



DIACONAL MINISTRIES
CANADA

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

MINUTES

CRCNA Main Offices, 3475 Burlington Ontario

October 18, 2019 8:00 p.m.

To: The Deacons of the Christian Reformed Churches in Canada
From: The Board of Diaconal Ministries Canada
Date: October 18, 2019 8:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Attendance: 17 in-person attendance votes and 32 electronic votes.
Other: Attendance of 15 online live participants.

Opening:

Erica Snippe-Juurakko, DIACONAL MINISTRIES CANADA Board Chair, opened the meeting by welcoming all participants, and paying particular attention to participants from the online audience (streaming from Facebook live). Erica is the Board Director representing Classis Lake Superior and has been Board Chair for the past 2 years. Majority of Board Directors for Diaconal Ministries Canada were present.

Minutes of 2018 AGM Edmonton:

Erica reviewed the minutes from the previous year meeting. This included a summary of the structure of the meeting, what resources were included in the meeting, as well as a brief summary of the Justice report from Cindy Stover.

DIACONAL MINISTRIES CANADA Annual Report 2018-19:

The National Director reviewed the DIACONAL MINISTRIES CANADA Annual Ministry Report for the 2018-19 fiscal year. There was particular attention paid to the “Diaconal Ministries by the Numbers” section which outlined the numerical impact that is felt across the country from the ministry activities of the organization.

- 350 deacons of more than 130 churches have attended a workshop or deacon training event held by Diaconal Coaches or a field staff
- 203 churches (of 227) have had some form of direct contact from Diaconal Ministries Canada
- Over 900 people have contacted Diaconal Ministries via the website resources (45% of these originate from the USA)
 - o USA will be looking at hiring a full time staff member to fill the need / gap that exists for deacon ministry across the border
- A reminder that Diaconal Coaches are available for each Classis across Canada to assist Deacons with training, coaching and general assistance.

The National Director also outlined the new Stewardship Pilot Program Initiative (that will be implemented in the 2019-2020 fiscal period). The new candidate (Stewardship Pilot Project Coordinator) will be beginning in the position as of January 1, 2020. For more information, deacons are encouraged to visit the website at www.diaconalministries.com

Audited Statements for 2017/18 Year and Appointment of Auditor for the 2018/19 year:

The National Director reviewed the Audited Financial Statements for the 2018-19 fiscal year. Everything has presented favorably for DIACONAL MINISTRIES CANADA to end the year. The balance sheet shown was indicative of a healthy position financially for the organization.

Moved (Norm Haayema) and seconded (Ineke Neutel) to approve the audited financial statements @ June 30, 2019. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Moved (Laura Blundell) and seconded (Ineke Neutel) to approve the appointment of auditor DBK Accounting as Auditor for the 2019-2020 period. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Review of the Budget for the 2019-2020 Fiscal Period:

The National Director walked through the budgetary changes that have occurred in the 2019-2020 fiscal period. The most imperative change is an increase in Ministry Shares of \$8.25 to \$9.00 per professing member. Ministry Shares have not been increased in the past 5 years, and so Diaconal Ministries Canada has worked on meaningful increases in funding (including fundraising initiatives for the 2019-2020 period) to increase the ministry footprint across the country in the next 12 months. For further information regarding the budget of the 2019-2020 fiscal period, deacons are encouraged to contact the office directly at dmc@crcna.org

Presentation of Board of Directors:

Moved and seconded to approve the DIACONAL MINISTRIES CANADA Board of Directors as stated for the 2018/19 year (in the Annual Report of 2018). **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Board of Directors for the 2019-2020 fiscal period can be found online at the Diaconal Ministries website at www.diaconalministries.com

Special Presentation - Update on the NewGround Program, Diaconal Ministries Canada:

Erin Knight (Communications Coordinator for Diaconal Ministries Canada) gave a review of the NewGround program (after rebranding and relaunch of the program in the 2019 year. She provided a history to the program, and an outlined reasoning behind the purpose of the redesign, rebrand and relaunch of the program in the 2019 year. Highlights included a list of past partner ministries that were still operating today after support from the program in the past. Historically, NewGround has been an incredible blessing to community ministries across Canada!

There are now four areas to the program that include:

- Youth Justice Project
- Community Opportunity Scans
- New Ministry Grants & Support
- Deacon scholarships

For more information, deacons are encouraged to visit the NewGround area of the Diaconal Ministries website at: www.diaconalministries.com/newground/

Q&A:

- 1) How are the Deacon 101 trainings conducted?

These can be done by Classis (getting 2 or 3 churches together), or can be done one-on-one per diaconate. This training is really about going through the mandate for Deacons. Most deacons have said "I do" to the charge in front of the church, but are often unclear of how to play live this out. This training can also lead to other diaconate involvement opportunities (like Community Opportunity Scan). Contact your local Diaconal Coach or email us at dmc@crcna.org to get started

- 2) What are the "Helping without Harming" workshops that have been offered frequently in the past few years?
- 3) (Online question): What is the best way for churches or individuals to donate to the DMC Ministry to help extend your footprint of ministry?

Mostly online. There is a “donate now” button on the website! It is very simple and quick, and gets you involved right away. Monthly donations are very helpful, but whatever a church or individual is able to give is helpful and will definitely help and the ministry for Deacons, for the Lord!

Adjournment

The National Director offered a closing prayer, and the meeting was adjourned by motion.

Special Notes:

This years' AGM was also offered via Facebook Live.

Here is a quote from Erin Knight, as she presented on the NewGround program:
“The conversation about revamping Operation Manna was not a new conversation ... it has been going on for years. Nothing about the program was program, we simply wanted to take the opportunity to extend it's reach in future generations, and future communities. Our hope is that the NewGround program will help churches be creative with the ministries in their communities and beyond.”