



Halifax Baptist Hospital Chaplaincy Committee

5561 Heatherwood Court, Unit 303, Halifax, NS B3K 5N7

September 15, 2021

*Please share this letter with your Pastor,
Deacons and Finance Committee.*

«Treasurer»
«Church_Name»
«Street_Address» «Supplemental_Address»
«City» «Prov» «Postal_Code»

Dear «Treasurer»,

COVID-19 has had a dramatic effect on our Hospital Chaplaincy Ministry, which is perhaps best described by quoting from the Annual Reports submitted by our Chaplains. From the Rev. Adele Crowell, “This year has proved to be one of challenge for many Nova Scotians and especially for all those who work in Health Care at the Nova Scotia Health Authority. Beginning in March, 2020 many changes and restrictions were placed on hospitals, and staff found themselves adjusting to new protocols week by week. We were delighted that Denominational Chaplains such as Rev. Ida and myself along with Roman Catholic, Anglican, and Presbyterian Chaplains were still welcome to visit patients in the hospital as we are considered an embedded part of the team. It fortified the reasoning as to why it is important for the Baptists to have Chaplains that are working within the hospital setting.”

“I received a number of calls from Pastors who were prevented from visiting, with referrals to church members who were in need of spiritual care. For a number of months, early on in the COVID-19 pandemic, family members were not allowed to visit. Later, that was changed to one support person and then later to two. Numerous patients remarked as to how important the Chaplain’s visits were to them especially being separated from friends and families. It was a busy time dealing with isolation, fear, anxiety and those patients who were feeling abandoned and depressed.

From the Rev. Dr. Ida Armstrong-Whitehouse, “There was little indication that the world would go into crisis mode. In my 46 years of ministry, I have never seen a year like 2020. This year offered both obstacles and opportunities in Chaplaincy. For many Nova Scotians, our first inklings of COVID-19 were the global news of medical outbreaks around the world. Then came the Federal Government decision to mandate people who had been travelling outside Canada to self-isolate. That was the beginning.”

“Then, our HRM hospitals went into preparedness mode. Medical staff were set “on alert” to be front-line COVID-19 virus staff and some Hospital Units were set aside to deal with COVID-19 patients, if the need arose. Next, some medical staff were seconded to assist with the massive outbreak at Northwood. These factors all had a domino effect. This meant that our HRM hospitals were unable to carry on as usual, many elective surgeries were cancelled and there were less hospital beds and staff available. In the hospitals, a general NO VISITATION policy came into effect on March 16, 2020 which then meant a heavier workload for staff as visitors were no longer there to provide for non-essential care and comfort.”

However, this also provided an opportunity. Ida continued, “God had provided an open door for us. Adele and I were considered “*essential workers*” in most hospital units in the health care system. It

meant that we could continue to carry on our ministry at most of the hospital settings. 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 provide emotional and spiritual support. Families, friends and ministers made referrals to us through phone or emails. That was helpful.”

As the Halifax Baptist Hospital Chaplaincy Committee, we also had a lot of adjustments to make. We operated mostly with Zoom Meetings and emails. We also had to consider the health and safety of our Chaplains and their family needs in these uncertain times. In May, 2020, we amended our budget to account for reduced expenditure due to Adele’s request for half-time service for six months beginning in April and some short periods of leave for Ida. We also anticipated a reduction in the ability of our partner congregations, associations and foundations to continue the level of financial support that we had come to rely on in the preceding years, and reduced the revenue projections in our budget as well.

We started 2020 with a budget that anticipated \$74,500 in revenue from local churches, the HRUBA, the Atlantic Baptist Foundation, and other donors, and with anticipated expenditures of \$74,469 for an essentially “balanced” budget. However, with the shutdown that came with COVID-19, we reduced our estimate of revenue by \$19,125 and with reduced staff hours, reduced our estimate of expenditures by \$16,718.

In October, 2020, we sent a letter to all the Nova Scotia churches of the Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada, requesting your continued support for our ministry. The response from local churches in November and December was overwhelming and together with funding from the Halifax Region United Baptist Association and a grant from the Atlantic Baptist Foundation we have exceeded the level of support needed to fund our reduced 2020 operating budget, leaving us in a good starting place for 2021. What a wonderful response!

