

Minutes

Ordinary Annual Meeting of Diakonia

Date: 28 May 2020

Venue: Online, via Microsoft Teams

Representatives of the Uniting Church in Sweden

Olle Alkholm, Susanne Rodmar, Samuel Hummerdal and Gerard Willemsen

Representatives of the Swedish Alliance Mission

Kjell Larsson, Martin Ström, Kjell Gustafsson and Victor Holm

Participants from the Board of Diakonia

Pether Nordin, Anette Drewitz, Oskar Permvall, Göran Gunner, Christer Daelander, Linnea Gullholmer and Ingela Svedin

Participants from Diakonia's Head Office

Johan Romare, Acting Secretary General; Ann-Sofie Lasell, Head of Administration; Evelina Rosell, secretary for the meeting and around 10 Diakonia employees.

Participating elected representatives

Maria Brunander, chairperson for the meeting; Jonas Grahn, authorised public accountant from PwC; Ulrika Morazán, nominating committee; Marie Lackenbauer and Roland Henrysson, internal auditors.

Participating candidates proposed by the nominating committee

Ulrika Erkenborn Rugumayo and Marie Lackenbauer, Board members; Karin Hallin and Micael Lindholm, internal auditors.

§ 01-19 Introduction

Diakonia's Chairperson Pether Nordin welcomed participants to the annual meeting. Pether explained that the original plan for an annual meeting combined with a seminar had to be cancelled because of the Covid-19 pandemic. The annual meeting is instead being held digitally via Microsoft Teams. Evelina Rosell explained the ground rules for the digital meeting and how voting would be conducted. Pether read a passage from the Bible and led prayers. Pether Nordin then declared the annual meeting open.

§ 02-20 Election of chairperson for the meeting

Ulrika Morazán presented the nominating committee's proposal to the annual meeting to propose Maria Brunander as chairperson for the meeting.

It was decided

that Maria Brunander be elected meeting chairperson

§ 03-20 Election of secretary

Ulrika Morazán presented the nominating committee's proposal to propose Evelina Rosell as meeting secretary.

It was decided

that Evelina Rosell be elected meeting secretary

§ 04-20 Election of two members to verify the minutes

Gerard Willemsen, Uniting Church in Sweden, and Kjell Larsson, Swedish Alliance Mission, were proposed to verify the minutes of the annual meeting.

It was decided

that, as well as meeting chairperson Maria Brunander and the Chairperson of Diakonia Pether Nordin, Gerard Willemsen and Kjell Larsson be elected to verify the minutes of the day

§ 05-20 Election of two vote counters

Gerard Willemsen, Uniting Church in Sweden, and Kjell Larsson, Swedish Alliance Mission, were proposed as vote counters.

It was decided

that Gerard Willemsen and Kjell Larsson be elected as vote counters

§ 06-20 Statutory notice to attend the annual meeting (Appendices 01 & 02)

According to the statutes, an ordinary annual meeting of Diakonia must be held before the end of June and written notice sent three months before the meeting. Documents must be sent four weeks prior to the annual meeting. Ann-Sofie Lasell explained that the notice convening the annual meeting was sent to the principals on 28 February 2020 and documents were sent on 30 April 2020.

Ann-Sofie Lasell then explained that the original plan for the annual meeting, which was to include a seminar on theology and feminist principles, was cancelled as a result of the ongoing pandemic. Also, the annual meeting was being held digitally, which the principals were informed of well in advance.

Ann-Sofie added that it was hoped that the seminar could be rescheduled for the autumn.

According to the statutes, the eight representatives have the right to express an opinion, make proposals and vote, while Diakonia's Board has a right to express an opinion and make proposals at the annual meeting. Ann-Sofie Lasell proposed that all participants at the present annual meeting should have the right to express an opinion. The proposal is included under §07-20.

It was decided

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

§ 07-20 Adoption of voting list (Appendix 03)

The following representatives had been registered by the principals.

