

MC Sask Council Meeting – June 14, 2017

6:00 pm at Mount Royal Mennonite Church

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

Opening: Craig Neufeld and Pauline Steinmann – Refresh, Refocus, Renew Litany

Attachments: Financial Statement, University of Saskatchewan Faith Leader Profile

Agenda

1. Adopt Minutes from the May 17, 2017 Meeting

- **May 17 minutes approved by consensus**

2. Business arising out of minutes

- MC Canada and AMBS will continue to have a connection and relationship
 - o CMU has been given the blessing (from MC Can) to pursue a Masters of Divinity program
 - o When we look at 2018 budget, we will consider providing funding to AMBS
- Office is moving to MCC Centre in August
 - o Will have access in July, will hopefully paint in the first couple weeks
 - o We are purchasing furniture from previous tenant (approx. \$2,500) and selling current furniture at Pakwa Place; will advertise in July
- Letter from constituent, discussed at May 17 meeting
 - o Ken has been in touch, conversation is ongoing

3. Reports:

Ken

- Conversations with Shekinah board, and Director, are ongoing

Gordon

- See attached May 2017 financial statement

We continue to remain ahead of the same time last year, so far so good

Discussion regarding expenses in U.S. funds: happens 1-2 times per year, costs us \$10 (minimum) each time. Opening a new U.S. account would save us funds, as there are only minimal transaction fees and no monthly fees

Approval is given to open an MC Sask U.S. dollar bank account.

MOTION 20170614-01: To approve the financial report as presented. Gordon/Craig. Carried.

Kirsten

- Jr. High Retreat (May 26-28) went very well. Attendance was small (36 total), but there were lots of first-time attenders who engaged well. Event was approx. \$400 over budget, may consider using the SMYO Reserve Fund to help cover costs

- Kid's Corner at MCC Relief Sale, run by SMYO (June 9-10). This was a good fit for SMYO/youth involvement at the Sale. Depending on further consultation with youth leaders, it's anticipated they will do this again
- U of S Faith Leaders' Council. At May meeting, Kirsten was given the go ahead to pursue applying for this group. Document attached with more information (primary purpose, nature of work, duties, etc.)
- Regarding communications, working with *Canadian Mennonite* on utilizing free ad space and other connecting points has been going well

Discussion: how would Council like to receive minutes of other groups (i.e. camps)?

Send whatever has been approved with the next Council meeting agenda

- o **Ask Marianne to collate dockets with all relevant attachments (financial, reports, etc.) and send all at once; three days ahead of time minimum**
 - **With table of contents and page numbers**
 - Ken, Gordon, Ryan and Kirsten will send documents via Marianne
- Combined youth camping trip August 1-3. This is not a designated 'MC Sask' trip (individual churches hold responsibility); Kirsten may/may not attend

Ryan

- Busy month with Executive Staff Group and other MC Canada meetings
- Intense, but good, conversations are being had in a variety of situations
- Letters to MC Sask (as part of RRR Season of Prayer), have been a challenge, but a positive one; a helpful spiritual discipline

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

4. Refresh, Refocus, Renew Update

- Congregations seem to be engaging well, hard to know for sure, but feedback has been good
- We will continue to offer support and resources as we are able

Break, 7:15pm

5. Future Directions

- Proposed budget will be based on previous congregational giving
- We will need to work with individuals who are currently giving undesignated funds directly to MC Canada – should come to MC Sask moving forward
- Communications, along with many other things, will become de-centralized with oversight coming from teams of regional representatives
- We would like for the governance and structure to be fleshed out further
 - o Especially prior to Special Assembly in October
- Relating to congregations – good communication – will be important
 - o Both before and after October gathering

- Have communications staff (Kirsten) distill “blithering and blathering” into something the average person can understand, and develop strategy for distributing this information to individuals and congregations
 - ***Kirsten will be in discussion with MC Canada Communications and FD transition staff to see if a nationwide resource can be developed***
 - Both in print and video (with a study guide??)
 - Emphasize the vision which is coming forth (not just structure)
 - Tying in with Assembly Discernment Guide?
- Can we have a meeting ahead of the Assembly to help educate people and discuss what this will mean for us in MC Sask?
 - Possibly tying in with RRR Mini-Retreat in September
 - There is a discussion planned for after the Assembly, on October 27th, tied in with Equipping Day (Oct. 28)
 - Maybe six regional meetings within the last two weeks of September – ***Ryan will look at calendar***
- Shift in nationwide gathering to separating business from worship and study
 - Still at the same time, back-to-back, but creating a differentiation
- Changes in names will take some adapting, but they are being made for good reason
 - i.e. “nationwide” instead of “national” church

MOTION 20170614-02: To affirm the direction of the Final Report to the Special Delegate Assembly: MC Canada Transition Process. Terry/Craig. Carried.

MOTION 20170614-03: To approve in principle the proposed MC Sask contribution to the MC Canada budget. Gordon/Berny. Carried.

6. Leadership Assembly

- Proposed change: having chairs of all leadership groups meet with Council for the day, as opposed to asking all members of all groups to come
 - Essentially a broader Council meeting
 - Would streamline the day, have proposed budgets ready for discussion
 - We’ll try it and see how it works

Next Meeting: September 6th, 6:00pm, MCC Centre (new MC Sask office)

Other dates: November 1st, November 25th, December 6th (if needed), January 10th

- All at MCC Center

Closing Prayer

9:00pm, meeting adjourned