

Minutes of the Board Meeting
Mennonite Historical Society of Canada

Friday, January 17, 2020

Camp Peniel

Wentworth-Nord, Quebec

Present:

1. Lauren Harder-Gissing, president, MCEC, Institute of Anabaptist and Mennonite Studies
2. Conrad Stoesz, vice president, Mennonite Church Canada
3. Barb Draper, secretary
4. Jeremy Wiebe, treasurer
5. Royden Loewen, Centre for Mennonite Transnational Studies
6. Selenna Wolf, Mennonite Church Canada
7. John Redekopp, Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan
8. Brian Froese, Canadian Mennonite University
9. Cheryl Isaac, Mennonite Historical Society of B.C.
10. Linda Klassen, Mennonite Historical Society of B.C.
11. Henry Paetkau, Mennonite Historical Society of Ont.
12. Richard Thiessen, Mennonite Museum Society
13. Alf Redekopp, Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario
14. Jake Buhler, Mennonite Historical Society of Sask.
15. Ted Regehr, Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta
16. Andrea Dyck, Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society
17. Lucille Marr, Société d'histoire mennonite du Québec
18. Gary Dyck, Mennonite Heritage Village

1. Lauren Harder-Gissing acknowledged that we are meeting on the traditional lands of the Algonquin and Laurentian peoples. She asked that representatives not give a full report, but only refer to new items of business.
2. We reviewed the minutes of Nov. 14, 2018. **M/S/Carried** (Barb Draper, Richard Thiessen) to accept the minutes of Nov. 14, 2018 as distributed.
3. We reviewed the agenda. **M/S/Carried** (Conrad Stoesz, Alf Redekopp) to accept the agenda.
4. New member: The D. F. Plett Historical Research Foundation has requested to join MHSC as an institutional member. Presently the foundation reports through the Centre for Mennonite Transnational Studies. This would allow both the Chair of Mennonite Studies and the executive-director of the Plett Foundation to be members of the MHSC board. There would probably only be one report. **M/S/Carried** (Lauren Harder-Gissing, Andrea Dyck) to accept the D. F. Plett Foundation as a member of the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada.
5. We reviewed the proposed roster of MHSC committee members:
 - a) 1922 Migration commemoration committee: Jeremy Wiebe (chair), Conrad Stoesz, Aileen Friesen, Andrea Dyck, Dick Braun, Leonard Doell
 - b) A People of Diversity committee: Royden Loewen (chair), Jeremy Wiebe, Lauren Harder-Gissing, Brian Froese, Lucille Marr, Conrad Stoesz, Marlene Epp, Bruce Guenther.

- c) Archives Committee: Richard Lougheed, Laureen Harder-Gissing MAO, Conrad Stoesz MHA, Jon Isaak, John Redekop Sask, Ted Regehr, Alta., Linda Klassen, B.C.
- d) Divergent Voices of Canadian Mennonites: Royden Loewen, Jeremy Wiebe, Zacharie Leclair, Marlene Epp, Brian Froese, Laureen Harder-Gissing, Lucille Marr, Leonard Doell, Ruth Plett, Bruce Guenther
- e) Genealogy: Bert Friesen (chair), Glenn Penner, Richard Thiessen
- f) MAID management: Conrad Stoesz (chair), Alf Redekopp, Laureen Harder-Gissing, Hannah Keeney
- g) MHSC Gameo: Bert Friesen (chair), Alf Redekopp, Richard Thiessen, Aileen Friesen
- h) Russlaender Centenary: Henry Paetkau (chair), Marlene Epp, Luke Martin, Aileen Friesen, Roy Loewen, Ingrid Riesen Moehlmann (chair, railroad re-enactment sub-committee), Judie Dyck, Jake Buhler, Ted Regehr, Cheryl Isaac, Richard Thiessen

