

Minutes of YMCA Europe General Assembly 16 - 20 May 2007

Place: Kiev, Ukraine

Theme: "In my Father's house are many rooms"

Participants: 166 participants from 27 Member Movements and 2 Cooperating Movements were present.

Guests: World Alliance of YMCAs Bart Shaha, Secretary General
WAY Executive Committee Members: Martin Bauer,
Paola Petracchi, Kjetil Fretheim, Jenny Marie
YMCA of the USA Cheryl Anthony, YMCA of Greater St Louis, Missouri
Y's Men International Poul-Henrik Hove Jakobsen, Danish Y's Men
Poul V. Thomsen, Danish Y's Men

YMCA Indian Student Hostel London George Varughese

Special guests: Terry Ratcliffe, former EAY President
Egon Slopianka, former EAY Secretary General
Jan Nissèn, former EAY President
Diogo Pinto, European Youth Forum
Chris Roles, Y Care International

Apologies: YMCA of the USA
Asia and Pacific Alliance of YMCAs
Latin American and
Caribbean Alliance of YMCAs
Africa Alliance of YMCAs
Dölf Weder, former EAY Secretary General
Martin Meisner, President of WAY
Ed Eggink

Devotions The Devotions during the General Assembly and the Ecumenical Services were conducted by the Christian Orientation Group chaired by Tom Cusens, Malta and assisted by people from different National Movements.

1 Opening

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

Representatives of the Orthodox Church in Ukraine greeted the Assembly.

YMCA of Georgia was especially welcomed to the General Assembly, as it is their first as full members of YMCA Europe. Gela Chikhradeze expressed thanks for all the support they as a movement have received from the whole YMCA family.

As a sign of the new membership, the Constitution of the European Alliance of YMCA's was signed and exchanged.

Peter Posner stated that the Assembly had been called according to the §12 of the constitution. He also stated that, since 27 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 2006 Minutes

At the General Assembly in 2006 there was a presentation on fund raising by two former presidents of the YMCA Europe. This needed to be included in the minutes.

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

5 Greetings

The following participants gave greetings to the General Assembly:
Bart Shaha on behalf of World Alliance of YMCAs, Diogo Pinto from European Youth Forum and Tom Cusens on behalf of Y's men International.

6 Secretary General Speech

Johan Vilhelm Eltvik, EAY Secretary General, presented his report entitled "In my Father's house there are many rooms". 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 2006

In the absence of the Treasurer, Peter Posner, President, gave the report and guided the General Assembly through the financial documents included in the Assembly Working Documents.

The Training Centre will be run as a separate operation from 2007 and onward, so 2006 is the last year it is part of YMCA Europe's finances.

The national contribution covered in 2006 47% of the general operations (core budget). The goal of the general assembly, as decided in 1993 is that it should cover 100 %.

He expressed thanks for the good support from members and that the national contributions are paid in time.

€36 000 was lost in currency fluctuation during 2006, and bank expenses were €9 000. Therefore the repeated request to all National Movements and donors is to transfer money in Czech Crowns and take bank charges for your own account.

The end of year accounts resulted in a surplus of €36.

Decision: The Financial Accounts for the year 2006 were unanimously approved.

7.6.2 Auditors' Report and Discharge of Executive Committee

Peter Posner explained the Auditors' Report.

Decision: The Report was unanimously approved.

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

7.6.3 Budget and National Contributions 2008 ff.

The Budget and the National Contributions 2008 ff. were explained by Peter Posner. 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.

Miriam Heidelberg-Kaufmann, Switzerland, made a remark about the national contributions, and would like to see a more transparent system.

Peter Croy, Scotland, asked about the difference in size of the field operations. Johan Vilhelm Eltvik explained that the staff and the travel money are always secured, and the money in addition to that is used on extra projects.

Peter Posner explained the budget of the YMCA Europe 2008 festival. The operations for the festival are now arranged in a separate legal entity. YMCA Europe is helping the festival to secure the cash flow. The total budget for the festival is 2 mil. Euro. In order to make it easier for people to come for this life changing experience, the participation fee has been set as low as possible.

Decision: The proposed budget and the national contributions 2008 were approved with one abstention.

7.7 Presentation of Operational Plans 2007/2008

Decision: The Operational Plans 2007/2008 as formulated by the Executive Committee were unanimously received.

8 General Assembly 2008 and 2009

8.1 General Assembly 2008

The General Assembly 2008 30th April to 4th May will be in Litomyšl, Czech Republic.

8.2 General Assembly 2009

Venue for the General Assembly 2009 has not been decided. Several offers are under consideration by the Executive Committee.

9 Any Other Business

9.1 Christian Orientation group

The group needs reinforcements, so Tom Cusens asked the national movements to propose new members to him.

10 Thanks and Closing Remarks

Natasha Warner from England thanked the people involved in the work with the Assembly.

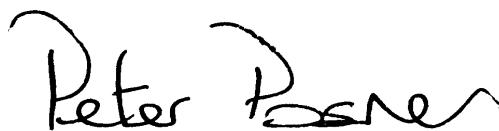
Peter Posner thanked those present for their contribution to making this Assembly a wonderful place to come to.

Peter Posner closed the Assembly.

Kiev, Ukraine
May 2007



Kåre Dag Mangersnes
Recording Secretary



Peter Posner
President