

## **EASTERN VALLEY BAPTIST ASSOCIATION MINUTES**

**Saturday, November 4, 2017, at Centreville Baptist Church**

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As attendees arrived in the foyer of the Centreville Baptist Church on November 4, 2017 they took note that there was a Registration Desk for pre-registered folk with Rev. Darryl Dykens, Assistant Clerk, ready to welcome them and process their registration; while there was an On-site Registration Desk for people who needed to fill in a Registration Form. Marilyn Jolley and Sandra Ward were there to guide folk through the registration process.

By 8:55 a.m. the Moderator, Rev. Wayne Merrill, had encouraged people to assemble in the spacious sanctuary where he welcomed them to the 2017 fall session of the EVBA. He introduced Rev. Dr. Steven Hopper, the new host Pastor who also expressed a word of welcome and offered the opening prayer.

The Moderator invited Rev. Randy Stanton, the Canadian Baptist Ministries' Atlantic Representative, to come to the platform to introduce the first CBM Field Staff member, Rev. Aaron Kenny who then took his place on the platform to begin his illustrated Mission presentation which after some opening comments included the viewing of the CBM DVD entitled, "The Story Behind the Story, 2017;" followed by his illustrated address regarding his family (Erica his wife, and their children Tristen who is at Acadia, Emma who is finishing high school in Nairobi and living with another mission family, and Ava who is with her parents in Canada). His next focus was the ministries shared with the Evangelical Church of Angola. He drew attention to his "home country" of Kenya where 80% of the population is Christian and 20% is Muslim, and the ministries Canadian Baptists share with the African Christian Churches and Schools and the African Brotherhood Church. He moved us on to the South Sudan and the significant ministry of the Faith Evangelical Baptist Church in seeking to facilitate tribal reconciliation; and the benefits realized from the Canadian Food Grains Bank. Aaron took those in attendance to Kamp Tumaini in Kenya which is a ministry with HIV/AIDS positive persons sponsored by Guardians of Hope. The camp has a three-fold vision/purpose: SAFE/FUN/TRANSFORMATIONAL. Aaron concluded his presentation with comments about "323 Collective" (cf., Colossians 3:2-3), and the 2017 CBM Gift Catalogue. There was then opportunity for questions and discussion.

The Association offering was received. (The Treasurer's email later reported gifts equaling \$951.90 were received with "Thanks.")

The Moderator then invited folk to assemble in the multi-purpose area for refreshments.

When people returned to the sanctuary they were welcomed by Rev. Wayne Fevens who introduced his life-long friend, Larry Knowles, who offered an informative ditty with an

addictive guitar rhythm and descriptive words based on the familiar fable of the Three Little Pigs and the biblical parable of the two men each of whom built a house (cf., Matthew 7:24-27). They then sang together, "How Deep the Father's Love for Us."

Darrell Bustin was then invited to the platform to speak about his work in Rwanda. He captivated the interest of his listeners by hosting a four-choice visual game show to challenge one's knowledge about Rwanda, and one's willingness to play the game. Did you know that Rwanda with a population of 11 million is geographically 1/3 the size of New Brunswick; therefore, it would be like having all 36 million Canadians living in New Brunswick. Having successfully completed that set of slides he got his guitar and sang the Rwandan song, "Ha Imbaraga – Give Strength" which was projected in both languages verse by verse. He then spoke appreciatively of his co-workers and showed pictures of them and the ministries they are involved with in Rwanda. His major responsibility is to teach persons who are preparing for Christian ministry with the Association of Evangelical Baptist in Rwanda. His wife, Laura Lee has been significantly involved with Guardians of Hope, with coordinating Short Term Mission visits, and serving as a bookkeeper and record keeper. Their daughter, Bronwyn, is completing a double degree program at Crandall University, and their son, Caleb, has joined his sister as he begins a degree program at Crandall. There was then opportunity for questions and discussion.

Having expressed thanks to Darrell, the Moderator opened the EVBA Business Session with a prayer. He received the agreement of those present to proceed according to the printed Agenda, and as required, he read aloud "The Rules of Order." He directed attention to the Report Book, pages 2-6, and invited a **MOTION (Pat Ritcey/Robert Douglas) that the Minutes of the May 6, 2017 Eastern Valley Baptist Association be adopted as printed in the 2017 Fall Association Report Book. MOTION PASSED.**

