

Annapolis-Digby United Baptist Association
Council Meeting, November 24, 2007
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The Council of the Annapolis-Digby United Baptist Association met at First Baptist Church of Annapolis Royal on Saturday, November 24 at 9am.

Present were: Cathy Batson, Ron Baxter, Fred Bigelow, Mary Billard, Mark Cress, Wayne Fevens, Joyce Hirtle, Elizabeth & Randy Legassie, Bernice MacLean, Bill McLeod, George Neily, Bill Patterson, David Phillips, Ron Purdy, Don Robertson, Don Sheel, Lester Simpson, Danny Smith, Danny Townsend, Elizabeth Waugh.

Regrets: Herb Anderson, Sharon and David Longley, Mark Reece

Bill Patterson, Acting Moderator, opened the meeting with prayer and gave a devotional, "In Your Light, We See light." Bill then gave a warm welcome to all those attending.

MOTION # 1: Billard/ B. MacLean, that the minutes of the September 29th Council meeting be accepted as circulated.
CARRIED.

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

REGION V REPORT:

Rev. Wayne Fevens gave his report, stating that the Evangelism Conference held in Digby on September 17 was successful with 63 people registered, representing 26 churches. Wayne said this was a busy time of the year for him with a Pastors' Forum for Region V which was well attended. There was a Lay Leadership Forum in the evening with 98 people in all. Discussions on the struggles and positive aspects of Rural Ministry gave these leaders an understanding of all the dynamics of the Rural Church. Wayne reminded the Council that the Region V Working Group has been without a member from Digby County since John Purdy's term was finished over 2 years ago. The meetings are held in Shelburne during the day and some money is available for travel expenses.

MOTION # 3: G. Neily/B. MacLean, that the report for Region V be accepted as given, and that a special thanks be extended to the Digby Church for hosting the Evangelism Conference. **CARRIED.**

REGION II REPORT:

Rev. Ron Baxter gave an oral report on what has been happening in Region II, stating that we now need a new representative from Annapolis County on the Region II working Group. The meetings are held in New Minas, at 9:30 am, 4 times a year, with the next meeting on March 11. Ron noted the ordination and induction services that had taken place since our last meeting and reminded us of upcoming events, especially the visit from Convention Council representatives on **Thursday, February 21, 2008 at 10 am, here at First Baptist Church of Annapolis Royal**, who will speak on "Healthy Churches". This is open to all Church Pastors and church leaders in Annapolis-Digby. Lunch will be served, so please inform Ron Baxter just previous to that time, how many will be attending from your church. Storm date - March 24th.

MOTION # 4: R. Legassie/B. MacLean, that the report given by Regional Minister Ron Baxter be accepted as given.
CARRIED.

RESTRUCTURING TASK GROUP REPORT:

Ron Purdy, chair of this group, (which consisted of Ron, Mary Billard, David Hopper, Fred Bigelow, Wendi Bradley and Lester Simpson) began by reminding all as to exactly what went on at our September Council meeting, when we had an open discussion as to what each of us felt were concerns about the Association. The participants had broken into three distinct groups: **Pastors, Lay People, Regional Ministers**. Each group met on their own for an hour and Ron had agreed to take the notes using Power Point so everyone could see, as well as hear, the various viewpoints. (These notes with the points and suggestions made by each group were attached to the minutes for the September meeting.)

Out of the discussion had come two definite suggestions: (1.) To restructure the Association to make it more useful and viable to our Pastors and churches, and (2.) To realign the Association, for the same reason.

Ron stated that most feel that the Association as it is, is dysfunctional, and that it must demonstrate relevancy to ministry today, and that the function of Association is enable churches to associate or fellowship together, so that more can be accomplished together than separately by individual churches. This function would be the sharing of both human and material resources within the Association. The processes for Licensing of Lay Pastors and those seeking ordination, the Atlantic Mission Board grants for churches in need, and someone to do Induction and Ordination services could be addressed by having a list of people who would take on these jobs as required.

