

# MC Sask Council Meeting – May 17, 2017

## 6:00 pm at the MCC Saskatchewan Conference Room

Present: Sharon Schultz, Kirsten Hamm-Epp, Gordon Peters, Ryan Siemens, Ken Warkentin, Terry Stefaniuk, Craig Neufeld, Pauline Steinmann, Berny Wiens, Myrna Wiebe  
Secretary: Myrna Wiebe

Opening: Ryan

**Attachments:** Moderator Report, Finance Report, ACM Report, ACM Youth Report, CMU Report\*, AMBS Test Statement\*, Ministries Report\*, Letter from Constituent\*, *CM Report\* \*withheld from public edition due to sensitivity*

### Agenda

#### 1. Adopt Minutes from January 14, 2017, February 1 (Executive Meeting), & March 11.

- the January 14 and February 1 minutes were approved in the March 11 meeting
- **March 11 minutes were approved by consensus**

#### 2. Reports:

**Ken** (handed out report)

Highlights:

- Refresh, Refocus, Renew meeting went well, churches were represented
- the coming year will be busy and possibly scary; will need to have decisions made for Future Directions in October
- MC AB is interested in partnering with us in some way
- we will be working with Manitoba with CMU, in terms of financial help and governance

**Gordon — Finance Update** (see reports)

Highlights:

- we are \$20,000 ahead of last year for the same time period; we are early in the year
- church donations are up right now from the same time period last year

#### **MOTION 20170517-01: Gordon moves to approve the financial report. Carried.**

**Ryan** (see report)

Highlights:

- continues to travel to 2 churches per month and is going to national meetings
- has been doing a lot of visiting, listening, support with Eigenheim Mennonite Church

**Kirsten** (see report)

Highlights:

- overall youth events are going very well
- Kirsten, Ryan and Marianne all have access to the MC Sask Facebook page and Kirsten & Marianne will both work on the webpage, so if someone is on holiday there will still be access to update, etc.

- the last point in Kirsten's report re U of S Faith Leaders' Council: Discussion: question

raised of time needed for this and does Kirsten have the time to give to it – she was developing a website last winter and won't need to do that; won't know until we try it; do it for a year and evaluate; keep track of time used and if other things have been let go; would be good to have a presence on campus

- **The Faith Leaders' Council needs a letter of recommendation, designating Kirsten as our nominee – we will do that**

**Ken, Kirsten & Ryan's reports accepted by consensus.**

### **3. Refresh, Refocus, Renew update**

- churches are asking for some help in how to bring this to their congregations
- what is going to work for one congregation may not work with the next
- there will be another retreat in September
- remember to pray for these 3 months, but not to stop praying after!

### **4. Future Directions Update**

- Area Church ministers/Executive Directors are meeting and will submit a proposal to the interim council (made up of the moderators) to bring back to churches
- the funding formula is proving to be tough – regions are such different sizes, so do you do it by region? by membership? MC SK currently gives about ¼ of the budget, but is about 10% of the MC Canada body
- Question: A discrepancy is being sensed between what is desired for the October meeting and what is being communicated – this may make it hard to get people interested in attending

7:35 – 7:50 short break

### **5. Discussion Regarding CMU becoming a regional school of MCM, MC Sask & MCA (see attached document)**

- CMU was mandated as a national school through MC Canada. Grebel and Columbia have always been regional. Should CMU become regional to the western provinces – MCM, MC Sask & MCA?
  - The schools would still recruit and fundraise across Canada
- Proposal that Governance of CMU would include reps from MC Sask
- Currently CMU does not fundraise from churches, but from individuals - would we grant them permission to begin asking directly from churches?
- MCM has responded saying they are open to this type of arrangement – how do we feel?

**Consensus says yes – a letter of support will be sent to CMU that we support this initiative and are glad to be a partner**

### **6. Discussion about the future relationship between MC Canada and AMBS**

- MC Canada suggesting/testing a transition from seeing AMBS as a bi-national school to being a sister school; MC Canada does not directly give money to AMBS (MCEC does,

through MC Canada)

- under this proposal, MC Canada would still promote AMBS and they could recruit from Canada
- Discussion:
  - o would it mean students wouldn't get the same students loans as AMBS would no longer be bi-national? Would there be tuition parity?
  - o would this mean that Canada would basically forget about AMBS – it feels like “sister-school” is basically a “goodbye”
  - o what does a separation gain us? CMU has not pursued a MDiv program because of AMBS – they would consider it if AMBS wasn't “our school”
- **Ken will take this discussion back to the general board to let them know of the varying responses.**

#### **7. Ministries Report** (see report)

- looking for guidance as to what the Ministries Commission is – what is council's expectation for them?
- there is acknowledgment that with the re-shuffling things are in flux, however curious what the next year and a bit means for them

#### **8. Letter from Constituent** (see attached document)

- the letter was received and discussed. **Ken will respond.**

#### **9. Move to MCC**

- timetable: over the month of August we will have both offices and will be moving over slowly
  - o there will be some painting in the offices at the MCC building and will be letting people know in case they would like to help

#### **10. Canadian Mennonite** (see report)

8:55pm, meeting was adjourned