focus on what they experienced. Karen said it was a memorable time but that we need more spirit-filled people to attend. Both commented that being at Oasis has to be experienced to be appreciated. They both urged members to attend Oasis 2012 and take part in the many ministry opportunities available at Oasis.

The Clerk thanked Karen and Ron and asked members to think about being our Association representatives to Oasis in August 2012.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned and grace was given for the delicious noon meal which was supplied and served by the Church Social Committee.

After lunch, the Senior Pastor of the church, Rev. Danny Smith, welcomed everyone back to the afternoon session. Danny opened with prayer and then we sang, "Trust and Obey". Danny gave an inspirational message titled, "**Is There Life Out There?**" based on Ezekiel 37:1-10, which tells the account of the valley of the dry bones. God placed Ezekiel in the middle of the valley and asked him if these bones could become alive again. God promised the people of Israel who were disappointed, disillusioned, bitter and dead in spirit, that He would increase their numbers and make them live again. As well, they would be his people and He would be their God. Our churches have become dead. We are the dry bones of our churches. We are a skeletal frame of what our churches should be. We can have all kinds of money, the right pastor, programmes, and have everything in order, but if God's Spirit is not with us, we are like those dry bones – no life in our churches and our lives. We give up imagining what God can do with us. We need to allow God to breathe His Spirit into our lives and our churches. God need to find us a humble and contrite people who will do whatever God wants us to do. He can transform our churches in this valley into a vast army to do the work he has called us to do. Danny closed with prayer.

Moderator David Phillips thanked Danny for his challenging message and asked Rev. Dr. Peter Reid to speak to us again.

In the Gospel of Mark, Dr. Reid told of Jesus healing many of the people: of driving out spirits in Peter's Mother-in-law and families who were brought to Jesus to be healed. They were able to be creative in ways to get their friends to meet Jesus and they were confident that Jesus would be able to make them well. Dr. Reid went on to say that Jesus saw their faith and we must show our faith in our churches. The church is only the church when it survives for others. We have to remember that our churches are not museums for the saints but a hospital for sinners.

Dr. Reid talked to the group about the changes that have been taking place in our Convention over the last two years and the transitions that are taking place within the Senior Staff Structure. There will

be new Associate Executive Ministers, but until these are in place in the next year, Several Senior Staff members are training people within some of the Associations to deal with Conflict, Pulpit Committees and other matters that might arise. Many of the positions will be filled at Oasis this August. Dr. Reid took questions and comments from the Assembly and some members took part in dialogue with Dr. Reid. Dr. Reid thanked the members of this Association for inviting him to be with us and for being patient with all the changes that are taking place within our Convention.

Moderator, Rev. David Phillips, thanked Dr. Reid for coming to speak with us today and wished God's blessings on his life and for the work he does on our behalf in his role of Executive Minister of CABG.

**MOTION # 15:** D. Phillips/K.Purdy, that we accept Ginny Hurlburt's offer to be one of the delegates from our Association for Oasis 2012. **CARRIED.**

Moderator David Phillips gave thanks to Middleton for hosting our meeting and asked if any one would host the annual meetings in 2013 and 2014. There was no response.

With no further business, it was moved by Pastor Ron Purdy that the meeting be adjourned and our Moderator closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Billard, Clerk