

January 19, 2010

Dear CABC family:

People often liken their Christian experience to a journey. This journey has many twists and turns, ups and downs. There are people who rise up and speak into our lives on the journey. A central fact to claim is that no matter what we face, God is with us on the journey.

As a Convention Council and family of churches, we have been engaged in a process, a journey of clarification of mission and ministry, and God has been with us as we have worked through this process of incorporation. Let's consider how this process has helped us come to greater clarity:

1. We have provided a forum to listen to the constituency. It may seem that the "Convention" is an office or a slate of officers or staff. As leadership, we desire the member churches to speak into the process of change. Letters and emails have been submitted and two rounds of consultations have been conducted. Every suggestion was reviewed and considered by the Incorporation Working Group. This has been incredibly valuable in the process of ownership.
2. We have a clearer sense of our history. Through input into the process, a more comprehensive historical sketch was drawn up.
3. We have formed a list of core values. These may have existed, but were not stated. We believe that there are things which are indispensable to us in our cooperative efforts. This has been a unifying experience to draw these together.
4. We have outlined expectations and standards of member churches and defined important terms for greater understanding. Our hope is that people will have a greater sense of identity as Atlantic Baptists.
5. We want to provide protection to member churches who in the case of litigation, are not protected. Although unfortunate, it is a reality in this day in which we live. Though not the only motivator, it does provide incentive to press forward.

At recent Oasis Assemblies, delegates affirmed the process toward incorporation and instructed Council to proceed with finalization of a document to be approved at the 2010 Oasis Assembly. This has taken many hours and we as a Council are indebted to the

Incorporation Working Group, our lawyers, and other individuals who have taken great care in hearing various viewpoints and bringing the best document forward.

Because of the significance of this change, it is important to note the following:

- Extra time will be given to debate on this item of business at Oasis 2010
- The changes will unfold over the ensuing months before CABC incorporation comes into effect in 2011.

Please be advised that after a great deal of consultation and scrutiny the final draft of the Incorporation Bylaw document has been completed and approved by Convention Council. The document has been forwarded via email to all churches and associations and has been posted on the Convention website. If any church or individual is unable to receive a copy electronically please contact the office of the Executive Minister and a hard copy of the document will be mailed immediately.

You will find the following enclosures included in this mailing:

- I. A notice of the motions Council will bring to Oasis Assembly in August 2010 Re: Incorporation.
- II. A rationale for a reduced list of Assembly Resolutions to be included in the Appendix of the Bylaw document.

Thank you for your prayerful support of the process. We look forward to your participation in the upcoming Oasis Assembly and beyond.

Sincerely, On behalf of Council,



Rev. Dr. Robert Knowles,  
President

RK/ljr

Enclosures (2)