

**MINUTES OF STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Faith and Earthkeeping Conference 2002**  
**August 16, 2002 at Redeemer University College**

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**Present:** Henry Hengeveld, Elbert Van Donkersgoed, John Wood, Theo Plantinga, Bill Van Geest, plus two conference participants: Harry Alkema and Tony Hendry

*Names of person(s) responsible for tasks are bolded.*

**1. Opening and Welcome**

John Wood assumed the chair in Henry B and Elbert van Donkersgoed's (initial) absence. Henry H opened with prayer.

**2. Minutes**

Minutes of April 10, 2002 meeting and June 2 larger meeting of conference participants – accepted as distributed.

**3. Conference Follow-up and Review**

3.1 Website: John reports that Kings will pickup the costs for maintaining the website for the next two years at an annual cost of \$225.

3.2 Student CSCA memberships: A cheque for \$30 has been sent to each of the six students who applied.

3.3 Conference review: there was a low response through the conference evaluation sheet, but committee members agreed that there was a general appreciation for the event. Informal responses included:

- why not do this more often,
- there were too many simultaneous workshops,
- the absence of independent papers meant the agenda was too controlled.

3.4 John reported that the 2004 conference is committed to an academic track. Funds have been solicited for this purpose and major researchers will be present. The focus of the papers will be on the importance of place.

**4. Budget shortfall and fundraising**

Henry B's conference financial statement is reviewed. John reports that Henry B has since received promises of \$500 each from two additional sources. [One of the two has since been received.] Elbert reports that CFFO has received \$250 for the conference. Assuming all promised monies come in, this leaves a deficit of \$21. However, committee members strongly felt that the 50% of the speakers' honoraria that has not yet been paid, should be paid. This will require an additional \$1500.

Proposed fund-raising:

- **Elbert** will contact two people on his original list again

- **All committee members** who did not pay a registration and accommodation fee are asked to do so.
- **Bill** will contact Henry B with the possibility of taking up Richard Ubbens' offer of a City of Toronto contribution.

Other follow-up: **Henry B** will be asked to send a letter conference speakers informing them that the honoraria balance will be paid.

## 5. Ad hoc Committee on Organizational Mandate

### 5.1 Relevant documents circulated for review:

- Email responses from conference participants Phil Moddle and Michael Logan.
- Comments on proposed organization from June 2 meeting.
- Some thoughts on the mandate and role of an ad hoc organizing committee – Faith and earthkeeping affiliation of Canada – drafted by Henry H and John.

5.2 The committee reviewed Henry H and John's draft. The process outlined was generally supported, including the goal to make the 2004 conference in Edmonton the organizational meeting of a new affiliation. Some of the key comments on the proposed affiliation included:

The relationship of a future Christian environmental practitioners organization to the CSCA was discussed.. The ASA has an environmental commission. Should we have a similar relationship? This would give it immediate and otherwise hard-to-get charitable status. Informal initial discussions with CSCA were positive. It was agreed that the new committee should explore linkages with existing organizations such as the CSCA.

Regional breakfast or one-day meetings for 2003 were supported. Suggested locations were Edmonton, Toronto and Wheaton, Ill. These would ensure the conference momentum would continue and develop some regional roots. Regional volunteers would need to organize these events.

Committee members felt that a future organization will need a home in an academic institution on a permanent or rotating basis, to provide necessary support services.

Committee members agreed that the needs and aims of environmental academics and professionals should be at the core of an affiliation. In fact, it should serve as a bridge between academia and the worlds of professionals. Although volunteer environmental activists would be welcomed as associate or full members, the organization would not be structured around their needs.

5.3 Committee membership: The Committee agreed to the following proposed composition (pending agreement of individuals), based on regional/institutional and professional representation: John Wood (chair), Fred Van Dyke, Henry Hengeveld, Henry Brouwer, Bill van Geest and a Trinity Western faculty member (Jack Van Dyke or David Clements). **John** to contact Fred and a Trinity Western rep.

5.4 Financial needs of the new committee were discussed. While most correspondence will

be electronic, King's will cover any mailing costs. A \$3000 budget was proposed to cover:

- Travelling costs for one face-to-face meeting in Ontario.
- Conference call costs
- Regional events (offset by participant contributions)

5.5 A letter to conference participants is proposed. It will announce the plan to form an affiliation and ask for donations. **John and Henry H.** to draft. **John** will check if King's is willing to receive funds on behalf of the new committee. Committee members are asked to consider who else might donate funds for the new committee's work.

## **6.0 Next meeting**

First meeting date for new committee not set.

## **7.0 Closing**

Bill van Geest closed the meeting in prayer.

*Minutes prepared by Bill van Geest.*