STRUCTURE:

Ron stated that the members of the Task group felt that the current structure has to be changed to reverse the decline of attendance at our Council and Association meetings. The main problem is the large geographical area which is covered by the boundaries of our Association. It is the suggestion of this group to propose 4-6 Clusters of churches, based on Voluntary Alignment in a geographical region best suited to the churches. These clusters would be centred around a larger church or specific geographic area to encourage worshipful fellowship, joint services and the sharing of resources among

those churches who might need them. It was felt by the Task Group that the Council should be retained with 2 or 3 representatives from each cluster, perhaps one primary and one secondary member for each cluster which would facilitate a two-way communication system between the churches in the cluster and the Council/Association.

The Council then broke into their groups, Pastors, Lay People and Regional Ministers, each to discuss the suggestions as set forth by the Working Group on Restructuring.

Randy Legassie was the Facilitator for this meeting, and after the allotted time, the groups returned and gave their opinions and suggestions. Any questions were answered at that time and notes shared by Power Point.

Ideas shared from the whole group were:

Clusters sound like they may work, meetings should be more productive and there would be a good forum for feedback from Association to clusters and vice versa, as long as the cluster reps attend the meetings and pass on the information. Each church would have a chance to pass on info to Council via cluster reps and be informed about what is going on. (This is how the pastors and Council should have been working in the past.)

There should be a good opportunity for planning committees to set up fellowship activities, trainings as needed.

Reps on clusters may be both pastors and lay people.

There could be a list of volunteer pastors who could officiate at Ordinations and inductions, etc. instead of a moderator.

Ad-hoc working groups could take the place of Commissions.

Atlantic Mission Board grants could also be dealt with by an ad hoc committee as needed.

There should be a mechanism to determine how money will be allotted to clusters to carry out their programmes and plans.

All members present thought that they, and their churches might be interested in taking part to make this work.

(The original Power Point Notes are attached to these minutes)

MOTION # 5: B. McLeod/R. Purdy, that we, as a Council are in agreement, and accept in principle, the suggestions of the Restructuring Committee as the route we wish to take to restructure the Association. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 6: B. Patterson/R. Purdy, that the Council put together a Working Group to design a model and report back at the March meeting. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 7: G. Neily/B. MacLean, that the current Working Group consisting of Wendi Bradley, Ron Purdy, David Hopper, Mary Billard, Fred Bigelow, Lester Simpson be appointed to design a model for the Association Restructuring. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 8: B. Patterson/B. MacLean, that Randy Legassie be the representative on Region II Working Group from Annapolis County. **CARRIED.**

Rev. Wayne Fevens suggested that a request for a member from Digby for The Region V Working Group might be put on the AD website. Wayne also asked that the Association find ways to keep the momentum going for Evangelism and keep it in front of people.

MOTION # 9: R. Legassie/D. Scheel, that the Executive be empowered to appoint a Working Group to facilitate further evangelism events to keep the momentum going for outreach. **CARRIED**

Bernice MacLean moved that the meeting be adjourned and Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Legassie closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Billard, Clerk

**NEXT MEETING ON MARCH 1 , 2008 at 8:59 AM. AT
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANNAPOLIS ROYAL.**

**IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS AND
PASTORS BE PRESENT! Please make an effort to be there!**

Regrets to Mary Billard at 467-3419

: RESTRUCTURING nov 24 07 (4 of 23)

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Date: Tue, 27 Nov 2007 11:51:49 -0400

From: Randy Legassie <legassie@auracom.com>

To: Mary Billard <mbillard@tartannet.ns.ca>

Subject: RESTRUCTURING nov 24 07

RESTRUCTURING

FUNCTION

Current is dysfunctional, must demonstrate relevancy to ministry
Function is to associate or fellowship together
Get more done together than separately
Sharing resources-human, etc.
Licensing, grants, inductions, etc-need to be a part of grant process
Problem is getting people together
Need running list of people for various activities to be called on, rather than a standing committee or specific person

