

MC Sask Ministries Commission Minutes
January 18, 2018
7:00 pm
Mount Royal Mennonite Church, Saskatoon

Present: Claire Ewert Fisher, Jeanette Hanson and Eric Olfert.

Excused: Elmer Regier and Val Wiebe

- 1. Opening** – Claire read Mark 3:7-12 to us three times. Each time we tried to listen deeper and share what we had been led to.

This past Monday was Martin Luther King Day. MLK was strongly influenced by Howard Thurman, who was important in the education and formation of many of the Civil Rights Movement leaders. Gandhi had told Thurman that “It may be through the Negroes that God teaches the world non-violence.”

Thurman’s advice to MLK was to “Step out of life briefly and rest body and mind”. Even those we elevate need their down-time. We need to pay good attention to self-care.

- 2. Approval of Minutes of our 17-11-16 meeting** – The minutes were approved.

- 3. Business arising** –

a. International Witness:

- No new information as to how the structure will work until the end of January.
- All Witness staff being held on for an additional six months (until end of 2018?)
- Until then we can assume a 50/50 split in funding from central funds vs relational funding.
- Money flows and definitions are still not clear.
- Jason Martin will be at MC Sask ADS
- Veiths to do input at Bethany Manor, and Zion in Swift Current as well as the ‘Visit to China’ event at MRMCM.
- **Visit to China Event** –
 - o Jan. 28 at Mount Royal Mennonite Church from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm
 - o Draft Program Outline:
 - 4:00 to 4:15 – Brief intro/overview/break into groups.
 - 4:15 to 5:15 – Visit stations for 15 minutes each
 - China pictures (Multi purpose room)
 - Pictures (multi-purpose room)
 - Tibet program explanation (art room)
 - Peacebuilding efforts
 - Also a tea table and jump rope exercise – in foyer
 - 5:15 to 6:00 – George and Tobia Veith presentation (Multi purpose).
 - 6:00 - Pot luck with Asian focus.
 - o Giving project – Translating Palmer Becker’s ‘Anabaptist essentials’.
 - o 6 copies to give away – China trivia quiz?
 - o **Eric will ask Agnes Regier** if MFMC hospitality committee can help organize.
 - o Estimate we will need 10 tables (about 80 people?)

b. Walking the path updates:

Walking the Path has three 'projects on the boil'

i. Mennonite/Muskeg Lake Music in the Church Event:

- Muskeg Lake Catholic Church has invited a Mennonite Choir to sing with them.
- The church is no longer the Community Centre it once was, and the new priest is excited about inviting people to pray in new ways, in an Easter/Resurrection theme.
- Tentative date April 22nd, say 3:30 to 5:00pm.
- Dolores Sand is willing to organise local participants.
- Ben Pauls is willing to call together a small (16 or so) Menno choir.
- Seems to be a great follow-up to last summer's Music in the Harbour event.

ii. Mennonite/Muskeg Arts Event Proposal:

- Proposing Muskeg/Menno arts and crafts exhibition to highlight our shared human experience.
- Holidays and family issues have slowed the planning, but there is commitment to focus some effort soon.
- Joy Arcand from Muskeg Lake is the new artist-in-residence at Wanuskewin.
- The Heritage Gallery in Winnipeg is hosting an event/display like this with Pegasus FN, opening January 26, and we hope to learn from their experience. Harry will try to get to Winnipeg to see this.
- At this point we do not have dates or location determined.

iii. Exploring the Mail Trail Together:

- A possible outline for this event is emerging, possibly for May 31 to June 2.:
 - o First Day (Thursday)– Meet in the morning at Wood Lake (Whitecap FN) for introduction, prayer and Metis stories.
 - Drive to Wester Development Museum
 - Input from Stamp Club on the trail 150 years ago.
 - Students would come with letters to OTC
 - o Second Day (Friday) - Bike/walk or drive to St. Andrews College, U of S.
 - Input from Mayor, University President etc.
 - o Third Day (Saturday) – Drive to Fish Creek or Aberdeen or Clarkboro Ferry, ending up at Batoche.

c. Bill C-262

- Feb. 5 second vote in Senate;
- Then to Committee;
- Then Third Vote;
- Then to Senate;
- Cards and letters will still be important. Steve will try to orchestrate our responses.

d. North American Institute of Indigenous Theological Studies (NAITS) Conference June 7-9

- Meant for young and old to learn together with 'Reconciliation and Witness' as the theme.
- Takes place in Nova Scotia this time.

- Can we help sponsor a group of three or so from Muskeg Lake and Mennonite Churches to go? Ministries Commission is **committed to helping** with this, amount to be decided (at least \$500)
- Catholics have been discussing their lack of anything like this and Harry is very interested.

e. Spirituality Resourcing Team:

- Pauline Steinman, Eileen Klaassen and Claire have been joined by Alan Reese and John Gascho and they feel that they are ready to launch.

4. New Business:

a. Budget:

- We are frustrated by how little input we are allowed to have into the budgeting process
- We need to be able to publicise and promote what we do.
- Perhaps if we need more money than we have in our budget we should ask for it.

b. MC Sask ADS – March 9 & 10 at Zion Mennonite Church Swift Current.

- We will need to ask for a workshop slot to report on:
 - o Walking the Path,
 - o International Witness
 - o Anything else?
- We will work at this further at our next meeting.

c. Muslim Mennonite Relations:

- There was something done in Prince Albert.
- Rosthern has lost two of its three Muslim families, so nothing is likely to happen there.
- Zion Swift Current did something on Christian Muslim history that was said to be very good. Jeanette will try to learn more about this.

5. Next Meeting:

- We will meet **Tuesday February 20 @ 7:00 pm at Mount Royal Mennonite Church.**

Recorded by Eric Olfert
Drafted January 20/2018