

Minutes of Ordinary Annual Meeting of Diakonia

Date: 8 June 2019

Venue: Allianskyrkan, Huskvarna

Representatives of the Uniting Church in Sweden (UCS):

Maria Brunander, Olle Alkholm, Hani Ghattas and Ola Rikner

Representatives of the Swedish Alliance Mission (SAM):

Martin Ström, Kjell Larsson, Kjell Gustafsson and Victor Holm

Participants from the Board of Diakonia:

Anette Drewitz, Pether Nordin, Oskar Permvall, Göran Gunner and Christer Daelander

Participants from Diakonia's Head Office:

Georg Andrén, Ann-Sofie Lasell and Ewa Widén

§ 01-19 Introduction

Diakonia's Chairperson Pether Nordin welcomed participants to the annual meeting. He began by talking about the assignments that Diakonia and the principals have, and how together as churches and a development organization it is possible to change the world. He then declared annual meeting open.

§ 02-19 Election of chairperson for the meeting

Pether Nordin presented the nominating committee's proposal to the annual meeting to appoint Kjell Gustafsson chairperson of the meeting.

It was decided

that Kjell Gustafsson be elected as meeting chairperson.

§ 03-19 Election of secretary

The nominating committee's proposal to the annual meeting was to appoint Ewa Widén secretary.

It was decided

that Ewa Widén be elected secretary

§ 04-19 Election of two members to verify the minutes

It was decided

that, as well as the chairperson of the meeting Kjell Gustafsson and the Chairperson of Diakonia Pether Nordin, Maria Brunander and Martin Ström be elected to verify the minutes of the day

§ 05-19 Election of two vote counters

It was decided

that Maria Brunander and Martin Ström be elected to count the votes

§ 06-19 Statutory notice to attend the Annual Meeting

According to Diakonia's statutes, notice of the annual meeting shall be given no later than three months before such meeting. Ewa Widén informed the meeting that notice of the annual meeting was sent to the principals on 3 March 2019.

It was decided

that notice of the annual meeting had been provided in accordance with the statutes

§ 07-19 Adoption of voting list

The following representatives had been registered by the principals:

The Uniting Church in Sweden:

Maria Brunander
Olle Alkholm
Hani Ghattas
Ola Rikner

Swedish Alliance Mission:

Martin Ström
Kjell Larsson
Kjell Gustafsson
Victor Holm

It was decided

that the voting list be adopted

§ 08-19 Adoption of agenda

The Chairperson presented the preliminary agenda that was distributed as Appendix 2. He proposed that a decision regarding agenda points 9, 10, 11, 12 and 14 be immediately declared verified so that Diakonia could publish the annual report as soon as possible on its website.

It was decided

that, with the above addition regarding immediately verified decisions, the agenda be approved

§ 09-19 Annual report and annual accounts

Pether Nordin began by providing a summary of the 2018 year of activity. He said Diakonia had had a successful year, but also noted the dual perspective of this. There is a significant and growing need for a strong transformative power that challenges structures that are unjust and that form the basis of poverty and violence. Pether concluded by reminding the meeting of the message in Chapter 25 of the Gospel of Matthew and the task of seeing fellow humans' needs. All people are loved by God and therefore have rights, he said.

Georg Andrén then presented the annual report (Appendix 4, pages 2–27). In particular, Georg Andrén noted the description of “country X”. This constitutes a summary of the situation in some countries in which Diakonia is present, but whereby the situation in these countries means it is not possible to openly disclose the work being undertaken there as this could jeopardize the safety of both partners and personnel. He noted that the context in many countries is becoming increasingly dangerous for defenders of rights, irrespective of what rights they are defending.

Georg Andrén then presented Diakonia's sustainability report (Appendix 4, pages 50–63). The report has been a statutory part of the annual report for the past two years. The sustainability report describes Diakonia's work in relation to the goals in the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. He reported on the three dimensions that Diakonia has chosen to work on: economic, environmental and social responsibility.

Ann-Sofie Lasell then continued to present the annual report (Appendix 4, pages 29–44). She emphasised that the annual report contains information gathered from the entire organization's work in 2018. She presented some examples of internal measures carried out in the organization:

- measures to consolidate the organization internally
- establishment of an internal communication plan
- follow-up after evaluation of the decentralization process, which remained ongoing and has involved the creation of an expanded management team, which in addition to the Secretary General and the head office departmental heads, now also includes the four regional managers
- a Child Safeguarding Policy and a revised Code of Conduct has been established
- a new graphic identity has been developed
- a global action plan on gender-related work has been established by the global gender group and presented to the management team

It was decided

that the annual report and annual accounts for 2018 be filed

that the sustainability report be filed

that the item be immediately verified

§ 10-19 Adoption of income statement and balance sheet

Ann-Sofie Lasell presented some key figures from the income statement and balance sheet (Appendix 4, page 35–44):

- 73% of Diakonia’s revenue in 2018 (SEK 516.892 million) came from agreements with Sida (the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency), either in Stockholm or from embassies in countries in which Diakonia operates.
- Own fundraising increased by 7% in 2018.
- Diakonia’s total costs were SEK 512.664 million, the majority of which consisted of funds issued directly as project payments to partner organizations.
- Currency exchange resulting in exchange rate differences and funders’ rules on the payment of project funds caused some problems during the year.
- Diakonia has also been affected by banks’ restrictions on payments to certain countries.

