

## Halifax Baptist Hospital Chaplaincy Committee Report for the 2022 Fiscal Year

COVID-19 continued to have a dramatic effect on this ministry. Fortunately, Denominational Chaplains were still welcome to visit patients in the Halifax Hospitals as they were considered an embedded part of the team. This provided one additional reason as to why it is important for the Baptists to have Chaplains that are working within the hospital setting.

Organizationally, it has also been an eventful year, with the retirement of the Rev. Adele Crowell as Halifax Baptist Hospital Chaplain at the end of May, 2022. Adele gave outstanding service since starting as a part-time Chaplain in January, 2008. With limitations imposed by COVID-19, we held a small, by-invitation-only reception for Adele on May 28, 2022. We were pleased to welcome the Rev. Joe Green as our full-time Baptist Hospital Chaplain on June 6, 2022. An Induction Service for Joe was held on September 18, 2022 at Timberlea Baptist Church. The Rev. Ida Armstrong-Whitehouse continued as our part-time Chaplain.

This year, we sent two letters to Nova Scotia CBAC Churches. The July 12, 2022 letter noted the many things for which we thank God and celebrate, including the decision to consider our Baptist Chaplains as “essential workers” within the hospitals, allowing them to continue visiting even when there were severe restrictions on other visitors; our ability to adjust organizationally, with Zoom meetings, modified work hours and modified budgets; the faithful service of our retiring Chaplain, the Rev. Adele Crowell; the calling of the Rev. Joseph Green to join our ministry as our full-time Baptist Hospital Chaplain; the continued service of the Rev. Dr. Ida Armstrong-Whitehouse as our part-time Baptist Hospital Chaplain; and the ongoing prayer and financial support that our member churches and granting organizations were able to provide during the upheaval caused by the pandemic.

The October 7, 2022 letter was our regular fall letter to supporting churches in Nova Scotia. It noted the impact of COVID-19 on our Hospital Chaplaincy Ministry. On the one hand, we were delighted with the special role that our Chaplains had in the health care system and thus were able to visit even when local pastors and family were not. On the other hand, this added to the stress of providing Chaplaincy services and to the complexity of working in the hospital setting. Both staff and patients were appreciative of our presence and the ways that we were able to provide ministry during this time of stress and give emotional and spiritual support. Families, friends and ministers helped by making referrals to us through phone or emails.

Pastor Steve Baker, one of the patients visited in 2022, provided a testimony on the impact of the Chaplaincy ministry.

“This summer, I found myself in the New Halifax Infirmary on two separate occasions. This is not my local hospital and is about two hours from home. I felt very alone and anxious during these times.

The same chaplain, on both occasions, took the time to visit with me and pray with me and for me. The comfort and reassurance I felt were incredible. My physical concerns were being addressed, and the chaplain supported my spiritual and emotional needs. This was a very important time for me. My spiritual life is extremely important, and

although my faith is strong, the reassurance and support, knowing that my spiritual needs were a priority, eased my distress considerably.

Spiritual health impacts both physical and mental health. My physical and mental recovery would not be complete without my spiritual health being cared for. The time the chaplain took to talk to and pray for me was essential to prepare me for my procedures and subsequent recovery.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to the chaplaincy team, and Rev. Joe Green in particular. Without you, all facets of life would not be addressed, and the full restoration of a person could not be complete. I believe my whole being was cared for when I needed care the most.”

What a wonderful testament to this caring ministry!

At the end of the year, we had more good news. The Rev. Wayne Desmond, who is the pastor at Cherry Brook Unite Baptist Church, was welcomed to our committee. He is exploring the possibility a future as a Hospital Chaplain and is considering taking a Clinical Pastoral Education Course in 2023. Working with our Chaplains and committee will not only help us, but will give him a greater understanding of hospital chaplaincy.

Financially, we have held our own throughout the Pandemic, but we are concerned about the rising costs of providing Chaplains and the limited ability of many churches to increase their financial support. This year we noted a new source of revenue--several donations from individuals who wish to support this ministry. These donations were very much appreciated and receipts will be issued for tax purposes. Another first this year was the establishment of an Endowment Fund through which donors can contribute to the long term funding of the Hospital Chaplaincy ministry. In December, we received the first donation to this fund. Contributions can be made with either cash or negotiable securities, which adds a donation mechanism not available before. We welcome donations from individuals, estates, organizations and foundations—perhaps as a memorial to someone who spent time in one of our hospitals.

