

**MC Sask Ministries Commission Minutes**  
**April 20, 2018**  
**7:00 pm**  
**Mount Royal Mennonite Church, Saskatoon**

**Present:** Claire Ewert Fisher, Val Wiebe, Elmer Regier, Eric Olfert and Jeanette Hanson.

**Guests:** Ryan Siemens (MC Sask Executive Minister) and Terry Stefaniuk (MC Sask Moderator)

**1. Conversation with Terry and Ryan:**

- We began with this immediately so that we could release our guests early.
- Questions to be worked on:
  - i. What is the role of Ministries?
  - ii. How is Ministries connected to MC Sask?
  - iii. Who is responsible for 'Walking the Path'?
- We then outlined some of the difficulties and miscommunications of the past.
- Regarding our role, we find it difficult to define an over-all vision. At present we have three foci:
  - i. Worship/Spirituality
  - ii. Reconciliation/Walking the Path
  - iii. Relating to International ministries.
- Communication is an ongoing challenge. We are left with the impression that people in the pews aren't listening. Are we listening? We think we are.
- Going directly to congregations for funding as in the case of Ted & Co. has proven to be engaging for those congregations.
- We are very aware that the future of our church structures is still very much in flux, and that we cannot work at fixing the current situation without looking to what might be in the future.
- Communication will need to be more social media focussed to get the attention of our constituents. We need a place or way for better synergy to happen between Commissions, committees and programs of MC Sask.
- Terry requests:
  - i. That we work on articulating a broad vision for Ministries Commission.
  - ii. That we identify 3-10 specific projects that we are doing or interested in pursuing.
  - iii. That we invite Terry back when we have worked at this.

**2. Opening** – Jeanette feels that in her current life/work situation 'Stuckness' is a bit of a theme. Her most recent trip to China was difficult, and she returned to a family time of lament, sorrow and death. She had a sense of having missed Easter. In trying to work through this, she went back to the Maundy Thursday reading in her prayer book: Luke 23: 26-31 This reading contrasted with but also strangely made sense of the news images of Syrian children being desperately, urgently washed after a chemical attack. She finished with the benediction: ***For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

3. **Approval of Minutes of our 18-02-20 meeting** – The minutes were approved.

4. **Business –**

a. **Equipping Day:**

- We are asked to appoint a Ministries representative to the Equipping Planning Committee.
- We will ask **Todd Hansen** to represent us.

b. **Walking the Path**

- **Mennonite/Muskeg Arts Event** – Val continues to work at this, but communication is difficult. She recently got her first response from Joy Arcand and has been in contact with Clarissa Kelly, one of the organisers of the Winnipeg Arts Event. Clarissa offers to help on the basis of a paid consultant. She did offer that the planning process for the Winnipeg event took two years. All of this will be processed at the upcoming Walking the Path meeting.
- **Mennonite/Muskeg Lake Music in the Church Event:**
  - planned for 3:00 pm, April 22, music and shared potluck
  - Val has done a poster which is in all the churches.

c. **Way Back – Relearning Ways to Peace - Ted and Co.**

- Planned for July 26 at 7:00 pm at the Wanuskewin Amphitheater.
- Costs: 

Production	\$3800 USD	~\$5000 Can
Travel		~\$1200
Amphitheater		\$395
Staff overtime		<u>\$75</u>
Rough Total		~\$7000
- We currently have about \$5300 pledged or in hand with a few more sources to hear from.
- If the event needs to be moved inside because of weather, costs will go up at least \$675.
- How we do supper is also still undecided. Soup and Bannock would cost about \$14/person.
- Mark Bigland Pritchard will bring an indigenous colleague and provide education on the impacts of resource extraction.
- **Val will do a poster**, which will need to be out by the end of May.
- **Claire will visit** Wanuskewin for more information.

5. **Next Meeting**

- We will meet **Tuesday June 12 @ 7:00 pm** at **Mount Royal Mennonite Church**.

6. **Additional Business Conducted by Email:**

**Church Planting Congress** by New Leaf at Horizon College.

- Jeanette moved that we send Claire and Val to attend this three-day Church Planting workshop. **We hereby authorise** MC Sask to pay out \$300 x2=\$600.00 from our budget to pay for Claire and Val to attend this congress.
- Val Seconded and we **approved by consensus**

Recorded by Eric Olfert  
Drafted April 11/2018