



Canadian Association for Baptist Freedoms

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Via ZOOM

20 October 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Attendees (via Zoom): David Allen, Joyce Allen, Adam Boyd, John Churchill, Renee Clark, Ed Colquhoun, Sue Colquhoun, Dave Csinos, Rusty Edwards, Pamela Esty, Dave Gibson, Dan Green, Hugh Kirkegaard, Marlene Knowles (Chair), Katherine MacPherson, Lee Nicholas-Pattillo, Marilyn Peers, Bert Radford, Martin Roy, Ryan Sato, Sheila Stanley, Joao Matwawanna, Sharon White, Jeff White.

Regrets: John Boyd, Hedley Hopkins, Aaron Kenny, Erica Kenny, Scott Kindred-Barnes

1: **Call to Order:** President Marlene Knowles called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. AST, and welcomed everyone. She confirmed quorum following confirmation of those present. David Allen observed that not all of those present were eligible to vote.

Marlene listed those who had provided regrets, and Dan Green opened with prayer.

2. **Approval of Agenda:** The President advised that the agenda and all materials for the meeting had been posted on the website and asked for approval or amendments to the Agenda. David Allen requested that approval of new members be added under New Business.

Martin Roy moved and Dave Gibson seconded that the Agenda be approved as circulated.

Motion Carried

3. **Approval of CABF Meeting Minutes**

a. **Minutes for AGM October 2, 2021:** Sheila Stanley moved and Rusty Edwards seconded that the minutes for the 2021 AGM be approved.

Motion Carried

b. **Business Arising from Minutes of October 2, 2021:** Any business arising from the minutes would be addressed in reports presented at this meeting.

5. **Reports from Council:**

All written reports from the Standing Committees of Council had been posted for review on the CABF website prior to the AGM. Rather than review each one in detail, President Marlene named each report listed below asking if there were a need to show each on the Zoom screen or if there were any questions and/or comments on each, and she invited the Chairs of the Committees reporting to make any comments. All reports, except that for the CABF Consolidated Financial Statements, would be addressed in a single motion.

a. **President's Report: Marlene Knowles**

President Marlene Knowles verbally added one item to her written report – i.e. that there had been a change to the fiscal year end approved at the Association Meeting in June. The fiscal year end changed from December 31 each year to July 31 each year with the change to become effective at the end of July 2023.

b. **Publications Committee (no chair)**

There was no formal report from this Committee as there is not currently a Chair. The Bulletin has been published successfully this year, but the Editor was not able to attend the AGM and had sent regrets.

c. **Constitution and Governance Committee: Dave Gibson**

Chair Dave Gibson noted that his report covered the period up to December 31 of 2021 only and added that there had been significant accomplishments/approved changes since then – i.e. edits to the Memorandum of Association that included, among other things, expanding the scope of the Association to be truly Canadian, adoption of significant revisions to the policies on the credentialing process, and appropriate revisions of the by-laws to reflect the adoption of a Policy and Procedures Manual.

d. **Credentials Committee: Rusty Edwards**

Chair Rusty Edwards noted that there are exciting months ahead with an upcoming Ordination Council and continuing discussions with churches in Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan.

e. **Finance Committee (verbal): Dan Green**

Chair Dan Green reported that the Committee had not met in person and expressed gratitude to David Allen for keeping track of all financial data and preparing reports for the Committee to review and make comment if there were any concerns.

f. **Program Committee: Jeff White**

g. **Membership Committee: Joyce Allen**

Joyce commented that it was good to see so many people now using e-transfer to pay membership dues or registration costs, etc. The recently implemented change of notifying members on the anniversary date for their individual memberships has also been working well.

h. Website Committee: John Boyd

Dave Gibson noted one small edit to the report prepared and available on the website – i.e. edit to last line in paragraph four to read CABF Objectives not CABF Objections.

h. Alliance of Baptists (verbal): Rusty Edwards

Rusty apologized for the lack of a written report and advised that the focus of work for the Alliance recently has been concentrated on racial justice in the US. Of note to CABF is the participation of First Baptist Halifax and First Baptist Edmonton in an initiative pertaining to racial justice made possible by a 5-year grant.

j. Canadian Council of Churches (CCC): Bert Radford

Bert highlighted from his report that there are three new applicants for affiliation with the Council and that the CCC is co-applicant in a challenge to the constitutionality of Canada's Safe Third Country Agreement.

On a personal note, Bert expressed appreciation for having been the CABF representative to the CCC. He has resigned for personal reasons and highly recommends this opportunity to serve on behalf of the CABF.

Martin Roy moved, and Marilyn Peers seconded, approval of all the reports noted above.

Motion Carried

7. Treasurer's Report: David Allen

David shared PowerPoint presentation of the information previously made available on the CABF website and covering the following topics:

a. Consolidated Financial Statement – 2021 Fiscal Year (1/1/2021 – 12/31/2021)

The overall total balance at the end of 2021 was \$12,378.44. the 2021 year had been unusual with expenses exceeding revenue for a number of reasons – e.g.

