

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

Thursday, 15 November 2018, 9:00 a.m.

Mennonite Heritage Archives

Winnipeg, Manitoba

Present:

1. Royden Loewen, MHSC President, Centre for Transnational Mennonite Studies
 2. Richard Thiessen, MHSC Vice-president, Mennonite Heritage Museum
 3. Alf Redekopp, MHSC Secretary, Mennonite Church Canada
 4. Conrad Stoesz, MHSC Treasurer, Mennonite Church Canada
 5. Barb Draper, MHSC Member-at-Large, Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario
 6. Barry Dyck, MHSC board member, Mennonite Heritage Village
 7. Bert Friesen, MHSC board member, Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society
 8. Brian Froese, MHSC board member, Canadian Mennonite University
 9. Cheryl Isaac, MHSC board member, Mennonite Historical Society of British Columbia
 10. David Neufeldt, MHSC board member, Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta
 11. Dick Braun, MHSC board member, Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan
 12. Eleanor Chornoboy, MHSC board member, Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society
 13. Harold Thiessen, MHSC board member, Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario
 14. Jake Buhler, MHSC board member, Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan
 15. Jennifer Martens, MHSC board member, Mennonite Historical Society of British Columbia
 16. Jeremy Wiebe, MHSC board member, Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario
 17. Jon Isaak, MHSC board member, Centre for MB Studies, Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches
 18. Laureen Harder-Gissing, MHSC board member, Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, Institute of Anabaptist and Mennonite Studies
 19. Lois K. Klassen per Myron Penner, MHSC board member, Humanitas Anabaptist Mennonite Centre
 20. Richard Loughheed, MHSC board member, Société d'histoire mennonite du Québec
 21. Ted Regehr, Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta
 22. Zacharie Leclair, MHSC board member, Société d'histoire mennonite du Québec
 23. Abe J. Dueck (guest)
 24. Adolf Ens (guest)
 25. Aileen Friesen (guest)
 26. Andrea Dyck (guest)
 27. Anna Ens (guest)
 28. Dave Froese (guest)
 29. Ed Krahn (guest)
 30. Heinz Heese (guest)
 31. John J. Friesen (guest)
 32. Justina Heese (guest)
 33. Lucille Marr (guest), Société d'histoire mennonite du Québec
 34. Victor G. Wiebe (guest), Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan
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1. Welcome and Introductions: Royden Loewen welcomed participants and invited each person to introduce themselves.
 2. Devotional: Laureen Harder-Gissing shared a piece she had written entitled "Mennonite postcards from the other side" which was about the experience of Gordon Eby during and after 11 November 1918"; finding "islands of humanity" in the "sea of a shattered world" due to the First World War. She ended with a minute of silence and reading the first verse of "For the Healing of the Nations" as a prayer.
 3. Minutes of the 20 January 2018 meeting were reviewed. Corrections or clarifications: a) Jeremy Wiebe represented the Mennonite Historical Society of **Ontario** not Alberta. Under #22, the

- example was Canada Summer Jobs not Young Canada Works. MSC (Alf Redekopp/Bert Friesen) to accept the minutes with these noted corrections.
4. Business arising: None
 5. Agenda was approved.
 6. M/S/C (Alf Redekopp/Jeremy Wiebe) that the Committee roster for 2018-2019 be as follows:
 - a. Archives Committee: Conrad Stoesz (MHA), Jennifer Martens (B.C.), Alice Unrau (Alberta), Victor Wiebe (Saskatchewan), Laureen Harder-Gissing (Ontario) (chair), Jon Isaak (CMBS), Richard Lougheed (Quebec)
 - b. Mennonite Archival Image Database Management (MAID) group: Conrad Stoesz (chair), Alf Redekopp, Laureen Harder-Gissing, Hannah Keeney
 - c. DVCM committee: Royden Loewen (chair), Marlene Epp, Lucille Marr, Ruth Plett, Bruce Guenter, Leonard Doell, Brian Froese, Laureen Harder-Gissing
 - d. Genealogy committee: Bert Friesen (chair), Glenn Penner and Richard Thiessen (proposed committee since the Genealogy Task Force has completed its task)
 - e. A People of Diversity Project: Royden Loewen (chair), Lucille Marr, Laureen Harder-Gissing, Conrad Stoesz, Brian Froese, Bruce Guenther and Marlene Epp.
 - f. MHSC GAMEO Committee: Bert Friesen (chair), Alf Redekopp, Richard Thiessen (proposed committee that will choose the rep for the management group and be the conduit for reporting)
 - g. Russlander Immigration Commemoration Committee: Richard Thiessen, Royden Loewen, Ingrid Riesen plus reps other provinces (proposed national committee with several possible sub-committees)
 7. MHSC Constitution and By-laws: Richard Thiessen and Royden reviewed the changes made last year.
 8. Reports from the Provincial Societies
 - a. Quebec. Richard Lougheed reminded us of their beginning in 2006, and of 2008 when they hosted the MHSC AGM for the first time. They had made a proposal for the next AGM (Jan. 2020) to be held in Quebec. Other aspects from their distributed written report were highlighted.
 - b. Ontario. Jeremy Wiebe highlighted aspects of the Ontario report prepared by Laureen Harder-Gissing. An additional item reported was the book publication support from the Winnfield Fretz publication fund for Marion Rose's study of funeral practices.
 - c. Manitoba. Eleanor Chornoboy reviewed the report prepared by Hans Werner.
 - d. Saskatchewan. Jake Buhler highlighted aspects from the distributed written report.
 - e. Alberta. Dave Neufeldt reviewed his written report.
 - f. British Columbia. Richard Thiessen reviewed his written report. He drew special attention to the work that Cheryl Isaac does adding obituaries to the Mennonite biography wiki site administered by John Thiesen of Bethel College.

