

Annapolis-Digby United Baptist Association
Council Meeting, March 3, 2007
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The Council of the Annapolis-Digby United Baptist Association met at First Baptist Church of Annapolis Royal on Saturday, March 3, 2007.

Present were: Cathy Batson, Ron Baxter, Mary Billard, Wendi Bradley, Renee Clark, Wayne Fevens, Joyce Hirtle, Randy Legassie, Bill Patterson, John Purdy, Ron Purdy, Mark Reece, Wes Reece, Carol Smith, Danny Smith, Elizabeth Waugh.

Regrets: Sharon Budd, Bernice MacLean, Elizabeth Legassie

John Purdy opened the meeting by reading from Hebrews 1, noting that Christ was superior to the angels and more important than the Old testament saints. Christ and His new Covenant made Him the sacrifice. John also noted that Craig Evan's book, **Fabricating Jesus** showed a lot of similarities between Jesus and the cynics of the times by His clothing, teaching, and His life of simplicity. We need to check to see whether we have **beliefs** or **assumptions** about Jesus. Prayer followed the message.

A welcome was extended to all who came out on such a wintery day. Introductions were made and Rev. Renee Clark, Pastor of Freeport and Tiverton Baptist churches was extended a special welcome for being present after a long drive on a stormy morning.

MOTION # 1: Billard/M. Reece, that the minutes of the November 26th Council meeting be accepted as circulated. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 2: Billard/Batson, that the Financial Report be accepted as circulated. **CARRIED.**

REGIONAL MINISTERS' REPORTS: Rev. Ron Baxter reported on his activities over the past few months, in the Region and at the Convention level, and indicated that he keeps in touch with Pastors via email, letters and personal visits. A new **Lay Pastors Training Course** will begin in the fall of 2007. Centreville Baptist Church in Kings county will be the host. Ron circulated a letter he had sent out in February to Pastors outlining the course of Study for the LPTP, which is a 3 year course. Ron also distributed pamphlets for the course which can be given to interested people in our churches who may wish to apply for the course. Ron Purdy gave two thumbs up in his praise of the benefits he has gained from the LPTP which he completed several years ago. Ron Purdy offered to talk to anyone in any church who might be thinking of taking the Lay Pastor's Training Programme. Cathy Batson has taken part in the LPTP and spoke of it as a stepping stone for future ministry and stated that it may encourage lay pastors to complete more training.

Rev. Wayne Fevens presented a written report and stated that he had worked with Dr. Malcolm Beckett and Dr. Harry Gardner to direct strategies for the future to fulfill our mission of "Making Disciples and Growing Healthy Churches". Wayne highlighted the activities and the upcoming events of the Associations in his Region. He told of the planning of an Evangelism Conference in the Digby area in the fall and asked if this conference could be the programme for the fall Association. Wayne drew attention to a list of Ministry Resources through our Convention, and web sites of Interest to Pastors, lay people and ministries to their churches. (Ron's letter and Wayne's written report are attached to the original minutes.)

MOTION # 3: R. Purdy/ R. Legassie, that the oral and written reports from the Regional Ministers be accepted as given. **CARRIED.**

Rev. Carol Smith, interim pastor at Hillgrove Baptist, presented a letter from Amanda Brooks, a member of that church who is attending ABU, who is going on a month long CBV mission trip to Bolivia. Amanda requested funding from the Council and Carol gave the details of the trip and the fundraising that has been done by Amanda and th church. Amanda is a Sociology student at ABU, and has worked at New Life Mission in Moncton while attending ABU. The Commissions will look at the balances in their budgets and see if they can help.

Rev. Danny Smith spoke of the benefits of going on a Mission trip as he did while attending ABU, and encouraged us to help Amanda as the benefits will be great. Hillgrove Church is having a turkey dinner on Amanda's behalf on March 24, with two sittings, one at 5 pm and one at 6 pm.

The Council broke into their commissions for the next 45 minutes.

Training Commission: Rev. Elizabeth Waugh reported that there were 5 members this morning and they opened with prayer. Some tentative planning was done for a Sunday School Teachers/Christian Educators Workshop to address working with children and youth with behavioural problems. Three facilitators including two Christian school teachers will be approached to take part. Tentative dates would be September 15 or 22. Some emphasis would be on dealing with children from broken families and economically disadvantaged families. The possibility of a workshop on Spiritual Discipline was also discussed, with Rev. John Mc Nally as a possible facilitator. Wayne Fevens indicated that Rev. Dan Green has offered his services for a workshop on a similar topic. Another idea was a Spiritual Development Retreat for Pastoral Leaders. Discussion on holding another Deacons' Workshop was entertained. The Commission would be open to the Council's input as to the need for this.

