

Minutes of the Annapolis-Digby Baptist Association Annual Meeting,

April 27, 2013 at First United Baptist Church of Annapolis Royal

The Annapolis-Digby Baptist Association held its Annual Meeting at First Baptist Church of Annapolis Royal on April 27, 2013. Moderator, Rev. David Phillips called the Assembly together with a welcome to all, with special thanks to Pastor Seth Moore and the church who is hosting the meeting today. David then opened the Assembly with prayer.

Pastor Seth Moore led the people in a short Hymn sing with “Morning has Broken”, “Wonderful Words of Life”, “When the Roll is Called Up Yonder”, and “When I Survey the Wonderous Cross”. Pastor Seth closed with prayer.

Moderator, Rev. David Phillips, introduced our Assembly speaker, Rev. Sam Chaise, and Sam told us a bit of his history. He was born in England, arrived with his parents at Pier 21 in Halifax and then moved to Ontario. He grew up in Sudbury but attended the University of Saskatchewan where he earned his Bachelor of Commerce. He worked in the oil business for a short time and then earned his Master of Divinity through Carey Theological College and Regent College in 1989. Sam was Associate Pastor at Kitsilano Community Church in Vancouver and then moved to Saskatoon as Pastor of Worship and Outreach at Emmanuel Baptist Church. From 2002 until 2007, he was the Senior Pastor at Olivet Baptist Church in New Westminster, British Columbia. He spent a short time as Director at Carey Institute in Vancouver where he provided training and education to the churches of Canadian Baptists of Western Canada. He worked with the younger Christians and younger people and said that he had to figure out what to do with Generation X when he worked with them. He pointed out that if we really listen to young people, they will become leaders in our churches. He said he often tried new approaches with them and when they didn't work, they all learned from their mistakes.

His appointment as General Secretary of CBM began on October 1, 2010. His background as a pastor, worship leader, church planter and business person is helpful in his work at CBM. He is interested to see how the Gospel interacts with culture, and how the social and economic systems of the world contribute to abundant living for all people.

Rev. Chaise started off his first session of his talk on “The Next Chapter in Global Mission”, with a prayer and reading from Acts 10. He asked others in the Assembly to read portions of other Scriptures. Elaine Bent read Genesis 1:1-2 and 26-28. Marian Ward read Genesis 12:1-3 and Serge Demchenko read 2 Peter 2:9-12.

Rev. Sam began his message based on these Scriptures and stated that God has been writing the Mission Story since the beginning of time, and we know what the story looks like, but we must let God continue to write the current chapter and show us what it should be like at this present time. God was there in the beginning and in Genesis 1:26, God said, “Let us make man in our image...” that meant that the Holy Spirit and Jesus were there at that time and those who God made were blessed. In Genesis 12, God's people were blessed and He said that we would also be blessed. Sam stated that the Israelites were a “waiting people” when they were in exile. Their faith was based on the Ten Commandments and they trusted that God would lead them out of captivity. When Jesus came to earth, his ministry was to create a “new” Israel, and a new covenant that the Holy Spirit lives inside each person who believes.

Rev. Sam emphasized that the work we have been called to do is God's mission, not ours. He told us that God calls us to be his hands, feet and mind in the global world. The global church is very young and we must think of God's call on our lives to follow what God is doing by thinking of strategies at home and abroad. We must have resources for local and global discipleship. The CBM Website is essential for our approach to mission in discerning our churches' mission.

If we look at all the needs in the world, it is like ice cream - there are too many choices, but if we look to see what God is doing with people He has called, we can become more focused on how we approach missions locally and globally. Sam pointed out the importance of keeping informed through CBM and prayer when God calls us to be involved in His work. There are many resources and people at CBM who can help us discover where we will best fit in God's plans for us in his world. Sam closed this session with prayer.

The Moderator, Rev. David Phillips, called the business meeting to order and opened with prayer. The clerk read the Rules of Order and the meeting was opened for Business.

The Minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting, held in Middleton Baptist Church on April 21, 2012, were circulated in the morning so delegates could read them and have access to them for this time.

