

REA-APPRRE  
Annual Meeting  
Business Meeting Minutes  
Toronto Hilton Hotel and Suites, Toronto  
November 6, 2011

The meeting opened at 11:15am

The meeting Agenda was approved.

Mary offered appreciation for the work of Rodger Nisioka, Dorie Baker, Maureen O'Brien and Bud Horell as outgoing members of the Board. She offered additional thanks to Maureen as the past President of the Association and her contribution to such endeavors as the Handbook and her other contributions to the Association.

- I. Review and approval of the Minutes from the November 9, 2010 Business Meeting:  
Nelson Strobert moved and Eileen Daly seconded that the Minutes be approved.  
Motion passed.

II. Reports

A. Treasurer's Report for 2010

Mary reported that Anabel Profitt has had to step down from her position as Treasurer and noted that Michael Horan has agreed to serve as the Interim Treasurer and that he would be listed on the Nominating Committee's slate of new Board member candidates.

Lucinda offered the Treasurer's Report in place of Michael as he could not attend the meeting this year. She highlighted key points in the Report for the membership. One of the key points is the projected deficit for this year's budget. She also noted that we had projected a higher membership than was realized. The other item noted was the cost of the Annual Meeting with particular focus on the high cost of the AV portion of the contract, which was much higher than budgeted. In terms of savings, we have approximately \$32,000 in savings and \$130,000 in investments. We have lost about \$13,000 from the savings and investments due to the fluctuations in the economy. In response to a question about membership, Jack reported on the arrangement with Taylor & Francis whereby the Association will receive a bonus of approximately \$6,350.00 if we reach a membership count of 350 members.

B. 2012 Budget Report

Lucinda then offered the 2012 Budget. She went through key items including a slightly lower membership count to reflect reality, the agreement to draw

down the maximum 6% allowed by the Association from the endowment to meet the deficit, the slight increase in the registration fee for the 2012 Annual Meeting, a slight decrease in monies budgeted for the Meeting, the addition of the new book series – New Horizons – and the reduction of funds budgeted for the Board Retreat by meeting at a school rather than a hotel. The Board moved and Eileen Daly seconded that the 2012 Budget be approved. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Executive Secretary's Report

Lucinda offered the Executive Secretary's Report. She noted that the Annual Meeting attendance this year was 114 registrations, the same as last year's Meeting in Denver with the final figure of 121 actual participants. In addition, this year a large mailout of brochures about the meeting was conducted which added to the cost of the Meeting along with the banquet and food cost. It was suggested that we find a way to digitally archive past papers so that they will be available. It was also suggested that we reduce the number of CDs made of the Proceedings and utilize that money differently. Lucinda noted that one concern is the high cost of the hotel contract for the Boston meeting in 2013 and the need to consider other meeting location possibilities.

She noted improvements in communication internally and externally. Internal communication was improved through the "eReach" on the website. She also encouraged the membership to access the "News" section of the website to communicate key items of concern to the wider membership. She highlighted the virtual bookstore and asked members to make sure that their books are noted there and to use the site to purchase books and resources. Lucinda noted that the Facebook page is not being utilized yet. Mary added a note about the features of the Facebook page to encourage its use. She also noted the Association's new address at Yale, now that Lucinda has moved to that area.

In terms of external communication, Lucinda reported that the Association had received an inquiry from the *Wall Street Journal* about faith membership numbers post 9/11 as well as an inquiry from a Canadian publication around the issue of the education of Islamic youth. These are good opportunities to get the Association's name out in the public arena, she noted.

D. Networking Coordinator's Report

Sybrina offered a brief Networking Coordinator's Report. She highlighted the fact that as an association without a central office, everything is done through the website. She highlighted key features of the website and the ability for the membership to respond to items digitally. She noted that members do not need to log in to access the new website. The only time a log in is needed is to comment on things. Sybrina encouraged the membership to go to the website regularly. She also requested that the membership log in and complete the Meeting Evaluation Form for the Annual Meeting because members' comments and reflections are valued by the Board so that we can improve

what we do in general and improve the Annual Meeting. She also noted that we are interested in knowing about related webinars and digital programs that members may be participating in that can be advertised to the wider membership.

E. Editor's Report

Jack offered the report on the *Journal*. He noted that the *Journal* is now found in 7,000 libraries. We have had over 78,000 articles downloaded this past year. Last year we accepted about 38% of the essays offered for publication. The *Journal* received essays from 18 different countries and the published essays were from 10 different countries and 4 different faith communities.

Jack also reported on the new book series – New Horizons. He offered thanks and appreciation to Dean Blevins' work to get this project moving. This means that we will publish at least 1 new book each year primarily from new scholars and will be single-authored works. All submissions will go through an editorial board. The publication will be done through Wipf and Stock publishers. He noted, though, that they do not want dissertations. The goal is to publish the first book by next year.

F. Technology Committee

Mary reported on the formation of this new committee and asked its first members to stand and be recognized.

G. Nominating Committee Report

The Committee has offered the following slate of members:

Siebrin Miedema – 2013 Program Chair, President Elect

Michael Horan – Treasurer

Richard Rymarz – Religious Education and Faith Communities

Susanne Johnson – Religious Education in Public Life and Global Community

Leah Gunning Francis – Religious Education and Academic Disciplines and Institutions

Ted Brelsford – Call for Papers Committee

Chuck Foster – Harper Committee

The Board moved and Nelson Strobert seconded that the slate be elected.

There being no additional nominations from the floor, the question was called.

Motion passed unanimously.

#### H. Archivist Report

Barney offered his final report as Archivist. He noted the rich history of the organization. He concluded by offering 3 encouragements: that the Association maintain and expand its interfaith focus, that we not forget our history and legacy and that we maintain the Harper and Wornom awards. The Association offered it appreciation for Barney's work.

#### III. 2012 Annual Meeting

Yolanda offered a brief introduction to the 2012 Annual Meeting in Atlanta. As noted at the Board Retreat. The theme is: "Let Freedom Ring: Religious Education at the Intersection of Social Justice, Liberation and Civil/Human Rights." She is hoping to see a wide range of issues and topics emerge beyond Martin Luther King and civil rights to discuss concerns such efforts for freedom for diverse groups in India, the freedom movements arising in the Middle East and other efforts. She noted that the meeting can address the historical role of our field as well as innovative contemporary pedagogical activities in the field of Religious Education.

She highlighted the key questions to be addressed in the Meeting: How can religious education prepare communities and individuals and to engage in the struggle for a more humane and just society while deepening spiritual growth? In what ways do contemplation and engaged social action intersect in the world? How does spirituality function amid violent movements? How might religious education facilitate more transformative, holistic, and life-giving responses? How might religious education address issues of gender, race, ethnicity, nationality, religious background, sexual orientation, poverty, or political ideology in light of freedom/protest movements? How does the ecological dimension such as sustainability, natural disasters, and widespread devastation impact the quest for social justice, liberation and civil/human rights? What are the political implications for shaping prophetic and transformative models of religious education? What role has the media, social networking, twitter and other technological advances played in contemporary social justice movements?

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Winings  
Secretary