

Canadian Church Press
Annual General Meeting
Hamilton, Ontario
May 4, 2018

Present: Bill Fledderus & Karen Stiller (*Faith Today*), Ken Ramstead (*Faith and Friends*), Ross Muir & Ginny Hostetler (*Canadian Mennonite*), Ian Adnams (*The Canadian Lutheran*), Karen Stowell (Crossroads Christian Communication), Jim Uttley (Associate member), Angela Reitsma Bick (*Christina Courier*), Conor Sweetman (*Love is Moving*), Meagan Gillmore (Associate member/freelancer), Geoff Moulton & Kristin Ostensen & Giselle Randall (*Salvationist*), John Longhurst (*Breaking Bread*), Brad Wassink (*Catalyst*), Mike Strathdee (*Marketplace*), Bob Bettson (Associate member/freelancer), Karla Braun (*MB Herald*) Joe Sinasac (*Living with Christ*)

1. **Opening prayer:** Bill Fledderus

2. **Member sign in**

3. **Approval of agenda:** M/S/A

4. **Approval of AGM minutes** from June 22, 2017: M/S/A

Correction: *Indian Life* has not closed; it is continuing

Correction: “Thanks to Brad for the complicate numbers” – “complicated”

5. **Membership report:** Ken Ramstead

63 members: newest member is Mike Strathdee from *MEDA Marketplace*; Conor Sweetman of *Love is Moving* is attending for the first time.

Q: What about Anglican group?

A: They are still part of CCP; some diocesan papers submitted to the awards contest.

6. **Financial report:** Brad Wassink

Last year’s convention numbers are in this year’s budget due to the timing of the 2017 convention. This year’s numbers do not include the full expenses of 2018 convention.

Proposed budget for 2019 is standard for a “normal” CCP year (cf revised budget of 2016–2017 year with June convention). Budget may be revised depending on location of next year’s convention.

Q: Travel subsidy: is that contingent on location of convention?

A: Cap at \$200 per person for all applicants, rather than expenses covered for first applicants.

Apply to Sue with flight info and receipt. (May need increase with a different destination)

Q: Awards budget is significantly lower?

A: Fewer publications are submitting which reduces judging costs.

Approval of 2019 budget: M/S/A

7. **President’s report:** Bill Fledderus

a. Aims: improve communication

i. increased Facebook page use; all exec members have access, resulted in more traffic, information, interaction

ii. website is still stale but has newer information

iii. work at more regular emails/newsletter to stay in touch (note: peer organizations have a monthly email)

b. Major task is organizing convention. Generally, there is a rotation of joint conferences with ARCCC and ACP and others, and alternation of locations between Toronto, Winnipeg and occasionally elsewhere.

Executive makes convention location decision.

2019 possibilities: Vancouver (w/ Anglican editors), Ottawa (w/ ARCCC)

2018 in **Hamilton** with **ARCCC**

2017 **Quebec City** with **SIGNIS** and Catholic Press Association

Q: Any further discussion about meeting with Evangelical Press Association?

A: There were three Canadians among the 200 attendees at the 2017 event; 2018's event is planned for Oklahoma. Bill will remain in touch about future possibilities.

- c. Future of CCP/restructuring: see 8.
- d. CCP dreams of producing materials for mainstream journalists and raising visibility of constituents. Ideas include producing written resources on religion, commissioning a research project on religion and journalism, supporting people of faith in journalism with a bursary.
- e. CCP can be a voice on behalf of our sector to the government. It's time to reintroduce ourselves to the government especially as the newspaper subsidies are reconsidered. Survey CCP members to discover how many are part of the mailing subsidy program.
- f. Partnership projects could be pursued with other groups, such as discounted rates for our members to attend webinars by other groups with publishing or ethics focus, or working with U.S. agencies like RNS, Knight Foundation or Poynter to replicate their studies.
- g. Local chapter development

8. New Vision discussion paper: John Longhurst

Current model is based on publications which has worked well for decades, but publications are closing. We need to consider something different, such as broadening our idea of who we are and who can join to something like Canadian Christian Communicators so anyone involved in communications, journalism, marketing, bloggers, etc. can be part.

Discussion:

Caution: don't lose the quality of editing and marketing information by diversifying too much.

Consider potential members like universities who might increase the size of CCP to the degree that a sustainable structure and staff may be necessary.

The resources of organizations vs individuals are different; growth may come from individuals. This impacts fee structure.

Photographers are another possible expansion market.

Caution: avoid CCC acronym given that it's already taken. Suggestion: CCPC – Canadian Christian publishers/press and communicators

Survey potential members about what they need as communicators.

Affirmation to continue to explore ideas in vision document and discussion: unanimous show of hands.

9. Executive positions continue as current. Bill called for appreciation for the work of these individuals.

- a. President: Bill Fledderus
- b. Vice-President: John Longhurst
- c. Secretary: Karla Braun
- d. Member-at-Large: Jim Uttley
- e. Member-at-Large: Angela Reitsma Bick
- f. Past president: Michael Swan (expires at this convention)
- g. Staff administrative assistant: Sue Newbery

10. New business

11. Motion to adjourn: M/S/A