MOTION # 1: B. MacLean/J. Roscoe, that the minutes of the Annual meeting held in Middleton Baptist Church, April 21, 2012, be accepted as written. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 2: M. Billard/ D.Townsend, that the Financial Report from May 1, 2012 to April 27, 2013 be accepted as presented. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 3: V. Hurlburt/ J.Baker, that the position and term of Vice Moderator as set out in the Notice of Motions, page 9 of this Annual Report, be accepted as outlined in the motion. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 4: L. Simpson/ M. Cress, that the new terms for the position of Clerk as set out in the Notice of Motions, page 9 of this Annual Report, be accepted as outlined in the motion. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 5: B. MacLean/ J. Hirtle, that the new terms for the Assistant Clerk as set out in the Notice of Motions, page 9 of this Annual Report, be accepted as outlined in the motion. **CARRIED.**

EXECUTIVE POSITIONS: We need to fill the position of Moderator, Vice-Moderator and Assistant Clerk. Rev. Fred Bigelow offered to be Assistant-Clerk and Rev. Patty Beals offered to be Vice- Moderator. The Council will try to fill the position of Moderator.

NEW BUSINESS:

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP:

Mr. Michael Longmire presented a letter requesting membership for The Beacon Of Hope Church, in the Annapolis-Digby Baptist Association. This is a new plant, which is meeting in the former Litchfield Baptist Church in Delap's Cove. Rev. Quincy Collins was introduced as the Pastor.

MOTION # 6: M. Billard/ F. Bigelow, that the Association accept the application of the Beacon of Hope Church into the Annapolis-Digby Baptist Association. **CARRIED.**

Rev. Quincy Collins spoke of a vision for this church in the Kingdom of God and prayed that this church would be a beacon of light in this area to bring people to the Lord.

A prayer for the new church was given by Rev. David Phillips, and David wished God's blessings in all they do to bring glory and honour to Christ our Lord.

MOTION # 7: B. McLeod/S. Moore, that Shelley Illsley-Martin and Virginia Hurlburt be our delegates to Oasis at Acadia University in August. **CARRIED.**

REPORTS:

MODERATOR'S REPORT: Moderator Rev. David Phillips, presented his written report on page 10 of the Annual Report. He highlighted many events in the Association and thanked all the churches who support this Association and those who sit on the Executive and the Council.

David thanked everyone for co-operation, support and assistance for him in the position of Moderator, which is now ending. He asked all to continue to pray for our leaders, pastors and churches for fresh insights for God's work in this area. David encouraged everyone to "Give God Joy" in all we do and urged us to continue to support our Canadian Baptist Ministries and our Convention. David also urged our Association members to come to the Council meetings and continue to seek to serve God together.

MOTION # 8: D. Phillips/D. Townsend, that the Moderator's Report be accepted as presented. **CARRIED.**

The Licensing Committee consists of Bill McLeod as chair, Bernice MacLean and Cathy Batson as members. This committee meets with Ministry candidates and those who have Association Licences and Lay Licences to Minister in this Association.

MOTION # 9: B. McLeod/D. Cawley, that Seth Moore be granted an Association Licence to Minister. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 10: B. McLeod/ E. Waugh that Vanessa Moore be granted an Association Licence to Minister. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 11: B. McLeod/ F. Bigelow, that Mark Cress be granted a Renewal of his Association Licence to Minister. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 12: B. McLeod/S.Moore, that Virginia Hurlburt be granted a Renewal of her Association Licence to Minister. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 13: B. McLeod/S. Ilsley-Martin, that Linda DeMone be granted a Renewal of her Association Licence to Minister. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 14: B. McLeod/ P. Beals, that Shelley Ilsley-Martin be granted a Renewal of her Association Licence to Minister. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 15: B. McLeod/ E. Bent that Janet Baker be granted a Renewal of her Association Licence to Minister. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 16: B.McLeod/S. Marshall, that Jennifer Smith be granted an Association Licence to Minister. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 17: B. McLeod/S. Moore, that an Association Lay Licence to Minister be granted to Pastor Herb Anderson. **CARRIED.**

CAMP KINGSWOOD: David Longley, a Board Member of the Kingswood Camp Society, presented a written report on behalf of the Chair of the Camp, Vincent Leung, and outlined some of the activities that were being planned for the summer and highlights of the camps and events of the past summer. The camp is planning to hold an Inclusion Camp for children with special needs. The Kingswood Camp Society can now nominate their own members to their Board. Dale Jollimore volunteered to be a Board Member from our Association.

MOTION # 18: D.Longley/D.Townsend, that the Kingswood Camp Society report be accepted as presented. **CARRIED.**

CLUSTER REPORTS: Some Pastors reported orally of events going on in their churches.

MOTION # 19: M.Billard/L.Simpson, that the meeting be adjourned. **CARRIED.**

We shared a delicious Fellowship Lunch together after a blessing on the food.

