

WACC CANADA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

FEBRUARY 3, 2020 – 2:00 P.M. TORONTO TIME

MINUTES

Directors present:

Embert Charles – President
Kristine Greenaway
Philip Lee (General Secretary)

Directors online:

Stephen Brown - Treasurer
Glory Dharmaraj

Staff present:

Sara Speicher (Deputy General Secretary)
Shari McMaster, Minute Taker

Agenda Item No. 1 – Welcome by the President

As this was the first meeting of the WACC Canada Board since the new Board was appointed, the President welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Glory and Kristine for agreeing to become Board members.

Agenda Item No. 2 – Roll Call

All of the Board being present at the meeting, quorum was established.

Agenda Item No. 3 - Approval of the WACC Canada Finance Statements 2018

The President invited the Treasurer to formally present the Financial Statements to the Board.

The Treasurer spoke to various items in the Financial Statements, noting in particular that for the purposes of the 2017 and 2018 Statement of Revenue and Expenses, there was an excess of revenue over expenses. The Board however should look at Schedule "A" which indicates a significant amount of funding for those years came from the Aqueduct Foundation. That Schedule also indicates that WACC receives the majority of its funding from Bread for the World ("BftW"), which is a key issue. Without the continued support of BftW it is difficult to see how WACC could continue as a going concern.

Kristine noted her concern that some funders who in the past have funded WACC, are no longer doing so, among them EMW (Evangelisches Missionswerk). The Treasurer explained that WACC has cordial relations with EMW, that they normally fund our summer schools and that WACC will have upcoming

partnerships with them. Regarding some of the other past donors, due to the changing global funding environment, WACC no longer fits the criteria of some of these donors.

MOTION: It was MOVED (KG) and SECONDED (GD) that the Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 2018 be approved. CARRIED.

Agenda Item No. 4 – Review of WACC Global Budget 2020-21

The Treasurer reviewed the Budget document and pointed out that the yearly budgets each assume a significant drawdown on the reserves. If it were to continue at this pace, the future for WACC would not be sustainable. However, there is room for optimism, as WACC has a guarantee of funding from BftW for the next two years. BftW is under pressure from their own funding source to ensure that they are only funding viable entities and BftW continues to be committed to WACC.

Under Grants and Contributions, the Treasurer noted under the heading “Digital Transformations” \$150,000 is to be raised in 2020. These funds are required in order for WACC to take the lead with WCC in a conference regarding ethical and societal challenges for digital platforms. The Treasurer understands that there are funds available.

Note that OPM (Waldensian Church) runs through WACC UK and not WACC CA. This is a global budget that takes both organizations into account.

Regarding GMMP, there is a \$50,000 contingency fund (noted at the bottom of page 2 in 2020). The WACC UK Board made the decision that in order to ensure that the GMMP takes place, it would be willing to support GMMP up to \$50,000. It may not be required, however, if it is, it means that the reserve would be depleted by that amount. It was noted that Sarah Macharia is fundraising for various sections of the GMMP. UN Women, for instance have donated and others are donating as well.

Regarding GAMAG, WACC is the General Secretariat for GAMAG and therefore must record what comes in and goes out of GAMAG. This does not affect WACC as there will always be a neutral amount.

The General Secretary spoke to the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church of America) grant. This started as a two year grant from ELCA studying the refugee and migrant situation between the Colombian and Venezuelan border. The relationship between WACC and ELCA is turning out very well and could go beyond 2021.

It was asked how much are held in the reserves and what is the amount required in the event WACC had to payout and shutdown. The General Secretary advised that there is \$3.5 Million in WACC Canada and £200,000 in WACC UK. It is estimated that to shut down would cost approximately \$1 Million. Under Canadian charity law, if WACC were to end up with a surplus, the money would need to be given to another Canadian charity.

There is core budget funding for the next 2 years from BftW. WACC is exploring other core funding and/or program funding.

Agenda Item No. 5 – Review and approval of WACC UK/WACC Canada Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

The General Secretary was invited to address the MOU matter.

The MOU that is presented reflects key areas affecting both organizations. The WACC UK Board has approved the MOU but it is now subject to discussion and approval by the WACC Canada Board.

In an effort to streamline the governance of each of WACC UK and WACC Canada, the situation now is that WACC UK is the lead institution. For tax and legal implications there is still a Board of Directors for each entity. An MOU is required to clarify the position for lending money, etc. between the two entities.

WACC UK has members. WACC Canada now has one member, WACC UK.

So while it appears that WACC Canada is a subsidiary of WACC UK, WACC Canada remains a charitable organization in Canada and the WACC Canada Board is responsible for the oversight of financial / legal decisions, policies and the accounting of WACC Canada from year to year.

MOTION: It was MOVED (SB) and SECONDED (GD) that the WACC Canada Board approve the MOU between WACC UK and WACC Canada in the form presented to the meeting.

Any Other Business

It was suggested that a Directors meeting be arranged with both Boards participating. It would not be a formal Board meeting, but more of an information / sharing type meeting.

The General Secretariat will make arrangements for the meeting.

For organizational overview, the Annual Report will soon be available. The Program Report from the WACC UK Directors meeting last year can be provided to the WACC Canada Board.

Agenda Item No. 6 – Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Shari McMaster