

Minutes of the Board Meeting
Mennonite Historical Society of Canada

Friday, January 15, 2021

Virtual meeting 7 p.m. EST

Present:

Dave Neufeldt, Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta
Linda Klassen, Mennonite Historical Society of B.C.
Cheryl Isaac, Mennonite Historical Society of B.C.
Andrea Klassen, Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society
Andrew Klassen Brown, Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society
Henry Paetkau, Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario
Barb Draper, Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario, MHSC Secretary
John Reddekopp, Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan
Jake Buhler, Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan
Richard Lougheed, Société d'histoire Mennonite du Québec
Lucille Marr, Société d'histoire Mennonite du Québec
Jon Isaak, Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches
Bruce Guenther, Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches
Conrad Stoesz, Mennonite Church Canada, MHSC Vice-president
Selenna Wolfe, Mennonite Church Canada
Laureen Harder-Gissing, Mennonite Church Eastern Canada, MHSC President
Ben Nobbs-Thiessen, Centre for Transnational Mennonite Studies
Aileen Friesen, D. F. Plett Historical Research Foundation
Marlene Epp, Institute of Anabaptist and Mennonite Studies
Richard Thiessen, Mennonite Museum Society
Gary Dyck, Mennonite Heritage Village
Jeremy Wiebe, MHSC Treasurer
Roy Loewen, A People of Diversity project chair, guest
Bert Friesen, Genealogy Committee chair, guest

1. Laureen Harder-Gissing welcomed everyone to the first virtual meeting of MHSC. The meeting is being recorded to provide an example of the type of work done by the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada. Laureen reported that Humanitas has been a member for several years but decided not to renew their membership this year.
2. Conrad Stoesz reviewed virtual meeting etiquette. We have a tech person supporting the meeting. Votes will be visual with actual raised hands.
3. Barb Draper reviewed the highlights of last year's minutes.
M/S/Carried (Barb Draper, Richard Thiessen) to approve the minutes of Jan. 17, 2020 as distributed.
4. We approved the agenda for this meeting by consensus.
5. Ratification of committee members:

- a) Canadian Mennonite Migration Commemoration Committee: Jeremy Wiebe (chair), Conrad Stoesz, Aileen Friesen, Andrea Klassen, Dick Braun, Leonard Doell.
 - b) A People of Diversity Committee: Royden Loewen (chair), Jeremy Wiebe, Laureen Harder-Gissing, Brian Froese, Lucille Marr, Conrad Stoesz, Marlene Epp, Bruce Guenther, Ben Nobbs-Thiessen.
 - c) Archives Committee: Richard Lougheed (Que.), Laureen Harder-Gissing (Mennonite Archives of Ontario), Conrad Stoesz (Mennonite Heritage Archives), Jon Isaak (Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies), Dick Braun (Sask.), Ted Regehr (Alta.), Linda Klassen (B.C.).
 - d) Divergent Voices of Canadian Mennonites: Ben Nobbs-Thiessen, Jeremy Wiebe, Brian Froese, Laureen Harder-Gissing, Lucille Marr, Leonard Doell, Ruth Plett, Bruce Guenther.
 - e) Genealogy Committee: Bert Friesen (chair), Glenn Penner, Richard Thiessen
 - f) MAID management: Conrad Stoesz (chair), Alf Redekopp, Laureen Harder-Gissing, Hannah Keeney, John Thiesen.
 - g) MHSC Gameo Committee: Bert Friesen (chair), Richard Thiessen, Aileen Friesen, Laureen Harder-Gissing, Alf Redekopp.
 - h) Russlaender Centenary Committee: Henry Paetkau (chair), Marlene Epp, Luke Martin, Aileen Friesen, Roy Loewen, Ingrid Riesen Moehlmann (chair, railroad re-enactment sub-committee), Judie Dyck, Jake Buhler, Katie Harder, Cheryl Isaac, Richard Thiessen.
- M/S/Carried** (Barb Draper, Conrad Stoesz) to approve this roster of committees.

6. Award of Excellence: The MHSC executive put out a call for nominations but did not receive any responses. The executive decided not give an award this year because the online format would not provide the same sense of celebration.
7. The Committee chairs were invited to bring to our attention any items that require discussion by the board.
 - a) Jeremy Wiebe, speaking for the Canadian Mennonite Emigration Commemoration Committee, reported that they believe their best work would be helping to promote a documentary about the migration and partnering with a museum exhibit by Mennonite Heritage Village. This is a story about a competition between religious freedom and the obligations of citizenship and should appeal to a broad audience. The committee is asking MHSC for \$5,000 toward making the exhibit portable so it could travel across the country. The discussion was supportive of having a travelling exhibit.
8. Future projects:
 - a) Laureen outlined the MHSC executive proposal to have a committee examine the MHSC website and provide a recommendation to the executive regarding the best technology to use and what content should be on the website. MHSC would provide \$2,000 as an initial allotment. This will be discussed further at the Annual General Meeting tomorrow.
9. Review of financial statements: Jeremy Wiebe

Our spending differed significantly from the 2020 budget in two lines. The MCC at 100 conference was postponed due to COVID-19. There are also new partner fees for MAID of \$10,000 which also leaves us with a larger bottom line. We are in a good financial position.

10. Nominations Committee report: Jon Isaak presented the following slate for 2021: Conrad Stoesz, president; Laureen Harder-Gissing, vice-president; Jeremy Wiebe, treasurer; Barb Draper, recording secretary; Bruce Guenther, fifth member.

11. A question was raised about whether we can meet in person next January. The executive will make that decision by October 2021.

Adjourned

Minutes recorded by Barb Draper