

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Mennonite Historical Society of Canada**

Saturday, January 20, 2018 9:00 a.m.

MCC Alberta Offices

Calgary, Alberta

Present:

1. Alf Redekopp, MHSC Secretary, Mennonite Church Canada
 2. Alice Unrau, MHSC board member, Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta
 3. Barb Draper, MHSC Member-at-Large, Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario
 4. Barry Dyck, MHSC board member, Mennonite Heritage Village
 5. Bert Friesen, MHSC board member, Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society
 6. Bethany Leis, MHSC board member, Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario
 7. Brian Froese, MHSC board member, Canadian Mennonite University
 8. Conrad Stoesz, MHSC Treasurer, Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society
 9. David Neufeldt, MHSC board member, Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta
 10. Dick Braun, MHSC board member, Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan
 11. Elma Pauls, MHSC board member, Mennonite Historical Society of British Columbia
 12. Holly Nelson, MHSC board member, Humanitas Anabaptist Mennonite Centre
 13. Jake Buhler, MHSC board member, Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan
 14. Jeremy Wiebe, MHSC board member, Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta
 15. Jon Isaak, MHSC board member, Centre for MB Studies, Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches
 16. Laureen Harder-Gissing, MHSC board member, Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, Institute of Anabaptist and Mennonite Studies
 17. Lil Bartel, Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta
 18. Lucille Marr, MHSC board member, Société d'histoire mennonite du Québec
 19. Peter Dyck, Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta
 20. Richard Loughheed, MHSC board member, Société d'histoire mennonite du Québec
 21. Richard Thiessen, MHSC President, Mennonite Historical Society of British Columbia
 22. Royden Loewen, MHSC Vice President, Centre for Transnational Mennonite Studies
 23. Ted Regehr, Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta
 24. Victor G. Wiebe, Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan
 25. Dave Toews, Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta
 26. John Reddekopp, Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan
 27. Katie Harder, Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta
 28. Erna Goerzen (guest)
 29. Henry D. Goerzen (guest)
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1. Welcome and Introductions: Richard Thiessen welcomed participants and invited each person to introduce themselves.
 2. Dave Neufeldt was invited to share a devotional to open the meeting. He used the example of the recent fires that burned 70% of the forests of a favourite national park in Alberta, and the notion of how the forest will again rejuvenate itself, but not in his life time. We know from past records that it is true. Similarly we also know how patiently we must wait in matters of faith as well. Bible tells stories of what happen when people are faithful and when people are unfaithful. A prayer concluded the devotional.
 3. Minutes of the 21 January 2017 meeting were reviewed by Alf Redekopp. MSC (Alf Redekopp/Bert Friesen) that the minutes be accepted as recorded and reviewed.

