

**Pastoral Leadership Commission**  
**August 31, 2017 Meeting Minutes**  
**MC SK Office, MCC Centre, Saskatoon, SK**

**Present:** Garth Ewert Fisher, Gary Peters, Florence Driedger, Kirsten Hamm-Epp, Ryan Siemens, Lisa Martens Bartel, Carrol Epp, Ric Driediger (via telephone).

**Opening Devotional:** Gary expressed thanks to Ryan for the letters to MC SK. He used the scripture passage from the last letter dated August 22, 2017 (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:3-7....so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ...) to talk about patience and humility. Followed with prayer.

**Acceptance of Agenda:**

Additions- Continuing Education

Adoption- by consent

**Review and Acceptance of May 30, 2017 meeting minutes:** Accepted as circulated by consent.

**Area Church Minister, Youth and Admin Report: Kirsten-** see attached report.

Addition to the report- Scholarships- After discussion, Garth/Ric move that we award five scholarships in the amount of \$400.00 each. The recipients are Morgan Hildebrant, Jady Lennea, Jesse Neufeld, Katherine Penner and Morgan Speiser.

**Area Church Minister, Congregational & Pastoral Relations Report: Ryan-** see attached report.

**Ongoing work:**

-Temporary Marriage Licenses- Ryan distributed draft policy. After discussion, PLC supports the policy and recommends that it be adopted. Ryan will present draft to MC SK Council for ratification.

-‘In camera’ discussion about current situation at Eigenheim Mennonite Church.

-Entry/Exit interviews- none at this time.

-Personnel Committee- Garth reported that Ryan’s and Kirsten’s reviews will be postponed until after completion of the restructuring of MC Canada. Garth asked that if issues arise before such time, the Personnel Committee be contacted.

**Future work:**

-Refresh, Refocus, Renew mini-conference is Sept 15 &16, 2017 at Wildwood Mennonite Church centering on the discussion of “Who do you say that I am?” and “Who do people say that we are?” as MC SK. It is open to all members of MC SK; Friday...7-9; Sat.....9-3:30; registrations can be done on-line.

-Equipping Day is Oct 28, 2017 at Waldheim Mennonite Church. In conjunction with this, there will be a Pastors’ supper Gathering (6pm) at the MCC Centre. This will be a time of Q&A with Ryan and Willard Metzger. Also a chance to tour the new MC SK office.

-2018 Spring Pastors’ Gathering/ Continuing Education Event will be combined on April 17-19, 2018. This will be a follow-up to the Refresh, Refocus, Renew sessions with Betty Pries.

-Credentialing Interviews: Pending. Ryan is following up.

**Next Meeting: November 2, 2017, 1-4pm.**

**Adjournment-** Ryan closed the meeting with prayer.

**Area Church Minister, Congregational & Pastoral Relations – August 30, 2017**  
**Pastoral Leadership Commission**

Recent and Ongoing Involvements:

- 1) Churches visited since our last meeting (May 30, 2017)
  - a. Zoar Mennonite Church, Langham, June 4.
  - b. Osler Mennonite Church, June 18. Licensing Service for Terri-Lynn
  - c. Nutana Park Mennonite Church, June 25.
  - d. Zion Mennonite Church, July 2.
  - e. Emmaus Mennonite Church, July 23.
  - f. Camp Pastor at Elim Bible Camp...twice. We had to go home the first week due to health issues with one of our boys. And so we returned as a family to camp Elim in late July, where I was able to fill in as camp Pastor during their last week. It was good to connect with our most distant camp and to see the commitment of the staff and board to make Elim what it is. I am looking forward to going back next year.
  
- 2) Meetings attended
  - a. MC Canada Executive Staff Group Meetings
    - i. June 1-3, Winnipeg
    - ii. August 9 & 10, Winnipeg
    - iii. The Executive Staff Group—Executive Directors/Ministers from the Area Churches and the National Church, will serve as a significant function in the new MC Canada. This group will be meeting 6-8 times a year to discuss/set direction for our joint national agenda.

Coming Up

- 1) Church visits
  - a. September 10, Glenbush
  - b. September 17, Zoar, Langham
  - c. October 1, Heschel & Fiske
  
- 2) Meetings
  - a. ESG, September 14 & 15, Saskatoon
  - b. Refresh, Refocus, Renew, September 15 & 16, Saskatoon
  - c. CSC Volunteer Management Meeting in Ottawa, September 23 & 24 – this is some carry over work I have been a part of with volunteers and Corrections Services Canada.
  - d. ESG & MC Canada Special Delegate Assembly in Winnipeg, October 12-15.

