

# MINUTES of the BOARD MEETING

MENNONITE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA

7:00-8:30 PM, Friday, 21 January 2011

Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

**Present:** Sam Steiner, President, Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario  
Royden Loewen, Vice-President, Chair of Mennonite Studies,  
University of Winnipeg  
Lucille Marr, Secretary, La Société Mennonite d'histoire du Québec  
Richard Thiessen, Treasurer, Mennonite Historical Society of British  
Columbia  
Alf Redekopp, member at large, Mennonite Church Canada  
John VanDyck Jr., Mennonite Historical Society of British Columbia  
Wesley Berg, Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta  
Ralph Dahl, Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta  
Jake Buhler, Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan  
Victor G. Wiebe, Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan  
Bert Friesen, Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society  
Conrad Stoesz, Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society  
Robert Goertzen, Evangelical Mennonite Conference Archives  
Maurice Martin, Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario  
Laureen Harder-Gissing, Mennonite Church Eastern Canada  
Richard Loughheed, La Société Mennonite d'histoire du Québec

1. **Welcome:** Following a delightful and informative bus tour to the Hague-Osler Reserve, north of Saskatoon, and the home of George and Lynette Janzen near Blumenheim, in the interest of time our chairperson Sam Steiner efficiently condensed the meeting. In short, he noted that we needed to make only two formal decisions:
  - a. Regarding the Award of Excellence
  - b. Re MHSC Board Incorporation
2. **Minutes** of the 22 January 2010 meeting: Reviewed by Sam. **M/S/C Bert Friesen/Alf Redekopp**
3. **Agendas for Board and Annual Meetings:** both approved
4. **President's report:** reserved for AGM in interest of time
5. **MHSC Award of Excellence:** The Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan set the precedent of making two nominees: Dick Epp, a founding member of MHSS, long-time editor of *The Historian* and supporter of the 3 volume history of *Mennonites in Canada* and Esther Paetkau, chaplain, historian and storyteller. Betty Dick, widow of the former and Esther Paetkau herself were scheduled to receive the awards at the Ruth Derksen Siemens lecture on The Russian Gulag later in the evening. **M/S/C Bert/Jake**
6. **MHSC Incorporation Update:** During the process of revising the MHSC by-laws, Corporation Canada informed the executive that it was necessary also to have a constitution.

Richard Thiessen kindly took on the task, preparing a statement of purpose, then creating a constitution based on the society's by-laws. In his presentation of the new constitution, Richard reminded the board that we are dropping incorporation because the price of an audit is prohibitive. The goal is to implement the constitution by April 1<sup>st</sup> and he will be giving formal notice to vote tomorrow at the AGM.

- 7. Divergent Voices of Canadian Mennonites (DVCM):** Roy updated the board on the decision to merge the MCC Canada history project with DVCM III. Half of MCC Canada's grant for DVCM III will go to Esther Epp Tiessen for research and writing, and the other half for DVCM III. MCC Canada's board of directors has already passed this. The decision to support this writing project was ratified by this board last year, but MHSC still needs to commit to raising \$26,000. Ken Reddig will be heading up this task.

**Roy moved to approve DVCM III as outlined in previous electronic mail correspondence. Wes Berg seconded. Carried**

A reader's committee will be formed once Esther has chapters drafted.

- 8. Genealogy Committee Recommendations:** report deferred to AGM.
- 9. Finance Report and Budget:** Richard presented the financial documents and budget to review for the AGM.
- 10. Discussion on society/institutional membership fees:** postponed due to time constraints.
- 11. Nominations Committee report :** The Nominations committee presented a slate with the same executive as 2010.
- 12.** With no other items brought before the board, Roy moved that the meeting be **adjourned.**