

Classis Huron Diaconal Conference

MINUTES of meeting January 20, 2011 Drayton CRC

1. Fred VanderSterre, acting chair opened the meeting by reading from Phillipians 2. His devotion reflected on that we are equal, like minded with those we serve. That the interests of others is as important as our own interests. That we consider ourselves not superior just because we teach or are givers of goods, but that we are servants to them. Just as Christ came to serve and not to be served.

2. Ida Mutoigo, Canadian director for CRWRC spoke to us concerning Short Term Missions trips or projects. How do we discern the values or the weaknesses of the proposed trip? Some of the questions we need to ask are:
 - will the participant become more focused on poverty/ justice issues?
 - is there potential for mutual growth spiritually/ physically, holistically?
 - does it align with the churches vision statement?
 - is sufficient orientation, preplanning involved?
 - is it cost effective, 1 week vs. 2 weeks?
 - will it be an incentive for continued ministry support, locally and abroad?
 - will it focus on relationships more than on providing stuff?
 - will it motivate to listen and serve rather than to be a saviour?
 - are their assets identified so that we can build on them ?

These and more questions were touched on.

Its title is “Discernment Framework For Short-term Mission Experience.”

It should be a “**must check document**” before committing to any Short term Mission or serve group is undertaken.

A copy of the Framework is attached with these minutes.

Ida suggested some additional resources:

- “Serving in short-term Missions: Where should our church start?”
http://www.crwrc.org/pages/crwrc_CIDA_advocacy.cfm
- “Habits of Highly Effective Global Partnerships.”
<http://cosim.info/conferences/HabitsofHighlyEffectiveGlobalPartnerships.pdf>
- “Church / Group to Church / Community Partnership Overview”
<http://network.crcna.org/content/global-mission/church-/-group-church-/-community-partnerships-overview>
- “Global Partnership – Things to Consider”
http://crcna.org/pages/igps_learning.cfm
- Also a reading of the book “**When Helping Hurts**” (by Steve Corbett & Brian Fikker) is highly recommended

In addition, Ida commented on the fact that CRWRC would not receive funding from CIDA this year, due to CIDA’s announcement of a new framework for processing and approving contributions to NGOs.

This will create a shortfall of over \$800,000.

As deacons we need to encourage our churches and individuals to help cover this shortfall so that the programs CRWRC is working on will not need to be cut back.

It is hoped that next year we again will qualify.

CIDA does value CRWRC as one of the top ten agencies that it supports but churches and individuals are encouraged to write a letter to your M.P. concerning this matter.

Sample letters, to your local MP and to Minister Oda, are also attached with these minutes.

See also: http://www.crwrc.org/pages/crwrc_CIDA_advocacy.cfm

3. Mary Both reported on some of the highlights of the CRWRC board activities. She has available the annual report as well as some other resource material. For more information go to www.crwrc.org . She also highly recommended a book to read “**Following Jesus Through the Eye of the Needle**” by Kent Anna.
4. Doug Kuyvenhoven from Maitland River Community Church updated us on their CARS (Christian Automotive Repair Service) program, a program where low income people can have their vehicle repaired, often only for the price of the parts. The group is thankful for the **OPERATION MANNA** support which helped them to increase their size and put in a quality hoist. Doug also spoke of the testimony of a recipient, a single mom, and how the life of a retired auto mechanic teacher has changed since becoming a partner in the program.
5. Len Bakelaar spoke on one of the 6 Target Groups that **Diaconal Ministries Canada** desires us to focus on. Len drew especial attention to the Care Givers of the Disabled. Many of them have had to sacrifice part of their own personal lives, such as vacations, hobbies, family or personal activities, meeting with their friends, etc. He challenged every diaconate to spend at least one hour of a meeting before the end of this season to become aware of the care given in and around your community. The numbers may be startling.
6. Minutes of the last meeting were approved.
7. Fred thanked Rob Terpstra (in absence) for 6 years as Operation Manna rep. Taking his place will be Alice Burgsma from Lucknow, pending the endorsement of the DMC board.
8. Fred asked us to seriously consider a chair person and a secretary for our Conference.
9. Ada Haasnoot closed out our evening with prayer.
10. **NEXT MEETING SEPT. 22 2011.....DRAYTON CRC.**

The attendance sheet was signed by the following: **(Some forgot to sign)**

Palmerston.....Tim Mulder
Listowel.....Jan Koersen & Rienk(?) Miedema
Drayton...Carolyn Geerlinks, Henry Brouwer, Francis Chapman, Wes VandenHazel
Clinton ... Don Greidanus. Nathan Hoogendoorn
Blyth..... Henk Van Schaik, Dan Baarda
Maitland River Community, (Wingham)Doug Kuyvenhoven
Vanastra.....Rienk Feddes, Brian Wynia
Guelph First....Bill Terpstra, Mary Blydorp
Maranatha Cambridge.....Grace Leipscher
Stratford.....Abel Frankruyter
Owen Sound.....Eleanor Both, Ada Haasnoot
Lucknow.....Gord Versteeg

Acting secretary.....Len Bakelaar