**Items for Discussion**

- 1) **Refresh, Refocus, Renew**
  - a. The current phase of RRR has focused on a time of listening and prayer. Many congregations integrated this time into their worship. Several pastors indicated how much they appreciated the focus of this process. Personally, writing the “Dear Mennonite Church Saskatchewan” letters have been a meaningful discipline. While I am pretty certain these letters will not be canonized into the Epistle to the Mennonite Church in Saskatchewan, writing the letters created space for me to reflect and pray over our community. I am grateful that Betty and Josh filled in for the two letters when I was gone.

**2) Discussion Regarding AMBS**

- a. In follow up to conversations around AMBS, at this point, no changes will be made regarding the relationship between AMBS and Mennonite Church Canada.

**3) Discussion Around Temporary Marriage Licences**

- a. I have attached a first draft in developing a Temporary Marriage Policy.

**4) Move to MCC Building**

- a. First, I would like to express my gratitude to Marianne, Gord, Kirsten, Ken and Sandra for the amount of work they put in with the move. They put a lot of work in at both places; from packing, sorting and cleaning the old place to painting, moving furniture and setting up the new place. In hindsight, it was a bigger job than we anticipated and everyone is grateful that it is done. With that said, it is great to be at the MCC building. In many ways, the new office space feels like “home”. This is a good move for MC Sask and hopefully we will not have to move for a very long time!

**5) Grace Mennonite Church, Regina Congregational & Pastoral Review**

- a. At the end of June, I received GMC’s Congregational and Pastoral Review and I have started going through the material. I have completed the congregational part and have written a brief summary. I have yet to complete the pastoral review. I will be presenting the findings to the pastors and to the council of GMC on September 20, 2017.

**Area Church Minister, Youth and Admin Report – Aug 31, 2017**

Recent and Ongoing Involvements:

- *Website updates and maintenance*
- *Communications work: Canadian Mennonite and MC Sask FB page*
- *Windup with the 2016-17 SMYO Committee, meeting with graduating members (3)*
- *Licensing service for Terri Lynn Friesen, June 18*
- *Meeting with youth ministry group to get 2017-18 Mega Menno events in place*
- *Equipping Day planning (October 28 in Waldheim)*
- *Kid’s Corner at MCC Relief Sale*

We/SMYO will continue to do this, with a few changes for next time!

- *Blessing with Shekinah and Youth Farm for the camp season (with Ryan), June 22*
- *Attended RJC musical and grad ceremonies*
- *Volunteering at Spruce River Folk Fest, August 12*
- *Preparing for 2017-18 SMYO Committee Orientation, Sept 1*

New members: Kate Hanson, Teah Lennea, Katherine Penner

- *Overseeing scholarship applications and references*
- *Interview with U of S Faith Leaders’ Council; still waiting to hear back*

**A big part of my summer was spending time at camp.** First, as a counsellor at the Youth Farm for an Adults with Special Needs (ASN) week. Then, in the kitchen at Shekinah. These weeks, specifically the ASN week, had a big impact. I was continually amazed at how much of themselves the staff give, and was reminded that camp is not just for campers, but is an important place of growth for staff and volunteers, too.

**August 20-25, I was in Carrot River leading a week of VBS.** This was a good, and challenging week! There was a change in the 'troupe' and it ended up just being me who went, but the CRMC group was incredibly gracious and willing to step in wherever needed. There were 20-25 kids, and it was a good time of getting to know some of that congregation, Daniel and Ana Janzen (my hosts) in particular.

Another significant part of the summer was *Refresh, Refocus, Renew*, creating the Season of Prayer reminders, overseeing the Letters to MC Sask when Ryan was gone, and looking forward planning for the September retreat.

And in the midst of all of this, not only did our office move, but Ian and I moved out to the farm as well. It was a summer of boxes! Both moves have gone well, but the office move did cause some tension as we tried to keep things going forward with one, if not two or three, of us on holidays at all times. I'm grateful to be on the other side of both moves 😊 With the summer being a bit hectic, I still have some significant holiday time to take, and will look to do that at the end of October/early November, similar to last year. I will also take at least two weeks in the middle of January, as my Grandma in Indiana is turning 100 and we're all going out to celebrate!

Moving forward I have church and youth group visits scheduled at Herschel/Fiske and Osler, and am looking forward to meeting with RJC Student Leadership this Saturday, and leading their gr. 12 retreat with Craig Neufeld (Sept. 18-19).