4. Business arising: Status of the Video Project about the founding leaders of MHSC was unclear. Conrad Stoesz agrees to check into the status of the “founding leaders video project.”
5. Approval of the agenda. MSC (Bert Friesen/Lucille Marr) that the agenda be accepted.
6. Ratification of the committees: The following roster for 2017-2018 was approved at the board meeting:
 - a. Canadian GAMEO editorial committee: suspended
 - b. Archives Committee: Conrad Stoesz (MHA), Richard Thiessen (B.C.), Alice Unrau (Alberta), Victor Wiebe (Saskatchewan), Laureen Harder-Gissing (Ontario); (chair), Jon Isaak).
 - c. Mennonite Archival Image Database Management (MAID) group: Conrad Stoesz (chair), Alf Redekopp, Laureen Harder-Gissing, Hannah Keeney
 - d. DVCM committee: Royden Loewen (chair), Marlene Epp, Lucille Marr, Pam Peters-Pries, Leonard Doell, Brian Froese, Laureen Harder-Gissing
 - e. Genealogy (task force): Bert Friesen (chair)
 - f. A People of Diversity Project: Royden Loewen (chair), Lucille Marr, Laureen Harder-Gissing , Conrad Stoesz, Brian Froese, Bruce Guenther and Marlene Epp.
7. MHSC Constitution and By-laws: MSC (Bert Friesen/Elma Pauls) that the motion to amend the by-laws and constitution, as described in the notice of motion presented in at the 2017 AGM be accepted.
8. Reports from the Provincial Societies
 - a. Quebec: Richard Lougheed reported by highlighting several projects. A book on the history of the French Anabaptist mission work in Quebec is near completion. A few GAMEO articles have been written and posted. He also spoke of the relationship with MCC and presented an invitation from their society for the MHSC to meet in Quebec in January 2020.
 - b. Ontario: Bethany Leis reported by highlighting some of the changes their Society has experienced and spoke to various aspects of the written report.
 - c. Manitoba: Bert Friesen reviewed aspects by the Manitoba’s report and shared how inspiring it is to see Lawrence Klippenstein still be active activities in many facets of Mennonite history in the province.
 - d. Saskatchewan: Jake Buhler reported, making special mention of the loss of Esther Patkau who died in 2016. He spoke a map project on the villages of the former Hague Oster Mennonite Reserve which would use aerial photography and Google’s recently released images. He also highlighted the recent acquisition of the files of the Saskatchewan Valley News.
 - e. Alberta: Dave Neufeldt noted that the loss due to the death of Dan Jack this past year. Alice Unrau noted an increase in people coming to the archives.
 - f. British Columbia: Richard Thiessen highlighted aspects of the written report from MHSBC. A comedy event with Orlando Braun and Matt Falk, that had drawn over 380 attendees, was a particular successful event. A question was raised about when digital scans of their major digitization projects might be available.

MSC (Barry/Dave Neufeld) that all these society reports be accepted.
9. President’s Report: Shared about his appreciation for our medical system and also the prayers of people during his crises with eye problems this past year. Aspects of his report were highlighted. MSC (Bert Friesen/Lucille Marr) to accept the President’s report.

10. Henry Goerzen was presented the 2018 MHSC Award of Excellence. Photographs were taken. Henry responded, acknowledging his wife's role and God's grace in his life. He also shared a little of his experiences with the media and schools, where he was able to share about his Mennonite faith and life. He also shared about the joy of being able to assisting people with reading the Gothic script.

Mid-morning break.

11. Project Reports
 - a. GAMEO. Bert Friesen reported about the main changes in the GAMEO project this past years. (see written report from John Roth.)
 - b. DVCM. Royden Loewen reviewed the history of the DVCM project as well as future plans. He also reported that he will be in discussion and negotiation this next year with MCC Canada regarding future funding.
 - c. APOD: Royden reviewed the upcoming conference, highlighting the names of presenters and their topics.
MSC (Jeremy Wiebe/Conrad Stoesz) to accept project reports.
12. Future goals of MHSC: Questions and discussion took place beginning with suggestions mentioned in Royden Loewen's project reports and other topics mentioned. These included: Mennonites and prisons; the departure of 8000 Canadians from Canada in 1922; Mennonites and Genealogy; small Mennonite groups (splinter "disease"); Mennonites and Anthropology (example: Harvey Neufeldt's work on biography of Jakob Loewen); Mennonite and Indigenous relations revisited; Mennonites and the arts; Mennonites in Canada and German Nationalism; what's in a name; meaning of church (i.e. regular participation once a month).
How can we better connect with our constituency and communicate history, its meaning and relevancel (examples: social media, videography, radio vignettes, graphic novels, oral history projects from 40 years ago). Do we need a consultant to help MHSC develop a strategy?
13. Genealogy Committee Report: Bert Friesen is the only member left on the Genealogy Task Force that is working on an online genealogical project which will focus on making original sources available that will be searchable. He also reported that six interested people had attended the previous day's meeting, and that they had agreed to be testers of the genealogy website. MSC (Bert Friesen/Jeremy Wiebe) to accept this report.
14. Archives Committee Report: Laureen Harder-Gissing reported about the most recent meetings and will submit a written report. MSC (Laureen Harder-Gissing/Conrad Stoesz) to accept the report.
15. MAID Management Group: Conrad Stoesz highlighted aspects of his written report. MSC (Conrad Stoesz/Jeremy Wiebe) to accept the report.
16. Institutional Reports:
 - a. MAO & MCEC report. Laureen highlighted aspects of her report.

