***LUNENBURG QUEENS ASSOCIATION OF CONVENTION BAPTIST CHURCHES***

***SPRING MEETING***

***BROOKLYN BAPTIST CHURCH, BROOKLYN, NS***

***MAY 2, 2015***

The Lunenburg/Queens Association of Convention Baptist Churches met at Brooklyn Baptist Church in Brooklyn on May 2, 2015 with 38 registered. Moderator Steve Hopper welcomed everyone, thanked them for coming and then led in prayer.

We were then treated to special music by the Brooklyn Baptist Church Choir which was rendered beautifully and enjoyed by all.

Pastor Steve Hopper gave the devotional entitled “Bridges”. He focused his thoughts on churches and the people that come. Is the church a monument or a point of mission? Are the people that attend tourists or pilgrims of God? Like a small covered bridge in Possers Brook, New Brunswick where tourists visit to see this bridge, the church can become the same. Some churches that are open for viewing have more tourists during the week than worshippers on Sunday. The church building then becomes an historic place rather than a mission point of Christianity. We need to carry out two mandates: (1) reach the community with the gospel; and (2) preserve our buildings. Like a bridge, no matter the size or structure, it is created to get traffic from place to another and the church still needs to serve its purpose. We all need to focus on mission. Pastor Steve closed his devotion with prayer.

Business session:

1. Pastor Steve opened the Business Session with prayer.
2. The Rules of Order were read by Clerk, Marie Lamrock.
3. The Minutes of Fall Association held on October 4, 2014 were circulated. It was moved by Dan Green and seconded by Sam Jess that the Minutes be approved as printed. **Motion carried.**

CORRESPONDENCE:

There was no correspondence to be read at this meeting.

PRESENTATION:

Dan Green gave a brief history of the Old Church and invited all churches to attend the Conference.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

1. Constitutional Reform Summary

Pastor Steve outlined why it was necessary to make changes to the Lunenburg/Queens Constitution, noting that the structure that is in place now is not working. The attendance is low at Working Groups’ Sessions, usually without a quorum and therefore no motions can be made. He noted that we need to take a realistic look at the finances and suggested changes whereby money could be saved that could be put toward ministries, such as having only one special speaker per year. He noted that some of the churches are having financial problems and are unable to have full time pastors. This leads to having semi-retired pastors fill in and they do not have the time to invest in Association work. Pastor Steve will be looking for feed-back from the Pastors and if the changes are agreeable, a formal motion to accept the revised constitution can be made at the next meeting of the Working Groups to be held on June 13, 2015 at South Brookfield Church.

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1. Church Representatives

Churches, for those who have not already done so, were reminded to send the names of their representatives to Association to the Clerk as soon as possible.

**New business:**

1. Delegates to Convention

The Moderator called for nominations for delegates to Convention. Doug Oickle nominated Nilda Chute and Nilda accepted the nomination for Lunenburg. Kay Keddy nominated herself as she plans to attend anyway. Myrna Crouse nominated Marie Lamrock from Queens who accepted the nomination. Nilda Shute withdrew her acceptance of her nomination. Pastor Steve called three more times for further nominations, and hearing none, Dan Green moved and Fran Delong seconded that nominations cease. **Motion carried.**

1. Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee’s Report was presented and it was suggested that Gordon Peverill become a Co-Treasurer along with another Co-Treasurer, Fran Delong. It was noted that John Boddy had retired and was no longer in the Association. His name will be removed from the list. Under Leadership and Development*,* Tom Davidson’s name will be added. The names under Examining Council will be reversed with Steve Hopper the chair and Dan Green as alternate.

Pastor Steve called three more times for further nominations and hearing none, it was moved by Dan green and seconded by Lee Lohnes that nomination cease and the report be accepted. **Motion carried.**

1. License Renewals

It was moved by Dan Green and seconded by Vic Adams:

That Lay Pastor’s Licenses be renewed for the following:

 Doug Oickle, Wayne Dominey

AND THAT a new Lay Pastor’s License be approved for Vicky Sovie

**Motion carried.**

It was moved by Sam Jess and seconded by Doug Porter that, pending decision of Joe Green, Licenses for Ordination be renewed for Joe Green and Marie McCallum.  **Motion carried.**

REPORTS:

1. Treasurer

In the absence of the Treasurer, Gordon Peverill, Doug Oickle reviewed the Treasurer’s Report.

It was moved by Doug Oickle and seconded by Royce Getson that the Treasurer’s Report be accepted as presented. **Motion carried.**

The Auditor’s Report, submitted by Cheryl Beaton, was read.

1. Working Groups

Fran Delong stated that a date or place had not been selected for the Music Rally and asked if there was a church represented at this meeting that would volunteer to host it. Rev. Sherrilyn Riley offered the Mahone Bay Baptist Church for the event. Many thanks to Rev. Riley and the Mahone Bay Church. Further details will be forthcoming when they are available.

1. Long Lake Camp Board

Ken Cameron, Chair of Long Lake Camp Board, presented the Board’s Report. This report has become part of the Minutes. He noted, in closing, that clean-up of Long Lake Camp property would take place on May 8th and 9th.

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It was moved by Ken Cameron and seconded by Alice Getson that these reports be accepted. **Motion carried.**

Ken Cameron then reviewed the Financial Report for Long Lake Camp after which he entertained questions. Charles Richardson advised that a $10,000 grant had been provided by Convention. This report is affixed to the Minutes.

It was moved by Ken Cameron and seconded by Tom Davidson that the Financial Report be accepted. **Motion carried.**

1. Moderator’s Report

Pastor Steve gave the Moderator’s Report outlining the number of functions he had attended representing the Association, which included a dedication service for the new Bridgewater Baptist Church; an Induction service; Board of Ministerial Standards; three Council meetings; four Executive meetings and meetings to fulfill the Nominating Committee Report.

It was moved by Sam Jess and seconded by Greg Bezanson that this report be adopted. **Motion carried.**

Brian McArthur thanked all the sister churches for being involved and attending the dedication ceremony for the new Bridgewater Baptist Church.

Dan Green invited all to participate in the “Giving Golf Tournament”. Association was informed that John Boddy was retiring and moving away. The Ladies Retreat will be held at Greenfield Baptist Church on May 9, 2015.

HANDING OVER OF GAVEL AND MODERATOR’S CHAIR:

At this time Pastor Steve resumed the position of Past Moderator and handed over the gavel “rolling pin” to the new Moderator, Doug Oickle.

BREAK:

A break was then taken where delicious muffins and beverages were served.

SPECIAL MUSIC:

New Moderator, Doug Oickle, introduced Jean Marshal who provided us with singing like only Jean Marshall can provide. Her singing and humor held those present in awe and laughter. The applause that followed her performance indicated the pleasure she provided to all.

SPECIAL SPEAKER:

Pastor Steve introduced Cal Maskery, Executive Director and Founder of Harvest House. He outlined how this ministry has grown since the onset and how other programs have been included, all of which showed love and care for many. Cal was welcomed.

Cal spoke on his background and gave an outline of why he founded Harvest House. His life from crime to Christ was an incredible journey and he relentlessly speaks value and hope into the lives of those in need. He emphasized that God works within all of us – no matter what we have done. Prise His name!!

Cal will host a seminar after lunch concerning drugs in small communities.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:35 pm and a delicious meal was served by the Social Committee of the Brooklyn Baptist Church.

Moderator: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_