MOTION # 4: Waugh/ Hirtle, that the Training Commission Report be accepted. **CARRIED.**

Mission Commission: John Purdy stated that the commission has no chair at present, as there are only a few members of this Commission. There have been no AMB grant applications for the past two years. The commission decided to give \$200 from its budget to help Amanda Brooks with her trip to Bolivia. Discussion continued on the role of the Mission Commission and what the future holds for the Commission.

MOTION # 5: Bradley/Billard, that the report of the Mission Commission be accepted. **CARRIED.**

Witness Commission: Mark Reece reported that the Commission reviewed the plans for an evangelism crusade in Digby in September. Carol Smith and Wayne Fevens, along with some of the other Digby county pastors, have been working on a programme focusing on the post modern era with a move from maintenance to mission. The group is seeking the approval of the council to embrace these plans as the Fall Association programme for the September Assembly. Mark asked if he should go ahead and renew the contract for the web page, and the Council agreed it should be renewed. The Commission agreed to give \$500 from their budget to Amanda Brooks who is on a CBV mission trip to Bolivia.

MOTION # 6: M.Reece/D.Smith, that the Witness Commission report be accepted. **CARRIED.**

Carol Smith thanked the Mission Commission and the Witness Commission for their donation to Amanda Brooks' Bolivian Trip, and Danny Smith offered prayer for Amanda on behalf of the Council.

MOTION # 7: M. Reece/Legassie, that the Clerk send greetings and a cheque for the \$700.00 to Amanda on behalf of the Council, wishing her God's blessings on her mission. **CARRIED.**

POLICY: It was suggested that the Council set a policy and outline procedures, regarding the granting of financial aid to individuals and groups seeking assistance from the Council or the Association for any endeavour. The Executive and Budget committee will work on this.

COUNCIL FOCUS GROUPS ON REVISIONING: The Council members broke into two groups, one with Rev. Wayne Fevens as facilitator, and one with Rev. Ron Baxter. Each group looked at 4 questions and came up with many answers to each.

What is our **purpose** as an Association?

What are the things that we **must** do as an Association?

What is it that we can do **better** as an Association than any other group or agency?

What **specific leadership** is expected of us as an Association?

Each group came up with a list of answers and these were shared in the large group after the brainstorming session. The list will be compiled and printed for the June Council Meeting when we will look at the implications for changes to our Association structure and purpose.

MOTION # 8: Legassie/ C. Smith, that the Council Executive and Planning Committee be empowered to plan and develop the Spring Association Meeting in April, with the understanding that it will be primarily a fellowship event. **CARRIED.**

SPRING ASSOCIATION: A letter was received from Clementsvale Baptist suggesting that we look at the idea of having the Association programmes all on one day, and having registration in the early afternoon instead of early in the morning.

Programmes or workshops and business could be carried out in the afternoon, with a supper instead of a dinner. The Rally Service with worship and praise would be after the supper. It was agreed that this was a

good idea and the Executive and Planning Committee will arrange details with Middleton Church and its pastor for April 28th. Many ideas came from the Council members and it was suggested to have the Spring Association follow this new one-day format, and that the day be mainly one of worship and fellowship. The clerk indicated that since this is our Annual Meeting, we must have a business meeting. It was suggested that we might try to cover the business items in a novel or fun way.

Thus, the afternoon and evening of April 28th will have this format:

2-3 pm: Digital Photo registration along with coffee and snacks, with on-going video presentations in the Family Centre of Middleton Baptist, promoting aspects of Convention, CBM and Youth ministries.

3-4 pm: Annual Business, **4- 5 pm:** Small Group Sharing time and directed prayer with facilitators,

5:15 - 6:15 pm: Fellowship Meal with showing of candid registration photos, **6:30 -7:30 pm:** Worship Time and Closing, with the evening offering going to the African United Baptist Association for their Regional Minister's fund. A poster with information will be sent out to all pastors and churches for the meeting.

FALL ASSOCIATION: Some discussion focused on the schedule and the programme for fall which will be the Evangelism Conference being planned by the Digby cluster of churches, along with their Regional Minister, Rev. Wayne Fevens. Mary Billard, Ron Purdy and Mark Reece will work with the Digby group in bringing the plans to fruition. Questions of cost, funding, facilitators, and other logistics have to be settled.

MOTION # 9: R. Legassie/R. Purdy that the Council agree in principle to support this endeavour by the Digby Cluster of churches. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 10: R. Legassie/Bradley, that we empower the Council to suspend the regular workings of the Association Council in all possible ways so that we can focus on the redevelopment of our purpose, mission. and structure in future meetings. **CARRIED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Billard, Clerk

**NEXT MEETING ON JUNE 2, 2007 at 8:59 AM. AT FIRST
BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANNAPOLIS ROYAL.**

Please make an effort to be present!

Regrets to Mary Billard at 467-3419