The Uniting Church in Sweden

Olle Alkholm
Susanne Rodmar
Gerard Willemsen
Samuel Hummerdal

Swedish Alliance Mission

Kjell Larsson
Martin Ström
Kjell Gustafsson
Victor Holm

The annual meeting made a decision on Ann-Sofie Lasell's proposal from §06-20 that all annual meeting participants should have the right to express an opinion.

Each principal reported who is responsible in the event of mediation: Lasse Svensson from the Uniting Church in Sweden and Karin Hultberg from the Swedish Alliance Mission.

It was decided

that the voting list be adopted

that all participants at the annual meeting have the right to express an opinion
to receive information about each principal's representative in the event of mediation

§ 08-20 Adoption of agenda (Appendix 04)

Maria Brunander presented the preliminary agenda in Appendix 4. Maria proposed that a clarification be made that item 19 relates to a decision regarding revised policy for Diakonia. It is clear from the relevant documentation sent out in Appendices 9 and 10 that this relates to a decision. Maria also proposed that items 9, 10, 11, 12 and 14 should be immediately verified so that the annual report can be published and distributed immediately,

and that items 15 & 16 be immediately verified as there is a Board meeting the day after the annual meeting.

It was decided

that, given the above addition regarding the immediate verification of decisions and clarification that §19 relates to a decision regarding revised policy, the agenda be approved

§ 09-20 Annual report and annual accounts (Appendix 05)

Pether Nordin began this item about Diakonia's Annual Report 2019, Appendix 5. He clarified that, as Acting Secretary General, Johan Romare had signed the annual report despite Georg Andrén stepping down as Secretary General at the start of December 2019.

Johan Romare presented Diakonia's Annual Report 2019. He highlighted global trends from the past year, and noted the results of Diakonia's work. Johan also set out the ongoing work within the organisation to develop a new strategy for Diakonia, which started in 2019.

Ann-Sofie Lasell then presented Diakonia's annual accounts for 2019, including the management report, the end-of-year accounts and sustainability report, all of which are in Appendix 5. Ann-Sofie noted that Diakonia's turnover in 2019 of SEK 576 million represented a SEK 60 million increase on 2018. Funds raised in 2019 totalled SEK 81 million, owing to an extraordinary legacy donation of SEK 30 million that Diakonia received in the year. Costs for 2019 were SEK 532 million.

Susanne Rodmar asked a question regarding what strategic and long-term initiatives could result from the significant legacy donation received by Diakonia in 2019. Johan Romare replied that the funds would mainly be used to boost financial assets in order to expand Diakonia's activities. Ann-Sofie Lasell added that the Board had taken decisions to focus on regional resource mobilisers, and that discussions are underway about increasing fundraising from private donors in Sweden and investing in Diakonia's humanitarian work.

Olle Alkholm asked what significant challenges lie ahead, to which Johan Romare replied that this would probably be funding. This led the Board to take decisions early on in line with this, as Ann-Sofie Lasell explained above.

It was decided

that the annual report and annual accounts for 2019 be adopted

that the sustainability report be adopted

that the item be immediately verified

§ 10-20 Adoption of income statement and balance sheet (Appendix 05)

Ann-Sofie Lasell presented the income statement and balance sheet on pages 35–44 of Appendix 5. It has been proposed that SEK 45 million of the financial result for the year be set aside for the Operating and Investment Fund. Taking account of this provision, the financial result for the 2019 activity year would be SEK 275,000.

It was decided

that the financial result for the 2019 activity year, totalling SEK 275,000, be adopted

that the item be immediately verified

§ 11-20 Decision based on the financial result for the year (Appendix 05)

Under § 10-20 above, Ann-Sofie Lasell noted that SEK 45 million is proposed to be set aside for the Operating and Investment Fund.