Finally, Ann-Sofie Lasell reported it has been proposed that SEK 2.0 million of the financial result for the year be set aside for the Operating and Investment Fund. Including this provision, the financial result for the 2018 activity year would be SEK 2.470 million.

It was decided

that the financial result for the 2018 activity year, totalling SEK 2.470 million, be adopted

that the item be immediately verified

§ 11-19 Decisions based on the financial result for the year

During her presentation of point 10 above, Ann-Sofie Lasell noted that SEK 2.0 million is proposed to be set aside for the Operating and Investment Fund. The purpose of the fund is to create funds, for instance, for advances on EU agreements, bridge financing of country offices and major IT investments.

It was decided

to set aside SEK 2.0 million of the financial result for 2018 for the Operating and Investment Fund

that the item be immediately verified

§ 12-19 Auditor's report

Ann-Sofie Lasell presented Jonas Grahn's opinion in the auditor's report in Appendix 4, pages 46–47. In the report, he notes that in all material respects the annual accounts provide a true and fair view of the financial results and financial position and that the management report meets the requirements of the Annual Reports Act and that the audit evidence is sufficient and appropriate for his opinion. In addition, Ann-Sofie Lasell presented Jonas Grahn's opinion from Appendix 4, page 63 that a sustainability report had also been issued by Diakonia in accordance with the Annual Reports Act.

It was decided

that the annual meeting adopted the auditor's report by auditor Jonas Grahn and his opinion on the sustainability report

that the item be immediately verified

§ 13-19 Internal auditors' report and response of the Board

Pether Nordin presented the internal auditors' report (Appendix 5) and noted that the Board appreciates the report with the focus it has. The internal auditors highlight various issues that are relevant in discussions between Diakonia and the principals.

Anette Drewitz presented the Board's response to the internal auditors' report (Appendix 6), referring to the following:

Diakonia as a faith-based development organization

The Board agreed with the internal auditors' views. A logical opportunity for discussions between Diakonia and the principals will be the planned review of Diakonia's policy as the issue about the significance of Diakonia being a development organization based on Christian values also arises.

ACT Alliance membership

Anette Drewitz informed the meeting that Diakonia's Board did not currently have any reason to review the organization's membership of ACT Alliance.

The Uniting Church in Sweden notified the meeting that it had had internal discussions about the possibility of applying for membership of ACT Alliance but this is not under immediate consideration.

Developing a joint communication and fundraising strategy

Anette Drewitz informed the meeting that the Board is keen to see this kind of in-depth cooperation whereby Diakonia is not regarded as a competitor but rather a natural part of the congregations' giving. At the same time, the Board emphasized that Diakonia is a vehicle for the principals desire to change the life circumstances of vulnerable people by working to change structures and through rights-related activities for all. The principals and Diakonia together have the task of making congregations aware of this task. A discussion was held on the issue and the principals agreed on the need to work on a communication and fundraising strategy. Contact has been established between Diakonia and the denominations, but this could be better systematised.

Pursuing the issue of principalship with Equmenia and SAM Youth – in relation to young people's interest in international work and climate change issues

Anette Drewitz informed the meeting the Board believed that the issue of a change to the principalship of Diakonia is an issue for the principals. However, the Board would take a positive view of such a development. On the issue of climate change, the Board agreed that this is a critical issue for humanity that needs to be rectified.

Both the principals pointed out that there is no desire to pursue the issue of the principalship of the youth organizations, but both denominations encouraged Diakonia to approach the youth organizations for cooperation and dialogue.

The annual meeting asked a question about how Diakonia intends to work proactively on climate change since it is defined as a critical issue. Georg Andrén replied that Diakonia regards itself as a proactive movement and referred to Diakonia's transformation strategy. He added that it has become more reactive because adherence to rights has deteriorated in those countries in which Diakonia operates. He also recounted discussions that are underway as part of the future strategy which involves planning for working with young

people. This will inevitably mean working with climate change issues. Pether Nordin agreed with this, and also said that the issue of climate change and justice are closely linked, and that Diakonia is already working with the issue of climate change in this context.

Pether Nordin also informed the meeting that the principals and the Board are planning to meet in early September in part to discuss the above issues.

It was decided

to adopt the reports

to include these issues raised in the forthcoming meeting in the autumn

§ 14-19 Decision to discharge the Board from liability

Ann-Sofie Lasell presented Jonas Grahn's opinion on the Board's administration of Diakonia in 2018, in which he proposes that the annual meeting discharge members of the Board from liability for the year of activity.

