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Annapolis-Digby Baptist Association
COUNCIL MEETING, March 19, 2016

The Council of the Annapolis-Digby Baptist Association met on Saturday, March 19, 2016 at First Annapolis Royal Baptist Church at 8:59 am.

Present: Rev. Patty Beals, Rev. Fred Bigelow, Mary Billard, Pastor Linda Demone, Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Legassie, Rev. Dr. Randy Legassie, Pastor Cathy Batson, Bernice MacLean, Rev. Bill McLeod, Rev. Brian Wallace, Danny Townsend, Rev. Mark Reece, Rev. Jeff White, guest, Judy VanTassel, Deborah Wetmore

Regrets: Sheila and Robert Haynes, Pastor Mark Cress.

Moderator, Rev. Patty Beals welcomed everyone and then opened with prayer.

Pastor Julia Howard presented a devotion based on Duet: 26:16-19. Julia spoke about following the Lord's commands, decrees and laws. She stated that the Old Testament was a statement of faith and that we were to walk in obedience to God and keep his decrees, commands and laws and to claim God as our Lord, Saviour and Master for ever and ever. She went on to say that God had declared the Israelites as His people and in 1 Peter 1:2,4 stated, that the Israelites were separated by God throughout the lands, and over many ages through the work of the Spirit. We are told to be obedient to Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood. We are His leaders and have His grace. We have a story to tell others, the story of a new life in Christ because of Easter and the message of Hope for All – eternal life.

Patty thanked Julia for her devotional.

MOTION # 1: M. Reece/B. MacLean, that the minutes of the October Council Meeting, held on October 25, 2015, be accepted as corrected, noting that the AD Association Sign is at Lower Granville, and the Granville Beach Field has had the sign repaired and it is back in its original place. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 2: R. Legassie/D. Townsend, that a notice be sent to all churches in our Association to remind them that any church can apply for Cluster Groups Funds for Outreach Activities for the 2016/17 period. **CARRIED.**

RETREAT COMMITTEE: This Committee consisting of Linda Demone, Judy Van Tassel, Jeff White, Elizabeth Legassie and Mary Billard, will meet together over the summer to arrange a Retreat, for anyone wishing to attend. The suggested date is September 17th and the topic is **"SOUL CARE"** and will be open to anyone. The committee will work over the summer to arrange the details.

LICENSING COMMITTEE: The Licensing Committee will meet after Easter for any Pastors who need to have their Licences renewed or to receive new Licences to Preach, so that those Licences can be presented at the Annual Meeting in April.

MOTION # 3: M. Billard/C. Batson, that the Financial Report be accepted as printed. **CARRIED.**

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2016/17: Pastor Julia Howard and Danny Townsend will assist the Treasurer with this budget today.

CLUSTER GRANTS: Randy Legassie and Cathy Batson will assist the Treasurer today with granting the Cluster Grant Applications for 2016.

MOTION 4: R. Legassie/E. Amirault, that we table the Constitution Working Group for another time when we have a printout of the current Constitution. **CARRIED.**

ANNUAL MEETING PREPARATION: Bernice MacLean will ask Rev. Robin McCoombs if she will be our speaker for the Annual Meeting in April, and Patty Beals will follow-up with Robin.

It was agreed that the Council, would now plan as a whole committee, a tentative schedule for our Annual Meeting, to be held next month on April 30, 2016, in Digby Baptist Church.

"A Ministry to Seniors"

9:00 am - Registration, coffee, tea, etc.

9:30 am - Welcome Worship & Offering

9:50 am - Introduction of Guest Speaker, Rev. Robin McCoombs

9:55-10:40- Robin McCoombs, Session 1

10:40-11:00 - Break-out Groups

12:00 -1:00 pm - Lunch Time

1:00 -1:15 pm - Worship

1:15 -1:45 pm – Session 2: Break-out Groups (6 groups)

1:45- 2:30 pm - Interactive Reports

2:30- 3:00 pm - Closing Activities with Robin

ACTIVITIES OF CHURCHES AND CLUSTER REPORTS:

Rossway: Pastor Linda Demone reported that she felt her ministry was good, exciting and that they have a large Youth Group with many of the unchurched parents attending church.

Paradise: Rev. Mark Reece reported that the Paradise Church carried on an after-school programme since the fall, and are holding a “Children’s Church” during Church time with teams of youth. There is a Baptism Class with 3-5 people as well as other special activities.

Bridgetown: Rev. Brian Wallace told the group that they have a Visitation Committee so that more people are being visited by other church members and not just by the Pastor. **West Dalhousie** is closed during the winter because attendance is down. **Centrelea** has prayer time and Bible Study but come in to Bridgetown for other activities, where there are 3 Working Groups: “**Acts of Loving Kindness**”, where community is developed in the church and around the community, and members are encouraged to do acts of kindness for others. Another is a “**Community Garden**”, created for church members and non-churched people in the community, which helps to build relationships outside the church. The third group is on Intercessory Prayer and will be starting soon. The Youth Group serves youth in Paradise and Bridgetown churches and the surrounding area. The Sunday School is going well.

