

# MC Sask Council Meeting – September 06, 2017

## 6:30 pm at MCC Centre/MC Sask Office

Present: Sharon Schultz, Kirsten Hamm-Epp (Secretary), Gordon Peters, Ryan Siemens, Ken Warkentin, Terry Stefaniuk, Craig Neufeld

Regrets: Myrna Wiebe, Berny Wiens, Pauline Steinmann

**Attachments:** Moderator's Report, Finance Report, ACM Youth Report, ACM Report, Temporary Marriage License Policy

### Agenda

1. Opening – Ryan, Letter to MC Sask 9
2. Adopt Minutes from June 14 Meeting – **approved by consensus**
  - a. AMBS Update  
No current changes, but things to consider regarding property ownership and funding moving forward.
  - b. Move to MCC Update  
Happy to be settled in. Was more work than anticipated, especially with staff taking holidays over summer, but overall things went well. Grateful for all the overtime put in.
  - c. Other – How are things at Shekinah?  
The board is working hard, we are providing support as best we can, they are doing OK.
3. Reports (see attachments)
  - a. Ken (Moderator)
  - b. Gordon (Finance)  
Lack of income is affecting our bottom line more than high expenses:
    - Individual Donations and Bequests are down significantly from budget
    - Expenses are all on track, or slightly over/under
    - Moving costs, approx. \$6,000 are also an additional, unbudgeted expense
    - Gordon will send a notice to the office for the September Update
  - c. Kirsten (ACM Youth/Admin)  
2017 Scholarship Recipients (\$400 each): Morgan Hildebrandt (RJC), Jadyne Lennea (CMU), Jesse Neufeld (CMU), Katherine Penner (RJC), Morgan Speiser (RJC)
  - d. Ryan (ACM Pastors/Congregations)  
Having congregations with MCEC about doing an exchange at annual meetings  
Diversity Training; request to budget in 2018 to contribute to contract costs (\$500-\$1,000), as well as transportation costs for Ryan and MC Sask Joint Council members

### Reports approved by consensus

4. Pastoral Leadership Commission Item – Temporary Marriage License Policy (see attachment)  
Ryan gets a significant number of requests; the policy offers guidance in how to respond.  
This policy is more or less consistent with other Area/Regional Churches.  
**MOTION 20170906-01** to approve the Temporary Marriage License Policy as recommended by PLC. Terry/Craig.

5. Fall Leadership Assembly – November 25<sup>th</sup>  
We would like to try something different. Instead of asking all groups to meet separately in the morning and gather together as a large body in the afternoon, we will ask chairs and representatives to join Council for lunch and a meeting in the afternoon.  
We will try once and see how it works, may or may not do again for Spring Leadership.  
Location and more specific agenda TBD, possibly MCC Centre.
  
6. Refresh, Refocus, Renew Update  
We are starting to gather Season of Prayer feedback.  
Feedback from the first Mini-Retreat and Season of Prayer has been positive.  
Council is being asked to help with take-down, and some help with lunch;  
    Sharon – sandwiches  
    Terry – soup  
    Sandra – buns/bread  
Better communication might be needed to let people know registration is required.  
    Ryan and Marianne will work at this ASAP
  
7. Special Assembly Update
  - a. Delegates: Ken, Terry, Ryan, and Garth  
    We can have two more. Marianne is open, we will ask her.  
    Kirsten is unable due to youth commitments during the weekend.  
    Would be nice to have six, we will continue to think of names.  
    Deadline is September 15 for delegates.
  - b. Discernment Guide and Discussion  
    Communicating what is happening and what is being asked to our churches is still a significant challenge. Based on MC Canada resources, Kirsten will (*try to*) develop a ½ page, bulletin insert with the very basic FAQs, presenting the most important pieces of information with over-simplifying.  
    The new names/titles will be challenging to follow and implement, i.e. “conference”.  
    Discussion regarding Witness Program, and acknowledgement of difficulties in coming to a consensus of how this will look moving forward.
  
8. Diversity Training for Nationwide Leadership – see Ryan’s report and discussion
  
9. Pre-Assembly Regional Meetings  
    September 19, 2017 – Zion Mennonite Church, Swift Current  
    September 27, 2017 – Eigenheim Mennonite Church  
    September 28, 2017 – MCC Centre, Saskatoon  
All meetings will start at 7:30pm  
These meetings are for delegates and others seeking clarification and information regarding the Special Assembly and the Discernment Guide.
  
10. Donor-Relations/Abundance Tour, November 22 & 23  
With the (potential) upcoming transition, there is a desire to connect with individual donors who have been making contributions directly to MC Canada.  
Will be 3-4 meetings in various locations, specifics yet TBD.  
The exact role of Abundance Canada in this tour is still up in the air.

11. Upcoming Dates:

- a. Refresh, Refocus, Renew, September 15 & 16
- b. Mega Menno Kick-Off, September 30
- c. MC Canada Assembly, October 13-15
- d. Fall Pastor's Pizza Supper with Willard, October 27
- e. Equipping Day, October 28
- f. Mega Menno, October 28

12. Other Business

- a. Ride for Refuge, September 30<sup>th</sup>  
Two teams: Rosthern and Wildwood Mennonite  
Craig will send something to Marianne for bulletins

13. Next Meeting – November 1<sup>st</sup>, 6:00pm, MCC Centre, Saskatoon