

Annapolis-Digby United Baptist Association
Council Meeting, November 25, 2006
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The Council of the Annapolis-Digby United Baptist Association met at First Baptist Church of Annapolis Royal on Saturday, November 25, 2006.

Present were:, Mary Billard, Sharon Budd, Joyce Hirtle, Randy Legassie, Bernice MacLean, Bill Patterson, John Purdy, Mark Reece, Wes Reece, Don Robertson, Elizabeth Waugh.

Regrets from: Cathy Batson, Elizabeth Legassie, Ron Baxter, Wayne Fevens, George Neily

John Purdy opened the meeting by leading in the singing of "What Child is This?" John read Luke 2: 25-35 and then gave a devotional entitled, "Transported or Transformed Into the Region of Awe". John used Eugene Peterson's book, "The Message", and stated that we spend very little time lost in the glory of our own salvation. The Region of Awe invites us to dwell with the Living God. He will revolutionize our whole experience of being alive! Then new visions will begin to be birthed. We have difficulty creating a vision of our own and often get caught up in other people's visions. The devotional alluded to C.S. Lewis and his story of "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe", where children are transported from reality to a fantasy world through the doors of a wardrobe. We need transformation rather than transportation. Prayer followed the message.

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

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

REGIONAL MINISTER'S REPORT:

Rev. Ron Baxter, Regional Minister for Region II, sent a written report, and his regrets as today he is attending a wedding in Yarmouth. Pastoral changes in the Region were noted with news on churches in EV and AD who had recently called pastors and those in EV and Annapolis-Digby who are in Pastoral Search Mode. Ron highlighted his activities in the Region and at Convention level, and outlined upcoming events and conferences he will be attending. As well, Ron met with the Region II Working Group, Moderators and the chair of the CABC Nominating Committee, in October, to list nominees for Convention Assembly 2007. Ron wished everyone a Blessed Christmas, on his and Sharon's behalf, as we all begin preparations for the Advent season tomorrow. (Ron's full report is attached to the Original Minutes)

MOTION # 3: Hirtle/ Robertson, that the report from Regional Minister, Rev. Ron Baxter, be accepted as printed and presented. **CARRIED.**

There was no report from Region V.

UPDATE ON REVISIONING: John Purdy gave an update on the work that the Executive has been undertaking to facilitate the revisioning of our Association since June as well as what The Council has done at the June and September meetings. and presented the Working Paper entitled, "The 'SO WHAT?' Factor: Building a Structure for Action". This is the paper on which we will concentrate later on at this meeting.

The Council broke into Commissions.

TRAINING COMMISSION: Rev. Elizabeth Waugh reported that the Sunday School Workshop at Digby UBC was well-received by the 23 attending. Rev. Carol Anne Janzen's topic was "Learning Styles". The Pastoral Self-Care Workshop, led by Rev. Cheryl Ann Beals, was beneficial to all who attended, although the attendance was low.

Ideas for future plans of the Commission include a spiritual development retreat, and another workshop for Sunday School teachers, with a component on working with children who have behaviour problems. Fellowship time for teachers and a panel of Sunday School teachers to discuss common problems, were other suggestions. Several Christian lay-people and teachers from the school system, were suggested as facilitators for such events.

The Commission is recommending that all training resources be listed on the web-site and the lending-out of resources be handled by one person, and that the web-site be included on the agenda and on all Association correspondence.

Some of the members of the Witness Commission joined with this commission.

MOTION # 3: Waugh/R. Legassie, that the report from the Training Commission be accepted as presented. **CARRIED.**

WITNESS COMMISSION: Mark Reece and Don Robertson sat in on the Training Commission but Mark reported that the new website for the Association was up and running and that he was the webmaster. Mark asked that any information or notices of upcoming events be sent to the webmaster@www.annapolisdigbybaptist.com. Mark reported that the Commission may develop more Bulletin inserts in the spring for Association churches. Mark has revamped the Kingswood camp website and is its Webmaster, as well. The camp website is www.kingswoodcamp.ca

MOTION # 4: M. Reece/MacLean, that the report of the Witness Commission be accepted as presented. **CARRIED.**

It was suggested that an honorarium be given to Mark for his work as Webmaster, but he declined the offer, saying that he appreciated the thought, but that he enjoyed doing the web work for us and for Kingswood, so felt enumeration was not needed.