It was decided:

to set aside SEK 45 million of the financial result for 2019 for the Operating and Investment Fund

that the item be immediately verified

§ 12-20 Auditor's report (Appendix 05)

Authorised public accountant Jonas Grahn presented the auditor's report that he submitted and that is available on pages 46–47 of the annual report. Jonas Grahn explained that he and his colleagues had carried out the audit for 2019 with regard to both the accounts and administration. No serious observations were made, nor did the auditor's report contain any notes or comments. Jonas Grahn's auditor's report recommends that the Board be discharged from liability. Jonas Grahn also presented the auditor's statement of opinion on the statutory sustainability report, including its statement that confirms that a sustainability report was established, on page 65.

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

§ 13-20 Internal auditors' report and response of the Board (Appendices 06, 07)

Marie Lackenbauer presented the internal auditors' report in Appendix 6,

which she authored together with the other two internal auditors, Roland Henrysson and Johan Lindgren. Johan Lindgren has not participated in discussions with the Uniting Church in Sweden since he was employed by them during the year.

Pether Nordin thanked the internal auditors for the report and their work over the year. He emphasised that they are helping the Board progress. Pether referred to the report and also noted that the Board believes that it is vital that the relationship and cooperation with the principals work well, which Anette Drewitz seconded. Pether then presented the Board's response in Appendix 7.

There was a brief discussion based on the internal auditors' proposal that the strategy plan should be sent out for comment by the principals, and the importance of differentiating between the roles of the principals and Diakonia was clarified. The Board will take a decision about Diakonia's future strategy. It was noted, however, that there remains a need to strengthen communication between Diakonia and both principals.

It was decided

to adopt the reports

§ 14-20 Decision to discharge the Board from liability

Under §12-20, Jonas Grahn presented his statement of opinion on the Board's administration of Diakonia, in which he proposed that the annual meeting discharge members of the Board from liability for the 2019 year of activity.

It was decided

that the members of Diakonia's Board be discharged from liability for the 2019 year of activity

that the item be immediately verified

§ 15-20 Election of members of the Board (Appendix 08)

Ulrika Morazán presented the nominating committee's proposal according to Appendix 8. Chairperson Pether Nordin and Deputy Chairperson Anette Drewitz have one year left of their term on the Board. Oskar Permvall and Linnea Gullholmer have two years left of their term on the Board. The nominating committee's proposal was to re-elect Göran Gunner as a member of Diakonia's Board for three years. Ulrika Erkenborn Rugumayo was proposed as a Board member for three years and Marie Lackenbauer was proposed as a Board member for one year. Ulrika Morazán explained that Marie Lackenbauer is being proposed for election for one year in order to fit with the Board terms regulated by the statutes.

It was decided

to re-elect Göran Gunner as a Board member for three years

to elect Ulrika Erkenborn Rugumayo as a Board member for three years

to elect Marie Lackenbauer as a Board member for one year

that the item be immediately verified

§ 16-20 Election of auditor and deputy (Appendix 08)

Ulrika Morazán presented the nominating committee's proposal to appoint Erik Albenius as auditor and Angelica Stööp as deputy auditor for 1 year each, as per Appendix 8. Both are authorised public accountants and work at auditing firm PwC.

It was decided

that Erik Albenius be appointed auditor, and Angelica Stööp deputy auditor for Diakonia for one year

that the item be immediately verified

§ 17-20 Election of internal auditors (Appendix 08)

Ulrika Morazán presented the nominating committee's proposed internal auditors for Diakonia. Roland Henrysson has one year left of his term. The nominating committee proposes the election of Karin Hallin and Micael Lindholm for two years each.

It was decided

that Karin Hallin and Micael Lindholm be elected as internal auditors for Diakonia for two years

§ 18-20 Election of nominating committee

Maria Brunander asked the principals to make their nominations for Diakonia's nominating committee. Ulrika Morazán has one year left of her term. The Swedish Alliance Mission proposed that Eva-Marie Cider be elected for two years and that Roland Oscarsson be elected for one year. The Uniting Church in Sweden proposed that Anna Kimming be elected for two years.

