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Annapolis-Digby Baptist Association
Council Meeting, October 22, 2016
First United Baptist Church of Annapolis Royal

The October 2016 Council Meeting of the Annapolis-Digby Baptist Association met at First United Baptist Church of Annapolis Royal on Saturday, October 22, 2016, and Moderator, Rev. Patty Beals called the meeting to order and opened with prayer.

PRESENT : Rev. Patty Beals, Rev. Fred Bigelow, Rev. Mark Reece, Mr. Danny Townsend, Rev. Julia Howard, Rev. Bill McLeod, Mrs. Bernice MacLean, Lic. Sharon White, Rev. Dr. Randy Legassie, Pastor Deborah Wetmore, Rev. Mark Cress, Lic. Linda De Mone and Clerk, Mary Billard, Guest Susan Saunders.

Devotion: Lic. Linda De Mone presented a Devotion, based on Revelation 21: 1-5, and entitled, "The Best is Yet to Come". Linda spoke on this portion of Scripture and asked us to think of the best holiday that we celebrate and how wonderful it is when we join together around the table and celebrate. At God's final judgement, He will create a new heaven and earth. The "New Jerusalem" where God will meet all those who belong to Him. There will be no more pain and suffering and our time with God will be like our best holiday.

Patty thanked Linda for her Devotion.

MOTION # 1: D. Townsend/M. Cress, that the minutes of the March Council Meeting, held on March 19, 2016, be accepted with the correction that the Association Sign at Port Royal is ready, but not yet in place, because it needs a new board on which to place the sign. Hopefully, the sign will be in place during the spring or summer. **CARRIED.**

Moderator, Rev. Patty Beals, welcomed our new Vice-Moderator, Lic. Linda DeMone, and applause was given.

MOTION #2: B. MacLean/L. DeMone, that the financial Report be accepted as presented. **CARRIED.**

COUNCIL WORKING GROUP ON THE CONSTITUTION:

For the Quorum, there were several options discussed. One suggestion was to leave it as it was. In voting we need 51% but we don't always get that, so it was decided that we need **50% plus one** of the number of churches voting. We don't need to vote on this as it can be left as it is.

MOTION # 3 R. Legassie/B. McLeod, that we do not require 51% if voting by mail or electronically. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 4: R. Legassie/D. Townsend, that when the Association votes by mail and/or electronically, the churches be allowed 30 days from the time of the notification. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 5: R. Legassie/J. Howard, that the Association have a two (2) week **Appeal Process** after the Voting, whereby churches and members can appeal to the Executive of the Council. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 6: VOTING at ANNUAL MEETINGS will be 50% +1. This item will be voted on at the Annual Meeting held in April, 2017.

Rev. Bill McLeod inquired about members in **Article II**. A 2/3 majority vote is needed for a **New Member Church of the Association to join**, and the results are to be returned to the Association Clerk.

MOTION # 7: R. Legassie/DeMone, that we amend **Article II** to read "**Already members of the Association and those Baptist Churches in the future, be received into the continuing Association, upon written application, and by 2/3 majority vote of the delegates at a regular called meeting.** **CARRIED.**

SPIRITUAL CARE: Pastor Mark Cress had received a telephone call from the Digby General Hospital about a Spiritual Care Programme being held there. Mark had business cards and brochures on the Spiritual Care and stated that there would be a meeting on the next Thursday with Shelley Pyne. Mark will contact Shelley so that we can be kept aware of what is happening in the area of Spiritual and Palliative Care.

ASSOCIATION WEBSITE: Rev. Mark Reece, Webmaster, had a list of our Annapolis-Digby churches and passed the list around to check to see if everyone is on the list, and to add or correct any that might have errors.

SOLE to SOUL RETREAT : The Clerk stated that a committee had been set up to plan a retreat for anyone who wanted to attend in order to use the money from the former Ladies Retreat Funds from 2007. A committee consisting of Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Legassie, Lic. Linda DeMone, Rev. Jeff White, Mary Billard, Judy Vantassel and Rev. Dr. Cheryl Ann Beals.

This group worked diligently from May and over the summer to plan the Retreat for October 1st. The Retreat was titled **“SOLE TO SOUL”**, and was held at the Annapolis Basin Conference Centre at Cornwallis. NS. Rev. Dr. Cheryl Ann Beals was the featured Speaker, with Presenters: Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Legassie, Clarence De Shiffart, Natalie Gidney, Jennifer Smith and Rev. Jeff White. It was an excellent day for all with four workshops: “Body in Motion”, “Relationships”, “Mind, Thought and Feeling”, and “Heart, Will and Spirit”. It was a full day, with lunch, a Panel Discussion, Personal Reflection time, two sessions with Rev. Dr. Cheryl Ann Beals, and Debriefing. We enjoyed a lovely dinner and fellowship before leaving for home.

