

Minutes of YMCA Europe General Assembly May 20 - 24 2009

Place: Dassel, Germany

Theme: "Do Not Burry Your Talent" Matthew 25: 14-30

Participants: 98 participants from 22 Member Movements and 2 Cooperating Movements were present.

Guests: World Alliance of YMCAs Martin Meisner, President
 Samuel D. Stephens Vice President
 Poul-Henrik Hove Jakobsen, Danish Y's Men
 Poul V. Thomsen, Danish Y's Men

Special guests: Terry Ratcliffe, former YE President
 Dölf Weder, former YE Secretary General
 Mary Tikalsky , YMCA USA
 Romulo Dantas, YMCA Brazil
 Jane Burns, YMCA England
 Simon Badman, YMCA England

Apologies: Africa Alliance of YMCAs
 YMCA Canada
 Colin Williams, Conference of European Churches
 World YWCA
 Youth Forum Jeuneusse
 Jan Nissèn, former YE President
 Egon Slopianka, former YE Secretary General
 Selma Zaidi, YMCA of the USA

Devotions: The Devotions during the General Assembly were conducted by the Christian Orientation Group chaired by Marloes Meijer, and assisted by people from different National Movements.

Hosts of the Assembly from the YES Group: Sarah Simmank and Welmoed Verhagen

1 Opening

Peter Posner, President of YMCA Europe opened the meeting and welcomed those present to the General Assembly.

Peter Posner stated that the Assembly had been called according to the §12 of the Constitution. He also stated that, since 22 out of 33 Member Movements were present in person, the Assembly was in quorum according to §14 of the Constitution.

2 Introduction of Delegates, Guests, Staff and Apologies

Peter Posner introduced all the Guests and Delegates in accordance with the list of participants and Staff. Apologies were as listed above.

3 Adoption of the Agenda

Decision: The proposed agenda was adopted.

4 Adoption of the General Assembly 2008 Minutes

Decision: The Minutes were approved as a true record of the meeting.

5 Greetings

The following participants gave greetings to the General Assembly:
Martin Meissner, Samuel Stephens.

6 Secretary General Speech

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik, YE Secretary General, presented his report entitled "Do Not Bury Your Talent". A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

7 Reports, Operational Plans and Decisions

7.1 Movement Development

Decision: The report was received.

7.2 Christian Community

Decision: The report was received.

7.3 European Programmes

Decision: The report was received.

7.4 World Alliance of YMCAs and Global Cooperation

Decision: The report was received.

7.5 European Representation

Decision: The report was received.

7.6 Finances

7.6.1 Report 2008

Ed Eggink, Treasurer, gave the report and guided the General Assembly through the financial documents included in the Assembly Working Documents.

He presented the Accounts for 2008 and the budget for 2009-2011.

The fundraising Campaign for the Training Centre is now officially closed.

The Festival was a huge success and left a small surplus.

Ed thanked all people involved in the above mentioned events.

The New Strategy will be a challenge for YMCA Europe and Resource Mobilisation will be the way to overcome the financial crisis.

Decision: The Financial Accounts for the year 2008 were unanimously approved.

7.6.2 Auditors' Report and Discharge of Executive Committee

The Auditors' Report was explained by Peter Posner.

Decision: The Report was unanimously approved.

Decision: The discharge of the Executive Committee was unanimously approved.

7.6.3 Budget and National Contributions 2010 .

The Budget and the National Contributions 2010 were explained by Ed Eggink. He highlighted the challenges for the coming year, as we still need to fund raise in order to secure the operations at the current level, both for the core budget and the field operations.

Decision: The proposed budget and the National Contributions 2009 were unanimously approved.

7.7 Presentation of Operational Plans 2008/2009

The Swiss YMCA suggested that Operational Plans have to be better linked to the Reports so that the goals can be measured.

Decision: The Operational Plans 2009/2010 as formulated by the Executive Committee were unanimously received.

8 General Assembly 2010

8.1 General Assembly 2010

The General Assembly 2010 will be in Litomysl, Czech Republic.

9 Any Other Business

9.1 General Assembly Overview

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik gave a small overview on the interesting issues that have been developed during the Assembly. We have learned through the speeches and the workshops that it is very crucial for the existence of our YMCAs: to share talents, to collect success stories, to share fundraising practices, and to develop long term plans and to work on the visibility of the Festival and of all of our events. The process that has started with the Assembly will continue with Trainings and Seminars. Several inputs from the plenary advised that also the GA 2010 should be focused on Resource Mobilisation. On closing, he motivated the Assembly to support the Friends of YMCA Europe Campaign.

9.2 Friends of YMCA Europe Campaign

The Friends of YMCA Europe fundraising Campaign was officially launched and was well received by the General Assembly. Many participants of the General Assembly as well as National Movements immediately signed up to support YMCA Europe for a period of 3 years.

10 Thanks and Closing Remarks

Peter Posner thanked those present, and the hosting movement of YMCA Germany for their contribution to making the Assembly a good and worthwhile experience.

Peter Posner closed the Assembly.

Dassel, Germany, May 2009



Marina Michailidou
Recording Secretary



Peter Posner
President