Wayne Merrill invited the Interim Treasurer, Robert Douglas, to give the Financial Report which is on pages 7-9 in the Report Book. In addressing the contents of the "Comparative Balance Sheet" (p. 7) he pointed out that four years ago when he was Treasurer the EVBA had over \$25,000 invested in the Atlantic Baptist Foundation which was to have been used for Association projects, but has been depleted to \$1,745.86 due to the practice of covering annual operating deficits from that source. Consequently in 2017 there will be insufficient funds there to cover any fiscal operating deficit. Commenting on the "Comparative [*i.e., 2016 with 2017*] Income Statement" (p. 8) which covers income and expenses to October twenty-fourth, he noted that income from member churches is already \$3,330.38 lower than in 2016; that he has been advised that the "Convention rebate" of \$4,972.10 is the full amount that the CBAC will provide to the EVBA in 2017, and that amount is \$1,998.57 less than was received in 2016. Hence the two major sources of income for the EVBA are going to be insufficient to pay the projected budget expenses of the EVBA in 2017. Consequently, the operating deficit in 2017 will likely exceed \$10,000, and invested reserves are inadequate to pay off that amount. Bob made mention of the "Church Allotments" (p. 9) which to date amount to \$14,872 as opposed

to church donations of \$18,201 by this time in 2016. Therefore, church gifts to EVBA of \$16,090 will need to be given in the remaining eight weeks of 2017 in order to equal the \$30,962 contributed by December 31 in 2016. Unfortunately, 2016 was also a deficit year for EVBA. **It was duly MOIVED (Robert Douglas/Tracey Kettley) and PASSED that the Financial Report of the Interim Treasurer be received.**

Bob then moved on to page 10 where the EVBA Budget for 2018 that was approved by members of the EVBA Council on October 14, 2017 was printed, with comparative budgets back to 2015, and actual fiscal figures for 2015 and 2016 and estimated fiscal figures for 2017. Bob explained that in light of lack of income already in 2017 it is his conviction that the proposed EVBA Budget for 2018 is unrealistic, and he is not prepare to move its adoption. He pointed out that annually the Chaplaincy expenditures amount to at least \$32,000 and the financial commitment to Kingswood Camp is \$14,000. Bob left the platform.

It was pointed out that in October the Moderator released a letter to the member churches to appeal for donations in 2017 based on the formula of \$17/year/person based on the average attendance at the church's Sunday Worship Services. He also appealed for inclusion of the EVBA in the church's budget for 2018.

The Clerk stood to invite the people to open the Report Book to page 9, "Church Allotments," and he pointed out that the member churches are listed on the left column and the contributions from those churches to date in 2017 are printed in the right column. He thanked Bob Douglas for a phone call on Friday regarding the fiscal state of the EVBA. Then he pointed out that to date 24 of the 43 listed churches have provided funds in 2017. Based on that reality the following observations were given:

4 of the churches have already given an amount equal to their total 2016 amount.

7 of the churches have already given an amount higher than their total 2016 amount.

14 of the churches show a year-end figure in 2016, but have not yet given in 2017.

20 of the churches have given nothing to date in 2017.

He concluded by saying that if EVBA retains the gifts of the seven churches that have given more to date than they gave in 2016, and all other churches that did contribute to EVBA in 2016 gave an amount equal to their 2016 contribution the EVBA would by year-end have an additional \$19,148 which would be \$3,058 more than was provided in 2016.

It was pointed out by the Past-Moderator that our Nursing Home Chaplains are providing a valued ministry that has generated positive comments from not only residents, but members of their families as well as staff members. It was expressed that "surely the \$17 allotment is achievable."

There was a call for prayer; and a comment that there is a need to motivate church.

Therefore, it was **MOVED (Patrick Gilbert/Vincent Leung) and PASSED that in light of the critical financial position of the EVBA that a concerted effort be made to challenge member churches to give their 2017 annual allotment to the Association according to the suggested formula of \$17.00 per year per person based on the average number of worshippers in attendance at the Sunday Worship Service.** Such donations are payable to Eastern Valley Baptist Association and may be mailed to PO Box 56, Kentville, NS B4N 3V9 preferably by December 15, 2017 or later if necessary.

Shortly after the passing of this motion the Clerk stood to let the Moderator know that he had a further motion for those in attendance to consider. The Moderator invited the Clerk to the platform in order to use the microphone. The Clerk explained that a motion relating to the 2018 Budget needed to be passed in order that the members of the EVBA Council and the Officers might know how to transact EVBA business in 2018. Therefore, he presented the following **MOTION (Ron Baxter/Patrick Gilbert) and PASSED that if the EVBA achieves or exceeds the 2017 Budget Goal of \$53,700 that the EVBA Council consider the 2018 Budget Goal of \$54,800 duly adopted; however, if the 2017 Budget Goal is not achieved the 2018 Budget Goal will be equal to 90% of the Budget Goal income received in 2017.** The Clerk pointed out that if the latter part of the motion has to be implemented people and ministries will definitely be affected.

The Moderator invited Rev. Barbara Durling to the platform to offer a prayer, which she did.

