

## Minutes of Board Meeting

### **Mennonite Historical Society of Canada**

Jan. 20, 2023, 7 p.m., Shekinah Retreat Centre, Saskatchewan

Present:

Dick Braun, guest

Jake Buhler, Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan

Leonard Doell, guest

Barb Draper, MHSC secretary

Gary Dyck, Mennonite Heritage Village

Aileen Friesen, Plett Foundation

Brian Froese, Canadian Mennonite University

Bruce Guenther, Mennonite Historical Society of Canada exec member

Katie Harder, Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta

Laureen Harder-Gissing, Mennonite Church Eastern Canada

Jon Isaak, Canadian Mennonite Brethren Studies

Linda Klassen, Mennonite Historical Society of B.C.

Dave Neufeldt, Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta

Ben Nobbs-Thiessen, Chair of Mennonite Studies, U of Winnipeg

Henry Paetkau, Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario

John Reddekopp, Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan

Alf Redekopp, Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario

Graham Schellenberg, Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society

Conrad Stoesz, Mennonite Church Canada

Jeremy Wiebe, Mennonite Historical Society of Canada, treasurer

1. Conrad, president of MHSC, thanked the Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan for their hospitality. He reminded us that the purpose of this meeting is to identify our committee roster and to identify anything we need to discuss before the AGM.

2. Barb reviewed the minutes of our last meeting.

**Motion/Seconded/Carried (Barb Draper, Ben Nobbs-Thiessen): To accept the minutes of the MHSC Board of Jan. 14, 2022 with the correction of the spelling of Selenna Wolfe's name in the list of those present.**

3. We reviewed the members on MHSC committees:

**a. Canadian Mennonite Emigration Centenary committee:** Jeremy Wiebe (co-chair), Andrea Klassen (co-chair), Dick Braun, Leonard Doell, Aileen Friesen, Conrad Stoesz.

**b. A People of Diversity Committee (book project):** Ben Nobbs-Thiessen (chair), Jeremy Wiebe, Laureen Harder-Gissing, Brian Froese, Lucille Marr, Conrad Stoesz, Bruce Guenther.

**c. Archives Committee:** Laureen Harder-Gissing (chair), Dave Neufeldt, Conrad Stoesz, Jon Isaak, Dick Braun, Linda Klassen (plus possible Quebec rep)

**d. Divergent Voices of Canadian Mennonites:** Ben Nobbs-Thiessen (chair) Brian Froese, Lucille Marr, Leonard Doell, Laureen Harder-Gissing, Jeremy Wiebe, Bruce Guenther, Ruth Plett.

- e. **Genealogy Committee:** Bert Friesen (chair) Glenn Penner, Richard Thiessen
  - f. **MAID management committee:** Conrad Stoesz (chair) Laureen Harder-Gissing, Alf Redekopp, Hannah Keeney, John Thiesen,
  - g. **MHSC GAMEO committee:** Laureen Harder-Gissing (chair), Bert Friesen, Richard Thiessen, Aileen Friesen, Alf Redekopp,
  - h. **Russlaender Centenary committee:** Henry Paetkau (chair), Ingrid Moehlmann (vice-chair), Richard Thiessen, Katie Harder, Gary Friesen, Jake Buhler, Aileen Friesen, Luke Martin, Darryl Loewen, Cheryl Isaac, Harold Thiessen,
  - i. **Website committee:** Andrew Klassen Brown (chair), Selenna Wolfe, Jeremy Wiebe
4. **Award of Excellence:** This award is given to someone who has been an exemplary member in the Mennonite community and involved in the promotion of Mennonite historical knowledge. It is also someone who has been involved with historical societies and MHSC. This year the Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan has nominated Leonard Doell and the executive committee of MHSC brings this as a recommendation.

Conrad read the citation.

**Motion/S/Carried (MHSC Executive, Jake Buhler) to present the Award of Excellence to Leonard Doell.**

5. Opportunity was given to the historical societies and organizations represented at the board to bring items that require a decision before the AGM. No items came forward.
6. **Financial review:**
- a. Jeremy reviewed the statement of financial position of the year ended Oct. 31, 2022.
  - b. There is an extraordinary amount in the current assets because the Russlaender tour solicited donations to sponsor seats on the train for young adults. This money was in our account at year end, but is now in the hands of Tourmagination.
  - c. The Genealogy committee has a debt of \$1,707 due to website expenses. They raised funds to cover some of those expenses in the past year.
  - d. Jeremy reviewed the statement of operations for the year ended Oct. 31, 2022. Last year we budgeted \$15,000 for the annual meeting, but this meeting is not in the 2022 fiscal year. In 2022 our meeting expenses were minimal because we met online.
  - e. The MAID transfer to partners line is money from photo sales collected by MAID.
  - f. Jeremy indicated that he would go through these figures in greater detail at the AGM.
7. Jeremy read some draft guidelines from the executive committee about **reimbursing travel** expenses to MHSC meetings.
- a. This is to help the treasurer know how to respond to questions from board members. It is not new policy, it is an attempt to give clarity to present policy.
  - b. There was a question about milage caps, suggesting that there is a point at which renting a car is more economical than paying milage (perhaps above 250 km)
  - c. The milage rate proposed by Jeremy is 80 percent of the CRA rate of \$.68/km. That works out to \$.54/km.
  - d. **The board asked the executive to give these guidelines a few tweaks regarding car rentals and bring it back to the board next year.**

- e. Laureen encouraged the historical societies and organizations to choose representatives in good time so they can plan their travel in advance as plane tickets rise in price as the date comes closer. She also encouraged hosting organizations to get the schedule out as soon as possible so that representatives know the appropriate date and time for travel.
8. Nominations committee report:
- a. Jon Isaak reported that most of the executive committee agreed to serve another year. Jon thanked Barb for her many years of serving on the executive.
  - b. Proposed slate for 2023: President: Conrad Stoesz; Vice President: Laureen Harder-Gissing; Treasurer: Jeremy Wiebe; Fifth member: Bruce Guenther; Recording secretary: Linda Klassen.
9. Meeting schedule:
- a. Last year the board approved meeting in Ontario in 2024 and in Manitoba in 2025. We have a new recommendation to meet in Manitoba in 2024 and Ontario in 2025. The Ontario and Manitoba historical societies are okay with this change.
  - b. This request comes from Ontario where the Institute of Anabaptist and Mennonite Studies at Conrad Grebel University College could work at a special celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of Anabaptism (perhaps to the day). For Manitoba, 2024 could celebrate 150 years of Mennonites in the province.
10. Annual general meeting:
- a. Some printed copies of the reports are available.
  - b. Conrad asked those reporting to keep the reports concise. We will have a few reports, then stop for questions, but the agenda is long, and we need to keep it moving.
11. Adjourned.

*Minutes by Barb Draper*