

MC Sask Ministries Commission Minutes
September 11, 2018
7:30 pm
Mount Royal Mennonite Church, Saskatoon

Present: Claire Ewert Fisher(Chair), Kirsten Hamm-Epp (MC Sask Regional Church Minister), Val Wiebe, Eric Olfert and Jeanette Hanson.

Excused: Elmer Regier.

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 MRMC's Day in the Park being a highlight.

2. Approval of Minutes of our 18-06-12 meeting – The minutes were approved with minor changes.

3. Business arising:

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

- We decided that the Vision Statement is mostly for us, but should be forwarded to MC Sask. We need a new statement for the by-laws, and this work is hopefully relevant but is not intended for that purpose as is.
- **Val will rework** the statement and forward a revised version to Claire. After we have all seen what they come up with, we will forward it to Terry.

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

- The event was excellent, and the venue most appropriate. Only disappointment was that attendance was around 100, and mostly the usual suspects.
- Total income and donations was \$8098.77
Total expenses were \$9768.33
For a shortfall of \$1669.56
- Janette moved and Val seconded that we will pay this out of Ministries budget. **Carried.**

4. Updates:

a. Spirituality Resource Team – Claire

- The team has presented at 4 churches: MRMC, Hershel, Eigenheim and Tiefengrund.
- Additional invitations have been received from: Langham, Grace Regina and First Mennonite.
- Melody Neufeld is joining the team.
- Still working at finding good ways to do follow-up.

b. Walking the Path – Eric & Val

- **Spruce River FolkFest** was very good. Three Muskeg Lake FN students helped set up.
- **Retracing the Batoche Mail Trail:** Since engaging students (grades 5-8 suggested) in letter writing is a major focus, teachers say this needs good class preparation. They are suggesting a May 2019 date.

- **Art Show/Exhibit** planning has been slow and difficult and it is clear that the idea needs to ripen at its own pace. Prairie Center for Ecumenism is doing a conference on Creating Connections via the Arts on Sept. 27-28.
- **Guidebook for 94 Calls to Action:** KAIROS is pulling this together. Harry Lafond is on the Advisory Committee and is encouraging them to reach out to Steve Heinrichs.
- **Steve Heinrichs Reporting:** Steve described the trial and imprisonment as like being in a foreign religious service. A strong feeling of not knowing the liturgy. He is most concerned about how the MC Canada constituency will navigate all this? What does solidarity with the poor, the disadvantaged and creation really mean?
- **RJC is planning a Treat 6 Invitational Basketball Tournament.** OTC, MCCS and Ministries Commission may be approached to be sponsors.
- **Muskeg Lake News:** Over 300 visitors from the Chinese Association came to visit Muskeg Lake, many with no English. It was “exhausting but very worthwhile.”

c. Missional Engagement:

- I. A letter has gone out to congregations inviting them to ask for resourcing on this. A meeting is planned with First Mennonite on Oct. 30.
- II. Deepening Our Walk: Interest is growing.
- III. Ride for Refuge: Is taking a great deal of time & Energy.
 - o The goal was to have 10 Sask Congregations involved. So far there are 3.
 - o Even so, Saskatchewan may meet its \$6000 goal, while the rest of MC Canada looks like falling far behind.
 - o One comment was that the name ‘Ride for Refuge’ doesn’t connect to MC Canada Witness work.
- IV. We have the beginnings of a congregational database. This will be very useful once in place.

d. Equipping Day:

- Our Three slots look to be well filled.
- Treaty Commissioner Mary Culbertson will do a workshop on “Having Courageous Conversations; It takes a little discomfort sometimes to make Paradigm shifts, that’s how change happens”

5. Affinity Group Development – Jeanette

- Process is going slowly.
- How does a worker support team come together? Support teams and funders both need to be recruited.
- Discussions are still going back and forth on whether the focus and language should be on supporting workers or on supporting the programs they work in. This is a critical distinction.
- The situation needs a lot of prayer and time.

6. Next Meeting

- We will meet **Tuesday Nov. 6 @ 6:30 pm at Mount Royal Mennonite Church.**

Recorded by Eric Olfert
Drafted September 15/2018