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ANNAPOLIS-DIGBY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION
Council Meeting, March 15, 2014

The Annapolis-Digby Baptist Association held its Spring Council Meeting at First Baptist Church of Annapolis Royal on Saturday, March 15, 2014 with 16 members present. Those in attendance were Pastor Cathy Batson, Rev. Patty Beals, Mary Billard, Pastor David Cawley, Pastor Mark Cress, Pastor Linda Demone, Sheila and Robert Haynes, Rev. Julia Howard, Lic. Ginny Hurlburt, Bernice MacLean, Rev. Seth Moore, Rev. Mark Reece, Rev. Don Robertson, Rev. Elizabeth Waugh, Pastor Deborah Wetmore.

Regrets from Rev. Fred Bigelow, Rev. Lester Simpson and Mr. Leroy Warner.

Moderator Rev. Patty Beals opened with prayer and prayed for Fred Bigelow and Lester Simpson.

Rev. Seth Moore presented a devotional on Lent. Seth told us that we need to connect to God in many ways as a time of restoration and growth. Lent is a time of preparation for Easter when we need to set aside time for reflection on Christ's time of suffering, his sacrifice, his life on earth and his death on the cross. But most of all, it is time for believers to connect through prayer, repentance and atonement. Seth read Ephesians 1:12-14 where we are marked by the seal of the Holy Spirit until Christ redeems us as God's possessions.

Mark Cress stated that the Holy Spirit was working among us as he told of working with Dr. Steve McMullen from Acadia Divinity School to try and bring a course on Renewal and Evangelism to our area in the fall. This is a credit course for those who need it but may be also an audit course for Pastors and others who do not need it for credit. Renewal was not taught in the past and Mark suggested this might be helpful to many of us. Mark will work on this through the summer to bring it to fruition.

Mark Reece asked permission for the Executive to work with Dr. Anna Robbins, our special speaker at the Annual Meeting, as to how to narrow the topic of "Culture" so it would better fit with the needs of our Association members to see how Anna can help us. She has insight and has seen the changes taking place all around the world. She also sees the needs that exist and could help us learn how to meet those needs. Permission was granted.

We must have a common ground concerning renewal and revival. There are different cultures, biases and needs but we would like her application to be broad enough for our younger people and our new and older church members. We need to start with people presently in our churches. We need to help our members to see God's people outside the church and to welcome them as they "come as they are". Many of our people are not ready for this kind of evangelism but we must show those outside our church that we live our faith, that we believe there is a God and that we are willing to try to be welcoming to all. We must be followers of Christ and not just believers.

MOTION # 1: D. Cawley/B. MacLean, that the Executive check with Dr. Anna Robbins, our speaker, as to what our Annual Meeting will look like. Mark Reece will work with Anna on this. **CARRIED.**

A letter from Camp Kingswood was read, stating that their Camp is having difficulty with Canada Revenue Agency as to their position of being a charity, and are working

with CRA to try to fix the problem. We donate funds to the camp but cannot do so until this position is rectified.

MOTION # 2: S. Moore/S. Haynes, that we hold over our designated funds for Camp Kingswood for the 2013/14 fiscal year until we can legally remit the funds to the Camp, and that we inform them of our decision and pray for the situation with CRA.
CARRIED.

MOTION # 3: L. Demone/C. Batson, that the Minutes of the October Council Meeting be accepted as corrected. (Information re a Funeral service). **CARRIED.**

There was an inquiry as to whether every church has an email contact. The clerk indicated that most churches have a Church email, or the Church Clerk, Pastor or some other individual has an Email address and receives information from the Association Clerk. If you know of a church which is not receiving notices, or a Pastor, please let the Association clerk know.

PROPOSED BUDGET: The Clerk asked for another person to help finalize the Proposed Budget for 2014/15 and Elizabeth Waugh offered to assist.

DECEMBER COMMUNION OFFERING: The Clerk mentioned that CABC would like churches to be aware that we still try to use the special Communion Offering on the First Sunday of December for helping those older Retired Pastors and/or Widows whose pensions are very low. This is an offering above and beyond the weekly offering for the churches, and can be sent to Convention office.

