

ANNAPOLIS-DIGBY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING
MARCH 27, 2010

The Annapolis-Digby Baptist Association held its Annual Meeting on March 27th, 2010 at the Desmond Piers Hall at Cornwallis Park. Registration took place from 9am until 10 with seventy people registering for the day.

Moderator Rev. Fred Bigelow opened the meeting with prayer and welcomed everyone to our gathering with a special welcome to our speaker, Rev. Dr. Gary Nelson. Gary has been the General Secretary of Canadian Baptist Ministries for the past ten years, and has been instrumental in many positive outcomes for CBM and "how mission is done" in the 21st century. Fred then introduced Pastor Nathan Waterman, pastor of the Culloden Baptist Church, and his assistant, Mike Templar, who presented some choruses and some special selections of music.

Pastor David Cumby, Pastor of Bridgetown Baptist Church, was introduced by the Moderator, and gave a devotion based on 2 Corinthians 4:7-12. Pastor David talked about the way we may be persecuted, puzzled down-trodden and discouraged just as the early Corinthians were, but we must see that God displays His most treasured possessions in clay vessels. It is God's power and mercy that gives us the knowledge of Jesus Christ and His saving glory and power. We must move out into our neighbourhoods to bring this knowledge to all who need the saving grace of our Lord. The story of the cross is foolishness to those who don't believe on Jesus' death for our salvation, but those who do believe, know it is knowledge through the power of God in Jesus Christ.

An offering was taken for Canadian Baptist Ministries, amounting to \$422.20. Nathan ,Waterman, Pastor of Culloden Baptist Church and friend Mike Templar played and sang during the offering and then a prayer of thanks for the offering was given.

BUSINESS MEETING:

Moderator Rev. Fred Bigelow called the Annual Business Meeting to order and asked the clerk to read the Rules of Order. Clerk Mary Billard did this and then opened with prayer.

MOTION # 1: F. Bigelow/B. MacLean, that the Moderator's Report as written in the Annual Booklet, be accepted as presented. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 2: M. Billard/ S. Marshall ,that the minutes from the 2009 Annual Meeting, as printed in the Annual Booklet, be accepted as presented. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 3: M. Billard/ J. Hirtle, that the Annual Financial Report be accepted as printed in the Annual Booklet. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 4: M. Billard/ R. Legassie, that the Proposed Budget as printed in the Annual Booklet be accepted as printed. **CARRIED.**

Licensing Committee: Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Legassie, chair of this committee, explained that the Committee, consisting of Rev. David Phillips, Rev. Bill McLeod and herself, met with five candidates who are pastoring in this

Association. Association Lay Licences to Minister were renewed for Pastor Herb Anderson, Pastor Mark Cress and Pastor Patty Beals. A new Lay Licence to Minister was presented to Virginia Hurlburt who is completing the Lay Pastor's Training Course. New Association Licences to Minister were presented to Pastor David Cawley, and Pastor David Cumby who are working towards Ordination.

MOTION # 5: E. Legassie/M. Rice, that the report of the Licensing Committee Report be accepted as presented. **CARRIED.**

Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Legassie stated that a new member is needed on the Licensing Committee.

The moderator, Rev. Fred Bigelow, welcomed the delegates from the Inglisville Baptist Church who has just become a church on their own. They used to be part of the Lawrencetown Pastorate, but have called their own Pastor and are working independently from Lawrencetown, as part of this Association. They were given a warm welcome to this Association and God's blessings for the work God has called them to do in their church.

Regional Minister's Report for Region II:

Rev. Ron Baxter presented a written report to the Assembly, and highlighted events of the past months in the Region.. Ron pointed out that Region II was one of the Regions in the Convention which actually exceeded the donations to UIM Contributions from the last period of reporting. Ron commented on the Pastoral changes in the Region and on the events which will be coming up in the future. Ron pointed out up-coming Seminars, events at ADC, other Association events in the Region, work of the Regional Working Group, Convention highlights and personal news. Each delegate received a copy of Ron's report for future reference.

The Report is attached to the Original Minutes on File.

MOTION # 6: R. Legassie/R.Small, that the Report from the Regional Minister of Region II be accepted as given. **CARRIED.**

MOTION #7: R. Purdy/D. Cawley, that Janet Kwantes and Pastor David Cumby be the Association Delegates to Convention in August. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 8: D. Cumby/D. Phillips, that the report from Camp Kingswood be accepted as presented in the Annual Booklet. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 9: D. Robertson/L. Simpson, that the Clerk send a letter to all Association churches asking them to consider putting the amount of \$50 in their budget each year as the allotment for the Annapolis-Digby Association to help with expenses. The letter will also thank those churches who have already put this in their annual budgets and have been faithful to their commitment. **CARRIED.**

With no further business, Bernice MacLean moved that the Business meeting be adjourned and Moderator Fred Bigelow closed with prayer.

Rev. Dr. Randy Legassie introduced Rev. Dr. Gary Nelson, giving information about his work for Canadian Baptist Ministries as General Secretary over the last 10 years. A warm welcome was given to Gary by the delegates.

Dr. Gary Nelson's First Presentation:

Dr. Nelson used Psalm 137 ;"longing for Zion in a foreign land" as an opening for his message. He stated that we all no longer live in the places we one knew. The world has been changing so rapidly, yet we have not kept up with the changes. Churches need to realize that they must change. Gary showed excerpts from videos which pointed out how things have changed, and we must change with the times. He pointed out that the Gospel is still the same, but the way we must present it in this day and age must change. Over the years all the familiar things we found in our churches, have now been de-centralized, and we have not kept up with the changes.

Dr. Nelson pointed out that change is a choice, but sometimes there are some things for which we don't have a choice. He posed two questions for us to think about over the lunch time: How can we be "the Church" in these times? What will it take?

Rev. Fred Bigelow thanked Dr. Nelson for the message and closed with prayer and prayer for lunch. The delegates then broke for a tasty and nutritious lunch at James Horsfall Lounge.

After a delicious lunch, the Moderator called the meeting to order and we resumed the meeting with Nathan and Mike singing several special songs and then leading us in some choruses. A special offering was taken up for the Association' work., a hymn was sung and Dr. Nelson resumed his message.

Dr. Nelson`s Second Presentation:

Dr. Nelson stated that there are two kinds of conflict: Stress and Distress. Stress can be reasonable, rational and non-threatening, while Distress is unreasonable and so personal. We must find out what is really important to us and what is not.

The Church must be ``the church`` for the time in which we are now living. What is essential, is to know ``who we are`` and ``whose we are``. If we are loved, nothing really matters, but if we do not know that we are loved, everything matters.

Dr. Nelson continued to impress upon us the need for becoming missionary people in this part of the vineyard, and for this time to be the Church now. We have to see ourselves as we see God: kind, gentle, patient, bearing each others burdens and putting on servanthood to serve others. We are living in the borderlands, the place where the faithful, the believers, the unfaithful, the unbelievers and all other faiths live. We must be missionaries in our own land even if we are uncomfortable. We can no longer live in the past and try to reach people in the ways of the past. Churches need to realize that we need to change and sing the new song of Zion in a changing world in order to reach the people in our borderlands for Christ. We must be bold and win souls for Christ.

Moderator, Rev. Fred Bigelow thanked Dr. Nelson for his challenging message to be the church for today, and closed with a special prayer for Dr. Nelson as he leaves CBM and takes on a new calling at Tyndale University.

The Moderator thanked all the delegates and guests for attending and closed with a benediction.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Billard, Clerk