The Moderator then continued with the Agenda and invited Wayne Fevens, Chair of the Leadership Development Committee, to come to the platform to introduce those whom his committee has recommended to be recipients of an EVBA License to Minister pending a positive vote today. Wayne Fevens introduced the following names and invited each person present to stand when his/her name was announced:

**Jeff Milne (Renewal), David Lee (New), Jeff Baggaley (New),  
Andrew Porter (New), Keith Pineo (New), Grace Han (New).**

**It was MOVED (Wayne Fevens/Paul Bannister) and PASSED that those whose names have been presented be granted an EVBA License to Minister.**

The Moderator invited Gail K. Cook to the platform to present the Nominating Committee Report (c.f., pp 12-13). Gail expressed thanks for the following persons who have completed six years of continuous service and have served as Chair for their concluding years: Rev. Liz Johnson for her patient service with the Chaplaincy Committee; and Vincent Leung for his ambitious leadership with the Kingswood Camp Society Board.

**It was duly MOVED (Gail Cook/Stewart Brown) that the report of the Nominating Committee be adopted.**

Gail explained that although several persons have been approached to serve as Treasurer, no one has yet agreed to serve as Treasurer.

From the floor the following changes were made to the published report:

Page 12, Mission Committee #1 Tracey Kettley's email is [takettley@gmail.com](mailto:takettley@gmail.com);

Page 13, Chaplaincy Committee #5 same change as above;

Page 14, Kingswood Camp Society #4 Change "Mrs." To "Miss" Alicia Davidson;

Page 14, Kingswood Camp Society The following change regarding Laurie Hennigar whose first term as an elected member expired in 2017; therefore, as a re-elected member the Nominating Committee Report is changed to read:

8. Mr. Laurie Hennigar (Centreville) 2020 (2<sup>nd</sup>) 582-3339  
[nannybuddy@xcountry.tv](mailto:nannybuddy@xcountry.tv) (Treasurer)

**The edited/corrected Nominating Committee Report was PASSED.**

The Moderator explained that the remaining reports in the Report Book will be received by a common motion once time has been given for presentation, questions or comments.

**The Moderator's Report** is on page 16.

**The Past Moderator's Report** is on page 17. In light of her report Gail Cook encouraged people to make and relate to prayer partners.

**The Chaplaincy Committee Report** is on page 18.

**The Community Connections Committee** is on page 18.

**The Kingswood Camp Society Report** is on page 19. Vincent Leung took this opportunity to note that although his report is brief, the former Executive Director, Nichole Metcalfe has an extensive report which is available from him at [vincentleung1@hotmail.com](mailto:vincentleung1@hotmail.com). He expressed appreciation for Nichole's capable leadership which contributed to "the growth and development of the site and the ministry of Kingswood Camp. As of October 1, 2017, Candice Main became the Executive Director. He noted that "more than 60 campers made a first-time commitment to Jesus as their Savior and Lord." His hope is that local churches

will follow-up with these new Christians. He expressed thanks for the generous support of Kingswood by people and government agencies.

**The Kingswood Camp Society Financial Report** on pages 20-22 was addressed by Laurie Hennigar who encouraged those present not to be overly concerned about the current deficits, but to wait for the 2017 year-end financial statement that will be presented at the 2018 Spring Association.

**The Mission Committee Report** is on page 23.

**The WMS Association Report** is on page 24.

**The CBAC 2017 Oasis Reports** from Sharon Burnett and Partick Gilbhart are on pages 25-28.

**It was MOVED (John Eichhorn/John Beers) and PASSED that the above reports be accepted.**

With reference to the May 6, 2017 EVBA Minutes on page 6 of the November 4, 2017 Report Book the Moderator invited the Clerk to present each Notice of Motion independently.

**It was MOVED (Ron Baxter/Steven Hopper) and PASSED that the EVBA Stewardship Committee be dissolved, and that the responsibilities of that committee be entrusted to the EVBA Council.**

**It was MOVED (Ron Baxter/Thelma McLeod) and PASSED that a new EVBA Committee be established, to be called the "Dennis Veinotte Memorial Chaplaincy Fund Committee," with a primary responsibility to develop effective and appropriate means that will generate income in order to increase that endowment fund.**

Steven Hopper noted that several persons from the EVBA attended the November 1, 2017 one-day conference at Immanuel Baptist Church in Truro which was convened by the CBAC Council, in response to a written suggestion from the members of the EVBA Council, to discuss "The Future of Associations within the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada." The Moderator acknowledged that no report was prepared for presentation at this Association Session. So, **Steven recommended that a report be prepared for the 2018 Spring Association.**

*Clerk's Note: A team of volunteers from that conference has agreed to prepare a template of a twenty-first century Association, and will forward their template to the CBAC Executive Minister in due course.*

John Beers stood to express thanks to all who have prayed for Rev. Heather Card who came through serious surgery at QE II, and will benefit from continuing prayer as her body gradually recovers.

Wayne Merrill expressed thanks to the Pastor and the members of the Centreville Baptist Church for the use of their fine facilities, for their help in various ways during our session, for the mid-morning refreshments, and for the various tasty soups and desserts to be offered at lunchtime.

The Moderator **declared the Fall Association adjourned**, and he offered a closing prayer which included a grace for lunch. The majority in attendance eagerly made their way to the multipurpose area for a delicious lunch shortly after 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully prepared,

Ron Baxter, EVBA Clerk (11/20/17)