

MC Sask Ministries Commission Minutes
June 12, 2018
7:00 pm
Mount Royal Mennonite Church, Saskatoon

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

Guests: Kirsten Hamm-Epp (MC Sask Regional Church Minister)

1. Focus thoughts:

- Claire started us with the question: Where have you seen God at work in this past week?
- We each shared out of our experiences, with many of us describing difficult situations which had somehow resolved themselves in unexpectedly good ways.

2. Approval of Minutes of our 18-04-10 meeting – The minutes were approved with minor changes.

3. Business arising:

a. Statement of purpose for Ministries Commission: (further editing and revising welcomed)

PURPOSE: Ministries Commission is like the sap in a large elm tree. Its purpose is to carry the creative growth energies (from the soil of the gospel) through the roots which reach out into our various world communities, through the trunk or MC Sask relationships and structures, to the branches or church clusters. Our purpose is to vision together with and to facilitate Christ's activities within and through MC Sask.

VISION:

- I. Work of reconciliation with Indigenous neighbours.***
- II. Work of spiritual growth within our body (ies).***
- III. Work of connection with and support of international witness work, through the MC Canada personnel to the local host communities.***
- IV. Work of supporting local churches and clusters as they identify and create projects which serve the needs within their communities.***

b. Way Back – Relearning Ways to Peace - July 26 at 7:00 pm at the Wanuskewin Amphitheater

I. Update:

- Posters and cards have been sent out.
- Need three volunteers (3 hours beforehand) – (Eric will check with Verna)
 - To host and give directions and info
 - 1 tech person
 - Arrange a Green Room
 - Duplicate programs.
 - Set up tables

II. Need to tell Harry when the prayer is needed.

c. **Walking the Path**

- **The Music Event at Muskeg Lake Catholic Church** went very well. Question was raised: should we do something like this with other First Nations? Beardy's was suggested, with Junior Eyaphaise as a contact.
- **Art Show/Exhibit** planning has been slow and difficult, in part because aboriginal people with the right gifts find it impossible to work pro-bono. Currently exploring the possibility of finding some funding for potential planners.
- **Walking the Batoche Mail Trail** continues to generate exciting ideas, but is proving hard to pull together and put wheels on. Now proposed as a two-day event.
- **NAIITS** (North American Institute for Indigenous Theological Studies) has 23 Mennonites from across Canada going, including 4 from Wildwood MC.
- **Bill C-262** passed final reading and has since been passed. Possible Royal Consent by October 2019.
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4. **New Business:**

a. **Welcome Kirsten:**

- Kirsten's new job description includes supporting Missional Engagement. This seems like an excellent fit with Ministries Commission agenda.
- How do we move forward on this?
 - o Send a letter from Kirsten (& Commission?) to ask what congregations are doing as mission? We need a data base on what we are doing in the congregations.

b. **MC Sask Agenda:**

I. **International Witness:**

- MC Can Witness is encouraging congregation and groups to support workers.
- MC Sask would like to see if we can support partners and their programs, in part by sending workers. This will require **Ministry** support teams. This could be described as an affinity group of people who are interested in China for instance.
 - o Objective of such affinity groups would be to develop mutually transformative relationships with international partners:
 - Sometimes using workers as intermediaries
 - Sometimes through social media
 - And sometimes by visiting.
- Next steps for a China Relationship would be identifying people and groups with long-term interest in China ministry. This group could be inter-provincial and might ideally have 8-10 members, some representing groups.

II. **Deepening Our Walk:**

- o With Christ;
- o With each other;
- o And with the world.
- The themes coming out of the ADS need to be incorporated into congregational life.
- Can Ministries become the resource group for this 'Deepening our Faith' agenda?
- We are already working with congregations on deepening their spiritual walk.

- We need to create a mechanism (social media) where people can post their resources and experiences, as well as a mindset where people will actually share.
 - **OK! Ministries is willing to be the resource for this.**
- c. Equipping Day:** We are asked to suggest workshops –
- **Reconciliation with our Indigenous relations** – Eric will take this to Walking the Path.
 - **Spiritual Resourcing** – Claire will work at this
 - **Affinity Group development** – Jeanette will work at this, although she will not be at Equipping.

5. Next Meeting

- We will meet **Tuesday Sept. 11 @ 7:30 pm at Mount Royal Mennonite Church.**

Recorded by Eric Olfert
Drafted June 16/2018