STRUCTURE

Clear current isn't working as intended
Must make changes to stop or reverse decline
Problem is large geography
Propose local clusters-4-6 clusters based on voluntary alignment
Centered around large churches or specific geography
Encouraged to worship, fellowship, joint services,
Share resources
Assn would need council-2-3 reps from each cluster. Would relay info both ways-this 2 way conversation would make it all work
Ex. Council-1 primary and sec from each clusters plus chair, clerk, treasurer-maybe rotation within council to ensue light load
To ensure passage of info-should have binders for each rep with relevant info to be updated regularly and passed on and each church should have one
One annual gathering (spring)-council meeting in fall-or vice versa
Council to meet as required
Note: Current constitution must be updated and revised
Const. be restructured to include bylaws

RELEVANCE

Each church should be encouraged to hold assn. Sunday, perhaps before spring gathering
Be encouraged to submit info to assn. web page, utilize electronic communication methods as well. Develop and utilize common calendar
If church doesn't have tech oriented pastor, encourage member to take up task
Promotion of assn is paramount to existence and viability

Assn. viable but need to change and evolve

QUESTIONS:

1. Will it work in terms of what it is supposed to do in helping churches be healthy?

G1 Possibly, if pastors and majority of people are interested.

G2 Can it work? Move ahead in interaction with churches. More meetings? Will it matter if some don't get involved? Yes, is the short answer.

G3 Yes. Needs promotion by pastors.

G4 Yes. 1. This will be a process. 2. Needs to start with pastors, then with church leaders, then with whole churches. There are pastoral clusters in some places already. Next involve congregational leaders.

G5 Get pastors on board. Some churches do not follow their pastor. Encourage churches to accept new ways. Show benefits and obligations of new structure to pastors and churches.

2. WHAT CHANGES, SUGGESTIONS, ETC?

G1 When clusters are proposed churches need to be willing and committed. Membership in cluster is voluntary. However, communication will continue. Individual churches can promote own agenda, and co-ordinate with cluster. Evening meetings must be in spring or fall, but not winter. Persons on list must be committed, dependable, consistent. Manual is essential. Don't depend completely on electronic communication. Hard copy is essential. Cluster minutes are essential and must be shared with all members. Association Sunday - What form of promotion? Do it diplomatically.

G2 Go another step. A delegated facilitator for each cluster to communicate with members and the Assoc., and to keep cluster represented on Assoc. Council. Clear role for Regional Minister on Assoc. Council for strategizing, etc.

G3 Can Assoc. keep on training? Will Council and cluster be made up only of pastors. Preferably not. Both lay and clergy, ideally. Will there be \$ available to cluster. Define how \$ will be received.

G4 Didn't discuss, but do have a concern re. follow-up for Nov. 2007 Evangelism Conference. How can ADAssoc. continue focus on outreach and evangelism? Recommend that this Nov. 2007 council name a working group to facilitate outreach and evangelism. Wayne will communicate with persons who provided email address. Will there be assurances that more time and energy will be required?

G5 Representation on RWG #5 and #2. ADAssoc needs to be represented on RWG. Keep structure simple and efficient.

3. Would our church and pastor be interested?

G1 Few ministers in current council. Maybe

G2 Some will some won't.

G3 Yes.

G4 Didn't get to this. However, it would help if 1. People are reassured that meetings would be more convenient and more productive. 2. It's a two way street - cluster to Assoc. and Assoc. to cluster. 3. There will be provision for direct access to Assoc. 4. Autonomy of local church is guaranteed.

G5 Yes. In cluster more can be done.

COMMENTS

General sense that it can work.

MOTION

Bill McLeod/Ron Purdy (Passed) That the proposal of the task force be accepted in principle for ADAssoc.

Executive positions currently relate to Commission Structure. Will there be specific people named to Executive and Council?

To accept in principle is different from adopting the proposal. It's open to be developed.

Westmoreland-Kent Assoc. restructuring material is available

New Working Group to develop constitution & by-law to report to March, 2008, ADA Council.

Before constitutional change, design a model or prototype for new structure.