

**ANNAPOLIS -DIGBY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION**  
**Annual Meeting May 30, 2009**  
**Annapolis Royal First United Baptist Church, Annapolis Royal, NS**

The Annual meeting of the Annapolis-Digby Baptist Association met on Saturday, May 30, 2009, at Annapolis Royal First United Baptist Church. The theme for the meeting was “**Growing With Change**”. Registration took place from 2 pm until 2:45 pm when a welcome was given by the Moderator, Rev. Fred Bigelow. The Worship Team consisting of the Reverends Jack and Audrey Carter opened the Worship time with “**The Greatness of God**” as the theme, based on Psalm 145. They led us in several choruses and hymns and sang a special selection for us. Following this, Pastor Mark Cress gave a meaningful devotion on fellowship, which was based on 1 John 1:5-10. He stated that our fellowship is only as good as the strength of our churches, and that it reflects the quality of our spiritual life. We are more concerned about taking care of our physical bodies than we are about the condition of our souls. Mark asked where all the people were today when we were meeting in the Association for the common goal and purpose of coming into fellowship with Jesus and each other. Mark stated that we need to re-commit ourselves to work and fellowship together. Mark gave us a lot to think about.

The message was followed with prayer and an offering was taken for the Association.

The Business Meeting was called to order by the Moderator, Rev. Fred Bigelow, who opened the meeting with a prayer. The Clerk then read the Rules of Order.

**MOTION #1:** Billard/Palmer, that the minutes of the **Annual Spring Meeting** of April, 2007, held in Middleton Baptist Church, the minutes of the **Evangelism Conference held in Digby** in November 2007, and the **Evangelism Conference held in the Little River Baptist Church** in June, 2008, be accepted as printed in the Annual Report.. **CARRIED.**

**MOTION # 2:** Billard/M. Reece, that both the **Annual Financial Report for 2007/08**, and the **Annual Financial Report for 2008/09**, be adopted as printed in the Annual Report. **CARRIED.**

**MOTION # 3:** Billard/Waugh, that the **Proposed Budget for 2009/10** be adopted as presented in the Annual Report. **CARRIED.**

**MOTION # 4:** Bent/Waugh, that the **Licensing Committee Report** be accepted, and that a “**Licence to Minister**” be renewed for Pastor Herb Anderson and Pastor Mark Cress; and that a new “**Licence to Minister**” be granted to Pastor Patty Beals. **CARRIED.**

**CAMP KINGSWOOD REPORT:**

Rev. Mark Reece gave a report of activities over the past season for Camp Kingswood, including items from the report from Executive Director, Rev. Pam Esty. The Camp had a successful summer last year with many improvements made to the property, including a new spacious cabin and a new water system. Many applications have been received and staffing is being completed. There will be a core staff of 15 or 16 paid staff with the rest as volunteers. Fund raising is still going on, and work days are scheduled to prepare the camp for the summer. A “**Camp Day**” will be held on **Saturday, June 13** at Kingswood from 1 pm until 6pm, with a barbeque and tour of the camp. **The Association Council** will meet at 9:30 am on June 13, for their regular June Council meeting.

**MOTION # 5:** Reece/Palmer, that the report from Kingswood Camp be accepted as given. **CARRIED.**

**REGIONAL MINISTERS' REPORTS:**

**Region II** - Rev. Ron Baxter presented highlights from his written report, noting changes in pastorates in the Eastern Valley Association and those in our Annapolis-Digby Association. The Convocation at Acadia Divinity College was noted, as well as the Commissioning Service for our graduating pastors. Several Honorary Doctorates were presented to deserving people who have served our Convention. Ron pointed out training events held in the Region as well as some planned for the future. He reminded us that the new Lay Pastor Training Programme for 2009 begins in September with registration deadline of June 30/09. That is the same registration deadline for our CABAC Annual Convention, "**OASIS**", which will be held at Acadia University from August 19-22. Ron reported that the Regional Working Group meeting on Feb. 3/09, had approved his appointment as Regional Minister on a 3/4 time basis from January 1 to June 30, 2009 and that after June 30, Ron's term will be extended for 2 years with the understanding that the RWG will evaluate whether or not the 3/4 time basis is appropriate for Region II ministry. The RWG will meet on June 1 to assess this. The Annapolis-Digby Council voiced their desire to return to full-time Regional Ministry. Ron commended Annapolis -Digby Association churches for their overall increase of \$12, 420 from the same time last year for support to our wider mission carried out by the UIM. (This amount was from 44% of our churches in this Association.)

