

**Mennonite Church Saskatchewan  
2019 Annual Delegate Sessions  
March 8 & 9, 2019**

**Held at Zoar Mennonite Church, Waldheim, SK  
Co-Hosted by Eigenheim Mennonite Church Zoar Mennonite  
Church**

**Theme: Deepening our Walk with Christ**

**Friday March 8**

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 1:00 - 4:00 pm | Pastors Gathering with David Fitch  |
| 3:00 - 5:00 pm | Tours at Marvin's Gardens Greenhouse,<br>Waldheim Museum, and Wood n'<br>Needle |
| 5:00 pm        | Registration Opens  |
| 5:00 - 6:30 pm | Supper  |
| <b>6:30 pm</b> | <b>Gathering &amp; Singing</b>  |
| <b>7:00 pm</b> | <b>Business Session</b>   |

**Welcome & Opening**

- Terry Stefaniuk (Moderator) welcomed everyone
- Joel Ens and Andrea Enns Gooding welcomed everyone on behalf of Eigenheim Mennonite and Zoar Mennonite respectively
- Terry declared this year's sessions open and introduced the parliamentarian and resolutions committee
  - o Parliamentarian: Heather Driedger
  - o Resolutions Committee: Armin Krahn, Bruce Jantzen, Christy Martens-Funk

**Adoption of Minutes & Agenda**

**MOTION 20190308-01: to adopt the minutes of the 2018 MC Sask Annual Delegate Sessions. Celeste Wright/Victoria Neufeldt. Carried.**

**MOTION 20190308-02: to adopt the agenda for the 2019 MC Sask Annual Delegate Sessions. Peter Peters/Berny Wiens. Carried.**

**Moderator's Report**

- Terry Stefaniuk (report on page 9)
  - o Council is working on bylaws as part of the restructuring process all across Canada
  - o Page 8 actions of council in the past year

**MOTION 20190308-03: to accept the Moderator's report as written and presented. Jake Buhler/Dolores Logan. Carried.**

**Nominating Committee Update**

- Terry presented the slate of nominations from page 6 of the report book

**First Call for Nominations**

- None at this time

**Regional and Nationwide Minister's Reports**

- Kirsten Hamm-Epp (report on page 12)
  - o Ride for Refuge, hosted in September 2018; was a challenge, but we pulled through and the event went very well. Over ½ of the funds raised in that event were raised in Saskatchewan
  - o Transitions in youth ministry circles – Nora

Pederberg has been covering a youth worker maternity leave as well as pastoral sabbaticals at Nutana Park Mennonite, Hailey Funk started as youth worker at Wildwood Mennonite, Terri Lynn Friesen will be taking maternity leave from Osler Mennonite beginning in April

- Scholarships – available to students at RJC, CMU, CBC, Conrad Grebel, & AMBS. Last year gave two, \$500 scholarships, had 14 applicants; have received a pledge to increase the fund to \$3000; hope to increase that amount during offerings tonight and tomorrow in order to increase the amount of scholarships we will be able to give
- Youth Event (Shake – Rattled by the Radical) to gather prairie youth together – information in church packages; will be at Shekinah this summer
- Ryan Siemens (report on page 10)
  - Expressed a deep appreciation for the leadership within MC Sask; people willing to take on pastoral leadership, congregations willing to take risks on people
  - Much of the past year spent on “deepening our walk with Christ” (take note of report book pages 52-53 re: ReFresh, ReFocus, ReNew). Year 1 focused on the individual, year 2 moves into communal walk. To that end, there will be regional worship services in four locations throughout the province from June 14-16. The Voices Together group (Voices Together is the new hymnal being produced) has been asked to join the services
  - CommonWord has resources for the theme of

“deepening our walk with each other” on page 53 of the report book

**MOTION 20190308-04: to accept the Regional Ministers’ reports as written and presented. Harry Froese/Tammy Forrester. Carried**

**Update from National Minister – Henry Paetkau**

- Henry introduced some of the MC Canada staff who are attending this weekend
- Who is Mennonite Church Canada now? Helpful image: the body and it’s many parts, like the overlays that you used to find in encyclopedias – one layer showed skeletal structure, the next organs, then muscles, veins & arteries, etc. MC Canada is like the body in the pages of the encyclopedia. 5 regional bodies, not separate entities, not side by side, but overlays; over 200 congregations, over 25,000 members
- Grateful for support MC Canada is receiving from the regional churches, financial and otherwise
- Will be a balanced budget for this fiscal budget
  
- The nationwide gathering in Abbotsford in June will see Doug Klassen installed as Executive Minister for Mennonite Church Canada

**Update from Garry Janzen, MCBC Executive Minister**

- Garry has been executive minister for MCBC for just over 11 years
- They also worked with Betty Pries a number of years ago

on the themes of being Anabaptist/our identity, building healthy connections, and reconciliation