The 2022 Financial Report is attached, including the 2022 Budget and Actual Expenditures, together with the Statement of Revenue and Expenditures for 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021 for comparative purposes. Our expenses were increasing, so we budgeted for a moderate deficit. With careful stewardship, our expenses were slightly lower than budgeted, but donations for the year were less than we had hoped. This resulted in a year-end shortfall of \$13,870 compared to our budgeted deficit of \$8,509. The good news is that our balance at the start of 2022 was able to absorb this deficit.

As we look to the future, we recognize the challenge of keeping the Hospital Chaplaincy ministry fully funded. The cost of providing the Chaplaincy ministry has increased and so our financial support must also increase. Every donation helps and with your assistance we will keep our deficit to a minimum while continuing to provide a full level of service to Baptists in Halifax hospitals. Faithful prayer and financial partners are so important to sustain this caring ministry and we give thanks for each one of you!

Our chaplains are always happy to have someone call them to say that a patient is coming to one of the Halifax hospitals.

Respectfully submitted,

*Alan Barkhouse*

**Halifax Baptist Hospital Chaplaincy Committee:**

Chair: Alan Barkhouse;

Secretary: the Rev. Dr. Marlene Knowles; Treasurer: David Gibson;

Members: the Rev. Pamela Estey, and the Rev. Wayne Desmond

Chaplains: the Rev. Joe Green and the Rev. Dr. Ida Armstrong-Whitehouse.

<b>HALIFAX BAPTIST HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY Budget 2022</b>									
<b>Statement of Revenue and Expenditures for 2022 (Budget Adopted March 15, 2022)</b>									
			Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual	Actual
	Year ended December 31		2022	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	
					(COVID-19)	(COVID-19)			
						Revised)			
<b>Revenue</b>									
Gifts from Churches									
	PEI		\$ 1250	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,100	\$ 2,000	\$ 950	
	New Brunswick		1250	750	750	750	1,500	1,070	
	Halifax Region Association Churches		12523	17,000	15,146	13,302	17,729	16,513	
	Rest of Nova Scotia		22791	26,000	25,791	24,239	24,777	23,490	
	<b>Gifts from Churches Subtotal</b>		<b>37,814</b>	<b>45,000</b>	<b>42,937</b>	<b>39,391</b>	<b>46,006</b>	<b>42,023</b>	
Grants and Special Gifts									
	Halifax Region U. B. Association		17500	17,500	17,500	17,550	17,500	15,000	
	Atlantic Baptist Foundation		10000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	
	Earnings from Endowment Fund			200					
	Personal and Memorial Retirement Donations		1812	1,000	1,056		Christie Fund 2,000	Christie Fund 3,000	
	<b>Grants and Special Gifts Subtotal</b>		<b>35,112</b>	<b>34,950</b>	<b>28,556</b>	<b>27,550</b>	<b>29,500</b>	<b>28,000</b>	
	<b>Total revenue</b>		<b>72,926</b>	<b>79,950</b>	<b>71,493</b>	<b>66,941</b>	<b>75,506</b>	<b>70,023</b>	
<b>Expenditures</b>									
	Full-time Chaplain: Salary and Benefits		63102	63,709	58,395	43,955	56,405	55,533	
	Chaplain Retirement		5000	6,250					
	Part-time Chaplain: Salary and Benefits		16698	16,500	13,138	12,780	15,495	16,185	
	<b>Chaplains Subtotal</b>		<b>84,800</b>	<b>86,459</b>	<b>71,533</b>	<b>56,735</b>	<b>71,900</b>	<b>71,718</b>	
	Membership Fees		532						
	Supplies, Advertising, and Travel		1464	2,000	469	820	1,069	100	
	<b>Total expenditures</b>		<b>86,796</b>	<b>88,459</b>	<b>72,002</b>	<b>57,555</b>	<b>72,969</b>	<b>71,818</b>	
	<b>Excess of revenue over expenditures</b>		<b>-13,870</b>	<b>-8,509</b>	<b>-509</b>	<b>9,386</b>	<b>2,537</b>	<b>-1,795</b>	
	CBAC Accounting reconciliation					-1	-37	99	
	<b>Cash balance, beginning of year</b>		<b>55871</b>	<b>55,871</b>	<b>56,380</b>	<b>46,995</b>	<b>44,495</b>	<b>46,191</b>	
	<b>Cash balance, end of year</b>		<b>\$ 42,001</b>	<b>\$ 47,362</b>	<b>\$ 55,871</b>	<b>\$ 56,380</b>	<b>\$ 46,995</b>	<b>\$ 44,495</b>	