

MC Sask Council Minutes ~ Wednesday, October 10 at 6:00 PM ~ MCC Centre, Saskatoon

Present: Rod Suderman, Gordon Peters, Berny Wiens, Pauline Steinmann, Sharon Schultz, Terry Stefaniuk, Andrea Enns-Gooding (new member), Tim Wiens (guest), Ryan Siemens, Kirsten Hamm-Epp

Regrets: Myrna Wiebe

Attachments: October 10, 2018 Council Docket

Agenda

1. Welcome: Terry Stefaniuk
2. Opening: Sharon Schultz, Psalm 63
3. Adoption of Agenda
 - a. **Approved as amended, by consensus.**
4. Appointments
 - a. **MOTION 20181010-01:** To appoint Andrea Enns-Gooding to MC Sask Council. Rod/Pauline. Carried.
 - b. **MOTION 20181010-02:** To ratify appointment of Henry Funk to MC Canada Joint Council. Gordon/Berny. Carried.
5. Adoption of Minutes: August 8, 2018
Approved as presented, by consensus.
6. Business Arising
 - a. Items already in agenda, nothing in addition.
7. Reports:
 - a. Moderator: Terry Stefaniuk (oral report)
 - i. Spoke at Eyebrow Mennonite Church on Sept. 30, good visit.
 - ii. Youth Farm Bible Camp, expecting to sign mortgage papers for new Equine Centre soon.
 - iii. Ongoing board meetings - Shekinah, RJC, AMBS, Joint Council.
 - b. Finance Chair: Gordon Peters (financial statement attached)
 - i. Budget Update: still too early to tell where bottom line will end up this year because of new system with MC Canada money coming through MC Sask. Last quarter of the year is often the biggest.
 - ii. Email notice sent out had a positive effect, particularly in regards to congregational giving.
 1. We should make sure to inform programs of any withholding of funds before this information becomes public.
 - iii. Request for full report, with last year comparison, to be included in docket moving forward, instead of abridged version.
 - c. Executive Minister: Ryan Siemens (report attached)
 - i. Clarification regarding upcoming Mission Consultation gathering in 2019 – this will be with MC Canada persons, talking about being the church in Canada in the 21st century, and revising ‘mission’ as something we can do here in Canada, not just overseas. Looking at what will hold us together moving forward.
 1. Theme - ‘Igniting the Imagination of the Church’

- ii. Ongoing conversations regarding how Menno Media connects with MC Canada congregations, and whether or not Common Word becomes their 'Canadian' vehicle.
 - iii. Question regarding additional time spent on Spruce River Folk Fest, wondering whether this is a valid way to continue to spend time.
Response: this year's coordinator had to step away due to unforeseen circumstances, MC Sask (not just Ryan) stepped in to help.
Additional Responses: the event is a wonderful relationship builder. Many of the pieces are already in place, what is needed is good organization and oversight.
Reserve 107 Documentary has been great for building awareness, particularly among musicians.
Ryan spent roughly 80 hours on planning this year.
Question of applying for a grant to cover the costs of an event coordinator has been raised; funding is likely.
Recommendation to work with MCC to hire someone who can put in the time needed to coordinate. We are happy to support, but feel we should not be putting this much of Ryan's time into the Festival in the future.
 - iv. Question regarding proposal from Refresh, Refocus, Renew Final Report to have one or more joint worship services, wondering if there is plan to make this happen?
 - 1. No plans as yet, they could be made.
 - 2. Recommendation to go out to the regions and not have one centralized service; more likely to see new people this way, not just the 'regulars' who come to ADS, etc.
 - v. Affirmation given for ReLearning Community resource, and it's need among our congregations.
- d. Regional Church Minister: Kirsten Hamm-Epp (report attached)
- i. Ride for Refuge - over \$9,400 raised. Kirsten cannot coordinate next year's event due to a wedding; currently in conversation regarding how MC Sask will/ will not take part next year – October 5, 2019.
 - ii. Addition: planning a new youth event called Prairie Youth 2019, co-hosted by MC Sask and MC Manitoba, taking place at Shekinah July 28-August 1, 2019. Funding will come primarily from registrations, with small contributions from MC Sask and MCM (hopefully). The SMYO Reserve Fund is also available.
 - iii. Taking vacation time in November.

Reports approved by consensus.

8. Current vacancies for Council appointment:
- i. Nominating Committee: possible candidates are being approached.
 - ii. MC Canada 2019 Assembly Delegates (will be in Abbotsford)
 - 1. June 28 – Leadership Day
 - 2. June 29 (am) – **Delegates Meeting**
 - 3. June 29 (aft) – July 1 – Inspirational Gathering
 - a. Theme - Igniting the Imagination of the Church
 - 4. MC Sask Delegates required for June 29 morning meeting
 - a. Each region: six board members, five members at large
 - b. One additional rep per thousand members
 - i. Three more for MC Sask, 14 total
 - c. What is our selection process? This is new.
Do we look at congregational/geographical make up?
 - d. What costs do we cover for our delegates? And how?

- e. Council will take this on. Further decisions will be made at next meeting. Goal to announce delegates at ADS.