- MC Sask and MCBC are on the same page with where we want to be
- Garry will be going to Cambodia & Viet Nam to be doing some Anabaptist training with Mennonite congregations in Viet Nam
- Extended a welcome and invitation to Abbotsford in 2019 for the nationwide meeting (The Gathering)
- Ryan Siemens prayed for MCBC

### **Business Session Closed**

### **Worship: Offering, Communion, Commemoration**

- RJC Ensemble joined us to help lead worship
- Speaker: David Fitch (guest from Chicago)
  - o A faithful re-imagination of the church

### **Saturday March 9**

### **Gathering Singing & Morning Prayer**

### **Business Session**

Terry opened the morning business sessions

### **Introduction of Guests**

- We are fortunate to have many guests joining us for the

weekend

Henry Paetkau	MC Canada
Katie Doke Sawatzky	MC Canada
Garry Janzen	MCBC
Jeanette Hanson	Mennonite Partners in
China	
AnaSara Rojas	CommonWord
Dori Zerbe Cornelsen	CMU
Ken Hawkley	AMBS
Ginny Hostetler	<i>Canadian Mennonite</i>
	Magazine
Donna Schulz	<i>Canadian Mennonite</i>
	Magazine
Erica Baerwald	MCC Sask
Mark Bigland-Pritchard	MCC Sask
Cory Regier	Mennonite Trust Ltd.
Ryan Wood	Rosthern Junior College
Zach Dueck	Camp Elim
Ron Schellenberg	Shekinah Retreat Centre
Sue Schellenberg	Shekinah Retreat Centre
Mark Wurtz	Youth Farm Bible Camp
Heather Driedger	Parkland Restorative
Justice	
Otto & Florence Driedger	CoSA South
Saskatchewan	
Dave Feick	Micah Mission

### **Finance Report & Proposed Budget**

Gordon Peters (Finance Chair) presented

- Audit not completed yet due to time constraints, so reports still have “draft” on them

- Question about changing our ADS date in the future to assist getting an audit done in time to be able to approve budgets; possibly to early May
- Will ask to approve draft financials later this afternoon
- Budget Presentation
  - There will be more formal discussion and voting in the afternoon

**Second call for Nominations** None at this time

### **Bylaws Presentation**

*Bylaws: Working Draft for 2019 ADS, Feb 11/2019 (pages 16-17 in report book)*

- Tim Wiens & Kirsten Hamm-Epp presented as the Bylaws Committee
- Congregants and congregations will be given a year to look at these changes and vote at next years' ADS
- The committee began by asking the question of what do the bylaws say – and do they work with what we are doing currently? If not, then do we need to change the bylaw or do we need to change what we are doing?
  - Proposed changes range from small things like reformatting the document so that the numbering system is uniform, to grammatical edits, to changes in requirements of various boards, etc.
- This is 1<sup>st</sup> draft presented today, looking for comments and suggestions, hope to have a final draft to send out in fall so that they can be looked at and voted on at the 2020 ADS

### **Plenary Session with David Fitch**

- The church is not a set of programs “in here” nor is it a set of projects “out there” – there is no “in here” and “out there”, it is a whole way of life
- What we do “in here” shapes us to do the things “out there”
- How do we put the church back together again:
  - Presence
  - Places
  - Practices

### ***Coffee Break***

### **Report and Discussion on Schools: RJC, CMU, AMBS**

- RJC – Ryan Wood, Principal (pages 31-32 in report book)
  - Alex Tiessen has been hired as admissions director to start April 1, 2019
  - Hillary Fast has been hired to fill a maternity leave
  - Kirsten Hamm-Epp is working 1 day a week out of RJC
- CMU – Dori Zerbe Cornelsen (page 33 in report book)
  - 32 SK students at CMU right now, 16 of whom identify as being from MC Sask churches
  - Launching a Master of Divinity program in fall 2019
  - Thank you for your interest, your prayers, your financial generosity
  - Choir coming at end of April to Regina and Saskatoon

- AMBS – Ken Hawkey (page 34 in report book)
  - AMBS serves the church as a learning community; God’s reconciling mission
  - Began in the 1950s and have had a complete faculty turnover in the past 9 years due to retirements
  - Currently 42 AMBS grads serving in Saskatchewan

**Report and Discussion on Camps: Elim, Shekinah, Youth Farm**

- Camp Elim – Zach Dueck (pages 22-23 in report book)
  - Improvements to the beachfront and installing hand-capable washrooms
  - Herman & Esther Wiebe have joined the staff
  - Campership numbers have increased; adding 2 weeks to schedule
  - Primary demographic is outside of the Mennonite denomination – most with no denomination at all
  - Will feel the loss of the Emmaus Mennonite Church, as they were a big support through board members, volunteers, fundraisers, etc.
  