**MOTION #6:** Simpson/Cress, that the report given by the Region Minister, Rev. Ron Baxter, be accepted as printed. **CARRIED.** (Complete Report is attached to the Original Minutes)

**Region V** - Rev. Wayne Fevens reported on the activities throughout Region V since January 2009 and highlighted items from his written report. Wayne expressed concern about the state of affairs in Digby county as there are only 4 full-time pastors in Digby County with 9 pastors on a part-time basis. Wayne has spent time working with churches in Digby County in many areas: helping to find pastors, working through conflicts, improving leadership skills and helping churches to rekindle their sense of God's mission for them. Wayne thanked the Association for their financial support and prayers for his ministry in the Digby area. He noted that the amount contributed by the churches from Digby county to UIM was about \$2500 below the amount contributed last year in the same period. (Region V written report is attached to the Original Minutes)

**MOTION # 7:** Cress/Budd, that the report from Region V be accepted as printed. **CARRIED.**

The **Proposed Constitution** was presented at this time by the Moderator. Each section and clause was read and several corrections were made on wording or usage, etc. as follows:

**ARTICLE V: Structure**

C. Last line, the words, 'will normally' changed to '**may not**'

**ARTICLE VII: Membership**

(b) that the word '**United**', the last word in line 2, **be deleted.**

**ARTICLE VIII:**

Last line, the word '**schedule**' changed to '**scheduled**'

**MOTION # 8:** H. Anderson/Snell, that the **Proposed Constitution** be adopted with the changes noted above. **CARRIED.**

**MOTION # 9:** Waugh/Palmer, that we accept the motion of the Regional Working Group to recommend that Rev. Ron Baxter's appointment be on a 3/4 time basis from Jan1/09 to June 30/09 and following on July 1/09 that he return to full time work for the next two years on request of the CABAC Executive Minister, so continuity may be possible between Region II and the CABAC.

**CARRIED.**

**MOTION # 10:** Batson/Gillis, that the Annapolis-Digby Baptist Association accept the recommendation of the Council to have Rev. Ron Baxter return to a full-time work basis as Regional Minister of Region II, after June 30/09 and to continue in this position for the next two

years as recommended by the CABC Executive Minister, in order to guarantee continuity between the CABC and Region II. **CARRIED.**

On motion, the business meeting was adjourned.

Rev. Baxter expressed his thanks to the Council and this Association.

Rev. Baxter informed the meeting that **Rev. John and Mrs. Evangeline McLeod, 36 Manning Drive, Windsor, NS B0N 2T0, telephone (902) 798-3969**, will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on June 20<sup>th</sup> at Windsor Baptist Church. All are welcome to attend or to send cards or telephone Best Wishes.

Peter Dickie, from Digby Baptist, announced that an **Interdenominational Men's Fellowship Weekend** will be held on September 18, 19, 20, 2009 at Johnston Christian Park, South Range. Speaker will be Pastor Nathan Waterman from the Culloden Baptist Church. Cost of the weekend is \$65.00

Rev. Fred Bigelow closed in prayer and gave a blessing for the supper which followed.

After a delicious supper, all assembled in the sanctuary to take part in a time of worship led by Jack and Audrey Carter. They gave thanks to the Lord for the birth of a grandson at 2 pm that afternoon. This was a time of thanksgiving for the "Greatness of God".

Rev. Dr. Robert Wilson, our Guest Speaker, former Faculty member of Acadia Divinity College, was introduced by Rev. Ron Baxter. "Dr. Bob", as he was known by his students, spoke on the theme of "Change - and Growing With Change", based on Acts 11. He stated that we have change within and without and all around us, so we must be able to handle change continually. How we handle change in our lives and in the church is most important. Dr. Wilson spoke on the past when the church was the centre of each town or village. That is not the fact today as we have become a service economy rather than a productive economy, so that the church is no longer the centre of our world. We had 620 Baptist churches in 1867, and now have 500, many who are struggling just to exist, with no time or energy to participate in the Lord's mission for us and our churches. Dr. Wilson told us that we had to remember the story of Peter in Acts 11, and have a new vision for our churches. We need to be seen in our community as spirited workers for Christ. He issued a challenge to us that as an Association of churches, we must continually be open to change so we can grow and seek a new vision from our Lord. We need to pray and reach out to those in our communities who are lost, and work to bring them into the fold. May God give us the grace to see what we need to do and the power to do it!

The Moderator thanked Dr. Wilson and all those who took part for the success of the day and for the meeting. "Blest Be the Tie that Binds" was sung together and a closing prayer was given by Moderator, Rev. Fred Bigelow.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Billard, Clerk