9. New Business:

a. Youth Farm Bible Camp

- i. Pasture increase by 40 acres (in the driveway corner by the sign). The current renter is fine with 40 acres being taken out of their land allotment. Complex Board has given approval as well.
- ii. MC Sask loses 40 acres worth of rent; should this now be paid from elsewhere? \$80/acre = \$3,200 per year, lost to MC Sask.
- iii. Continued loss of farmable land is a concern.
- iv. If this is a business expense (for the Equine Program) it should be paid for and part of the business budget.
- v. Note that overall land management for all three camps needs to be looked at and re-evaluated.
- vi. **MOTION 20181010-03: that the Youth Farm Bible Camp be allowed to take over the proposed 40 acres, on the understanding that the Camp will now pay rent on those acres according to the current lease agreement, which expires in 2019. Berny/Pauline. Carried, with abstention.**

b. Shekinah Retreat Centre Financial Update

- i. Multiple requests for information from law firm and Mennonite Trust have delayed process, no money given to Shekinah to date.

c. Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee Report: Tim Wiens, Kirsten Hamm-Epp (report attached)

- i. Clarification regarding Bylaws vs. Policy
 - 1. Bylaw is 'what you do'
 - 2. Policy is 'how you do it'
- ii. Timeline for Committee:
 - 1. Rough draft presented at 2019 ADS, final draft in 2020
- iii. Questions/Items for Council input and discussion:
- iv. Requirement of formal membership for delegates, as well as committees and executive positions.
 - 1. A number of factors to consider, this might a good item for discussion at the upcoming Fall Leadership Assembly.
 - 2. We would change the definition of what it means to be a "member" instead of adding a new word to the Bylaws.
- v. Requirement of congregations to have a youth program to be able to send a youth delegate.
 - 1. Largely outdated, youth delegate requirements will be revised.
- vi. Quorum is currently formed as long as 25 delegates, representing eight congregations, are present. Is this still adequate/satisfactory?
 - 1. We've always had way more than this, do we leave it?
- vii. Questions have been raised regarding utilizing Roberts Rules of Order, with appointed Parliamentarian. Do we want to use something else?
 - 1. Discussion that Roberts is accessible and allows for a lot of flexibility, as long as have someone who knows how to interpret it.
 - 2. We already have a very comprehensive Resolutions Policy, the rest of Roberts speaks to how meetings run, who can speak, how motions are handled.
- viii. The delegates provide "direction" to Council and the various committees and groups – what does this mean? Is delegate 'direction' binding??
 - 1. When auditor is appointed, that is binding direction.

2. Discussion that unless there is a motion, the direction is mostly advice, this needs to be clarified in Bylaws.
- ix. Point brought up that overall in our decision making processes, we need to remember that we are the Church, and perhaps a 51% majority is not enough for something to move forward.
- x. Council's Report of Major Actions and Decisions to the delegates for ratification.
 1. Chance for discussion and questions is good.
 2. This does not need to be ratified, adds unnecessary complication.
- xi. Motions and Resolutions
 1. Conflict between Resolutions Policy and Bylaws regarding timeline, these will be updated to have the same information.
 2. Definitions of what constitutes a 'special' resolution or 'major' decision need to be spelled out and cleaned up.
- xii. Leadership Assembly
 1. Since it's creation in 2007, MC Sask has struggled to utilize this group well. Council needs to decide what is wanted from this body so it can be made clear.
 2. Regardless of what is decided, this might be a better fit for a policy and not the Bylaws.
- xiii. We have no volunteer policies or mention of volunteers in the Bylaws.
 1. Aside from youth volunteers covered in the Safe Church Policy.
- xiv. Finance Policy and description of Finance Committee
 1. The committee has not been active for a number of years, Council has been acting in its place; shift needs to be formalized if the plan is to continue this way.
 2. The buck stops with Council, makes sense to have Council members being the ones to do the financial due diligence.
 3. Finance policy needs to be expanded to include more than surplus and reserves.
- xv. Policies in general, and our lack thereof, needs to be addressed.
 1. When it comes to Human Resources, fiduciary responsibilities, how Council interacts with our programs and entities, liability, etc. – more of this needs to be written down and made into policy.
 2. MC Canada policies are available to us, but we still need to formally adopt them if we want to use them.
- xvi. Terms of office are three 3-yr terms for all positions except Council Executive – should all positions be equal?
 1. Something for further consideration, there are pros and cons to each.
- xvii. Various committees and groups are being asked to clarify their portion of the Bylaws. Groups overall will be resorted moving forward.
- xviii. General discussion regarding accountability and responsibility.
 1. Sense that we don't have to lose some of the freedom and imagination that comes with loose engagement, but that accountability needs to be clear (more than it currently is).

10. Future Meeting Dates and Times:

- a. Next Council Meeting - December 5/ 2018, 6:00pm, at MC Sask Office
- b. Fall Leadership Assembly, November 24 at Langham Mennonite Fellowship
 - i. 9am coffee, 9:30 start, 3:30pm finish
- c. Equipping Day, October 27
 - i. Go to RJC for supper after, for RJC at the Olympics Banquet