CHURCH ACTIVITIES REPORTS:

Rossway Baptist: Pastor Linda DeMone reported that Rossway Church was going well. They held several musical evenings and they have a Youth Group with 12 members. Parents help out with the group and they held a Pizza Night and have a Bible Study.

Smith’s Cove Baptist: Pastor Mark Cress stated that the Church was taking part in a Bible Study on Hebrews. The Youth Group continues to be active and they held a Weekend Camp at Milford House for their closing in early June. The Church had a “Unite Programme” with Blair Longmire, where 8 regulars and 4 visitors attended. There was a “Spiritual Care” meeting at Digby General Hospital in October. It was an informal meeting and Shelley Pyne is heading up the Spiritual Care programme. Pastors will be contacted when the next meeting is set up.

Wilmot Baptist Church: The Church held a “Come Back to Church” Luncheon, and their Seniors’ Programme meets every second Friday and enjoys a free dinner. Pastor Julia stated that they have a “Chat Room”, relax and play games while ministering to the Seniors. They also have a Movie Night and a Pizza Night and have seen some growth in the church. They are planning to hold a Pastor Appreciation Week with Rev. Dr. Bob Wilson. They held their “Christmas in July” event as well.

Nictaux Baptist Church: Pastor Bill McLeod stated that these are challenging days, but both Torbrook and Nictaux Churches are busy reaching out to the people in the area. They held 2 Baptisms when 4 people were baptized, have a Regular Bible Study, a Ladies Bible Study and a special Week of Thanks was carried on. The Churches held a special drive for the Food Bank before Thanksgiving and another church came to spend time with them. The Nictaux WMS/ABW had a baby shower, the church did a Pastor Appreciation Week and gave out cards of appreciation to Pastor Bill who daily received cards of Appreciation in his mailbox

Middleton Baptist Church: Bernice MacLean gave us some highlights of activities of Middleton Baptist. They are carrying on the Alpha program, sent 7 children to Camp Kingswood, and held DVBS in the summer. The church jointly supports a family from Lebanon, in the Middleton area and every quarter, the church has a special event to raise funds for the family.

Melvorn Square Baptist: Rev. Libby Amirault gave a summary of the events going on in the church. She stated that the Church contributes to the support of the family from Lebanon. Three members from the church have gone to Shape Summit and two Baptisms have been held.

Digby Baptist Church: Lic. Sharon White, a member of Digby Baptist reported that she is working at Bethal Church in Aldershot and also reported on the activities of Digby Baptist. Digby Baptist helps with funding for the Refugee family at Hillgrove. The church held a lunch for the annual Bikers Rat Race event held in June, and the church has a nursery.

Lower Granville: Rev. Dr. Randy Legassie reported that he began pastoring at Lower Granville the first of April this year, where he had begun his ministry 27 years ago. He has 18-23 people in worship which takes place in the afternoon. They have a good Bible Study and they are planning an Ecumenical Fall Fair. There are 18-23 people in worship.

Port Lorne/Hampton: Rev. Randy Legassie also serves as Pastor at this field during the spring, summer and fall, and has a Bible Study on Thursdays. He is trying to help the community experiment in worship as to what they really need.

Culloden Baptist: Pastor Deborah Wetmore spoke of the loss of Ben Marshall who was their Treasurer for many years. She said the church is a small, family-like group, and is very encouraging. They have a Ladies Bible Study about the role of women in ministry. They thank the Lord, who meets their needs and they have more music now with a new keyboard.

Paradise Baptist Church: Rev. Mark Reece told us that the Church was connecting to the community with an after school programme held at the Paradise Hall once a week for 10 weeks. There was a baptism of 3 people in July at a local lake. Two friends in the church had a vision for hosting a community breakfast. The church is planning a Christmas dinner for the whole community which might include 200 people. They have a “Children’s Church” for Preschool-Grade 6. They offer a grade 6=12 Youth Group in partnership with Bridgetown. There are quarterly services in the West Paradise Building. The churches take part in “Operation Christmas Child”.