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revenue from Member Churches down \$1400 and investment income down \$680 while HST had increased \$645.

b. Financial Situation: 2022 Partial Year (1/1/2022 – 08/31/2022)

There is a cash flow issue year-to-date (August 31) for the partial year 2022. This is primarily due to Member Churches being late in submitting their membership dues combined with exceptional expenses such as the 50th Anniversary celebration and the Strategic Plan Project. At this point, the outlook for end of year is not positive.

David Allen moved, and Dan Green seconded, approval of the CABF Consolidated Financial Statements for 2021 Fiscal Year (1/1/2021 – 12/31/2021)

Motion Carried

8. New Business

a. Nominating Committee Report: Lee Nicholas-Pattillo

Lee extended her sincere thanks to Joyce Allen, also a member of the Nominating Committee, for her help in making numerous approaches to prospective members to the opportunities to serve as officers or on standing committees. Filling vacancies has been challenging, but Lee also stated her understanding that not everyone is in a position to offer to serve. She thanked Ryan Sato not only for joining the Credentials Committee but his diligent work in seeking someone from his Congregation to serve in the vacant role of Secretary.

Lee acknowledged that changes were needed in updating/correcting phone numbers, etc. in the Nominating Committee Report and advised that these corrections would be made. She reviewed the existing vacancies and also advised that, in some instances, the Committee is waiting for responses from people who have not yet accepted or declined. Given this, no additional nominations or volunteers were called from the floor.

Lee moved, and Adam Boyd seconded, the following motion:

*I move the **2022 CABF Nominations report** sent to Council, on October 17, 2022, be accepted as presented. Corrections as realized after October 20, 2022, will be made and a revised CABF roster will be sent prior to the November CABF Council meeting date. Immediately following the November CABF meeting, Nominations Committee will have the revised roster placed on the CABF website, by the Website Committee.*

Also, that the Nominations Committee be granted permission to continue its search to fill the existing gaps in Council positions.

If recommendations are found, Nominations Committee will take recommendations to CABF Council for approval.

Motion Carried

With the permission of the Chair, Sheila Stanley asked how the matter of the vacant Secretary position would be addressed as this Officer has to submit the documents required by the Registrar of Joint Stocks within fourteen days of an Annual Meeting.

Dave Gibson suggested, with Sheila's permission, that she be empowered to continue to act as pro tem Secretary until such time as another Secretary could be appointed.

Dave moved, and Lee seconded that Sheila be appointed Secretary on a pro tem basis until the position is filled.

Motion Carried

Hugh Kirkegaard thanked the Assembly for the opportunity to have served as Member-at-Large and indicated his willingness to continue his work in bringing the hospital chaplains together for mutual support. President Marlene thanked Hugh for his contributions and affirmed that this important work should continue as part of our Strategic Priority of **Supporting Each Other as We Live Out the Freedoms**. This will be an agenda item for Council.

b. Budget: David Allen

David shared his screen with a Power Point presentation of the proposed budget previously available on the CABF website.

This proposed budget is a transition one covering the period 01 January 2023 to 31 July 2023. This is a result of the CABF decision at its Assembly on 16 June 2022 to approve a change in fiscal year end from 31 December in any given year to 31 July. This change becomes effective at the end of July 2023.

The proposed budget is balanced and assumes donations for Member dues will be received within the timeframe of the budgeted period, and expenses such as those for the delegate to the Canadian Council of Churches not be incurred.

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Sheila Stanley noted that Council had, at its September meeting, referred the matter of exploring options for reducing the cost of producing The Bulletin to the Publications Committee for action in 2023, once that Committee has a chairperson. David noted that the anticipated expenditure for the publication in the proposed budget is also contingent upon the timing and number of publications of The Bulletin within the budgeted window.

The typical fiscal year for most Member Churches follows the calendar year. It is impossible to predict how the change in the CABF fiscal year will impact on cash flow for subsequent budget periods as it is also impossible to predict the timing of contributions from Member Churches each year.

David moved, and Marilyn Peers seconded, approval of the Transition Budget for 2023.

Motion Carried

c. Ratification of New Members: David Allen

At its meeting held on 07 September 2022, CABF Council had approved acceptance of the Rev. Marlene Quinn and the Rev. Pauline Coffin. David moved, and Sheila Stanley seconded, that the Assembly ratify the decision of Council to accept these new members.

Motion Carried

For clarity, all other new members accepted by the CABF Council had been ratified at the Assembly held on 16 June 2022.

9. Other Business/Special Resolutions

There was no further business, and there were no Special Resolutions.

10. Adjournment: President Marlene moved to adjourn, pending the closing prayer.

11. Closing Prayer: Lee Nicholas-Pattillo closed the meeting with prayer.

The AGM ended at 8:15 p.m.