



Minutes of the annual meeting of friends of Sabeel Norway 2017

Time: 28 March 2017 5 pm to 8.15 pm

Location: Grefsen church center.

Present: 23 members (27 during the first part, with Tor Øystein Vaaland giving an inspiring introduction to walking in the footsteps of Jesus and promoting responsible pilgrimage)

1. Approval of the call for and agenda of the annual meeting

Unanimously approved.

2. Election of moderator

Eilert Rostrup was elected moderator

3. Election of secretary

Helge Kjøllesdal was elected secretary.

4. Election of two protocol signatories

Sindre Eide and Estrid Hessellund were elected as protocol signatories.

5. Review of the Annual Report for 2016

Chairman Hans Morten Haugen highlighted the main points in the annual report which had already been distributed to members.

- Sabeel friends in Norway (FoSN) has been formally registered in the Brønnøysund Register Centre as an independent organization (no. 816 975 972).
- FoSN received offerings from seven congregations in Church of Norway.
- FoSN has been actively involved in the planning of Church Action for Peace in Palestine and Israel in 2016 and has in 2017 the main responsibility for the Church Action for Peace.

- FoSN has been actively involved in the creation of the Church dialogue platform on economic measures against Israel's occupation.
- FoSN has promoted alternative tourism and international travels to Palestine
- The Chairperson has participated in the public debate about the conflict.

The chairman referred to the Church dialogue platform as a success because it brought together a wide range of Norwegian church life. The terminology BDS has not been applied by the Church dialogue platform. The disappointment is that there is no response from the Norwegian authorities on the joint letters.

There have been no major own event by FoSN this year.

From the discussion following the presentation of the annual report: Trygve Natvig called for a greater commitment from the board to engage the membership in FoSN. The decision to have an annual meeting was an expression of the desire for stronger involvement. He illustrated this by pointing to the need for alternative pilgrimage to Palestine.

Marit Skjeggstad welcomed the fact that seven churches had reacted positively to the letter asking for offerings to Sabeel. She believed it was possible to increase this figure by appealing directly to the responsible persons in individual parishes. This should also happen to other denominations than those belonging to Church of Norway.

The lack of response from the Norwegian authorities on the joint letters was viewed with dissatisfaction. The Chairperson said that there is a plan on how this is to be followed up. Eilert Rostrup said that this could be a media issue if there is no response.

The Board was thanked for their efforts.

The annual report was approved by acclamation.

6. Financial report for 2016

There has not been a formal audit of the accounts, but the Finance Officer in the Christian Council of Norway has undertaken a review. This review was presented to the annual meeting. Total revenues are NOK 47 483 and total expenditure are NOK 34 477 with a balance per 31/12/16 at NOK 31 105. An amount of NOK 18.235 was transferred to Sabeel in 2016.

Asked about whether there is a legal requirement to have an audit by a certified auditor, it was informed that there is no requirement to have an authorized auditor even if FoSN has now been registered publicly.

The accounts were approved unanimously.

7. Budget 2017

This is the first year that FoSN submits a budget.

The budget shows that the organization is largely dependent on donations. Only half of the members has contributed money to Sabeel and the Board hopes there will be an improvement in these figures in the coming years. The budgeted income is NOK 50 000, which means that the contributions of members must increase and offerings from churches must be similar to figures in 2016. The budgeted expenditures are NOK 64 285, which can be explained by a large cost for postage (2015-2016) at NOK 18 185 was paid in 2017, and that the Board is aiming to transfer NOK 25 000 to Sabeel in Jerusalem in 2017.

The budget was approved unanimously.

8. Review of the Statutes for Friends of Sabeel Norway

There was a discussion on whether the Statutes ensures adequate rotation of the members of the Board. It was made clear that the Statutes § 5.b) regarding election for two years applies to all positions on the board. This ensures continuity.

The annual meeting asked the board to consider the Statutes and present any proposed changes to the next annual meeting.

9. Election of Chairperson & Vice Chair, other Board members, nomination committee and auditor

The annual meeting approved the election committee by acclamation.

Marit Skjeggstad was elected as new Board member.

Kari Lorentzen and Beate Iren Lerdahl were elected as new alternates.

The new board has the following composition:

Chairperson: Hans Morten Haugen

Vice Chair and finance manager: Tyler Dale Hauger

Board members: Ingrid Rodrick Beiler, Helge Kjøllesdal, Marit Skjeggstad

1st alternate: Kari Lorentzen

2nd alternate: Beate Iren Lerdahl

As nomination committee was elected: Sven Thore Kloster and Kari Veiteberg

As auditors were elected: Karin Randsborg Thompson

10. Suggestions for further work

The Board of FoSN was encouraged to seek more active cooperation with congregations in other denominations than Church of Norway. It was also emphasized that other congregations than those belonging to the Palestinian Lutheran Church (ELCJHL) want contact with congregations in Norway and that this could be a gateway to establish relations with both Sabeel and Palestine.

Members of FoSN should promote responsible pilgrimage, if possible with the assistance of Al Quds travel agency. There should be a network of competent people who can facilitate such kinds of travels.

The Board must engage the FoSN membership base, so that they become more active in the Church Action for peace.

The annual meeting requested the Board to follow up these suggestions for further work.

11. Thanks

Jorunn Kapstad was thanked for 16 years of efforts for FoSN and Sven Oppegaard for five years of efforts for FoSN, the last three years as Vice Chair.

Signed Protocol on behalf of the Annual Meeting:



Estrid Hessellund

Sign



Sindre Eide

Sign