

Minutes of the Board Meeting
Mennonite Historical Society of Canada
Jan. 14, 2022 7 p.m. CT by Zoom

Present: 25

Jake Buhler (Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan)
Barb Draper (MHSC secretary)
Gary Dyck (Mennonite Heritage Village)
Aileen Friesen (Plett Foundation)
Brian Froese (Canadian Mennonite University)
Bruce Guenther (Conference of MB Churches)
Katie Harder (guest)
Laureen Harder-Gissing (Menn Church Eastern Canada)
Jon Isaak (Conference of MB Churches)
Andrea Klassen (Manitoba Menn. Historical Society)
Andrew Klassen Brown (Manitoba Menn. Historical Society)
Linda Klassen (Mennonite Historical Society of B.C.)
Robert Martens (Mennonite Historical Society of B.C.)
Ken Matis (Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta)
Lucille Marr (Société d'histoire Mennonite du Québec)
Dave Neufeldt (Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta)
Ben Nobbs-Thiessen (Centre for Transnational Mennonite Studies)
Henry Paetkau (Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario)
John Reddekopp (Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan)
Conrad Stoesz (Mennonite Church Canada)
Richard Thiessen (Mennonite Museum Society)
Jeremy Wiebe (MHSC treasurer)
Selenna Wolf (Mennonite Church Canada)
Helen Ho (guest)
Bert Friesen (guest)

1. Conrad Stoesz welcomed everyone and reminded us that the purpose of this meeting is to review what has been happening in the past year. It allows us to discuss new plans before decisions are made at the annual general meeting.

2. After reviewing the agenda, Barb Draper reviewed highlights of last year's board meeting.

M/S/Carried (Barb Draper, Richard Thiessen) To accept the minutes of the Board meeting of the Mennonite Historical Society of Canada of Jan. 15, 2021.

3. Laureen Harder-Gissing did a roll call, to identify the representatives of members of the society to the board. (These are listed with the names above.)

4. Committee roster of MHSC:

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

- b. **A People of Diversity** 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), Conrad Stoesz, Jon Isaak, Dick Braun, Ted Regehr, Linda Klassen (plus possible Quebec rep)
- d. **Divergent Voices of Canadian Mennonites:** Ben Nobbs-Thiessen (chair), Jeremy Wiebe, Brian Froese, Laureen Harder-Gissing, Lucille Marr, Loenard 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:** Laureen Harder-Gissing (chair), Bert Friesen, Richard Thiessen, Aileen Friesen, Alf Redekopp
- h. **Russlaender Centenary Committee:** Henry Paetkau (chair), Ingrid Riesen Moehlmann (vice-chair and chair, railroad re-enactment sub-committee), Harold Thiessen, Luke Martin, Aileen Friesen, Darryl Loewen, Jake Buhler, Katie Harder, Cheryl Isaac, Richard Thiessen, Gary Friesen.

M/S/Carried (Jeremy Wiebe, Brian Froese) to approve this roster of committees.

- 5. Website task force: Last year we set up this task force to upgrade the MHSC website. With lots of hard work they put together a draft of a new WordPress platform with minimal cost. It works well for desktop or handheld devices.
 - a. After getting the okay from the executive, the new website went public in the fall and was able to host information for the Russlaender Centenary.
 - b. Not all of the “Who are the Mennonites” content was moved to the new site as it needs updating.
 - c. This is a good place for committees to post information about conferences. There are links to member organizations of MHSC.
 - d. The members of the task force are willing to become a standing committee although they see their role as working on maintenance and upkeep, not to generate content.
 - e. Selenna is willing to post information on the website.
 - f. Members of this committee are Andrew Klassen Brown, Selenna Wolfe and Jeremy Wiebe.

M/S/Carried (Andrew Klassen Brown, Laureen Harder-Gissing) to make the website task force a standing committee of MHSC.

- 6. Award of excellence: Because part of the celebration of this award is being with the person, we are again deferring the award of excellence. In the past we have given the award to more than one person in one year.
- 7. Discussion arising from committee reports:
The Russlaender Centenary committee is requesting \$2,000 from MHSC for promotion and publicity. Tourmagination has encountered financial difficulties due to the pandemic and because this project is requiring extra effort, they cannot afford to do proper publicity. We will discuss this further at the AGM.

8. MHSC Gameo Committee: As mentioned in their report, the MHSC Gameo committee is exploring the idea of lodging some of its activity in an academic institution. This would not change the board's relationship to Gameo. It could help in updating congregational records and topical articles. Perhaps the Centre for Transnational Mennonite Studies could play this role.
9. Financial statements: Jeremy Wiebe reviewed where money was spent in 2021. The appearance of these statements is a little different than previous years because it shows the project funds in separate lines. The expenses and revenues followed the budget quite well except that we again have minimal meeting expenses. Our operating fund is healthy right now with almost \$24,000. Thank you, Jeremy.
10. The Nominations Committee reported that each person on the executive was willing to serve another year. Conrad Stoesz, president; Laureen Harder-Gissing, vice-president; Jeremy Wiebe, treasurer; Barb Draper, recording secretary; Bruce Guenther, fifth member. Bruce pointed out that he is a representative of the Canadian Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches.
11. Rotation of meetings:
 - a. The executive committee is recommending that we meet in Saskatchewan next year, in Ontario the year after that with Manitoba in 2025. This changes our regular pattern of meeting in Manitoba in alternating years because it helps to keep costs down.
 - b. Saskatchewan asked if we could meet at another time of year other than January. Could we have a virtual meeting in January to approve the financial statements and meet another time in person? The summer is out, and May is problematic for academics. We used to meet in November although it was challenging to get financial statements done in time. We will discuss this further at the AGM.

M/S/Carried (Selenna Wolfe, Ben Nobbs-Thiessen) for the MHSC to meet in Saskatchewan in 2023, in Ontario in 2024 and in Manitoba in 2025.

Adjourned.