M/S/Carried (Barb Draper, Jeremy Wiebe) to accept this roster of MSHC committees

- 6. MHSC Award of Excellence: The MHSC executive has approved the nomination for Lucille Marr to receive the MHSC award of excellence. Laureen read the citation, including the fact that Lucille has made a significant contribution in research, writing and teaching about Mennonites and Brethren in Christ in Canada, her service to MHSC as past secretary and president, and her role in the founding and ongoing work in the Société d'histoire mennonite du Québec.
M/S/Carried (Royden Loewen, Ted Regehr) to present the MHSC award of excellence to Lucille Marr.
- 7. Committees were invited to bring items for extra discussion to the board. Royden Loewen, chair of the A People of Diversity committee, reported that the APOD committee had proposals to be discussed before the AGM. For this report and discussion Conrad Stoesz chaired the meeting while Laureen Harder-Gissing and Brian Froese stepped out of the room.
 - a) A conference in 2018 explored the diverse history of Mennonites in Canada since 1970 and there have been discussions about doing a book. The APOD committee discussed four options: i) a website ii) a collection or anthology of 8 to 10 authors each taking one aspect of the story and publishing it with a reputable publisher. iii) to write a hefty tome equal to Volume III of Mennonites in Canada that is inclusive and comprehensive. iv) to do a shorter, spritelier book that is more thematic, not comprehensive, focusing on the theme of diversity. The APOD committee prefers the last option, suggesting around 300 pages.
 - b) The APOD committee suggests that Laureen Harder-Gissing and Brian Froese be the co-authors, writing over the next five years. They would give an east-west and gender balance as well as authors with expertise in different areas.
 - c) Divergent Voices of Canada Mennonites began receiving 6-year block grants from Mennonite Central Committee Canada and that grant has been renewed for the fourth time, although this last one is a five-year grant of \$8,000 per year for five years. DVCM proposes to spend most of it supporting upcoming conferences, but plan to leave \$14,000 for this book proposal. If MHSC would earmark \$2,000 per year for five years, that would give \$24,000 for the authors. They could use the money however they chose to facilitate the writing of the book. Jeremy, our treasurer, indicated that MHSC is in good financial shape to make this contribution.

M/S/Carried (Royden Loewen, Lucille Marr) that MHSC endorse the writing of a monograph focused on the theme of diversity among Mennonites in Canada between 1970 and 2020. This would not be considered a volume IV of Mennonites in Canada.

M/S/Carried (Royden Loewen, Jeremy Wiebe) That MHSC endorse Laureen Harder-Gissing and Brian Froese as co-authors of the volume.

M/S/Carried (Royden Loewen, Jake Buhler) That MHSC make a \$2,000 contribution for each of five years in support of the APOD book.

d) This funding does not cover the cost of publication. It is not known if a subvention will be required.

8. Review of financial statements: Jeremy Wiebe

- a) Jeremy began his role of treasurer revising the books and collecting unpaid membership dues. He made adjustments between various bank accounts and reconciled them with the ledger. For the last few years since the bank account was moved to Manitoba, the committee accounts had not been properly credited and debited. Jeremy brought all those transactions into line. For example, the MAID project had more funds than was showing.
- b) Jeremy tried to find an accountant to review our books, but accountants are discouraged from doing that without high fees and a rigorous examination. We need to find someone with bookkeeping or accounting expertise just to make sure that what we have been doing is in line with accounting standards. Hans Werner has agreed to review the MHSC books for the last three years.
- c) At the end of 2019 we had a \$20,000 surplus because so many people at the Nov. 2018 meetings had their travel covered by the history conference following the meetings.
- d) Budget: For 2020, Jeremy is anticipating a small deficit of about \$1,000 due to the expenses of this annual meeting. He had hoped that some people could submit their expenses before the end of the 2019 fiscal year, but that was not practical.

9. Nominations committee report: The members of the committee, Richard Lougheed and Jon Isaak, took Zacharie to Montreal to have his broken tooth looked at so they are not available to give their report. The executive members of MHSC have agreed to stay on for another year except for the member-at-large.

10. **M/S/Carried** (Laureen Harder-Gissing, Conrad Stoesz) Move to adjourn.