

## SCOTTISH BAPTIST LAY PREACHERS' ASSOCIATION

### EXTRACT OF MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON SATURDAY 26<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2009 AT NEWTON MEARN'S BAPTIST CHURCH

**PRESENT:-** Jim McFarlane (President), Glen Cartwright (Secretary), Jim Brownlee, Jim McNulty, Alan Milnes, Andrew Page & Iain Telfer.

#### **1.0 OPENING DEVOTIONS**

Rev Deans Buchanan (Newton Mearns Baptist Church) led opening devotions from Colossians 1:24-29, a rich and reflective passage, highlighting the importance of preaching and the spiritual life of the preacher.

#### **2.0 CHURCHES UPDATE**

Following coffee, there then followed a time of sharing news and praying together for the needs of the various churches represented.

#### **3.0 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2009 were unanimously accepted as being a true and accurate record of the meeting. Thanks were expressed to the Secretary for the preparation thereof.

#### **4.0 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS**

Three applications, the Secretary reported, had been received, and these were presented in respect of the following persons, their respective applications having previously been endorsed by their Pastor:-

Trevor Brunning (Selkirk) - to probationary list (letter of commendation awaited)  
Alan Stirling (Calderwood) - to probationary list  
Jim Sutherland (Islay) - to probationary list

In respect of the application for Jim Sutherland (Islay), because of the fact he lives on an island married with his 'unique circumstances', it was agreed to afford Jim probationary membership.

The Secretary mentioned that Marion Carson (Queens' Park) was going to be taking up a part time hospital chaplaincy appointment, whilst still lecturing at International Christian College. Alan Milnes, who sits on the Board of Ministry, indicated he would keep the Committee informed with regards to any accreditation of Marion by the Baptist Union of Scotland which would potentially mean she would be ineligible to continue to serve in a strictly 'lay' capacity. The Secretary also reported that Joy Weightman (Cambuslang) had been appointed by the church there to serve in a lay pastoral worker capacity, and that he had written to Joy assuring her of the prayers and encouragement of the Association.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL REPORT**

In presenting the Financial Report, the Treasurer highlighted that the current balance to date was £341.52, as against a figure of £171.02 at the same point last year. Total income for the year to date had been £1,065.00, against a figure of £1,048.93 for the same time last year, whilst total expenditure was, to date, £894.50, against a much higher figure for the previous year of £1,387.15. It was noted that although £134.83 was committed for the re-print of the promotional flyer with Verve Creative, the invoice had not yet been received. Whilst the Preaching Workshops held during the 2008/2009 session had been a worthwhile investment of time for those who had attended, financially there had been a loss on these, but it was noted that the way forward, as with the series of Connect Four workshops planned for 2009/2010 was more one of partnership, financially as well as practically, between the Scottish Baptist Lay Preachers' Association, the Scottish Baptist College and the Baptist Union of Scotland.

## **6.0 WEBSITE REPORT**

In presenting the Website Report on behalf of the webmaster, Phil Magee (Dingwall), the Secretary mentioned that visitors per month to the website were now averaging 250-300, and that increasingly the website was a key part of promoting the work of the Association. It was noted that data was currently being transferred from one server to another for administrative purposes, and that Alan Milnes was currently engaged in constructing the new, fresh and professional looking website, which will draw on the resource of Wordpress, making it easier for editing and adding articles. The intention is for the new look website to be launched on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009. Given the work that Peter Lanigan (Falkirk) has done over the years with the website and is no longer able to due to other commitments, it was agreed that the Secretary write to Peter to thank him for his work in this area

## **7.0 BAPTIST ASSEMBLY 2009**

For information, the Secretary mentioned that the Association would have a five minute slot as part of the 'Spotlight on Ministry' session on the Thursday afternoon of the Baptist Assembly to further promote the ministry of the Association, and that as part of this, there would be an updated media presentation. Mention was also made of the updated promotional flyer currently awaited from Verve Creative which will be made available to all delegates at the Assembly.

## **8.0 CONFERENCE 2010**

With regards to the Conference (incorporating the AGM) to be held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at Stenhouse Gorgie Baptist Church, the Committee agreed that we invite Alex Graham Caterers from Kilsyth to once again purvey for lunch. The Secretary indicated he would make the necessary arrangements. The Committee also agreed that the guest speaker, Rev Edwin Gunn, be given the freedom to speak on the theme of his choice. Members will be encouraged to pay when they register.

## **9.0 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

There being no further business, it was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would be held on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2010 at 9:30am at Newton Mearns Baptist Church.

Thanks were expressed to the Secretary for all his hard work in organising the meeting and in the Secretariat.

The President closed the meeting in prayer at 12:05pm.