

The Annapolis-Digby United baptist Association Council Meeting, March 1, 2008

The Council of the Annapolis-Digby United Baptist Association met at the First Baptist Church of Annapolis Royal on Saturday, March 1, 2008.

Present : Rev. Ron Baxter, Fred Bigelow, Mary Billard, Joyce Hirtle, Randy Legassie, Sharon Longley, Bernice MacLean, George Neily, Bill Patterson, David Phillips, Mark Reece, Danny Townsend,

Regrets: Cathy Batson, Wendy Bradley, Mark Cress, Elizabeth Legassie, Holly Reece, Wes Reece, Don Scheel, Ken Trimper

Bill Patterson called the meeting to order. Bernice MacLean presented a devotional based on Phillipians 3:12-15, which spoke on pressing towards the goal and looking forward instead of looking behind at the past. This is what we need to do as an Association. This was followed by prayer for our Association and for all the work that is planned for the next months.

MOTION # 1: M Billard/B. MacLean, that the minutes of the November 24 meeting be corrected as directed by the clerk and then be accepted. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 2: M. Billard/S. Longley that the Financial report be accepted as printed and circulated. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 3: R. Legassie/M. Reece, that the Council authorize the Executive to pay any bills or budgeted items until the end of June as they come in. **CARRIED.**

REGIONAL MINISTERS' REPORTS:

Region II Report: Rev. Ron Baxter, Regional Minister for Region II, thanked the Annapolis Royal Church for hosting the CABE meetings last week, and thanked all those who attended. He also thanked the ladies of the church for the delicious lunch. Ron drew attention to a special notice for Senior women and asked the clerk to include the notice in the next mailing to all churches in the Association. Ron went on to highlight many of the activities happening in the Region. Malcolm Beckett will meet with Region V Working Group on March 11 in his dual role as Interim Executive Minister and Atlantic Baptist Mission Board Director. They will be looking at the impact of changes on the Regional Ministers. Ron mentioned that there was a financial Planning Seminar coming up, as well as Oasis (New name for annual Convention) and the Evangelism conference in St. Andrews in the fall. There is a new LPT Course starting in Bridgewater on September 5. Ron has registration forms for anyone who might be interested.

MOTION # 4: R. Legassie/B. MacLean, that the clerk be given permission to send the notice re Senior women to all AD churches. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 5: D. Townsend/M. Reece, that the report from the Regional Minister of Region II be accepted as presented. **CARRIED.**

There was no report for Region V.

ASSOCIATION WMS/ABW Annual Meeting and Gathering will take place on April 19th at First Baptist Church of Annapolis Royal with Mrs. Gail Gardner as speaker. The meeting will start with registration at 10:30 am and finish by - 2:30 pm. Lunch will be served by the ladies of Annapolis Royal Baptist. A poster with the information will go out later to all the WMS/ABW groups and churches.

LADIES RETREAT: This will take place on May 30, 31 and June 1 at Mountain Gap Inn Resort at Smith's Cove, NS. Rev. Cheryl Anne Beals will be the speaker for the weekend. The theme is "Journey of Hope", based on Romans 5:1-5. Notices and registration forms will go out in March or early April to all the churches.

SIMPSON LECTURES: Bill Patterson attended the lectures and stated that they were the best of any he has attended, with excellent speakers and outstanding lectures.

RESTRUCTURING REPORT:

Mary Billard stated that the committee had not met since the last meeting but David Hopper had worked on the constitution in light of the suggested changes that were suggested by the committee, and she did work on some of the ideas that were talked about. The cluster idea was one which was suggested and this was reviewed. Mary stated that fellowship and training sessions were deemed important, as well as spiritual sharing time for pastors. We do need the Association in order for Home Mission Grants to be processed and for granting Association licences. The committee noted the lack of response from churches, the lack of goals of committees and Commissions, and we felt that most churches do not know or understand what the Association is all about. It was felt that the Association renewal should also look at the job description for Regional Ministers. The Association, as it is now, is not meeting the needs of most churches, thus they are not interested in what we plan or carry out.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Randy Legassie felt that we still have not answered the basic question : "**What is it that we do better than anyone else, or that we do that no one else does?**" and "**What does the Association do for me and my church that no one else does for me?**" He stated that until we determine the answer to these questions, we will be going in circles, accomplishing nothing .

Randy asked that the Council answer those questions today, and we were involved in an open discussion. Some of the things mentioned that we do that no one else does for us are as follows:

Worship, workshops and training sessions, making resources available to churches who may not be able to afford them on their own, fellowship, opportunities for leadership, and external things that have to be done by Association. In order for our churches to be part of Convention, they must first be a member of the Association. We must work with the Atlantic Baptist Mission Board, license people for ministry in our Association, provide reps for the Convention Examining Council, Nominating Committee and Regional Working Group. Thus we need to have some sort of structure to retain these links and to facilitate dealing with these areas within the Region and Convention. As well, Ordinations and Inductions don't have to be part of Association duties, but it was noted that most would like to keep these as Association activities. Furthermore, most people agreed that we would want to retain our worship and fellowship gatherings and any workshops and trainings requested by churches. It was suggested that besides the fellowship there could be a leadership forum and joint ministry with other Association groups.. It was suggested that we approach the local churches and ask members and pastors to tell us why and how such a disconnect has occurred between their churches and Association.

WHAT WE SEE RIGHT NOW:

The leadership of the Association at present are those who value something significant about the Association, and these leaders see a value in keeping an Association structure to retain those elements we want to keep as mentioned above: workshops, resources, fellowship, leadership, joint ministry with others, and more connection with the local churches. Those in attendance agreed that the Association is the best forum for all of these.

HOW CAN WE STRUCTURE?

Start with a leadership group to get together and discuss ideas, plan for activities and forums, then set up Working Groups to do the work.

MOTION # 5: G. Neily/ D. Phillips, that we set up a working group to consist of Randy Legassie, Fred Bigelow, Renee Clarke and Bill Patterson, with power to add, to come up with a list of things to do and a proposed structure, to be presented at the June Council Meeting. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 6: G. Neily/Randy Legassie that thanks be extended to the previous group for their work. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 7: R. Legassie/B. MacLean, that the Executive be empowered to deal with any items of business which may come up while the Association is restructuring. **CARRIED.**

CLERK: Mary Billard will be away in Australia from May 7th until July.6th. She has asked Sheila Marshall, former Assistant Clerk, to fill in for her during this time. Sheila is also one of the signing officers on the Bank Account so she will be able to take care of any bills that need to be paid during that time. Mary will confirm Sheila's willingness to take on these duties.

MOTION # 8: S. Longley/D. Townsend, that a **Lay Licence to Minister** be given to Heather Pearle-Gillis and a **Licence to Minister** be given to Mark Cress. **CARRIED.**

With no further business, Randy Legassie moved that the meeting be adjourned and Mark Reece closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Billard, Clerk

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING, June 7th, 2008,
AT 8:59 am at ANNAPOLIS ROYAL FIRST BAPTIST.