

**MENNONITE CHURCH CANADA
JOINT COUNCIL MEETING
July 10, 2018 – Zoom Call
Meeting Minutes**

Joint Council Present: Calvin Quan (Moderator), Geraldine Balzer (Assistant Moderator), Allan Hiebert (Secretary/Treasurer), Terry Stefaniuk (Moderator MCSK), Alicia Good (MCEC), Andrea De Avila (MCM), Brenda Tiessen-Wiens (Moderator MCA), Margaret Kruger-Harder (MCA), Arli Klassen (Moderator, MCEC),

Late Arrives: Betty Loewen (MCBC), Gerald Gerbrandt (Moderator MCM),

Regrets: Lee Dyck (Moderator MCBC), Jacquelyn Janzen (MCSK)

Staff Present: Willard Metzger (ED), Tim Wiebe Neufeld(MCA), Ryan Siemens (MCSK), Rick Neufeld (MCM), David Martin (MCEC), Garry Janzen (MCBC), Andrew Brown (MC Canada Staff), Steve Heinrichs (Director, Indigenous-Settlers Relations)

1) **Opening:** Calvin called to order at 4:35 ET. He welcomed Steve Heinrichs to the meeting for information purposes. He also welcomed the ESG's presence. Terry provided an opening, utilizing a quotation from Mother Theresa as food for thought as we face the challenges of the day.

2) **Background on Steve Heinrichs' Arrest:**

- a) Willard outlined the process of his discussion with Steve regarding Steve's participation in an ecumenical prayer event in opposition to the Kinder-Morgan pipeline expansion in Burnaby, B.C., prior to the event. This was also articulated in a document sent to JC prior to the meeting (Burnaby_Mountain_Prayer_Witness_Background_&_FAC.pdf).
- b) Steve highlighted further information regarding his approach to the event.
- c) The constituency responses received by Willard were also discussed.
- d) Steve's trial is scheduled to begin August 7. The crown attorney will be asking for 7 days in jail. An additional fine is unlikely.

3) **Joint Council Questions and Discussion with Steve related to his Arrest followed.**

At this point Steve departed for the remainder of the meeting.

4) **Joint Council Discussion without Steve**

- a) Concerns were expressed about possible risks to MC Canada's charitable status, and that Willard's decision to approve Steve to represent MC Canada while risking arrest was processed without Joint Council involvement. Support was expressed for Steve standing in solidarity with the marginalized, and for Joint Council standing behind its staff when they make decisions they believe to be in keeping with MC Canada's direction.
- b) It was noted this event highlighted questions that will need further processing, including:

- 38 i) What does it mean to represent MC Canada, its 5 regional churches, and congregations in
39 our new structural model?
40 ii) To what extent may staff make decisions that may put MC Canada as an organization at
41 risk?

42 **Action Required: Put these two discussion items on the agenda at a future JC meeting.**

- 43 5) **Recommendation:** Willard recommended that Steve's travel cost to his trial and accommodation
44 during trial be covered by MC Canada. Steve would count any jail time served as vacation days.
45 a) Discussion followed, with various concerns expressed.

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47 **6) Decision**

- 48 a) An initial motion was made to accept the recommendation as made by Willard. Consensus was
49 not obtained on this, with one person withholding consensus and several expressing
50 reservations.
51 b) After some additional discussion and suggestions, the following consensus was obtained.

52 **Consensus: We approve that MC Canada pay for Steve's travel costs for his BC court appearance as**
53 **recommended by Willard. This approval does not imply Joint Council support for Steve's decision to**
54 **be arrested.**

55 **7) Closing:** Margaret shared a classroom experience of "show and tell" as an example of storytelling,
56 and how the invitation to come close helped with listening. She paralleled this experience to God's
57 invitation to come closer to each other in order to experience God's love together.

58 **Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm ET.**

59 **Next Meeting:** October 21-22 in Winnipeg.

60 **Recording Secretary:** Tim Wiebe Neufeld.