WEBSITE: Mark Reece, our Webmaster, was thanked for his donation, as he pays the fee for our website.

REGIONAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE: An email was received to inform us that this Association is to submit a name for a representative to sit on the Convention Nominating Committee for 2015. This will be taken up at our Annual Meeting.

OASIS DELEGATES: This Association is permitted to send two delegates to Oasis this year in Moncton at Crandall University. Because costs for meals, accommodations, travel and registration have increased, the new proposed budget will reflect an increase in this Category to more fully cover the costs. Delegates will be chosen at the Annual Meeting.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES:

Rev. Mark Reece told us about the Combined Youth Group activities which are carried out with Rev. Brian Wallace at Bridgetown. There are about 25 Paradise and Bridgetown youth and they meet from 6-8 pm every week. They were involved in Spring Forth in the past summer.

Pastor Cathy Batson highlighted Music activities at Mount Beulah on April 19th, in Weymouth, being carried on to raise funds to repair the church. AUBA Cultural items at Inglewood, Song Services at Acaciaville, and seeking a part-time Pastor for that church.

Pastor Ginny Hurlburt told of her wonderful experiences at an Inter-cultural Gathering of First Nations held in Mississauga, Ontario, where all were encouraged to carry on their Christian Walk. There were many churches represented, there were 13 guest speakers, one of whom was 80 years old and spoke in her native tongue with an interpreter.

Pastor Linda Demone is waiting for a hip replacement and is still praying for God's call to a church.

Pastor Mark Cress stated that he is still working on courses at Acadia. He continues to pastor Smith's Cove Baptist Church and works with the Impact Youth Group. He finds he is very busy with work and time restraints, so may need change or renewal.

Bernice MacLean spoke of the many happenings at Middleton Baptist and the many activities carried on by the church, including an up-coming Mission Sunday and other mission activities.

Sheila Haynes told us of her involvement with the WMS/ABW and the outreach to serve breakfast to Elementary and High School students, an outreach time for Seniors, and a Youth Sunday every month.

Pastor Dave Cawley gave a brief report of events happening at New Tusket, and commented that if we show we are Christians by our love, others will see that we are different and may want to find out how and why we are different.

Rev. Don Robertson told of a reenactment recently of 50 years of activities of the Men's Retreat. Don said that he is thankful that he and Cairine will celebrate 58 years of Pastoral Ministry in June. Don told us that Rev. Jeff White has been called to pastor in Digby Baptist, starting in July.

Rev. Julia Howard informed us that she is leaving Hill Grove, but the church is not closing. Both she and the Church are seeking God's will and waiting on the Lord.

Pastor Deborah Wetmore said she felt that Satan was attacking their church at Culloden because of all the physical health problems and other things happening to their people. She asked for prayers for all their people.

Rev. Elizabeth Waugh thanked God for her up-coming 18th year at the Lower Granville field. She stated that the people there are brave and special with a Spirit of Helping. They have a weekly Bible Study as well as regular Sunday services and she feels some are maturing in their faith.

Rev. Seth Moore stated that the Annapolis Royal pastorate has an Adult Sunday School, Bible Study on what insight the Holy Spirit gives us and Prayer time on seeking the Truth.

Mary Billard told us that Clementsvale has an Adult and Children's Sunday School, as well as a weekly Bible Study. Every second Tuesday, a "Ladies Time Out" is held at the church and some ladies in the community have come to join us in Bible study, games and activities.

Rev. Patty Beals spoke of Lawrencetown's ongoing "Feed My Sheep" Friday night suppers at the church hall for anyone in the community who wishes to come. Patty says that they trying to measure the impact this has on the church and the community by more than just attendance, but by looking at the needs of the people who do attend. They look at medical situations and ways to work with children.

With no further business, Moderator Patty Beals thanked everyone for coming and for their co-operation and work within this Council, and the meeting was then adjourned and Rev. Dave Cawley closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Billard, Clerk