

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

Saturday, January 16, 2016, 1:00 p.m.
Mennonite Heritage Museum
Abbotsford, British Columbia

Present:

Lucille Marr, MHSC President, Société d'histoire mennonite du Québec
Royden Loewen, MHSC Vice President, Chair of Mennonite Studies, University of Winnipeg
Richard Thiessen, MHSC Treasurer, Mennonite Historical Society of British Columbia
Alf Redekopp, MHSC Secretary, Mennonite Church Canada
Barb Draper, MHSC Member at large, Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario
Don Fehr, Mennonite Historical Society of British Columbia
David Neufeldt, Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta
Alice Unrau, Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta
Bert Friesen, Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society
Conrad Stoesz, Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society
Zacharie Leclair, Société d'histoire mennonite du Québec
Laureen Harder-Gissing, Mennonite Church Eastern Canada
Korey Dyck, Mennonite Heritage Centre (Mennonite Church Canada)
Jon Isaak, Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies (Canadian Conference of MB Churches)
Barry Dyck, Mennonite Heritage Village (Steinbach, Manitoba)
Linda Hecht, member of Canadian GAMEO Editorial Group, Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario
Sam Steiner, Mennonite Historical Society of Ontario
Dick Braun, Mennonite Historical Society of Saskatchewan
Kathy Braun (guest)
Alfred Hecht (guest)
Ted & Sylvia Regehr (guests)
Peter Dyck (guest)

1. Welcome. President Lucille Marr called the meeting to order. She invited everyone to introduce themselves. Lucille shared a reading from 2 Timothy, followed by some comments from her life about how she became interested in Mennonite history through the mentorship of Frank H. Epp as under-graduate student in 1971. Years later when she was invited to preach at the Ottawa Mennonite Church, she felt the blessing of his presence on a particular Sunday morning. Apostle Paul exhorts Timothy (and us) to carefully guard and share the faith and story that has been entrusted to us.
2. Minutes. M/S/C (Alf Redekopp/Conrad Stoesz) that the minutes of 17 January 2015 meeting be accepted as reviewed and distributed.
3. Categories of Membership. The board passed an action to review the constitution this next year. The MHSC executive will have this on their agenda.
4. Translation of German book on MCC history in Paraguay. It was reported that the board agreed by consensus not take on this project.
5. Reports from Provincial Societies. Written reports had been distributed via email before the meeting. Zacharie Leclair reported for the society in Quebec, Barb Draper for Ontario, Bert Friesen for

Manitoba, Dick Braun for Saskatchewan, Dave Neufeldt for Alberta and Richard Thiessen for British Columbia.

6. President's report. Lucille highlighted aspects of her written report.
7. MHSC website. Richard invited suggestions and comments for how the MHSC website might be updated. What has worked for other societies in terms of software? What content do we need or want on this site? The clearer we can spell out what we want, the cheaper it will be to have it designed. AGREED by consensus to table this topic and revisit it again next year.
8. Project Report – DVCM Committee. Royden Loewen highlighted aspects of his report such as the upcoming conferences, the “Migration, war and citizenship” project, and the “Mennonite newcomers in Canada” project which has been renamed “A People of Diversity” project.
9. Project Report – Canadian GAMEO Editorial group and GAMEO management report. Bert Friesen reported.
10. Project Report – Genealogy Committee. Bert Friesen reported that expertise has been secured that will hopefully bring the site up to beta testing this next year.
11. Project Report – Archives Committee. Conrad Stoesz reported that the Archives Committee had spent 6.5 hours in meeting time during these days in Abbotsford. He reported that the MAID project is helping archivists do what archivists do – preserve, describe and make accessible records for research. The committee has created a new task force consisting of Don Fehr, Victor Wiebe and Jon Isaak to explore and report back next year on the following items: a) policies for collecting, managing, digitizing, sharing Mennonite periodicals, b) practices for collecting, managing, digitizing, sharing Mennonite periodicals, c) a listing of periodicals that are digitized and available for sharing, d) a listing of published indices that are digitized and available for sharing.
12. Mennonites in Canada (3-volume set). One complete set was sold this year. No progress was made in digitizing volumes 1 and 2. It was AGREED by consensus that of our member societies can order a box for the cost of the shipping to distribute at their discretion.
13. Travelling Exhibits. Korey Dyck reported that the Mennonite Heritage Museum and Conrad Grebel University College have gallery spaces to demonstrate faith through art. The Mennonite Heritage Centre has several exhibits which lend themselves to be travelling exhibits, such as the Along the Road to Freedom, a Syrian exhibit, and the Just Food exhibit. The next step is for the MHC to put together a proposal.
14. Founding Leaders video project. Ted Friesen has been videoed. Korey will request Andrew Wall to film Ted Regehr in conjunction with other work he has in Alberta. That will only leave John J. Friesen to be interviewed for this project.
15. Financial Statements. Two statements were distributed by Richard Thiessen. The Statement of Operations showed a slight decrease income from last year. Richard reported that he had failed to send invoices to several members, which explained this decrease. Cash on hand as of 31 Oct 2015 was shown as \$1785.59. The Statement of Financial Position showed that the total assets of the Society are also \$1785.59. M/S/C (Richard Thiessen/Bert Friesen) that Statement of Operation and the Statement of Financial Position be accepted.
16. Budget. Richard Thiessen distributed the budget via e-mail. This document was incorrectly labeled as the “statement of operation”. Total income budget for 2016 was shown as \$33,139, and the

total disbursements was shown as \$27,801.00, and a surplus of \$5,338. M/S/C Richard Thiessen/Korey Dyck to accept the budget.

17. Appointment of auditors. M/S/C (Richard Thiessen/Dave Neufeldt) that Rodney Ewert be appointed as the auditor for next year.
18. Institutional Reports. Evangelical Mennonite Conference had not submitted a report. They have been in conversation with MHSC President and there is hope that a representative will be appointed for next year. Written reports were distributed by email for the others that reported at the meeting. Laureen Harder-Gissing reported on behalf of Mennonite Archives of Ontario and Mennonite Church Eastern Canada. Royden Loewen reported from the Chair in Mennonite Studies. Korey Dyck reported on behalf of the Mennonite Heritage Centre (Mennonite Church Canada). Jon Isaak reported on behalf of the Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies (Canadian Conference of MB Churches). Barry Dyck reported on behalf of the Mennonite Heritage Village. Laureen Harder-Gissing reported on behalf of the Institutie of Anabaptist and Mennonite Studies.
19. Other Reports. Brethren in Christ Canada Archive Report written by Leonard Chester was also distributed with the MHSC meeting materials.
20. Nominations Committee report. M/S/C (Jon Isaak/Barry Dyck) that the following slate be our elected officers for 2016: a) Richard Thiessen (President), b) Royden Loewen (Vice-president) c) Alf Redekopp (Secretary) d) Conrad Stoesz (Treasurer) e) Barb Draper (Member-at-large). Lucille Marr was thanked for 12 years of service. Richard Thiessen was thanked for 11 or 12 years of service as treasurer. M/S/C (Royden Loewen/Conrad Stoesz) to re-appoint Jon Isaak and Richard Lougheed as the nominations committee for 2016.
21. Next meetings
 - Manitoba 20-21 January 2017
 - Alberta 19-20 Januray 2018
 - Manitoba Nov 2018 (instead of Jan. 2019)
 - Ontario Jan 2020

Meeting adjourned.

Recorded by Alf Redekopp