It was decided

that Eva-Marie Cider and Anna Kimming be elected as members of the nominating committee for two years

that Roland Oscarsson be elected as a member of the nominating committee for one year

§ 19-20 **Decision on revised policy for Diakonia (Appendices 09 and 10)**

Ann-Sofie Lasell presented the source documentation in Appendix 9 and proposed revised policy wording in Appendix 10. Ann-Sofie summarised the process that led to the policy proposal that was presented during the meeting. Work has been ongoing for almost a year, involving the principals, Diakonia's Board and personnel throughout the organisation. Diakonia's Board has decided to submit the present proposal to the annual meeting.

The principals thanked Diakonia's secretariat and Board for excellent cooperation in the process to establish a revised policy. The Swedish Alliance Mission's representatives said that further collaboration is needed on how the policy, particularly with regard to feminist principles, is communicated to the principals and their congregations.

It was decided

that Diakonia's revised policy document be unanimously adopted in its entirety, and

that the Board be assigned to clarify how the policy can best be communicated in consultation with the principals

§ 20-20 **General information about Diakonia's activities, including the ongoing strategy process**

Johan Romare provided an update on Diakonia's activities. First, he provided details of the ongoing strategy process and the strategic advancement for Diakonia's progress that was developed over the course of 2019. The plan is to present a draft of the strategy to the Board after the summer, ahead of a final decision in December.

Johan Romare then noted how the ongoing pandemic has created a health crisis, a socioeconomic crisis and, probably, a crisis of democracy. Swedish development cooperation is likely to face cuts as GDP contracts over the next few years, and most countries in the OECD-DAC (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development – Development Assistance Committee) face a similar situation, which will impact global funding of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. For Diakonia's part, Johan believes that the agile strategy that has already been largely developed is highly relevant, and that the major challenge will be funding the strategy. It is positive that Diakonia's Board has planned ahead and has already made strategic financial investments.

In addition, Diakonia is currently writing a new five-year application to Sida Civsam, which accounts for much of Diakonia's core funding. It is currently unclear what impact the pandemic will have on the level of the grant.

It was decided

to receive the information

§ 21-20 Next Annual Meeting – date and location

Ann-Sofie Lasell presented a proposal to repeat the annual meeting arrangement that was previously planned for 2020, i.e. combining the annual meeting with a seminar on a theme yet to be decided. As is customary, it is the Swedish Alliance Mission's turn to host the meeting. Ann-Sofie proposed 27 May 2021 in Alvik for the next annual meeting.

It was decided

that Diakonia's annual meeting in 2021 be combined with a seminar and be held on Thursday 27 May 2021 in Alvik as per the above proposal

§ 22-20 Other matters

Pether Nordin thanked outgoing Board members Christer Daelander and Ingela Svedin and outgoing Acting Secretary General Johan Romare. He also thanked Maria Brunander and Evelina Rosell for chairing and coordinating the meeting. Ann-Sofie Lasell also thanked outgoing auditor Jonas Grahn. The principals' representatives seconded these thanks. Christer Daelander, Ingela Svedin, Jonas Grahn and Johan Romare expressed their thanks for the opportunity and constructive cooperation over the years.

§ 23-20 Close of the meeting

Meeting chairperson Maria Brunander expressed her thanks for the opportunity to chair the meeting. Pether Nordin closed by noting that Diakonia continues to have a significant and important mission, as there is a growing need to stand up for the equal value of all people. We are all surrounded by God's love, so Diakonia's work will continue. Pether Nordin then thanked everyone for a constructive meeting and declared the annual meeting closed.

Alvik, date as above,

Evelina Rosell
Secretary

Maria Brunander
Chairperson of the meeting

Pether Nordin
Chairperson of Diakonia

Gerard Willemsen
Member appointed to verify minutes

Kjell Larsson
Member appointed to verify minutes