9. Award of Excellence Presentation. Royden read the citation and presented a certificate of excellence to each of the following: Abe Dueck, Adolf Ens and John J. Friesen. Photos were taken and a time of fellowship around refreshments followed.
10. President's Report. Royden Loewen reflected on the creation of MHSC 50 years ago by MCC Canada, his own personal experience attending an AGM of the MHSC for the first time around 1985, and then the publication of MIC Volume 3 in 1996. He identified some questions for the future, which included continued attention to Indigenous relations, reaching the next generation, and changing technologies for reaching future generations.
11. Project Reports
 - a. Divergent Voices of Canadian Mennonites Project. Royden reviewed aspects of his report. Upcoming history conference for 2020, 2021 and 2022 were mentioned, among other details.
 - i. A people of diversity project (Nov. 15-17, 2018 history conference). Royden invited us to think about this project's continuation. Should an MIC Volume 4 be published?
 - ii. Russlaender Immigration Commemoration Committee (RICC). A railway sub-committee to work at a re-enactment of the 1923 arrival of the Russlaender immigrants, as a celebration / fund-raiser for MCC refugee work will be established shortly.
 - b. GAMEO. Bert Friesen highlighted aspects of the printed report. A question was asked about the decrease in daily hits. It was explained that the reason could be a different software platform, or changes in Google Analytics (how the stats got measured).
 - c. Genealogy Committee. Bert Friesen reported that the work of the task force to develop a platform linking original documents and data and make these accessible was done. Now a committee was needed to do the beta testing and manage the mennonitegenealogy.com website. It was reported that this site would feature two streams of information – the existing site with its documents under various categories, and the newly developed platform, a database with linkages to originals images and transcriptions of these.
 - d. Archives committee report. Laureen distributed a report and the MAID financial plan for 2018-2019.
 - e. MAID report. Conrad reported that there are approximately 96,000 descriptive records and over 45,000 images in the on-line at this time.
[lunch break]
12. Institutional Reports
 - a. Canadian Mennonite University. Brian Froese highlighted aspects of his distributed written report.
 - b. Centre for MB Studies. Jon Isaak reported briefly before the lunch break because he as teaching a course in the afternoon.
 - c. Centre for Transnational Mennonite Studies. Royden Loewen and Aileen Friesen highlighted aspects of the distributed written report.
 - d. EMC Archive Committee. No rep at the meeting, but a report was submitted.
 - e. Institute of Anabaptist and Mennonite Studies (IAMS). Laureen Harder-Gissing highlighted some aspects from the written report.

- f. Humanitas Anabaptist-Mennonite Centre. Lois Klassen reported on behalf of Myron Penner, currently on sabbatical. Myron is working at get the June 2017 conference papers published. Humanitas also supports a historical theatre group as part of its mandate.
 - g. MAO & MCEC. Laureen Harder-Gissing highlighted a few aspects from the distributed written report.
 - h. Mennonite Heritage Archives. Conrad Stoesz highlighted aspects of the distributed written report.
 - i. Mennonite Heritage Village. Barry Dyck highlighted aspects from the distributed written report. He reported that he will be retiring from MHV in February 2019 and his replacement (Gary Dyck) has been named.
 - j. Mennonite Museum Society. Richard Thiessen highlighted aspects of the distributed written report.
13. General discussion regarding future goals and activities for MHSC.
- a. Is it important to write a book on Mennonites in Canada post 1970? There is general support for the notion of a book (Jeremy, Lucille, Conrad, Dick and others spoke in favour).
 - b. Indigenous-Mennonite relations. This theme will continue to be important in future years and activities for the society.
 - c. M/S/C (Jeremy Wiebe/Dave Neufeldt) to establish a 1922 commemoration committee. That the committee consists of Jeremy, Dick, Conrad and Aileen. They will be expected to report at 2020 AGM.
14. Financial Statement and Budget. An unreviewed financial statement was distributed.
- a. 2018 statement of financial position was seen in the last eight line of the report (i.e. cash on hand). M/S/C (Conrad Stoesz/Richard Thiessen) to accept this statement as an unreviewed financial statement of financial position. It is understood that a final statement will be distributed later.
 - b. 2019 proposed budget. M/S(Conrad Stoesz/Barry Dyck) to accept the proposed budget for 2019.
Amendment M/S/C (Richard Thiessen/Conrad Stoesz) to increase AGM line by \$4000 (i.e. \$13,000) and the excess down by \$4000 (i.e. 9,733). Budget motion CARRIED.
 - c. M/S/C (Conrad Stoesz/Jeremy Wiebe) to appoint Bernie Lodge to do a financial review.
15. Nominations Committee report. M/S/C (Richard Thiessen/Lucille Marr) to accept the report which nominates the following officers: Laureen Harder-Gissing, president; Conrad Stoesz, vice-president; Barb Draper, secretary; Jeremy Wiebe, treasurer; Royden Loewen, member-at -large.
16. Appointment of nominations committee: M/S/C (Richard Thiessen/David Neufeldt) that Jon Isaak and Richard Loughheed serve as the nominations committee for the next year. There was an encouragement voiced to consider disciplines, gender and geography during the nomination process.
17. Next meetings
- a. 2019 AGM: Quebec: 16-19 January 2020
 - b. 2020 AGM: Manitoba: 14-16 January 2021

Meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Recorded by Alf Redekopp