Nictaux Baptist Church: Rev. Bill McLeod stated that the Nictaux Church is doing well and that their Refugee financial quota was met for the family coming to Middleton. The ladies group from the two churches came together as one.

Inglewood Baptist Church: Pastor Cathy Batson stated that the church in Inglewood is still meeting and working in the area, but the membership is down. All members are trying to keep their few programmes going with the small number who are still attending.

Melvorn Square: Pastor Libby Amirault reported that they do outreach programmes each quarter. They held a Community Valentine party with games and a lunch, and a Heritage Programme to tell where the members came from originally and where they are going now.

Middleton Baptist Church: Bernice MacLean reported that the Refugee Family had arrived and the family is made up of a Mom and Dad and two boys, 11 and 15 and two daughters back in Syria. Bernice reported that they had a Prayer Conference in the church and they also have several Bible Studies groups.

First United Baptist Church of Annapolis Royal: Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Legassie started as Pastor of the church on November 1, 2015 and felt overwhelmed at times working with the three churches, on the field, which include Granville Ferry and Granville Centre, and alternate services at 9:30 on Sundays. They are re-building a Sunday School for the first time in 15 years, and have a Junior Church where the children go out during the morning service. Elizabeth mentioned the challenging time she had a year ago before returning home to Canada. She is the first female Pastor at the Church, and said, “So far, so good”. The church is installing new Deacons and new positions are being filled.

Clementsvalle Church is going well with regular services with Pulpit Supply Bible Study, choir, an Adult Sunday school on Sunday and a Children’s Sunday School programme on Thursday evenings. There is also a Children’s church during the Sunday service. “The Ladies Time-Out” Group meets every second and fourth Tuesdays in the church and supports the Valley Pregnancy Centre in Kentville with donations and baby clothing. This group was started with a Cluster Grant from our Association and has our own church members, some non-churched ladies from the community and one from another church. They take part in Bible lessons, quizzes, conversation and coffee, and have an enjoyable time. The Church as a whole, filled 34 Samaritan’s Purse Shoeboxes at Christmas and 22 large gifts bags for the ARC (Adult Residential Centre) at Bridgetown.

Digby Baptist Church: Rev. Jeff White, stated that they will had a student for the summer and received a grant to help out with summer ministries. They are looking forward to Zachary Carter joining them for the summer to help expand their ministries. They have had several evening Music events which were well attended. Cairine Robinson is staying on as organist for now and the church is looking to develop new programmes.

Randy Legassie has been doing Interim Service at Clementsvale and will be doing the services for Port-Lorne from March to December of this year as their Interim Pastor.

Wilmot Baptist: Rev. Julia Howard reported that they had lost their organist and pianist but are recording piano selections for use in worship. They held an Easter breakfast and featured a movie night after getting a Video licence .They held a “Christmas in July” last summer with a great turnout of church and community members and plan to do it again this year.

Melvorn Square: Rev. Libby Amirault is in her third year at the church and stated that it is exciting for her, and God is working in the lives of the people. They have had three who came to faith in the Lord and they have a baptism coming up. Libby is teaching Dr. John Bartol’s book, “Life in Christ” as a Bible Study with an average attendance of 18. The church has plans for a Parenting Course in the community in April.

Culloden Baptist Church: Pastor Deborah Wetmore stated that the church is small, but the members are active in the church and the community. They filled the Samaritan’s Purse Shoeboxes and held a funeral for one of their members.

Lawrencetown Baptist: Rev. Patty Beals reminded us that Dale Jollymore, one of their members and one of our Kingswood Camp Board representatives, is still ill. The church still holds an Outreach to the community- “Feed My Sheep” where the church provides a supper every Friday evening until the end of April, for an average of 70 people each week. They have a Ladies Ministry Group and a “Brown Bag Bible” Study, as well as Small Group Bible Studies. The Church needs Packers for the Food Bank donations that come in.

Bear River East Baptist: Rev. Fred Bigelow stated he had been called to this church at the end of November and Fred stated that Pastor Marc Phillips had taken over as Pastor of Ashmore.

Kingswood Camp Report: Dave Longley sent a report on the Camp telling of their struggles with the camp regarding Revenue Canada, but the Camp is working it out with CRA. They are looking at building a worship centre over the summer and plan to do a great deal of improvements this spring to be ready for the summer camping time. The Board is asking for our help and will have a more detailed list of work to be done by volunteers before and after the summer is finished. We will receive an Annual report next April from Vincent Leung, chair of the Camp Kingswood Board.

With no further business, Bernice MacLean moved that we adjourn and Elizabeth Legassie gave the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Billard

**Next Council Meeting will be held on Saturday,
October 22nd at 8:59 am at First United Baptist Church of
Annapolis Royal.**