



Annual General Meeting

MINUTES

Online Zoom Meeting

November 19, 2020, 8:00 p.m.

Attendance: Total of 52 people registered for online attendance - 45 actually attended

Other: 14 Diaconates pre-voted electronically

Board Chair: Peter Vanharmelen - Classis Eastern Canada

National Director: Ron Vanden Brink

Recording: Anjanette Bailey

1. Opening:

Peter Vanharmelen, welcomed all participants and provided a brief orientation, including instructions for voting and an overview of the Agenda:

- Approve the 2019-20 Audited financial statements
- Approve next years auditors
- Review the 2019-20 Annual Report
- Review the 2020-21 budget
- Present the 2020-21 Board of Directors and
- View a special presentation from West End CRC

The Chair then called the meeting to order and opened with devotions and prayer.

2. Review of 2019 AGM Minutes (Burlington):

The Chair reviewed the minutes from the previous year's meeting and asked for questions.

No questions.

NOTE: The minutes were approved by the board at its Feb. 28, 2020 meeting.

3. DIACONAL MINISTRIES CANADA Annual Report 2019-20:

The National Director reviewed the DIACONAL MINISTRIES CANADA Annual Ministry Report for the 2019-20 fiscal year. He pointed out that this year's report had been put together by Erin Knight (Communications Coordinator for Diaconal Ministries Canada). Erin then shared some of the highlights. The report focussed on the theme of collaboration - "Building on partnerships and creating new ones".

- 69 workshops have been held.
- 500+ deacons have received training
- 98% of churches were contacted during the pandemic

Special attention was given to:

- Justice mobilizer: Cindy Stover cstover@crcna.org
- Stewardship Pilot Project leader: Karla Winham (resources available [here](#).)
 - [Vimeo link for the Stewardship video](#).
- The NewGround Youth Justice program - The first youth justice partner is Unity Christian School in Chilliwack BC. See: <https://diaconalministries.com/meet-our-first-youth-justice-project-partner>
- For more information on how you can apply see: [Youth Justice program info](#)

4. Audited Statements for 2019/20 Year:

The National Director presented the Audited Financial Statements for the 2019-20 fiscal year. DIACONAL MINISTRIES CANADA is in a very sound financial position. We are preparing for the way that Covid may impact our work going forward.

Q: Can you explain what is meant by invoicing churches?

A: DMC is funded using a ministry shares system that is calculated using the DMC budget divided by the number of professing members of the CRC in Canada. The invoices are created and sent out to churches based on the number of professing members in that church. More info is available here: <https://diaconalministries.com/how-were-funded/>

Motion to accept the 2019-20 Audited Financial Statements Moved (Martin Slofstra) and seconded (Norm Haayema) to approve the audited financial statements. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Review of the 2020-2021 Budget:

The National Director reviewed the 2020-21 budget. The budget was approved by the board at its meeting in August. DIACONAL MINISTRIES CANADA shares have now been increased 2 years in a row but there had not been an increase for 5 years prior to that.

For further information regarding the budget of the 2020-2021 fiscal period, deacons are encouraged to contact the office directly at dmc@crcna.org

6. Appointment of Auditor for the 2020/21 year:

Motion to approve DBK Accounting as auditors for the 2020/21 fiscal year Moved (Martin Slofstra) and seconded (Mary Blydorp). CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. Presentation of 2020-21 Board of Directors:

Motion to approve the DIACONAL MINISTRIES CANADA Board of Directors as presented on the last page of the 2019-20 Annual Report.

Moved (Tom Luimes) and seconded (Mary Blydorp). CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

One vacancy currently exists in Classis Niagara. This year new Board members will also be needed in Classis BC South East and Classis AB North.

Gratitude was shared for outgoing, Eastern Canada, board member Ineke Neutel.

Board member contact information can be found at <https://diaconalministries.com/our-team/>

Thanks was also shared for the hard work of our Deacon Coaches who have pivoted their roles during Covid. DIACONAL MINISTRIES CANADA is always looking for new coaches, if you know someone or to get more info contact dmc@crcna.org.

8. Special Presentation - West End CRC, Edmonton:

DIACONAL MINISTRIES in cooperation with WORLD RENEW offered grants to churches to help them respond to Covid. Grants were for up to \$5000, with a very quick application process. Food security, housing, counselling centers all had to pivot quickly and these grants provided some additional support to move forward during the pandemic.

One grant was received by the West End CRC in Edmonton. It used the money to enhance its partnership with a local Christian Care Centre. The grant has created momentum in their church, with a renewed eagerness to be involved in new community partnerships and sustainability. To learn more about this ministry see: [Vimeo link for West End's story](#)

For more information on this grant program visit Diaconal Ministries [Covid 19 Resources & Support](#) area on their website.

9. Q&A:

Q: How do you see the partnership with World Renew developing and moving ahead? (Martin Slofstra)

A: Diaconal Ministries works with Deacons within Canada while World Renew works internationally. Since we both work with Deacons we share information and resources when possible.

If you have other questions, feel free to contact the board or staff anytime at dmc@crcna.org.

10 & 11. Adjournment & Closing Prayer:

The meeting was adjourned by motion and the National Director (Ron VandenBrink) offered a closing prayer.

Motion to adjourn. Moved (Tom Luimes) **and seconded** (Norm Haayema).