

**MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA
JOINT COUNCIL MEETING
June 16, 2018 – By Teleconference
Meeting Minutes**

Joint Council Present: Calvin Quan (Moderator), Allan Hiebert (Secretary/Treasurer), Lee Dyck (Moderator MCBC), Betty Loewen (MCBC), Terry Stefaniuk (Moderator MCSK), Arli Klassen (Moderator MCEC), Alicia Good (MCEC), Gerald Gerbrandt (Moderator MCM), Andrea De Avila (MCM), Brenda Tiessen-Wiens (Moderator MCA), Margaret Kruger-Harder (MCA)

Regrets: Jacquelyn Janzen (MCSK), Geraldine Balzer (Assistant Moderator)

Staff Present: Willard Metzger (ED), Tim Wiebe Neufeld (MCA), Ryan Siemens (MCSK), Rick Neufeld representing Ken Warkentin (MCM), David Martin (MCEC), Garry Janzen (MCBC)

1) Calvin called the meeting to order at 12:00 pm ET.

2) Alicia Good gave the opening.

3) Agenda & Minutes:

- a) Agenda - Calvin reviewed the agenda and noted minor changes
- b) The minutes of the May 5-6 meeting were reviewed.

Consensus: The minutes of the May 5-6, 2018 Joint Council Meeting were approved as circulated in the docket.

Note: The Executive Committee is requesting that draft minutes, draft agenda, dockets, or proposals, etc. **not** be shared with others prior to their approval. This understanding was affirmed by the Joint Council. Approved agenda and minutes will be circulated after the meeting only once they are approved. Suggested that the agenda not be distributed proactively. Further conversation on these items may need to be picked up at another time.

4) Annual General Meeting Preparation

- a) The proposed agenda for the AGM was reviewed and no additions made.
- b) The protocol for the AGM was reviewed

5) Moderator report: Calvin presented the moderator's report as circulated with the meeting docket.

- a) In addition to the items in his report, Calvin invited prayers for Willard and the Search Committee during this time of transition.

6) Financial update:

a) Approval of the FY2019 Staff Salary Cost-of-Living adjustment:

Allan Hiebert indicated that historically the MC Canada staff salary scale was given a cost-of-living increase annually, using the July to July increase in the Canada wide Consumer Price Index.

This was reviewed by FPAC at it's fall meeting, and FPAC recommended an increase of 1.2%. Approval from Joint Council is required to make the change.

Consensus: The MC Canada staff salary scale be increase for FYE 2019 by 1.2% compared to FYE 2018 salaries, to reflect the increase in the July 2016 to July 2017 Consumer Price Index. This increase is retroactive to February 1, 2018 for all current staff.

b) Review reformatted budget

- i) The budget headings and layout were adjusted by ESG since the last JC meeting. The budget is presented in two ways. The full details, tied to the accounting codes, are given on pages 13-16 of the docket. The summary version, intended for public presentations, is on pages 17-19 of the docket. A comparison of the FYE2019 with the FYE 2020 target budget presented at the Oct 2017 assembly is on page 20 of the docket.
- ii) Joint Council did not give any additional suggestions for changes to the format

c) FYE 2019 Budget

Allan reviewed some minor changes made to the budget since the May JC meeting. This includes better estimates of the individual Witness program costs and adding costs associated with the Executive Minister transition.

Consensus: The FYE 2019 budget, as circulated in the docket, was recommended for adoption at the June 16 Annual General Meeting of Mennonite Church Canada.

d) Review audited financial statements for AGM consideration

The FYE2018 Financial Statements, presented in the docket, are identical to those approved at the May 5-6 meeting, except for the addition of signatures from the Moderator, Secretary/Treasurer, and our audit firm KPMG. These will be presented for adoption at the AGM.

Break in Joint Council meeting at 12:45 am ET , to set up for Mennonite Church Canada AGM starting at 1:00 pm ET.

Return to JC meeting at 1:25 pm ET.

Garry Janzen left the meeting at this time

7) Review of AGM

- a) Comments: It met the legal requirements of an AGM but not an especially accountable event for the constituency. In the future, perhaps opportunities for questions or comments might be given to guests.

8) Executive Director's Report:

- 77 a) The request to review staggering of terms and terms of reference for the Joint Council (non-
78 Moderator) Regional Church representatives has been assigned to ESG members for further
79 work.
- 80 b) Witness Update:
- 81 i) Jason Martin has been conducting exit interviews and term reviews with Witness workers.
82 ii) Our Germany workers and Burkina Faso workers will not be returning and celebrations of
83 their ministry will be held in their home contexts.
- 84 iii) Witness Support Teams are under development and will involve persons and congregations
85 connected to the Witness worker.
- 86 iv) Regional staff are developing the Church Engagement role and Jason is meeting regularly
87 with them to keep developing this role.
- 88 c) Work on the Communications Strategy and Leadership Development Strategy are both
89 underway following the plan outlined at previous Joint Council meetings.
- 90 i) Communicators' Retreat with Gayle Goosen of Barefoot Creative was very helpful.
91 ii) A branding sub committee has been struck to work on the basics of logo use and branding in
92 a way that reflects our new structural paradigm and holds the tension between our
93 nationwide identity and regional identity.
- 94 iii) ESG and the School Presidents met this past week to work on the leadership development
95 strategy. Each school will develop an inventory of the "assets" they have available for
96 leadership formation. Significant data is already available from the schools and Regional
97 Churches on leadership formation and this will be reviewed to identify gaps and next steps.
- 98 iv) Question: Is there an intention to change the bi-national logo that MC Canada has used?
99 Response: No. The consultant recommended keeping the core brand identity and perhaps
100 complementing it by using a colour palette to enhance it and provide for subtle regional
101 branding. Use of bolded fonts may also be able to create a sense of both nationwide and
102 regional presence.
- 103 d) An event planner has been secured from within MCBC to support Assembly planning for a July
104 2019 event.
- 105 i) This event will also include a leadership day for pastors and key church leaders
106 ii) Various possible hosting facilities were discussed.
- 107 e) MennoMedia Update: MC Canada is trying to position CommonWord as the one-stop-shop for
108 Anabaptist resources for our congregations. Arlyn Friesen Epp (Director – CommonWord)
109 currently sits on the MennoMedia board. MennoMedia sees that as a conflict of interest since
110 they see CommonWord as a vendor of their product and as such would have insider access to
111 pricing of materials, etc. Willard will discuss with MennoMedia if occasional recusal by Arlyn can
112 resolve their concerns or whether other actions need to be taken.
- 113 f) Willard gave a brief update on the arrest of Steve Heinrichs at the BC pipeline protests. A court
114 date has been set in BC. Discussion followed.
- 115 g) ESG Nationwide Mission Consultation Proposal
- 116 i) ESG is recommending the convening of the regions for a mission consultation.
117 ii) Comments: Value to keeping the focus in this proposal on Witness and outreach over an
118 abstract missiology. As we adapt to our new social context, we also need to be re-imagining

119 our call as to the purpose of our congregations. Perhaps we need both. Witness is a
120 friendlier more relational term.

121 **Consensus: The Joint Council affirms releasing up to \$35,000 from the First Fruits reserve fund to support**
122 **the Mission Consultation Proposal.**

123

124 **9) Business arising:**

125 a) **Response to AMBS bylaw change**

126 i) Willard clarified the information updates from AMBS as received in the docket. JC members
127 indicated that their concerns about the changes have been addressed.

128 **Consensus: The Joint Council approves the new bylaws for AMBS as circulated.**

129 b) **Response to letters addressed to Joint Council**

130 i) Noted that the letter is addressed both to MC Canada and MCM.

131 ii) Discussion ensued on who best responds.

132 **Consensus: Letters to Joint Council will be circulated to all JC members and a draft of response shared with**
133 **JC Member.**

134 c) **Update on Divestment of MC Canada Property in Loon Strait.**

135 The Joint Council has previously agreed to divest itself of this MC Canada owned property. As
136 there was no legally incorporated community group to transfer the land to, the land was
137 tendered for sale open to residences of the Loon Straits community. Three tender bids were
138 received and opened in the MC Canada offices on June 8, with the highest bid being \$5,250.
139 Information on this was added to the updated docket. Allan Hiebert is working with a lawyer to
140 contact the winning bidder, receive the money and transfer the property. Any net proceeds
141 from the sale will go to Partnership Circle work at MCM. The Moderator and
142 Secretary/Treasurer were authorized by a previous motion of JC to sign the transfer documents.

143

144 **10) Search Committee update**

145 a) A call for prayer and nominations has been published as well as an employment ad.

146 b) A celebration of Willard's leadership is being planned for the afternoon of the October 21 JC
147 meeting in Winnipeg.

148 c) The Search Committee will consist of the Executive Committee members with the addition of
149 Gerald Gerbrandt.

150

151 **11) Response to letter from Glenlea Mennonite Church**

152 a) Discussion on how to respond to letters addressed to both MC Canada and a Regional Church
153 occurred.

154 **Consensus: A letter of response will be sent signed by MC Canada (Calvin Quan) and MCM (Gerald**
155 **Gerbrandt) with an invitation for opportunities for further one-on-one conversation and including a**
156 **specific thank you for Glenlea's strong support for the ministries of the wider church.**

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158 **12) Response to Joel Hikeman, MCC code of conduct:**

- 159 a) Comments: Can we speak as MC Canada on behalf of one congregation? Addressed to both MCC
160 Canada and MC Sask. MC Canada is only cc'd. Ryan and Willard will consult on a letter of
161 response.

162
163 **13) Update on the Estate of Werner Zacharias**

- 164 a) The executors of the will distributed estate allotments to step-grandchildren and step-great-
165 grandchildren who were considered to be a part of the family. After the fact, the executors were
166 informed these step-grandchildren were not entitled to proceeds from the estate under a strict
167 reading of the will. The difference in the value of the estate to MC Canada is approximately
168 \$900.

169 **Consensus: Joint Council approved Mennonite Church Canada accepting the estate distributions as**
170 **they have been made and will not contest the goodwill actions of the executors. Margaret Kruger-**
171 **Harder abstained based on a conflict of interest.**

172 **14) Debrief:**

- 173 a) Agreed that after a JC meeting that an approved agenda can be shared with constituents upon
174 request but it will not be proactively distributed.

175
176 **15) Next Meeting:**

- 177 a) **Oct 20-21, 2018 – Winnipeg**
178 i) Book travel with a Sunday afternoon celebration for Willard in mind
179 b) **Jan 26-27, 2019 – Saskatoon**
180 c) **Apr 6-7, 2019 – Calgary**
181 d) **Jun 29 – Jul 1, 2019 – Delegate Gathering (BC)**

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183 **16) Brenda Tiessen-Wiens gave the Closing and ESG members left the meeting.**

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185 **17) In Camera**

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187 **18) Adjournment at 3:32 pm ET.**

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189 **Recording Secretary:** David Martin