- b. Centre for Transnational Mennonite Studies. Centre was launched 2 years ago as a partnership between the Chair in Mennonite Studies and the Plett Foundation. Royden Loewen reviewed the written report.
- c. Mennonite Heritage Village Report. Barry Dyck reviewed the written report. A question was asked about interest in agriculture and how education might play a role.
- d. Mennonite Heritage Archives (known as Mennonite Heritage Centre up to June 1) went through a major transition this past year. Conrad reviewed aspects of his written report.
- e. Centre for MB Studies. Jon Isaak noted that the Mennonite Brethren Conference is the last Mennonite denomination to still have an archives, the rest have all been transferred to another society or institution. He reviewed his written report.
- f. Institute of Anabaptist and Mennonite Studies (Waterloo). Laureen reviewed her written report.
- g. Humanitas Anabaptist-Mennonite Centre (Langley, BC). Holly Nelson reported on behalf of their director Myron Penner. She spoke of the two arms of their program – the one that resulted in successful public lecture events and the other the communication that took place via the Dark Glass Theatre program.
- h. Mennonite Museum Society (Abbotsford). Richard Thiessen reviewed his written report. He noted that the museum has about 30 volunteers. The entire number of volunteers (society and museum together) counts about 100 volunteers.

MSC (Conrad Stoesz/Elma Pauls) to accept the institutional reports.

- 17. Financial Statements for 2016-2017. MSC (Bert Friesen/Bethany Lies) to accept the unaudited financial statements.
 - 18. MSC (Jon Isaak/Jeremy Wiebe) that the draft budget be accepted.
There was a request for hard copies next year. Royden Loewen agreed that he will produce 5 hard copies for next's years AGM.
 - 19. Appointment of Auditor: MSC (Jake Buhler/Barry Dyck) to appoint Rodney Ewert be the financial reviewer.
 - 20. Report of the Nominations committee: Jon Isaak and Richard Lougheed reported that the current executive officers were each asked if they were willing to continue. They have agree to let their names stand with the following roles:
 - Royden Loewen for President.
 - Richard Thiessen for Vice President.
 - Alf Redekopp for recording Secretary.
 - Conrad Stoesz for Treasurer.
 - Barb Draper for Member-at-large
- MSC (Jon Isaak/Richard Lougheed) that these persons be the MHSC Executive officers for 2018.
- 21. MCS (Lucille Marr/Bert Friesen) that Jon Isaak and Richard Lougheed be the Nominations Committee for the coming year.
 - 22. New Business: What type of membership should MHSC have? Do we want to reach out to the conservative Mennonite groups and / or local regional groups? We are a national society. We invite local regional groups when the MHSC meets in their region.
A question was raised about government requirements regarding persons that are hired (example: Young Canada Works).
A question was raised about encouraging the development of Hutterite archives.

23. Next meetings
MSC (Barb/Dave Neufeldt) that we accept the following proposed meeting dates and places:
- a. 2018 AGM: Manitoba: 14-15 November 2018
 - b. 2019 AGM: Quebec: 23-26 January 2020
 - c. 2020 AGM: Manitoba: Jan 2021
24. A big “thank you” was expressed to MHSA for hosting the January 2018 meeting. Alice Unrau was specifically thanked for all the meals that she prepared and served.

Meeting was adjourned 3:55p.m.

Recorded by Alf Redekopp