MOTION # 5: Patterson/ MacLean, that a letter be written to the Paradise Church indicating our appreciation for the work that Mark does for the Association through his involvement in the Witness Commission, Camp Kingswood Board and as Webmaster of our website. **CARRIED.**

MISSION COMMISSION: The commission spent time looking at its purpose and the need to redefine it in relation to its core values. Further discussion centred on the future role of the Mission Commission and the Home Mission Grants now that many churches are going the part-time Pastor route.

MOTION # 6: Purdy/MacLean, that the Mission Commission report be accepted. **CARRIED.**

Church Life Conference: There was good attendance at the Church Life Conference held on September 28th at Hillgrove. The morning opened with the Worship band from Middleton leading in songs, prayers and scripture. Dr. Bob Wilson was the speaker and gave a brief history of Baptist Work in Digby county, the heritage of the area, and revival in Annapolis and Digby Counties. In 1905/06, there were 65,00 Baptists in the area from Middleton to the islands, and in 2005, the number remained the same. Many areas suffer from population shifts, but there is very little new growth. Dr Wilson pointed out that we can't keep doing the things we have done for years if they are not working. We need to keep in mind The Great Commission, but we must develop new visions and strategies on how to reach the goals we set to fulfill that purpose. We need to pray, define our ministry, and determine who the people are that we are trying to reach.

Dr. Wilson stated that Crusades are no longer successful and that we need to find out what God is

doing and join Him. Our ministry is people, not money!

The participants broke into groups to discuss various strategies for churches in our Association that are suffering decline. Some points which were stressed were:

1. Pastors should meet together regularly to share our burden for the lost.
2. Host events in support of community such as inter-church prayer time.
3. Bring churches together to develop a process to develop a common vision for the area.
4. Consider smaller cluster groups based on specific congregations in a specific area.
5. Focused fellowship events with focused prayer, praise, and thanksgiving need to be pursued.
6. We need to attend Spring and Fall Association meetings to gain new skills and insight through Workshops and Trainings facilitated by learned Scholars and successful Pastors, and to know what is going on in other churches in the Association, our Convention and the World.

BAPTIST MEN: Wes Reece questioned what his role would be now that the Baptist Men's work through Convention had been disbanded. He was told that he could still continue to promote a ministry towards men in the Association, if he wished to do so, and also continue to be an integral part of this Council.

BUILDING A STRUCTURE FOR ACTION:

A paper was prepared by the Executive and distributed to Council members to begin discussion on where our Association needs to go in the future. The Executive has spent many hours deliberating on the visioning and restructuring process, and the values on which we want to focus for our Association. We need to look at our present structure by which we operate, because it doesn't seem to be getting the results we would like to see. Attendance at Council, workshops, trainings, and Spring and Fall Assemblies is declining and we need to look at changes which might need to be made if we are to continue as a viable organization for our Association churches. Discussion on the paper ensued and many ideas and questions were raised, such as the following:

Are there things the Association **MUST** do? What are the things we do better than someone else or some other organization can do? Are these things we do now worth the time we spend on them, or should we spend the time on things which may be of more benefit to our purpose? Is a specific leadership role expected of us? Who will do the work that needs to be done?

It was suggested that for our March meeting, we take ample time to consider these and any other questions which may have arisen over the winter period. Randy suggested we have two or three volunteers for facilitators and that time be given for open discussion during Council time on determining the future of our Association.

On motion by Randy Legassie, the meeting was adjourned. Mark Reece closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Billard, Clerk

NEXT MEETING ON Mar. 3rd , 2007, 8:31 AM
at FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF ANNAPOLIS ROYAL.

(In case of **really** inclement weather, we will meet on March 10th at 8:31 am)