- Shekinah Retreat Centre – Ron Schellenberg, Craig Friesen (page 24 in report book)
  - Much like farming – the things you do last year informs what this year will look like; you rely on the rains coming at the right time, at their not being a drought, on the things you cannot control

- 2019 is Shekinah’s 40<sup>th</sup> birthday; a celebration will occur in August
- Planning 2 more cabin builds during the Easter week – looking for volunteers
- How can people engage? – always looking for volunteers: camp cooks, bible leaders, volunteer maintenance for a week
- Looking for ways to better compensate and support counselors – some of that is monetary – looking to reinstate wage increases for returning staff
- New: a Music Camp debuting this summer – info is up on website under the camp area
- Youth Farm Bible Camp – Mark Wurtz (page 25 in report book)
  - Relationship between YFBC & MC Sask is a 78 year marriage
  - Have had some times of tension, but are working toward a better relationship again over the past number of years
  - YFBC is a temporary community created in a camp setting – can practice new behaviours for 5 days, then can possibly take those home and practice them at home
  - Outdoor experiences – we are less outside than we used to be; camps can offer outdoor experiences
  - Leaders – creating leaders, learning to make choices and leadership decisions
  - How to be a part – always looking for volunteers: volunteer for a week in the kitchen, help out at the corn maze, be a grandparent at camp, and many

other ways to jump in

### **Lunch**

Lunch Meetings:

AMBS Alumni & Friends  
MCC Saskatchewan  
Canadian Mennonite

### **Gathering & Singing**

#### **Report and Discussion MC Sask Programs:**

**Ministries Commission** – Claire Ewert Fisher (pages 19-20 in the report book)

- Hearty agreement with David Fitch's comments that the "in here" and the "out there" are part of the same thing
- Had a challenge to come up with a Purpose Statement (page 20): How do we feel? Is that who we think the Ministries Commission is/should be doing?
  - o Feedback on vision & purpose statement
    - Some mentioned that a Vision statement should be short and memorable; does this provide the needed clarity? What is the vision?
    - Some see the "sap" as the Holy Spirit that flows through MC Sask
  - o How can all of us connect with and support with the churches in the 2/3 world
  - o Ideas on what would be good things for us to be working together at

**International Witness** – Henry Paetkau (pages 35-37 in report book)

- Sask congregations and individuals can also speak with Kirsten Hamm-Epp re: Witness Workers and supporting them

### **Singing with Christian Horizons Residents (Offering)**

#### **Business Session**

#### **Bylaws Discussion & Feedback**

- Peter Peters (Grace Mennonite, Regina): re: membership and who can sit on committees; appreciate the door that is being opened to invite those who are participants but not formerly members of MC Sask to participate
- Ike Epp (Fields of Hope, Glenbush) If MC Sask is a corporation – who owns it? Present bylaws state that owners are the members of congregations. Council is not authorized to act as the church, it is the delegate body who needs to ratify/validate decisions
- Personnel committee – finance chair – given how busy they are should that be looked at?
- Asking for people to look these over at home with their congregations

#### **Third Call for Nominations**

- none at this time

**MOTION 20190309-01: for nominations to cease. Peter Peters/Bruce Jantzen. Carried.**

#### **Approval of Nominations**

**MOTION 20190309-02: to approve the slate of nominees. Christy Krahn/Berny Wiens. Carried.**

**Approval of Budget & Auditors**

- Finance Report Discussion:

**MOTION 20190309-03: to accept in principal, the draft financial statements of MC Sask and the 3 camps as of December 31, 2018. The audited statements to be approved by the appropriate council/boards upon receipt. Gordon Peters/Denise Martens. Carried**

- Budget Discussion: Gordon took questions from the delegate body

**MOTION 20190309-04: to approve the 2019 budget as presented. Gordon Peters/Eva Klaassen. Carried.**

**MOTION 20190309-05: to appoint McKenzie & Co. to continue as auditors for the 2019 fiscal year. Gordon Peters/Tim Wiens. Carried.**

**Resolutions**

- **RESOLUTION:** Whereas we were ushered into these sessions through exhilarating spirit-filled singing, whereas we were challenged by Dr. David Fitch to be open to God's presence and work here in Saskatchewan, whereas the communities of Zoar Mennonite and Eigenheim Mennonite provided nurture, nourishment and energy to provide hospitality to us all, whereas the leadership of MC Sask council and staff was approachable and thoughtful in their planning, now

therefore be it resolved that we say thanks for all those that contributed to the positive spirit of these sessions and God's work here among us.

~ Presented by the Resolutions Committee  
**Carried.**

**MOTION 20190309-06: to accept all reports as presented. Larry Epp/Geraldine Balzer. Carried.**

**Commissioning & Official Closing of ADS**

- Ryan and Kirsten led us in commissioning all those who will be serving MC Saskatchewan over the coming year
- An invitation was put out for a church or churches who would host the Annual Delegate Sessions in 2020
- Terry declared the 2019 ADS closed

**Statistics:**

Delegates – 71  
Guests – 19  
Non Delegates – 43  
Children – 8  
Volunteers – 43  
Friday Evening – 147  
Saturday Sessions – 108  
Total registered 166 representing 27/27 churches  
Attended Friday's Pastor's Gathering - 39

*Respectfully submitted by Myrna Wiebe, MC Sask Council  
Secretary*