

MC Sask Council Meeting – May 30, 2018

6:00 pm at MC Sask Office/MCC Centre

Present: Terry Stefaniuk, Rod Suderman, Kirsten Hamm-Epp, Pauline Steinmann, Myrna Wiebe,
Sharon Schultz, Gordon Peters

Regrets: Julia Epp (see item #7)

Arriving later: Ryan Siemens

Secretary: Myrna Wiebe

Attachments: see May 30, 2018 Council Meeting Docket

1. Welcome: Terry
2. Opening: Pauline Steinmann
 - took us through a guided prayer, encouraging us to use our imagination to go deeper into one of the gospel stories
3. Adoption of Minutes: April 11, 2018
 - **adopted by consensus**
4. Business Arising from the minutes:
 - none
5. Reports (see Docket)
 - a) Moderator (Terry Stefaniuk)
 - a meeting with the Mennonite Nursing Home at Rosthern was very good
 - we affirmed Terry for meeting with all of the committees and areas of MC Sask as he has done while at the same time cautioning against stretching himself too thin
 - b) Finance Chair (Gordon Peters)
 - Budget Update
 - we are in good shape currently
 - Gordon answered questions on reading the information presented
 - c) Executive Minister (Ryan Siemens)
 - Ryan's question: with Emmaus Mennonite Church closing, could MC Sask hold their memberships for 18 months and then release those memberships (either dissolve their memberships or transfer to their new chosen churches)?
 - technically it's heretical, and yet it could encourage people to connect with churches and not send them adrift
 - it opens a bigger question about membership in general
 - do you need to "transfer" from somewhere or can people just join?
 - might be good to make the offer to Emmaus – to those who find membership important it will be a good gesture
 - this specific question should be brought to PLC, for them to speak into it and make a recommendation to council
 - Ryan and Marianne were just at a Communications Retreat in Winnipeg – hope to eventually have a full, integrated web presence with all of the Regional churches

- d) Area Church Minister: Youth programming and Administration (Kirsten Hamm-Epp)
 - Kirsten has committed some time to Osler Mennonite this summer with their VBS program
 - currently attempting to work 4 days a week
 - Jr High retreat was this past weekend, was a great event
 - Kirsten affirmed her SMYO / youth committee and how they are, with each other and with Kirsten
 - is in conversation about a prairie youth gathering next summer – in very early planning stages; nothing to be advertized or announced yet

The reports were accepted by consensus.

- 6. New Business:
 - a) ADS Update (Ryan)
 - David Fitch is our guest speaker – speaking on faithful presence/spirituality and anabaptism
 - b) Equipping Day – Saturday, October 27 (Ryan)
 - Location – none yet
 - Chair – Josh & Cindy Wallace
 - c) Personnel (Terry/Kirsten)
 - Kirsten’s job title – Regional Church ___ Minister – Kirsten has requested to not have a really long title, but to have one title and one job description
 - Ric Driediger (PLC), Gordon working on job description for Kirsten
 - Committees?
 - d) Ad hoc Governance Committee (Terry)
 - approval of the committee
 - members: Kirsten Hamm-Epp, Tim Wiens, ?
 - need a third member – Kirsten and Tim will be looking for the person
 - bring documents into line with the new structure
 - look at how our different groups are operating and how we can improve how we are operating
 - a little bit of bylaw writing as well
 - e) Nominating Committee: opening for a member
 - currently Graham McDonald & Christy Krahn
 - possibly someone a little older who is aware of a different ...dynamic... in the province
 - Ryan will ask Renata Klassen
 - f) Shekinah (Terry)
 - finances
 - Shekinah has not finished reimbursing MC Sask for all of Kirsten’s wages yet
 - looking for room in their line of credit to help with their July & August
 - Terry has been in contact with Abundance Canada
 - Shekinah’s line of credit is maxed at Mennonite Trust (\$50,000) – wondering about adding \$70,000 to mortgage at Abundance to pay off MTL and have \$20,000 wiggle room – would be a better interest rate
 - Shekinah has moved to paying property taxes monthly or quarterly, so that it is a better cash flow, and there won’t be balloon payments to pay once a year
 - Terry will speak to the ad hoc focus group who were asked to look into the financial health/future of Shekinah – haven’t heard anything from them yet

- alcohol: serving of? Impact upon community and Timber Lodge rentals?
 - Shekinah is losing business because alcohol cannot be served there
 - Terry asked the Shekinah board to look into liability re someone having an accident/etc after imbibing at Shekinah
 - Shekinah would not have the liquor license, each group would need to get their own
 - they don't have an answer or legal opinion yet
 - if it's determined that there wouldn't be liability, would we good to have Shekinah do this?
 - it would be good to know the liability as it would change the overall discussion
 - step #1 is finding this out, then going from there
 - what's the mission – is it a for-profit hospitality industry? Do we do whatever it takes just to pay the mortgage down?
 - we are of different opinions on this
 - Terry suggests that Kirsten and Ryan meet with Phyllis to discuss some of these questions and that we get the report from the focus group (Terry will call them)
 - g) MC Canada (Ryan)
 - changes ahead
 - Willard Metzger was not renewed after review, putting MC Canada in a bit of limbo again; job has been posted in the new Canadian Mennonite
 - h) Wildwood Mennonite letter (Ryan)
 - we were cc'd a letter from Wildwood Mennonite Church, which was sent to the boards of MCC Canada and MCC Saskatchewan
 - MCC Canada and MCC USA have a joint Code of Conduct for staff and volunteers
 - in Canada, MCC is not considered a church; in the US, it is. There is a possibility that, with Canada's charter of rights and freedoms that there could be a huge human rights lawsuit – MCC's current code of conduct policy means they could not hire a gay or lesbian person, even locally – MCC stores included
 - we should respond to Wildwood saying thank you for including us as a copy recipient of this letter, etc
7. Other Items:
- a) Ministries Commission sent a report
 - we will respond and thank them for keeping us informed
 - b) Julia Epp has stepped down from council due to other commitments
 - we will need another member, if any ideas contact Terry or Ryan
8. Future Meeting Dates and Times: Fall?
- September 5, 6:00 – too many people away?
 - **August 8, 6:00? We will try that date – meet at Terry's in Hague (109 Diefenbaker)**