It was decided

that the members of Diakonia's Board be discharged from liability for the 2018 year of activity

that the item be immediately verified

§ 15-19 Election of Chairperson

The chairperson of the meeting Kjell Gustafsson presented the nominating committee's proposal that Pether Nordin be re-elected Chairperson of Diakonia for two years.

It was decided

that Pether Nordin be re-elected Chairperson for two years

§ 16-19 Election of Deputy Chairperson

The chairperson of the meeting presented the nominating committee's proposal that Anette Drewitz be re-elected Deputy Chairperson of Diakonia for two years.

It was decided

that Anette Drewitz be re-elected Deputy Chairperson for two years

§ 17-19 Election of other members

The chairperson of the meeting presented the nominating committee's proposals. Christer Daelander, Göran Gunner and Ingela Svedin were all remaining members who were elected for 2 years at the 2018 annual meeting.

The nominating committee proposed that Oskar Permvall and Linnea Gullholmer be re-elected members of Diakonia's Board for three years.

It was decided

to re-elect Oskar Permvall and Linnea Gullholmer as members of Diakonia's Board for three years

§ 18-19 Election of authorised public accountant and deputy

The chairperson of the meeting presented the nominating committee's proposal that the annual meeting appoint authorised public accountant Jonas Grahn as auditor and Erik Albenius as deputy auditor for one year. Both come from the auditing company PWC in Stockholm.

It was decided

that Jonas Grahn be appointed auditor, and Erik Albenius deputy auditor for Diakonia

§ 19-19 Election of internal auditors

The chairperson of the meeting presented the nominating committee's proposals. Marie Lackenbauer remains for 1 year. Roland Henrysson and Johan Lindgren were proposed for election for two years.

It was decided

to elect Roland Henrysson and Johan Lindgren for two years as internal auditors for Diakonia

§ 20-19 Election of nominating committee

The principals nominate Diakonia's nominating committee. Bengt Svensson (SAM) and Margareta Larsson (UCS) remain for 1 year. Ulrika Morazán (EK) had given notice that she would be standing for re-election. Marcus Bernström (SAM) had declined re-election. The Swedish Alliance Mission asked that Diakonia's Board respond in due course with information about a replacement for him.

It was decided

to re-elect Ulrika Morazán for two years to the nominating committee
that the Swedish Alliance Mission present another nominating committee candidate to Diakonia's Board, and
that the annual meeting submit Diakonia's Board to take the decision on this matter

§ 21-19 Information about strategy and policy processes

Ann-Sofie Lasell presented a timetable for these processes. The reason for this is that Diakonia's current global strategy expires in December 2020. The Board will therefore determine the future strategy and this will apply from January 2021. Work on a new strategy has begun within the organization and a range of different consultations will take place before the decision, in which the Board and principals will also participate.

She explained that Diakonia's policy is the foundation of the strategy but as it is 10 years old, it needs to be updated and revised. This process will be begin in September 2019 as a meeting is planned with the principals. Decisions about a new revised policy are expected to be taken at the 2020 annual meeting. Ann-Sofie Lasell pointed out that the strategy cannot be completed without prior decisions about revised policy.

Georg Andrén then continued and informed the meeting of how work on processes takes place internally. Kairos Future, a consulting company specialising in facilitating strategy processes, has been engaged. Diakonia has discussed three areas with them regarding the continued work:

- What should we work on? (operating intelligence)
- What do we want to work on? (assignments, policy)
- What can we work on? (available resources)

Georg Andrén also touched on two issues with a direct bearing on what Diakonia wants to do. It is the need to define what it means for Diakonia to be a development organization based on Christian values, and what it means to want to be an organization that also aims to be based on a feminist approach. He said both these issues are important in policy discussions.

It was decided
to receive the information

§ 22-19 Next annual meeting and location

Pether Nordin presented a proposal from the Board to hold the next annual meeting on a weekday at the secretariat in Alvik. The aim of this is to have an entire day's seminar-style programme, as well as annual meeting talks. In addition to the principals' representatives, this would also allow Diakonia's personnel to attend. The annual meeting was positive about the arrangement of having the annual meeting on a weekday, but it was pointed out that the proposed date was already taken. Diakonia's Board said it would respond in due course with a new date.

It was decided

that the 2020 annual meeting would be held on a weekday at the secretariat in Alvik

that Diakonia's Board would respond in due course about the date for the annual meeting

§ 23-19 Other matters

No questions were registered.

§ 24-19 Close of the meeting

Kjell Gustafsson thanked everyone for their confidence in him chairing the meeting and then handed over the chairmanship to Pether Nordin. He summarised the day's discussions and thanked the participants. Everyone then prayed together, after which Pether Nordin declared the annual meeting closed.

Huskvarna, date as above

Ewa Widén
Secretary

Kjell Gustafsson
Chairperson of the meeting

Pether Nordin
Chairperson of Diakonia

Maria Brunander
Member appointed to verify minutes

Martin Ström
Member appointed to verify minutes