**Report of the Council**

To the Lunenburg-Queens Baptist Assocation

Annual Business Meeting, Sept. 30, 2017, Mahone Bay

One year ago, on October 1, 2016, our Association’s revised constitution came into effect. For several years prior, our Association attempted to operate through “working groups meetings.” That structure did not work well, meetings were not well attended. Therefore, the new constitution created a council of 13 people that is “authorized to conduct all business of association, which includes all financial considerations.”

Our council met 6 times:

* Face to face at Bridgewater Baptist Church on Dec. 7, Feb. 3, and Sept. 8.
* By telephone conference call on April 6, May 19 and June 29.

I try to keep our meetings to one hour or less.

The constitution specifies that the council is permitted to meet electronically. Members of the council found that for certain tasks, conference calls work fine, and they save a lot of time and gas. They end up costing the Association about $30 per call. (That cost will disappear as internet becomes more widely used.)

The constitution has a high quorum requirement for council meetings (75%). Therefore, when official decisions need to be made, the chair has to make sure enough people attend. (That is work, but it is much less frustrating than the earlier experience with the working groups.)

The following are some highlights of our work this year:

**Communication:** Because the council is trusted with broad powers, we have tried to make sure that the council minutes are distributed broadly to our Association email list, and sometimes by mail to church clerks, and on our website at <http://lunenburgqueensbaptist.com/wp/reports/>. We also sent out a one-page report on the work of the association, for churches to include in their annual report booklets. If there are ways that we can improve our communication and accountability, please let us know.

**Finances:** (a) we decided that two signers are required for Association cheques, currently the moderator and the treasurer; (b) we granted a $500 bursary to Royce Getson; (c) we gave Long Lake Camp an extra $2000, above their 60% of church allotments; (d) we empowered our treasurer to distribute the $2000 that the Association budgeted to help our churches with Tidal Impat. From that, we gave $1000 to Long Lake Camp to help with their costs for hosting the youth group from Windsor, and smaller amounts to other churches to help with groceries etc. This was a big help to the churches as they took on a big task of hosting this many youth.

**Events:** We organized the Association’s spring rally last May 7 in Milton. The new constitution specifies that the spring rally not be for business, but rather for inspiration. We moved the event from its normal Saturday morning to Sunday evening, beginning with a pot-luck. We also made an effort to provide the kind of content that a younger crowd would appreciate. Although the crowd ended up not being particularly young, the younger adults who were present voiced how pleased they were with it. Some of the older adults had to exercise patience with the music style, and their patience was appreciated.

We are also pleased to support Fran DeLong as she continues to organize our annual October music rally.

**Appointments:** We appointed a couple from Queens Co. to be our delegates at Oasis, but then they had to back down because of illness in their family. We also appointed people to fill vacancies on our council.

**Summary:** We applied last year’s changes to the constitution, and now our Association is conducting its business in a more functional way. I think that we are being more accountable for the money that is sent to us, and we are better stewards of the time given by our volunteers. Trusting the council with broad powers has allowed us to respond to opportunities better.

It has been a pleasure to work with this past year’s council members, and I thank them for their efforts and for their wisdom. Please pray that our council will have the grace to help our churches to grow in our walk with Jesus Christ.

Respectfully submitted,

Sam Jess, Moderator of the LQBA