Lawrencetown Baptist Church: Rev. Patty Beals gave a detailed account of what has been happening at LBC. There are 3 Bible Study Classes and 21 in the Youth Group. Their outreach, "Feed My Sheep", which has been going for 5 years, from October to March, is held on Friday nights and most who attend feel it is their church time. There was some conflict because some want to continue with the outreach but others feel it is time to stop. Patty asked us to pray for the Church as not everyone understands about the "Feed My Sheep" programme. She offered a challenge for us to check out their "Feed My Sheep" Outreach time and to pray for unity in the church on this matter. Patty also said that the Food Bank in Nictaux was looking for someone to manage the Food Bank there. Prayer was asked for Patty's thumb, as it has been 8 months since the surgery and she is still having a problem with it.

Clementsvalle Baptist Church: Mary Billard reported that the Church is doing well with Pulpit Supply since last year. We have 3 ordained Pastors who share services over the year, do funerals and visitation if needed, and several other Pastors who help out if needed. Our Deacons do visitation within the church and in the communities nearby. The Deacons teach Adult Sunday School and Wednesday Bible Study and work with the other Boards and committees in the church. We have a Church choir every Sunday, and invited guests to come and share evening services. There is a Junior Church programme for children who attend church. Everyone participates with the social committee at our bi-monthly Social events, and at funerals and celebrations in the church. We have a "Ladies Time Out" programme on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 11am to 1pm, where we do activities, Bible Study, Quizzes, and raise money for the Valley Care Pregnancy Centre in Kentville. This is our 3rd year and interest is still high. There are usually 9 participants, seven from our church and community and two from other churches. The ladies take turns in providing food for the lunch as well as organizing activities.

Bear River East Church: Rev. Fred Bigelow reported that his induction service was held in March. They also had one evening service each month with a special guest. In June they had a picnic at the church and during the four Sundays in August, special groups were brought in and the attendance improved each week. In 2017, they are looking to have it for two months, July and August. In September they had a campfire night. Because of the ban on open fires, it was a get-together with the church family, with snacks and singing at one of our member's camp. They had a "Come Back To Church Sunday", the second Sunday in September. The church will soon start planning for the Christmas season.

OASIS DELEGATE REPORTS : Susan Saunders thanked the Association for sending her as one of our delegates to our CBAC Annual Convention, "Oasis" in August, held at Crandall University in Moncton. She presented her oral report to the Council, and provided a written report, which is on file in the Association records.

Lic. Sharon White thanked the Association for allowing her to attend Oasis 2016 as our second Delegates this year. Sharon presented a written report and also commented orally on her Oasis experiences. Sharon offered to present "The Blanket Experience", which she witnessed at Oasis, at one of our future meetings if we would like her to do that. Sharon's written report is on file with these Association records. Both Delegates returned some of their delegate money which will show in the financial Report in March.

Patty thanked Susan and Sharon for their reports and stated that OASIS 2017 will be held at Crandall University again because it is Crandall's 50th Anniversary.

Annapolis-Digby Baptist Annual Meeting, 2017:

The members talked about ideas for our Annual Meeting to be held on April 29, 2017. Bridgetown Baptist Church offered to host the meeting there and suggested that the theme might be on Mental Health. The names of several people who might be willing to speak were mentioned. The Executive will help to plan the activities and will work with the Pastor and people at Bridgetown Baptist.

CLUSTER GRANTS: This Association has \$1700.00 for the use of churches in the Budget for Outreach Activities and November 15th will be the deadline for submissions for the Cluster Grants, for this period of time.

MOTION # 7: M. Reece/D. Townsend, that Rev. Dr. Randy Legassie, Rev. Julia Howard and Ms. Susan Saunders, be the committee today to look after and choose the recipients of the Cluster Grants. **CARRIED.**

MOTION # 8: M. Reece/D. Townsend: That Assistant Clerk, Rev. Fred Bigelow send out the notice for the present Cluster Grant Applications which is \$1700.00. Deadline to apply is no later than November 15. **CARRIED.**

New Cluster Grants requests for 2016/17 will be presented after the November 15th deadline to churches who apply. Rev. Julia Howard, Pastor of Wilmot Baptist Church, was asked to tell us of their "Christmas in July" outreach activities which they held in 2015. Julia related that they had done this event on their own. It was a five day programme, with a DVBS for the children for half days on a Christmas theme, a Christmas movie night, a night with information on Israel,

and a community BBQ dinner. Phil Williams led songs and presented a Christmas story musical, complete with costumes, and with adults and children. There was an afternoon tea party, as well as Christmas caroling at the Nursing Home. With no further business, Rev. Julia Howard moved to adjourn the meeting and closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Billard