



CONVENTION of Atlantic Baptist Churches
CONVENTION des Églises Baptistes de l'Atlantique

August 23, 2010

To: Associations of the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches, Moderators of the associations, and Clerks of the associations

Re: Membership in the Incorporated Convention

Dear friends and co-labourers in Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. We are writing to you about the most exciting and significant step we have taken as a Convention of churches and associations since the Union of the Baptist Convention of the Maritime Provinces with the Free Baptist General Conference of New Brunswick in 1905 and the Free Baptist Conference of Nova Scotia in 1906.

The member churches and associations of the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches through their delegates voted at their August 2008 Assembly (Oasis) to approve in principle the recommendation of the Council to seek incorporation pursuant to the *Canada Corporations Act*. They also authorized the Convention Council to finalize the General Operating Bylaw for presentation at a subsequent Assembly (Oasis). The General Operating Bylaw was presented and approved overwhelmingly at the August 2010 Assembly (Oasis). The newly adopted General Operating Bylaw is on the Convention web site: <http://www.baptist-atlantic.ca/departments/executiveminister/incorporation>.

Early in the process of incorporation, the Council and the Incorporation Working Group assumed that all the churches and associations would automatically become members of the incorporated Convention by virtue of the “grandfather” clause, but discovered that this was not legally possible. When an organization incorporates, its members must be given the choice of opting in or out of the newly incorporated body. This is why Section 3.01(a) of the General Operating Bylaw states,

(a) Churches and associations of churches, which were recorded as members by the unincorporated Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches as of the date of passing this General Operating Bylaw and which express in writing their desire to become a Member of the incorporated Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches, within two (2) years of the adoption of this General Operating Bylaw by the Registered Delegates at a Meeting of

Members, will be accepted as Members, with all the Rights, Responsibilities, and Expectations of Members outlined in Article 3.04.

Expressing a desire to become a member of the incorporated Convention is a legal matter and must be based on an official action of the association. At a properly called business meeting of the association, the following motion needs to be passed:

At a properly called meeting of our association on (date), we the (name of association) Association of (Province) of the unincorporated Convention express our desire to become a Member of the incorporated Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches with all the Rights, Responsibilities, and Expectations of Members outlined in Article 3.04 of the General Operating Bylaw.

Although the Bylaw guarantees that you may express this desire by vote of your association at a properly called meeting and be automatically accepted as a Member anytime within two years of the adoption of the Bylaw on August 20, 2010, we strongly urge you express this desire by early 2011 for the following reasons:

- 1) When the Nominating Committee meets early in 2011 to nominate members for the Convention Organizations, Boards, and Committees, and for the office of Vice President, only pastors and members of churches and delegates of associations, which have expressed in writing their desire to be Members of the incorporated Convention, will be eligible to be nominated.
- 2) Only associations, which have expressed in writing their desire to be Members of the incorporated Convention, will be eligible to send delegates to the new Convention when it meets in August 2011 just after the unincorporated Convention is dissolved. In other words, associations, which have not expressed in writing their desire to be members of the incorporated Convention by then, will fail to have a voice in the life of the Convention family through voting delegates. However, these associations are eligible to express their desire to become Members of the incorporated Convention until the August 2012 Assembly (Oasis). After such time they will have to follow the process outlined in Section 3.02 of the General Operating Bylaw.

The following facts should be reviewed: 1) As soon as associations of the unincorporated Convention receive a positive vote and forward this response to the Executive Minister's office acceptance in the incorporated Convention is automatic. 2) It is the deep desire of all Council members and Officers that every association in the unincorporated Convention become members of the newly incorporated Convention. If Council, its Officers, or the Executive Minister can be of further assistance in helping associations to complete this process by providing additional information, please contact the Executive Minister's office.

We hope and pray that all the present associations and churches will have delegates in attendance when the incorporated Convention is inaugurated at the August 2011 Assembly (Oasis). This

Associations of the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches, Moderators of the associations, and Clerks of the associations

August 23, 2010

Page 3 of 4

will be a time to celebrate the completion of a five-year process. We have been a family of churches for more than 100 years and we don't want to lose anyone from the family.

For your convenience, a sample response letter is enclosed.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. Douglas Schofield,
President



Dr. Peter Reid,
Executive Minister

PR:ljr

Enclosure

Associations of the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches, Moderators of the associations, and
Clerks of the associations
August 23, 2010
Page 4 of 4

SAMPLE RESPONSE LETTER

August 23, 2010

Dr. Peter Reid
Executive Minister
Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches
1655 Manawagonish Road
Saint John NB E2M 3Y2

Dear Dr. Reid,

At a properly called meeting of the (name of association) Association, the following motion was passed:

At a properly called meeting of our association on (date), we the (name of association) Association of (Province) of the unincorporated Convention express our desire to become a Member of the incorporated Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches with all the Rights, Responsibilities, and Expectations of Members outlined in Article 3.04 of the General Operating Bylaw.

We look forward to continuing our relationship with the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches by being accepted as a Member of the incorporated Convention.

Sincerely yours,