

Annapolis-Digby Baptist Association
Council Meeting, March 12th, 2011

The Council of the Annapolis-Digby Baptist Association met on Saturday, March 12th, 2011 at Deep Brook Baptist Church.

Present: Ron Baxter, Patty Beals, Fred Bigelow, Dave Cawley, Dave Cumby, Mark Cress, Sheila Haynes, Robert Haynes, Joyce Hirtle, David Hopkins, Joanne Hopkins, Randy Legassie, Bernice MacLean, Bill McLeod, Sheila Marshall, David Phillips, Karen Purdy, Ron Purdy, Mark Reece, Don Robertson, Lester Simpson, Danny Townsend and Elizabeth Waugh.

Regrets: Cathy Batson, Mary Billard, Julia Howard.

Correspondence: There was no correspondence.

The Moderator, Rev. Fred Bigelow, called the meeting to order. Fred opened with prayer, welcomed each one and introductions were made. His devotion was based on Psalm 65:9-13, this Psalm speaks of the earth and how the Lord prepares it, he waters it making the land rich and fertile which provides a bountiful harvest of grains, abundant crops, lush pastures with sheep in the meadows and blossoms on the hill sides, it seems the whole earth sings for joy. This sounds like spring – when spring arrives we are enthusiastic, excited and everything is looking good! The question is does the spring lift your human spirit? Vs. 9 says God prepares for the land, he also prepares for our spiritual joy which comes from the abundant life. Every day, we need to die to self. God is our joy, he has prepared our harvest and we need to get it ready. Jesus Christ, our Lord, will water it and he will provide us with bounty of the soul as well as bounty of the earth. Praise is due to thee O God, so it is, and how abundantly. Fred closed with prayer.

MOTION # 1: M. Cress/B. MacLean, that the October 23rd Council minutes be accepted. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 2: D. Robertson/R. Purdy, that the Financial Report be accepted as presented. **CARRIED.**

BUSINESS SESSION:

A. OLD BUSINESS:

(1)Cluster Areas:

Fred Bigelow, the Cluster Group Coordinator, reported that he met with two cluster groups on Wednesday, March 9th, these being Digby and Weymouth. There are some places where changes can be made, however there were many more positive points that were brought out, even though all churches were not represented. All who attended, were recharged and have a plan for where we are going. Some ideas were, we can share ideas with other Cluster groups, discussions on what can be done in the Cluster groups and Cluster groups can be a support to each other. Fred has other Cluster group he will be meeting with soon.

(2) Licensing Committee:

Cathy Batson and Bill McLeod agreed to be on the Licensing Committee.

(3) Region II Working Group:

Two people are still needed to sit on that Group for at least one-year positions.

(4) Kingswood Camp:

Julia Howard has agreed to sit on this Board, Holly Gosbee would like to sit on this board and she was gladly accepted as a member, there is still a need for one more person to volunteer for a three year term.

(5) Need 2 Members-at-Large to sit on Executive

Danny Townsend as agreed to sit on the Executive. One is still needed.

(6) Reaffirm the need for \$50.00 per church

It was discussed that churches must realize the need to contribute their \$50.00to help us be operational as a Council and Association and make monies available to be used for church work, programs, workshops, etc.

(7) Association Vote was extended to Jan.31, 2011

Reminders for churches to get their vote in to become a member of the Annapolis-Digby Association.

B. NEW BUSINESS

- (1) Spring Association – New Tusket Baptist Church on April 9th at New Tusket.
 - (a) Speaker: Dr. Lois Mitchell, Director of Public Witness and Social Concerns
 - (b) Theme is “Your Church in Action”
 - (c) The poster was distributed for Annapolis-Digby Baptist Association Annual Meeting, New Tusket Baptist Church, New Tusket, on Saturday, April 9, 2011 – 9 am – 4 pm
Registration Fee \$7.00
Theme: “Your Church in Action” Dr. Lois Mitchell will be Guest Speaker and Workshop Leader.

We are to encourage people to come to the Association, where we can enjoy the friendship of other believers, meet old friends, makes new friends and most of all find out what is going on and most of all find out what is going on in our Association.

- (2) Delegates for Oasis in Wolfville in August 2011
Ron & Karen Purdy
- (3) Next Council Meeting: Saturday, October 22, 2011.

REGIONAL MINISTERS’ REPORTS

Region II:

Regional Minister, Rev. Ron Baxter presented a written report of the activities for Region II. He spoke of upcoming changes for Pastors and Churches, highlighted the Simpson Week at ADC, Associations – Councils may want to dialogue with Sandi Aitken regarding her workshop on “Reclaiming Cash”. Camp Kingswood- schedule is available. The Annapolis-Digby Spring Association will be held at New Tusket Baptist Church, April 9th. He spoke on the Regional Working Group and its future. Personal – He and Sharon continue to enjoy their family and participate in their plans. Convention – he spoke of various meetings he will be attending, ie Convention Staff Retreat, CABC Examining Council, the concluding Assembly of the unincorporated CABC and the opening Assembly of the CABC Inc. and Convention Staff meetings. Atlantic Baptist Women will meet at Crandall University in May with the theme “Spiritual Mentoring”. The Evangelism Conference will meet in Saint Andrews, N.B. in October, the theme is “Sharing Christ In Pluralistic Canadian Society”. He reminded us the UIM is very important and believes our goal is achievable when each congregation contributes a fair share of their income month to month through 2011. Rev. Baxter spoke of the support teams Baptist World Alliance and Canadian Baptist Ministries – The Sharing Way is responding to the devastation in Japan.

A copy of Ron’s Report is attached to the original Minutes.

MOTION #3: R. Legassie/D .Phillips, that Ron’s report be accepted as given. **CARRIED.**

Region V:

No report submitted by Region V.

THE FUTURE:

Ron and Randy both talked to us about the future. Ron explained the system we are using now and told us what is coming and how the system will work in the future, as we see it now, in the present. There will be 9 Regions. (we will be in Region8) There will be three persons located throughout Atlantic Canada, each one will have a specific responsibility, ie working with church problems, etc, the other two will have their own specialty. However , there will be local designated persons to help each one of the three persons.

C. TODAY’S PROGRAMME:

Looking at our Rural Churches: Communication with members and other churches, support, outreach, things we can do together, etc. Randy spoke about believing we must have frustrations along these lines and asked us to close our eyes, and focus on the biggest personal frustration in support of the Rural Churches.

As you can imagine there were quite a variety of frustrations, here are a few –

Why are people not committed

Churches are complacent

Priorities

No knowing what is going on in other churches

Lack of direction

Lack of lay-leadership

Isolation

Smaller churches resistant to change

Connection and Communication

Leaders need to try some things, if it doesn't work try something else

Let the congregation develop their plan and make an attempt at something, it may not work but let them try again and try something else, try and try again, until something works

Small churches feel small, Association is large, small churches feel they do not count

It is **not** about you!

These are a few of the frustrations brought forward. There was a very good discussion on these frustrations and ideas were passed around.

Fred thanked Randy for all his efforts, we are all working, talking and looking to see how we can communicate and work closer together for our Churches and Association. We appreciate this time together.

In case Randy isn't in our area at our next meeting, Lester suggested a huge vote of confidence for all he has done. This was accomplished with a standing ovation. Fred also thanked for all the leadership and work he has provided us with over the years!

The meeting adjourned.

David, our Vice-Moderator closed in prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheila Marshall

Asst. Clerk

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2011. PLACE OF MEETING TO BE ANNOUNCED.