

MC Sask Ministries Commission Minutes
September 22, 2020
6:30 pm
Mount Royal Mennonite Church, Saskatoon

Present: Claire Ewert Fisher (Chair) and Eric Olfert,

Present via Zoom: Jeanette Hanson, Ron Nickel, Sharon Schultz (Council Rep.) and Josh Wallace (Church Planter and interim MC Sask Church Engagement staff)

Excused: Mark Bigland-Pritchard and Nancy Epp.

1. Opening Reflections:

- Josh has been studying for his Seminary class, specifically the topic of communion. The words “Let us partake in this meal...” have become a treasure during his work as a pastor. These words describe what we are called to in our Christian lives. These are all the things we can praise God for. Things in which we see God. We see God in our work as Ministries Commission. We are entering into what Jesus does.
- Josh opened in prayer.

2. Reviewed and Approved of Minutes of our 20-07-28 meeting:

3. Ongoing Work:

a) Church Planting – Josh

- The house church has been meeting virtually since mid-June, in person for two meetings.
- It is a small group of 3-4 households.
- They are still defining goals and strategies, in conversation with the New Leaf Network
- The pandemic has been both a burden and a blessing. It seems to reduce the pressure to show results and the extra time/reflective space has been a blessing. But it is also a lonely space where it is a struggle to keep focused.
- Josh requests prayer and encouragement. Help us listen for participants. There are people out there who need what we are developing.

b) The Post-Pandemic Church – Josh

- Navigating the Reopening Town hall is ongoing.
- There is a worship series to be out by Christmas for use between Epiphany and Lent. This is intended to be Year 3 in the Deepening Our Walk process, based local favorite books and helpful experiential resources.
- Josh has had lots of good conversations with various folks.
- Kirsten comes back at the end of November. Tasks and roles beyond that are still clarifying.
- Josh is doing some sermons but needs to be careful of his time.

c) Walking the Path – Nancy and Eric

i. Lametti Letter:

- This is a template letter drafted in the larger church community and shared by Steve Heinrichs as something we might want to adapt and sign on to.

- It is basically a call to the government to follow up on their commitment to make UNDRIP (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) the basis of Canadian Law (former Bill C262).
- Walking the Path has agreed to sign and is asking if Ministries Would want to sign as well. They are also asking Ministries to take it to Council for their response and hopefully signatures. MC Sask has approved calls to support bill C-262 in the past.
- **Ministries feels it can sign and will forward the letter to Council** for their consideration.

ii. Engaging our Constituents in Virtual learning/discussion:

- Ministries has sent a letter to council/Equipping Committee asking on Walking the Path's behalf for assistance in setting up a virtual input/discussion event in the Equipping model. There is no formal reply as yet, but the indicators are that if Walking the Path can do the programmatic work, MC Sask office will help with logistics etc.
- In the meantime, it has become clear that there are a number of similar efforts under way. MCCC is working on some ideas, but the most advanced is a series planning by MCEC: This is a seven-event series as follows:
 - o September 23 with Myeengun Henry
 - o October 20 with Janis Monture
 - o November 18 with Lyndsay Mollins Koene
 - o January 20 with Rick Cober Bauman and Steve Heinrichs
 - o February 16 with Adrian Jacobs
 - o March 24 with Sandi Boucher
 - o April 21 with Mary Anne Caibaiosai
- To register for this series, contact (mcec.ca)
- Walking the Path proposes to provide one additional event at the end of this series using Tasha Hubbard's Video entitled nîpawistamâsowin: We Will Stand Up
- **Ministries encourages moving in this direction.**

iii. Ancient Echoes Documentary Proposal;

- Jake is proposing we bring in the Reserve 107 film crew to do a story on Ancient Echoes.
- The crew from 107 knows from experience what we are thinking and would do a good job.
- David and Harry would be the pillars of the story.
- We would need to find financial sponsors.
- We will **bring this to a future meeting** for discussion.

d) International Witness; - Jeanette

- Six congregations in Saskatchewan are in Witness Support Networks
- Witness is hoping that the enthusiasm will generate word of mouth growth.
- Mennonite Partners in China was almost forced to close but has instead morphed into a focus on Anabaptist teaching in Asia. Witness and MMN are the two remaining partners.
- The Aim is to connect groups in Asia to Anabaptist training and resources.
- They plan to maintain a strong connection in China, especially in peace-building.
- George and Tobia Veith are still in China and able to work.

- Prayers for more engaged congregations are welcome. International Witness Sunday will provide opportunity for working at this.

e) Climate Justice: Mark (absent)

- The townhall meeting took place as planned.
- Curtis Wiens is working on materials for young people.
- Curtis and ? Braun are planning a tree-planting event in spring.
- A brainstorming meeting is planned for October 6 at 6:30 either in person at Mount Royal Mennonite Church, or via Zoom.

f) Report from Council: Sharon

- Apparently, we should all have access to each others' minutes on the website.
- We need to continue to send in minutes.
- Ryan requests a 3-sentence report on Ministries work. Claire will include a mention of the MCEC series on indigenous neighbors.

4. Next Meeting:

- We will meet **Tuesday, November 17 @ 6:30 pm at Mount Royal Mennonite Church.**

Recorded by Eric Olfert
Drafted September 30/2020