

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Retirement Assistance Fund of the Canadian Reformed Churches held electronically on August 15, 2020

Opening:

The chairman, Harold Leyenhorst welcomed those present and opened the meeting with reading from Philippines 3: 12 to 21 and with prayer.

Credentials:

32 participants joined the Zoom meeting representing 29 member churches. 6 committee members were present, 3 of which also represented a member church and Wade Van Bostelen of Investment Planning Counsel joined the meeting as our investment advisor. It was noted that quorum has been reached should there be any matters requiring a vote.

It was noted that a proxy vote only needed to be forwarded where a member church did not have a delegate present but wished to have a neighboring church or a member of the management committee vote on their behalf.

Secretary's Report:

The secretary, Leroy Van Spronsen presented the 2019 Annual Report on behalf of the management committee. Leroy noted that this was the first year the new management committee has been involved in the administration of the fund and that the previous Board of Governors had served for over 100 years collectively!

Treasurer's Report:

Steve Vander Molen presented the *Treasurer's Financial Summary* for the year ended December 31, 2019. Steve noted that we experienced a higher than normal return during 2019 which is not expected to be duplicated in 2020, that the investments were handled in accordance with our established long-term investment policy and that there continues to be adequate cash reserve for the foreseeable future.

Bob Beintema from Blessings Hamilton asked why the number of members receiving benefits was less than the number of retired ministers and widows. It was noted that several member churches have more than one retired minister and/or widow to support.

Mike Vantil from Willoughby wondered if the calculations used to calculate future cash flows were correct. Steve noted that the calculations are prepared on a conservative basis using a lower return (4%) than has been historically calculated. There are several assumptions made in the preparation of the same which are monitored on a regular basis.

Henry Bosch from St. Albert asked if the investment management fee was reviewed regularly. It was noted that there are limited options based on the size of the fund and that we currently feel there is a good balance between cost and expertise provided with our current advisor.

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Treasurer's Report (continued):

Henry Bosch asked if there was an investment policy for the funds invested. Steve noted our investment policy is on the website and is monitored by both our advisor and the management committee.

Bob Beintema asked about the honorarium on the financial statement. Harold noted this was a payment to the treasurer.

Wade Van Bostelen noted the fund is up slightly year to date despite the current market conditions.

Mike Vantil asked about the life expectancy used in the cash flow projections. Steve noted that the calculations used are based on the national average life expectancy plus 3 years and where a retiree or widow has exceeded this, an additional 2 years is added for purposes of the calculation.

Correspondence:

A letter was received from Carman West regarding several matters related to the administration and purpose of the fund. A response has been sent and the letter was passed on to an AdHoc Committee for consideration.

Question Period and Other Matters:

Bob Beintema noted that the RAF is not a qualified donee for CRA purposes, nor is it a pension fund. Member churches should note this in preparation of their charity returns.

Mike Vantil asked if provisions are being made past 20 years. Steve noted that this will be monitored on an annual basis while the 20-year cash flow projection is being prepared and assessments would be adjusted accordingly.

Closing:

Harold Leyenhorst thanked the brothers for their time and Leroy Van Spronsen closed in prayer.