



December 15, 2014

ATTENTION: CABC Churches, Pastors of CABC Churches, Clerks of CABC Churches, CABC Association Moderators, and CABC Association Clerks

Dear CABC Friends and Co-Labourers in Christ,

I am writing on behalf of the Council of the Convention of Atlantic Baptist Churches to let you know of decisions the Council has made regarding the Convention Office building in Saint John.

You may not know that our Convention family took a great step of faith over 30 years ago when we built our current offices in 1979 and opened the building in 1980. The building has served the staff and our constituency well. However, today there are numerous issues which need to be addressed should we stay in this building. These issues range from air quality to wheel chair accessibility, to replacing windows, other repairs, upgrades and a general face-lift. After two significant studies it was determined that in order to bring the building up to the necessary standards the cost would be in excess of \$500,000.

As far back as 2012, the Council began discussing these issues and attempting to make a wise and prudent decision regarding the future of the building.

Due diligence has been done in studying the cost of upgrading the building. Two engineering studies were conducted on the building itself. We completed a study of the current assessed value of the building and received quotes from three real estate companies on two separate occasions. There have been discussions and projection of future office needs in terms of square footage. We have also debated possible savings in travel costs if the office was in a more central location. Council researched current leasing options both in Saint John and Moncton. Beyond these issues, Council considered the fiscal and human resource cost of staying with the status quo as opposed to moving to a more central location.

After two years of prayer, study and looking at more than half a dozen options, the Council is prepared to move forward. In September a series of motions passed to recommend to the delegates of Oasis 2015:

1. Considering the circumstances of the building at 1655 Manawagonish Road, Saint John, New Brunswick, we recommend the building be sold.
2. Considering the result of the studies on the present premises Council recommends that we move to a more central location.
3. That the Executive Minister pursues a possible lease agreement for office space with Crandall University.

I understand that while Council has been wrestling with these issues for over two years this will come as news to many of you. If you have questions or comments, you can contact our office or use the online form here: <https://atlbaptist.wufoo.com/forms/feedback-cabc-office-possible-move/>. We will continue to keep you informed as we move forward.

On behalf of Convention Council and our Convention Staff I want to wish you joy and peace during the Christmas season!

Sincerely,

Rev. Michael A. Palmer, CABC President