2021 will also be challenging for our Chaplains as hospitals work to clear the backlog of diagnostic tests, surgeries and treatments that have been postponed because of COVID-19. This will put additional pressure on medical staff, patients and families. Our chaplains will be there to help.

For 2021, we are back to being fully staffed (Adele full time and Ida 12 hours per week) with a full budget. The 2021 Budget is attached for your information, together with the Statement of Revenue and Expenditures for 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020 for comparative purposes.

Realizing that some local churches are also facing stressful times and that you may not be able to contribute as substantially as in the past, we have budgeted for a small deficit in 2021. However, 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. Thank you for your support.

Faithful partners are so important to sustain this caring ministry and we give thanks for each one of you! We also welcome donations from individuals and estates—perhaps as a memorial to someone who spent time in one of our hospitals.

Three Ways to Donate

By cheque:

Please make out your cheque to:
Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada
Mail it to:

Canadian Baptists of Atlantic Canada
PO Box 6003 Moncton, NB E1C 0V7

By electronic funds transfer to CBAC:

Auto deposit is available by sending to:
Debbie Barriault, Finance Officer
debbie.barriault@baptist-atlantic.ca

On the CBAC Website:

<https://baptist-atlantic.ca/> (click on GIVE)

Regardless of which method you use to donate, please note that your donation is for the Halifax Baptist Hospital Chaplaincy.

Our chaplains are always happy to have someone call them to say that a patient is coming to one of the Halifax hospitals. Contact information for Adele and Ida is inside the enclosed brochures. If you would like more of the brochures, or an electronic copy to make your own copies or to post on your church web site, please drop us a line at the address at the top of page 1.

Please share this letter with your pastor and the deacons or your congregation so that they might also be aware of our thanks. We have also enclosed a one page "Note of Thanks" that you may wish to include in your bulletin. May God bless you in your local ministries.

Yours sincerely,



Alan Barkhouse, Chair

Members: the Rev. Marlene Knowles, the Rev. Pamela Estey and David Gibson

Chaplains: the Rev. Adele Crowell and the Rev. Dr. Ida Armstrong-Whitehouse

HALIFAX BAPTIST HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY Budget 2021							
Statement of Revenue and Expenditures (Adopted March 16, 2021)							
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Actual	Actual
	Year ended December 31	2021	2020	2020	2019	2018	2017
				(COVID-19 Revised)			
Revenue							
Gifts from Churches							
	PEI	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,100	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 950	\$ 3,975
	New Brunswick	1,500	750	1,500	1,500	1,070	955
	Halifax Region Association Churches	17,500	13,302	17,500	17,729	16,513	19,410
	Rest of Nova Scotia	25,000	24,239	25,000	24,777	23,490	25,691
	Gifts from Churches Subtotal	46,000	39,391	46,000	46,006	42,023	50,031
Grants and Special Gifts							
	Halifax Region U. B. Association	17,500 *	17,550	17,500	17,500	15,000	15,000
	Atlantic Baptist Foundation	10,000 **	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
	Christie Fund (First Baptist Amherst)	3,000 ***			2,000	3,000	
	Grants and Special Gifts Subtotal	30,500	27,550	27,500	29,500	28,000	25,000
	Reduced Revenue due to COVID-19	-10,000		-19,125			
	Total revenue	66,500	66,941	54,375	75,506	70,023	75,031
Expenditures							
	Chaplian: Salary and Benefits	56,969	43,955	40,671	56,405	55,533	55,684
	Part-time Chaplain: Salary and Benefits	16,500	12,780	16,080	15,495	16,185	16,725
	Chaplains Subtotal	73,469	56,735	56,751	71,900	71,718	72,409
	Supplies, Advertising, and Travel	1,000	820	1,000	1,069	100	889
	Total expenditures	74,469	57,555	57,751	72,969	71,818	73,298
	Excess of revenue over expenditures	-7,969	9,386	-3,376	2,537	-1,795	1,733
	CBAC Accounting reconciliation		-1		-37	99	1,606
	Cash balance, beginning of year	56,380	46,995	46,995	44,495	46,191	42,852
	Cash balance, end of year	\$ 48,411	56,380	\$ 43,619	\$ 46,995	\$ 44,495	\$ 46,191
	* In Approved 2021 HRUBA Budget		*** Application pending				
	** Received in May, 2021						