AFTERNOON SESSION

DEVOTIONAL TIME: Pastor Seth Moore, Pastor of First Baptist of Annapolis Royal, our host church, opened the session with the rousing hymn, "In My Heart There Rings a Melody". Pastor Seth gave a devotional based on "The Two Great Commissions". He stressed that the first commission that Jesus gave his disciples was just after He had risen from the dead and appeared to the Eleven while they were eating a meal. They had not believed the women who told two of the disciples that Jesus was alive and the disciples did not believe now that it was really Jesus who was with them. He rebuked them for their lack of faith and told them in Mark 16:15 to "Go into all the world and preach the good news of all creation." In Matthew 28:19-20, Jesus presented the second Great Commission to his disciples. Jesus lived out this commission and we are commanded to do the same. We must study, pray and give. We must build up the body of Christ by using our gifts of teaching and preaching as shown in 1 Timothy 5: 17-18. In Phillipians 4: 15-17, Paul tells us how he was helped by the people as he travelled, and related that is how we must help CBM reach people today if we cannot go ourselves.

An offering was taken for Canadian Baptist Ministries and we closed this session with a hymn and a prayer for the afternoon Session.

MISSION GROUPS REPORTS:

Muriel Bent presented a short talk on "Groups of Hope" which involved five other women who went to India with Muriel and Faith Holyn. They conducted four workshops for 35-45 women while there to train women how to do these workshops on their own. While there, they visited three Indian doctors, went to Orissa where our Missionaries, including Muriel, at one time, had established a Christian work there. They were able to help 71 children and money raised for CBM was used to set up small businesses for women. They gave HOPE to many women who had no hope.

Pastor Mark Reece and 14 members of Paradise and Bridgetown Baptist churches joined with Servant's Heart Ministry to go to the Dominican Republic to build a home for Rebecca and her six children as well as doing ministries with children and others. This ministry carries out Relief and Development work globally wherever they are needed. Mark referred to Luke 10: 25-30, which answers the question, "Who is my Neighbour?" and concluded that "A neighbour in need is a good neighbour, indeed". Mark also said, "They will know we are Christians by our love."

LAWRENCETOWN PROJECT:

Rev. Patty Beals told us about the outreach programme they have initiated, called "Feed My Sheep" in their church, where members do a home cooked meal at their church once a week to share with anyone who comes. This seems to be a real need in the community as many individuals and families have attended. The Church will continue with this outreach and monitor it as the Lord is changing lives. Patty said, "Go with your heart and God will do the rest."

SESSION 2 WITH REV. SAM CHAISE:

Rev. Sam Chaise continued with his message to tell us what is coming in the "Next chapter in Global Mission". He began by telling the History of CBM and how it has changed over the years from just being mainly involved in reaching the people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. CBM is now more aware and is proceeding with the plan to minister to the whole person. When people are hungry, poor, suffering from diseases, war and other problems, it is difficult to reach them with the Gospel. CBM has finally learned over the years that we have to work with the whole person before we can truly show them that God loves them and cares what happens to them. Sam pointed out that we have to become more aware that we "don't just bring God to the people because God is already everywhere." We must also show our love in action and that we are aware of their needs.

The local church has to be reinserting itself, not only in local mission, but into world mission. Our churches have to realize that mission is flowing out of Jesus and is about the whole Kingdom and not just the church itself.

The Global church will grow deeper as we continue to focus on core projects and work together with our partners to address all issues affecting our Global world. Regardless of the complex factors of demographics, culture or history, we now have to concentrate to make sure that God's "good news" of hope, love, healing, restoration and transformation through Jesus Christ, reaches everyone. All church planters and evangelists need to be equipped so that they speak effectively of the essential spiritual need in the world today: that Jesus Christ is the centre of all our work when we try to reach the whole person.

We need to see ourselves as servants who pattern our work on the ministry of Jesus so that the next chapter in Global Mission will reflect physical and social needs as well as spiritual ones so the Global Church will grow deeper as it 'cross pollinates' from people to people and nation to nation. Sam quoted 1 John 3:17:18. "If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need, but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." His closing scripture was Revelation 21:22-26.

Sam had an interactive time when he finished, where he answered questions from the Assembly and then Moderator David Phillips thanked Sam for his inspirational presentation and prayed for him and for the work of our Canadian Baptist Ministries.

David thanked everyone for coming and thanked the church for hosting us. This was followed by a closing hymn and prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Billard